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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW

OF

JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS,

LITERATURE, AND ART.

VOL. XLI.

January to June, 1904.

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JANUARY 2ND, 1904.

MARRIAGE.

On December 28th, at Christ Church, Yokohama, by the Rev. W. P. G. Field, M.A., HENRY BRAITHWAITE, third son of Edward Batty, of Tillington, Sussex, England, to EDITH FRANCES EMMELINE, third daughter of Thomas Oswin, of Southfields, Wandsworth, England.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

A CASE of diphtheria was reported at Tokyo on Dec. 23rd.

THE railway between Kure and Hiroshima was opened for traffic on Dec. 27th.

A HUNDRED and five Japanese gendarmes arrived at Kobe on Dec. 27th from Formosa.

THE revenue from Customs duties in the Philippines is said to have nearly trebled in the last four years.

A TELEGRAM from Kyoto announces that the Iyata Bank on Dec. 28th suspended payment for two weeks.

THE *Yorodzu* reports that fifty field-pieces made at the Osaka Arsenal were sent on Dec. 28 to Hiroshima.

THE stock of raw silk in Yokohama on Dec. 25th was:—Filatures, 3,008 bales; re-reels, 6,207½ bales; orikaishi, 731; and sundries 34, bales. Of this 2,264 bales only were sold but not delivered.

COLONEL HAYAKAWA was promoted on Dec. 23rd to Major-General, being at the same time removed to the reserve list.

FOR a policy of £40,000 on the life of King Peter of Servia, one German insurance company asks a premium of £4,000.

THE *Kokumin* reports that the head office of the Seoul-Fusan Railway Company will be removed from Tokyo to Seoul early in January.

THE *Jiji's* Osaka correspondent states that the Mint is busily engaging in turning out silver one *yen* coins, the men working all through the night.

THE Toyohashi Bank, which has already been reported to be in a parlous state, decided on Dec. 28th at a meeting of shareholders to wind up its affairs.

VISCOUNT ITO SUKEHINO, whose father was feudal lord of Nobuoka, Hyuga province, married on Dec. 26th the second daughter of Viscount Matsudaira Yasutami.

THE Empress is expected to proceed to the Hayama detached palace after the celebration of the new year. She is expected to stay there for the winter season.

A SPECIAL telegram to the *Hongkong Daily Press* says that the Dalai Lama of Thibet (who is under Russian influence) has returned the Viceroy of India's letters.

MISS YASUI, a teacher of the Female High Normal School, is reported by Tokyo papers to have been engaged by the Siamese Government. She will leave shortly for her post.

AN official telegram from Formosa states that two cases of plague appeared on Dec. 20th at Tainan, and a case on the following day at Taipeh. Two of them proved fatal.

ACCORDING to official investigations closed on Dec. 25th, the deposits at the post offices in the Empire amounted to *yen* 31,376,990.24, while the number of depositors was 3,219,867.

IN 1902 the world's output of gold was worth $295,889,000, against $262,492,000 the previous year. There was a falling off in silver production from $223,000,000 in 1901 to $215,861,000.

ADMIRAL TOGO, commander-in-chief of the Standing Squadron, removed his flag on Dec. 27th from the *Shikishima* to the *Mikasa*. The former vessel has entered Kure dock for repairs.

MR. M. KOKUBU, Secretary of the Japanese Legation at Seoul, left Kobe on Dec. 27th for Mokpo The *Nichi Nichi* states that he is ordered to investigate the incident which recently occurred at Mokpo.

THE Red-Cross Society's hospital ships, which are employed by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha on the Shanghai line, are reported by the *Asahi's* Kure correspondent to have been ordered to make preparations for hospital purposes.

OWING to a gale, the sailing ship *Sansho Maru* carrying tinned provisions and sundry goods from Tokyo to Yokosuka, was wrecked on Dec. 26th off Haneda, Tokyo. All of the crew were rescued by a junk which was passing the scene.

THE competition between the Government Railway (Tokaido) and the Kwansei Railway is reported by the *Kokumin* to be becoming more serious. The Kwansei has reduced to half the fares for passengers between Nagoya and Osaka and supplies them with food. The Railway Industry Bureau has altered fares for the Government line to *yen* 1.40, which is less than half the ordinary rate.

ELEVEN Korean coolies arrived on Dec. 28th at Shimonoseki by the *Echigo Maru* from Mokpo. It is reported by the *Asahi* that they had taken the part of the Japanese who were involved in the recent trouble at Mokpo and that they were consequently in danger.

PRINCE ICHIJO SANETERU, who has been appointed *attaché* to the Japanese Legation at Paris, gave a farewell dinner on Dec. 28th at which M. Harmand, French Minister, and other officials of the Legation were present. He leaves for Europe by the N.Y.K. steamer *Sanuki Maru*.

MR. T. NAGAMORI, former chief of the confidential Secretariat to the Minister for Finance, arrived at Seoul on Dec. 27th accompanied by Mr. Tei. He is reported by the *Nichi Nichi* as being likely to make a stay there of some weeks to investigate financial matters.

MR. SECRETARY WILSON, of the Department of Agriculture, says:—"Ten years ago the United States produced about 14,000,000 pounds of rice. This year we expect to produce about 300,000,000 ponnds, so that we expect to have rice to sell to other countries. From this time on, we will be exporters instead of importers."

MR. GROVER CLEVELAND has sent a letter to the editor of the *Brooklyn Eagle* (which initiated the advocacy of his nomination for the Presidency) definitely intimating that he would never again become the nominee of his party for the high office mentioned and that his determination not to do so was unalterable and conclusive.

MR. H. KITABATAKE, ex-judge of the Kyoto District Court, who had been sentenced to two years' imprisonment on a charge of having received bribes to the amount of *yen* 2,198, and who appealed against the decision to the Osaka Court, was sentenced on Dec. 28th to three years' imprisonment with hard labour, a fine of *yen* 20, and six months' police surveillance.

THE Japanese Consul at Sydney reports to the Department of Foreign Affairs that the general election for the Parliament of the Australian Federation took place on Dec. 16th with the result that for the House of Representatives, 25 government members, 27 opposition and 23 of the labour party were elected, and that the Senate consists of 8 government members, 14 opposition and 14 labour.

A TELEGRAM from Nara states that S. Matsuoka, a canvasser of the Manufacturers Life Insurance Company, was arrested on Dec. 28th on a charge of having attempted to obtain by means of fraud *yen* 18,000 from the company. The *Asahi* reports that he had been informed upon by the company to the judicial authorities on a charge of having attempted to secure *yen* 8,000 by the same means and that since then he has been undergoing examination.

Two tragedies were reported in Tokyo on the night of Dec. 27th. One was the case of Y. Inouye, a student of the College of Law, who committed suicide with a revolver at the boarding house known as Ushu-kwa. Another was that of Teru (27) wife of K. Yagi, a merchant patronized by the Department of the Imperial Household. She was found to have drunk a quantity of sulphuric acid. In both cases, the cause is believed to have been insanity.

FOREIGN POLITICS.

Friday, December 25.

A London telegram to the *Jiji Shimpo* says that the first-class British cruiser *King Alfred*—14,100 tons, 23 knots—is to start at once for the Far East.

The British press—according to a despatch to the *Jiji*—advocates the adoption of a strong policy in order to render the Anglo-Japanese alliance efficacious.

A telegram from Shanghai to the *Shogyo Shimpo* says that the Peking Government has finally decided to adopt a strong policy towards Russia, and has instructed all the provincial officials to make preparations for war. The trouble is, however, that the situation seems to be entirely beyond China's reach. At sea she is helpless everywhere, and on shore she could not make even a show of effective strength at the scene of operations, namely, Manchuria. Were Russia engaged defending Manchuria against invasion by another Power from the east or the south, China might accomplish something by an irruption across the western frontier, but the idea of the Chinese marching single-handed against the Russians in Manchuria is quite untenable. No Power, so far as we can see, is going to undertake the colossal task of driving Russia out of Manchuria.

We find in the *Niroku Shimbun* a transcript of a petition said to have been addressed to the Throne of China by Viceroy Yuen and General Tieh advocating an alliance between China and Japan. To be quite frank the *Niroku* has been responsible for so many transcripts which never materialized that we hesitate to attach any importance to this bit of copy. Probably the only salvation for China would be such an alliance, were it accompanied by a frank determination to place her affairs in Japanese hands and to follow Japanese example. But would Japan undertake the task? That we greatly doubt, for the present at all events.

The minor journals of Tokyo publish a statement supplied to them evidently from the same source, to the effect that on the 17th December the Japanese Representative in St. Petersburg warned his Government of the hopelessness of looking for any change of attitude on Russia's part, in spite of which warning the Japanese Government has asked for precisely such a change. This, of course, is a good peg whereon to hang an attack of the Cabinet's drifting policy. But we have not the least hesitation in saying that we believe Mr. Kurino's alleged warning to be made out of whole cloth.

Some journals publish statements that this ship or that has been requisitioned for public service; that such and such a man-of-war has taken its full complement of men and proceeded to some unknown place; that a certain arsenal has been ordered to prepare a quantity of ice-shoes for horses, and so on. It is well that folk should have something to quicken their circulation in the cold season. We may take it for granted that every conceivable preparation has been made for a coup at the final moment, if there be a final moment, but that it will be a coup necessarily preluding war we do not believe.

One rumour to which special importance seems to be attached is that six hundred railway and telegraph coolies have passed Shimonoseki for Korea. What if they had? Are railway and telegraph coolies the advance-guard of an invading force? We should not be surprised to learn that the fact was correctly stated in the main, for there seems to be much talk of the necessity of hastening the construction of the Seoul-Fusan Railway, and Count Inouye is credited with having struck out a plan for its completion within the course of this year, while Baron Kodama wants to have it treated as a military road and finished by October.

The *Asahi Shimbun* has a London telegram saying that England and France are taking steps to bring about a pacific settlement of the Far-Eastern question.

The same paper says that, according to news from London, Court Lamsdorf has again assured the French Government of a pacific issue.

The *Jiji* and the *Kokumin* concur in declaring that the time has come for Japan to adopt measures of self-defence; that the world will give judgment in her favour and that the whole responsibility rests on Russia.

Monday, December 28.

There is no noteworthy change in the situation. Beyond all question the activity in military and naval circles is great, and it appears to be certain that the leave of naval officers has been stopped and that all preparations are practically complete for immediate action in the event of failure to find a satisfactory diplomatic solution of the problem. But we do not interpret all this to mean war necessarily. The focus of Japan's vital interests is quite clearly defined and so is the area of Russia's immediate aggression. Japan need not invade the latter in order to consolidate the former, nor need Japan's measures of consolidation convert Russia into an active enemy. It is possible for both Powers to emerge from the situation without any loss of essentials or any impairment of prestige. Korea is Japan's care. Were there no Korea, the Tokyo Government need not greatly concern itself about the fate of Manchuria, provided that Japan's treaty rights in that region were duly guaranteed. But with Russia in Manchuria and refusing to take any measure pointing to definite evacuation, nothing remains for Japan except to adopt such practical precautions as will secure the Korean peninsula against sharing Manchuria's fate. Russia should not have any valid ground to object to such action on Japan's part, unless, indeed, the St. Petersburg statesmen are prepared to avow that they have thrown their net over Korea also and are determined to draw it into the Russian preserve. If they assume that position, then of course war is quite inevitable. But since it can not yet be pretended, in spite of Yong Am-pho and the lumber incidents, that Russia has clearly ear-marked Korea for her own, she must take an exceedingly unreasonable position if she objects forcibly to Japan's measures of self-protection there. These are the lines along which things now appear to be travelling towards an issue. It will be a reversal of the situation hitherto existing, for upon Russia will be thrown the onus of protest, and, in the last resort, the responsibility of initiative.

Several of the Opposition journals insist that there are dissensions in the Cabinet itself, owing to the fact that certain Ministers who have not hitherto been consulted about foreign affairs, are exasperated by the conviction that Russia has been playing fast and loose with Japan. We believe that no credence need be given to such rumours.

The *Asahi Shimbun* publishes a statement, said to have been received in a trustworthy quarter, to the effect that the Russian Minister of Finance has resigned. Our contemporary expresses the belief that this resignation is owing to failure to effect the floating of a Russian loan in Paris, Berlin and New York. It seems to be a fact that attempts to float a loan have been made, but that they have not met with a very favourable response.

Tuesday, December 29.

Berlin asserts *viâ* London that Russia is prepared to abandon the strong attitude exhibited by her in her first answer to Japan. It is to be hoped that this rumour will prove correct. But we remember that precisely similar assertions preceded the delivery of the Russian note of the 11th, which contained no concession at all. Japan is certainly prepared to make some sacrifices in the cause of peace. She has proved that already by her patient forbearance. But beyond a certain point she can not go, and unless Russia meet her at that point a hopeless situation is created. The world believes that the Tsar and some, at any rate, of his most trusted councillors are in favour of peace, and understand the disadvantage of converting the Japanese into permanent enemies. It is for His Majesty and the statesmen of St. Petersburg to furnish now some evidence of their wholesome desires. Japan has not moved a ship or a soldier throughout the whole crisis. She has remained resolutely quiet from first to last, not even seeking to increase her navy by taking advantage of the legitimate opportunities that presented themselves. Russia on the contrary, has poured troops into Manchuria and has crowded all her available men-of-war into Far-Eastern waters. Against whom have these extensive military and naval preparations been directed? It can not be unreasonable on Japan's part to construe them as directed against herself in the absence of any other conceivable hypothesis. Yet she has neither protested, asked questions, nor made corresponding preparations. She has not even called out her reserves. Now therefore it is Russia's turn to offer some evidence of pacific intention, unless, indeed, she wants war, and unless she totally despises the good opinion of the nations in general and of the Anglo-Saxon nations in particular.

It was believed yesterday in Tokyo that a discussion in the presence of the Emperor was to take place subsequently to a luncheon at which the Elder Statesmen, the Cabinet-Ministers, the principal members of the Privy Council and others were to be present.

There is said to be an idea in well-informed circles that Russia's second answer will be received about the 3rd proximo. Should that forecast prove incorrect, there will be no further waiting on Russia's convenience. Japan will at once take such steps as seem essential for the preservation of her position in the East. So says rumour.

The *Echo de Chine*, a journal published in Shanghai, accuses the Japanese of being "an Oriental people who have opened themselves to the entire world in order the better to isolate themselves and render existence within their borders impossible for those who reside there;" and accuses them also of "aspiring to the regeneration of China in order to become preponderant in Asia at the expense of China and to monopolise all the commerce which the Europeans carry on there." It is rather a shock to find a Frenchman penning such inartistic silliness. Justice, of course, no one expects from the average Occidental publicist when discussing Oriental affairs. But a semblance of sense may not unreasonably be looked for. And so too may some cessation from these unutterably pitiable suspicions which should long ago have become obsolete and which have never found a shadow of confirmation in facts. In mediæval days one of France's greatest monarchs took a prominent part in endeavouring to "regenerate" China, and in modern times many able Frenchmen have applied themselves to the same task, but we have never heard it hinted that these attempts were inspired by a desire to become predominant in Asia at China's expense and to monopolize all the commerce carried on there by Europeans. And what proof, what semblance of proof, can be adduced that all Japan's progress and all her appreciative adoption of Occidental sciences and systems have for object the expulsion of foreigners from within her borders? Blindly virulent accusations of this kind bring their formulators into extreme contempt, and have ceased to be of much injury to the Japanese, who nevertheless can not fail to wonder, sometimes, whether the story of Occidental relations with the Orient really justifies such suspicions.

Reuter's Agents occasionally send very strange items of news to their Far-Eastern subscribers. It is very strange, for example, to be told that Russia is surprised and concerned about the re-organization of the Chinese army, since she construes the undertaking as a proof that she is distrusted by the Middle Kingdom's statesmen. What on earth can she expect except to be distrusted? She certainly has not done much to merit confidence. Obviously the Russians see their own doings in a light which outsiders find difficulty in imagining. Some of them are actually saying, in all seriousness, that Russia should consider whether her duty to the cause of peace and her friendship for China do not require her to check England's advance into Thibet. "Duty to the cause of peace and friendship for China" are not exactly the kind of motive forces to which the onlooking world is likely to attribute Russia's proceedings now-a-days in East Asia. She is suffering from a fever of aggressiveness, which, being a malady that periodically takes hold of all great nations, is not in itself a thing to be ashamed of. But that it should be accompanied by such a very naive conviction of grace and good-nature may justly provoke a smile.

It is curious to find that on the 17th instant a belief prevailed in Hongkong that the negotiations between Japan and Russia had reached a settlement. There had not been time for the southern colony to receive written intelligence as to the unfavourable nature of the reply presented by Russia to Japan on the 11th. Nothing was known publicly in Tokyo about the contents of the reply until the 13th inst. But a wire might easily have reached Hongkong from Tokyo or even from London long before the 17th. However, the fact is that on the 17th inst. the *Hongkong Daily Press* had a leading article in which the supposed settlement was announced, and one of the explanations was that as "neither side saw its way to seriously hurting its adversary," both refrained wisely from fighting.

Thursday, December 31.

The *Jiji Shimpo* has a telegram from London to the effect that a rumour is prevalent that the British Government has clearly informed France that should the latter join Russia against Japan, England will take Japan's part. It appears to us that such a statement may be dismissed as altogether incredible. Even though England and France were not on exceptionally good terms, as happily they are, the kind of announcement now attributed to the former would be wantonly hurtful to France's feelings. It would be, in short, a wasteful insult, for France must be supposed to know perfectly well what kind of obligations are imposed on Great Britain by the Anglo-Japanese alliance. What seems to us much more likely is that the Governments of London and Paris are concerting to urge upon Russia, in a friendly spirit, the advisability of making some concession to Japan. All the signatories of the Hague convention are explicitly entitled to tender such advice in the cause of peace. The convention contains a clause that in the event of complications threatening to involve two of the signatories in war, any other signatory may, without incurring subsequent responsibility thereby, invite the attention of the parties concerned to the existence of the Hague Tribunal as a means of composing their difficulty. Were this step taken, the Tsar, at whose instance and by whose endeavours the Hague Convention was brought about, might reasonably be expected to entertain the idea of appealing to that tribunal of peace.

Reuter telegraphs that Russia has ordered 2½ million lbs. of mess meat in the United States for delivery at San Francisco in the end of January. Of course there can be no question as to the destination of this food-supply: it is for Manchuria. But we do not see that it suggests any thing sinister. The inference we draw is simply that Russia finds she can not fully rely on her railway service for the carriage of bread-stuffs to Far-Eastern Asia in mid-winter. She is therefore under the necessity of transporting supplies over-sea from the Pacific coast via Dalny and Port Arthur. But no such necessity seems to have presented itself last winter. We do not remember to have heard then that any large orders for military supplies were placed in America. It follows plainly that Russia must have a very much greater force in Manchuria now than she had then. A curious commentary on the theory of evacuation.

THE REYNELL-KIRBY CASE.

It may reasonably be hoped that the Reynell-Kirby case is now finally disposed of. The case must always stand as one of the strangest on record. For, stated in brief, it amounts to this, that a man having obtained the use of certain property under a lease and having enjoyed the property for many years, then undertakes to prove that he must be allowed to continue in enjoyment of the property because the lease was invalid *ab initio*. That is undoubtedly a unique contention—to claim the continuance of a title on the ground that the title is worthless. If Mr. Reynell obtained the property in question by means of an instrument which had no legal value, his effort to avoid the surrender of the property by establishing the worthlessness of the instrument is one of the quaintest things ever heard of. Of course he will say that he did not seek to retain the property under the invalid lease, but that he merely sought to prove the legal incapacity of the lessor to evict him. That version lends a certain colour of reason to the proceedings; but only a very faint colour. The plain fact is that when challenged to surrender a certain chattel Mr. Reynell refused on the ground that he had never possessed any right to hold it.

KOREA.

Friday, December 25.

At last it would seem that the Lady Om is to be raised to the position of Empress of Korea. The celebration in connexion with the event was to have taken place on the 6th of January, but the illness of the Empress Dowager having become so serious as to threaten that unless the ceremony of coronation were speedily effected it might be interrupted by a period of mourning, the 25th inst. was substituted for the 6th proximo. We learn this from a telegram in the *Kokumin*.

Monday, December 28.

Li Ha-yong, Minister of Foreign Affairs in Seoul, has at length been allowed to consummate his repeated attempt to retire from office, and Li Chhi-yong has been named to succeed him. The latter was recently appointed to represent Korea in Tokyo, but did not proceed.

Li Kon-thaik, who during the past few months has been a leading figure in the field of Korean politics, and who is credited with being the head of the pro-Russian party in Seoul, appears to have addressed a strong Russo-phil memorial to the Throne. According to a *Kokumin* telegram he states that although a continued refusal on Korea's part to open Yong Am-pho may lead to the adoption of military measures by Japan, any such procedure by Japan would inevitably provoke a corresponding movement on Russia's side. In 1894 Korea made the mistake of leaning upon China alone and the consequence was that her country became a battle-field. But Russia and China are very different. Russia, the memorialist alleges, has promised through the mouth of M. Pavlow. that she will assist Korea and consequently there is no reason to open Yong Am-pho in deference to Japanese menaces.

If Li Kon-thaik has really sent in such a memorial he is an advanced type of the material that is waiting in Seoul to be moulded by foreign intriguers. One must assume that his ultimate purpose is to preserve the integrity and independence of his country, which end he apparently thinks can be better served by allowing Russia to enjoy a monopoly of appropriation than by giving free access to all Powers and thus providing against the aggressive predominance of any one. We should have thought that persons of such very shallow intelligence as Li Kon-thaik could scarcely exist in the immediate presence of the object lessons that Russia is offering in Manchuria, but it would seem that there are no limits to imbecility. In 1894 many people undertook to sneer at Japan's protecting Korea's independence. But there is no one, we presume, who, after the experience of the past nine years, will pretend to say that Japan has not lived up to the standard she then set for herself. She has uniformly and persistently refrained from everything favouring of domination or aggression in Korea, and she has thus proved conclusively that not the possession of the peninsula by herself but to preserve it against occupation by a strong aggressive Western Power is her object. There was no hesitation on her part about withdrawing her troops from the peninsula after the war of 1894-5, and there never has been any practical disposition to send them there again. If Korea has to see her territory converted once more into a foreign military camp, the responsibility will rest on men like Li Kon-thaik, whose blindness to the lessons of the time is phenomenal.

The Mokpo incident has been settled and the strikers have resumed work. Some of our Tokyo contemporaries contain a statement of the terms of settlement, but we fail to find them intelligible in view of the fact that the origin of the trouble remains to this moment obscure. The only salient and unmistakable point is that some ten of the strikers were arrested.

Tuesday, December 29.

Following on recently wired rumours as to the renewal of Tonghak disturbances in Korea, news now comes that the distress usually felt by the poorer sections of the population as winter deepens has driven, or is driving, many persons to commit excesses in the nature of burglary and incendiarism. Exceptional measures for restoring order are said to be deemed necessary.

It appears also that business is in a state of great depression, partly owing to the reserved policy of the banks in view of the unsettled political situation, and partly owing to the depreciation of the nickel coins.

The telegraph says that an heir presumptive to the Korean Crown has been selected in the person of the son of Li Chil-yong, who is now acting Minister of Foreign Affairs.

ANY ARTHUR TO ANY GUINEVERE.

"We do pray for mercy;
And that same prayer doth teach us all to render
The deeds of mercy."

The pale Moon loved a Snow-cloud long ago
And, gazing on her as she floated past,
He made her blush beneath his look of love.
And when she fell in flakes upon the earth,
He loved her still and wept that she was gone,
And smiled upon her gently through the night,
Enchanting her with magic loveliness.

But day-light broke and 'neath the warm, harsh sun
Her fairness faded and the foot of man
Sullied and soiled her virgin purity.

The Moon looked down nor knew his changed Love,
And frown'd upon her from his throne in heaven,
Until the little beauty that remained
From sin and sorrow melted fast away.

My Snow-cloud, thou hast fallen from thy height,
But, having loved thee, I must love thee still:
Until once more uplifted to the skies,
As pure as snow, thy new-born soul shall be.

M.K.

PRINCE KONOYE.

Prince Konoye's condition inspires much uneasiness. He is in a state of great debility and inflammation of the lungs has set in. Indeed some reports speak of his life being in imminent danger.

We fear that there is little hope of the Prince's recovery. On the 28th ultimo the Emperor raised him to the Second Rank of the First Official Grade, an extraordinary honour seeing that the Prince's present official title is Second of the Second Grade. The Prince's condition is spoken of as extremely critical.

BUDDHISM IN JAPAN.

Alluding to a criticism which recently appeared in these columns, Bishop Awdry quotes the critic as saying:—"If in giving an account of Buddhism Captain Brinkley has omitted to dwell at any great length on the extreme pessimism that characterizes its teaching, it is probably because he sees abundant evidence in the lives lived by the Japanese and in their writings that this pessimism has exercised no baneful influence in these sunny isles, whatever it may have done elsewhere." It appears to us that this criticism is perhaps a little erroneous, for in the volumes under review the pessimistic tendency of Buddhism is set forth with distinctness and the fact of its failure to exercise a sensibly pessimistic influence on the Japanese is explained. We quote a few passages to illustrate this:—

"Buddhism placed at the head of its scriptures the instability of everything human; compared each series of worldly events, however great the actors, however large the issues, to a track left by a ship upon the wide ocean, and educated a pessimistic mood of indifference to sovereign and parent alike." (Vol. I. p. 1299).

"The music of words, the music of motion and the music of song rank equally in popular appreciation. Of course Buddhist music is not included in that description. Buddhist music is a wail, a threnody. It makes no appeal to the natural disposition of the Japanese, and the vogue it obtained from the Nara epoch onwards contributed largely to the growth of a dangerous form of pessimism." (Vol. I. p. 154).

"The character of the Japanese underwent very marked modification during the first sixteen centuries of their history. At the time of their arrival as invaders they were hardy, fierce people, fond of fighting and ready to reduce to slavery every one that they overcame by force of arms. But by degrees the comparatively genial climate of their new home, its soft scenery, the introduction of Chinese civilization with its endless codes of ceremony and etiquette, and the spread of a literature which occupied itself chiefly with tender sentiments and scenic charms, produced enervating effects. The rude warriors were transformed, first into votaries of pleasure, then into hysterical profligates, and finally into *blasé* pessimists. Buddhism greatly assisted the growth of this last mood." (Vol. I., pp. 183-4.)

"Thus the colours that Buddhism took in its transmission through the Japanese mind were all bright hues. Death ceased to be a passage to mere non-existence and became the entrance to actual beatitude. The ascetic selfishness of the contemplative disciple was exchanged for a career of active charity. The endless chain of cause and effect was shortened to a single link. The conception of one supreme, all-merciful being forced itself into prominence. The gulf of social and political distinctions that yawned so widely between the patrician and the plebeian, and all the other unsightlinesses of the world, became subjective *eidola* destined to disappear at the first touch of moral light. The Buddha and the people were identified." (Vol. V., pp. 151-2).

It seems from these passages that the pessimistic influence of Buddhism as originally taught is fully recognised, but the theory of the author of "Japan" is that instead of permanently saddening the minds of the people, Buddhism itself was gradually brightened by the sunshine of their nature. Thus in the immediate sequel of the last quotation made above he goes on to say:—"Religion does not overshadow the daily life of the Japanese. The gloomy fanatic is unknown. Confession of sins, repentance in sackcloth and ashes, solemn and protracted acts of worship, the terrors of an eternity of torture—these things enter scarcely at all into the layman's existence The temple presents itself to him as a place where the mortuary tablets of his ancestors are guarded; a place to be visited for the burning of incense at tombs and their adornment with flowers on anniversaries of the deaths of near relatives; a place for the occasional deposit of small coins in an alms-chest; a place for offering up brief prayer when every-day affairs seem in need of the Buddha's divine influence; a place where the ashes of the worshipper himself will in the end be laid to rest and whither his own friends and relatives will come to honour his memory when he too shall have received from the priests one of those beautiful and benevolent posthumous titles which they know so well how to choose. It is all essentially practical and easy-going."

The theory here very distinctly outlined, as it appears to us, is that pessimistic as was the character of Buddhism when it first came to Japan, the creed underwent such modifications by contact with the Japanese mind that after the elaboration of the Shingon tenets in the 9th century and the Jōdō in the 12th, it became a comfortable and comforting faith and lost its saddening influence in great part, at any rate. But whence did the mind of the Japanese derive this bright complexion? That is a question worth considering.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

Friday, December 25.

The attitude of the leading Japanese journals at this moment is one of uncertainty. They are obviously perplexed what to think, which is not surprising when their lack of material for forming a judgment is recalled. The vital point is the language used by Russia in her reply of the 11th instant, and concerning that point no trustworthy intelligence is available. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* confines itself to marshalling the rumours that are most persistent and apparently most credible. By that process it arrives at the suggestion—not a conclusion of its own—that Russia, in her reply, claimed the north of Korea for her own sphere of influence, and while abandoning the south to Japan, stipulated that no fortress should be erected at any point commanding the Korean straits. For our own part, we do not profess to be better informed than the *Nichi Nichi*, but we can not believe that Russia made any such proposal. Nothing is less likely than that, while excluding Japan from any voice in the Manchurian question, the St. Petersburg Government should expect her to accept in Korea a situation inferior to that now actually occupied by her there. Russia has a very large ambition and she satisfies it without much regard for ethical restraints, but she has never shown herself wantonly unreasonable in negotiation, and as it is most unlikely that she wishes to make an active enemy of Japan, the public will not be disposed to attach credence to many of the wild rumours now circulating.

Monday, December 28.

That the Japanese nation is prepared to throw itself heart and soul into a struggle with Russia is shown by the writings of every journal, not even excluding such sober newspapers as the *Jiji Shimpo* and the *Kokumin*. Nothing can be more resolute than their tone, though it is quite free from any sign of bluster. There is a difference of opinion about the degree of action to be taken, some insisting that the lines of Korean defence should be thrown forward into Manchuria, others that they may be kept within the Korean border. But there is no shadow of dissent from the proposition that if Russia's next communication prove unsatisfactory, active measures must at once be taken. We repeat our conviction, however, that such measures need not lead to war.

The *Jiji Shimpo* writes in the strongest possible terms, deprecating all further delay and urging that Japan should forthwith adopt measures of self-defence by despatching a force to Korea. If any Power object, let the now fashionable retort be made that this is a matter which concerns Japan and Korea only. Should Russia plead the Conventions, she may be reminded generally of the kind of respect she herself shows for conventions, and specially of the contempt she has shown for this particular convention by her free use of troops in the Yalu Valley.

The *Kokumin Shimbun* declares that the time to strike is while the iron is hot. Much admiration has been felt for the Ministry's forbearance and patience, but now the nation sees that the day has passed for any further display of such qualities. Whatever measure the Cabinet takes will have the support of the people.

Tuesday, December 29.

The *Jiji Shimpo* recommends that the people should now take steps to show their appreciation for the men of the fleet who are about to go out to battle. At such a time soldiers and sailors, though they have reconciled their brave minds to never seeing their homes and families again, derive no little comfort and courage from marks of their countrymen's sympathy and appreciation. Even letters addressed to them over the signatures of societies and associations are valuable for such a purpose.

The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, on the other hand, recommends greater circumspection to the naval men assembled at Saseho, Kure and Hiroshima. It says that by way of final farewell to their country they are indulging in excesses which set an evil example and convey a bad impression. That they should lose something of their self-restraint at a moment when they have determined to sacrifice their lives is not unnatural, but the *Yomiuri* rightly refuses to bestow the name of true heroism on such conduct.

Of course the *Nippon* complains of the delay in striking the decisive blow. Its opinion is that the sooner the work is taken in hand, the more quickly can it be achieved. That has long been the *Nippon's* contention.

The *Chuo* renews the familiar accusation that the present Cabinet is composed of mere opportunists and that the country urgently needs men of action and resolution.

In the *Kokumin* the dominant note is indignation against the unpatriotic plotters who seize an occasion like the present to disturb the public mind by fabricating stories of dissensions among the Ministers of the Crown, and trying to persuade the people that the Cabinet is sufficiently insensible to its duty to lay down the reins in face of a national crisis.

The *Asahi Shimbun* devotes a leading article to the rumoured resignation of the Russian Minister of Finance. Our contemporary does not attempt to explain the cause of the incident. Its main reflection is that fresh delay may thus be produced in the Russo-Japanese negotiations. But has the Minister resigned? We (*Japan Mail*) greatly doubt it.

With reference to this resignation the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* learns in a responsible quarter that the Minister had been sick for some time and unable to discharge his duties. Probably, therefore, he has gone out of office for a very simple reason. But again we ask, has he?

DOMESTIC POLITICS.

Friday, December 25.

The share market continues to be the victim of trepidation. Quotations are falling all round. The stock of the old horse-tram—now the Densha—has suffered most, its shares having fallen 4.20 *yen* in one day, and next comes the Street Railway (Shigai) with a fall of 3.80 *yen*. Rice, on the other hand, shows a tendency to rise. The quotation for January deliveries has gone up from 12.030 to 12.220, and that for February deliveries from 12.180 to 12.425.

Tuesday, December 29.

The minor journals of the capital persist in circulating rumours about dissensions among the Cabinet Ministers and about a probable change of Government. Only one fact emerges from the sundry stories and conjectures published by these journals, and that fact is that Marquis Ito remains master of the situation just as completely as he ever was. He is the power behind the Throne, whether he sits in the chair of the Privy Council's President or stands at the head of the *Seiyu-kai*. Beyond that we gather nothing except that some tattlers are telling tales of more or less imaginary quarrels.

Wednesday, December 30.

The smaller newspapers still insist that there is a movement in influential circles to reconstruct the Cabinet, placing it under the presidency of Marquis Ito and bringing in Count Inouye, Marquis Yamagata and Count Matsukata. This project is attributed to an agitation originated and fomented by Satsuma men having for pivot Count Kabayama. These rumours have been so unceasing for the past week that they can not be regarded as altogether baseless, though nothing seems to us less likely than any radical change of Ministry at this moment, especially as the charge against the present Cabinet is one of weakness. We strongly suspect that had the Katsura Ministry possessed an entirely free hand, it would not now be open to such an accusation. It should be noted that the leading journals take no notice of this rumour, except the *Nichi Nichi* which treats it as an interested canard.

PREPARATIONS.

Reports from all directions indicate great activity in military and naval circles. The usual New-Year's holidays have been dispensed with at Government dock-yards, one day only being allowed. From Tsushima comes news that a squadron of over 20 torpedo boats, all in perfect repair and all under one command, are lying in the harbour of Takeshiki in Tsushima. It is stated that a new-pattern transport waggon which, on trial, has been found particularly serviceable, is being constructed in large quantities at the Tokyo Arsenal. All necessary preparations have been made by the Red Cross Society also.

CHINA.

Monday, December 28.

Telegrams to the *Jiji Shimpo* from Peking represent the state of officialdom in China as one of great rejoicing over the strong attitude assumed by Japan towards Russia. The telegrams say that there is now no shadow of a pro-Russian party in the Chinese capital; that Prince Ching and Viceroy Yuan are at the head of the stalwarts, and that many secret councils are going on for the purpose of considering the most efficient steps to be taken by China.

The *Nichi Nichi* has a telegram to the effect that Hu Yu-fên, who has just returned from a visit to Port Arthur, speaks of Viceroy Alexieff as uniformly insisting that the Manchurian problem concerns China and Russia only; that no third Power can be allowed to interfere; that Russia is quite willing to make, and indeed desirous of making, a convention which shall provide a pacific solution; and that her preparations are completed for either war or peace.

This official, Hu Yu-fên, has been much *en evidence* of late. He appears to be one of the rising men of the day. He used to be administrator-general of the northern railways of China, and the public may possibly remember him in the capacity of military administrator for the restoration of order in Peking in 1901. He is now, we believe, assistant administrator of northern railways as well as a Vice-president of the Board of Punishments, and it is doubtless in the former capacity that he visits Manchuria.

Tuesday, December 29.

Another batch of Chinese students are to leave Peking for Japan on the 11th of January, it is stated. The number is put at thirty-one, and it is added that some symptoms of opposition are showing themselves with regard to this continued employment of Japan for educational purposes, some of the Middle Kingdom's statesmen being of the opinion that youths sent to this country are apt to imbibe inconvenient doctrines.

Wednesday, December 30.

Mr. Hu Yu-feu, Assistant Administrator of Northern Railways, whose recent visit to Port Arthur was supposed to have had some significance, denies that he went on any special mission. The Viceroy had asked for his attendance in order to settle some question relating to railways: that was all. But during his conference with Viceroy Alexieff the latter is reported to have stated emphatically that though Russia is prepared for war, she desires peace, and that though she intends to withdraw her troops from Manchuria, it is obviously impossible for her to do so at present in view of the winter and of the frequent troubles caused by insurgents.

Without intending any discourtesy we must say that Viceroy Alexieff's declarations of intention to evacuate Manchuria have the sound ascribed by the Japanese proverb to "orisons in the ears of a horse." Yet it is true that there will be a semblance of evacuation some day or other, for certainly Russia will not permanently keep in the Three Provinces the great army she has there at present.

It would appear that a project has been seriously entertained in China for sending a high official to Mukden with the object of coming to some kind of arrangement with Russia. A long telegram from the *Asahi's* Peking correspondent explains that this project was submitted by Prince Ching for Viceroy Yuan's consideration, but that it failed to obtain the latter's approval. The Viceroy could not clearly apprehend in what capacity such an envoy should be sent, still less what he might hope to effect. A grave difficulty would also present itself as to the choice of a fitting person. Chang Chih-tung suggested himself to the Viceroy as the only eligible official, but Chang being already occupied with the commercial treaties and other cardinal matters, could not be spared from Peking. On the whole Viceroy Yuan's opinion was that the best plan would be to leave the duty of negotiation in the hands of the Foreign Office and M. Lessar, on the basis of a firm but adroit refusal to entertain Russia's proposals. He further thought that whatever might be the ontcome of the Russo-Japanese negotiations China should fix her mind upon retaining possession of her three eastern provinces. Concerning the problem of military re-organization, which seems to have been simultaneously submitted to the Viceroy, the gist of his advice was that instructions should be issued to Viceroys and Governors to collect and forward to Peking all available funds.

THE SEOUL-FUSAN RAILWAY.

Monday, December 28.

There seems to be no doubt of the Government's intention to expedite the construction of this line by extraordinary means. The undertaking was officially sanctioned in September 1900, the capital being fixed at 25 million *yen*, and the Treasury undertaking to guarantee interest at the rate of 6 per cent. on paid-up capital and on debentures, pending the opening of the line, and to make good whatever deficit as compared with that figure the earnings subsequently showed. Steps were then taken to float the shares, the first issue being 100,000, on which 10 *yen* was paid-up. Then followed a second and a third issue, the number of shares respectively being 345,684 and 54,316, and the amounts called in per share, 10 *yen* and 5 *yen*. Thus the total paid-up capital stood at 4,778,420 *yen*. During the course of the current year the company issued debentures to the extent of 4 million *yen*, and its intention has hitherto been to make, next spring, a second call of 5 *yen* per share, which—the total number of shares issued being 500,000—would produce 2,500,000 *yen*. The entire length of the road is 269 miles and during the present year two sections of 17 miles on the Korean side and 38 miles on the Seoul side were opened to traffic. The idea was to complete the whole in 1906. But it is thought that in view of existing circumstances the work must be pushed with all expedition, and the general belief is that with that object the Government, without waiting for the Diet's next meeting, will issue an urgency ordinance guaranteeing the payment of interest and principal of a loan of ten million *yen*. This money will be raised at once in England—indeed there are indications that it has already been contracted for,—and when it is supplemented by the call of 2½ million *yen* made on the shareholders next spring, there will be funds sufficient to carry on the work rapidly and to complete it within the course of the year 1904. It will be observed that a sum of 3,700,000 *yen* will still remain to be obtained, in order to bring the capital to 25 million *yen*, but the plan is to meet this deficiency by a system of deferred payments. Telegrams to the *Jiji Shimpo* from London suggest that the financiers of England have been approached on the subject of the loan and that their attitude is found to be thoroughly favourable.

This step on the part of the Government is strongly approved by all the principal Tokyo journals. Indeed, the only dissentient voice seems to be that of the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, which compares the operation to catching a salmon with a sprat, its view being that this activity about the Seoul-Fusan line is merely a device on the part of the Cabinet to cover up its erring tracks in the field of foreign affairs. The *Yomiuri* clings to the Manchurian problem and insists that no side issue should be given prominence over the main question, namely, the evacuation of the Three Provinces.

Wednesday, December 30.

The *Official Gazette* of the 28th instant publishes an Imperial Ordinance providing funds for the speedy prosecution of the Seoul-Fusan Railway and for military purposes. Our readers are aware that the Treasury holds three funds, known as the Three Capital Funds—namely, 30 million *yen* for purposes of naval maintenance, 10 millions for famine relief, and 10 millions for educational aids. These monies stand in a special account, and it is understood that about one half of the total (50 millions) is in specie, the remainder in negotiable securities. The Ordinance in question authorizes the employment of these funds for military preparations. That is the gist of the first Article. The second Article, having premised that the speedy construction of the Seoul-Fusan Railway is a matter of prime importance, ordains that the Treasury will guarantee the principal and interest of a loan of 10 millions of *yen*, the loan to be raised by the Railway Company and the proceeds applied to expediting the building of the railway. As to the terms of the loan, the rate of interest is to be 6 per cent.; the principal will lie unredeemed for 3 years, and redemption will thereafter be effected in 5 years. Further, the Ordinance provides that by way of complement and compensation for pushing on the work, the Treasury shall pay to the Company a sum of 1¾ million *yen*, and in the event of that amount proving insufficient owing to unforeseen obstacles, a further sum of 450,000 *yen* shall be paid. With regard to these payments the Government reserves the right of establishing a special system of inspection over the railway and the works. It is further empowered to make a loan on account of the expenditures contemplated in the Ordinance, such loan to be paid back within two years, if obtained by any method except the issue of Exchequer Bills, and to be paid back in five years if obtained by Exchequer Bills, the interest in either case not to exceed 6 per cent.

It will be seen that this Ordinance empowers the Treasury, first, to apply the Three Capital Funds to purposes of military preparations; secondly to guarantee a loan for the Seoul-Fusan Railway, which is to be pushed on with all expedition; thirdly, to make payments of at least 1¾ million *yen* and at most 2,200,000 *yen* to the Railway Company by way of aid in the prosecution of the work and compensation for prosecuting it rapidly; and fourthly, to raise loans by the process either of selling Consols or of issuing Exchequer Bills. There is a certain element of vagueness about the amount of these loans.

Another Ordinance makes provision for the official inspection of the railway works and the superintendence of its operation. The rules under this heading are very strict. We may mention that Baron Shibusawa ceases to be President, being succeeded by Professor Furiichi, a Government nominee, and that two Permanent Directors (*Jōmu Riji*) are appointed, namely, Mr. Anegakoji and Mr. Kawasaki. The Directors are Baron Shibusawa, Baron Mayejima, Mr. Takenouchi and Mr. Min Yon-chhol. Mr. Furuichi, who has hitherto been Director of the Railway Bureau, is succeeded in that post by Mr. Hirai. The Directors who cease to hold that office are Baron Ozaki Saburo, Mr. Kusaka Yoshio, Mr. Omiwa Chobei and Mr. Murota Yoshibumi.

This measure is of course regarded as an evidence that the Government has resolved to take resolute hold of the Korean problem, and not only to extend Japan's interests but also to consolidate her position there. It has become quite clear that nothing except accomplished facts possesses any international value now-a-days. The Tokyo Ministry is obeying that conviction.

Thursday, December 31

It is not easy to follow accurately the accounts of the Seoul-Fusan Railway funds, or to discover precisely how much is to be raised, how much spent on the line itself, and how much on rolling stock. According to accounts previously published, the sum hitherto paid-up by the holders of the 500,000 fifty-*yen* shares representing the Company's capital aggregate 4,778,420 *yen*, and the sums raised by debentures aggregate 4,000,000. If to those totals be added a further loan of 10 millions, and the Government's projected grant of 1¾ millions, the grand total is only 20,528,420 *yen*, leaving some 5 millions to be obtained out of the total capital. This residue is not accounted for and to that extent the programme is obscure. Moreover, there appears to be a difference of opinion as to whether the 10 millions will be raised at home or abroad. Some think that the Government's guarantee points plainly to the foreign market, but on the other hand, it would be extremely difficult to obtain money in London now on even moderately good terms. The only facts beyond all query are that out of 269 miles of road, 120 miles remain absolutely untouched, and that this portion will now be taken in hand vigorously so as to complete the whole by the end of 1904. It is stated that the grant of 1¾ millions will be carried into effect at once by the aid of the Bank of Japan. Sixty-nine miles are already open to traffic; and 55 miles are under construction.

There has been a great deal of talk about the methods of the Seoul-Fusan Railway Company, and it is impossible to doubt that some ground exists for the sweeping criticisms published. Even the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* says plainly that the "foxes and badgers" must be swept out of the path if any real progress is to be made.

COUNCIL OF STATESMEN.

It does not appear that the expected conference in the presence of the Emperor took place on the 28th ultimo. The Privy Council held a meeting at 9.30 a.m., and when the Council rose at a little after 10, Marquis Ito proceeded to the Palace and reported the result to the Sovereign. The Emperor subsequently met at lunch the members of the Council, the Elder Statesmen and the Cabinet Ministers. These last held an extraordinary meeting in the afternoon.

A MILITARY MEASURE.

An Imperial Ordinance issued on the 28th ultimo establishes an office called the *Dai-hon-yei*, a term which literally translated, signifies "great original camp," and which would be translated "headquarter staff" had not that expression been already appropriated as the equivalent of *Sambo Hombu*. The *Dai-hon-yei* is to be under the Emperor's immediate direction and in it there is to be a *Koto-bu* or "high section," which will apparently have for its principal personnel Field Marshal Marquis Oyama (*Sambo Hombu-cho*, or Chief of the Head Quarter Staff) and Admiral Viscount Ito (*Kaigun Gunreibu-cho*, Chief of the Naval Staff).

Another Ordinance creates an office called *Gunji Sangi-in*, in place of the present *Gunji Sangi-kwan*; in other words, instead of Martial Councillors, there is to be an office called the Martial Council. This office is to be charged with the discussion of all questions relating to strategy, whether naval or military, and is to consider any matter submitted to it by the Emperor. It will be organized with a President of Council (*Gichô*) and Councillors (*Sangi-kwan*). The Councillors will be the Field-Marshals, the Ministers of War and of the Navy, and the Chiefs of the Military and Naval Head Quarter Staffs. They will also include staff officers of distinction nominated by His Majesty. Among the Councillors the senior in rank and service will be appointed *Gichô*. If men on active service be appointed Councillors, they will return to duty so soon as their functions of Councillor are discharged.

Evidently the prime purpose of this organization is to provide machinery for bringing the Army and the Navy into close cöoperation.

There is a special provision that in case of emergency, the Chief of Council may give advice to the Throne in response to an inquiry from the Sovereign, without going through the formality of consulting the Council.

It is evidently understood quite clearly by the Japanese public that the changes of organization in the high martial council of Japan have for one of their chiet objects the equalization of military and naval authority. Hitherto only one representative of the two services was empowered to be admitted to the Emperor's confidence and to receive His Majesty's direct commands with reference to the employment of the two arms of the service. That representative was the Chief of the Head Quarter Staff (*SamboHombu-cho*), necessarily an army officer. The Naval Commander-in-Chief (*Gunreibu-cho*) had competence only to elaborate measures relating to his branch of the country's armaments, and to report such measures to the Sovereign. He was not entitled to confer with the Emperor about the measures. Under the new arrangement, however, the two officers, namely, the Field Marshal presiding over the Head Quarter Staff and the Admiral Commanding the Navy, will both constitute the High Section (*Kotobu*) of the *Dai-hon-yei* (Imperial National Bureau), and will both have equal competence as regards the Sovereign.

Concerning the Martial Council (*Gunji Sangi-in*), there are only two points calling for special notice. One is that whereas Martial Councillors alone existed hitherto, there will henceforth be a Martial Council—that is to say, an office instead of merely officers—, and that whereas the Martial Councillors have hitherto been limited to the Field Marshals, the Ministers of War and of the Navy, the Chief of the Head Quarter Staff, and the Commander-in-Chief of the Navy, the Martial Council will be composed not only of these dignitaries but also of such other distinguished staff officers as the Emperor may select.

These measures seem to have the approval of public opinion. Some critics, however, observe that the arrangements should have been made long ago. Opposition journals infer from the three measures, namely, the re-organization, the financial step, and the expediting of the Seoul-Fusan road, that the Cabinet has abandoned its policy of temporizing and indecision, and is awake to the need of resolution and haste. All regret that there has not been an opportunity to obtain the Diet's approval. The *Kokumin* says that the steps now taken by the Government will have the hearty approval of the nation provided that they be pursued unflinchingly and thoroughly.

KO AND NO.

Judgment has been delivered in the case of Ko Yong-keun and No Yun-myong, the assassins of U Pon-som. Ko has been sentenced to death and No to imprisonment for life. The judgment has been appealed against. When the Court was about to close on the 20th ultimo prior to pronouncing judgment—which was done on the 26th ultimo—, the prisoners were asked whether they had anything to say in their defence. Ko then declared that he did not in any respect traverse the finding of the tribunal of preliminary examination, but that he prelested against the formula used in stating the charge. Instead of "wilful murder" he desired to have it stated that "in compliance with the behest of his Sovereign he had avenged the murder of the mother of his country." When judgment was delivered he vehemently renewed this plea, declaring that he had received a direct commission from the Prince Imperial of Korea to take vengeance on the murderers of the latter's mother; that the Korean Court had obtained clear evidence convicting U Pon-Som of taking a leading part in the murder, and that when No Yun-myong took leave of his sovereign before leaving Seoul, the Emperor said to him:—"If you are going to Japan, remember vengeance." Counsel for the defence argued that in consideration of the motives actuating Ko Yong-Keun, his crime should be mitigated by two degrees and punished by imprisonment for 12 years, while as for No Yun-myong, the evidence did not suffice to convict him and he ought to be acquitted. The Court, however, did not admit the validity of these pleas. And when the public come to reflect on the incident, they will probably withhold from Ko the crown of heroism. Were the man a hero in the generally acknowledged sense of the word, he would have suffered the penalty of his crime without attempting to vindicate himself at the expense of his Sovereign or the Crown Prince. It may be, indeed, that a distinction of that kind appeals with little force to the heart of a Korean who has been brought up to believe in the legitimacy of the assassin's dagger. By so much less then, is Ko heroic. So revoltingly cruel, on the other hand, was the murder of the Queen in 1896, that it is impossible to repress a sense of satisfaction when we reflect on the fate of her principal murderer, if U Pon-som were really that heinous savage. Gladly, therefore, would we see Ko's sentence commuted for one of life-long imprisonment. His crime is not without extenuation.

TRANSPORTS.

The President of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, speaking through the columns of the *Jiji Shimpo*, has disposed effectually of some thoughtless criticisms to the effect that the Company was seeking to obtain exorbitant freights for such of its vessels as might be chartered for the public service in connexion with the present complications. Incidentally Mr. Kondo's remarks convey some interesting information. He says that in November the Company received an intimation that its vessels might have to be requisitioned, in which event it was desired that a rate of 3.10 *yen* per ton monthly should be agreed to by the Directors, since, on the basis of last year's accounts, that charge would produce a net profit of 4,200,000 *yen* and thus enable the Company to pay a dividend of 12 per cent. But this calculation was made on the assumption that in time of war the Company would continue to receive from the Treasury the subsidy of over 5 million *yen* paid to it in time of peace. That subsidy, however, is granted in consideration of performing services fixed by law and regulation, and since such services could not be performed were the ships employed for transport duties, the discontinuance of the subsidy would appear to be inevitable in the latter event. Therefore the Directors, replying to the War Department's intimation, pointed out that the subsidy being suspended, a rate of 4.50 *yen* per ton must be charged in order to secure the same profit as that realized in time of peace. Things remained thus until the 19th of December—8 days after the receipt of Russia's answer—, when the War Department again communicated with the Company, in the sense that although the services for which the subsidy was granted might cease to be performable and although the subsidy might consequently cease to be payable, that problem should be left for consideration when the contingency arose, and the Company ought to agree to the rate of 3.10 *yen* per ton. Thereafter on the 25th instant the Directors sent a written statement to the Department of Communications, forwarding a copy of it at the same time to the Department of War. In this document they said that they had divided into three classes the Company's 75 ships, having a total tonnage of 240,000 tons, the classification being according to the age, construction and displacement of the vessels. For the 29 steamers in the first class they asked 5 *yen* per ton; for the 11 steamers in the second class they asked 4 *yen*; and for the 35 steamers in the third class the charge would be 3.50 *yen*, the average thus being 4.20 *yen*. At this rate of charter, assuming that all the vessels were requisitioned and that the subsidies were suspended, the Company would reap a net profit of 8 per cent., but if only a part of the vesssls were employed, and if the others had to be laid up, a loss would result. It will thus be seen that so far from demanding an excessive rate, the Directors offered the Company's vessels for the public service at a figure which, under the most favourable circumstances, would result in a dividend of only 8 per cent.; that is to say, 4 per cent. less than the dividend now habitually paid. Mr. Kondo added further information. He explained that in 1885 the Government requisitioned the Company's steamers by contract at the rate of 4.50 *yen* per ton, which rate, approximately, was again adopted in the war of 1894-5, with the exception that a higher price was paid to companies with which no contract had been made. Moreover, when the Government handed over to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha and to the Osaka Shosen Kaisha at cost price and on a system of payment by yearly installments, the steamers—aggregating 40,000 tons—acquired by it during the war, the transaction was accompanied by an agreement that should the vessels be required at any time for the public service, 4.50 *yen* per ton should be the rate of charter. Hence, in offering the steamers now for 4.20 *yen*, the Company was asking 30 *sen* less than the figure fixed by the Government itself 8 years ago, and that too although in the matter of size, of construction, and so forth many of the vessels now in the Company's possession belonged to a far higher class than any possessed by it in 1895. Mr. Kondo points out finally that some confusion between past and present evidently disturbs the judgment of persons who contend that since the Company receives large subsidies in time of peace, it should place its vessels gratis at the country's disposal in time of war. During 15 years commencing with 1885, the system of State aid was that the Government guaranteed a certain minimum interest on the Company's capital, and of course were that still the case, the services of the steamers might be requisitioned at any time without charge. If they ceased to earn money in the regular channels of maritime transport, the Treasury would merely have to disburse a proportionately larger sum in aid. But now-a-days subsidies are granted for rendering services fixed by law and regulation, and if the services be not rendered, the subsidies necessarily cease, which fact completely differentiates the situation from that formerly existing. The Directors and shareholders of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha are as ready to help their country as any Japanese subjects can be. But they do not take an extreme view of the present situation: they do not endorse the notion that if Japan be beaten in the threatened war the Nippon Yusen Kaisha will be involved in a general ruin, and that if she win, those that help her to win may look for a suitable reward. According to that method of reasoning every recipient of State aid in time of peace should place his services and his property at the disposal of the Government *gratis* in time of war—a hysterical contention.

THE SENTIMENT OF THE MANCHURIANS.

In the "Notes on Native Affairs" published regularly by the *N.-C. Daily News*, it is stated that the inhabitants of Manchuria are very hostile to the Russians and would render every possible assistance to the Japanese did the latter take up arms against the former. This is confirmed by independent testimony, which alleges that the services of the Manchus are requisitioned by the Russians after the manner of forced labour, and that there never has been any serious attempt to conciliate the natives. That is not Russia's usual mode of procedure. At the outset of her rule in a newly acquired Oriental country she sometimes shows iron-handed pitilesssness, but it is always succeeded by a reign of liberal tolerance. In Manchuria, too, there are special reasons for winning the goodwill of the natives, since Russia depends on a single line of railway for her communications, and to guard its immense length effectually against a hostile population in time of war would greatly subtract from the forces available for the fighting line. The probability is, however, that Russia does not contemplate such a contingency as having to fight for the retention of Manchuria. She thinks herself secure against attack and we are not sure that she is wrong. No Power is likely to undertake the task of driving her out unless the Power be China, and that China should seriously entertain any project of the kind until five or six years have been devoted to the most strenuous organization of her army, is inconceivable.

It is stated—"Notes on Native Affairs" in the *North-China Daily News*—that the most uncompromisingly pro-Japanese among high Chinese officials are Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, Viceroy Yuan Shih-kai, His Excellency Na Tung, President of the Foreign Office, and General Ma Yu-kun, Commander-in-chief in Chili. Apparently a really strong anti-Russian movement is spreading throughout the Chinese empire. Letters from various districts—we still quote from our Shanghai contemporary—show that anti-Russian societies are being established and that the preservation of Manchuria to China is arousing a spirit of patriotism which, from the nation's recent history, might not have been expected. The four officials enumerated above are certainly very powerful, and if the sentiment by which they are said to be animated be translatable into action, the results might be important.

It is a question whether active participation by China in a war between Japan and Russia would be a genuine advantage to the former belligerent. The forces of the Middle Kingdom are not now in a condition to make a fight of any considerable strength, and their appearance in the field would furnish pretexts for an extension of Russian aggressions. Besides, that contingency would presumably draw France into the conflict on the side of her ally, and thus England would become involved. Such a war is terrible to contemplate. On the other hand, can China be expected to stand idle when the fate of an immense area of her territory is at stake? Evidently should the peace be broken, terrible eventualities are possible.

"THE JAPANESE FAIRY BOOK."

(Compiled by Yei Theodora Ozaki.)

The children of English-speaking countries will be made happier by the publication of this delightful book, which they owe to the literary ability and to the knowledge of Japanese possessed by Miss Yei Theodora Ozaki, as well as to the enterprise of Messrs. Archibald Constable and Company of London. Twenty-two tales from the stores of Japanese folk-lore are told by the gifted authoress, and there are 66 pictures—4 of them coloured—from the brush of Fujiyama Kakuzo. Of course the stories are not all new. Many, indeed the majority, are old acquaintances which have already been introduced to the western public by Mrs. T. H. James, Mr. B. H. Chamberlain and others. We meet again Little Peachling, the Old Man with the Wen, the Golden Boy and the Ogre of Rashamon, and we hear once more the beautiful legend of the Matsuyama Mirror, the sad story of Princess Moonlight and the quaint tale of the Jelly Fish and the Monkey. But Miss Ozaki has supplemented the number by some hitherto untranslated annals, and these as well as their familiar fellows, she has put into English of excellent simplicity and purity brightened by many artistic touches. In fact, she has done her part in a manner deserving of the highest applause, and little doubt is possible that this fascinating volume will prove a success. It is curious to note that Japanese folk-lore is comparatively free from traces of belief in magic. Animals and reptiles, indeed, are depicted as the possessors of strange powers, and goblins or ogres occasionally practise supernatural malignity; but the magician of the Arabian Nights and the wizard of Chinese mythology are absent, so far as we know. Indeed, there is not one of the purely Japanese legends that does not enshrine some graceful idea or illustrate some pretty sentiment. Even in the annals of Watanabe and the Monster of the Gate, a story which seems to be nothing more than the record of an encounter between a brave man and a demon, it is through respect for his old nurse's wishes that Watanabe finally opens the chest containing the severed arm and thus unhappily restores to the demon its lost limb. We observe—it may be mentioned in passing—that Miss Ozaki makes the demon escape by breaking through the roof, but there is another version which depicts the monster as flying through the opening usually found over the entrance of a Japanese *yashiki*—the opening called *hafu*, thereafter never permitted in a Watanabe mansion. The Chinese writers of folk-lore, on the contrary, make free use of the magician and the wizard, as might have been expected by any one familiar with the tenets of Taoism, and as is well shown in that instructive book "Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio." The last story in Miss Ozaki's volume, the story called "Stones of Five Colours and the Empress Jokwa," would scarcely be worthy of the company in which it finds itself were not its rather common-place conceptions redeemed by some touches of unconscious humour, as when the wizard Kokai smashes a mountain by dashing out his brains against it, the result being that one of the pillars of heaven is broken, and a corner of the sky, dropping down, has to be propped up again with the leg of a tortoise. Miss Ozaki has had to pay the penalty of not being able to correct the proof-sheets, some errors, for which she is not responsible, have crept into the spelling of Japanese names. But these blemishes are very few, and for the rest the book is well printed, on good thick paper, capitally illustrated and prettily bound. It is indeed a most welcome addition to the Western world's store of folk-lore literature, and many a home will be brightened by Miss Ozaki's anecdotes at this festive season.

GERMAN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

The Hottentots, who are said to have risen in rebellion against the German authorities in S.W. Africa, are a curious wizened, yellow-faced tribe. As far back as 1794 a native regiment of Hottentots was enrolled in Cape Colony by General Craig, and the present Cape Mounted Rifles is their lineal descendant. The Cape Colony Hottentots were once a cause of anxiety to the British Government, but in 1810 the last of their chiefs who had authority in the Cape was deposed and sentenced to penal servitude in chains for life. He escaped into Kaffirland, but was recaptured and sent as a convict to New South Wales, where he died in 1830. The Hottentot is lazy, careless, and of light but active build. There are about 75,000 of them in the Cape Colony, but they are most unlikely to give the authorities any trouble in connexion with the rising of their kinsmen in German territory.

FOREIGN PROPERTY AND ENTERPRISE IN JAPAN.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* publishes, for the second time, statistics showing the money invested by foreigners in undertakings established and conducted by themselves in Japan. The figures are astonishing. Eighty-nine is the number of the companies, 144 millions of *yen* the nominal capital, and 137 million of *yen* the capital paid up. Tabulating the concerns which have a capital of at least fifty thousand *yen*, these results are given :—

	Capital. Yen.	Amount Paid up. Yen.
Breweries	600,000	450,000
Machine Companies	2,290,000	229,000
Kerosene	24,000,000	16,500,000
Raw Silk	1,850,000	1,850,000
Carrying Companies (land and sea)....................	132,340,000	130,400,000
Miscellaneous	2,401,000	2,401,000
Agencies (commission)......	50,000	50,000
Purveyors	1,500,000	1,300,000
Banks..........................	23,750,000	23,750,000
Commercial Companies ...	17,245,000	17,245,000
Insurance	5,000,000	3,750,000
Newspaper and Printing ...	227,000	227,000
Wholesale Dealers	780,000	780,000

There are four thousand Occidentals in Japan, and if the *Nichi Nichi* be correct in saying that they and the people they represent in the home lands have actually put 137 millions of *yen* into enterprises established and managed by them in this empire, or connected with this empire, then the average is 3,425 *yen* per head.

The most careful calculation hitherto made puts the wealth of Japan at 8,273 millions of *yen*; or 200 *yen* per head of population, approximately. It has further been calculated that, on a conservative basis of appraisement, the real property held by the 4,000 foreign residents of Japan—independently of the above figures—has a value of 20 millions of *yen*, or 5,000 per head on the average. It would follow, therefore, that the foreign communities ought to pay 25 times as large an amount in taxes as an equal number of Japanese blocked out of the mass.

THE FOREIGN TRADE OF JAPAN.

According to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, the foreign trade of Japan up to the 21st ultimo aggregated 596 millions of *yen* against 530 millions in 1902, the increase thus being 66 millions. In this total exports stand for 284 millions, the corresponding figure for 1902 being 271¾ millions, and imports, represent 312 millions, the figure for 1902 being 258¼. It would thus appear that the main part of the increase in the bulk of the trade was on the side of imports—an increase of 53¼ millions, whereas exports grew by 12¼ millions only. The Customs Returns show that rice was largely responsible for swelling the imports. Forty-nine and a half million *yen* worth of the staple was brought to Japan against 14¼ millions in 1902. Other staples which showed notable increases were beans, peas and pulse, flour, meal and starches, and sugar. An unfavourable balance of trade amounting to 28 millions of *yen* suggests a considerable outflow of specie, but it has to be remembered that the price of imports, as appearing in the customs returns, includes freight, insurance and all charges, whereas the price of exports represents the value in Japan. Moreover, the money spent in Japan by foreign travellers must be taken into account. On the whole it may be concluded that there is little, if any, drain of specie on account of the country's foreign trade.

THE FINANCIAL MEASURES.

It is explained that the financial measures authorized by the Imperial Urgency Ordinance of the 28th ultimo may conveniently be classed under three headings:—First, the Government is empowered, for the purpose of meeting martial outlays, to employ the monies standing in the Special Accounts; secondly, the Government is empowered to make temporary loans repayable in two years; and, thirdly, it is empowered to issue Treasury Bills repayable within five years.

As to the monies now standing in the Special accounts, they have been roughly understood by the public as the Three Capital Funds, namely, the Naval Maintenance Fund (30 million *yen*), the Education Aid Fund (10 millions) and the Famine Relief Fund (10 millions). But the *Kokumin Shimbun* affirms that the monies in question aggregate 101,188,000 *yen*, and that there is an additional amount of 15,452,000 *yen* employed as floating capital. Of course a considerable sum in the shape of fixed capital appears in the Special Accounts, but this, not being available, is not included. The gist of the matter is that over 100 million *yen* is actually at hand for immediate, or approximately immediate, use. Naturally, however, these monies are not kept like current deposits in a bank. Certain arrangements are necessary before employing them directly, and it is with a view to the interval required for such arrangements that the Government is now empowered to issue temporary loans.

PRESS CENSORSHIP IN JAPAN.

When will Japan cease to be the victim of book-makers? Not for many years, we imagine, for her charms and her quaintnesses and above all the Western public's ignorance of her, constitute at once an inspiration and an opportunity. The writer that suggests this reflection is Mr. C. L. Brownell. He has just published a book called "The Heart of Japan"—which title is apparently borrowed from Mr. Lafcadio Hearn's *Kokoro*—and from this book *The Literary Digest* excerpts the following, regarding it, apparently, as a gem of style and a compendium of truth:—

> The censorship over the press in Japan is something to make Westerners stare. The result is that writers are obliged in taking pen in hand to keep to themselves seven or eight of every ten opinions they would fain express. When a paper ventures too far and the censor is called upon to write the order of suspension he is brief, but polite—wonderfully polite. The following is the usual formula, as nearly as English can express it: "Deign honorably to cease honorably publishing august paper. Honorable editor, honorable publisher, honorable chief printer, deign honorably to enter august jail."
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> "The honorable editor, with his honorable coworkers, bow low before the messenger of the censor, acknowledging the honor of the august notification, and then accompany him to the honorable jail, chatting the meanwhile of the weather, or of the flower shows, or of the effects of the floods on the rice crop. Centuries of breeding under Japanese etiquette have rendered it impossible for them to show annoyance. They do not know how."

Frankly speaking, is it not undiluted nonsense? And the trouble is that Mr. Brownell's readers must inevitably give him credit for knowing some little thing about what he discusses. The truth is that whatever was the case ten years ago, few countries have a press so entirely free of speech as is the press of Japan to-day. No editor can be imprisoned, no newspaper suspended except by sentence of a court of law, and as for Mr. Brownell's rendering of the imaginary sentence passed by a press censor—"as nearly as English can express it"—, it is a pure invention of his own, or, in simple language, a deliberate falsehood. Not necessarily a falsehood of Mr. Brownell's: somebody may have "filled him up." He gives it out on his own authority, however, and must take the consequences. If he had the faintest conception of the kind of language in which sentences of imprisonment are pronounced in Japan, he would be amused by his own absurd version.

THE ORIENTAL ASSOCIATION.

The Oriental Association met in the Nobles' Club on the 25th ultimo. From the columns of the *Japan Times* we take the following *resumé* of the principal speeches:—

> After the health of His Imperial Majesty had been heartily drunk, Mr. Kato, in proposing the toast of the guests of the evening, Count Okuma and Baron Kaneko, said that it was a matter for profound regret to himself and to the public at large that the Government had not thought fit to take the people into its confidence with regard to the position of affairs. The general public, therefore, had no data for forming an independent judgment on the situation. This reticence on the part of the Government was all the more regrettable, because, if any reliance could be placed on certain rumours and indications, the situation looked to be in the last degree critical. But in the event of war being declared by His Majesty the Emperor, the nation would be solidly united in support of the Government for the furtherance of a common cause. On that point there was not the slightest doubt. But at the same time, the people from whom a great deal was expected had the right to be admitted within certain limits into the confidence of the Government. There being unfortunately no Diet in session, the distinguished speaker had thought that the Government might possibly be looking about for a suitable opportunity to make their views known to the people. It was with the object of affording them such an opportunity that the Association had invited to the present dinner the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs. But neither Count Katsura nor Baron Komura could, to the great disappointment of the Association, see his way to honouring the occasion even with his bare presence. While regretting this exceedingly, it was, continued Mr. Kato, very gratifying that the Association had enjoyed the rare fortune of having its invitation accepted by Count Okuma and Baron Kaneko.
>
> Count Okuma, rising amidst hearty cheers, thanked those present for the great honour they had done him by including him among the guests of the evening. He shared the Chairman's disappointment at the absence of all members of the Cabinet. He severely censured the Government for refusing to afford any information about the actual position of affairs. He reviewed the history of Japan's foreign policy during the past ten years, with special reference to our relations with Russia. He commenced with the retrocession of Liaotung, which he said was the first noteworthy event in a series of incidents that had gradually led to the present extreme complication with Russia. After refreshing his audience's memory as to the principal events during this important decade, the noble speaker went on to remind his hearers of the vital connection which the preservation of China's territorial integrity had with Japan's safety and destiny. China's downward course, he said, had been hastened by our own war with her, and although China was primarily responsible for her own misfortune, the Japanese could not help under the circumstances sincerely sympathising with her. Sympathy and friendship as well as the more exacting sense of self-preservation, therefore, imposed upon this nation the duty of seeing to the maintenance of Chinese independence. According to all indications the situation seemed very critical: it looked as though the nation might be called upon at any moment to take up arms. If so, was it not high time that the Government should take the people into its confidence within limits? The result of the Government's silence was most harmful, for in the absence of all reliable information the people had to be disturbed by all sorts of rumours and conjectures. Moreover, to leave the people completely in the dark was unjust, considering what heavy burdens and sacrifices would have to be undergone by them in case of war. The illustrious speaker, therefore, hoped that the Association would try once more to induce the statesmen at the head of affairs to consent to divulge their views on the occasion of a future dinner.
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> The other speakers of the evening were Baron Kaneko and Prof. Terao.

GERMANY'S IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The United States heads the list of countries which furnish the merchandise imported by Germany, with a grand total for 1902 of $216,841,800, or 15.7 per cent. of the total importations of the year, against $248,009,800, or 18.2 per cent. of the total imports of 1901. In respect to destination of German exports in 1902 the United States stands third, with a total of $126,877,800, or 9.3 per cent. of the whole, whereas Austria-Hungary took 11.1 per cent. and Great Britain 20.1 per cent. The table of imports for 1902 given below we take from *Bradstreet.* It should be noted that countries sending less than $10,000,000 are omitted, though the total of all imports is given:—

Whence imported.	Values.
United States ....$	216.841,800
Russia and Finland..................	184,116,800
Austria-Hungary	171,241,000
Great Britain	145,322,800
France & Algiers......................	86,965,200
British Indies	56,739,200
Netherlands	49,051,800
Argentine Republic....................	48,018,400
Belgium...............................	46,814,600
Italy	45,815,000
Switzerland	40,150,600
Australasia	28,607,600
Brazil................................	28,226,800
Chile	26,894,000
Dutch Indies..........................	21,634,200
Roumania..............................	20,039,600
Sweden	19,159,000
Spain.................................	17,820,200
Denmark	17,778,600
China	13,282,800
Egypt	10,852,800
British W. Africa.....................	10,234,000
Total	1,381,780,400

In the following are set forth the exports, with destinations, eliminating those countries whose takings amounted to less than $10,000,000, though preserving the grand total of all exports:—

Whither exported.	Values.
Great Britain ....$	229,789,000
Austria-Hungary	126,877,800
United States	106,909,600
Russia & Finland	88,559,800
Switzerland	67,901,400
Belgium	62,046,600
France & Algeria	60,523,400
Denmark	31,201,820
Italy	30,940,000
Sweden	28,464,800
British East Indies	16,707,600
Hamburg	14.589.400
Norway	14.589.400
Spain.................................	13,280,400
Japan	11,852,400
Roumania..............................	11,781,000
China	11,566,100
Argentine Republic....................	11,233,600
Australia	10,829,000
Brazil................................	10,424,400
Turkey	10,305,400
Total..............................	1,145,446,400

There is thus shown a net balance of $89,996,000 in favour of the United States in the reciprocal trade of the two countries during the calendar year 1902, as compared with the balance of $156,189,800 in America's favour in 1901. It is to be again remembered that the foregoing total of imports from the United States includes some American goods landed in the free ports of Hamburg and Bremen, but destined for Russia, Scandinavia and Austria-Hungary.

THE MYSTERIOUS RADIUM.

The *New York Herald* publishes the following cablegram from London under date of November 26th:—

> What may prove an epoch-making discovery in the field of chemical research is announced by Sir William Ramsay with regard to the mysterious substance, radium, which for two years past has been puzzling men of science. Sir William Ramsay, whose name is associated with that of Lord Rayleigh in the study of argon and helium, said at a meeting of the London Institution that he had observed and definitely ascertained that radium gave off heavy gas, which slowly changes into helium and then vanishes. The importance of this discovery, which has been suspected by scientists for some months past, lies, according to the *Daily Mail*, in the fact that it appears to revolutionize all old theories about chemistry. Hitherto chemistry has been based on the theory that the elements are constant and that one cannot change into another, but now it is seen that radium of its own accord and without external interference turns into a totally different element.
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> In his lecture Sir William Ramsay described how, after a long search into the problem of what became of the minute particles with which radium was always parting, he was quite lately rewarded. Besides its other manifestations radium constantly gives off an emanation which seems to behave in all respects like heavy gas. It can be collected in tiny flasks, measured and weighed and used to display the characteristic properties of radium, but it is not permanent. In about a month it entirely disappears. What becomes of it? Sir William Ramsay has caught this emanation in the act of vanishing. He found that after it had been collected for a couple of days its spectrum, which previously was entirely unlike any yet studied, began to display the typical yellow line of helium gas, first known and christened by its constant presence in the sun.
>
> In four or five days the helium lines grew brighter and in another week the spectrum of helium was positively blazing in the hermetically sealed tubes that had been filled with the pure emanations, or gaseous output, of radium. In other words, one element had been literally seen to change into another of a quite different nature under the eye of the experimenter. What is this, asked Sir William, but an actual case of that transmutation of one element into another in which ancient alchemists believed when they sought to change lead into gold and incidentally founded the modern science of chemistry?
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> Commenting on Prof. Ramsay's great discovery, the *Daily Mail* says:—"It is as though gold were to change into iron of its own accord and completely upset the laws of the old chemistry. No wonder that, with this amazing fact before them, scientists are hopeful of reading the riddle of the universe."

FORMOSA.

An extra of the *Official Gazette* published on the 30th ultimo contains the following Imperial Ordinance (No. 296):—

> In case of necessity an officer may be appointed to command the forces garrisoning Formosa. Such officer shall be a Lieut.-General or a Vice-Admiral and shall be nominated by the Emperor. He shall command the military and naval forces in Formosa under the orders of the Governor-General, and in the event of there being no time to obtain the latter's instructions, the Commander shall have the same official authority as the Governor-General with regard to martial affairs.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

It appears from accounts published by some of our contemporaries that a number of Chinese forming the crew of a German steamer, the *Helene Rickmers*, have been getting into trouble. The story told is curious. At Moji the men wanted to leave the steamer. Their reason is not stated but can be divined from the sequel of the story. The master of the vessel objected but the men having obtained information through some of their comrades that a certain Chinese compradore would receive them, attempted to leave the ship in a body. To this the officers of the vessel objected, "a row ensued, the result being that after a sharp struggle the Chinese were locked up in the forecastle." Some of them, however, escaped through the ventilator, and laid a charge of assault against the master and his officers. As evidence of the assault the Chinese showed their wounds, and the police at once went to the ship and arrested the master and the officers. The finale was that Captain Warneke instituted "a claim for 100,000 *yen* for damages suffered by himself and officers and for the detention of his ship for two days." It does not appear that the unfortunate Chinamen instituted any claim. The measures taken to prevent them from leaving the ship are sufficiently suggestive of their reason for wishing to leave it. There ought to be a society for the prevention of cruelty to sailors. A very great deal is made of the fact that the cell in which the master was put by the police "was without any apparatus for being warmed and had broken windows." The Chinamen had broken heads, but that is an insignificant detail it would seem.

The benefits that the Shimonoseki Treaty conferred on the nations trading with China were very gudgingly recognised at the time. In fact by some foreign critics they were ignored altogether and by some they were discredited as specious and insincere. It is therefore interesting to find that a recent writer in the columns of the *N.-C. Daily News* says:—"Of the treaties entered into between China and foreign nations within the past decade there are two made with Japan which are special in scope and foresight. Half a century of previous negotiations did not do as much to enlarge commercial intercourse with China as did the treaty of Shimonoseki, and the treaty which was recently negotiated at Shanghai between these two Asiatic Empires touches the very base of China's conservation and would place a formidable barrier in the path of Russia's northward march. For with Peking open to foreign trade the citadel there of dense conservatism would be razed, and with the political and commercial interest of Western nations centered in the capital of China there would be an ever watchful sentinel over Russia's aggressions; those nations would not and could not be quiet while one of the number was extending its territorial limits and thus narrowing the tradal areas of the others."

The Congress of the United States is about to consider a bill for extending to the Japanese going from Hawaii to the States the same system of restrictions as that applied to the Chinese. With reference to this a meeting of Japanese has been held in Honolulu, when a resolution was passed declaring the necessity of adopting all possible measures to prevent the passing of Japanese subjects from Hawaii to America, and outlining the principal measures that seem desirable.

Persia seems likely to become a petroleum-producing field. The *Commercial Intelligence* says:—"In a recently published Austrian Consular report from Southern Persia reference is made to a most important enterprise started in the Land of the Sun by British Colonial capital. The Consul states that in 1901 a representative of an Australian capitalist obtained from the Persian Government the exclusive right for the exploitation of all Persian petroleum deposits, with the exception of those situated in the Caspian provinces, for a term of 60 years. The concessionaire had to undertake the formation of a company within two years from the date of contract, and at the expiration of that time to hand over to the Persian Government the sum of £20,000 and a number of shares in the undertaking. All prospecting works in the South Persian province of Kusistan have now been successfully finished, the other requirements complied with, and the money and shares handed over to the Persian Government. The concessionaire now enters into his full legal status. Experts predict a very prosperous future for the praiseworthy enterprise of the Australian capitalist."

We take from an exchange the following item, which will have special interest for some of our readers:—"An interesting sale by auction will take place in St. Petersburg on November 26 (December 9), of the estate of the insolvent debtor, Mr. J. A. Poklevski-Kozell. The estate to be sold comprises about 700,000 acres of land, eight large metallurgical works in the Governments of Perm and Viatka, and about 250 mines in the same Governments. The estate will be put up for sale at 3,500,000 roubles. Full particulars of the estate may be had from the St. Petersburg Okocoujnoi Soud (High Court)."

Japanese securities continue to decline in the London market. On the 24th ultimo the five-per-cent. war bonds were quoted at £91 12s. 4¾d., being a fall of £1 5s. 6¼d.; the five-per-cent. consols stood at £89 15s., a fall of £1 15s., and the four-per-cent. bonds at £80 5s., a decline of £2.15. All these depreciations are in comparison with the immediately previous quotations, namely, those for the 19th instant in the case of the five-percents. and those for the 16th instant in the case of the four-per-cents.

The annual list of lighthouses, lightships, buoys and beacons, issued by the Lighthouse Bureau in the Department of Communications is to hand. It is a greatly improved publication. There are no fewer than seven charts showing the situation of marks on the main island, in the Inland Sea, on Shikoku, Formosa, Hokkaido, and Kiushiu, with a special sheet bearing light-charts of Nagasaki, Shimonoseki Strait, Osaka and Kobe, Hakodate and Tokyo Gulf. Though the English employed in the explanatory sections does not quite come up to what one might expect from an official work, and while it seems a pity that a list of this kind corrected to April 30th last should only now see the light, the publication shows in an interesting and effective manner the elaborate and extensive system by which Japan lights, beacons and buoys her coasts.

On the 28th ultimo the Tokyo Street Railway ran trial cars over two new sections of its line, namely, the Hongo-Shinjuku and the Kanda-Ryogoku sections. The regular service on these lines is to commence to-day. It appears that there is some uncertainty as to the fares, but we presume that the illogical and unjust system of a three-*sen* uniform charge will be adhered to.

The line from Hiroshima to Umida has been now extended to Kure, a distance of 12 miles 46 chains.

In his recent remarks before the Bankers' Convention at San Francisco, Comptroller of the Currency Ridgely brought out the growth of bank deposits in these remarks: "The deposits of all banks in the United States have increased since 1895 from $4,900,000,000 to $9,525,000,000, almost double. Deposits of all banks in Texas for this same period have increased from $35,000,000 to over $80,000,000, about 128 per cent. In Iowa the increase was from $78,000,000 to $211,000,000, over 170 per cent.; in Kansas from $33,000,000 to $84,000,000, over 154 per cent.; in Nebraska from $35,000,000 to $82,000,000, or 134 per cent.; in California from $200,000,000 to $406,000,000, or 103 per cent. In Oklahoma and Indian Territory, where in 1895 the total deposits were considerably under $2,000,000, there are over $27,000,000 on deposit. Aggregate deposits west of the Mississippi have increased from $701,000,000 in 1895 to $1,700,000,000 in 1903, or 142 per cent. The three states of Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri have more bank deposits now than eleven of the states west of the Mississippi in 1890, and Washington, Oregon and California have $40,000,000 more deposits than all the other states west of the Mississippi in 1890."

At the annual meeting of the Egypt Exploration Fund, held in London on November 13th, over which Sir John Evans presided, and at which Prof. Flinders Petrie spoke, Dr. Granville referred to the new "logia," or sayings of Christ, which have been found in the latest papyri, and which will be published in full in the June of next year. Dr. Granville told his audience in the Royal Society's rooms that after exploring Oxyrhynehus, a new and fruitful necropolis had been found at a place about a hundred miles south of Cairo from which some 25 cases of papyri had been sent home to Oxford by himself and Dr. Hunt to be deciphered. Most of the papyri referred to times situated between the first and sixth centuries of the Christian era, and in examining them they had come upon numerous new logia, or sayings of Jesus—prefaced by the words, "Jesus saith." They were surmised to be the sayings which Jesus spake to Thomas, and perhaps to another disciple. Unfortunately, the ends of lines were most often missing. One of the most striking of the new sayings was:—"Let not him that seeketh cease from his search until he finds, and when he finds he shall wonder; wondering he shall reach the Kingdom of Heaven, and reaching the Kingdom of Heaven he shall have rest." Many of the logia were evidently in answer to questions put to Christ by the disciples, and some of the fragments now discovered were from a different manuscript of the same collection of sayings that were published some time ago. Their enormous interest lay in the fact that they often offered alternative versions of existing texts. For example, one variant of great value was that of the verse, Luke xi., 32, "Woe unto you lawyers, for ye have taken (or ye have hidden) the key of knowledge; ye entered in yourselves, and them that were entering ye hindered." The alternative version altered the last phrase to:—"And to them that were entering in ye did not open." Other logia clearly replied to the well-known questions of the disciples, "How shall we fast; how shall we pray; how shall we give alms. . . . ?" the general tenor of the replies being Christ's great doctrine, "The Kingdom of God is within you." Other papyri related to the Decian persecution in A.D. 250, and a unique document was a form of declaration that Christians had to make in order to show that they had sacrificed to a pagan god.

The *Baltic*, the latest addition to the White Star fleet, was to be launched by Messrs. Harland and Wolff at Belfast at the end of November. The *Baltic* will create a new record, inasmuch as her tonnage will be approximately 24,000 tons. She will be the largest vessel in the world, a distinction the White Star Line have held by the successive launches, since January, 1899, of the *Oceanic*, of 17,000 tons gross, the *Celtic*, of 20,904 tons, and the *Cedric*, of 20,950 tons. The *Baltic* will be upwards of 3,000 tons larger than any craft now afloat, and will be 4,000 tons in advance of the *Kaiser Wilhelm II.* The new Cunarders, however, are to be of about 24,000 tons. With the advent of the *Baltic*, the White Star Line will own three of the largest liners afloat. The length of the *Baltic* is 726ft., her breadth 75ft. 6in., her depth 49ft., while she has a displacement of 39,800 tons.

Sir Francis Burnand tells in his recently published "Reminiscences" of how Sir Arthur Sullivan's mother once, when dining with the late Duke of Edinburgh, startled the Royal Prince by saying, "Sir, your family name is Guelph," to which the Duke responded, "Certainly; there's nothing to be ashamed of in the name of Guelph." But is it so assured that the name of that portion of the present British Royal Family which descends from Queen Victoria is Guelph? The question was first publicly raised over forty years ago, and more than once since; but it has never been satisfactorily disposed of. If the father's line be followed it would be Wettin, which is the patronymic of the Ernestine line of the House of Saxony, to which the Prince Consort belonged, and which is still borne by the Meiningen family and the King of Saxony. But if the mother's name be taken it would be accepted as Guelph, though here arises a difficulty which is quaintly paradoxical. Some thirty years before the Norman Conquest, according to the older genealogists, Cunegonde Guelph, Duchess of Brunswick, married Alberto Azo d'Este, Duke of Modena; and it is from that august and ancient lady that the Guelph family identified with the reigning House of Hanover has descended. But if Duchess Cunegonde is considered to have transmitted the name of Guelph to her descendants for some 900 years, why may not Queen Victoria be conceded the same privilege? Then comes the dilemma: either the family name of King Edward VII. is not Wettin but Guelph, or his illustrious mother's maiden name was not Guelph but d'Este. And the complication is completed by the fact that the lady whom English neo-Legitimists delight to describe as Mary IV. and III., "of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Queen," because she is directly descended from Charles I., was "born" Archduchess of Austria-Este-Modena, which gives another connexion with the reigning house of Great Britain and Ireland.

Among the most enjoyable celebrations of the festive season in Tokyo this year were the Christmas Trees at the residences of Mr. and Mrs. Takata and Mr. and Mrs. Schaeffer, and at the Imperial Hotel. The two first evoked hearty admiration for beauty of arrangement and tasteful selection of pretty gifts. The tree at the Imperial Hotel seems to have been conceived by the present able Manager, Mr. Flaig, and to have been designed chiefly for the benefit of the Hotel staff and their families. But several other guests were present, notably the visitors at the Hotel, and all agreed that the arrangements deserved high praise. We need scarcely add that the trees were lit on different days, that at the Hotel being on the 24th ultimo, that at Mr. and Mrs. Takata's on Xmas day, and that at Mr. and Mrs. Schaeffer's on the 28th.

The police have forbidden the yellow newspapers of Tokyo to continue gambling devices for increasing their circulation. We recently gave an outline of these devices. The newspapers concerned are the *Niroku*, the *Hochi*, the *Chuo*, the *Dempo* and the *Yorozu.*

It is said that the dowry of Miss Goelet (who has just become Duchess of Roxburghe) amounts, when all is calculated, to some £2,000,000. The export of duchesses and their dowries to Europe has raised much misgiving in the American Press. Under the heading "The Drain of the Dowries" the *New York World* prints a table showing the fortunes which the American brides of foreigners have taken out of the United States. The total amount is $208,000,000. —roughly speaking, £40,000,000. The following are the British items given by our New York contemporary:

Duchess of Manchester, née Yznaga......$	1,000,000
Duchess of Marlborough, née Vanderbilt.	10,000,000
Lady Curzon, née Leiter	5,000,000
Lady Lister Kaye, née Yznaga	1,000,000
Lady Randolph Churchill, née Jerome ...	500,000
Lady William Beresford, née Price	3,000,000
Duchess of Manchester, née Zimmerman	2,000,000
Miss Goelet (Duchess of Roxburghe)......	10,000,000
Countess of Strafford	1,000,000
Lady Thomas of Hesketh, née Sharon...	1,000,000
Mrs. Paget, née Stevens	2,000,000
Mrs. Vivian, née Roberts	12,000,000
Countess of Craven, née Martin............	1,000,000
Countess of Donoughmore, née Grace ...	500,000
Mrs. Douglas Campbell, née Lawrence...	500,000
Mrs. Carter, née Parker	3,000,000
Baroness Halkett, née Stokes...............	10,000,000
Lady Michael Henry Herbert, née Wilson	5,000,000
Mrs. Burke Roche, née Work	1,000,000
Baroness Harden Hickey, née Flagier ...	1,000,000
Lady Gordon Cumming, née Garner......	1,000,000
Countess Yarmouth, née Thaw	1,000,000

Among the dowries which have gone to the Continent the following are given: Princess Colonna, née Mackay, $2,500,000; Countess Castellane, née Gould, $15,000,000; Princess Hatzfeldt, née Huntingdon, $2,000,000; Countess Festetics, née Haggin, $2,000,000; and Princess Poniatowski, née Sperry, $1,000,000.

Many of our readers will learn with pleasure that the estate of Mr. J. A. Poklevski-Kozell, recently declared bankrupt, is not the property of Mr. S. Poklevski-Kozell, Secretary of the Imperial Russian Legation, who enjoyed such wide popularity during his service in Tokyo.

CHRISTMAS IN YOKOHAMA.

Clear bright, frosty weather prevailed at Yokohama all through Christmastide, thus making the holidays all the more enjoyable. The Christmas feast is, among the nations of the Northern hemisphere, a festival of the home and fire-side pure and simple and in Yokohama in accordance with time-honoured custom among the foreign residents the right hand of good-fellowship was extended far and wide and the sacred rites of hospitality, as understood among Europeans and Americans, were dispensed with lavish thoroughness. The churches all attracted large and reverent congregations at the morning services; a little football was indulged in during the afternoon by some of the younger and more energetic members of the community, and then, as a grand *finale*, the fire-fiend provided a big blaze in Japanese town to close the day. Boxing Day saw all the foreign stores closed and everyone bent on enjoying the glorious weather.

Midnight Mass.

The festival of Christmas was ushered in with High Mass at the Catholic Church, Main Street, a very large congregation assembling just before midnight to take part in or listen to the stirring music of Merchadante's High Mass in E. Flat. Mr. W. E. Karl Vincent presided at the organ and he was assisted by an augmented choir, the soloists being Mrs. Thos. S. Baker, Miss F. Mendelson, and Mr. Stoltz. Bishop Magadure preached the sermon and the Celebrants were the Fathers belonging to the Church.

Christ Church.

Christ Church was lavishly decorated by Mrs. W. P. G. Field and her assistants with palms, pine-branches, red-berries, bamboo, and holly, and presented a very pretty appearance, carrying one back in thought to years gone by, to many Christmas mornings spent in churches of old England amid similar decorations and surroundings. All the dear, old hymns associated with the season—"O, come all ye Faithful"; "Hark, the Herald Angels sing"; "Christians Awake"; "When Shepherds Watched"—were joyously sung, and at the conclusion of Morning Prayer many stayed for the Celebration of Holy Communion. The Preacher was the Incumbent, the Rev. W. P. G. Field, and the Rev. W. Weston assisted at the Communion Service.

On Sunday evening, after Evensong, several Carols were sung by the choir of Christ Church. These were greatly enjoyed.

The Seamen's Mission.

A very bright and happy service was conducted on Christmas morning at the Seamen's Mission by the Chaplain, the Rev. W. T. Austen, which was well-attended.

Union Church.

The Christmas morning service at the Union Church was exceptionally bright. The church was prettily decorated with evergreens and small flags, and there was a fairly large congregation. The service was conducted by the Pastor, the Rev. E. S. Booth, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. Erdman. Mr. W. Karl Vincent presided at the organ, playing Dubois' "Toccata" and Scotson-Clarke's "Festal March," and an augmented choir sung the usual Christmas hymns. Two anthems were also sung, viz., "Sing, O Heavens" and "While Shepherds Watched," the solo part in the latter being taken by Mr. S. H. Somerton. The musical part of this service was repeated at the Sunday morning service.

THE "NIKKO MARU."

The new N.Y.K. steamer *Nikko Maru*, which is on the berth for Australia, to leave on Jan. 16th, is one of the finest, and certainly the most up-to-date ship of the Japanese mercantile navy. Her dimensions are—430 ft. long between perpendiculars, 50 ft. beam, 30½ ft. depth. She is very elaborately fitted for the accommodation of 60 first class, 28 second class, 24 intermediate and 108 steerage passengers. She has a straight stem and elliptical stern; she is divided into eight water-tight compartments and is constructed with double bottom right forward and aft. There are two complete decks; upper and main. The bridge deck, which extends for a length of 175 ft. is sheltered by the shade deck and reserved for the first class passengers' promenade, while the poop deck is for the second class.

The decorations of the first class saloon social hall and smoking room are most elaborate and artistic. For example, we read in our Nagasaki contemporary that the chief decorative feature of the saloon is a square-trunk skylight which rises to the height of 21 ft. from the saloon floor and is 10 ft. square. The upper part of the skylight is of rich stained-glass. In the forward end of the saloon there are two large wireless-cloisonne panels worked in the wall; one panel representing wild ducks in water, and the other wild ducks in flight; these are by Mr. Namikawa, a member of the Imperial Household artisans, and famous for his wireless-cloisonne ware. Aft of the saloon is the grand stairway, panelled also in white oak and similar finish to the saloon, giving access to the first class cabins on the upper deck. It is lighted overhead by a large skylight of stained glass, as well as from the sides. The centre-panel is a large cut silk velvet, with a magnificent picture of a water-fall in black and white, prepared by Mr. Iida of Kyoto. The social hall is at the forward end of the saloon, the walls lined with white oak and finished similar to the saloon; there are three silk panels with classic pictures of Mount Arashi woven in silk gobelin-fabric. The hall is furnished with piano, writing desks, and a number of easy and occasional chairs. It will not be amiss to add here that this social hall was fitted up at the Osaka Exhibition this year and was used by their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress as a retiring-room during their visit. The furniture is in peacock blue with classic bamboo and flora-pawllownia design in silk damask. All the fabrics are by Mr. Kawashima, a well-known silk-weaver and a member of the Imperial Household artisans, to the builders' design.

The ship is equipped with the very latest appliances in the matter of boat gear, deck machinery, electric lighting (there are no fewer than 500 lamps on board, exclusive of 10 cargo lights each of 250 candle power), heating and cooling, (the *Nikko* is the second as the *Kumano* was the first vessel under the Japanese flag to carry Stewart's thermo-tank system), ice making, and refrigeration. The triple expansion engines drove the new craft on her trial at a speed of 17.76 knots.

The *Nikko Maru*, which as we have said, is meant for the Australian line will be in charge by Capt. E. W. Haswell, so that with a genial and obliging commander and a splendid ship intending passengers may confidently look forward to the enjoyment of every comfort and convenience.

THE FORGED CHEQUES.

On December 17th we warned the public of Yokohama to be on their guard against a gang of men who were tampering and altering cheques, and we gave particulars, under reserve, of two instances. We now learn that Mr. Henri Fouque, a French citizen, living at Naka-Rokubancho, Kojimachi, Tokyo, was arrested on Dec. 23rd and removed to the Yokohama District Court to undergo preliminary examination. The *Jiji*, repeating our story, states that on Dec. 14th a Japanese presented to the Russo-Chinese Bank a cheque for *yen* 13,500, demanding payment. Suspicion was aroused on the part of the teller and the cheque, after careful examination, was found to have been altered. The man who attempted to cash the cheque escaped while the examination of the cheque was proceeding, but an accomplice was caught. The Kagacho police were not long in discovering that the cheque had been altered from *yen* 12, at which figure it was drawn by Messrs. Kuhn and Komor, to *yen* 13,500. The cheque was in favour of S. Uwosumi (50) a *bric-a-brac* dealer living at Tobe, Yokohama, and was in payment of a *hibachi* (fire-box). This Japanese was subsequently arrested and examined in the Yokohama District Court, after which three other Japanese living in Tokyo were arrested in connexion with the affair. The Frenchman is alleged to be involved in the same charge. It is alleged by the *Jiji* that he is being prosecuted in Tokyo on another charge but was temporarily enlarged on bail.

MARRIAGE AT CHRIST CHURCH.

There was a pretty wedding at Christ Church on Monday afternoon (Dec. 28th), the contracting parties being Mr. Henry Braithwaite Batty and Miss Edith Frances Emmeline Oswin. The Rev. W. P. G. Field officiated. The bride, who looked charming in a costume of white silk, was given away by Mr. G. Syme Thomson; Mr. J. H. Cutcliffe Goodban acted as best man, and the ushers were Messrs. O. M. Poole and B. C. Foster. The customary hymns and psalms were sung by the choir, Mrs. Field presiding at the organ and playing the Wedding March at the conclusion of the ceremony. A reception was afterwards held at the residence of Mr. G. Syme Thomson, where a number of friends assembled to tender congratulations to the bride and bride-groom. Mr. Syme Thomson proposed the health and future happiness of Mr. and Mrs. Batty in a few well-chosen words, Mr. Batty replying in appropriate terms. Later the happy couple departed for their honeymoon amid the expression of good wishes from their friends.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF JAPANESE CURRENT LITERATURE.

To the *Kyōiku Kōhō* Mr. Kubota Beisen, the well known artist, contributes a very valuable historical and critical article entitled "Danjurō and Art," which gives a history of the development of stage-acting in Japan. We have only space for a very brief outline of the essay, which is of great length. Stage-acting in Japan may be said to have originated with the development of the art of dancing, and this Mr. Kubota traces back to the time when, according to Japanese mythology, Tenshō Daijin was enticed out of the cavern to which she had retired by the skilful dancing of Ame-no-Usume-no-Mikoto. In the time of the Emperor Suiko (A. D. 593—628) Chinese and Korean stage-acting became known to the Japanese and was then called *Bugaku*, or dancing to music. It was at that time very military in character, most of the performers being clad in armour and bearing shields. But subsequently the Ise Daijingū priests, in order to attract the attention of the agricultural classes to religion, instituted a dance connected with rice-planting, which was performed in a ceremonious fashion. This species of dancing was known as *tamai* (田舞) for some time, but afterwards was called *dengaku* (田樂). Then the Court instituted a dance called *Gosetsu no mai*, performed on the 5 festival days known as the *go-sekku*. On these occasions a stage was erected and in the presence of the Emperor specially selected girls called *miko* (巫子) went through the various postures prescribed for the occasion.* There were Court performances, too, known as *tōka*, which took place on festival days. Though this term would seem to indicate that chanting accompanied the dancing, Mr. Kubota informs us that such was not the case. But there was music. The Buddhist priests were not to be left behind, and so they instituted dancing as an accompaniment of certain ceremonies. This dancing received the title of *Ennen-mai* (延年舞). Up to this time there was only dancing, accompanied by music designed to help the performer to keep time. The female dancers known as *Shirabyōshi*, the *geisha* of the Kamakura era, were first employed by Buddhist priests. They soon became secularized and were called on to perform at drunken revels. At the beginning of the Kamakura era a young fellow employed in one of the Hieizan temples, called Momoi Kōwaka, became the inventor of a new style of dancing which received the title of *Kōwaka-mai*. From this were developed the forms of dancing followed by *Kagura* actors and those comedies or farces included under the term *Sarugaku* (猿樂)†. The further development of these stage performances into what is now known as *Nōgaku* or simply *Nō* by adding chanting was the work of the Buddhist priests. The early performances usually took place out of doors. Hence the term *Shibai* (芝居), being on the turf, was adopted as an equivalent for "theatre." When Oda Nobunaga was ill, on one occasion, a woman of great intelligence called Ono Otsū related an entertaining story to him about a woman of ancient times, to whom she gave the name of Jōruri-hime. This story was set to music by one Torazawa Kengyō and the piece was entrusted to the care of two men called Satsuma-no-Jō and Takemoto Gidayū. Hence the musical drama called *jōruri* came to be called *gidayū*. Later on one of the dancing virgins attached to Ōyashiro, a shrine situated in Izumo called Okuni, utilized dancing for the raising of subscriptions towards the repair of the Ōyashiro shrine. Her performances in Kyōto were very successful. Chanting seems to have been part of the performance, for the term *Kabuki* (歌舞伎) came into use at this time. Subsequently Okuni was married and in conjunction with her husband did much to develop the beginnings of modern stage-acting.‡ In her time were published a number of plays. . . . . What is called the *ningyō-shibai*, or puppet-show, seems to have had a semi-religious origin, that is, it was first employed as a device for getting money for the repair of Nishinomiya, in Settsu, by a priest called Marutayu. . . . . But dancing soon ceased to be principally the hand-maiden of religion. It was practised by the prostitutes of Kyōto as a means of attracting the attention of the opposite sex. Their dancing, however, was for the most part what is called *te-odori*, or hand-dancing. Many prostitutes took part in *nō* performances at this time and hence the term *tayū* (大夫) applied to a *joruri* performer, is also used of first-class prostitutes. But the stage having been thus greatly debased by the low character of the performers, the Government interfered and forbade women actors. These actresses were succeeded by the class of youths known as *wakashu*, who were the forerunners of the modern *yakusha*. From the Ashikaga days onward the higher class stage performances known as *nō* were the delight of the upper and middle classes. The *shibai* was for a long time regarded as very low-class and from the fact that the early performances were given in Shijōgawara, Kyōto, a place associated with the beggars, the actors were designated *kawaramono* and were banished from respectable society. Stage-acting in Japan, then, was very low down when at the beginning of the Meiji era Danjūrō commenced his work. He owed his success principally to assiduous application. From very early years he took great interest in painting and studied pictures with keen insight into the ideas they shadowed forth, and many of his efforts on the stage were attempts to represent by various devices certain ideas that had impressed him. Mr. Kubota furnishes instances of this, for which we have no space here. Danjūrō was throughout his life an idealist, says Mr. Kubota. The representation of things as they actually are was not what he aimed at, but the creation of combinations that should together express some beautiful idea. It is both in stage-acting and in painting this characteristic that ennobles performances. The photographer can reproduce all natural objects and movements more perfectly than the painter or the actor, but he cannot present such ideal scenes, pictures and movements as proceed from the brains of a real artist or an inventive mime. The significance of Danjurō's career consisted in the fact that he ever championed the ideal, and because this was so my sympathy with him, says Mr. Kubota, was ever of the keenest kind. The bond that binds idealists together is very strong.

A great many magazines contain biographical notices of Danjurō. Mr. Shimada Saburō in the *Shinjin* observes that it is rare to find a man in modern Japan who has wielded so much power among all classes of society as Danjurō. The learned world, the business world, the professional world will alike miss this striking figure, who formed a kind of connecting link between old and new Japan, says Mr. Shimada. He had no compeers on the stage: no one recognized this more than such actors as Kikugorō.

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The following books call for a passing notice in these columns:—

The *Shina Jimmei Jisho* is a Chinese Biographical Dictionary compiled by Messrs. Namba Tsuneo, Hayakawa Junzaburō and Suzuki Kōzō. It is to consist of 3 vols. covering in all 2,000 pages. The subscription price for the whole work is 4 *yen*. It professes to give a short history of every noted man in China during the past 4,000 years from emperors down to highway robbers. The Keibunsha. Ichibanchō, Kōjimachi, are the publishers.

The *Kokusho Gedai* (國書解題) is a Bibliography that has already had a large sale and is now appearing in an enlarged form. It was noticed in these columns in a former Summary. The compiler is Mr. Samura Hachirō, and it is announced that the work has been revised by a number of well known scholars, and as for the preface writers, the list is most formidable, including Doctors Katō Hiroyuki, Inoue Tetsujirō, Ueda Mannen, and Nanjō, Mr. Kanō Jigorō, and many others. The first edition of the work was published three years ago, having taken four years to compile. It contains notices of 20,000 Japanese books and covers 2,500 pages printed in No. 6 type. The work is issued by Yoshikawa Hanshichi, and the subscription price is 7 *yen*.

The *Shūko Jisshu* (集古十種) is a reproduction of Matsudaira Rakuō's famous work. He collected a very large number of rare art specimens, had them painted by Tani Bunchō, and published them in 85 volumes. The work has hitherto been selling at between 50 *yen* and 100 *yen* per copy, so rare had the copies become. Yoshikawa Hanshichi now offers it at 8 *yen* per copy, subscription price. It is said to be a book of priceless value to students of Japanese art.

Another big book in the press is the *Shakai Jirin* (事林), an encyclopædia of knowledge on a variety of subjects. The compilation is said to have been superintended by seven well known scholars, Doctors Hatoyama, Inoue (Tetsujirō), Matsumura, Matsuzaki, Yokoi, Miyake and Ōnishi. But what this may mean it is hard to say. The subjects are arranged under 15 headings in alphabetical order.

Maruya announces that a work on "Anglo-Saxon Influence in Japan" is in course of compilation with a view to its being presented to the managers of the great Exhibition to be held in America next year. The project was started by the Eigaku Jihōsha. The compilation will be under the control of Count Okuma, and the elder statesmen have all promised to contribute their quota to this history of the *Meiji* era. The co-operation of Barons Iwasaki, Kanda Naibu and other prominent men has been secured.

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The *Taiyō* sustains its bulk year after year with great regularity. In this respect it has no rival in Japan. The Japanese part of the magazine covers some 250 large-sized pages. There is of course great inequality in the writing. Yet, taking the year through, it commands the services of a better class of writers than are connected with any other periodical of the kind. Its articles on politics, business, education and philosophy are usually penned by specialists in these subjects. Its novelettes are often cleverly written, and judging by the space devoted to them must find a number of eager readers. Under the heading of "Opinions of Prominent Men" it publishes a series of short spicy articles on a variety of topics. Two of these, appearing in the December number of the magazine, we propose to notice here, but before doing so wish to observe that it is a pity that the English part of the *Taiyō* which covers usually about 25 pages, is not better edited. Many of the articles written by Japanese are good as regards matter, but in most cases the English is most defective. If the revision of each article were entrusted to some competent Englishman or American, the English part of Japan's greatest magazine world make a better show.

The views of prominent men are obtained by interviewers and stated in colloquial language under the title *Meika Dangi*. This month Dr. Inoue Enryō speaks on the "Short-comings of the Japanese" and Mr. Fukuchi Genichirō on "Our Policy towards China." Here is the gist of the first short article. When travelling in Kyūshū lately, the Director of a Middle School drew my attention to the numerous disturbances that occur in Middle Schools throughout the country. He seemed to think that the evil to which he referred was confined principally to Middle Schools, but to me it seemed otherwise. For a long time I have perceived that there are certain defects in Japanese human nature, which if not remedied will prove a great hindrance to national progress. They reveal that pettiness which is said to be one of the characteristics of islanders. I will give a few instances of what I mean. (1) *There is a good deal of petty jealousy in Japanese human nature.*—When a man rises in rank or becomes wealthy, there are a number of people who take delight in saying something disparaging about him. The art of abuse in this country has been developed to an extraordinary extent. People in power are invariably envied and opposed as far as possible. This is the small-mindedness which reveals itself in the business world, the political world and the educational world in a most unmistakable manner, and which ruins enterprise after enterprise. No matter how much progress Japan may make in other respects, if she fails to conquer this tendency to petty jealousy, she can never become really great. (2) *The spirit of independence is not sufficiently developed among us.*—The readiness with which able-bodied young men consent to receive help from persons who are under no obligation to assist them astonishes me. To become an object of charity is considered no disgrace by many young men. To sum up, we find, then, in the young men of to-day insubordination, dislike of discipline combined with small-mindedness—a most undesirable combination. . . . Most of our civilisation has come from the United States, where people are freer than they are in any European country.* In the United States Herbert Spencer's writings are known to everybody. Not so in England, where most people who have read his books regard his doctrines on liberty as somewhat dangerous. American notions on liberty were too great a contrast to the despotism to which we were accustomed in feudal days. Hence the insubordination complained of. The change was too sudden. Dr. Inouye concludes his article thus:—*Sunawachi shima-guni konjō to jiyusetsu no denrai to appaku* (oppressive government) *no naku natta to, kono sansha* (3 things) *no hōgō* (包合) *kara kō iu kifū ga dekita no de arimasureba, sunawachi gakkō no tokuyū to nomi ni kagiraremasen. Nihonjin no tansho wa jitsu ni kono ten ni aru koto to omoimasu.*

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* These performers were virgins attached to shrines, whose office it was to entertain the gods by dancing before them.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY).

† This term is sometimes written with the monkey ideograph 申.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

‡ The marriage of girls who had spent the early years of their life in "dancing before the Lord" was of frequent occurrence in these times.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY).

Mr. Fukuchi believes the partition of China to be inevitable and he has, he tells us, held this view for over 20 years. He says that Japanese statesmen fail to understand the real situation of affairs in the neighbouring country. Though China has held together so long, there is not sufficient affinity in the races of which the nation is composed to allow of her doing so against foreign pressure. What Japan needs to adopt, according to Mr. Fukuchi, is a far-sighted policy. The Far Eastern question is not going to be settled by any of the temporary expedients Japan is now proposing. The preservation of China's independence is the wildest of dreams—had Japan far more resources than she possesses, she could not accomplish it. China's disintegration is a foregone conclusion, and the sooner Japan realizes this the better. A falling house is not to be kept upright with one post. As for the talk about *dōbun, dōshu* (one-script, one-race), it is all moonshine.† The attempts now made in the neighbouring continent to reconcile the irreconcilable remind me, says Mr. Fukuchi, of similar attempts in our country when the Bakufu fell. There was a scheme, which I in my ignorance supported, for preserving the old feudal form of government alongside of Imperial authority, but it was soon recognized to be quite impracticable. Our policy towards China must be determined by what is clear as to the fate of that country. All calculations that leave out of consideration the unmistakable signs of China's coming doom are quite worthless.

Mr. S. Tsuji writes in the *Taiyō* at great length on Technical Education. The tone of the article is very earnest and the many suggestions it contains are all of a practical type. Mr. Tsuji knows as well as any man living what are the causes of Japan's low rank in the scale of commercial and industrial nations, a rank which he himself observes is far below that of small European countries like Italy. Her people are not educated in sufficient numbers to allow of their competing successfully with Western nations. What is called business education has been largely neglected for years in this country, so that Japan's financial resources to-day are not a tenth of what they might have been had she realized her deficiencies 20 years ago. On the principle that it is never too late to mend, Mr. Tsuji comes foward with his scheme of educational reform. Current periodicals publish many such schemes. The present Minister of Education, as was shown in a former Summary, has a plan of his own, but the carrying out of such great changes as are proposed would involve more money than the Mombushō is likely to have entrusted to it in the near future. Hence it is that practical men are not interested in hearing what the numerous theorists have to say on this subject.

Dr. Anezaki contributes to the *Taiyō* an appreciation, perhaps we ought to say a defence, of the late Dr. Takayama, the purport of which is that Dr. Takayama's many changes of opinion were the result partly of study, but principally of his possession of the courage to adopt whatever views commended themselves to him from time to time. According to Dr. Anezaki, Dr. Takayama died a sincere follower of Nichiren*, whose career elicited the most intense admiration from a mind that was permeated with seriousness and earnestness. Not a few critics have commented adversely on Dr. Takayama's numerous changes of opinion. They regarded him as an impressionist of a most unreliable type. His life, observes Dr. Anezaki, has been divided up into the Chikamatsu period, when the Japanese drama absorbed the whole attention of his active mind; the Nippon Shugi, when, stimulated by his ardent nature, the late Doctor championed the cause of Nationalism against the apostles of Occidentalism; and the Ethical period, when individualism and national morality were the themes that occupied the pen of this powerful writer. But to Dr. Anezaki Dr. Takayama's life appears to be all of a piece, all part of the regular development of striking traits of character. Dr. Takayama, says Dr. Anezaki, realized before all things that man is born to learn and that he must give his whole attention to each separate teacher. He was of opinion that each man will do well to develop to the full his own original nature, that the best types of men can only be obtained in this way. During the 11 years of his literary life many were the transitions he experienced, but they were all the result of the subtle influences of the various lines of study which he took up, working on a very susceptible and a very serious mind. Being a man of decided character himself, it was only to kindred natures that he really became attached. In literature, in politics, in art, it was the men of purpose and will who had reached certain definite conclusions that attracted him.

There is no doubt that among modern writers in Japan Dr. Takayama, considering his age, made more impression on young readers than any one. As to his reliableness as a guide in things literary and ethical there is a wide difference of opinion. All are agreed that he wielded a powerful pen, but beyond that he has as many detractors as admirers.

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Under the title of "The Lesson to be Learnt from the Proposed Abolition of the Mombushō" the *Shinjin* (*New Man*) expresses itself thus:—Like many another subject about which the public has excited itself for a time, the proposed abolition of the Department of Education has ceased to attract attention. We ourselves attached no importance to the agitation from the first. Neither the arguments for the abolition nor against it were conclusive. The movement may be regarded as one of those perpetually recurring expressions of dissatisfaction with the system of education now followed. That the Cabinet should abolish the Education Department merely for the sake of economy was a notion that few serious-minded men would entertain. It was not, then, the financial aspect of the question which swelled the number of the pro-abolitionists, but the feeling that the abolition of the Department might lead to the cessation of a serious abuse that has clung to all our modern Cabinets, namely, the subordination of educational interests to military and naval interests. As long as this abuse lasts it makes little difference into whose hands the administration of education may fall. The money placed at the disposal of the Department is quite inadequate to the pressing educational needs of the country, and as long as our Cabinets are made to bow to the will of military men, it will always be so. We note in passing that Mr. Tsuji in his article in the *Taiyō* alludes to the same abuse. For our part, continues the *Shinjin*, we despair of any radical change being brought about as long as education is administered by a set of perfunctory, mercenary under-officials, who fill their posts merely as a means of obtaining a livelihood. Had the Department been abolished or reduced to a Bureau, these same men would have been appointed to administer its affairs. Perfunctoriness is written on all our administration. And the practice of allowing subordinate officials to administer government affairs in whatever way they please has been and still is the bane of all our modern Governments. It is a new set of men in our official educational world that is needed. Till these are forthcoming, all shiftings of the cards will prove to be of no avail. Therefore to us it appears that the question of retaining or abolishing the Department is not worth serious discussion, because the root of the educational evil is not to be got rid of by changing names, methods, or institutions, but only by the employment of new men

The *Shinjin* has an excellent article entitled *Shiritsu Daigakuron* (On Privately Endowed Universities), the substance of which we give below:—Since the Waseda Semmon Gakkō became a University, the six great Law Schools of Tōkyō have made arrangements for following suit, and Dr. Inoue Enryō's Tetsugakkan is likely to have granted to it the same privilege.† Thus the country will before long be in possession of no less than 10 Universities. This at first sight seems a cause for congratulation. But there are many objections to the existence of so many Law Colleges as we now have. The teaching of Law, though very necessary when it was commenced, has been overdone. Of course there is room for a few such Colleges, but six are too many, and in some respects calculated to do harm. There are 3 conceivable reasons for establishing non-Government Universities. (1) They may be needed to fill a gap left open by the existing Government institutions. The Government finds itself unable to cope with the growing educational needs of the country. The nation is waiting for men that the Government has no means of supplying. (2) Their establishment may be rendered necessary as a corrective to the Government Universities; which in the opinion of many have been conducted on mistaken principles. (3) Their establishment may be prompted by a desire to put into practice certain high ideals. How many of the newly established institutions are there that fulfil one or more of these functions? The 6 Law Colleges were called into existence by a passing wave of public sentiment. A knowledge of law was at the time of their establishment deemed to be the best preparation a man could have who aimed at making a reputation by politics. And so a number of dreamy youths flocked to these schools with the notion that they were on the road to wealth and fame. The schools were in many respects rivals to each other and represented various political parties. They have been attended by a number of poorly educated youths, who have been taught the art of logic-chopping and hair-splitting, who have been encouraged to theorize and to quibble without receiving any of the necessary counter-balancing instruction that such youths so sadly need. . . . There are those who maintain that these schools are not run on mercenary principles, that is, not for the sake of pecuniary gain, but that they aim at more freedom of thought and independence of judgment than is permitted in the two Imperial Universities. To this the simple answer is that the lecturers at these schools are almost all University professors or post-graduates. It seems to us that the Law Colleges connected with our two Universities, supplemented by the Waseda University Law College, furnish all the instruction on this subject that the country specially needs just at present, and that it is most desirable that the 6 Law Colleges should enlarge the scope of their teaching, adding lectures on Science and Literature to their programme, or that two or more of them should combine and undertake to teach commerce and industry. Too much educational effort has been centred on Law. The weak point about these Law Colleges is the fact that though independent in name, they are not so in reality, being run by means of University professors. They are in every way inferior to the Government Law Colleges. We see no reason for giving them a higher status than they have hitherto enjoyed. For we fail to see what they have done or are likely to do to merit it.

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* This is of course very questionable.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY).

† Mr. Fukuchi's words are *Sō-Jō no jin* (仁) *wo mita yō na mono.* "It is to be regarded as the pretended benevolence of the Chinese General, Sō-Jō, an allusion full of meaning to Japanese readers.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY).

* Most of Dr. Takayama's warmest friends deny this, affirming that belief in Buddhism was quite contrary to the whole bent of Dr. Takayama's mind. His utterances on this subject were made at a time when his disease was far advanced, when he was no longer himself, and therefore much importance is not to be attached to them.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY).

† The Department of Education seems, under the new Minister, to have recognized that its action the year before last in reference to this School was quite unjustifiable.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

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Four years ago, prior to his rehabilitation in office as a school director Mr. Yoshimura Toratarō started a Girls' School at Shimonibanchō, Kōjimachi, Tōkyō. The school now runs a Woman's Magazine, edited by a Mr. Miyada Shu, called *Kono Hana*. The title is derived from a very ancient and well known verse said to have been composed by a Korean called Wani which runs thus:—

Naniwa-zu ni
Sakuya kono hana
Fuyugomori;
Ima wo harube to
*Sakuya kono hana.**

The magazine, which has reached its fourth number is tastefully got up and well supplied with suitable matter. Mr. Yoshimura's school seems to be prospering. There are 135 girls now in the school, namely 38 first-year students; 66 second-year students; 19 third-year students and 12 higher class students. Mr. Yoshimura acts as Director of the School, though he has to reside in Kanazawa, and there are some 14 or 15 teachers. The school was founded in November, 1899, by Messrs. Yoshimura Toratarō and Mizutani Chokkō. The name of the school is the Seijo-gakkō.

* * *

In the *Keisai Sekai* we find a discerning article entitled "The Chinese Considered as Emigrants," written by Mr. Motoda Toyojirō. After observing that Japan's rapidly increasing population renders emigration one of the most pressing of questions, Mr. Motoda proceeds to discuss the wonderful success which has, during the past 30 years especially, attended Chinese emigration. The cause of this he takes to be the character of the Chinese working man. He is docile, he is patient to a degree, he treats affronts and even insults with stolid indifference, he is industrious and persevering, and, while observing all his own customs most scrupulously, he is never found interfering with or obstructing in any way the observance of the many alien customs with which he comes into contact. When in 1876 a new agreement with the United States was entered into by the Chinese Government, no restrictions were placed on the number of Chinese emigrants and the same liberty and rights as were enjoyed by the American labourer were granted to the Chinese. Encouraged by this liberal treatment, the Chinese for a series of years swarmed across the Pacific and the States were supplied with labour at a price prevously unknown. As railway navvies, as miners, as cooks, waiters, washermen and farm-labourers, they invariably did well. People preferred their quiet, docile, contented ways to those of the turbulent Irishman or the German, and so it came about that the labour party in America rose against them, the movement culminating in the passing of a prohibitive law known as "The Chinese Exclusion Act." This would have been enough to daunt most nationalities, but the Chinaman to-day is as resolute an emigrant as he was before the Act was passed, and under various guises and in mysterious ways he finds his way into the States from Canada or from Mexico. So that at the present time there is hardly a small village anywhere in the United States where there will not be found two or three Chinamen. Mr. Motoda then goes on to observe that notwithstanding the wonderful success which has characterized China's invasion of the labour market all over the world, as a rule the Chinaman never rises above a very subordinate position. As a common labourer he does well, but where high-class mechanics or artizans are required, or where skilful superintendence of others is needed, he is nowhere. He labours in a mechanical fashion very much like an animal. The American workman in the intervals of mechanical work will examine the mechanism of the instrument he is using and has often been known to suggest improvements in its construction. But not so the Chinaman. He is a labourer, but no more. In competition with other labourers this is a defect. Few are the Chinese labourers that better their position. They live and die as human, passive tools in the hands of their employers. As a consequence of the absence of mental interest in their work, they need far more inspection than European labourers, as is testified by one of the Managers of the Hongkong Dockyard, where all the workmen employed are Chinamen. The conservatism for which their country is noted is carried with them to their work. New ideas, new ways of doing things, altering methods to suit altered conditions—these are things that no one expects to find in the Chinaman. But the morality of the Chinaman as a workman and as a trader is very high and well worthy of our imitation. As the most successful emigrants in the world we have much to learn from the Chinese. To imitate all their good qualities and to supply their deficiencies this is the *rôle* the Japanese emigrant must seek to play.

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* "This Ōsaka flower that is all in bloom, blooms now in the spring time after enduring the winter cold." The meaning is that the endurance of hardships develops beauty of character.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

IN THE NEW YEAR.

The New Year brings to some a charm,
  And scenes and thoughts grow brighter;
To others it seems naught but harm,
  Life's struggles grip the tighter.

The former greets so cheerily,
  The friends he's always passing;
The other thinks most wearily
  Of debts so fast amassing.

Man number one has naught to fear,
  He has plenty, and to spare;
Man number two, has little cheer,
  His mind is filled with care.

And so we're passing every day
  First one and then the other;
How easily 'tis to forget
  That each one is our brother.

Acquainted with the first one,
  We are always glad to be;
But let us ever aim to treat
  Them both with equity.

A pleasant word, a cheery smile,
  'Tis naught to us, such giving,
But might it not, to him that's down
  Make life more worth the living?

May we, as down life's path we go,
  These latter ever seeing,
Do all the good we can, or know,
  For this, God gave us being.

To us, to you and me, I pray
  The first will e'er be given,
And through this life continuing on,
  Give us a glimpse of heaven.

Toledo Blade.

LIVE AND LEARN.

In a late issue of the American *Review of Reviews* appears an article written by a certain Mr. Stanhope Sams entitled "Rebirth of the Japanese Language and Literature." One must go to the West to learn new things about Japan. A few months ago an anonymous letter appeared in the *Times* announcing that the Department of Education had decided to adopt the *Romaji* and insist on all school-teaching being carried on through this medium. Now we have Mr. Stanhope Sams making false intelligence the basis of an article which is full of silly twaddle on the probable effects of the great change he supposes is about to come over the literature of this country. The article in question opens with a reference to news conveyed to America by some Tōkyō newsmonger thus: "Recent press dispatches from Tōkyō contained a brief announcement that the Government had decided to promote the adoption of the 'Roman letter' as used in the books and newspapers of this country and of western Europe and known in Japan as the *Romaji* for writing and printing the Japanese language" Mr. Sams then proceds to blame the newsmongers for not making their messages longer. While pages were filled with partly fanciful narratives of Turkish atrocities, "a few words were deemed an adequate record of an event that crowned with success one of the most important reform movements in the history of civilisation." Then Mr. Sams proceeds to comment on what he conceives to be the significance of the change involved in the adoption of *Romaji*. (1) "This reform means a complete change in the handwriting and in the type of the newspapers, magazines and books of more than forty million people. (2) It means the sweeping away of the most hideous (!) cumbrous and difficult system of writing ever devised, and the substitution for it of the simplest and clearest system of writing that civilisation and art have evolved, and the consequent simplification of the Japanese language. (3) It means the opening of the outside world for Japan and the letting out upon us, through gates long shut and barred, the refining influences of its own beautiful literature and art." These sentences suffice to show how little Mr. Sams knows about Japan and the question which he undertakes to discuss. He speaks as if he admired art, and yet calls the graceful Chinese characters "hideous." What has the adoption of *Romaji* to do with the understanding of Japanese art? Even were it a fact that within the next two decades Japan proposed to adopt the *Romaji* in her schools, no Japanese books worth reading on art would be printed in *Romaji* within Mr. Sams' lifetime, if within 50 years. Mr. Sams' article bristles with inaccuracies and wild statements. He undertakes to enlighten readers as to the present mode of spelling and writing and in the process shows his own ignorance of the subject in a most in excusable manner. *Asagao* is spelt in Japanese アサガホ and not アサガオ; *morai* is spelt モラヒ and not モライ; *midzu*, wrongly, it seems to us, written *mizu*, is spelt ミヅ and not ミズ. Thus in the spelling of five short words on which Mr. Sams ventures, in no less than three of them he is wrong. The introduction of *Romaji*, according to Mr. Sams, is going to remould the language. According to him the mass of the Japanese have never known their own language, but will henceforth get to do so through the *Romaji*, and from these heretofore unenlightened folks will spring poets, historians, and what not. Japanese minds will all be transformed by this language-earthquake, the introduction of the *Romaji*. We close with one more quotation, which will show to what lengths of consummate trash Mr. Sams ventures to go. "After simplifying the language and at the same time, making it more plastic and more pliant, this great reform will restore it as a new gift and inspiration to the rejuvenated minds and hearts of Japan. What may not this exquisitely poetic, imaginative and alert race fashion out of such splendid material as their strong and beautiful language and their marvellous, artistic temperament? We may justly expect the dawning and the early day of a magnificent literature in Japan. Alphonse Daudet once said, in speaking of Turgueneff 'What a luxury it must be to have a great, big untrodden barbaric language to wade into!' The Japanese is a great, big, untrodden though not entirely 'barbaric' language. It is essentially fresh, as fresh as Greek in the time of Homer, as Italian in the time of Dante, as English in the time of Shakespeare; and its singers under the new inspiration (*Romaji*) will soon show that like Marlowe, they have in them 'those brave sublunary things that the first poets had.'" Why was not this article stuffed into the editor's waste-paper basket? Simply because the editor probably knew less about the subject treated than Mr. Sams. And so it appears in big type and traverses the length and breadth of America as one of the latest and finest utterances on "Things Japanese." If it is true that knowledge is money. So also is ignorance; and the number of people who make a living by trading on the ignorance of the reading public is considerable. As long as an article is spicy and sensational, it will pass. The old motto *vigeat veritas, et pereat mundus* has been replaced in some quarters by *vigeat sensatio, et pereat mundus.*

FIRES.

A telegram from Takeshiki states that fire broke out in the barracks there, destroying a godown.

On the night of Dec. 24th, fire broke out in the Yokohama District Court damaging only the preliminary examination Court room and its upper floor in which was the office of the Public Procurator. The cause is believed to have been a stove. No documents were injured.

Another outbreak occurred on the night of Dec. 25th in the house of Mr. T. Inouye, a well-known Customs broker. Miyazaki-chō, with the result that he sustained severe injuries while escaping from an up-stairs room where he was sleeping. Seven houses were burned down and six injured. The cause is incendiarism.

Fire occurred on the night of Dec. 27th at Nakarokubancho, Kojimachi, Tokyo, destroying the dwellings of Viscount Naito and Major Tamura, and damaging the Sakurai Female School. Incendiarism is believed to have been the cause.

On Dec. 26th, fire occurred at Miyake island, Idzu province, burning down over 40 dwellings and many sheds. The whole of the houses on the island number about 130.

Several fires were reported on Dec. 28th in Tokyo. Two were at Shitaya and in each case the outbreak was subdued before doing serious damage. Another was at the village of Taniyara, Kitatama, destroying seven buildings, including a godown. The last one was at another village in the same district, burning down three dwellings and a godown.

An incendiary outbreak of fire at Noge, Yokohama, on Dec. 28th burned down a shed. It was started by dried leaves and kerosene.

Fire occurred on Dec. 29th at Annaka, near Maebashi, burning down 22 houses. The cause is not known.

YOKOHAMA GENERAL HOSPITAL.

The following additional subscriptions have been received in answer to the Committee's appeal:—

	YEN.
Amount already acknowledged	14,922.00
Herbert Rose, Esq.	500.00
J. H. Rosenthal, Esq.	100.00
Yokohama Engine & Iron Works Ltd.	100.00
Mrs. Page	25.00
A.N.	20.00
Hayashi Shoten	10.00
S. Minekishi, Esq.	5.00
"Friend"	5.00
Anonymous	5.00
Total to date	15,629.00

MAURICE RUSSELL,
Hon. Treasurer.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

The *Morning Post* says:—Mr. J. MacLaren Cobban left no unfinished work behind him, his last days of health having been devoted almost exclusively to producing "The Life and Deeds of Lord Roberts."

Mark Twain has, it is stated, been granted a handsome annuity for life by the Harper publishing concern, enough to keep him and his family comfortably, in exchange for first call on everything the humorous philosopher writes. Mark will seek subjects and Mrs. Clemens's health under the sunny skies of Florence, where they will remain for at least a year.

There will shortly be issued by Messrs. Stephen & Pollock, Ayr, a new historical romance by Mr. William Robertson, entitled "The Dule Tree of Cassillis." The tale, one of Mr. Robertson's series of Ayrshire stories, carries the reader back to the days of the notorious "King of Carrick," Earl Gilbert of Cassillis, the same who roasted the Commendator in the Black Vault of Dunure, and whose spouse, according to the tradition handed down in a well-known ballad, was carried off by Johnnie Faa, the gipsy laddie.

The accession to the see of Canterbury of a Scotsman, the second within a generation, is a matter of great interest to all Scots, whether interested in ecclesiastical affairs or not. The Rev. Adam Philip, Longforgan, assumes that this interest is sufficient to warrant the publication of an "Ancestry of Randall Thomas Davidson, D.D., Archbishop of Canterbury." The book, which is priced at 3s. 6d., and published by Elliot Stock, is illustrated by a portrait of the Primate and by photographs of the churches with which his ancestors were connected.

From Scotland comes an item of news reminiscent of Burns. The old "Brig" of Ayr has fallen into a state of dilapidation that causes anxiety to all interested in ancient associations and in the picturesque. It is being urged on the Town Council of the borough that the loss of the bridge would be generally deplored, both on account of its associations and its usefulness. There is also a spice of humour in the situation. Some dead admirer of Burns left a fund for rebuilding the bridge, and a committee of the Council is now considering whether this money must really lie untouched until the structure has tumbled to pieces for want of repairs!

A remarkable find, and one that has rescued from destruction some materials of importance to the history of the nineteenth century, has just been made at Aquila. Signor d'Angelo, a librarian, noticing that his grocer was sending him successive parcels wrapped in old papers belonging to the distinguished barrister, Signor Dominicis, not long since dead, conceived the idea that the heirs might have sold his old papers with a job lot as rubbish, and that some useful documents might be found among them. Purchasing the lot from the grocer, he carefully sorted them, with the result that he was enriched by finding unpublished letters of Garibaldi, Mazzini, Cavioli, and other leaders of the revolutionary period. The letters throw much light on the stirring events of 1860 and 1861.

"Byron and the Murrays" is the title of a very interesting interview with the famous publisher of Albemarle-street which appears in the November *Book Monthly*. In one passage a complete denial is given to a well-known story:

> There is an old story (said Mr. Murray) to the effect that Byron sent my grandfather a Bible in which he had changed a well-known line to read, "Now, Barrabas was a publisher." Here is Byron's Bible, and, as you will see with curiosity, there is no mark whatever on the page where the Barrabas passage occurs, or, indeed, anywhere else. In a word, the story never had a shadow of foundation so far as Byron and the house of Murray were concerned.

If there is in English literary history any incident of the sort it would be interesting to learn its origin.

The old sun-dial in Pump-court, London, which has "reckoned none but shining hours" for three centuries, has just been renovated, and now reminds one that the art of dial-making is still practised in England. Perhaps the most remarkable collection of sun-dials is that of Mr. Kent, at Haywards Heath. He has a dozen of them in his gardens and on the walls of his house, and three of them erected over the windows of his bedroom are so arranged that they tell the time on the glass, and one may lie in bed and know the hour. Lord Ilchester has dials similarly arranged. Some years ago a very fine modern sun-dial, engraved on a slab of slate, was built into the wall of the house at Sandringham, and the mottoes on it, chosen by the King and Queen, are: "My time is in Thy hand" and "Let others tell of storms and showers, I'll only count your sunny hours."

"One stormy day," writes Mr. Lionel A. Tollemache in the *Guardian*, "Mr. Gladstone walked from his hotel to visit me in the room where I am now writing; and I was amazed to see that he came without an umbrella. On my venturing to remonstrate, he laughingly explained that if the high wind had happened to turn his umbrella inside out a picture of him in that forlorn plight would have found its way into half the comic papers!" Mr. Gladstone's extreme good nature is illustrated in another anecdote. "My wife and I invited a Liberal barrister to dinner to meet his political chief, but he was prevented from coming by a broken leg. He was, I think, at that time not personally known to Mr. Gladstone; but although his room was near the top of our hotel, which then had no lift, the 'grand' octogenarian walked up flight after flight of stairs and talked for some time by his bedside."

In his new work on "Hawthorne and His Circle," Mr. Julian Hawthorne makes a remarkable confession. Some years ago, it seems, he received a letter from Liverpool asking him to identify, from a photograph, the house in Rock Park in which he and his father had lived, with a view to the affixing of a mural tablet. He proceeds as follows:

> All the houses in Rock Park had been turned out of the same mould, and I knew no more than my interrogator which was which. But I reflected that the committee had been put to trouble and expense for photographs, postage stamps, and what not, and that all that was really wanted was something to be sentimental over. So rather than disappoint them I resorted to a kind of "Sortes Virgilianæ"; I shut my eyes, turned round thrice, and made a mark at hazard on the line of photographs. The chances against my having hit it right were only four to one; the committee were satisfied, the pilgrims have been made happy, and it is difficult to see where harm has been done.

It will be interesting to see whether Liverpool takes notice of this startling avowal, and whether the "plaque" will be withdrawn pending inquiries and verification.

In "Portraits of the Sixties" (published by T. Fisher Unwin) Mr. Justin M'Carthy puts into permanent form many reminiscences of great men he has met in a long and busy journalistic and Parliamentary career, recollections that touch the intimate side of these men's characters and that we would not willingly let die. Mr. M'Carthy has had opportunities that are given to few of seeing and meeting the prominent men of his time. A journalist to the manner born, he has an eye to see and a mind open to sympathy and understanding at every point. The recollections and observations he has set down in this large and liberally illustrated volume are, as a consequence, brimful of interest and colour, and will serve as a useful supplement to his "History of Our Own Times," which, though it has so long left his pen, has not yet been superseded in its own particular sphere. Mr. M'Carthy opens his volume with a vivid and racy sketch of the characteristics of the "early sixties" of the past century, then, beginning with Dickens and Thackeray, he passes in rapid review a long list of celebrities of his day—Carlyle, Tennyson, Cobden, Bright, Ruskin, and many other men of light and leading in the politics and literature of the time. His work, in fact, serves as a graphic picture of a period which was of extraordinary fertility in all branches of human thought and activity. One of the most valuable features of the book is the numerous portraits of his contemporaries. We doubt, indeed, if there is any other published work which is in this respect so rich and unique.

Lord Wolseley's memoirs published under the title of "The Story of a Soldier's Life," is an exceedingly interesting book, and full of good stories and suggestive reflections. That "war is a horrible thing" is a very nice heading for the page of a schoolgirl's copybook, he says, but I confess candidly that in my heart I always thoroughly enjoyed it. Surely it has a very glorious side to it. You find man at his best and at his worst there. What can be grander than to see men boldly face death for the honour, the glory, and the prosperity of the country they love, and whose interests they put before self and all earthly considerations? It is self-sacrifice of a most pronounced type, the acme of noble excitement, the apogee of patriotic enthusiasm. What nobler heritage can poor, sinful man leave his children than the fact that he willingly died that England might be renowned and great, and her people safe and prosperous? Lord Wolseley gives a graphic picture of the "Cawnpore House of Blood," the sight of which made the troops of Havelock's force frantic with rage, and inspired them with an all-absorbing craving for ruthless vengeance "No man," we are told, "left those precincts without clenched teeth, and a longing in his heart for vengeance." "It is easy now, at this distance of time, and in our quiet homes to enlarge upon the 'quality of mercy' and on Christ's holy teaching; but had any English bishop visited that scene of butchery when I saw it, I verily believe that he would have buckled on a sword. As I look back to that time and think of the events I am lost in amazement, mingled with a sort of national pride, at the smallness of the retribution we exacted." Lord Wolseley has often thought to himself, before the bullets have begun to whistle near him, whether he would be killed that day, and his one dread has been—a dread which ate into his soul, that if killed he would die without having made the name he hoped a merciful God might permit him to win. "All through my life—sinner though I have been—I trusted implicitly in God's providence; I believed He watched over me, and intended me for some important work." He tells the story of the unpopular Irish colonel who, just before his regiment moved into action, called the men together and said—"I understand that you mean to shoot me to-day, but I want you to do me a favour; don't kill me until the battle is well over." It was quite true; they had meant to shoot him, but his daring saved his life—though history tells us he never reformed.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

A telegram dated Dec. 28th states that the cotton market in Shanghai is very dull and there are no transactions.

We are asked to state that the Tsukiji School for foreign children will not open after the new year's recess until the 5th of January.

Owing to heavy snow, a school in Katakai, Niigata prefecture, was crushed on Dec. 22nd with the result that three pupils were killed and ten injured.

The Tosan Life Insurance Company, Takamatsu, for which a decree of bankruptcy was passed, was ordered on Dec. 29th to wind up its affairs.

M. Sugawara, a constable of the Hatogaya station near Urawa, was arrested on Dec. 29th on a charge of having embezzled money belonging to the office.

The Taiping General Hung, whose death and burial at Hongkong we recently announced, was a nephew of the leader of the Taiping Rebellion, Hung Siu-chuan. It was supposed that he was decoyed to Canton last year and there executed, and a large reward was paid by the Chinese authorities to the men who decoyed him, but it turns out now that the supposed Hung was an unfortunate substitute.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha steamer *Suka Maru* has been chartered by the Naval Department. She was expected to leave for Yokosuka after discharging her cargo at Kobe.

The *Asahi* states that the Government intends to purchase the cable between Fusan, Korea, and Tsushima which now belongs to the Great Northern Telegraph Company.

A telegram from Hakodate states that owing to a storm which prevailed there since Dec. 27th some junks capsized. Thirteen *sendos* were drowned and the body of one was washed ashore on the 29th.

Mr. J. Igarashi, editor of the *Chiba Mainichi*, Choshi, was arrested on Dec. 22nd. The charge against him is reported by the *Yorodzu* to be that by menaces be obtained *yen* 200 from a wealthy farmer.

Baron Yamamoto, Minister for the Navy, was promoted on Dec. 26th to the junior grade of the Second Rank. The same day, according to the *Official Gazette*, 184 officials were promoted in several grades.

Mr. Yoshida, an engineer of the Kure Naval Dockyard, examined on Dec. 28th the steamer *Yamaguchi Maru*, which is lying at Nagasaki. The *Asahi* states that she will probably be chartered by the Navy.

K. Hasegawa (22), who on Dec. 28th stole a bicycle belonging to a foreign employee of Messrs. Helm Bros. No. 42, Yokohama, was arrested at Shinagawa the same day. The bicycle was returned to its owner by the police.

Mr. Uchida, Japanese Consul-General at New York on Dec. 24th telegraphed that owing to the demands of spinners and though prices for future delivery are advancing, the cotton market is in an unsatisfactory state.

A certain quantity of phosphoric acid exploded on the evening of Dec 23rd at the shop of a drug dealer, Ishikawa-machi, Yokohama, while an employee was making it into powder. The man was severely injured.

According to the captain of the *Genyo Maru*, which arrived on Dec. 26th at Shimonoseki from China, twenty Russian warships and some torpedo-boats were lying at Port Arthur, while outside three warships were cruising.

The gross income of the Nippon Railway Company for the last half-year ended Dec. 20th aggregated *yen* 5,111,498.69. Passenger fares were less by *yen* 50,497.82 than in the previous year but the freight increased by *yen* 121,549.47.

While two foreign ladies were going up Shiokumizaka (School Hill) towards the Bluff on Monday evening not long after dark a coolie who had followed them tried to snatch a chatelaine which one of them carried. She resisted, however, and though the chain broke saved her bag, which contained a considerable sum of money. At this season foreign ladies would do well to avoid lonely and unlighted places.

An interesting little story is told of the recent visit paid by the German Empress to Ziegenhals, in Silesia, after the terrible inundations which have caused such distress there. Her Majesty was faultlessly dressed, but with great simplicity, and this fact made such an impression on a working-man in the crowd that he said loudly as he turned away, "I'm going straight home to tear the flowers out of my girls' hats."

On the 10th inst. the British community in Manila tendered a banquet at the English Club to the retiring Governor of the Philippines, the Hon. W. H. Taft, after which an illuminated address was presented to him by Consul-General Kenny on behalf of his British confreres. In accepting the address the Governor said "that the Americans have much to learn from the British, and blood is thicker than water." The *Manila Cablenews* says this is "the nearest thing to a compliment that has been heard in a long time."

The "Directory of Protestant Missionaries in China, Japan and Korea for the year 1904" is to hand from the *Daily Press* Office, Hongkong, much earlier than we have been led to expect directories of any kind. It is a very full and, so far as we have been able to ascertain, an exceedingly accurate, list of all persons connected with protestant missionary work in these Far Eastern countries.

The *Manila Cablenews* publishes the following telegram, dated London, December 8:—*Libertad*, the battleship bought by Great Britain along with *Constitucion*, has made a record speed to-day of 22.3 knots an hour over a measured course. This magnificent speed has created a sensation among naval experts. *Libertad* and *Constitucion* were built in England for Chile. Lately, as they approached the finishing touches, Russia and Japan are said to have tried to buy them. Britain stepped in and took them from Chile for 1,875,000 pounds sterling.

The S.P.C.K. has voted the sum of £100 towards a new brick church to be erected at Yokohama, at a cost of £1,000, to seat 150 to 200 people. The present building, which seated about 50 people, was too small, and badly situated. The mass of the population were non-Christian, and the Christian congregation consisted of people who were not well off—clerks, &c. This paragraph appears in a home paper. We presume this refers to the church which is under the pastoral care of the Rev. Walter Weston.

The presentation of hats to the new Cardinals by Pope Pius X. at his first Consistory recalls the circumstance that the red hat was first given to Cardinals by Pope Innocent IV. at the first Council of Lyons, held in 1245, to signify that they should always be ready to shed their blood in defence of the Church. Bayle, however, in his "Pensées sur la Comête," gives a different reason for the colour. Cardinals wear red, he says, because Rome is the solar or holy city, Sunday belonging to Christianity, and Cardinals, therefore, use the colour of the sun!

The property of Mr. Asano Soichiro, President of the Tokyo Kisen Kaisha, was seized on Dec. 23rd by Mr. S. Okazaki, lawyer, representative of Mr. G. Takahashi, owner of the Nishisawa gold mine, Tochigi prefecture, on a claim of *yen* 23,285. It appears, according to Tokyo papers, that Mr. Asano made a contract on Sept. 5th, 1902, with the mine-owner to invest in the mine the amount claimed, but later he proposed to cancel the contract. Mr. Takahashi thereupon instituted a law suit on Nov. 30th this year in the Tokyo District Court petitioning for the execution of the contract. On Dec. 9th, judgment was delivered in favour of the plaintiff, on which decision, having deposited *yen* 7,000, he seized the property of defendant.

ANOTHER YEAR!

Another year! Ah! how the years glide on,
With some so short and some—Ah! some so long,
When every year steals something from delight,
And on each little day descends the night.

And then, beyond the night, another day;
And still, and still the sweet years fade away;
And sweetest are the years that farthest lie;
And dearest are the dreams that are gone by.

So many years, so many years, and yet
Throughout their length my heart is set, is set
On seeing just the sight I may not see—
That dear old home, the home that's not for me.

Another year! and wider grows the sea;
And I am old—how young I used to be!
Hot flushed with hope that now is spent and cold!
New is the year, but I am old, am old.

L. P. T.

A CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT.

It has been our privilege to be present at several Christmas Entertainments given by the pupils and friends of the Union Church Sunday School, but the one given on Wednesday afternoon, at the Van Schaick Hall, must be adjudged the best of them all. Happy indeed were the hours, and only too speedily did they fly. Needless to say the capacity of the Hall was taxed to its utmost limits and many could not find room. In the course of the programme, Mr. Clarence Griffin, the energetic and beloved Superintendent, gave a brief description of the work of the past year. Starting with 64 scholars, they now registered 87 on the books and still more were asking to be admitted. He hoped next year that the Entertainment would be given in the Public Hall and then they could have a Christmas tree such as Yokohama had never seen before. It would be a happy thing, he said, and one greatly to be desired if the Sunday Schools of Christ Church and Union Church could combine in such an affair, and he prayed that it might come off. At the close of the programme of Carols and recitations Father Christmas himself appeared amid a heavy snowstorm (to the huge delight of the youngsters) and proceeded to distribute a multitude of toys from a capacious sack, after which games were indulged in for a while, the merry party separating at last with much regret that good things in this world must have an end. We append the programme:—

Opening Prayer..............................The Pastor.
(Rev. E. S. Booth.)
Carol............" Awake! Awake "......The School.
Speech..............." Welcome "......Master G. Box.
Carol..............." Glad Tidings "....... The School.
Recitation......" Santa Claus Land "..................
.........Miss Gladys Wilson.
Carol ...." Christmas Stars " ......The School.
Recitation..." The Silver Plate "...Master D. Neville.
Carol.................." He is Born ".........The School.
Carol..............." Incarnate Love "......The School.
Recitation......" Jus' Befor' C'rismas "...............
.........Master V. Worden.
Carol........." That Glorious Night "......The School.
Carol.............." Step by Step "..........The School.
Recitation......" Somebody's Mother "...............
.........Miss Daisy Neville.
Carol..........." The Guiding Star "...... The School.
Carol." I Should Like to have Heard "..The School.
(Soloist, Miss G. Booth.)

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

The following is the result of the draw for Teams in the "Sixes":—

S. Wheeler, Captain, W. J. Drummond, S. R. Ford, N. G. Maitland, N. W. Van-Cleve, W. J. White.

E. W. Kilby, Capt., R. C. Bowden, G. N. Fairhurst, E. J. Moss jr., E. J. Powys jr., H. Steinmann.

H. W. Kilby, Capt., J. E. Drummond, B. C. Foster, H. Y. Irwine, K. van R. Smith, F. O. Stuart.

W. S. Moss, Capt., E. K. Dinsdale, W. Graham, C. E. Libeaud, W. B. Mason, A. W. Read.

J. E. Moss, Capt., O. T. Gillon, J. L. Graham, H. E. Hayward, A. Kingdon, J. R. Thomson.

O. D. Strome, Capt., B. R. Berrick, P. A. Cox, J. M. Mollison, F. W. R. Ward, W. B. White.

1st. Round, (*a*) H. W. Kilby, v. W. S. Moss, (*b*) J. E. Moss, v. E. W. Kilby, (*c*) S. Wheeler, v. O. D. Strome. 2nd Round, Winner of A. v. Winner of B. Winner of C. a Bye. Final, Winner of A v. B v. Winner of C.

THE SWEARER-OFF.

Don't speak to him to-day. The year is young
And he has sworn, forsooth, that lips nor tongue
Of his shall taste vile nicotine at all
Throughout the Winter, Summer, Spring and Fall.
And he is sad—ay, taciturn and cross.

So twit him not to-day about his loss:
But when to morrow comes he will be glad,
Rejoicing o'er the first cigar he's had
Since he reformed; so let him be to-day
And call to-morrow when his heart is gay.

Baltimore American.

YOKOHAMA LITERARY SOCIETY.

The Christmas and New Year's meeting of the Yokohama Literary Society took place in the Public Hall on Wednesday evening and passed off, despite some disappointments at the last moment, very successfully. There was a crowded house and some of the items were very loudly applauded, several encores were given, while others, owing to the lateness of the hour, were declined. The lovely violin playing of Mr. G. Dubraveich was one of the principal features of the evening. At the close the President moved a hearty vote of thanks to all the performers and especially to Mr. W. Karl Vincent, who had arranged the capital programme.

PART I.

Chorus—" The Miller's Wooing " ....Faning.
Mrs. A. Bellamy Brown, Mrs. M. A. Howe, Mrs. W. Karl Vincent, Miss Vincent, Mrs. Brockhurst, Mrs. W. K. Wilson, Messrs. Brockhurst, Unite, Foster, Jackson, Somerton and W. K. Wilson.
Song...................." Nazareth "...... ....Gounod.
Mr. S. H. Somerton.
Recitation—(*a*) " Lord Ullin's Daughter "..Campbell.
(*b*) " The Well of St. Keyne "...Southey.
Miss Rose Cameron.
Song—" A Song of Thanksgiving "............Allitsen.
Mr. B. C. Foster.
Vocal Duet—" Love shall never die "............Moir.
Miss Vincent and Mrs. W. K. Wilson.
Pianoforte Solo—" The Nightingale "..Schubert-Liszt.
Miss Orth.
Vocal Duet—" Romeo et Julio "..............Zinjarelli.
Miss E. Burdett Leach and Mrs. E. C. Irwine.
Songs.—" Dreaming " ....Sullivan.
" When Father laid the carpet " ......Anon.
Mr. H. Horne.
Duet—" Suite for Pianoforte and Violin " ......Schütt.
Messrs. B. R. Berrick and H. A. Poole.

PART II.

Chorus—" The Sands o'Dee "......................King.
Mrs. A. Bellamy Brown, Mrs. M. A. Howe, Mrs. W. Karl Vincent, Miss Vincent, Mrs. Brockhurst, Mrs. W. K Wilson, Messrs. Brockhurst, Unite, Foster, Jackson, Somerton, and W. K. Wilson.
Song........................" Nöel " ....Adam.
Mrs. E. C. Irwine.
Recitation........." A Row in the Pit " ....Anstey.
Mr. H. J. Sharp.
Song..........." The Promise of Life "..........Cowen.
Mr. S. H. Somerton.
Violin—(*a*) " Madrigale "......................Simonetti.
(*b*) " Gondoliera ".............................Ries.
(*c*) " Legende ".....................Wieniawski.
Mr. G. Dubraveich.
Pianoforte......" Swiss Scene No. I."..............Liszt.
(Written at the Chapel of William Tell.)
Mr. W. Karl Vincent.
Song..........." Very Well Then "..................Anon.
Mr. H. Horne.

THE LAW COURTS.

T. BATCHELOR v. C. THWAITES.

The hearing of this case, in which plaintiff claimed *yen* 2,500 and interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum from Oct., 1902, till the execution of judgment, began in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Hasegawa on Dec. 24th.

Messrs. Akiyama and Ikeda were present for Mr. T. Batchelor and Mr. Ideura for Mr. Ch. Thwaites.

Plaintiff's counsel stated that Mr. Batchelor made a contract with Mr. Thwaites on Sept. 18th, last year to invest *yen* 3,000 in the magic exhibition promoted by the latter. The parties agreed that plaintiff should have one-third of the profits gained from the performances, and that defendant might obtain the sole rights of the exhibition on payment of *yen* 4,500 nine months after the contract. In the beginning of October, plaintiff paid *yen* 2,500 to defendant, at the same time promising that the remaining amount would be paid when necessary. The magic exhibition was to be performed in the Osaka Exhibition, which took place this year, and before the opening of the Exhibition it was to be shown in Tokyo and any other places. Defendant removed the magic party to Shanghai on Dec. 18th, 1902, without giving the performance at the Osaka Exhibition. No profit was paid to plaintiff. Some profit might have been made had the magic show been introduced in Osaka.

Defendant's counsel asked for further explanations as to the meaning of the complaint, and some discussion followed on the words used in it; after which counsel wished to present to the Court the contract concerned. Defendant did not exactly remember what items were contained in it because of the long time that had elapsed. Defendant's counsel then asked the Court to adjourn the case, as he could not give a reply to plaintiff before having the contract investigated.

The Court rose, adjourning the case.

NOTES FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

The *Kronstadtski Viestnik* states that orders have been given to push forward the work on the new Russian battleship *Borodino* so that she shall be ready to leave for the Far East not later than next autumn.

Mrs. Susanna Spurgeon, of Westwood, Beulah-hill, Upper Norwood, who died on Oct. 22, aged 71, widow of the Rev. Charles Haddon Spurgeon, has left estate of the gross value of £10,986, including £4,301 in net personalty.

The Consul-General of the United States at Frankfort says in a recent report that Germany contemplates an extension of her cables by constructing lines between Alenado and Guam, in the Caroline Islands, and the Pelew Islands and Shanghai.

The St. Petersburg *Viedomosti* states that it is intended to send to the Far East next year the Russian transport *Kamchatka*, of 7,200 tons, which has been built at the new Admiralty yards, and is now lying in the Neva. She is designed to supply coal to warships afloat, and has accommodation for 3,500 tons; also 32 officers, 1,000 men, and 16 horses.

The great and increasing burden of London's municipal debt is shown by the annual report of the London County Council, issued on Nov. 17th On March 31, 1902, it had reached the enormous total of £54,257,005—an increase of £4,346,976 over the debt in 1901. The rateable value of London was £39,768,471, so that the debt was equal to 1.36 years' purchase of its rateable value.

During the recent prize-firing by the Channel Fleet at Gibraltar the *Majestic*, battleship, Captain H. Evan-Thomas, flying the flag of Vice-Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, made an astonishing record with her four 12-in. guns. Until this competition took place the *Ocean* held the leading position in the Navy with 17 hits, but the *Majestic* made 23 hits for 37 rounds. There is no previous record of such rapid and accurate firing in the Navy with the 12-in. gun.

The death is announced from Northallerton of Mr. John Pile. More than fifty years since he was noted for building beautiful clipper ships which made record passages to the Far East. Mr. Pile was in partnership with his father, brother, and others at Sunderland and lately at West Hartlepool, where, in association with Mr. Joseph Spence, he had one of the largest yards in the kingdom. It is asserted they built the first steamship admitted to trade in Japanese waters.

The fact that rats play an important part in the spread of disease, more especially the plague, has at length awakened the port sanitary authority on the Thames to a sense of the advisability of attempting the extermination of rats in the docks, warehouses, and on board vessels lying in the docks. During October nearly 6,000 rats have been destroyed, and their bodies burned in ships' furnaces. From the beginning of the year to the end of September nearly 60,000 were killed. The total for last year reached 185,982, and the number destroyed up to Nov. 20th was 249,718.

The St. Petersburg *Viedomosti* states that the new Russian battleship *Oslyabia*, on her way from Kronstadt to the Far East, has been compelled to go into dry dock at Spezia, owing to damage received in the Atlantic some time at night. The precise occasion of the damage was unobserved by the crew, and it was not until water was found to be increasing in the hold and investigations were made as to the cause of this that the damage was discovered. The ship will not be able to proceed on her journey until the beginning of next year. (Our readers will have already noted the *Oslyabia's* departure for the Far East).

Colonel G. A. Crawford, speaking at the annual dinner of the China Association on Nov. 17th, remarked that during the five years which he passed in China one learned the difference between "olo custom" and modern improvement. He remember going to a Chinese town and having to inspect the Chinese artillery. The guns were there which were left when the place was evacuated by the British in 1860. They were drawn up for inspection, with a Chinaman in charge, and his words of command were given in broad Irish. The explanation was that when the British left the guns they left also an Irish instructor.

The statements of *Engineering*, already published, with reference to the British Naval programme, require, apparently, to be somewhat modified. A London paper received by the last mail states that a radical change has just been made by the Admiralty in the programme of construction for the present year. The three new battleships, for which money has been voted by Parliament, are to be of the *King Edward* type, and not, as was originally intended, of a larger and more powerful pattern. Thus the new ships will carry four fewer 9.2 in. guns and steam half a knot less than was originally intended. The change may have been due to the fact that there were not sufficient docks of a size to take the new ships as originally designed, but as the result of it vessels are to be built which are weaker than the new Russian battleships. These are to be of 16,500 tons, steaming nineteen knots, and armed with four 12 in. and twelve 8 in guns. The names of the new British ships will be the *Africa*, *Hibernia*, and *Britannia*. They will be built at the three dockyards, and not, as was intended, by contract.

A recent publication issued by the German General Staff on experiences in non-European wars in recent times deals with General Buller's campaign to Colenso, and that of General Methuen to Magersfontein. The opinion is expressed that General Buller's failure at Colenso was due to bad leadership, and that General Buller, although brave, was personally defeated through the disaster which befel two of his batteries, being from that moment haunted with the sole idea of preventing his guns falling into the enemy's hands. The report continues:—"General Buller's initiative failed him, and he ordered the retreat because he was unable to see any outlet. His troops, however, were not beaten, and the possibility of victory still existed." The work characterises Lord Methuen's leadership at Magersfontein as dogged. It showed, it is added, that he held persistently to the old notions about frontal attacks, but he proved himself a thoughtful leader, who was prepared for battle, and was not disheartened by minor failures. He rightly decided to continue the fight after the repulse of the Highlanders, but his methods of execution were faulty. The report maintains that the English frontal attacks, both at Colenso and Magersfontein, might have succeeded if the leaders had not felt that they were physically defeated. The moral drawn is that every new war opens with surprises, rendering a change in offensive methods necessary.

"BEHIND THE SCRUM."

An article under this heading written by J. E. Crabbie (the Scottish International three-quarter), for his old school magazine (the *Edinburgh Academy Chronicle*), has been sent to us, and we publish it in the hope that every member of the Interport teams will read it carefully:—

There is certainly no space, and I trust no necessity, for me to begin and write the whole history, theory, and science of Rugby Football. I will presume that you have mastered the game up to a certain extent, and all I will try to do is simply to write down a few things which I have learned myself from experience.

Football is becoming such a complicated science now that by the time a man has learned the game he has lost the power to play it, and that must be my excuse for trying to teach you here what you would learn far better for yourselves on the football field.

It is both logical and convenient to start with training. When training one should either play or run every day, but be very careful not to overdo it. Do not play too long or run too hard; once you are fit very little will suffice to keep you right, and it is far better to be undertrained than overtrained. Training with regard to food is quite absurd. Light exercise every day and heaps of sleep at night is the ideal prescription for those who can afford to take it. When training, punting into touch should be carefully practised. I should advise some twenty kicks with each foot every day, taking great care not to "press"; accuracy is far better than length. If you do not fall into the temptation to try for huge kicks you will develop into a most consistent and useful punter with either foot.

Passing should be practised by the halves and three-quarters starting close together, about four yards apart, with the line inclined rather more towards the goal line than the touch line. I believe the system of going through and not round the defence is the best, for an elementary knowledge of geometry will allow a wing three-quarter to stand in a position to cut off the opposing wing who tries to run round him. By our method of arranging three-quarters it is easy for the three-quarter nearest the scrummage, after receiving the ball and passing it on to his centre, to cross right over and act as a wing on the far side of the field. If every one runs straight this is comparatively simple, and it is terribly deadly. All this has to be carefully rehearsed before. Only the power to practise daily together allows of the possibility of real back play. Passing should be done low and sharp, and well in front of the receiver, so that he must go at full speed to take the ball. Besides this practice, the halves should practise by themselves passing out from the scrum. It is really best for the same half always to take the base of the scrum, and the other always to stand back and hand on to his three-quarters. With practice it is simply wonderful how quickly this can be done, and quickness is all-important. The half standing back should either pass immediately or not till he has broken right through. To try and draw men and then pass is for him a mistake. If he gets through he should find his three-quarters ready, and if they are all on one side of him (as they generally will be) his fellow-half should be on the other, so that he has a choice of sides to pass to. The half at the base of the scrum must learn to pick up and pass in one motion. A second's unnecessary delay robs his three-quarters of most of their opportunities. Quickness here is really more important than accuracy. An occasional bad pass is not so harmful as constant, though slight, slowness.

Now the ball has got to the three-quarters, and we must consider the nature of our attack. It is often useful to start by trying to crash through. The wing three-quarter, on getting the ball from his half, should rush between two of the opposing three-quarters. Do not hesitate or pass; go straight and hard. You may get through; most probably you will not. Try once again. Twice is usually enough. Then you observe your opponents' backs bunching in near the scrum to make certain you will not get through. This is your opportunity. Throw out your three-quarters right across the field, pass the ball like lightning to the far wing (each three-quarter passing immediately he gets the ball), and he has an easy try. If pressing on your opponents' line, it is sometimes useful to take out a heavy forward, pass him the ball, and let him crash head down for the line. If he can only get under way he is a horrid awkward animal to stop in five yards. It is a common enough dodge for the half to run round the touch side of a scrum, draw the opposing wing three-quarter, and then hand on to his own; or the half at the base of the scrum may throw out to the wing three-quarter near touch, instead of passing into the centre to his fellow-half. This is specially effective when pressing. I have explained before how a wing may, after passing, cross over and act with deadly effect on the far side of the field. I have seen lots of tries scored by this method, but it is no good unless you have a sound and well trained three-quarter line, who above all have mastered the fact that they must run straight. The pass back from the wing to his centre is becoming very popular now, and there is no doubt it is pretty and sometimes effective, but as a principle I am against it. As a rule, I believe it pays best for a wing to go his quickest and not to think of passing. If he watches his centre he impairs his speed. If he be hopelessly hemmed in, he should punt into the centre and put his men on side by running down the touch line.

Very few players realise the infinite possibilities of judicious punting. With daily practice you should be able to land the ball off a short kick exactly where you please. If you can only gain and use this power, you will provide your side and yourself with heaps of chances, and be amply repaid for any trouble you may have spent in practice. There is a very neat drop goal that is sometimes useful. Make one of your centre three-quarters learn to drop goals from straight in front with comparative certainty. When you are pressing near goal, make him stand behind the half standing back. The half at the base of the scrum throws the ball out, not to his fellow-half, but right behind him to the three-quarter. The half who was standing back rushes forward, as he would do were he receiving the pass, and so distracts the attention of his opponents, and allows the three-quarter plenty time to drop his goal.

A wing three-quarter may often get round a man by judiciously varying his pace. I often wonder why more centre three-quarters, who run up to a man and then pass to their wing, do not realise that their opponent far too frequently has time to tackle the wing. It is usually not very difficult to make a centre pass and then catch his wing, and this surely should not be. The remedy is quite simple, and we find it from watching Arthur Gould, Gwyn Nicolls, or E. M. Baker, but no one else I have seen. The centre when he runs up to the man should turn so as to pass him on the far side from his wing; his opponent turns too, and then the pass is given, and the wing, even though he be slow has time to get away. If a wing be fast of course the ordinary pass is usually enough, but there are many occasions when, for instance, a slow forward might score if the back were properly drawn away from him. Centre three-quarters should under nearly all conditions keep their places. They are the back bone of the defence. It is too dangerous for them to leave their places and open a gap for the opposition. The wing three-quarter should, I am quite sure, not be, as it were, fastened to a touch line as some people seem to imagine. He must rove; in defence a wing does much of his tackling by crossing to the far side of the field when the ball is being passed by the opposing three-quarters and getting their wing. Any one who has seen Tom Scott play must have observed this brought to very near perfection. If a wing under these conditions is not across the field to help the defence he is out of his place. The point of danger is the place for which he should make. To remain on his own side of the field and only do the work providence and a kind centre sends him is not playing the game. He must be always ready to take a pass from his centre, and so should not wander so much when his side are attacking. Once the ball is out of the scrum a smart wing should see where he is most needed, and when he can safely leave his post and go and help. To see a wing stand and shiver because he gets no passes, while his centres are working like Trojans in defence, is one of the surest proofs of incompetency. Truly it is sad to see a wing being looked on as a mere sprinter, allowed occasionally to score, and kept entirely for that purpose; there is always heaps of work and only too few men to do it, why not let him try to help?—wing three-quarters have sometimes brains, and can sometimes think like other people.

There is a class of three-quarters who seem to think it a matter of indifference which line they cross, and make for the touch line as the longer and easier to reach with unfailing regularity. Some of them, I fancy, regard it as a sort of haven of refuge. Backs must learn to go straight, to run across is only wasting time and space; you crowd your men into touch and allow your opponents time to get ready their defence. You should always watch when it is your touch and see whether it is worth while to bounce the ball out yourself; this is often of immense service. Stand with both feet in touch, bounce the ball out and catch it with both feet out of touch. It is a little difficult to do at first; perhaps it is easier to run in a semi-circle out from touch and catch the ball again facing your opponents' goal, then you can start off at once.

The defence of a back division is just as important as its attack, but there are much fewer important hints to write about it, for a defence simply watches the opponents' attack and prepares to meet it. There is not the same opportunity for originality, nor the same necessity for change. When the opposing forwards get the ball in the scrum, the defending three-quarters should immediately come up to a line with the scrum as nearly offside as possible. The two halves should take the half at the base of the scrum, the wing three-quarter the half standing back, and so on; the halves and wing crossing over, after making their men pass, to help on the far side of the field. If your centres can only get among the opposing three-quarters before the ball is right across, you gain ground every time your opponents heel. It is sometimes useful for your centre not to look at the ball, but simply to jump off his mark, as it were, when the wing gives the signal that the ball is out. When charging down a kick it is absurd to charge straight at the man; you should charge about two feet outside his right foot, unless of course he be left-footed.

In the past the all-important question in Rugby football was to prevent the other side scoring; now we have learned to place more importance on scoring ourselves. And the duties and qualifications of a full-back have changed with the style of play. Formerly if a back was a safe tackle and a good kick he was considered to be fully fitted for his position; now we are learning, and our teachers hail from Wales, that a back can be a most aggressive person, and we are constantly being shown how he can win matches for his side instead of only saving a defeat. There is quite a prejudice against Welsh full-back play out of Wales. It is unsound, not safe, too risky, so the critics says. I suppose they will learn in time that the man who regularly kicks into touch whenever and wherever he gets the ball is not a football player.

The first duty of a back is to learn to kick with both feet and to know when and how to tackle. Tackling is an art that can only be learned by experience. There are so many different ways of tackling that it is impossible to lay down any rule about it; usually, however, the best place is the hips. If you go at a man there hard, you not only bring him down, but stand a very good chance of spoiling any attempt he may make at passing. A back's kicking should not be always into touch; if there be any strength of wind behind it only very seldom finds touch. He must learn to land his kicks where they are of most use to his side. Above all he should run often. He is fresh, and should use his freshness to tire out his opponents. As Arthur Gould showed the football world how to play three-quarter, a full-back will some day come and teach us how a back should play, how his position is infinitely the best for attack as well as defence. He has boundless opportunities for originality. There has never yet been a full-back who could use them adequately.

A full-back, along with all the players behind the scrum, should learn and cultivate the art of nursing forwards. I am quite sure this is far too much neglected. It is impossible for forwards to go hard the whole time against anything of an opposition at all. If the backs do not give them opportunities for rest, they will take their rest without the opportunity, and so are matches lost. When you see your forwards tiring, getting bit done up and inclined to easy, then give them a rest; let them heel at once and let the halves punt well into touch, take the line out with the almost inevitable consequence, a scrum, heel, again and punt for touch; after you do this once or twice you will find the fire and dash is out of the opposition, and your refreshed forwards can meet them on equal terms again. All forward sides need nursing occasionally. They do not know it; you will never get their gratitude. An ordinary forward is an unthinking animal who shoves.

You must remember always that what you are playing against is not a machine, but a team of men with like passions to yourselves. If you can only work on their feelings, tire them when they look tired, depress them if they show signs of losing heart, you have grasped a very important item in the theory of Rugby football. There is always some plan which should be adopted, some policy that would command success. A team are not really together until they understand their captain's wishes as if by instinct, and learn to obey him. It is far better for a team to adopt the wrong policy consistently, unitedly than a fly off into the hopeless cofusion of a mixture of methods.

The usual plans of a captain consist in the commands "let it out" or "keep it tight." To do either of these consistently without thought is wrong. Your opponents know what you are trying to do, and that knowledge is a useful asset for them. You must watch and plan. Think all the time and think quickly. If you are good behind you should certainly heel a lot, and do not have any hard scrums until you have made the opposing forwards chase your backs all over the field; then is your forward's chance; make your effort forward; if you cannot hold them nothing is lost save a yard or two, use your backs again, but if you do beat them, shove them, rush them, they will almost certainly lose heart. Your backs have been running all over the field, your forwards now carry the scrums, your opposition crumples up, and the rest is not football. Remember when playing against a strong forward side who trust in their forwards and keep it consistently tight, your opportunity is bound to come. There is always a sort of fatal five minutes during which your forwards get possession and heel; then is your chance. This time often comes early in the second half. It comes suddenly but none the less surely. If your forwards will only stick to it and not be routed, you can promise them a score in due time. If you are stronger forward you must be careful not to make your forwards do too much; give them intervals during which you let them rest. Do not be too frightened to let your three-quarters try a passing run occasionally; they will never learn unless you let them try, and anything they do always gives the opposition some running about.

I will conclude with the simple advice: Play to the whistle, and above all play the game. A half may put the ball into the scrum so that his forwards nearly always get it; any back may tackle a man when he knew he has passed or has kicked, or hold him when he knows he is dribbling, and do a thousand other little acts of unfairness, which no referee can stop, and which most unfortunately pay. This possibility of fraud is in one way a safeguard, for it means that Rugby football can never be played as it should be played by those who play it not for sport but for hire.

J. E. CRABBIE.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BUDDHISM IN JAPAN.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Perhaps you will allow me to call attention to what I think is an important and very misleading confusion of thought in the exceptionally interesting and valuable review of Vols. V and VI of Captain Brinkley's book published in the *Japan Mail* of Friday, Dec. 18. The passage on which I wish to comment is the following:—

"If in giving an account of Buddhism Captain Brinkley has omitted to dwell at any great length on the extreme pessimism that characterizes its teaching, it is probably because he sees abundant evidences in the lives lived by the Japanese and in their writings that this pessimism has exercised no baneful influence in these sunny isles whatever it may have done elsewhere. The Japanese people are essentially light-hearted. Smiles greet one everywhere. *By some Occidentals optimism is said to be the result of Christian teaching. With a Japanese it is part of his original nature. He lives and dies with a light heart.*" (The italics are mine).

Now this, so far as it describes the character of the Japanese, seems to be very true and well said, though there are those who tell us that beneath the joyousness there is a deep strain of melancholy in many of the better minds; and of this the long series of suicides at the Kegon Fall are an evidence most illustrative of Japanese character. Those young men of promise certainly did not "die with a light heart." They all too carelessly and selfishly threw away lives, the preservation of which would have been valuable to their families and their country, and they did so from a pessimistic despair of disentangling themselves from their intellectual and moral puzzles. Had they been Christians of course they would have seen ahead of them a duty to live, and a duty and a hope worth living for. But there certainly was no 'light-heartedness' in their very characteristic Japanese acts and sentiments.

My quarrel with the passage quoted however has special reference to the sentences italicized. Here the 'optimism' as an admired ingredient in Japanese character is pretty and nice so far as it goes, but it has in it nothing more moral or noble or inspiring to worthy deeds than the delightful mirth of little birds. It is of the 'what's the odds so long as you are happy' type, though without its vulgarity; to which it must be added that the desire to be exclusive in enjoyment seems to be absent. They like to be happy in a happy world.

So far so good; but why is Christian optimism dragged in, for what in the world has this natural chirpiness to do with any 'optimism' which 'is the result of Christian teaching.' Christian optimism does not mean that we live in a good world, but in a world fuller of evil than even Buddhist pessimism conceives, for Buddhism has never felt what the depth of evil is when recognised as *sin*. Yet it is a world in which the evil for a Christian can and shall and will be overcome by good. The belief in a holy and loving as well as infinite God and in His gift of Himself as a Saviour and example and as a source of power to those who will trust and use Him makes Christianity indomitably optimistic, for how can the ultimate victory be elsewhere than with God our Father? Christian optimism goes even beyond this, for it recognizes that those (Christian and non-Christian alike, though Christians have the advantage for they know the reason of their confidence) who live earnest self denying lives in the service of God and man are 'workers with God' in bringing about this final victory. With such a hope as this life is indeed worth living in all strenuousness, and through all superficial joys and sorrows.

But then "By some Occidentals optimism is said to be the result of Christian teaching." So it is indeed; but "with Japanese it is part of his original nature." I ask again what have these two optimisms to do with one another—a butterfly's joy with a patriot's well founded confidence. Both are good but on totally different planes; and I am thankful to know that the Japanese are capable of the higher as well as of the lower type of optimism, for they are not incapable of believing in the supernatural, if by the supernatural is meant what is not reducible to the terms of physical law as explored and expounded by man, but leaves room for the free will of a God infinite in holiness, wisdom and power. The Japanese are capable of such inspiring faith and aspiration, though their natural light heartedness too often leads them to play with life; and the Confucian education of centuries with its wonderful matter-of-fact morality, and its deliberate damping down of all aspiration and enthusiasm, which has kept China unprogressively alive for some 2,000 years, has not yet quite loosed its hold so as to set the Japanese free for nobler heights of aspiration and achievement than were possible without the ideals and spiritual forces offered them in the religion of Jesus Christ.

WILLIAM AWDRY, *Bishop*.

Kobe, December 18, 1903.

A SUGGESTION FOR W. E. G.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—No one can help but be interested in the occasional letters from the United States indited by your correspondent W. E. G.

It is certainly remarkable the vogue that his publications and lectures in regard to this empire enjoy even at the present. Since the "Mikado's Empire" seems foreordained to be widely read, it is a satisfaction to learn that it has been brought down to the present, and at least in part re-written.

At the same time one cannot help but regret, that in view of the fact that travel is becoming every year more easy, and the income from book-writing and lecturing, as a side-issue to preaching, cannot be insignificant, that one who seems destined to stand so prominently in the public eye as spokesman for Japan, does not re-visit the country, and investigate its present conditions at first hand.

No doubt a man can learn much about Japan's development at long range and from publications. But it would be a great satisfaction if the man who makes such positive prophecies as does W.E.G. at the close of his recent communication (we presume that it is W.E.G. that answered the editor of the *Outlook*) had more recently been in personal touch with Japan and its people.

And this is said without raising at all the question of the correctness of his prophecy.

SOJOURNER.

Saga, December 26th, 1903.

THE OLD YEAR DIES.

The Old Year dies to-night. One page more turned
In this ill-written transcript called my life.
Such a queer book! with syntax all awry
And phrases bungled. Scarce a hint of plot,
A gleam of purpose! Yet I write the book.
But there's the point—am I the author here,
Or just Amanuensis, not to blame
Save for the blots and faults i' the spelling?—Ah!
But how if there were times I listened ill
To the dictating voice, wrote carelessly,
And made God's story nonsense by my fault?
Well, here's a fresh page—clear for noble words
To range themselves in order as God wills.
Take pen! square elbows! we'll do better here.
It may be God shall whisper poetry.

F. E. W.

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Special Service.)

RUSSIAN GUNS FOR THE FAR EAST.

London, December 24.

It is stated at Odessa that two Volunteer steamers have conveyed to the Far East 52 Naval guns of various calibres, and quickfirers, for the Pacific Squadron.

ANOTHER CHAMBERLAIN VICTORY.

A Chamberlainite Unionist has been elected at Ludlow.

ARBITRATION.

A Franco-Italian arbitration treaty has been concluded on lines similar to the British treaty.

TERRIBLE RAILWAY DISASTER.

London, December 25.

An east-bound express on the Baltimore Ohio Railway, while running at high speed, was derailed at Connellsville, Pennsylvania. The cars were telescoped and over fifty passengers were killed.

THE FAR-EASTERN SITUATION.

London, December 26.

The Russian reply is still undelivered, but is expected at any moment. It is awaited with the keenest anxiety in Europe.

Russian diplomatic circles at St. Petersburg profess optimism and expect a pacific solution of the difficulty.

The Russian newspapers are displaying great irritation against the English press, whose attitude towards the Far Eastern crisis seems to excite even greater animosity than is displayed against Japan.

GREAT BRITAIN RECOGNIZES PANAMA.

Great Britain has recognized the Republic of Panama.

RUSSIA CONCERNED.

London, December 27.

The reorganization of the Chinese army is causing considerable concern among Governmental circles in St. Petersburg, where it is viewed as a sign of distrust of Russia.

FRANCE AND GREAT BRITAIN.

London, December 28.

M. Delcassé, speaking in the Senate, said that France and Great Britain are complementary to each other and that conciliation is always possible between them.

M. DELCASSE AND THE FAR EAST.

Referring to the Far East, M. Delcassé said there was nothing to justify reliance in the alarmist reports of the possibility of war resulting in a treaty leaving to neutral powers no tradal advantages in Korea or Manchuria.

AMERICA TAKES STEPS.

The United States Government is pressing Korea to open Wiju, and China to open Antung and Moukden speedily. In view of the situation in the Orient the United States Asiatic squadron, now at Honolulu, will start on its return journey to Cavite on Tuesday.

GERMAN TROUBLES IN AFRICA.

London, December 29.

A general insurrection has broken out among the Hottentots in German Southwest Africa.

THIBETAN MISSION TO RUSSIA.

The *Daily Mail's* St. Petersburg correspondent states that a deputation from the Dalai Lama of Thibet has arrived at Irkutsk on its way to St. Petersburg.

ENGLAND AND THE FAR EASTERN PROBLEM.

London, December 29.

Persistent rumours at Portsmouth say that the fleet in the Far East is about to be strengthened. The authorities profess ignorance.

The Admiralty has ordered all naval reservists to notify the addresses from whence they can be summoned.

MORE WARSHIPS CHANGE HANDS.

It is telegraphically reported that the Argentine warships *Moreno* and *Rivadavia*, which are at the point of completion at Genoa, have been sold for a million and a half pounds sterling through Messrs. Gibbs & Sons, the agents who recently purchased the Chilian warships.

RUSSIA PROVISIONING.

London, December 30.

Russia has ordered one million pounds of mess meat from Cudahy & Co., of South Omaha, and a million and a half pounds from Armour & Co., Kansas City, delivery in San Francisco at the end of January.

RUSSIAN PREPARATIONS.

The Russian orders for mess meat are part of an order of 3,000,000 lbs. from Vladivostock by the agent of Getz & Co.

BRITISH PRESS URGE WATCHFULNESS.

Some English newspapers are urging the Government to unhesitatingly draw the sword for Japan if war breaks out, but the majority recommend calm and extreme watchfulness.

(RECEIVED AT THE LEGATION OF FRANCE')

FRANCO-ITALIAN ARBITRATION CONVENTION.

Saigon, December 27.

M.M. Delcassé and Tornielli (Italian Ambassador in Paris) signed to-day an arbitration convention of which the terms are absolutely identical with those of the Anglo-French Convention of October 14th.

DREYFUS AFFAIR.

The Revision Commission of the Dreyfus affair have unanimously pronounced in favour of entertaining the demand of ex-Captain Dreyfus.

FRENCH NAVAL EXPENDITURES.

The Senate has voted the naval budget. On the demand of the Minister of Marine, M. Pelletan, the Senate increased certain credits which had been reduced by the Budget Committee, notably those for the Fleet's *points d'appui* in Tonkin.

FRANCE AND THE FAR EASTERN SITUATION.

Saigon, December 28.

Japan has sent to St. Petersburg an answer couched in friendly terms, which leave the road open for new negotiations.

The Senate has voted the budgets of Finance and of Foreign Affairs.

M. Delcassé celebrates the Franco-Russian Alliance and congratulates himself upon the Arbitration Conventions between France and England and France and Italy. He declares that France desires the independendence of Morocco. With regard to the Far East he affirms that nothing permits him to believe in the alarmist news published daily by the press.

(FROM THE "DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST."

A FALSE REPORT.

Berlin, December 24.

The statement of the Vienna paper, *Neue Freie Presse*, that the German Emperor at his interview at Wiesbaden promised the Tsar to help him in a war against Japan, is a mere invention. The German policy continues to be strongly neutral and wishes nothing else than the maintainence of peace.

THE SITUATION.

Berlin, December 25.

According to a telegram from the Russian Commercial Telegraph Bureau, Japan's reply to the Russian Note has arrived in St. Petersburg. It is generally believed that the pending negotiations will not be interrupted, both sides observing a peaceful attitude.

The *Cologne Gazette* reports that the Grand-duke Alexander Michailowitsch together with other distinguished persons, are exercising their influence to prevent any outbreak of war, or at least to postpone the conflict by transferring the negotiations from Tokyo to St. Petersburg.

From London the *Frankfort Gazette* learns that Russia is meeting Japan in regard to Korea, only to gain time to properly prepare for war. Japan demands territorial concessions in Korea as safeguards against any seizures by Russia in the future.

The Government in Berlin does not share the pessimistic views of the Anglo-French press.

DEATHS OF WELL-KNOWN MEN.

Berlin, December 28th.

The Italian politician, Guiseppe Zanardelli, has died of cancer of the stomach. (He was born in 1829 and on several occasions was Minister, President of the Cabinet, President of the Parliament, etc.)

From Stuttgart comes the news that the political economist Schaeffle has died from a disease of the kidneys. He was 72 years old.

THE SITUATION.

Berlin, December 29.

In contrast to the English press, English statesmen continue hoping for a peaceful settlement of the difficulties pending between Russia and Japan. M. Delcassé, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, has also expressed his views on the situation in a quieting tone, which views are in conformity with those of the German Government. In spite of all alarming reports, the confidence placed in the Japanese Government is unshaken. Russia is ready to make concessions and to continue the negotiations. The reports concerning a Russian loan in Berlin are untrue. Germany is not following any special policy with Russia in Eastern Asia.

THE TSARINA.

The health of the Tsarina is the best possible.

DEATH OF A NOTED GERMAN.

His Excellency Perels, Director of the Imperial Marine Bureau in Berlin, is dead.

(FROM THE "JIJI SHIMPO.")

THE RUSSIAN ATTITUDE.

London, December 26.

It is believed in Berlin that Russia has decided to recede from the extreme attitude which she adopted in her first reply to Japan.

THE "VETTOR PISANI."

The Italian warship *Vettor Pisani* has been ordered to remain at Nagasaki.

THE DREYFUS CASE.

The committee, revising the case have presented to the Government their recommendation to grant the petition of Dreyfus.

(FROM THE "ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

THE MACEDONIAN REFORMS.

London, December 29.

With regard to the proposed Macedonian reforms, the representatives of Russia and Austria have presented an urgent note to the Porte.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Aki Maru 1	F. Jan. 1
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Athenian 2	Sa. Jan. 2
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Korea	M. Jan. 4
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Bayern 3	M Jan. 4
Europe	M. M. Co.	Polynesien	Th. Jan. 7
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Victoria	F. Jan. 8
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric 4	Sa. Jan. 9
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Shawmut	Sa. Jan. 9
Canada	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. Jan. 11
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	M. Jan. 11
America	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Su. Jan. 17
Hongkong	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	M. Jan. 18
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co	Em. of China	Th. Jan. 21
America	P. M. Co.	Siberia	M. Jan. 25

1 Left Seattle on the 15th ult.
2 Left Vancouver on the 14th ult.
3 Left Shanghai on the 29th ult.
4 Left Hongkong on the 22nd ult.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	China	F Jan. 1
Europe	M. M. Co.	Annam	F. Jan. 1
America	T. K. K.	America Maru	F. Jan. 1
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Athenian	Sa. Jan. 2
America	P. M. Co.	Korea	W. Jan. 6
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Kosai Maru	Th. Jan. 7
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Bayern	Sa. Jan. 9
Europe	N. Y. K.	Sanuki Maru	Sa. Jan. 9
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Victoria	Sa. Jan. 9
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Su. Jan. 10
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Shawmut	Su. Jan. 10
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. Jan. 11
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Kaga Maru	Tu. Jan. 12
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	W. Jan. 13
Australia	N. Y. K	Nikko Maru	Sa. Jan. 16
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	M. Jan. 18
Canada	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	F. Jan. 22

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Benlomond, British steamer, 1,752, W. Hutton, 24th Dec.,—London via ports, and Kobe, 22nd Dec., General.—Cornes & Co.

Ambria, German steamer, 3,288, Duckstein, 24th Dec.,—Hamburg via ports, and Hongkong, 16th Dec., General.—C. Illies & Co.

Annam, French steamer, 2,338, Girard, 24th Dec.,—Marseilles via ports, and Kobe, 23rd Dec., Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, E. Beetham, 24th Dec.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 23rd Dec., Mails & General.—C. P. R. Co.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, K. Nobeta, 24th Dec.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,623, G. Lapraik, 24th Dec.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hakuai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,419, C. Young, 25th Dec.,—Shanghai via ports, 19th Dec., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer 437, N. Teranaka, 25th Dec.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,706, T. Tibbals, 26th Dec.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shibata Maru, Japanese lighthouse steamer, 1,726, N. Nakao, 26th Dec.,—Misunokojima.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, G. Nomura, 26th Dec.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Vindobona, Austrian steamer, 2689, N. Guis, 27th Dec.,—Trieste via Ports, and Hongkong, 20th Dec., Mails and General.—Pollack Bros.

America Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,256, P. H. Going, 27th Dec.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 26th Dec., Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Tosa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,592, A. Christiansen, 27th Dec.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 26th Dec., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Miike Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,060, F. W. Horton, 27th Dec.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Glengarry, British steamer, 1,925, H. M. Willy, 28th Dec.,—London via ports, and Kobe, 28th Dec., General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Dragoman, British steamer, 2,215, R. Owen, 28th Dec.,—Barry via Singapore, Coal.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Yeijo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,538, A. Yamashita, 28th Dec.,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,831, C. A. Lee, 28th Dec.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tairen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,796, K. Kato, 28th Dec.,—Mimayesaki, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Japan, British steamer, 2,796, E. P. Martin, 29th Dec.,—London via ports, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Tremont, American steamer, 6,195, T. W. Garlick, 30th Dec.,—Manila via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,065, K. Kawahara, 30th Dec.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, Y. Nomura, 30th Dec.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Taihoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,733, T. Kitano, 30th Dec.,—Takao via ports, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,526, G. Lapraik, 30th Dec.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,814, F. L. Sommer, 30th Dec.,—London via ports, and Kobe, 29th Dec., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

China, American steamer, 3,186, D. E. Friele, 30th Dec.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 12th Dec., Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Wyneric, British steamer, 3,264, Niven, 30th Dec.,—Seattle, Wash., 8th Dec., General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

DEPARTURES.

Hongkong Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,434, W. E. Filmer, 24th Dec.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Hudson, British steamer, 2,376, J. Burnett, 24th Dec.,—New York via ports and Suez Canal, General.—Standard Oil Co.

Firth of Dornoch, British steamer, 1,894, A. Swansen, 24th Dec.,—Moji, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Yamaguchi Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,038, R. Swain, 24th Dec.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, G. Lapraik, 25th Dec.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, E. Beetham, 25th Dec.,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Dardanus, British steamer, 2,992, Tilotson, 25th Dec.,—Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Denbighshire, British steamer, 2,489, W. A. Evans, 26th Dec.,—Havre, London, Hamburg and Antwerp via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Kiautschou, German steamer, 6,721, Behrens, 26th Dec.,—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Tamba Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,783, J. W. Wale, 26th Dec.,—London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer 1,556, K. Nobeta, 26th Dec.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ambria, German steamer, 3,288, Duckstein, 27th Dec.,—Havre, Bremen and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,706, T. Tibbals, 26th Dec.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, Y. Nomura, 27th Dec.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Benlomond, British steamer, 1,752, W. Hutton, 27th, Dec.,—Moji, Ballast.—Cornes & Co.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,706, T. Tibballs, 28th Dec.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami, British steamer, 2,668, P. A. Appleton, 28th Dec.,—New York via ports and Suez Canal, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Tosa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,592, A. Christiansen, 29th Dec.,—Seattle, Wash., via Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yeijio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,538, K. Noda, 29th Dec.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tairen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,796, K. Kato, 29th Dec.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Miike Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,060, F. W. Horton, 29th Dec.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Dragoman, British steamer, 2,215, R. Owen, 29th Dec.,—Yokkaichi, Coal.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Vindobona, Austrian steamer, 2,689, N. Guis, 29th Dec.,—Trieste via ports, General.—Pollak Bros.

Elba (10 guns), Italian cruiser, 2,780, Capt. R. Borea, 29th Dec.,—Kobe and Nagasaki.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,831, C. A. Lee, 30th Dec.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. Ti Yuk Chi, Mr. Tung Tze Ming, Mr. Chung Sum Choo, Mr. C. Groat, Miss Lloyd, Mr. Bennet Burleigh, and Mr. Mendelson, in cabin; Mr. Chas Chin, in intermediate. In Transit:—Mrs. S. A. Campbell, Mr. Carroll-Seeley, Mr. E. Stovold, Mr. R. Wigglesworth, R.N., Mr. R. S. Feeman, Mr. Clyde-Arnold, Mr. G. Burgoyne, Mr. M. Baggally, and Mrs. H. Komada, in cabin; Mr. C. Eaton, Mr. T. Wilson, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. G. W. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Tit Chan, Mr. and Mrs. Nephew, Mr. Hong Fahn, Mrs. Lee Cumye, Mr. Tai Sing Son and infant, Miss Kwai Lam, Miss Gum Lin Long, Mr. Burniston, and Mr. Hing Bat, in intermediate; 48 Chinese, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Hakuai Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mrs. M. Boyes, Mr. W. Martin, Miss E. Osuin, Captain C. Furutani, and Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Bailey, in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. Yokoyama, Miss Yokoyama, Mr. Takemura, Mr. Hayata, Mr. Yoshizawa, Mr. C. Yoshizawa, Mr. Yoshida, and Mr. Seki, in second class; 10 Japanese, and 7 Chinese, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *America Maru*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mrs. Davenport, Miss Davenport, Miss Goodfellow, Mr. C. Schlessinger, Mr. F. E. Barto, Mrs. A. Christiensen, Mr. C. M. Cooke, Mrs. C. M. Cooke, Miss Alice Cooke, Mr. K. Nakashima, and Mr. K. Kanatami, in cabin. For Honolulu:—Mr. U. Uchida, Mrs. U. Uchida, Mr. Theo. Bauman, and Miss C. W. Bailey, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Miss P. Zamora, Lieut.-Col. A. D. Dabovsky, Lieut. Fischer, I.G.N., Mr. Chen Cheong Wo and servant, Mr. A. Estudillo, Mr. J. G. Bigelow, and Mr. B. Stiebel, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Tosa Maru*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. C. H. O'Leary, Mr. W. H. Dundie, Mr. Towson, Mrs. Sugihara and daughter, Mr. A. Peress, and Mr. Yamaguchi, in cabin; 37, in steerage.

Per American steamer *China*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. R. Bohme, Mr. N. W. Helm, Mrs. N. W. Helm, Mr. L. Lemp, Mrs. H. N. Cook and son, Mrs. E. Larned, and Mrs. W. V. Pratt, in cabin. For Kobe:—Mr. N. S. Clark, in cabin. For Shanghai:—Miss F. Wright, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. H. F. Bridges, Mrs. S. J. Bridges, Mr. W. M. Castle, Mrs. W. M. Castle, Mr. W. H. Childs, Mr. M. M. Crook, Mr. F. K. Crumb, Mr. A. McDermid, Mr. Jesse Drake, Mr. Robt. Douglas, Mr. J. W. Duncan, Mr. A. J. Eveland, Mr. M. Friedman, Rev. Edw. Fowler, Mrs. F. A. Gantz, Rev. F. P. Gilman, Mrs. F. P. Gilman, Miss Elsa Hink, Mr. M. A. Hauschild, Mr. J. G. Howard, Mr. A. K. Hitchcock, Archbishop J. J. Harty, Mr. J. H. Lyman, Mrs. J. H. Lyman, Mr. W. F. La Pointe, Lieut.-Colonel C. H. Lauchheimer, Mr. Jacob Lurie, Mr. M. B. Meyer, Mr. W. F. Morris, Mr. V. L. Minehart, Mr. W. W. Petitt, Mr. C. F. Pfefferle, Mr. W. G. Pottinger, Mr. Frank Reeves, Mr. J. A. Rathke, Miss M. J. Robbins, Mr. Meyer Scherr, Mr. V. E. Sparklin, Mr. J. A. Sexton, Mr. J. Harry Scott, Mrs. J. Harry Scott, Mr. E. A. Scoville, Mrs. E. A. Scoville, Mr. F. H. Slagle Mr. W. T. Towusend, Mr. W. F. Umphrey, Mr. H. M. Van Tine, Mr. R. B. Young in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Hongkong Maru*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. J. E. Ainsworth, Rev. Geo. and Mrs. Allchin and 2 daughters, Mr. G. E. Atkinson, Mr. E. H. Benson, Dr. E. W. Eliot, Mr. R. F. Berryman, Miss Nellie Bibo, Mr. S. Briggs, Lieut. H. S. Brinkerhoff, Lieut. J. J. Burleigh, Mr. W. S. Conrow, Mrs. W. S. Conrow, Mr. E. B. Cook, Mrs. E. B. Cook, Lt. C. H. Danforth, Miss L. D. Deavitt, Mr. A. E. Decker, Mr. J. F. Edwards, Mrs. J. F. Edwards, Mr. H. V. Henson, Lieut. A. A. Hofmann, Lieut.-Col. H. S. Kilbourne, Mr. E. H. Ladd, Mr. T. C. Lannan, Mr. R. E. Lewis, Mrs. R. E. Lewis, 7 children and maid, Mr. F. H. Loncks, Lieut. F. E. McCannon, Miss E. Mitchell, Mrs. E. M. Morrison, Miss M. C. Murtin, Dr. C. H. Oakwood, Mrs. C. H. Oakwood, Mr. C. P. Province, Lieut. R. Remmington, Dr. P. H. Rhoades, Mr. M. H. Sakol, Mr. F. B. Shelly, Mrs. F. B. Shelly, Mr. I. P. Short, Mr. C. L. A. Smith, Capt. C. E. Stanton, Mrs. C. E. Stanton, Mrs. G. M. Swindell, Mr. C. E. Thompson, Mr. J. W. Travis, Mr. C. F. Walden, Mrs. C. F. Walden, and Mr. G. A. Westerburger, in cabin.

Per German steamer *Kiautschou*, for Europe via ports:—Mr. H. Rose, Mr. C. Mosle, Dr. Haberer and native servant, Mr. G. F. Brierly, Mr. G. Henderson, Mr. B. H. Gainsford, Mr. George Willey, Mr. and Mrs. Petticon, Dr. G. Sugiyama, Dr. C. Burger, Mr. J. Bunting, Mrs. Hana Gohara, and Miss Matsu Gohara, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. Clyde Arnold, Mr. G. Arone, Mr. Mark Baggallay, Mr. G. E. Burgoyne, Mrs. S. A. Campbell, Col. E. W. Foster, Mr. R. S. Freeman, Mr. H. Komada, Mr. Oscar A. Nessler, Mr. Carrol Seeley, Mr. E. Stovold, Mr. John S. Tanner, and Mr. R. Wrigglesworth, in cabin; Mr. C. C. Eaton, Mr. Lee Tit Chan and Nephen, Mr. Hong Fahn, Mr. Jas. H. Mitchell, Mr. Geo. W. Taylor, Mrs. Lee Cumge, Mrs. Tai Suig and son, Miss Kwan Lan, Miss Gum Lin Long, Mr. H. F. Burniston, and Mr. L. Broderick, in intermediate.

Per Japanese steamer *Tamba Maru*, for London via ports:—Mr. Geo. Lewis, Mr. K. Hasegawa, Mr. P. Holdsworth, Mrs. Sebree, Mrs. Soule, Mr. H. Brewer, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Sewell, Mrs. R. D. Evans, Mrs. F. Coans, Mr. E. Tranquors, Vicomte Dejean, Mr. J. Merlin, and Dr. J. B. McKay, in cabin; Mr. K. Kuroki, Mr. Y. Miki, Mr. Lin, Mr. O. Lin, Mr. Lee, Mr. C. H. Davis, and Mr. K. Kawazumi, in second class; 43, in steerage.

CARGO.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—

TEA.

From.	Canada.	Chicago & West.	New York & East.	Pacific Coast.	Other Cities.	Total Packages.
Hongkong	1,914	—	—	385	—	2,299
Amoy	80	—	—	—	—	80
Foochow	838	—	—	—	—	838
Shanghai	1,458	1,203	—	71	—	2,732
Kobe	749	—	—	—	—	749
Yokohama	1,811	264	—	1	—	2,076
Total	6,850	1,467	—	457	—	8,774

SILK.

From.	New York.	San F'cisco.	Easton.	South Man'ster.	Total Bales.
Hongkong & Canton	635	—	—	—	635
Shanghai	270	—	—	—	270
Yokohama	1,039	—	—	31	1,070
Total	1,944	—	—	31	1,975

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw & Waste Silk shipped per steamer *Kiautschou*:—

	Raw.				Waste.			
Nabholz & Co.......	294	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sieber & Co..........	168	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pollak Bros.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jardine, Matheson & Co................	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sulzer Rudolph & Co.	53	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ulysse Pila & Co...	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
P. Dounlle	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cl. Eymard	5	—	—	—	74	—	—	—
M. Ginsburg & Co..	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jewett and Bent ...	59	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dell'Oro & Co.......	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Siber, Wolff & Co...	—	—	—	—	113	—	—	—
Boyer Mazet Guilliée Co................	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	639	—	—	—	190	—	—	—

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The year is closing in gloom, the political uncertainty hampering business in every way. The little flurry caused by the cotton panic has subsided and the general condition of the market must be described as dull and lifeless.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER YARD.
White Shirting—{40 yds. 36 in. 50 yds. 36 in.} ...	0.09 to 0.10
	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼ lb 38½ yds. 39 inches	Y.2.85 to 3.60
Grey Shirting—9lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.80 to 4.25
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches...	3.00 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton Italians and Satteens...	0.20 to 0.40

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	Y.0.35 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 32 in....	0.30 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches...	0.16 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.50 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 @ 65 inches ...	0.90 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches... ...	0.60 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0.60 to 0.66
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	9.50 to 12.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches...	0.90 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches...	1.90 to 2.25
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 5lb, 24-25 yards, 32 inches...	2.50 to 3.65

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Y. 140.00 to 150.00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	—
Nos. 38/42, Singles	—
Nos. 32, Doubles...	145.00 to 150.00
Nos. 42, Doubles...	155.00 to 160.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/100, Plain...	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	245.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	295.00 to 305.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	425.00 to 435.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling...	Nominal.	24
Indian Broach...		26
Chinese		23

METALS.

Business continues fairly active for mild steel Bars and Sheets: Nails are with much movement.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward...	Y.3.95 to 4.25
Iron Plates, assorted	4.25 to 4.45
Sheet Iron...	4.45 to 6.70
Galvanised Iron sheets	10.10 to 11.10
Wire Nails, assorted	5.30 to 5.90
Tin Plates, per box...	6.40 to 7.30
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.95
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1¼ inch)	4.95 to 5.45

KEROSENE.

An active market in view of the New Year's requirements and prices are firmly maintained.

American	$3.25
Russian	3.10
Langkat	2.90

SUGAR.

There is little to report in this market, prices being weak and enquiries small.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	Y.6.00 to 6.30
Brown Manila...	5.90 to 6.90
Brown Daitong	4.80 to 6.20
Brown Canton...	5.50 to 7.60
White Java and Penang...	7.10 to 7.90
White Refined...	8.50 to 11.25

INDIGO.

Nothing doing.

	PICUL.
Java, Medium to best...	270.00 to 320.00
Calcutta, Medium to best	180.00 to 290.00
Madras (*Kurpah*), Medium to best ...	140.00 to 170.00
Madras (Dry Leaf), Medium to best ..	100.00 to 140.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The coditions of the market are much the same as last week. Direct shipments continue on a heavy scale and quotations are supported by that factor in the case. The strikes at Lyons still continue and the prospects of consuming markets are by no means bright. Prices here are maintained but the stock is heavy and there seems no prospect of any rise in values for some time to come even should political complications clear away entirely.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra Best, Coarse ...	Y.1,070 to 1,080
Filatures—Extra, Fine	—
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	1,010 to 1,020
Filatures—No. 1, Fine...	—
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	900 to 910
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	990 to 1,000
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	890 to 900
Filatures—No. 2, Fine...	940 to 950
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	880 to 885
Common—Coarse	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	920 to 925
Re-reels—No. 1½	900 to 905
Re-reels—No. 2	890 to 895
Re-reels—No. 3	880 to 885
Kakedas—Extra	930 to 935
Kakedas—No. 1	915 to 920
Kakedas—No. 1½...	900 to 905
Kakedas—No. 2	880 to 885

WASTE SILK.

Quotations are unaltered. Here and there lower prices have been accepted by dealers, who wish to clear their stocks for the end of the year. Large holders are firm and make no reduction.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	190 to 200
Noshi—Filatures, Good	180 to 185
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	190 to 200
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	170 to 180
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	135 to 140
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Good...	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Joshiu, Best	140 to 145
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	130 to —
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	150 to 160
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	130 to 140
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	70 to 80
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	70 to 80

TEA.

The season is closed.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	—
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine...	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common...	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, December 30.

No change in silver from London, China sterling quotations come $\frac{3}{16}$ to ¼ higher and local rates on China are somewhat lower in consequence.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0¾
— — Bills on demand...............	2/0$\frac{13}{16}$
— — 4 months' sight	2/0⅞
— Private 4 months' sight...............	2/0$\frac{15}{16}$
— — 6 months' sight...............	2/1$\frac{1}{16}$
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	255
— Private 4 months' sight......	260½
— — 6 months' sight......	261½
Hongkong—Bank sight ....per $100.	86*
— Private 10 days' sight do.	84*
Shanghai—Bank sight	82½*
— Private 10 days' sight	84½*
India—Bank sight	151
— Private 30 days' sight	154
America—Bank sight................................	49½
— Private 30 days' sight	50
— Private 4 months' sight	50¾
Germany—Bank sight	207
— Private 4 months' sight............	211½
Bar Silver (London)	25$\frac{11}{16}$

* Nominal.

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SOLE AGENTS FOR JAPAN.
Yokohama, March 17th, 1903. M.1y.

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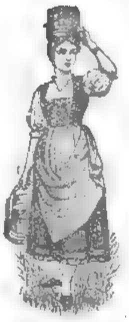
Agents:—JAPAN: A. Cameron & Co., Kobe; HONGKONG: A. S. Watson & Co.; SHANGHAI: J. Llewellyn & Co., Medical Hall; PENANG: Georgetown Dispensary; BANGKOK: English Pharmacy; SINGAPORE: Maynard & Co. (Ltd).

Milkmaid Milkmaid Milkmaid



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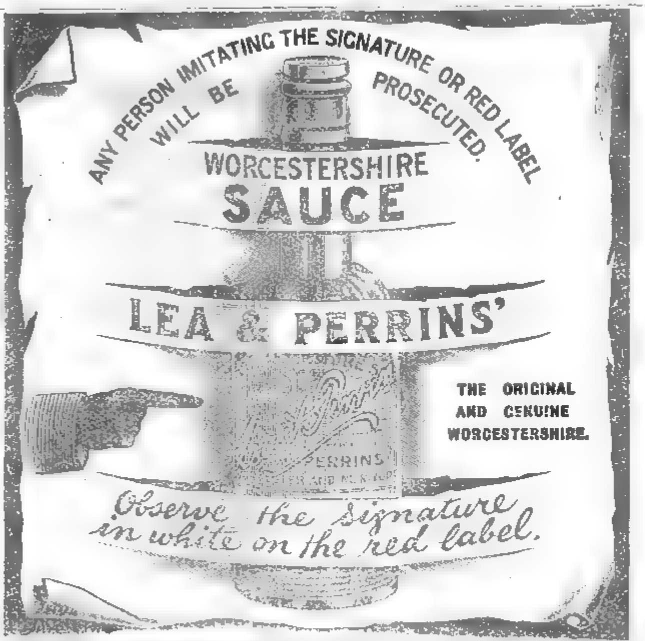
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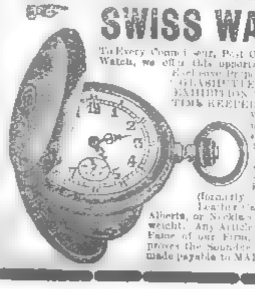

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JANUARY 9TH, 1904.

BIRTH.

On the 6th January, at No. 64 Bluff, Yokohama, the wife of H. C. PIGOTT, of a Daughter.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Wakamatsu theatre, Wakamatsu city, has been destroyed.

MR. K. MAKI, an official of the Choshi Tax Bureau, Chiba prefecture, attempted to commit suicide on Jan. 2nd.

OWING to frost a goods train was derailed on Jan. 3rd at a point near Sekiyama station, Nagano prefecture. One coolie was severely injured.

DURING the year 1903, forty-six cases of plague appeared in Yokohama. Seven recovered. The number of rats caught is put at 470,958.

TOKYO papers state that the Japanese Government on Dec. 29th informed the treaty powers that Japan recognizes the independence of the Panama Republic.

TOKYO papers announce that 126 mercantile companies were established this year with total capitals of *yen* 8,849,700. Of this sum, *yen* 1,170,675 was paid up.

THE directors of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha met on Jan. 6th and decided provisionally to pay an interim dividend for the last half-year at the rate of 5 per cent.

A TELEGRAM from the King of Belgium with New Year's wishes reached the Japanese Court on January 2nd. The Emperor and Empress replied the same day.

ACCORDING to the *Asahi* the Government borrowed *yen* 3,000,000 from the Bank of Japan during the week ended Dec. 26th and *yen* 8,000,000 in the following week.

BARON J. HOSOKAWA has been ordered to take charge temporarily as President of the Peers' School, which post had been filled by the late Prince Konoye.

PRELIMINARIES have been arranged between the French and Spanish Governments relative to a visit of the King of Spain to Paris, to take place probably in the spring.

THE Cotton Spinners' Union of Osaka, received on Jan. 4th a telegram from Bombay to the effect that spinners were reducing their output and some mills have stopped.

THE Emperor on Jan. 4th gave *yen* 5,000 to the family of the late Prince Konoye toward the funeral expenses. He also sent two pieces of white silk the following day.

THE Japanese Consul at Lyons telegraphed on Dec. 28th that the strike of workmen employed by the weaving factories has been settled, and the people have returned to work.

SEVERAL telegrams dated Jan. 5th report that owing to heavy snow, trains throughout the San-yendo provinces were suspended. At several points on the Gifu railway damage was done.

A MAN named Kunimoto, manager of the Kanazawa branch of the Konoike Bank, Osaka, was arrested on Jan. 2nd on a charge of having obtained *yen* 1,200 from the Meiji Bank by fraud.

THE new warship *Niitaka*, which was launched on Nov. 15th last year at the Yokohama Dockyard, and which recently completed her equipment, performed a trial trip on Dec. 28th which proved successful.

THE dwelling of T. Mori, a wealthy farmer living at the village of Okagawa near Ota, Yokohama, was entered by four armed men early on the morning of Dec. 30th. He was robbed of over *yen* 60 and some articles.

THE death is announced in Kobe of Mr. H. B. Lucas, who has been connected with the British Consulate there for many years as Shipping Master. Death was due to apoplexy, the end coming on Monday night.

N. SEKIMOTO, a student of the Formosan Language School, Tokyo, committed suicide on the night of Dec. 30th by cutting his throat with a knife. The cause is set down to temporary insanity. He was suffering from *kakke* (beriberi).

A COOLIE attempted to murder a *sendo* by stabbing him with a fish-knife in a boat in the canal near Matsukage-cho, Yokohama, on Dec. 31st. The culprit was arrested. The cause is reported to be a gambling dispute.

THE growth of the population of Germany in 1902, regarding which statistics have just been tabulated, was the greatest ever known, amounting to 902,312, or 15.61 per 1,000, compared with 15.09 in 1901 and 14.63, the average for the last 10 years.

THE Emperor on Jan. 5th ordered the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs to convey his sympathy to the President of the United States, through Mr. Takahira, the Japanese Minister at Washington, with regard to the Chicago disaster.

THE Japanese Minister at Vienna telegraphs that the Emperor of Austria sustained a slight injury to his face by falling down in his room. The Emperor of Japan sent a telegram on Jan. 2nd to the Austrian Court sympathizing with the incident.

THE steamer *Manchuria* of the East China Railway Company which is now at Nagasaki to undergo repairs, hesitates to enter the dock. The *Asahi* reports that she will be chartered by the Russian Navy as a transport.

THERE is a growing dissatisfaction in the Transvaal at the extravagance of the Government. As an instance it is pointed out that education costs 12s. 6d. per child, as compared with 5s. in the Orange River Colony and 10d. at Capetown.

THE *Asahi* states that the steamer *Chiyoda Maru* left Muroran on Dec. 28th for Chemulpo with 22,000 sleepers, to be used in the construction of the Seoul-Fusan railway. The steamer *Kichisho Maru* is reported to be shipping sleepers for the same purpose.

A TELEGRAM from Aomori announces that owing to a snow storm, the steamer *1st Ominato Maru*, belonging to the Ominato Torpedo barracks, went ashore on Dec. 31st off Nobechi, causing severe damage to her hull. She is not yet refloated.

THREE employers of the *Matsumoto Shimbun*, two of the *Jitsugyo Shimpo*, and all in the office of the periodical *Nanshin Hyoron*, Nagano prefecture, were arrested on Dec. 30th. The charge against them is reported by the *Jiji* to be that of obtaining money by menaces.

TOKYO papers report that the Bank of Japan has sustained a loss of *yen* 30,000 through the carelessness of the cashiers in paying the proceeds of a cheque drawn by the Shinano Bank on the Bank of Japan in favour of the Asakusa Bank, to a different man to the one who presented it for payment.

FRAU FISCHER, a lion tamer, was torn to pieces in the town of Dessau, on Dec. 7th by four lions in a menagerie cage and in sight of a great crowd. She was trying to make a lion spring through a hoop, and struck him with a whip, whereupon he leaped upon her. There was a panic among the spectators, and many persons were injured.

K. OKADA, a farmer, at the village of Tanidzuka, Saitama Prefecture, beat to death his son aged 26 years on Jan. 2nd with a mallet. The farmer had quarrelled with the son who was of dissolute habits, and on the latter retorting the father, who was greatly excited, struck him. The murderer was arrested on the following day.

K. MATSUMOTO, chief sendo of a ferry steamer plying between Moto-benten, Yokohama, and Kanagawa, was murdered on the night of Jan. 3rd in the house of one of the employees of the Yokohama Ferry Steamer Company, Matsukage-cho, being stabbed on the breast and in other parts with swords by a man named Masuda and three other men employed by the company. The murderers gave themselves up to the Kotobuki-cho police. The cause is said to be that the victim had ill-treated Masuda.

FOREIGN POLITICS.

Monday, January 4.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun's* Peking correspondent telegraphs on avowedly good authority that Russia has conveyed an important message to the Chinese Government. Its sense is that since Japan insists on pursuing a policy of unwarrantable interference in the affair of Manchuria, Russia sees no recourse except an appeal to the sword. China, however, may rest assured that her integrity will be respected by Russia, and that even though it should be necessary for the latter to temporarily occupy Peking, or to take momentary possession of other parts of Chinese territory, no apprehension need be felt, since all places thus occupied will be subsequently restored. Therefore China is advised to maintain an attitude of strict neutrality as most conducive to her interests.

We are inclined to suspect that the compiler of this piece of information is something of a wag. Certainly he ascribes to Russia statements which sound quite amusing in her mouth. The idea that if China keeps quiet nothing worse will happen to her than the military occupation of her capital by a foreign Power—her capital having no possible or conceivable connexion with the matter in dispute—, and the further idea that Russian occupations of an Oriental State's territories may be regarded as innocent performances, destined to be of the briefest duration and intended for the kindly purpose of preserving the territorial integrity of the State concerned, these two ideas go well in double harness. The *Nichi Nichi's* Peking correspondent had not previously shown himself in the character of jester.

From the *Jiji Shimpo's* Peking correspondent comes an account of a report said to have been made by Fu Yu-fen to Prince Ching after the former's return recently from Port Arthur. Fu said that Viceroy Alexieff took him to see the fortifications and the naval squadron at Port Arthur, and showing him 62 war-ships lying in the harbour and 10 keeping watch outside, insisted on the helplessness of Japan in face of such a force and of the thorough preparedness of Russia. The Viceroy's staff-officers also told Fu that it was quite obvious that Japan dared not encounter Russia at sea. That fact was more than sufficiently established by the attitude of the Tokyo Government towards Russia's explicit rejection of its demands. Instead of vehemently resenting such rejection, as a Power prepared to assert itself by force must surely have done, Japan had humbly asked Russia to reconsider her resolve. After that there could be no doubt that Japan was without heart to fight. Therefore it was plainly to China's interests to join hands with Russia and thus finally to check Japan's injurious presumption. It is added that the Viceroy's Chief of Staff assured Fu Yu-fen that if China would send an Imperial Prince, or other duly accredited envoy, to Port Arthur, the Manchurian question could be easily settled. The Viceroy himself explained that so long as China preferred Japan's friendship to that of Russia, there could be no such thing as a satisfactory solution of the situation.

There is a striking difference between the interpretation given of Russia's attitude towards Japan by publicists friendly to the former in St. Petersburg, Berlin and Paris, and the interpretation given to it by Russian staff-officers at Port Arthur, according to the *Jiji's* correspondent. The European publicists represent Russia as behaving with the utmost moderation and making concessions of a markedly conciliatory character. The Port Arthur officers represent her as taking a line which Japan, had she any heart for battle, must resent in the most determined manner. Without discussing which version is correct, we note their serious discrepancy. Of course a considerable discount must be allowed on account of the triple transmission of Fu Yu-fen's news.

The same correspondent says that a distinguished English staff-officer who recently arrived in Peking by the Siberian Railway, describes the state of the line as most defective. Even in time of peace, he affirms, the line is plainly ill-organized and wanting in many essentials. It would be of comparatively little use for war purposes. He adds that he found the Russians everywhere convinced of Japan's determination not to fight, and everywhere declaring that to draw the sword would mean ruin for her.

The Peking correspondent of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, telegraphing under date of the 2nd instant, alleges that Japan has asked China to maintain neutrality in the unhappy event of war between Russia and Japan. His country—so the communication is said to run—wishes to fight its own battles without involving other Powers.

It will be observed that, according to rumour, Russia and Japan have thus adopted the same tone towards China. Both wish her to maintain strict neutrality. There is, however, the difference that Russia accompanies her request with an intimation that China's compliance will secure for her the preservation of her Sovereignty in Liaotung.

Our contemporary's correspondent adds that with the exception of one or two officials who may be called Russia's creatures, no influential member of the Chinese Government places any reliance in Russia's assurances.

Commenting on this news, the *Nichi Nichi* invites attention to the convincing practical proof thus furnished of the extravagance of the accusation advanced by anti-Japanese publicists that this country aims at becoming the leader of a league of the yellow races. There is no question whatever of race in this matter, says our contemporary. Japan simply obeys the dictates of self-protection. She has no aggressive, imperial or racial ambitions. What she thinks of is her own safety.

A telegram from London to the *Jiji Shimpo* gives an epitome of an article in the *Novoe Vremya*. The Russian journal, having noted that a tendency exists in some quarters of France to deny the extensibility of the Franco-Russian alliance to the Far East, goes on to declare that Japan entertains aggressive designs against France's Indo-Chinese possessions, and to incite the French to seize Formosa should war break out.

That is certainly a contemptible contention, not in the least calculated to appeal to French sentiment. Russia and Russia alone is the aggressor in East Asia. It is for the gratification of Russia's ambitious designs that the Orient has been kept for three years in a state of suspense not unlikely to be now exchanged for one of actual war. That the *Novoe Vremya* should suspects other countries of being animated by the aggressive instincts which now unhappily sway its own rulers, is not surprising. But that it should expect unconcerned onlookers to be deceived by such shallow pretences is too silly.

It is worth noting that now for the first time the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* departs from its long-continued attitude of studious optimism, and declares positively that the time has come to present an ultimatum to Russia. The Tokyo journal still insists on what must be evident to everyone, namely, that the complication might be resolved peacefully in a moment did Russia show any sincere wish for peace. She is not asked to do anything except what she has repeatedly and publicly pledged herself to do. Even at this moment when her obstinately intractable attitude has brought about a dangerous crisis, she does not hesitate to assure the Chinese Government of her intention to preserve Liaotung for it. That is all she has to do; she need only give effect to that assurance. Instead of doing so, she is hurrying her ships and her troops to the regions which she pretends to be desirous of evacuating. There has seldom been such a flagrant contrast between word and deed. Japan would be justified, amply justified, in going to war at once. But in deference to the courtesies of international intercourse she should address one more remonstrance to Russia. Such is the *Nichi Nichi's* present view.

It is stated that the Second Division, whose headquarters are in Sendai, has been placed under orders to hold itself in readiness for a winter campaign, and that its staff are busily engaged making preparations.

Marquis Ito remains at Oiso, where he is visited from time to time by the leading members of the Cabinet.

Tuesday, January 5.

It is evident from the varied nature of the reports in circulation that no one outside the inner circle of statesmen knows what is contemplated. Some say that Russia's reply will not be awaited beyond a certain limit of time; other allege that if it do not arrive soon, a limit of time will be fixed; others again declare that there has already been an ample interval for St. Petersburg to answer, and that Japan is now free to take her own course. But what that course will be even supposing Russia's answer to be unfavourable, there appears to be no definite idea. Naturally the authorities guard the secret. One of two lines is open; namely, either to declare war at once, or merely to take active steps for securing Japan's vital interests in Korea. It is idle to speculate which of the two routes will be chosen. And indeed it begins to be almost idle to entertain any hope of a pacific settlement; that is to say, a settlement to which Russia is a diplomatic partner. Yet a very little conciliation on her side would probably turn the scale in the direction of peace.

Unpleasant comments are made by Japanese journals on the persistent attempts of the Berlin press to create an impression that the situation is not really critical, to throw doubts on Japan's intention of fighting and to suggest that her military and naval preparations are merely by way of bluff. One Tokyo journal applies to all this a penal-law term indicating "interested fabrication," and observes that Berlin publicists must be quite well aware of the delusive character of their own representations.

On the other hand it is noted with gratitude that the tone of the Italian press is favourable to Japan, and that Italy sympathises with this country's cause.

Wednesday, January 6.

From Vladivostock comes news that the Russian war-ships there are busily making preparations for eventualities.

A telegram from Chemulpo says that a hundred American marines—some say a hundred and fifty—have landed at Chemulpo for the protection of American life and property.

The *Jiji Shimpo* has a message from London saying that a party of Japanese sailors who entered the city received a very demonstrative welcome from the populace, and that the Japanese Legation testifies much satisfaction at this unofficial display of sympathy on the part of Japan's ally.

From Odessa it is reported that in view of the extensive preparations carried on there by the military and naval authorities, the people place no reliance in the optimistic statements emanating from St. Petersburg.

The *Jiji Shimpo* continues to write in a strong strain. It declares that no demonstration is needed to show that the responsibility for the present situation rests with Russia. Had the same series of events occurred between any two European Powers, their relations would long ago have been severed. But Japan has exercised the greatest possible patience. It is only by her earnest desire to preserve the peace that an open rupture has been hitherto avoided. She can no longer maintain an attitude of waiting on the convenience of a Power which deliberately postpones a friendly settlement the while it makes vigorous preparations for war.

The *Kokumin* takes much the same line. It says that there are limits to patience, and that a country can not sacrifice its vital interests on the altar of long-suffering. An interesting assertion is made by this journal, namely, that at the outset Japan approached Russia with reference to the Manchurian problem alone, and that Russia replied by introducing the Korean question. That was little short of an insult. And it became an absolute insult when Russia's manner of treating the Korean question took the form of an equal partition of influence in the peninsula. Japan can bear a great deal in the cause of peace. She bore even that, hoping always for friendly adjustment. But she can not bear to have a sword flourished in her face. It has now become a matter of life and death, and she means to strike for her life. There have been publicists who argued in favour of an exchange between Manchuria and Korea. Such persons forget that Korea is already within the sphere of Japan's influence, and that no occasion exists to discuss that matter with Russia. The fact is that whereas the Manchurian problem is not vital for Japan, and might therefore be settled without serious difficulty, the Korean problem is vital, and she can not entertain any proposal for a settlement of it on lines which would threaten her own integrity. Thus Russia, approached by this country with regard to a matter offering an ample margin for amicable adjustment, replied by dragging into the discussion a question which offers no margin at all. Were northern Korea internationally recognised as Russia's sphere of influence, the extension of that sphere to southern Korea also would be merely a question of time. That is as sure as sunrise and sunset. It is Russia then that has deliberately forced Japan into an insufferable situation.

In the course of an article on the relations between China and Russia, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* resumes its familiar tone of inconclusive argument. The gist of its contention is that Russia does not really want to fight; that she is just as peaceably disposed as any other State; that if only China would adopt a genuinely resolute attitude things might easily be settled, and that it is a mistake to regard a rupture between Japan and Russia as inevitable.

Three acts recently attributed to French Representatives in the Far East seem to have attracted some attention in Japan. They are the attempt of the Minister in Peking to induce China to close with Russia's terms in the matter of Manchuria; the attempt of the Minister in Seoul to induce Korea to place herself under French protection, and the effort by the same official to prevent the Seoul Government from granting the concession of the Seoul-Wiju Railway to a Japanese syndicate. The *Asahi* comments on these incidents. It does not consider them of cardinal importance, but it says that in so far as they are intended to promote Russia's purpose against Japan, to precisely that extent must they be regarded as unfriendly to this country.

Thursday, January 7.

The *Jiji Shimpo* writes in a sarcastic strain about the news sent by Reuter that the Berne Peace Bureau has prepared a memorandum urging the Powers to offer their services for the settlement of the Russo-Japanese complication. Japan, says the *Jiji*, certainly could not agree to such intervention unless she had some assurance that her honour would not be compromised by the resulting settlement. Russia has plainly shown that she has no desire for peace. All the while that she was nominally conducting negotiations, she never ceased making preparations for war. Japan, on the contrary, has exercised the utmost patience, waiting quietly and hopefully in the face of a steady and rapid development of conditions unfavourable to her interests. Japan, in short, has fully furnished proofs. If Russia now really desire peace, and is prepared to enter a conference for securing it, she must furnish some evidence of sincerity. Such an evidence would be the withdrawal of the ships and troops sent out by her to the Far East since the commencement of the complication. As for the alleged postponement of the sailing of her squadron from Bizerta, that is mere child's play: it deceives no one. She is merely manœuvering for more time. The device finds Japan unmoved. St. Petersburg has deliberately imported into this complication what is a life-and-death question for Japan, the question of Korea. Japan will treat it as a life-and-death question. As for the "Powers" to whom the Berne appeal is to be addressed, who are they? The Japanese know how the Berlin press has persistently endeavoured to represent Russia as the conciliatory party and Japan as the provocative. Are the Powers whose sentiments such a press reflects to be appointed arbiters in this matter?

The Kaiser would be amused if he saw the caricature of himself in the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*. His Majesty is represented as the god of the wind, who blows over Europe the optimistic rumours of Russia's pacific purposes—that never materialize.

Friday, January 8.

It is confidently alleged by some Japanese papers that Russia's reply reached Tokyo on the night of the 5th instant, and that on the forenoon of the 6th, Baron Rosen, who is unhappily confined to the house by an abscess of the ear, sent a secretary to inform the Foreign Office of the fact. The result was that Baron Komura proceeded to the Russian Legation at half-past three in the afternoon, and had a long conference with the Russian Representative. We believe that all this is a canard. As for Reuter's obviously silly message, no allusion is made to it in the columns of the Tokyo journals, their silence being of course attributable to the fact that the telegram did not reach the capital until the evening, when no time remained for editorial comment.

The *Jiji* has a London telegram to the effect that the terms of Japan's proposals have been semi-officially published in Europe, and that their moderation has astonished every one. Our contemporary makes this the text of an article blaming the Government's circuitous ways, and arguing that since foreign nations have been thus taken into Japan's confidence, the Japanese nation has a right to expect equal consideration. Especially is this the case in existing circumstances. For though diplomatic secrecy is unquestionably useful when negotiations are in actual progress, and when the calm of the council chamber must not be disturbed by the clang of public discussion, that argument ceases to have any force after affairs have passed out of the realm of diplomacy and reached the confines of the domain of arms; when, in short, one side has formulated the irreducible minimum from which it can not possibly recede. It is time, therefore, for the Japanese Government to let the people know exactly what has been the nature and what the progress of the negotiations.

The *Nippon* very shrewdly observes that the Hague Tribunal would be terribly perplexed to render any effective judgment in such a case as would be submitted to it were it asked to arbitrate the Far-Eastern problem. For, after all, the basis of the whole complication is Russian aggression. Russia herself is no more competent to control the impulses that drive her forward than a man with the ague is able to prevent his teeth from chattering. She wants a drastic febrifuge, and blood-letting is the only efficient medicine of that kind. Thus the *Nippon*, always consistently chauvinistic. But the good *Nippon* forgets that a tribunal of arbitration is not required to drive everlasting nails into the doors of the temple of Janus. It is only asked to deal with the immediate issues of a particular situation. Therefore it is not Russia's twentieth-century imperialism that would puzzle the Hague Court. The real difficulty would be to get Russia into the Court at all. For in her heart of hearts she knows that even the best packed body of European jurisconsults would of necessity decide against her retention of the sovereignty of Manchuria, and to surrender that she is not yet prepared, above all to surrender it under pressure. We must not forget that unless this fuss and commotion thoroughly loosen Russia's hold upon the Three Provinces, the effect will be just the opposite: the effect will be to tighten it. Every shock she survives makes her throw out a new tentacle. But that would not be the consequence of a hostile judgment by the Hague Tribunal.

The *Niroku Shimpo* has a telegram from Seoul dated the 6th instant, saying that the greatest cordiality of friendship exists between the newly arrived American marines in Seoul and the Japanese troops already stationed there. The message adds that the Japanese and United States Legations are busily concerting measures of precaution against any emergency. There is no doubt that the people of the United States are heart and soul with Japan at this crisis. America has always been Japan's friend, but recent events have deepened and intensified the sentiment to a singular degree.

THE POLICE AND THE FOREIGN PRESS.

This is the first occasion on which the foreign local press has been brought practically under the controlling sway of the Japanese police. It is among the statutes of the Empire that the Government, should it deem such a course essential in the public interests, may temporarily veto the publication of any news relating to the foreign affairs of the country, to the movements of troops or war-ships, and to various other matters. The object of such an interdict at the present crisis is to conceal Japan's plan of action from her potential enemy, and while that object would be pretty effectually attained by excluding items of military and naval intelligence from the columns of all the vernacular journals only, it might be partially defeated were no similar restraints imposed upon the foreign local press. Therefore the police have paid visits at the offices of the various local journals for the purpose of calling their attention to the veto promulgated in the *Official Gazette* of the 5th instant. We receive thus a very unequivocal reminder that we are under Japanese law, but we receive, at the same time, a reminder of the complete freedom we have hitherto enjoyed under that law. So far, indeed, as liberty of speech is concerned, the transfer of the foreign local press to Japanese jurisdiction did not produce even the most infinitesimally small fraction of difference in liberty of opinion and of its expression.

NEW YEAR'S NUMBERS OF JAPANESE JOURNALS.

Among the New Year's issues of the Tokyo journals the *Jiji Shimpo* heads the list with a forty-page paper. The *Nichi Nichi* and the *Kokumin* stand next with 24 pages each; then follow the *Shogyo* and the *Nippon* with 20; then the *Asahi* and the *Yomiuri* with 16; then the *Hochi* and the *Miyako* with 12; then the *Chuo* with 10; and finally the *Niroku*, the *Jimmin* and the *Dempo* with 8.

As to the illustrated sheets accompanying these numbers in the case of the leading papers, one of the most interesting is that of the *Asahi*. It is a facsimile of the words of the national anthem written by Their Imperial Highnesses the Princes and Princesses Komatsu, Fushimi, Kitashirakawa, Kacho, Kanin, Higashi-Fushimi and Kuni and Prince Tokugawa. It appears that all these distinguished personages met at a party given by Prince Tokugawa in May, 1900, and that some one suggested the idea of making a memento of the occasion in the form of a scroll having the words of the anthem engrossed by all the Princes and Princesses in combination. Such a scroll has immense value in Japanese eyes.

Of the other pictures not much need be said, except that the *Nippon's* group of flowers is a fine example of delicate colour-work. The *Jiji Shimpo*, however, has made a not very happy departure. It reproduce a drawing of "Echo" by Mr. Eisaku Wada, who seems to have painted it in Paris. Probably our contemporary intends that this picture shall serve as a protest against the prejudice with which the Japanese regard the nude as an art subject. We need only remark that, in our opinion, the picture will help to confirm the prejudice rather than to soften it.

CHINA.

Friday, January 1.

A telegram from Peking says that the Japanese and American Representatives are pressing for ratification of the recently concluded commercial treaties, but the Chinese Court hesitates, the pressure of Russian influence being against such a step. Ratification would mean the opening of Mukden and Antung, for which measures Russia is by no means prepared. Her position is unfortunate, from a moral point of view, since alike in China and in Korea she figures as the one obstructor of commercial expansion and extended intercourse. She is more conservative just now than the Chinese and Koreans themselves, and yet, in point of fact, her Asiatic record shows immense results in the cause of civilized progress.

Tuesday, January 5.

The *Asahi* has a Peking telegram saying that the Court proposed to raise a sum of ten million taels from the various provinces, to meet the expense of military expansion. This project, however, was vehemently opposed by ex-Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, who insisted that should such contributions be demanded in addition to the Indemnity payments, which already overtaxed the people's financial competence, something like a revolt must be expected. The same line was taken by Chang Peh-hi, President of the Board of Education, and these two views are said to have greatly perplexed the Court.

A censor has memorialized the Throne advising that the present Commander-in-Chief in Shing-king should be handed over to the Board of Punishments and a competent successor be appointed. As to this successor, the present Governor of Hunan was suggested, but the Court held that no Chinese official could be expected to discharge his duties satisfactorily in Manchuria in the face of Russia's interference, and that the first thing to be done was to consult the latter's wishes.

It is alleged that at the suggestion of Wang Wen-shao, who has been drawn from his retirement by the perilous nature of the crisis, the Viceroys and Governors of the various districts have been asked to submit to the Throne a statement of their views. The message calling for these statements was conveyed through Ku Hung-ki. Its import was that according to telegrams from the Chinese Representatives in St. Petersburg and Tokyo, a rupture between Japan and Russia was imminent. In such an event, if China observed neutrality her conduct would be unfriendly to Japan, whereas her military strength did not suffice to take part in the struggle. The Viceroys and Governors were therefore exhorted to review the whole situation, and convey their counsels telegraphically to Peking. In other words, the local satraps are asked to decide whether, in their opinion, China's military and financial resources qualify her to enter the arena, and if she enter it, how long she would be in a position to keep up the struggle.

The *Asahi's* Tientsin telegrams say that re-inforcements are constantly arriving at Port Arthur, where over twenty thousand men are now in garrison. There are 15 men-of-war in the harbour and 3 outside, and there are some 20 torpedo craft. Every day witnesses the strengthening of the fortifications.

Wednesday, January 6.

Peking sends news to the *Asahi Shimbun* that the Governor of Urga has sought instructions how to deal with a somewhat perplexing situation. It appears that the Russians have built and armed a fort at Urga where they have a garrison of 3,500 Cossacks and 3,000 Mongolian troops. Of late they have denied access *in toto* to Chinese subjects and have forbidden Chinese soldiers to come within 600 yards of the place. Urga is a town in Mongolia on the high road from Kiatka and Maimachin to Peking. It is by this route that Russia has been supposed to be contemplating the construction of a line to bring her Trans-Asian Railway into direct communication with Peking. The Governor wants to know what he is to do in the premises. Probably Peking will tell him to preserve a masterly inactivity.

Viceroy Yuan is said to have raised an objection to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's sole ownership of the landing stage at Chin-wan-tao. His Excellency considers that anything savouring of a monopoly at this place would be opposed to the intention of its opening to foreign trade, and he also considers that the sale to the Japanese company should be impugned as illegal. But there appears to be little probability of his objection proving valid. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha employed perfectly legitimate means to acquire any rights it enjoys at Chin-wan-tao.

Thursday, January 7.

Viceroy Alexieff, it is stated, has addressed to the Wai-wu-pu in Peking, through M. Lessar, a request that China should send a special envoy to consult with him at Port Arthur with reference to the settlement of the Manchurian question. But the Chinese Government is naturally unwilling to take any such step pending the outcome of the Russo-Japanese negotiations. There is, of course, much satisfaction in Peking on account of the strong front recently adopted by Japan, and this is not the moment for China to give away the situation by concluding an independent settlement with Russia. China's position is morally very strong. She confronts Russia with an unanswered and unanswerable accusation of broken promises and she declines to take any step tending to condone that breach. The trouble is that her case rests on moral grounds alone and is not supported by any appreciable force; a rather poor outlook in these civilized times.

The *Jiji's* Peking correspondent wires that in the event of war between Japan and Russia, China will maintain neutrality. That decision may now be regarded as final. It is, we imagine, quite unprecedented and certainly it is very quaint, that a great empire should sit with folded hands while two foreign Powers are disputing about the fate of a large slice of its territory. If China can sink to any profounder depths of impotence than that, we should like to know how the descent is to be accomplished.

On the other hand, the *Nichi Nichi's* correspondent says that whereas China has hitherto displayed marked timidity in the face of Russian menaces, she is now showing a very strong front. Thus it has been decided that a large portion of the Chili troops shall be sent to Shan-hai-kwan, and that efficient measures shall be taken for action from that direction. Such a measure, however, would not be in any degree inconsistent with the preservation of strict neutrality. Indeed the *Asahi's* correspondent wires that telegraphic instructions have been despatched from Peking to the commander-in-chief in Manchuria, requiring him to abstain from all interference in the event of war between Japan and Russia.

Meanwhile Viceroy Yuan is said to be vigorously pushing his schemes of military reform. Apparently his main idea is to have a really national army now for the first time, instead of a congeries of local militias without any uniformity of system or organization. The Viceroy's plan is to have twenty divisions of troops in the whole empire, four of them to be in the metropolitan province. Each division is to consist of 25 battalions, and as the strength of a battalion—the old Chinese unit—is 500 men, the total strength of the 20 divisions will be 250,000 *men*, not a large army for an empire of 350 millions of people China having 18 provinces, independently of Manchuria, it is plain that if the metropolitan province absorbs four out of the twenty divisions, some one of the remaining seventeen provinces will have to go without a division. The Viceroy is further credited with the intention of eliminating from the army the element of weakness proverbial in Chinese battalions, namely, the presence of superannuated men, who though quite unfit for campaigning purposes, remain in the ranks as a bread-earning profession.

According to a letter from the *Jiji Shimpo's* Peking correspondent, it would appear that Taotai Yuan, nephew of the great Viceroy, was the real cause of the re-occupation of Mukden by the Russians. Among all the Chinese officials in Manchuria he alone is said to have stood undaunted in the face of Russian aggression and menace; to have opposed the invader at every turn, and to have punished local bandits unflinchingly whether they enjoyed or did not enjoy Russian protection. His presence at Antung as Taotai of the Eastern Marches constituted a perpetual source of inconvenience to Russia, and led finally to the seizure of Mukden and to a demand for Yuan's capital punishment. Yuan became known to the Japanese by the extremely cordial reception he gave to Major Sakanishi when the latter was travelling in Manchuria. He not only did everything possible to promote the objects of the Major's journey, but he also urged in the strongest terms that unless some decisive step were at once taken to check Russian aggression in Manchuria, it would inevitably extend to Korea, and thence even to Japan, while China's security would be a thing of the past. Yuan's idea was that Japan should not lose a moment, but should strike forthwith while Russia's forces were still at a distance from the scene of operations. He seems to have advocated a repetition of the plan of campaign adopted in 1894-5; namely, the despatch of three armies, one marching from the Yalu on Mukden; one from Antung towards Liaoyang, and one from Takushan or Pitsewo towards the isthmus of the Regent's Sword, this last to work in cöoperation with a naval attack upon Port Arthur. He promised that if these measures were adopted, the Chinese would make themselves responsible for supplying the troops with provisions. Undoubtedly had such a plan been put into operation last June or July, Russia would have found herself in a highly embarrassed position. But it is easy to be wise after the event.

Telegrams to the *Jiji* from Peking say that owing to the persistent efforts of Mr. Conger and Mr. Uchida, the new commercial treaties—namely, those of America and Japan with China—will be ratified in a few days and that the exchange of ratifications may thereafter be looked for immediately. Mukden, Tatung and Antung will then be open to foreign trade, and a very interesting situation will arise.

Friday, January 8.

The *Kokumin's* Peking correspondent wires that in view of the imminent outbreak of hostilities between Japan and Russia, the city is much excited, and that the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and the Specie Bank have begun to buy up silver dollars. We wonder to how wide an area of Peking this alleged excitement extends. Perhaps, indeed, the nerves of the sleepy old city are more tensely strung now than they used to be in ante-Boxer days.

From Shanghai the intelligence is that in view of the gloomy outlook trade is almost at a standstill.

It is reported from Liaotung that two Japanese subjects have been killed and four wounded in the neighbourhood of the celebrated "Golden Hill" (*Hwang-kin-shan*) near Port Arthur. The account does not say anything as to how the incident occurred, but it notes that the Liaotung Peninsula is not at present a safe place for Japanese.

A telegram from Chefoo says that the sea is frozen through a distance of some seven or eight hundred yards from the shore. There has not been anything of the kind since the war between China and Japan.

KOREA.

Friday, January 1.

The *Jiji Shimpo* and the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* both publish intelligence from Seoul to the effect that the Russian Representative is endeavouring to obtain a lease of Masampo and Chinhai-wan for the purpose of converting them into naval bases. M. Pavlow has not yet made any definite application for these places, but is preparing the way through the medium of Li Kon-thaik. Masampo is probably the finest port in Korea. Its possession would give Russia what may be supposed to be an object of her constant ambition. Chinhai lies a little to the westward and southward of Masampo. It is not an ideal place for a naval station, being too much exposed. Our readers may remember that Russia made preparations to establish herself there some years ago, but for reasons which were supposed to be connected with the place and were supplemented by Japan's procedure with regard to Masampo, the project was abandoned. The *Nippon's* correspondent goes beyond his colleagues of the *Jiji* and the *Nichi Nichi*. He says that M. Pavlow is employing the most persuasive measures to secure his end, and that the Japanese Minister is watching things closely. If it should prove that at the very moment when negotiations are proceeding with Japan the Russian Representative in Seoul is endeavouring to secure independently an advantage which would render the negotiations practically worthless, a new element of danger will be added to the situation. It will be wise, however, to await much fuller information before placing credence in this rumour.

Reports from Seoul indicate a state of uneasiness and apprehension among the people in view of the pending crisis. That is very natural. Unless Russia make good her professions of peace, Korea is likely to play in the events of the near future a more prominent part than she will find altogether convenient. She is herself largely to blame. The vacillation and timidity shown by her with regard to events in the Yalu Valley and her hesitation to comply with proposals submitted by Japan, America and England, proposals pointing plainly to her own security and to the solution of existing difficalties, are not likely to escape the fate that always attends such a policy. Korea must be singularly blind if she does not perceive that the only hope of salvation for her lies in cementing her relations with Japan. Her independence would prove a very illusory business were she to pass under the shelter of Russia's wing, though in many material respects that refuge would make appreciably for her welfare.

The United States Representative in Seoul is reported to have intimated his intention not to attend the Korean Emperor's levee at the New Year. Dr. Allen's reason for this abstention is that he has failed to obtain audience of the Sovereign for the purpose of discussing the opening of Yong Am-pho, and he therefore declines to make act of presence at the Court for any purposes of ordinary etiquette. It appears to us that this is a wise and warrantable attitude. If the Emperor of Korea declines to give audience to the Representative of a foreign Power in connexion with important international questions, His Majesty can not reasonably expect the slighted Representative to attend purely conventional Court receptions.

The *Nippon* reports that seven thousand *koku* of barley having been imported into Chemulpo—or Seoul, the telegram is not quite clear which—by the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, nominally for sale, many surmises have been suggested. It is known that the rations of Japanese soldiers are 7 parts rice to 3 of barley, the admixture of barley being found very beneficial in preventing *kakke*. Hence the arrival of such a large quantity of barley naturally causes conjectures.

Monday, January 4.

From Seoul comes news that in view of the United States Representative having declared his resolve not to attend the New Year's levee on account of the Emperor having refused to receive him when he desired to make a representation about Yong Am-pho, an Imperial Chamberlain was despatched to the Representative, begging him to reconsider his resolve and promising that Yong Am-pho should be opened early in 1904. In these circumstances the Representative agreed to attend, but there was no levee after all in consequence of the illness of the Empress Dowager.

The lumber question at Wiju remains unsettled. The Japanese Foreign Office official, Mr. Okabe, who is charged with the conduct of the negotiations, is reported to have visited Yong Am-pho in search of some arrangement, but to have returned to Wiju unsuccessful.

The latest telegram from Seoul announces the death of the Empress-Dowager at 10 a.m. on the 2nd instant.

Mr. Cho Min-ki (?), Korean Representative in the United States, has been appointed to represent his country at the Court of Japan.

Tuesday, January 5.

It is stated (*Asahi's* Seoul correspondence) that the French Representative in Korea has secretly advised the Emperor to place the country under French protection as the only secure refuge, and that the Russian

Representative is conducting various secret schemes.

Wednesday, January 6.

There is a rumour published by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, which seems to regard it with some credence, that the Russians have landed a force at Mokpo. Our contemporary justly observes that there is no conceivable reason for such a step and that, consequently, the rumour requires much confirmation. Mokpo is outside the arena of practical politics in every sense. It is not a serviceable harbour; its possession by Russia would not threaten the Seoul-Fusan Railway, and it could not endow its holder with any advantages as regards the passage of the Korean Sea. In our opinion the story may be regarded as a pure canard.

Thursday, January 7.

The Korean Government is said to have refused to allow the entry into Seoul of the American marines whose landing at Chemulpo, to the number of a hundred, was announced on the 5th by telegram. Korea takes the line that if American life and property be threatened, she will herself adopt proper measures for their protection. That is a very natural attitude, for if the troops of any one Power be admitted on such a pretext, other Powers may insist on following the precedent. The question is, however, can Korea be trusted to make good these assurances. There is said to be a very large force of Korean soldiers at Chemulpo, but their presence is not regarded by the foreign residents as in any sense a guarantee of safety.

The *Asahi* and the *Nippon* both allege, however, that 44 men, of all ranks, have actually entered Seoul, and that over a hundred are still waiting on board the transport at Chemulpo. Korea's remonstrance, therefore, does not appear to have been effective.

It is stated that the British Representative also is about to take practical steps for the protection of his nationals.

Several Japanese journals publish a telegram said to have been received in Seoul from Chefoo to the effect that two companies of Russian troops embarked, a few days ago, at Port Arthur, their supposed destination being Chin-hai-wan. It will be fresh in the memory of our readers that much talk was recently heard about a renewal of Russia's ambitious projects concerning Chin-hai-wan—a bay lying westward of Masampo. But it is quite incredible that she should proceed to land a handful of troops there at this particular juncture. That would be at once precipitating trouble and courting disaster. In company with this new item of intelligence comes a contradiction of the previous story that Russian soldiers had made their appearance at Mokpo.

Friday, January 8.

The obvious contingency is causing much anxiety in Korea, the contingency that as American marines have been summoned to Seoul for the protection of the life and property of United States citizens, the marines of other Powers may receive a similar mandate. Indeed Great Britain has already followed suit. A body of British marines arrived at Chemulpo on the 6th instant, and their landing was expected to take place on the 7th.

In short, Seoul seems not unlikely to become a second Shanghai, namely, a camping ground for the troops of the Occident. Some sensationalists whisper that, in effect Korea has now been garrisoned by American, British and Japanese troops. That is tea-house talk, however. Korea is very likely to be garrisoned by Japanese troops without much delay, unless a pacific settlement of the Far-Eastern complication be speedily effected, but these detachments of United States and English marines are frankly intended for their declared purpose, namely, the protection of life and property.

What the incident ultimately suggests is the anomalous and dangerous condition of Korea itself. The moment that a crisis of any kind arises, all the Powers lay aside any shred of confidence they may have in the little empire's competence to discharge imperial duties. If there is ever to be a stable condition of affairs in the regions within Japan's sphere of influence, she should see to it that this source of peril is removed, and it can only be removed, so far as we can see, by Japan herself assuming the duties which Korea's incompetence to discharge has been fully demonstrated.

There is a rumour that 27 Russian soldiers marched from Chemulpo—or proceeded hither by train—before daybreak on the morning of the 6th. This is treated only as a rumour, and one seems to detect in it the hand of the notorious news agency. Another report relates to the travels of three persons who, under the guise of Englishmen, are believed to be Russians, and who have disappeared on landing in Korea. Three persons! To what a pass are the newsmongers reduced, and to what a pitch is public excitement raised.

It appears that Li Kon-thaik and his friends have been somewhat discredited by the arrival of American and English marines for the protection of life and property in Seoul. These politicians had been assuring the Court that not the least chance existed of Japan drawing the sword in defence of her claims as to Manchuria and Korea, but their assurances have been rudely contradicted by these very palpable evidences that British and American statesmen take a different view. The Korean Court, having relied on Li's forecasts, is proportionately perturbed, and altogether Seoul is much demoralized. There will come a time of peace and rest for the Land of the Morning Calm one of these days, if only the present complication do not result in converting the Korean peninsula into the Balkan Peninsula of the Far East.

The funeral of the Empress Dowager of Korea is to cost six hundred thousand *yen*, an outlay which will probably impoverish the Court for some years to come. News from Seoul says that, under ordinary circumstances, the troops constituting the Imperial Guard would not be placed on duty around the palace until the day of the funeral, but that in view of "eventualities"—the proverbial "one in ten thousand" of Chinese phraseology—they have already taken up their stations. The funeral is to be on the 9th instant.

The Japanese Court has announced official mourning for 2 days, commencing from the 7th instant.

THE ARGENTINE CRUISERS.

The Emperor, at the suggestion of the Minister of State for the Navy, has agreed that the Argentine armoured cruisers just purchased by Japan and now nearing completion at the Genoa building yard, shall be called *Nisshin* and *Kasuga*. These names are not new. When in 1870 the various fiefs handed over to the Central Government all the foreign built ships in their possession, the feudal chief of Satsuma sent in a vessel called the *Nisshin* and the chief of Saga one called the *Kasuga*. The two ships may be said to have formed the nucleus of the Japanese Navy. They performed the first naval duty discharged by Japan after the Restoration; the duty of enforcing the neutrality proclaimed by the Government during the Franco-Prussian war. The ships have not yet been supplied with their full armament, but they are virtually ready to take their place in the line of battle. It is stated that they will be sent out direct from Genoa without waiting for Japanese crews, and that making the voyage in 35 days, they will reach Japan early in February. Tokyo journals relate that the Government's resolve to purchase the ships was taken quite suddenly, and that on the 30th of December a telegram was sent to Viscount Hayashi, directing him to complete the transaction at once with Messrs. Gibbs & Co., who had the ships in hand on account of the Argentine Government. They are sister-ships, with the exception of a slight difference in armament. Their displacement is 7,700 tons; length, 344 feet; beam 59 feet; draught 24 feet; horse-power 13.500; and speed 20 knots. They have a belt of 6-inches. The *Nisshin's* armament consists of four 8-inch guns, fourteen 6-inch; ten 3-inch; and six 1.8-inch. The *Kasuga* has one 10-inch, and two 8-inch, the rest of her armament being the same. The crew complement is 500 men as that of the *Nisshin*. The acquisition of these vessels brings the Japanese fleet of first-class cruisers to 8 ships, namely:—

Isumo	9,906 tons.
Iwate	9,906 „
Tokiwa	9,855 „
Asama	9,800 „
Yakumo	9,800 „
Azuma	9,456 „
Kasuga	7,700 „
Nisshin	7,700 „

It will be seen that the Genoa vessels are somewhat unworthy of their associates, but experts say that in power of armament they may fairly take their place in the above rank. The price paid for the vessels was 15,300,000 *yen*.

It will be observed that there is a discrepancy of dates. Reuter's telegram told us on the 29th December that the ships had been sold, whereas the Japanese papers allege that instructions to buy were forwarded on the 30th.

The *Hochi Shimbun* gives a comparative statement of the Russian and Japanese naval forces which are ready to take their place in the fighting line. The list stands thus:—

JAPAN.

Battle-ships	6	86,625 tons.
Armoured cruisers	6	58,778 „
Protected cruisers	9	34,460 „
Totals	21	179,863 tons.

Besides these there are two cruisers, the *Tsushima* and the *Niitaka*, which were launched some time ago and are just ready for sea, and there are the two Genoa cruisers, so that, by the beginning of February Japan will have 25 vessels of 202,200 tons.

RUSSIA.

Battle-ships	7	84,049 tons.
Armoured cruisers	4	43,216 „
Protected cruisers	7	38,822 „
Totals	18	166,087 „

In addition to the above Russia has two battle-ships—the *Alexander* III (13,516 tons) and the *Oslavia* (12,674 tons)—under orders for the East, and she has also the cruiser *Orora* (6,731 tons). When these vessels are added, she will have 21 ships of a total tonnage of 196,008 tons. These figures are said to be from the latest and most trustworthy returns.

The purchase of these two Argentine vessels is regarded as the immediate outcome of the Imperial Ordinance issued on the 28th of December, authorizing the Cabinet to employ the special-account funds for making good any deficiencies in the country's armaments.

It is stated that Russia was endeavouring to buy these vessels, but that she failed through some question of terms. That is a repetition, apparently, of the story of the Chilian war-ships. And were the two latter now in Japan's possession, her position would be immensely strengthened. We can well appreciate, however, the reasons which deterred her from rushing into the market.

DEATH OF PRINCE KONOYE.

Prince Konoye expired at 8.30 a.m. on the 2nd instant, the immediate cause of death being paralysis of the heart. The Prince was lying in his suburban villa at Ochiaimura. He was in his forty-second year, so that under ordinary circumstances a long spell of activity should have lain before him. Last summer he underwent an operation in the University Hospital, but success did not attend the treatment and he never recovered his normal health. Up to the last, however, he retained a large measure of vigour. On the morning of his decease he rose from his couch and, seating himself in a chair, drank a considerable quantity of beef-tea. Thereafter he called for his Japanese costume, but when about to don it he was seized with paralysis of the heart and expired in a few minutes still seated on his chair. The Prince belonged to the oldest of the princely families in Japan, his remote ancestor having been the celebrated Kamatari, founder of the Fujiwara clan. Seventeenth in descent from Kamatari was the notorious Regent Tadamitsu, whose son, the Prime Minister Motozane, is regarded as the direct founder of the Konoye House. Some generations after Motozane's time the Konoye family found itself without heir, and the deficiency was supplied by adopting a son of the Emperor Go-yazei. That was in the time of the Taiko, the last half of the 16th century. The deceased Prince was the ninth in descent from this adopted son. At eleven years of age he succeeded to the head of the family, and in 1884 he proceeded to Austria, whence he subsequently went to the Leipsig University, obtaining a degree of law in 1890 and returning to Japan the same year. Marquis Ito was the first President of the House of Peers in 1891, and Prince Konoye was elected Chairman of Committee of the Whole. In 1896 he succeeded Marquis Hachisuka as President, which office he held until December last, when illness compelled him to resign in favour of Prince Tokugawa. At the time of his death he was a Privy Councillor and President of the Nobles Club. The Prince's connection with the National Union, which he founded and over which, for several years, he presided is fresh in the memory of the public. From first to last he was an uncompromising opponent of Russia, in whose aggressions he detected a source of the gravest peril for his country. One of the salient features of his character was the liberalism that tempered his aristocratic traditions. No one, however humble or however exalted, detected any difference in the reception he received from the Prince. It is a singular fact that on the very eve of the troubles he always predicted this able man should have gone down to the grave. It was his unceasing contention that Russia's perennial lust of conquest never abated except when opportunity lacked, and that those who hesitated to beat back this wave of aggression before it gathered force, must look to be overwhelmed by it. The National Union ceased to exist on the completion of the Anglo-Japanese alliance, its President and its members fondly hoping that their aims were now achieved. Thereafter Prince Konoye devoted much energy to fostering the *To-a Dôbun-kai* (East-Asian Common-Script Association), which had for main purposes the cementing of close relations between Japan and China and the leading of the latter into the paths of modern progress. Undoubtedly his early demise must be called a heavy loss to his country.

Prince Konoye's obsequies were performed on Wednesday. Previous to the funeral the Emperor sent a message together with a present of five thousand *yen*. The message said that His Majesty had looked forward to utilizing the services of this great representative of an ancient house, and that he profoundly regretted the Prince's untimely decease. Many telegrams of condolence were received by the Prince's family from China, notably from Prince Ching, Prince Su and Prince Chin Kwo. The Foochow Officers School, the Nankin Officers School, the Dobun Shôin of Shanghai, the Japanese Language School of Seoul, the Mokpo branch of the To-A Dobun-kai and other institutions forwarded messages of sympathy. Japanese newspapers mention that the Prince's life was insured for 10,000 *yen* in the Sun Office of Canada, and that the money was sent to his family without waiting for any formal notice of the Prince's death.

A DUTCH VIEW OF JAPANESE ART.

We translate elsewhere from the *Deutsche Japan Post* an interesting criticism by Professor Dr. Baelz of a book written by a Dutch author, Mr. C. H. Stratz. The volume, being in the German language, may easily be mistaken for the work of a German, but it is, on the contrary, from the hands of an eminent German that Mr. Stratz receives the flagellation he richly merits. Dr. Baelz is specially concerned, because Stratz makes numerous allusions to the celebrated Doctor's writings, and thus indirectly involves the latter in his own blunders. We have had an opportunity of seeing Stratz's book, and having seen it we really must compliment Dr. Baelz on the moderation he observes in trouncing this singularly mistaken exponent of Japanese art. Stratz has been the victim of a huge practical joke. That is the most charitable conclusion we think possible. To put the matter briefly, he has come into possession of a number of pornographic pictures and several disgusting photographs, and has been deluded into imagining that such things form the staple of Japanese art and the commonest motives of Japanese artists. The result is that to an art from which the nude is absolutely absent, he ascribes a predominance not merely of the nude, but of the nude deprived of all the graces that save it, under the manipulation of clever Occidental artists, from lapsing into the frankly obscene. Our own unqualified opinion is that the proper place for the author, publisher and printer of Stratz's book is the dock in a police court, and when that is said our readers will understand what a monstrously absurd libel he has compiled on the art of Japan. The book will sell freely. It is sufficiently disgusting to appeal to the curiosity of some and to the depravity of others. That is the mischief of the thing. A wide audience means many believers, and for one person reached by Dr. Baelz's condemnations in the *Deutsche Japan Post*, there will be hundreds of credulous readers of the book itself. Yet the thesis of Stratz is about as correct as would be an assertion that European high art is faithfully represented by the drawings in the New York *Police Gazette*. Truly such silliness is not worth one serious paragraph.

THE JAPANESE MERCANTILE MARINE.

The President of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has given to a newspaper reporter some interesting figures with reference to the growth of the Japanese mercantile marine. He says that in 1896 the country possessed only 95 vessels of and above 500 tons, the total tonnage being 128,367 tons. The detail was this:—

	Owned by Nippon Yusen Kaisha.	Tonnage.	Owned by other Companies.	Tonnage.	Totals ships.	Tonnage.
From 500 to 1000 tons..	8	5,747	28	18,518	36	24,266
Over 1,000 tons	32	62,679	27	41,421	59	104,101

Of vessels over 3,000 tons there were then only three. At the present time, on the contrary, there are 262 vessels of 500 tons and upwards, with a total tonnage of 540,349 tons; a very remarkable development, it must be admitted, in so short a period as 8 years. The detail stands thus:—

Tons.	Yusen K.	Ton'ge.	Other C.'s	Ton'ge.	Total Ships.	Total Ton'ge
	Ships.	*Tons.*	*Ships.*	*Tons.*	*Ships.*	*Tons.*
500-1000	6	4,571	64	40,933	70	45,504
1000-2000	21	33,761	63	89 825	84	123,586
2000-3000	19	49,228	47	115,736	66	164,964
3000-4000	8	27,781	9	31,394	17	59,175
4000-5000	3	13,833	1	4,128	4	17,961
5000-6000	2	10,899	...	...	2	10,899
6000 and upwards	16	99,916	3	18,644	19	118,260
	75	239,689	187	300,660	262	540,349

Mr. Kondo, referring to these figures, says that whereas in 1894-5 Japan had to purchase a number of second-rate vessels at short notice for transport purposes, she has now an abundant fleet of her own, which its owners are willing to place at her service on the cheapest possible terms. That is a result of the wise policy pursued by the Government after the war with China in encouraging ship-building and navigation. The Empire's statesmen shrewdly judged that to augment the country's armaments without developing the mercantile marine would be like manufacturing a bird without wings. He also calls attention to the curiously low rates at which the Government can obtain these ships. During the South African war Great Britain employed from 800,000 to 1,200,000 tons of transports and had to pay from 15 to 25 shillings a ton. She wanted to engage the steamers of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's European line at 20 shillings a ton. But the Japanese Government is offered the whole of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's fleet at less than 8/6 per ton. Mr. Kondo concludes by saying that the business-men of Japan are naturally anxious for peace, but that they have grown utterly weary of suspense, which is inflicting heavy loss on them and paralysing all their enterprises.

DOMESTIC POLITICS.

Monday, January 4.

The *Jiji Shimpo* asks for a newly organized Cabinet. There are two Cabinets now: the Cabinet of the *Genro* and the Cabinet of the Ministers. It may be considered a bad thing to change Cabinets at such a juncture, but the country wants the strongest Ministry it can command, and there would in effect be no change, since the Elder Statesmen would merely assume the practical direction of affairs which they have in reality controlled. The great desideratum is to place the reins of State in the hands of the men who possess the fullest share of public confidence. We (*Japan Mail*) fail to see any valid reason for a change.

Tuesday, January 5.

Some of the minor journals of the capital continue to insist that there is an undercurrent of discontent in official circles and that unless some definite step be soon taken by the Cabinet, its own downfall is inevitable. The Satsuma party are represented as the motive force in this movement, and they are credited with a desire to see at the helm of State Marquis Ito, Marquis Yamagata, Count Matsukata, and, in short, the Elder Statesmen. It is not improbable, we should think, that should the present injurious uncertainty be protracted much longer, some complication will arise in domestic politics.

Thursday, January 7.

The *Jiji Shimpo* has a very strong article urging the necessity of a change of the Minister of State for Finance. Our contemporary's line of argument is that if war commences with Russia it will be a protracted affair demanding heavy expenditures, whereas the present Minister of Finance has neither the ability to devise ways and means nor the confidence of the commercial and industrial magnates whose cöoperation is essential. It is seldom that the *Jiji Shimpo* writes so strongly with reference to any official, and we must assume that there are valid reasons for its criticism.

JAPANESE SECURITIES.

The opening of the share market on the 4th instant, after the New Year's recess, witnessed a sharp depreciation of all securities. Something very like war-levels were touched. Of course many brokers are heavily hit. It is apprehended that there will be not a few bankrupts, and there are fears even of a panic and the compulsory closing of the Exchange. The following are the principal quotations:—

	Selling Price.	Fall since date of last quotation.
Japan Railway	73.70	3.00 *yen.*
Sanyō „	56.40	2.50 „
Kyūshū „	54.45	1 50 „
Tankō „	65.00	6.00 „
Densha „	83.60	10.00 „
Shigai „	61.50	12.00 „
Yusen Kaisha	68.00	10.00 „
Gasu „	81.00	10.00 „
Dentō „	70.50	18.00 „
Kanegafuchi Spinning Co.	30.00	5.00 „
Tōkyō Stock Exchange	136.00	25.00 „

The state of affairs in Osaka is not as bad as that in Tokyo, but there also a very heavy depreciation is reported.

A further fall in the market price of Japanese securities is telegraphed from London. The 5-per-cent War Bonds have dropped £1 5s. 6¼ and are now quoted at £90 6s. 10½; the 4-per-cents. have fallen £5.5s. and are quoted at £75. British Consols also have fallen to £87.15s., and Chinese 5-per-cents are quoted at £90.5s.

As for Japanese bonds and stocks in Japan they continue to be in an extremely depressed condition, and many brokers are said to be much perplexed in finding funds to cover their margins.

FAMILIES OF OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS KILLED IN WAR.

It may be remembered by some of our readers that after the war of 1894-5 an attempt was made by some charitable Japanese ladies and gentlemen to raise subscriptions in aid of the families of officers and soldiers killed or disabled during the campaign. Considerable sums were collected among the Japanese themselves, but some of the foreign local journals having raised the cry that matters of this kind lay entirely within the province of the authorities—a proposition by no means altogether true—the appeal met with little sympathy among the foreign residents, noted as they usually are for generous charity. In 1902 the law relating to this question was amended in the sense of increasing the grants in aid of families deprived of their breadwinners, and the *Jiji Shimpo* has now an interesting article on the subject. From this we learn that for the purposes of the law military men are divided into three classes. The first class comprises all those killed in battle and those that die from the effects of wounds received in battle. The allowances granted by the State in such cases are:—

	yen annually.
To the family of a private soldier	36 to 87
„ „ non-commissioned officer	60 to 150
„ „ Second Lieutenant	180 *yen.*
„ „ First Lieutenant	225 „
„ „ Captain	300 „
„ „ Major	450 „
„ „ Lt.-Colonel	600 „
„ „ Colonel	750 „

These allowances are given during the life of the widow, and are discontinued if she marries again; and there are special regulations relating to motherless children.

The second class includes persons wounded in the discharge of their duties, or dying on an official journey and so on, but this second class, as well as the third are not discussed by the *Jiji Shimpo* since they have no immediate interest. Roughly speaking the above allowances are one-third of the pay received by the officer or soldier during life. The *Jiji* argues that from the rank of captain downwards the allowances are quite insufficient to support a family, and that greater generosity on the part of the State is essential. How much more forcibly this argument could be advanced in 1895, before the increased scale of allowances had been enacted, our readers can easily judge. As things now stand, the widow and children of a soldier killed in battle may find themselves condemned to support life on a miserable pittance of 1/6 a week. The *Jiji* points out that Japan seems to be now on the verge of a terrible struggle; a fight with one of the greatest Powers of the Occident; she will have to throw herself body and soul into the contest, and it is not right to send out her sons to battle with hearts inexpressibly saddened by the thought that their own death for their country will condemn their widows and children to a life of almost hopeless penury and distress.

MERCANTILE INVESTMENT IN JAPAN.

Under the above heading we find the following in *Commercial Intelligence*:—

> A responsible critic writing in the *Japan Weekly Chronicle* quoted the following incident, which throws some light on the present benighted methods of Japanese trading firms. A joint-stock company, whose subscribed capital was only partly paid up, and who had been fortunate enough to make a profit, instead of paying a dividend, passed a resolution to make a further call upon capital, the amount of profit intended for dividends being appropriated for the payment of such further call. Now should the company sustain a loss, there will be another call for capital. When profits are made, no dividend is declared, and when there is a loss shareholders have to make it good, thus realising no actual return for their investments. Such cases, remarks the writer, are by no means uncommon, and explain to some degree why direct trade has hitherto been found of such great difficulty by the Japanese and of such little practical benefit.

This strikes us as being quite delightful nonsense. In the first place it is very far from true that cases such as the Kobe journal describes are common in Japan. If fault is to be found with Japanese companies in this context, it is that they are too ready to pay dividends before their business has been placed on a really sound footing. But even supposing that the shareholders of a company, confronted with the necessity of paying, in the immediate future, a call upon their shares, and having to choose between receiving a dividend to put into one pocket and paying a call out of the other pocket—even supposing that they selected the rational and prudent method of devoting the dividend to the call, how would such procedure merit the epithet "benighted?" It would, on the contrary, be praiseworthy procedure. If it is to be condemned, then by parity of reasoning we must condemn companies like the Mitsu Bishi and Nippon Yusen Kaisha which, instead of appropriating nearly all their earnings to the payment of dividends, appropriate a great part to reserves. There really is no essential difference between the two methods of procedure. Something might be said if the directors of a Company, on their own authority, took a step of the nature in question without consulting the shareholders, but where the latter, as is shown by the writer of the above paragraph, deliberately agreed to appropriate the dividend in the manner indicated, the criticism becomes mere persiflage. We are astonished that an excellent journal like *Commercial Intelligence* should lend its columns for the ventilation of such silliness.

THE INFLUENCE OF KINGS.

The *Spectator* thinks that future historians will note with some surprise mingled perhaps with perplexity that while in the beginning of the twentieth century the Kings of Europe lived lives of painful precaution against assassins, this very period, on the whole, will have to be considered in it political aspects as a very good time for Kings. In elaborating its argument our contemporary points out that the hatred which two generations before concentrated itself upon European thrones has apparently died away; in particular, the ridicule of kingship as a theory has passed out of literature and out of the popular mouth. Kings are accepted as part of the scheme of things, and the tendency of popular thought is to exalt their prominence in the community. Their personalities are watched with eager and not unsympathetic eyes, their movements are recorded with unceasing care, and there is a visible tendency to attribute to them most of the successes in administration. The older world talked of their virtues, the newer one speaks of their political or social triumphs. A kind of adulation, not so reverential as of old, but, so to speak, more liquid, has fallen upon them from all quarters, and their whole lives are observed with a minuteness of which the previous century afforded few examples. To judge by all appearances, the philosophers who predicted the decay of Royal authority as sure to follow the enlightenment of mankind have been entirely mistaken, and the Kings of the Continent have become the leaders as well as the rulers of their nations. The Emperor of Russia remains as absolute as ever; the Emperor of Austria has become the supreme referee of his many peoples; the German Emperor is practically the sole living politician within his dominions; the King of Italy, though obeying a rather strict Constitutional law, really selects and to a great extent guides, the Ministers, who in theory are chosen only by Parliament. Even the little Kings have been in a curious way accepted by their subjects, and in Holland, Denmark, Sweden, and Greece no one objects to a certain leadership or right of veto in the Sovereign. It seems in places as if men were tired of governing themselves, or of finding among themselves leaders who could lead. And so it has worked about that the Kings of Europe have come into their own again as leaders of their people in political as well as social life. But the *Spectator* thinks that their influence is reaching high-water mark, judging by two or three tendencies in modern thought which may now be discovered by the discerning. To begin with, the social influence of the Kings cannot do much for democracies, and so our contemporary concludes:—"Sand lifts itself in storms, and not by steps. The great object of the masses, who must ultimately settle the question, is now an increase in the comfort which they see to be attainable, but do not attain; and it is hard to see how the Kings can do much for them in this regard. A financial genius on the throne is a figure not found in history, for though many Kings have piled up treasure, few, even if we include Henri IV., have made their people rich. It was his Hebrew Chancellor of the Exchequer, not Pharaoh, who kept the people in corn. The Kings themselves see this, and throughout Europe not even the most conservative of Sovereigns hints a wish to supersede the representatives in matters of finance. There are, too, we think, in the new and terrible complexity of human affairs—produced mainly by the fact that there are now millions of opinions where formerly there were only hundred—signs that the Kings are beginning to dread the burden of their powers and seek with a certain eagerness to share them with the masses whose wisdom, except in the aggregate, they deride. The consensus of the thoughtful that hereditary Monarchy, while theoretically indefensible, makes for the solidity of nations, and the latent fear of all property-holders, whose power, direct and indirect, certainly does not diminish, will probably keep the dynasties at the head of affairs; but the next generation will, we imagine, see them recede again into that clear obscure which philosophers fancied would come sooner, forgetting, as they did, that the ascendency of a selected mob called a body of representatives is one of the strangest anomalies—though Englishmen at least may call it a most beneficial anomaly—with which historians have ever had to deal. No committee ever governed a regiment or a ship, but nations are wise when they rely for permanent guidance upon committees."

MAGNETIC DISTURBANCES AND SUNSPOTS.

In *Knowledge* for December, Mr. E. W. Maunder gives some interesting details of the Greenwich records with regard to the magnetic storms recently experienced in England, the Western countries of Europe and the United States, to which we recently drew attention in the columns of the *Japan Mail*. He further alludes to their connection with sunspots. The paper is illustrated with photographs of the sunspots, and of the records of the Greenwich magnetic register. Mr. Maunder writes: "In a few short months we have passed from a period of extreme quiet on the sun to a period in which great spots have begun to show themselves. I should wish to use this term of 'great spot' in a strictly definite and limited sense. For in every sunspot cycle there are a few groups which stand out, beyond all others, by their pre-eminent size, the giants of their kind. . . . The appearance at the east limb on October 4 of a regular spot, the first member of a group which was fully entitled to be classed amongst these giants, marks, therefore, an epoch of great interest in the progress of the present cycle. The interest in it is greater when we bear in mind that in previous cycles the increase in activity has followed so rapidly after the appearance of the first really great spot, that the largest group of the entire cycle has usually been registered within six or seven months afterwards. Spot groups continue to increase in frequency, indeed, for a considerably longer time, but, as a rule, not in size. If this precedent be followed, then the greatest single disturbance of the present maximum may be expected not later than April or May, 1904, whilst the actual summit of the curve is rather to be expected to fall in 1905, probably somewhat late in the year." Mr. Maunder divides the sunspots into various groups. The third group, which he calls the Storm Group, "came on the sun at the east limb on October 25, and touched the central meridian at 10 o'clock in the morning of October 31. Its passage across the meridian took about eighteen hours, so that it had entirely passed by November 1, 4 hours. A little before it reached the meridian, an extraordinary violent magnetic storm began. It commenced in the characteristic way, so often noticed, of a sudden sharp twitch of the needle, first slightly to the east, then strongly to the west, and back. At 13 hours the vibrations of the magnet became very violent, and from this time until 23 hours on October 31, changes in declination exceeding a degree in magnitude were frequent. . . . On the one hand, it is very conceivable that though the sunspot is directly the cause of the terrestrial magnetic effect, it is not the size of the spot which is the determining factor so much as some other characteristic less easily recognized. Thus both the Storm Group of October 31 last, and the group of 1882, Nov. 17, were distinguished by the number and vividness of the hydrogen reversals in their spectra, and it is conceivable that such reversals may be significant of more effective action than the mere extent of surface of the group. On the other hand, it may be that the connection between sunspots and magnetic storms is not direct but indirect; both being the effects of some one common cause which, nevertheless, does not act upon sun and earth always in the same proportion. But, in any case, whether the connection be direct or indirect, whether it be immediate or only secondary, there can be no doubt that it is real, actual, and effective."

GOVERNOR TAFT.

On the evening of the 4th instant a brilliant reception was given at the United States Legation to welcome His Excellency Mr. Taft, who is on his way home from the Philippines to assume the Secretaryship for War in the U.S. Cabinet. His Imperial Highness Prince Kanin was present, as were the Prime Minister, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Marquis Oyama, the Minister of State for War, Marquis and Marchioness Nabeshima, Marquis Hachisuka, and many other notables. It is scarcely necessary to say that nearly the whole American community of Tokyo and Yokohama attended. The grounds of the Legation were finely illuminated and the affair passed off with much eclat.

His Excellency Governor Taft was received by the Emperor in audience on the 6th instant, the presentation being by the United States Representative. Subsequently the Governor and Mrs. Taft were presented to the Empress, and they afterwards lunched with Their Majesties On Thursday, before leaving Yokohama by the *Korea*, Mr. Taft had an interview with Marquis Ito at the American Consulate, lasting over an hour. The distinguished visitors had a hearty send-off when they left to board their steamer, which left for San Francisco shortly after 4 o'clock.

"DRAWING-ROOM TEA" AT THE BELGIAN LEGATION.

(CONTRIBUTED.)

The Belgian Legation in Tokyo was on the afternoon of New Year's Day the scene of a brilliant assemblage, the occasion being a "Drawing-room Tea" given by Madame la Baronne d'Anethan after the reception of Diplomats and their wives by Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress at the Palace. The Baronne was the first to introduce these enjoyable functions into Tokyo, and in her capacity of *Doyenne* of the *Corps Diplomatique* is specially qualified to act as hostess on such occasions. Owing to her recent absence that portion of Tokyo society which does not possess the *entree* to the Palace had for several years, been deprived of the pleasure of having an opportunity of admiring the costumes of the ladies who enjoy the privilege of Imperial audience. On her return these pleasant functions have been resumed and we think that last Friday's scene eclipsed all previous ones of the same nature, the number of ladies in court dress being unusually large. The only pity seemed that it could not have been held in the evening when the artificial light would still further have enhanced the brilliancy of the uniforms worn by the Diplomats, and the effectiveness of their wives' costumes.

The majority of the ladies present were in white, including the hostess, who wore a charming gown of white satin draped with lace, the corsage being embellished with pearl trimming. Her train was of old gold plush lined with rose-pink. Among the coloured dresses those that we think specially worthy of mention were worn by Baroness Rosen, Madame de Freitas and Mrs. Marsh. Baroness Rosen's magnificent robe and train were of blue-grey velvet embroidered in silver, with white satin let into the front of both corsage and skirt. It was made after the fashion of the Russian Court-dress, and with it was worn the becoming national Court head-dress, in this case of grey velvet, matching the dress, outlined with pearls, with white tulle hanging from the back. Madame de Freitas wore a very becoming gown of pink chiffon, while Mrs. Marsh's dress was of pink chiffon covered with lace made in Japan, the train being of embroidered chiffon. We should like to describe many of the other dresses, but lack of space forbids.

The Belgian Legation has recently been considerably enlarged and improved, and in the tastefully arranged salons there was ample room for all invited—both for admirers and admired.

A photograph was taken of the Diplomats and their wives. It should prove a charming memento of yet one more occasion for which Tokyo is indebted to the graceful hospitality of H.E. the Belgian Minister and Madame la Baronne d'Anethan.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

There is still a great deal of talk about the question of rates in hiring transports for the public service. The *Senshu Domei-kai* (Association of Ship-owners) has offered its 90 steamers, aggregating 150,000 tons, at any rate convenient to the Government, and this offer, contrasted with the 4.20 *yen* asked by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, supplies material for severe comment in some quarters. Evidently it is out of the question to form any just judgment without fuller information. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha has an immense staff and extensive machinery in various foreign countries, and the whole of this staff and machinery must be supported unproductively if the ships are chartered for public service. The President of the Company has shown that at the rate he asks, the Company could not obtain a dividend larger than 8 per cent. It would, in fact, be making a very serious sacrifice. We wonder whether the proposal of the *Senshu Domei-kai*—a proposal really based on 2½ *yen* per ton—involves an equal sacrifice.

The annual report of the United States Secretary for War, Mr. Elihu Root, regarding the present condition of the U.S. Army, makes interesting reading. We learn from this document that at the date of the last reports received from the military departments on Oct. 15, 1903, the actual strength of the regular army was 3,681 officers and 55,500 enlisted men. Of this number there were in the United States 41,832, and in the Philippines 15,510. "On the 15th of October, 1903," says Mr. Root, "the American troops in the Philippines consisted of 848 officers and 14,657 enlisted men. General George W. Davis, the division commander until the 25th of July, has reported that the number can be still further reduced, and I agree with that opinion. It is not desirable, however, to make any further reduction until the construction of barracks and quarters in the United States has made further progress. There are are also 99 officers and 4,805 enlisted men of the Philippine Scouts. There is not at present much occasion for the use of American troops outside of the Moro country, but the moral effect of their presence is undoubtedly salutary. We are following the policy of drawing them together in the comparatively few large posts, which are in course of construction, where their discipline, health, and opportunities for instruction will be improved, and the cost of maintenance will be decreased. Such smaller posts as are required will be generally, and are now to a considerable extent, occupied by the Philippine Scouts.

Mr. Elihu Root, the U. S. Secretary for War, in the course of his annual report to Congress, makes the following suggestions regarding the building of railways in the Philippines :—

> The War Department procured for the Philippine Government the services of two experienced engineers familiar with the work of locating railroads in the tropics, and these engineers have personally examined and located a line of railroad from Manila up the easterly side of the great plain of central Luzon, over the mountains near Carranglan, down the valley of the Cagayan to the north coast of Luzon at Appara: another line from the termination of the present railroad on the Gulf of Lingayen up the west coast to Laoag, and a third line from Manila southerly through Cavite and Batangas to the south coast at the city of Batangas.
>
> The estimated cost of constructing these roads is $11,140,095. I am satisfied that the Philippine Government could afford to pay the entire interest on the cost of construction in return for the benefit which the Government will receive in greater efficiency and reduced cost of administration. The increase in the taxable value of property and the benefits to the people of the island of Luzon will of course be very great. It is probable that private capital cannot be obtained for investment at the risk of this enterprise without some state aid or a loan of credit by means of a guaranty or otherwise. I strongly recommend that should the powers of the Philippine Government be deemed insufficient for this purpose such legislation as may be necessary to confer the power be enacted by Congress.

The King of Italy, on the occasion of his recent visit to London, made all his public speeches in English, and we read that "the singular purity of his English accent was noticeable." His speech at the Guildhall in response to the Lord Mayor's toast, was as follows :—

> "My Lord Mayor,—I thank you most heartily, also on behalf of the Queen, for your address, which still further enhances the value of the splendid hospitality extended to us in this ancient hall, and I also thank their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and Princess of Wales as well as the members of the Corporation and the ladies and gentlemen who are honouring us by their presence at this banquet. (Cheers.) You thus give me the opportunity of expressing our grateful acknowledgement of the cordial reception bestowed upon us by the inhabitants of London, who understand the message of sincere affection of which I am the bearer to your beloved Sovereign and to the people of England. (Cheer.) These are sentiments of old standing between us. You have recalled, my Lord Mayor, the words pronounced in this very place by my august grandfather half a century ago. (Cheers.) Those were times of war, when the Italian nation was entering into her struggle for unity and independence. The sympathetic support lent to her by this free people in those days of trial has created a tradition of mutual trust, which has never ceased to enliven the relations of the two countries. (Cheers.) But we are now living in a fortunate condition of international peace, of which Italy, as well as England, has become herself a willing and active factor. I trust that the two nations will always proceed united in the path of progress and civilization. (Cheers.) With these feelings I raise my glass to you, my Lord Mayor, and to the distinguished representatives of the City of London." (Loud and prolonged cheers.)

In his speech on the occasion of the luncheon on board the *Mongolia*, Sir Thomas Sutherland said that during the time he had been connected with the Peninsular and Oriental Company, vessels representing a tonnage of 400,000 had been built at a cost of nearly 10 millions sterling." That is indeed a record for one company.

The Bank of Japan has been victimised in a curious manner. On the 28th instant a man presented a cheque for 30,000 *yen*. The cheque was in order, and after the usual examination the amount arrived at the paying-out counter. There the incident occurred. By some unexplained process the money never reached the hands of the presenter of the cheque. After long waiting he became surprised at the delay and inquired the cause, whereupon it transpired that some unknown individual had interposed, received the thirty thousand *yen* and taken himself away. The precincts of the Bank were at once placed under police guard and a strict search was instituted. But of course it proved fruitless. The mystery is still unexplained. Meanwhile Mr. Nakayama, head of the Tellers Bureau (*Suito Kyoku*) and 5 or 6 other officials of the Bank have been removed from their positions.

The Paris correspondent of *The Times* telegraphs to that journal as follows:—"With a view to testing the new Trans-Siberian postal service between Paris and Peking, the *Matin*, on September 27th last, addressed a letter to one of its subscribers, M. Dubail, the French Minister to China. To-day the *Matin* publishes his reply, which is dated October 20th. The Minister acknowledges the receipt of the letter from the *Matin*, which reached Peking on October 19th at 6.30 p.m., and was delivered an hour later at the Legation through the French Post Office. M. Dubail's answer left Peking on October 20th by the Trans-Siberian route. On the same day he sent a postcard to the *Matin* by the trans-oceanic route, so as to show the difference between the two services. The letter reached the *Matin* on the 15th of this month. Thus from Paris to Peking the post covered the distance in 22 days, whereas from Peking to Paris it took 26, the difference being accounted for by the missing of the connexion at Irkutsk. The postcard sent by M. Dubail has not yet arrived, as communications from Peking forwarded by the trans-oceanic route take about 35 days." These figures afford tolerably accurate measures of the new postal facilities between Japan and the Occident, as well as between Peking and Paris. Letters posted in Tokyo and Yokohama on Sunday afternoon may be expected to be delivered in London or Paris the third Sunday following.

We have been asked to explain the term "special accounts" used in the recently issued Imperial Ordinance which provided funds for maintaining the national armaments. "Special Accounts" is a somewhat comprehensive expression. It covers all funds that are treated independently of the general budget. There are twenty-three of these funds; those relating to State industries, those connected with Government Schools and the Imperial Library, those relating to State railways and telegraphs, those relating to dockyards and arsenals, those relating to the Hiroshima Mine and to forests, and notably the Three Capital Funds, namely, 30 millions for naval maintenance and 10 millions each for aiding education and for relieving famine. The total amount of these funds is 113 million *yen*, approximately, of which 11½ millions represent the working capital of enterprises. Of course all monies taken from these sources will have to be ultimately restored.

The 4th inst. being the day when official business re-commences after the New Year's recess, all the Ministers of State returned to the capital by the evening of the 3rd. There is of course much activity in official circles, as might be expected at such a time.

There has been a heavy fall of snow in

Nagoya. It commenced on the 3rd and continued throughout that day and the following. People say that there has been no such fall during the past 34 years.

The *Official Gazette* on Tuesday promulgates an order which strictly forbids the journalistic publication of any matter relating to Japanese naval or military movements.

An able essay on the subject of Race Susceptibility to Infection was read at the recent meeting of the British Medical Association by Dr. R. J. M. Buchanan. The great value of his communication, says the *Medical Press*, lies in the bird's-eye view it gives of race susceptibility throughout the nations of the world. To tuberculosis, for instance, the Gaelic and Cymric race are considered more susceptible than the Saxon and Scandinavian. Negroes are very susceptible to tuberculosis, especially in countries not native to them. Cancer is said to be rife in China, while it is rare in Egypt, uncommon among negroes, but prevalent among the blonde inhabitants of Norway. It is a well-known fact that small-pox is excessively fatal to people among whom it is introduced for the first time, as shown among the North American Indians, where the Mandan nation was entirely destroyed by it; and in Iceland, where in the earliest epidemic eighteen thousand out of fifty-two thousand perished. Negroes are very susceptible to sleeping sickness; other races are not so. Jews are believed to be prone to diabetes and nervous diseases; Chinese are exempt from chorea; the negro is almost exempt from yellow fever, in which the order of susceptibility runs: Scandinavian, Englishman, Southern European, creole, mulatto, negro. The unravelling of all these various conditions, apart from their general interest, is likely to have a most valuable application in modern therapeuties.

Mr. Shaw, Secretary of the U. S Treasury, transmitted to Congress on December 7th, the estimates of appropriations required by the Government for the fiscal year ending on June 30th, 1905. The appropriations aggregate $624,502,146, as against $589,189,112 asked for in the year 1904 and $605,286,990 the amount of the appropriations for that year. The present estimates and the [appropriations under each head for 1904 are recapitulated as follows:

	Estimates for 1905.	Appropria'ns for 1904.
Legislative	$11,687,225	$12,962,806
Executive	320,000	363,008
State Department	3,133,960	3,835,146
Treasury Department	168,659,064	174,643,189
War Department	131,259,033	132,763,515
Navy Department	105,825,410	87,284,137
Interior Department	163,093,386	165,708,855
Postoffice Dapartment	10,824,759	12,201,513
Department of Agriculture.	6,729,880	6,741,256
Dept. of Com. and Labor	14,933,955	9,858,305
Department of Justice	8,035,440	8,926,355
Grand totals	624,502,146	605,286,990

Following are the principal items in the several Departments, in which there are important increases or decreases as compared with the appropriations for 1904:—

Legislative, salaries and expenses, increase, $145,000. Public printing, decrease, $155,000.

Executive proper, salaries and expenses, increase, $8,400.

State Department—Foreign intercourse, increase, $319,000. Permanent annual appropriations, decrease. $627,000.

Treasury Department—Public works, increase, $4,700,000. Miscellaneous, increase, $1,000,000.

District of Columbia increase. $4,148 000.

War Department—Military establishment, increase, $2,596,000; public works, increase $15,000,000; miscellaneous, decrease, $1,000,000.

Navy Department—Salaries and expenses, increase $300,000; naval establishment, increase $16,000,000; public works, increase $4,000,000.

Interior Department—Pensions, decrease, $1,695,000; public works, decrease, $248,000; permanent annual appropriations, increase $2,000,000.

Agricultural Department—Salaries and expenses, increase $751,000.

Department of Commerce and Labour—Salaries and expenses, increase, $1,125,000; public works, increase, $3,675,000; miscellaneous, increase $1,295,000.

Department of Justice—Public works, increase $175,000.

The wonted inauguration of the official New Year took place at the Palace on the 5th instant. We learn from the *Jiji Shimpo* that the number of those present at the banquet was 589. The Emperor's speech of welcome, the Prime Minister's reply on behalf of the nation, and Baron d'Anethan's address as Doyen of the Foreign Corps Diplomatique were all of the usual form, that is to say, purely conventional.

THE SUGIMOTO KWANNON-DŌ.

By J. E. de Becker.

Situated in a quiet, sequestered spot on a hill-side at the left of the Kanazawa road, only a little way removed from the *Utano-hashi* (bridge), and almost unknown to foreigners, stands, amidst a grove of magnificent cedar trees, a temple of the *Tendai* sect known as the *Sugimoto Kwannon-Dō*, which was first established in the sixth (6th) year of *Tempei* (734) by Gyogi Bosatsu, the celebrated Korean-born Buddhist Abbot and Saint.

Passing up a steep flight of ancient, well-worn, and lichen-covered stone steps, we come to the *sammon* (the principal gate) of the temple, which bears a tablet on which are inscribed the three Chinese characteas *Dai-zo-san* (mountain of the Great Cache). On either side of the gateway are the usual images of the *Ni-ō* (the two *Dēva* Kings) apparently very old, and certainly very dilapidated.

Then up another flight of steps we arrive at the temple and, entering the hall of the main building, we find on the left side of the nave the seated image of *Binzuru* (*Pindola*), the helper of the sick, and on the right a statue of *Michibiki-Jizo* (*Kshitigarbha*), the compassinate patron and guide of travellers. Also in the nave, and close to the figure of *Jizō*, stands a figure of *Shōmu Tennō*, a generous Imperial patron of Buddhism and the founder the *Tōdaiji* temple at Nara. It was this Emperor who caused the colossal figure of the great Buddha at Nara to be constructed.

Within the chancel is a gilded figure of the *Jū-ichi-men Kwannon* (eleven-faced *Kwannon*) said to have been carved by Unkei. On the left side stands an image of *Chishiki Jizō* (the Wise *Jizō*) holding his jewel and staff, but the sculptor is unknown. On the left is a figure of *Bishamon Ten*(*Vâisramana*) stern and threatening, clad in full armour and bearing a formidable spear. He stands upon a rock triumphing over a fallen *ama-no-jaku* (devil) who lies writhing at his feet. This image, which is a remarkable specimen of the sculptor's art, and which strongly impresses the visitors by the vigour and boldness of its outlines and the naturalness of its pose, is said to have been carved by *Takuma Hōgen*. In a shine at the back of the chancel—which is opened very reverently by an attendant, who with bated breath and great solemnity repeats the formula *Namu Amida Butsu* (We adore thee, oh Eternal Buddha!) and then sinks upon his knees and commences to recite the *sûtra* of the sect—are three figures of the *Jū-ichi-men Kwannon* (eleven-faced *Kwannon*) considered to be images of great sanctity. The one on the left is said to have been carved by *Gyogi Bosatsu*, the one in the middle by *Jikaku Daishi* (Abbot of the monastery of Hiyei-zan; a Buddhist saint), and the one at the right by *Eshin Sōdzu* (a Buddhist abbot and artist). The following tradition exists relative to these three figures. *Gyogi Bosatsu* ascended, on a certain day, a mountain (? hill) named the Ōkura-yama (according to one pronunciation *Dai-zo-zan*) where he was met by an eleven-faced *Kwannon*, the Goddess whose mercy and compassion was so great and profound that hell itself had once changed to Paradise when in ancient days she descended to the Kingdom of Yama. Prostrating himself in lowly reverence before the revealed Goddess—before the Sovereign Regarder of Prayer, the Pitier of World, the Controller and Light of the Universe—he besought her blessing. And she, smiling upon him in the fullness of her ravishing and eternal beauty, sweet and fresh as the bedewed lotus bud at the dawn of a summer's day, showed him a holy tree, and, instructing him to carve an image of herself that men might see and worship, she vanished from his sight. Thereupon, the godly man, burning with holy zeal and filled with a sense of unbounded gratitude, cut down the tree which had been indicated to him and sculptured the image on the left. As regards the figure in the centre, *Jikaku Daishi* once tarried in the temple over night, and from its commanding eminence espied in the sea, towards the South, a glorious refulgence of light. Curious to know the portent of the manifestation, he proceeded to the spot and found the trunk of a tree floating in the water surrounded by a flood of celestial light. Reverently repeating the mystic formula, he drew the log from the water and to his infinite surprise observed that around the top of one end were eleven facets, on each of which was a sacred Sanscrit character. Much struck by the circumstance, the saintly man carved the central image. With regard to the image on the left, tradition says that *Eshin* carved it in accordance with the order of the Emperor *Kwanna* (985 to 987). On each side of the shrine at the back of the chancel are a number of images representing the three-and-thirty terrestrial embodiments of *Kwannon*, and on the right of the shrine is a figure of *Benten* (one of the Seven Deities of Luck) and another of *Fudō* (*Achala*).

With regard to the name "Sugimoto Kwannon,"* a highly veracious tradition says that on the night of the 23rd day of the 11th month of the 5th year of *Bunji* (December 1189) a fire occurred in the temple, but that the various images were rescued by the guardian of the place (*Jōdaibō*) and that after they were taken out from the building by him they stood up of their own accord under the protecting branches of a great cedar tree!

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* *Sugi*="Cedar": *Moto*="at the base of." The name *Sugimoto Kwannon-dō* may therefore be roughly translated as—"The Temple of the Kwannon beneath the cedar trees."

YOKOHAMA GENERAL HOSPITAL.

The following additional subscriptions have been received in answer to the Committee's appeal:—

	YEN.
Amount last acknowledged	15,847.00
Mr. R. Masujima	50.00
Messrs. Bagnall and Hilles	50.00
Mr. A. L. Bagnall	25.00
Mr. L. Grimmesey	25.00
Mrs. Loomis	5.00
Messrs. Bowden Bros. & Co, Ld.	75.00
V. R. Bowden, Esq.	25.00
Richard Siebenschein, Esq.	65.00
"K. Maru" Esq.	10.00
Total to date	16,022.00

MAURICE RUSSELL,
Hon. Treasurer.
Yokohama General Hospital.

WANDERING THINGS.

Birds that fly home when shadows fall,
Wishes that beat their wings in vain—
When shall the Maker of the tired world call
All wandering things to Him again?

If all too long has been our flight,
If all too spent with tears our eyes,
We shall be blinded when we reach the light
And have no heart for Paradise.

—*St. James Gazette.*

A DIFFICULT DECISION.

IN the *Broad Arrow* it is written :—" One of the ablest soldiers of the day lays down the principle that ' he who has decided on war, or is convinced that his adversary has done so, must forthwith open hostilities if it be to his advantage from a military point of view. No political doubt, no moral scruple, should keeep him from it.' " This comment relates to the South-African war, and we believe that the able soldier alluded to is Baron VON DER GOLTZ. How curiously opposite the axiom is to the case of Japan and Russia to-day! There must be very few Japanese who, inspired by the wisdom that succeeds the event, do not bitterly regret the patience exercised by their statesmen during the past few months. When it first became unmistakably evident—namely, on the 8th of last April—that Russia had no intention of carrying out her promises to evacuate Manchuria, she was not ready to justify her breach of agreement by force. She was not even approximately ready. Her fleet in these waters was palpably weaker than the Japanese fleet; she had in Manchuria a force numerically small and almost insignificant when compared with the extent of territory to be defended; she had no stores of coal and provisions. From every point of view she was feeble. Had Japan at that time displayed even a petty measure of determination, the situation must have proved easy to manipulate. She need not have assumed that Russia was resolved to fight; she need not have been sure of her own decision to fight. Nothing was necessary except to recognise the unique opportuneness of the moment; opportuneness in the sense that one side was as strong as it might hope to be at any time, the other as weak as it could possibly be expected to be at any time. There can not be much question that the Japanese Government appreciated these points. They were too palpable to be overlooked. What then was the political doubt or moral scruple that induced Japan to efface herself and wait quietly while the Russians strained every nerve to repair the deficiencies of their condition? It was, we believe, precisely the same political doubt, the same moral scruple, that restrained Japan, in 1900, when, although possessing conspicuously good facilities for saving the foreigners in Peking, she nevertheless endured to be suspected of conniving at their destruction rather than move until Europe's mandate came to her unequivocally. Japan is very curiously circumstanced. She has to live down a stigma which disfigures all her acts in Occidental eyes, the stigma of Orientalism. Should she by any chance yield promptly to instincts which Western States never long resist, and should she have rapid recourse to measures which another Power in her place would adopt without hesitation, she must count on seeing the worst motives read into her acts and the most discreditable aims ascribed to her efforts. Thus the first question she asks herself in any emergency is, not where the line of least resistance lies for her material interests, but what course will best conciliate foreign prejudices. That, we think, is partly why she has exercised such remarkable patience in connexion with the present complication. She has waited until Europe and America pronounced unequivocally in her favour, and her waiting has not been in vain. But in the meanwhile Russia's position has changed largely for the better, and is still changing —changing every day that passes. She can talk now with a voice very different from that warranted by her circumstances a few months ago. It looks, indeed, as though Japan had waited too long. She would do better for herself, perhaps, did she more clearly recognise the difference between a success of esteem and a success of achievement; did she remember that for one observer with sight profound enough to appreciate good intentions, there are a dozen that applaud fine results. She has been playing to too small a gallery. We have not the least thought of suggesting that she should have drawn the sword ere now or that she should draw it even now. But surely she would have been entitled four months ago to set a narrow limit of time for her opponent's reply, if only on the ground that whereas protracted indecision made materially in Russia's favour, it inflicted heavy loss and brought great disadvantage for Japan. That, we firmly believe, would have been the surest road to peace. It is still the surest road to peace. For Russia's extensive, her feverishly strenuous, preparations, do not and can not mean that when they are completed she will abate her pretensions. They mean, as has often been said in these columns, that she looks to transform herself from a negotiator into a dictator. And most wise she is. Why should not that be her aim? Condemn her aggressions as much as we may, denounce her breaches of promise as loudly as we please, the practical methods she is now adopting are legitimate and appropriate. But it is certain that Japan can not endure to be dictated to. She would not be exacting for purposes of compromise but she is not endowed with the spirit of humble obedience. If Russia wait until she can speak from behind a display of overwhelming force, there will be war. If Japan wait until Russia feels ready so to speak, there will be war. Therefore we welcome the resolve Japan appears to have at length taken; the resolve to secure what she considers absolutely vital, leaving Russia to object if she deem it unavoidable. There will not, we imagine, be any intentional interference with interests which Russia has undoubtedly acquired in Manchuria or with the position she assumes to guard them. Japan will merely take practical steps to assert and preserve her own interests in Korea. It would have been much more conducive to the quiet of the East could these ends have been compassed within the four walls of the negotiation chamber. Possibly they may yet be compassed in that way, for Japan seems bent upon giving Russia another brief opportunity. But even though the attitude of conference be exchanged for one of action, there need not be any collision unless Russia choose to force one. And that Russia would prefer peace may be taken for granted. The great trouble lies farther ahead, for if the most sagacious statesmanship can construct a permanently peaceful situation out the elements which Russia obduracy has created, a miracle will indeed have been wrought.

THE INSURANCE QUESTION.

ACCORDING to present appearances the great foreign life-insurance companies doing business in Japan will, with one exception, cease to issue policies in this country after the 31st of January, which is the date of operation of the Orders promulgated in June last with respect to deposits. It will be a serious disaster for Japan should such a result occur. The companies in question occupy the strongest position in the world's financial circles. They have it virtually within their power to make or to mar any loan that the Government of this Empire may hereafter desire to float abroad. That is a grave consideration. Then, too, there is the fact that the legislation which these companies find intolerable will surely be ascribed to anti-foreign motives. People will say that Japanese insurance companies, unwilling to face foreign competition, have persuaded the authorities to enact prohibitive laws. We do not intend to suggest that either of these arguments is conclusive. If the Japanese Government deem it necessary to adopt certain measures for the protection of Japanese subjects, neither the fear of misconstruction nor the danger of financial inconvenience should be deterrent. We are compelled to say, however, that the necessity for the legislation referred to has not yet been made clear to public intelligence. Nay, more, though six months have passed since the promulgation of the Orders, and though the most sincere and patient efforts have been made by foreign experts to comprehend their practical significance, the matter remains still enigmatical. The Orders require that a foreign life insurance company carrying on business in Japan shall do two things; namely, deposit a sum of 100,000 *yen* in the Treasury, and subsequently deposit whatever amount represents the difference between that sum and the company's legal reserves. Now a Japanese company is not required to make any deposit at all. Thus a discrimination, invidious at first sight, is established against foreigners. Some trouble has been taken to justify such discrimination. It has not been fruitless trouble. For there is a discrimination in prime conditions. The assets of a foreign company are entirely beyond Japanese judicial reach, and the Japanese policy-holder is thus at an obvious disadvantage. The best, indeed the sole, way to protect him is to provide that there shall be an asset always easily accessible; in other words, that there shall be a deposit lodged in official hands. On that ground there is no question, neither is any question raised, that to call for such a deposit is a proper measure. Thus far none of the foreign insurance companies is understood to object. Indeed most of them would probably be willing to deposit a considerably larger sum than that fixed by the Orders were the step final. It is not final, however. There is the further requirement that the deposit must be perpetually kept up to the total of the Company's legal reserves against policies written in Japan. Now it is a matter of simple arithmetic that a company whose business progresses at the rate of a million *yen* annually and whose statutes require it to set aside a yearly reserve equal to 3 per cent. of the policies written by it, would, at the end of 10 years, find itself with over 18 millions of *yen* deposited in the hands of the Japanese Treasury were the above order obeyed That is a very moderate estimate. Probably twice the sum would be nearer the truth in the case of a great company like the "Equitable" for example. The Japanese Authorities, responsible for the framing of the Orders, are understood to deny that any such great deposits need be anticipated. They claim, so far as we know, that these huge amounts are not in contemplation at all. But they offer no intelligible explanation as to what is really in contemplation. That is the strange, the unaccountable feature of the affair. The insurance companies are confronted with an order requiring them to take certain steps on peril of forfeiting their licenses. They point out that to take such steps would lead to such and such results as a matter of unequivocal arithmetic. They are answered that no such results are contemplated by the framers of the Order. They ask, then, what is contemplated and they can obtain no definite reply. It is idle to speculate on the significance or intent of an enactment whose terms seem to require certain action, and whose framers repudiate the requirement while at the same time offering no responsible explanation of what is really required.

This brings us to the most singular point of the enactment, namely, its textual impotence to achieve the only aim that can justify such legislation. That aim is to restrain dishonest foreign companies from operating at the expense of Japanese insurers. The company must deposit its "legal reserves" in the Japanese Treasury. What is meant by "legal?" One naturally supposes that the reference is to some Japanese law which clearly determines the elements constituting "legality;" some law which says, "if a policy of such and such amount be written for so many years on such and such a basis, then such and such a per-centage of that amount shall be annually set aside for the protection of the policy-holder." That would be the normal method of legislators: if they impose a certain precaution, then they necessarily define the terms of fulfillment. But the framers of the Japanese Orders do nothing of the kind. While professing to restrain dishonest foreign exploiters, they leave these exploiters to fix the measure of restraint according to their own convenience. The term "legal" in the Orders means, not "legal according to Japanese law," but "legal according to each Company's bye-laws" as to whose provisions these Orders provide no kind of control. Thus the sounder a foreign company's methods and the larger the reserves it accumulates for the security of its policy-holders, the more heavily is it penalized by these Orders. In short, the Orders, so far from deterring unsound enterprise, encourage it.

In the context of such an anomaly it is perhaps superfluous to point out that foreign companies, as a general rule, can not obey the Orders without breaking faith with their policy-holders. They pledge themselves to accommodate the latter with loans representing a certain fraction of the present value of the policies. But if the whole of a company's legal reserves are of necessity lying in the Japanese Treasury, loans can not possibly be made to the policy-holders. This is a secondary but none the less insuperable difficulty.

We are bound to credit Japanese legislators with sincere motives in this matter and we do credit them. It is within their unquestionable right, and it is also their duty, to afford all possible protection to their nationals against the manœuvres of irresponsible foreign companies. But there is something to be said for the foreigner also; above all for foreign companies which command the confidence of the whole world. Having been allowed to come to Japan and to carry on their business here for a considerable time, they are now required to comply with conditions which the Japanese Authorities decline to explain precisely, and which, if explained in accordance with their terms, are altogether prohibitive of foreign life-insurance operations in Japan. Japanese officials have invariably shown themselves liberal and fair in their dealings with foreigners. Therefore we still entertain hope that some satisfactory rendering of the Orders will be forthcoming. There is little time left, however, and an idea seems to be entertained that such an enactment, once promulgated, can not be withdrawn. It need not be withdrawn. Nothing appears necessary except to supplement it by regulations providing that the term "legal reserve" shall have such and such a signification for the purposes of the Orders. "Legal" in a Japanese enactment should mean legal according to Japanese law. Certainly the interpretation of a point so vital should not be left to the caprice or convenience of the persons affected by the Orders. It is a common habit in Japan to supplement a Departmental Order or an Imperial Ordinance with detailed regulations for operative guidance. These very Orders are themselves supplementary to an Imperial Ordinance (No. 380) issued in 1900. We do not see any reason why an explanatory regulation should not now be framed. It appears right in principle that a foreign life-insurance company doing business in Japan should deposit in the Treasury some accessible security proportionate to the volume of its business. But the security should not be prohibitively large, neither should its amount be left to the Company to fix. If these orders of June 26th, 1903, be enforced as they stand, not alone will the reputation of Japanese legislators be greatly injured, but their good faith will also be impaired.

RUSSIAN IDEAS.

FROM the writings of Russian publicists as translated in the columns of *The Times* we obtain some idea of the light in which the Far Eastern problem presents itself to Russian eyes. Prominently appears the notion that when Japan interests herself diplomatically in Manchuria's fate she is meddling with matters which have no legitimate concern for her, and that the question should be left entirely for settlement by China and Russia. Manchuria, these publicists say in effect, is China's business and China's business only: all interference by Japan is mere impertinence. Surprising as it may seem that such a contention should be seriously advanced in St. Petersburg, it certainly is advanced, and assuming it to be sincere, as we are bound to do, we can appreciate its influence on the situation. The answer is very simple. In the first place, Japan has at least the same right to a voice in the settlement of Manchuria's destiny that Russia had in 1895. In 1895 a large part of Manchuria was in Japan's possession. Her troops had conquered it and China had definitely ceded it to her by treaty. Russia thereupon formulated the proposition that the tenure of Manchuria by any foreign State would be a constant menace to the integrity of the Chinese empire and to the peace of the East. On the strength of that proposition, and with the aid of Germany and France, she compelled Japan to evacuate the region and restore it to China. But now Russia herself holds Manchuria. She has not acquired it by a war of conquest. She has not obtained any treaty title to it. Her right to be there does not compare with the right Japan had in 1895. Moreover, in 1902 she pledged herself solemnly to evacuate the place, and in 1903 she openly violated the promise. Is not Japan justified in asking her to make good that promise? Has Japan no warrant for objecting to Russian occupation to-day on the same grounds as those of Russia's objection to Japan's occupation in 1895?

This is not by any means the only argument in Japan's favour. There is the general argument of self-defence. The history of Russia's progress in East Asia shows clearly that did Manchuria belong to her, it would form the stepping stone for a fresh advance more comprehensive than anything previous. The Tartars would make in her hands splendid military material, and with an army of them numbering, say, half a million, well disciplined, well equipped and led by Russian officers, the whole Chinese empire would lie virtually in the hollow of the Northern Power's hand. Nothing could resist her. Is that a prospect to be contemplated with indifference by Japan?

Further, supposing that Russia establishes her dominion throughout the whole northern part of China, it is difficult to see what barriers would keep back her wave of empire from inundating Korea. Certainly Korea itself has no competence to avert such a result, and not only must we assume that the normal momentum of Russia's unceasing advance would be felt in a southerly as well as a westerly direction, but also there are the additional considerations that the secure passage of the Korean Strait is essential to a Power holding Liaotung and Vladivostock, and that for the purposes of any movement from Manchuria into the Valley of the Yellow River a potentially hostile Korea would be intolerable on Russia's flank. If then Japan sit with folded hands at this juncture, if without any kind of protest she allow Russia to obtain a stand-point for further imperial extensions of almost illimitable magnitude on the East-Asiatic continent, then the plain result for the Japanese nation is a petty and restricted future, together with the perpetual propinquity of an unceasingly aggressive Power. If the instincts of self-defence and the promptings of self-interest have ever, in the history of nations, constituted any justification for interfering in the fate of a neighbouring State, Japan seems to have that justification in the case of Manchuria and Korea. Russia actually claims for herself the same justification with regard to Thibet the while she denies it altogether to Japan with regard to the adjacent continent of Asia. It is quite certain that were the roles of Russia and Japan interchanged, St. Petersburg would to-day be demanding various things of Tokyo in the most imperative terms.

"THE HUMAN FORM IN JAPANESE ART AND LIFE"

By Dr. E. Baelz.

(Translated from the *Deutsche Japan Post* for the *Japan Mail.*)

In No. 23 of the *Deutsche Japan Post* reference is made to the book of the above name, published by C. H. Stratz. As doubtless this work is not only widely spread among the Germans in Japan, but is also seen by many Japanese, it is not only justifiable, but actually a duty, to draw attention to the numerous errors with reference to the life and intuitions of the Japanese, contained in it.

I think, without being presumptious, that I have a special right to criticism, for the matter in Stratz's book is so completely built up from my own works, that without them it could not have been written at all. This the author himself says on page 10: "It is only from Baelz that we have detailed observations on the bodily qualities of the Japanese. With Ranke I can only join myself closely to the excellent works of Baelz, and make them the basis of my observations." Even the motto by Confucius on the title-page is taken from my writings; for it was I that condensed the utterance of the great Chinese into this short form.

Unfortunately, the fact that I published my studies in the Communications of the German Asiatic Society in Tokyo, which are but little known to the public, has been made use of by many authors, in order to bring parts of them on the market as their own productions. Thus the parts on Japan, the most frequently quoted and praised in Selenka's "Sunny Worlds," are copied word for word out of my writings and without acknowledgement even.

But this is only by way of preface. Let us pass on to Stratz. Throughout the whole of Stratz's book a distinction is made between the Choshu and the Satsuma types. This requires explanation.

Besides the Aino type, which resembles the European, and which is represented in some degree only in the north and in the extreme south, there are to be found among the Japanese people two special types: one, the refined, aristocratic type, with slender delicate figure, a long narrow face and finely formed nose, is identical with the prevailing Korean type and preponderates in those provinces on the west coast of the main island which lie opposite to Korea. Japanese history relating to the mythical and semi-mythical age commences in fact in Izumo, the province on whose coast, as well as on the coasts of Iwami and Choshu, to this day Korean ships are often driven by storms and currents. As Choshu is the best known of these parts, on account of its great influence in modern Japanese history, I gave the name Choshu-type to the formation of body most nearly approaching the Korean, in my "Bodily Dualities of the Japanese," Tokyo, 1882. For the same reason, the southern Malay-Mongolian type, most purely represented in Kyushu, was named after Satsuma.

That was all very fine as long as it was a question of the Japanese only. With the extension of the racial relations to other nations of the yellow race, however, wider points of view had to be considered, so that, agreeable to nature, out of the Choshu-type came a Korean Manchurian type (north Mongolian), and out of the Satsuma-type, a Malay-Mongolian type (south-Mongolian). It is a pity that Stratz did not accept these divisions, but held to the old ones which are too one-sided—all the more a pity, as Choshu and Satsuma are quite unreal conceptions to most European readers without the explanation that I gave originally, which is not reproduced. The figures given by Stratz are only in parts well chosen and well drawn, as racial types. Long residence in Japan and close study, as well as frequent opportunities are necessary, in order to photograph pronounced types when they come before one. As these means were at my bidding, I succeeded, in the course of years, in obtaining a large number of really typical pictures, and in later works of Stratz these will be made use of, as I have sent him a selection for further editions of his book "The Racial Beauty of Woman." That he was working at a special book on the Japanese, I did not know, otherwise many errors might have been avoided in it. Thus, then, the really refined type of Japanese woman, as well as the typical ordinary Mongolian, is hardly represented. Especially it is to be regretted that the eye has not the expression and observation which without doubt belongs to it as an interpretation of the racial distinction. The typical features of the fine Japanese eagle nose are also not emphasized. Nevertheless I acknowledge without reserve, that Stratz's book familiarises Europeans better pictorially with the bodily forms of the Japanese, than any other work that has appeared so far.

The second part of the book, which treats of conceptions of beauty, and of the nude in nature and in art, would have been better left unwritten; it is crowded with errors and mistaken decisions, and the "nude in art" is so exclusively taken from direct pornography and bears its stamp so strikingly, that one cannot wonder that Japanese who see the book are beside themselves with indignation, and disposed to look upon the whole work as obscene literature which ought to be confiscated by the police. As a matter of fact, the partially or totally nude female figures in the anthropological part, and out of daily life, are entirely, without exception, photographed to tickle the senses of the European. It would never occur to a Japanese to picture such situations, even if he were not to trouble himself with the fact that the taking and selling of such photographs is punishable. How the Japanese women regard exposure of the body even before artists' is evident by the difficulty experienced by the modern Art School in Tokyo in finding models. A Japanese acquaintance told me that, on his telling a handmaid of Venus that with her beautiful figure she would make a good living as model in the School of Art, the otherwise-far-from-prudish lady spurned the proposal indignantly. One sees often enough in the summer ugly elderly women working with partially uncovered bodies, but girls of the age in which Stratz pictures them, only rarely. It is only prostitutes who when well paid, put themselves at the disposal of the photographer for that purpose. This I have heard direct from photographers.

Stratz speaks repeatedly of the "Djonkina-dance," a game of forfeits, in which the losing *danseuse* must each time put aside an article of clothing, until she is left with nothing on. This dance, which also plays a great part in the narratives of globe-trotters who visit Japan, has been invented in the open ports especially for Europeans, and is quite unknown to the Japanese themselves. At least, I have not been able to find even one in Tokyo who knew it. Anyone performing such a dance before guests would be looked on by a Japanese as one of the inmates of the Yoshiwara—moreover, to dance the Djonkina even in the ports is now punishable by imprisonment.

Therefore Stratz is the victim of deceit when he relates that, through his guide, he had an opportunity of seeing this dance performed "in the house of a discreet official" by his "delightful daughter" and her three friends. The idea that any Japanese woman, even of the lowest class—to say nothing of the daughter of an official—would dance before a travelling stranger with nothing on, in her house, in the presence of her parents and relatives, is so absurd that one can really only laugh at it. Such a thing would not happen in Japan; that is not only my conviction, but that of all the Japanese of whom I asked an opinion on the subject. The father, the "discreet official" was some scamp or other with whom the artful guide associated himself in a speculation on the purse of the stranger—a successful speculation, as the result shows (Stratz himself declares that he had to give money and presents). The "delightful daughter of the house" and her friends were poor, ruined beings who had been hired, and who probably only received a small part of the spoil.

But the affair has its serious side. Truly enough nonsense has been told out in the world as well as written by young men whose acquaintance with Japanese women has been confined to unclean localities in and near the open ports, about the morality or immorality of the Japanese girl. This is to be regretted, but not to be taken seriously. But when in a book appearing in scientific garb, which, on account of its illustrations finds an uncommon circulation, the author pictures the above scene (and only that one) *con amore* and in detail as something highly interesting and characteristic, and adds that he has already described it elsewhere, it is time to speak an earnest word, and to interfere with the calumniation (however unmeant) of a people whose conceptions of morality and immorality are quite as real and developed as they are elsewhere.

Prostitution exists everywhere, even in Japan. But it does not spread itself publicly abroad here, and that is already a great deal. The Japanese towns are "street-clean," what one cannot say of any large Western town. Whoever wishes to see vice in Japan must look for it; it does not lay hold of him as in the finest and most frequented streets of London, Paris and Berlin. What must a Japanese or a Chinaman think of European morality when, on first arriving in

Europe, he sees the nightly doings in those streets; what when he visits the infamous quarters of the large sea-ports which about correspond with the "tea-houses" in the neighbourhood of the Japanese ports, frequented by travellers, over the threshold of which no decent Japanese would step? What, when he sees how in respectable inns and restaurants, patronised even by ladies, in Munich, for example, the young men lay hold of the waitresses and use foul language to them? One should think of this and not throw stones when one is living in a glass house.

And when, as evidence of the lower morality of the Japanese, the institution of concubinage is pointed to—a bad institution, but one which social development makes comprehensible,—it should be remembered that King Solomon, according to the Bible, the wisest and most pleasing to God of all mortals, could give the Japanese many points in this respect.

So much for "the nude in daily life." With reference to the representation of "the nude in art," Stratz has been badly advised. In the first place he has taken all his examples from the so-called vulgar or Ukioe School, in which not a single painter is acknowledged by the Japanese themselves to be a real artist. It is that school that has produced the wood-cuts and coloured prints so much thought of in Europe, to which the attention of cultured Japanese was really first drawn by Europeans. The following tends to show how they had been regarded previously. When I commenced, more than 20 years ago, to collect such prints as pictures of Kyosai, I was reproached by Japanese friends, as well as by Fenollosa, the great foreign authority on Japanese painting, on my bad taste. My assertion that these coloured prints were really beautiful, and that Kyosai's pictures were distinguished by ingenious strength, was in those days worth nothing. And to the present day no refined Japanese hangs a picture of this vulgar school in his house. Now Stratz has given out of this school chiefly pictures by the most modern artists, ones far inferior to the older artists—Toyokuni (Stratz always spells it Toyokumi), Kunisada, Kuniyoshi, whose female figures are in every respect lamentably inferior to the graceful, delightful, and anatomically correct figures and the charming faces in the pictures of Sukenobu, Kyonaga, Korinsai, Harunobu; the few specimens given of the latter only serve to illustrate this satisfactorily. Stratz emphasises repeatedly that a few faults and incorrectnesses in drawing must be overlooked in Japanese pictures; one should look at the pictures the right way as the Japanese does, namely, only contemplate the *tout ensemble*, and not trouble about details. That is easily said; the Japanese unfortunately does that because his taste has been so trained from childhood; the European, however forms his total impression at first through more or less unconscious comprehension of many details, and it is specially peculiar of Stratz that he will defend drawings by Japanese painters that scorn all anatomy, and that he even finds them beautiful, as, for example, the parody of a foot on picture S. 168, which is described as "elegant." Even for the badly drawn figures of the *awabi* fish by Toyokuni he has only words of commendation; he praises these and other similar ones as proofs of the understanding of art possessed by the Japanese. It must therefore be emphatically accentuated that these pictures are regarded by educated Japanese—who, even according to Stratz, must know best how such things are judged—as not entering the category of "art"; for them these pictures are on the same level as for the German artist, or educated man, the New-Ruppin style, with which they also fully correspond as regards their aim and meaning. The coloured prints were principally intended for children's play-things, and for the peasants and the little people from the interior who took them to their relations as travelling-presents (*o miage*), and as souvenirs of the capital. Twenty-five years ago nothing was more common than to see the walls of poor huts in the country pasted over with such pictures. It was the European who first discovered what ingenious painters and chromoxylographers had participated in those despised productions, and I can remember very well the surprise, almost amounting to horror, that the praise of Gonse, Goncourt and other enthusiasts for the drawings and coloured prints of Hokusai, Utamaro, &c., raised in the art circles of Japan. What was thought of these things is shown by the fact that even in my time 25 *sen* for an excellent Utamaro and 10 *sen* for a very good Hiroshige were considered high prices—pictures for which to-day the art-dealer asks at least a hundred times as much: and only because Europeans, and not Japanese are taken by these things.

Thus all the beautiful psychological contemplations through which Stratz wishes to explain the inner nature of Japanese "art" by means of these pictures, fall to pieces.

Any one unprejudiced can but say that the painters of the vulgar, or let us say, popular school understand very well how to represent outlines of figure and the expression of feelings, although they are mostly somewhat exaggerated or caricatured, but that all attempts to render the human figure as God has created it, are quite pitiful. In this respect Japanese painting is not to be named in the same breath as European painting. Japanese painters have never taken the trouble to study the human form accurately; for according to the Japanese idea, the naked human form is not at all an object of art. Even Stratz admits this indirectly, when he mentions how the exhibition in Kyoto of pictures of nude female figures by a Japanese educated in Paris roused general indignation. Last year the same painter exhibited in Tokyo several pictures of the nude which were at once wound round with little violet girdles by the police. As I write this, the annual exhibition of works by painters of the European School is being held in Tokyo. The few nude figures are placed in a special, curtained-off room, like certain Pompeiian discoveries in the Museum in Naples. In front of the door stands a watchman who only admits adults. This shows clearly that the representation of the naked body is considered indecent, and that such pictures are looked upon as not belonging to the Temple of Japanese Art. On that account Stratz, who would have pictures of the nude, was obliged to make use of obscene representations, or parts of such. This he has done in a way painful to the connoisseur of Japan, and frequently not even the perfidious inscriptions have been left out. His Japanese advisers deserve for this the sharpest blame; he could not read the inscriptions himself. It thus happens that the pictures contradict in a comical manner even the meaning given to them. There is (Fig. 94) "a girl in négligé, who enters the room in which her parents sit together engaged in eager conversation." In reality the scene is laid in a brothel and in the room sit, not the parents, but a devoted couple in conversation. The girl evidently expected a more piquant situation for she says, according to the inscription: "Oh, that is nothing peculiar"!

Moreover, for a girl in Japan entering her parents' room in such attire, is just as likely as that a young lady in Europe would go to her parents in the drawing-room dressed in a chemise, and bare-footed. The old man (Fig. 90) "who applies himself to pious exercises or exorcisms and is disturbed in his devotions by a sound" is an old sinner, who wandering along wicked ways is startled by a noise (inscription: "What sound is that? It is to be hoped that the children have not awakened"!) And then the "Susanna in the bath." "A young girl surprised by a man, who, in spite of her opposition makes his way into the bathroom and rejoices in the sight of her helpless nakedness"! It is a pity that the girl's speech printed on the picture (in words that cannot be given here) shows that she is just the opposite of a chaste Susanna, and that not punishment, but sweet reward awaits the intruder if he will only come in the evening!

The four pictures "plunder of noble women" are from a well-known obscene scroll of Kuniyoshi's; here too the nude figures are only painted to please the lowest senses.

On Table 1 Stratz gives four nude ivory figures, among them two women with octopuses and an Okame (Uzume). Of the last he says: "It is a master-piece of fine-art in ivory. Here Okame is represented after the decisive gambol (what is meant is probably the dance before the hell of the hidden sun-goddess. *E. B.*): her garment has slipped down, she presses her knees together and rubs the left fore-arm with the right hand—with the Japanese a sign of great embarrassment. At the same time her mouth is opened as if in ringing laughter, and the disproportionately large face expresses joy, fright and agitation at the same time. The upper part of the body is treated with great tenderness, is well-rounded and of Rubenesque fullness," etc. And with what does it deal in reality? With a *yawning* Okame; hideously ugly, for Okame is for the Japanese the type of the most vulgar, sensual woman.

As a matter of fact this figure, as well as the figures with the octopuses are obscene, as every-one knows who has looked at such things from all sides. Certainly, according to Stratz, the artist has accomplished something for which Phidias and Michael Angelo would have envied him: a woman in the greatest embarrassment, her mouth opened as if for ringing laughter, with a face that expresses joy, fright and agitation at the same time. Whoever can understand this is welcome to do so! I see only, as I say, a yawning caricature of a woman. In order to make sure I asked a Japanese scholar, a student, a workman and a maid-servant what the figure represents: without a moment's hesitation they all said a yawning Okame.

As moreover, such *netsuke* (tobacco-pouch holders) are the only objects for which Japanese applied nude female figures, it is not without interest to notice, that these date back to Chinese influence at the commencement of the 18th century, and that they are imitations of common Chinese seals. They were used quite exclusively by the lowest classes, for a Japanese with any self-respect would have been ashamed to have had such a common ugly thing—according to his idea—on his person.

On page 163 we find a Hokusai figure, marked: "Embarrassed old age; the seated figure of a half naked old man who, rubs the left fore-arm with the right hand, a sign of the greatest embarrassment with the Japanese, as we have already learnt through the representation of Uzume. All is thin and meagre in the atrophied body of the old man, with the exception of the stomach which is swelled by rice; the whole seems like a Japanese translation of the unhappy Hiob." In reality this "embarrassed old man," this "unhappy Hiob" is an old man who stretches himself most comfortably after a nap! Whoever can have suggested to Stratz the strange idea about the "gesture showing the greatest embarrassment among the Japanese," which in truth is only an unmistakable gesture of comfort both in the case of the ivory Okame and in that of the painted old man!

Figures 60 and 61 "are instances of the delightful way in which Hokusai so often makes fun of what European painters consider indispensable outlines." In reality the pretended parody is just what Hokusai recommends to his Japanese scholars as indispensable. So that here too we have the exact opposite of what Stratz believes he sees.

When one surveys this long list of misinterpretations of pretended typical pictures, one must ask oneself whether Stratz's Japanese helpers and interpreters did not get the best of him.

At all events the products of Japanese art reproduced in the book seem to possess in a very small degree what is said in their praise; namely, that they are highly characteristic in expression; if such grotesque delusions are possible.

The only figures really true to life are the wood-carvings, which are made expressly for Europeans, They are, however, not at all according to Japanese taste, and after the conversations I had with Kyosai—whom Stratz rightly esteems highly—on European and Japanese art, I can imagine the flood of abusive words that he would have vented on a countryman, at any rate, who should represent figures so slavishly true to life. They show us, however, what the Japanese can accomplish when they really study the body.

In conclusion I wish to emphasize the fact that the pictures given by Stratz as proofs of the high grade of excellence of Japanese painting, do not enter the realm of art, according to the Japanese point of view, but represent a low form of artistic handicraft, which was originally really intended for children and uneducated peasants. Kyosai, however, a real artist, is throughout a caricaturist, and is on that account unsympathetic to the educated Japanese, who looks upon art as something very serious.

If anyone should find the above criticism too severe, I should like to remark that it is far milder than it would have been if a Japanese had written it, or either of the two Europeans to whom, as approved connoisseurs of Japan, I showed the book.

PROPOSED NEW MINING LEGISLATION.

TRANSLATED BY J. E. DE BECKER,

AND

REVISED BY A. R. WEIGALL, M.INST.M.E.

The following is the draft of the new Mining Law which was submitted to the Diet in March last year; and as it is likely to become law in its present, or a slightly modified, form, it should be of interest to foreign investors.

CHAPTER I.—GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Art. I.—The expression *Mining* in this law means prospecting and mining for mineral ores including the ancillary operations of reducing same.

The expression *mineral ore* in this law means:—Ores of Gold, Silver, Copper, Lead, Bismuth, Tin, Antimony, Mercury, Zinc, Iron, Iron Pyrites, Chromite, Manganese, Arsenic, Phosphates, Graphite, Coal, Lignite, Petroleum Oil, Asphalt, and Sulphur. It does not, however, include mineral dust (alluvial or sedimentary deposits).

Art. II.—All unmined minerals are the property of the State.

Art. II.—The term *mining right* in this law includes both the right of prospecting and the right of mining.

Persons entitled to a mining right have a right of mining and acquiring, within the limit of their mining areas, the mineral ores in respect to which they have obtained permission: provided that in case of coincident mining areas, persons entitled to mining rights are mutually limited to the exercise of their respective rights.

Art. IV.—*No persons other than subjects of the Empire, or companies duly formed in accordance with the laws thereof, are entitled to acquire mining rights.*

Art. V.—Rights and obligations determined by this law as appertaining to persons entitled to mining rights are transferred and pass with the mining rights.

Proceedings taken and acts performed in ac-accordance with the provisions of this law are valid as against the successors of persons entitled to mining rights, landowners, and persons concerned.

The provisions of this Article are applicable *mutatis mutandis* both to persons intending to apply, and to persons who have applied, for mining, as well as to their successors.

Art. VI.—When two or more persons jointly carry on, or desire to jointly carry on the business of mining, one of them is to be selected as their representative, and this must be notified to the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines. When no such notification is made, the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines shall designate the representative.

The representative represents, *vis-à-vis* the State, persons jointly applying for mining and the persons jointly possessed of mining rights.

Except in cases specially provided for in this law, persons jointly possessed of mining rights shall be considered as having entered into a contract of association.

Art. VII.—The expression *mine laborer* in this law means a laborer employed in mining.

Art. VIII.—The expression *mining area* in this law means an area of land in respect to which mining rights have been registered.

The boundaries of mining areas are determined by straight lines and are limited under these to the same measurement as the surface, the boundary lines descending perpendicularly. The extent of one mining area shall be from 50,000 *tsubos* (about 42 acres) upwards for coal, and from 5,000 *tsubos* (about 4 acres) upwards for other minerals, and shall not in either case exceed 600,000 *tsubos* (about 500 acres); provided, however, that in cases where it is actually necessary for the protection of mining interests, or the division of mining areas, the limit of 600,000 *tsubos* may be exceeded.

Two, or more than two, mining rights may not be created in respect to the same mining area, except when such rights are created in respect to different kinds of minerals, and in the case contemplated in Article 34.

Art. IX.—No place within 300 *ken* (600 yards) in every direction from Imperial Palaces, Imperial Detached Palaces, Imperial Shrines and Imperial Mausolea may be made mining areas.

No places within 300 *ken* (600 yards) in all directions from fortresses under military or naval jurisdiction, naval ports, ports of strategic importance, gunpowder factories, gunpowder magazines, and ammunition store houses, may be made mining areas unless the permission of the competent authorities has been obtained.

No places mentioned in the preceding two paragraphs may be used for mining purposes unless the permission of the respective competent authorities has been obtained.

Art. X.—No mining operation may be carried on in places within 30 *ken* (60 yards) in all directions (whether at the surface or in the interior of the earth) from railways, tracks, public roads, canals, rivers and lakes, marshes and ponds, embankments, the precincts of temples and shrines, cemeteries, public gardens, and all other constructions and buildings; nor may such places be used for mining purposes unless the permission of the competent authorities, or the consent of the owner or persons concerned, has been obtained.

Art. XI.—The provisions relating to applications for mining are applicable *mutatis mutandis* to applications for the correction, increase or decrease, and revision of land in respect to which application has been made for mining, and to mining areas.

Art. XII.—The expression *mining tax* in this law means taxes imposed on mining areas and on mining production.

Art. XIII.—The provisions of Chapters VI and VIII are not applicable to the mining undertakings of the State.

CHAPTER II.—MINING RIGHTS.

Art. XIV.—Mining rights are to be classed as rights *in rem*, and the provisions relating to immovables (with the exception of the provisions of Par. I of Article 179 of the Civil Code) are applicable *mutatis mutandis* thereto.*

Art. XV.—Mining rights shall be undivisible.

Art. XVI.—Mining rights may not be made the subject of rights other than those of succession, transfer, measures adopted in connection with non-payment of national taxes, and distraint (compulsory execution); but rights of mining may be made the subject of a right of mortgage.

Art. XVII.—The term of a right of prospecting is two years, calculated from the date of recording in the Mining Register.

The term specified in the preceding paragraph cannot be changed on account of any correction, increase or decrease, or revision of the mining area.

Art. XVIII.—The creation, alteration, transfer, extinction, attachment, provisional seizure and provisional disposition of mining rights and rights of mortgage shall be recorded in the Mining Register.†

The same applies to the withdrawal of a person jointly entitled to a mining right.

The record mentioned in the preceding paragraph shall take the place of registration.

Rules relating to record will be determined by Order.

Art. XIX.—With the exception of the cases of succession, and of auction specified in Articles 40 and 41, the matters mentioned in Par. 1 of the preceding article shall not be of valid effect unless recorded.

Art. XX.—Persons wishing to engage in mining shall apply to the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines in respect to prospecting, and to the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce in respect to mining.

Art. XXI.—Persons applying for mining may effect a change in the name of the applicant. In this case, such change shall not be of valid effect unless a notification has been made to the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines in respect to prospecting, and to the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce in respect to mining.

Art. XXII.—Should the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines deem land in respect to which application is made for prospecting, suitable for mining, he shall order an application for mining to be made.

In the case contemplated in the preceding paragraph, should no application for mining be made within 60 days from the date of service of the order, the application for prospecting shall not be granted.

Art. XXIII.—When it is deemed that the position and shape of land in respect to which application is made for mining differs from the position and shape of mineral formations and that consequently they will be injurious to mining interests, the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce shall order an application to be made for amendment thereof.

In the case contemplated in the preceding paragraph, should no application for amendment be made within 60 days from the day of service of the order, the application for mining shall not be granted.

Art. XXIV.—When it is deemed that the position and shape of land in respect to which application is made for mining differ from the position and shape of the mineral formations, and that consequently they will be injurious to mining interests, the applicant for mining may apply for an amendment thereof.

Art. XXV.—Mining applicants may apply for an increase or decrease of the area of land in respect to which application has been made.

Art. XXVI.—In case land, in respect to which an application for prospecting has been made, falls within a mining area belonging to another person at the time of making such application, should it be made for the same kind of mineral, permission shall not be granted in respect to such portion of the land as is coincident with the mining area.

Art. XXVII.—In case land, in respect to which an application for mining has been made, falls within a mining area belonging to another person at the time when such application is made, should it be made for the same kind of minerals, permission shall not be granted in respect to such portion of the land as is coincident with the mining area. The case contemplated in Article 34 is, however, excepted.

Art. XXVIII.—In case land, in respect to which an application for mining has been made, falls within land under application for prospecting, or a prospecting area belonging to another person, should it be made for the same kind of mineral, the provisions of Par. I. of Article 22 shall be applied *mutatis mutandis* to the coincident portion of the land.

In the case contemplated in the preceding paragraph, should no application for mining be made within 60 days *from the date of service of the order*, the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines shall either grant no permission for prospecting, or cancel the permission for prospecting.

Art. XXIX.—In case land, in respect to which an application for mining has been made, is coincident with a mining area owned by another person, should it be made for a different kind of mineral, the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines shall notify the person possessed of the mining right to that effect.

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* When the right of ownership and some other right *in rem* in respect of the same thing are vested in the same person, the right *in rem* ceases. But this rule does not apply to cases where the thing, or the right *in rem*, is subject to the right of a third person (Civil Code Par. 1 of Article 179).

† *i.e.* the record in the Mining Register will take place of registration in a Court.

The person possessed of the mining right may himself apply within 30 days *from the date of service of the order* mentioned in the preceding paragraph, for permission to mine such minerals.

The provisions of the preceding two articles do not apply to the case contemplated in Art. 34., or to cases where the previous consent of the person entitled to the mining right has been obtained.

The application mentioned in Par. 1 shall not be granted, if it obstructs the mining operations of other persons.

Art. XXX.—Applications for mining shall not be granted should they be deemed injurious to the public welfare or unworthy of the undertaking.

Art. XXXI.—In the case of coincident prospecting areas, or of coincident mining areas in respect to which application has been made, the person whose application has been despatched earliest shall have the preferential right relative to such coincident portion. When the dates of despatch of applications are identical, the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines shall notify each applicant to that effect. In this case, the applicants shall arrange the matter between themselves and make a report to that effect within 60 days from the date of sending such order.

In case applicants do not make the report specified in the preceding paragraph, the person entitled to the preferential right shall be determined by means of drawing lots.

The provisions of this article are not applicable to cases contemplated in Arts. 23 and 24, Par. 2 of Art. 29 and Art. 34.

Art. XXXII.—In case a person applying for permission to prospect makes a further application for permission to mine the same kind of mineral, should the land under application be coincident, the application for mining shall be considered to take the place of the application for prospecting on the date of sending the latter application with regard to such coincident portion of the land under application.

The provisions of the preceding paragraph are applicable *mutatis mutandis* to cases where an application for mining makes a further application for prospecting relative to the same kind of minerals.

The provisions of the preceding two paragraphs do not apply to applications made after the expiration of the term in cases contemplated in Arts. 22 and 23.

Art. XXXIII.—Persons entitled to a right of mining may make application to the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce for the amalgamation or partition of mining areas. The same applies to cases where a portion of a mining area is to be amalgamated with another mining area.

When a right of mortgage has been created, should it be desired to make the application mentioned in the preceding paragraph, the consent of the mortgagee shall be obtained and arrangements made respecting the rank of the right of mortgage.

Art. XXXIV.—Should it be necessary, on account of the position and shape of mineral formations, to dig into a mining area belonging to another person, an amendment of the mining area may be applied for.

Art. XXXV.—The provisions of Par. 1 of Art. XXII., Par. 1 of Art. XXIII., Art. XXIV. and XXV., and Par. 3 of Art. XXXI. are applicable *mutatis mutandis* to mining areas.

In cases corresponding to Par. 1 of Art. XXII. and Par. 1 of Art. XXIII., should no application be made within 60 days from the date of service of the order, cancellation shall be made by the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines in respect to rights of prospecting and by the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce in respect to rights of mining.

When a right of mortgage has been created, should it be desired to make application for a decrease of a mining area according to Art. XXV., the consent of the mortgagee shall be previously obtained.

Art. XXXVI.—In case an application for mining has been granted in mistake or error, revision of the mining area shall be ordered or cancellation of the mining right shall be made by the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines in respect to rights of prospecting, and by the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce in respect to rights of mining.

With regard to the revision mentioned in the preceding paragraph the provisions of Par. 2 of the preceding article are applicable *mutatis mutandis*.

Art. XXXVII.—When mining operations are deemed injurious to the public welfare, the Office for the Control of Mines shall cancel the right of prospecting and the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce shall cancel the right of mining.

Art. XXXVIII.—If, without any valid reason, a person entitled to a mining right does not commence operations within one year from the date of the record in the Mining Register, or if he has suspended operations for more than one year, or if he has not mined in accordance with the scheme of work, the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines may cancel the right of prospecting and the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce may cancel the right of mining.

Art. XXXIX.—In case a person entitled to a mining right fails to comply with the order specified in Art. 70, the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines may cancel the right of prospecting, and the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce may cancel the right of mining.

Art. XL.—When a right of mining has been cancelled the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines shall give immediate notice to any mortgagee thereof.

The mortgagee may, within 30 days from the date of receipt of the notice mentioned in the preceding paragraph, demand that the right of mortgage be put up to and sold at public auction. Cases where cancellation of a right of mining is made in accordance with the provisions of Par. 1 of Art. 36 and Art. 37 are, however, excepted.

Rights of mining shall continue to be valid, until the time mentioned in the preceding paragraph, or the day on which the auction procedure has been completed, so far as the object of the public auction is concerned.

The proceeds of the auction shall be applied to the expenses of the auction and to the repayment of monies owing to the mortgagee; the balance shall revert to the Treasury.

Purchasers by auction shall be deemed to have had the right of mining transferred to them at the time of the cancellation thereof.

Art. XLI.—The provisions of the preceding article are applicable *mutatis mutandis* to cases where a person possessed of a right of mining has relinquished his business.

Art. XLII.—Persons possessed of mining rights shall hand in a scheme of intended operations to the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines as determined by Order. The same is applicable to cases where a change has been made in the programme.

Persons possessed of mining rights may not engage in mining unless in accordance with a regular scheme of operations.

Art. XLIII.—The Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines may point out his reasons and order alterations to be made to schemes of work.

The schemes altered in accordance with the provisions of the preceding paragraph shall not be changed unless the permission of the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines has been obtained.

Art. XLIV.—Persons having rights of mining shall keep a plan of the interior of the mine and a mining book at their mining offices, as determined by Order; and duplicate copies of the same shall be handed in to the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines.

Art. XLV.—Persons having rights of mining shall hand in, to the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines, a statement of particulars relating to their mining operations as determined by Order.

Art. XLVI.—Mining products acquired in the course of prospecting may not be disposed of unless the permission of the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines has been obtained.

Art. XLVII.—Persons possessed of mining rights, or persons interested, may apply to the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines for actual investigation to be made in respect to adjacent mining areas belonging to other persons.

Applicants must furnish labour and materials necessary for the investigation mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

CHAPTER III.—EMPLOYMENT OF LAND.

Art. XLVIII.—The expression "persons concerned" in this chapter includes persons possessing rights relative to land which may be employed or acquired prior to the service of the notice mentioned in Articles 50 to 52 and Article 54; also those who have succeeded, subsequent to the service of the notice, to rights which existed prior to the service of such notice.

Art. XLIX.—The expression "compensation" in this chapter includes consideration, land-rents, and all other compensation for loss generally accruing to land-owners or persons concerned.

Art. L.—When it is necessary for the purpose of making an application to be allowed to mine, or when it is necessary for mining purposes, persons intending to apply to be allowed to mine, mining applicants, and persons entitled to mining rights, may, upon receiving permission from the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines, enter upon land belonging to other persons to make surveys and inspections.

When persons who have obtained the permission mentioned in the preceding paragraph intend to enter upon land belonging to others, they shall previously notify the possessors of such land.

Art. LI.—If necessary to the survey or investigation which is to be made according to the provisions of the preceding article, any object forming an obstacle may be removed after obtaining the permission of the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines.

In case persons who have obtained the permission specified in the preceding paragraph intend to remove any object forming an obstacle, they shall previously notify the owner or possessor thereof.

Art. LII.—If necessary to avert imminent danger relative to mining, persons entitled to mining rights may, upon receiving permission from the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines, immediately enter upon or use land belonging to other persons.

In the case contemplated in the preceding paragraph, persons entitled to mining rights shall, without delay, notify the possessor of the land.

Art. LIII.—With regard to loss sustained by land-owners or persons concerned in accordance with the preceding three articles, compensation for same must be paid when demanded.

Art. LIV.—Persons entitled to mining rights may use lands belonging to other persons when necessary for the following purposes:—

1. Boring, opening shafts or tunnels;
2. Providing depôts or store-places for ores, earth and stones, explosive compounds, lumber, fire-wood and coals, slag or ashes;
3. Constructing reducing plants;
4. Laying or constructing railways, tracks, roads, canals, drains, flumes, ponds, and wells, wire rope-ways or electric wires;
5. Building and constructing other works or constructions necessary to mining.

When persons entitled to mining rights intend to use land belonging to other persons in accordance with the provisions of the preceding paragraph, the permission of the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines shall be obtained.

When the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines has given the permission mentioned in the preceding paragraph, notice to that effect shall be given to the land-owners and persons concerned.

Subsequent to giving the notice mentioned in the preceding paragraph, persons entitled to mining rights shall confer with the land-owners and persons concerned with a view to the acquisition of rights relating to the land.

Art. LV.—When land has been used for a period exceeding three years, or the shape or nature of the land is altered, the owner may demand the purchase of the land.

Art. LVI.—If owing to the purchase of a portion of the land, the remaining portion of the land cannot be employed for the purpose for which it was used in the past, the land-owner may demand the purchase of the whole land.

Art. LVII.—When land is to be employed

(hired) or purchased, compensation for same shall be paid to the land-owner and to the person concerned.

Art. LVIII.—If, owing to the employment of a portion of land employed (hired) or purchased, the value of the remaining portion of the land is reduced, or any loss sustained relative to such remaining portion, compensation for same shall be paid.

Art. LIX.—If, owing to the employment of land on lease or purchase, necessity arises to build, rebuild, enlarge or repair, passages, drains, fences and other constructions, compensation shall be paid for same.

Art. LX.—If, subsequent to the service of the notice mentioned in Article LIV, it is intended to change the shape and nature of the land, or to build, rebuild, enlarge, or extensively repair any constructions, or to affix or add any objects, the land-owner or persons concerned shall obtain permission of the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines. Persons who have done the above acts without obtaining such permission are precluded from demanding compensation relative thereto.

Art. LXI.—Persons entitled to mining rights shall pay compensation in respect of any loss sustained by the land-owner or persons concerned on account of abandonment or alteration of enterprises subsequent to the service of the notice specified in Article LIV.

Art. LXII.—Land-owners and persons concerned may require persons entitled to mining rights to furnish proper security relative to compensation.

Art. LXIII.—When an arrangement has been made, a decision become conclusive, or a judicial judgment rendered regarding the employment or purchase of land, even though a decision relative to the amount of such compensation or security has not become conclusive, a person entitled to a mining right may employ or purchase the land by depositing (in a Public Deposit Office) compensation, or by furnishing security in accordance with the said decision.

Art. LXIV.—In case a person entitled to a mining right has made neither payment nor deposit of compensation, nor tendered security, land-owners and persons concerned may refuse to permit the employment of land.

Art. LXV.—In case land is employed by purchase, the ownership of the land shall be acquired by the person entitled to the mining right, and other rights over the land shall be extinguished from the time of the employment.

In case of land employed (on lease), the right of employment shall be acquired by the person entitled to the mining right from the time of employment, and the exercise of other rights over the said land shall, with the exception of rights which do not obstruct its use, be suspended during the term of employment.

Art. LXVI.—When the employment of land has ceased, the person entitled to the mining rights shall return the land and restore it to its original state, or pay compensation for any loss arising on account of not restoring it to its original state.

Art. LXVII.—Preferential rights, rights of pledge, or rights of mortgage, may be executed in respect to any compensation payable to a debtor on account of employment or purchase of the matter forming the subject of such right; but attachment must be made before the payment of same.

Art. LXVIII.—The provisions of this chapter are applicable *mutatis mutandis* to rights relative to the use of water.

Chapter IV.—Mining Police.

Art. LXIX.—Police affairs relating to mining shall be conducted by the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce and the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines, as determined by Order.

Art. LXX.—When danger is apprehended in respect to mining works, or when they are deemed injurious to public welfare, the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce shall order persons entitled to mining rights to take precautionary measures or to suspend mining operations.

When necessary in order to avert imminent danger, the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines may take the measures mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

Art. LXXI.—The Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines may order persons entitled to the right of mining to appoint or make a change in the appointment of managers to be in charge of technical matters.

Rules relating to the qualification and functions of managers shall be determined by Order.

Art. LXXII.—Even subsequent to the termination of a mining right, the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, and the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines may, within a period of one year from such termination, order a person entitled to such mining right to take precautionary measures against danger in accordance with the provisions of Art. 70.

A person who has received the order mentioned in the preceding paragraph shall be considered to be a person entitled to mining rights so far as the object of taking precautionary measures against danger is concerned.

Chapter V.—Mine Labourers.

Art. LXXIII.—Persons entitled to rights of mining shall establish regulations relating to the hire and employment of mine labourers, and obtain official permission *re* same from the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines.

Art. LXXIV.—A person entitled to mining rights shall, in accordance with the terms of Orders in that behalf, provide and keep a Mine Labourers Register at his mining office.

Art. LXXV.—When a person entitled to mining rights has discharged a mine labourer, he shall, upon demand, give to the labourer a certificate showing the period of his engagement, the class of work in which he has been employed, his ability, his wages, and the cause of his discharge.

Art. LXXVI.—A person entitled to mining rights shall determine two or more than two dates in each month and pay to the mine labourers, in cash, their wages at such specified times.

Art. LXXVII.—The Minister of Agriculture and Commerce may limit the age of mine labourers, working hours, and limit the class of female and child labour.

Art. LXXVIII.—In case a mine labourer has been wounded, fallen ill or died owing to mining operations on account of no gross fault of his own, the person entitled to mining rights shall grant relief to the labourer or his surviving relatives.

Chapter VI.—Mining Taxes.

Art. LXXIX.—Mining Taxes will be imposed upon persons entitled to mining rights. No taxes on mining areas will be imposed on persons entitled to the right of prospecting.

With regard to iron ores, no tax on the mining production will be imposed.

Art. LXXX.—With regard to mining, no business tax will be imposed upon persons entitled to mining rights.

Art. LXXXI.—The tax imposed upon mining areas shall be 40 *sen* per year for each and every 1,000 *tsubo* (4/5ths of an acre), and any fraction of 1,000 *tsubo* (4/5ths of an acre) shall be considered as 1,000 *tsubo* (4/5ths of an acre).

Art. LXXXII.—During December in each year, the tax imposed upon mining areas for the following year shall be paid in advance.

With the exception of the case contemplated in Paragraph 1 of Article 33, taxes on mining areas which become payable or difficient owing to recording the creation or alteration of a right of mining, and which are for the year of the record, shall be paid immediately.

Amount of taxes imposed upon mining areas payable in accordance with the preceding paragraph, will be calculated at the monthly rate. The same is applicable to taxes for the last year of the term of a right of mining.

Art. LXXXIII.—The amount of tax imposed on mining productions shall be one per cent. of the value thereof.

With regard to the value of mining productions, the average price of the principal markets shall be taken as a basis, and the same will be publicly notified by the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce. With regard to productions relative to which public notification is not made, the value will be examined into and determined in each case.

Art. LXXXIV.—Taxes on mining productions for the previous year shall be paid during March in each year, provided, however, that they shall be paid immediately in case of the disposal of mining productions obtained in the course of prospecting and in the case of transfer or extinction of rights of mining.

Art. LXXXV.—Persons jointly entitled to mining rights shall be jointly and severally responsible for the payment of taxes.

Art. LXXXVI.—Tax collectors may inspect and examine documents and objects relative to mining operations.

Art. LXXXVII.—Hokkaido, Urban, and ordinary Prefectures, as well as Cities, Towns and Villages may levy an additional tax on the mining taxes not exceeding fifteen (15) per cent. of the of the principal tax.

With the exception of the additional tax mentioned in the preceding paragraph, Hokkaido, Urban and ordinary Prefectures, as well as Cities, Towns and villages, may not levy taxes upon mining operations nor taxes specially based upon mine labourers, mining productions, mining areas, constructions, instruments, or machinery.

The provisions of the two preceding paragraphs are applicable *mutatis mutandis* to "*Ku*" (administrative divisions), "Magiri," (divisions of a county) and islands in Hokkaido and Okinawa Prefecture, and to those places considered equal to towns or villages.

Chalter VIII.—Petitions, Suits and Decisions.

Art. LXXXVIII.—A person dissatisfied with a permission given, or refusal of application made, relative to mining, may lodge a petition, and, if he consider his rights unlawfully injured, may bring an administrative suit.

Art. LXXXIX.—A person who has been refused the consent mentioned in Article 10, or who is unable to obtain such consent, may apply to the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines for a decision.

A person dissatisfied with the decision mentioned in the preceding paragraph may lodge a petition, and if he consider his rights unlawfully injured, may bring an administrative suit.

Art. XC.—Persons dissatisfied with the cancellation of a mining right may lodge a petition, and if they consider their rights unlawfully injured, they may bring an administrative suit.

Art. XCI.—In case no arrangement has been made, or an arrangement cannot be made as to the employment of land on lease or purchase, compensation, or security, persons entitled to mining rights may apply for the decision of the Chief of the Office for the Control of Mines.

Persons dissatisfied with the decision mentioned in the preceding paragraph may lodge a petition, and, if they consider their rights unlawfully injured, may bring an administrative suit.

Art. XCII.—Neither petition nor administrative suit in accordance with this law may be brought after the expiration of thirty days from the date of service of the notice of disposition or decision.

With regard to persons who have not received notice of disposition or decision, the term mentioned in the preceding paragraph shall be calculated from the date of public notification.

Chapter XIII.—Penal Provisions.

Art. XCIII.—Persons who have mined minerals without possessing mining rights, or who have obtained mining rights by fraudulent acts, shall be punished by a fine not exceding *yen* 500.

Persons who, through error or mistake, have mined minerals without possessing mining rights shall be punished by a fine not exceeding *yen* 100.

Art. XCIV.—In the case contemplated in the preceding Article, minerals mined shall be confiscated; and in case they have been either transferred or consumed, the price thereof shall be collected.

Art. XCV.—Persons who have engaged in mining or used land for the purpose of mining contrary to the provisions of Par. 3 of Article 9 and Article 10, or who do not comply with the orders mentioned in Article 70 and Par. 1 of

Art. 72, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding *yen* 200.

Art. XCVI.—Persons who have infringed the provisions of Article 42 or Par. 2 of Article 43, or who do not comply with the orders mentioned in Paragraph 1 of Article 43 or par. 1 of Article 71, or who have infringed the provisions of orders issued in accordance with Arts. 77 or 78, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding *yen* 150.

Art. XCVII.—Persons who have infringed the provisions of Arts 44 to 46, 74 and 76, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding *yen* 100.

Art. XCVIII.—Persons who have removed any obstruction without having obtained the permission mentioned in Par. 1 of Article 51, or who have infringed the provisions of Article 73, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding *yen* 50.

The same penalty shall be imposed on persons who have refused to allow competent officials to inspect writings or objects relative to mining or obstructed such inspection. Should, however, express provisions governing the case exist in the Penal Code, punishment shall be inflicted in accordance with that Code.

Art. XCIX.—Persons who have infringed the provisions of Art. LXXV. shall be punished by a fine not exceeding *yen* 20.

Art. C.—Persons who have, by fraud or any other dishonest acts, evaded, or attempted to evade, the payment of mining taxes, shall be punished by a fine equal to three times the amount of the taxes thus evaded.

Art. CI.—Acts of the agents of a person entitled to mining rights, of the head or members of his family, persons residing with him, employees, mine-labourers, and of other persons employed by and serving under him, shall be considered as his acts, and the penal provisions of this law shall be applied to him.

The same holds good with regard to the penal provisions of any order which may be issued by virtue of this law, except when any special provisions to the contrary are included in the order.

Art. CII.—In case a person entitled to mining rights, is a juridical person, a minor, or a person interdicted from the management of his property, the penal provisions applicable to him by virtue of this law, or the provisions of any order which may be issued in accordance with this law, shall be applied to the representative of the juridical person or to the legal representatives. Provided, however, that minors who have obtained permission to engage in mining in accordance with Article 6 of the Civil Code shall not come under this rule.

Art. CIII.—With regard to persons who have infringed either the provisions of this law or those of any order issued by virtue of this law, the provisions aggravating penalties on account of offences, and the provisions governing the case of several offences being committed by the same person, shall be applied.

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS.

Art. CIV.—This law shall be enforced from the 1st of July of the 35th year of Meiji (1902).

The Mining Regulations are hereby abolished.

Art. CV.—Permission for prospecting given under the Mining Regulations shall be considered as the record of the right of prospecting.

Art. CVI.—Grants of leases given in accordance with the Japanese Mining Law, and mining privileges granted in accordance with the Mining Regulations shall be considered as records of rights of mining. Provided, however, that those privileges which have been granted for a limited time in respect to mining areas containing less than the minimum extent determined by Par. 2 of Art. 41 of the Mining Regulations shall become extinct at the expiration of such limited term.

Art. CVII.—Mining lands belonging to various authorities prior to the enforcement of this law shall be classed as mining areas, and they shall be considered to have been duly recorded on the date of putting this law into operation.

Art. CVIII.—A record of pledge of a right of mining which has been made in accordance with the Mining Regulations shall be considered as a record of a right of mortgage.

Art. CIX.—The provisions of Art. 72 shall be applied in cases where permission for prospecting or mining privileges has become extinct prior to the enforcement of this law; provided that the term of one year will be calculated from the date of extinction of such permission or privilege.

Art. CX.—Persons who have obtained permission of lease according to the Japanese Mining Law, and who have obtained mining privileges according to the Mining Regulations, shall pay in the balance of the taxes imposed on their mining areas for the 35th year of Meiji (1902) within 60 days from the date of the enforcement of this law, such tax being calculated at the monthly rate.

Art. CXI.—Taxes imposed on mining productions for the 35th year of Meiji (1902) shall be levied on minerals produced previous to the enforcement of this law.

Art. CXII.—The provisions of Article 87 will not be applied to taxes for the 35th year of Meiji (1902).

Art. CXIII.—In case an act to which the penal provisions of the Mining Regulations are applicable has been committed previous to the enforcement of this law, such penal provisions of the Regulations shall be applied even subsequent to the enforcement of this law.

Art. CXIV.—With regard to any disposition, procedure, or other acts made in accordance with the Mining Regulations, they shall be considered as made in accordance with this law if corresponding provisions exist in this law.

Art. CXV.—With regard to the extent of a mining area in respect to which application has been made for prospecting or mining according to the Mining Regulations, the provisions of Par. 2 of Article 41 of the Mining Regulations shall be appled.

Art. CXVI.—In cases where a petition is to be lodged or an administrative suit filed in accordance with this law, relative to a matter in respect to which petition or administrative litigation is permitted in the Mining Regulations, the period thereof shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of those regulations.

FIRES.

Fire broke out on Jan. 3rd at 9.30 p.m. at Fujieda-machi, near Shidzuoka. As a strong westerly wind prevailed at the time, the flames spread, burning down 252 buildings including the Fujieda theatre, the branch of the Kyosei Bank, the Buddhist temple, Renshoji, and a police station, and injuring 113. Two men were killed and two or three are missing. When the fire began the theatre was open and a performance going on at which about a thousand persons were present. All are reported to have escaped after a scene of great confusion. The fire was due to a charcoal fire left carelessly in the bath-room of a rice dealer, K. Kobayashi. The loss is estimated at *yen* 300,000.

On the afternoon of Dec. 30th, fire occurred at the old fort off Minami, Shinagawa, destroying a shed and three junks. Some children, it is said, lighted a fire to warm themselves, and this accidentally led to the outbreak.

K. Aoyama, proprietor of thé Aoyama Printing Office, Aioicho, Yokohama, was arrested on Dec. 31st. The charge is reported to be attempted incendiarism.

Fire broke out on the night of Jan. 7th in a godown belonging to Messrs Berrick Bros. on lot No. 75, Yokohama, behind the offices of the firm. The alarm was promptly given and in a few minutes many streams of water were playing on the burning building. The night was, fortunately, calm, and the fire was confined to the structure in which it started, though for some time adjacent places, including the offices of this paper, were seriously threatened by the sparks and embers that fell in the neighbourhood.

On the evening of Jan. 6th, fire broke out in the Matchiyama Primary School, Imato, Asakusa, Tokyo, destroying eight buildings and damaging four. The cause was a charcoal fire in a hibachi.

THE "EMPRESS-QUANGTAI" COLLISION.

We are indebted to the *N. C. Daily News* for the following summary of the finding delivered by Sir Hiram Wilkinson, Chief Judge of H. B. M's Supreme Court at Shanghai, in the action brought by the Imperial Chinese Government, owners of the Chinese cruiser *Quangtai* against the C.P.R., owners of the British steamship *Empress of India*. The finding took over three-quarters of an hour to read and occupies many columns in our Shanghai contemporaries. His Lordship first held that the vessels came within the rule that any vessel overtaking another shall get out of the way of the other, and that the burden of proof was on the defendants to show an excuse for the collision. This burden the defendants had endeavoured to discharge by alleging that the mail steamer would have passed the cruiser at a distance of about a quarter of a mile had not the cruiser starboarded her helm in order to get out of the way of a junk, which was slightly on her (the cruiser's) port bow. This statement was put at issue by the plaintiffs and the evidence was very conflicting. The naval assessors were, however, clearly of opinion that the cruiser did not starboard and after carefully considering their reasons and the evidence his Lordship concurred. This conclusion was supported by the plans put in and also by the record of times, from which his Lordship deduced that the collision could not have occurred in the way suggested by the defendants, and that the distance between the two vessels at the time the cruiser was alleged to have starboarded must have been considerably less than those on the *Empress of India* supposed. The evidence in regard to the junk was analysed closely and the Assessors came to the conclusion that there was no junk at all, but that what was seen from the *Empress* was the loom of the fore part of the cruiser with the topmast housed. As to the widening out of the stern light of the cruiser on the mail steamer's starboard, which was another argument in favour of the theory that the cruiser had starboarded, the Court held that the first widening out to one point was explained by the two vessels being on parallel or almost parallel courses, while, as to the second widening, its cause was that the mail steamer was overhauling the cruiser on a course that was converging with that of the cruiser, the two vessels being much nearer than was realised on the mail steamer. The statement entered in the *Empress's* log book by a passenger represented in the Court's opinion what would present itself to a spectator in the over-taking vessel when she arrived in the position he described with regard to the overtaken vessel, the two vessels being on convergent courses. It was, however, no proof that the *Quangtai* starboarded. His Lordship found that the collision was brought about by the alteration of the course of the mail steamer at 11.38 so as to cross the course of the cruiser, and a failure thereafter to keep a proper look-out. The responsibility for this failure was on the officer of the watch on the bridge, on whom it was the more incumbent to keep a good look out in that he was hauling in his own vessel more closely to the course of the cruiser. His Lordship was satisfied that he did not keep a good look out and that the collision took place in consequence. The Court was further satisfied that the collision could not have taken place as stated in the preliminary act of the cruiser and there were also divergences in the statements of the cruiser's witnesses, but these were accounted for by the different positions in which the men were placed and there was no need to doubt their bona fides. His Lordship was sorry to hear the suggestion made that the commander of the cruiser went down deliberately, and held that the statement had been distinctly disproved. His Lordship found that the *Empress of India* was alone to blame and made the usual decree against the owners for damages and costs, with the usual reference to the Registrar and merchants.

Commenting on the finding, the *N.-C. Daily News* says:—

> A more convincing judgment has seldom been given in a collision case than that delivered yesterday afternoon by Sir Hiram Wilkinson in the case of the sinking of the Chinese cruiser *Quangtai* by the R.

M. S. *Empress of India*. Admiralty Courts have a weakness in cases of this kind for finding both ships to blame and dividing the loss, and a clear, fully-reasoned decision like that delivered yesterday, in which both Assessors concur, is admirable in itself, unpleasant as it must necessarily be to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. The Chief Justice found for the Chinese cruiser on every point, and it will be seen with satisfaction that His Lordship was careful to absolve the captain of the cruiser from the charge that he committed suicide. It speaks well for the officers and men of the cruiser, and especially well for the counsel, that they have surmounted so well the disadvantages under which, in the absence through death of their captain who was in charge of the navigation at the time, they laboured in having their evidence pitted against that of a number of highly-trained British officers. Great sympathy must be felt with Captain Marshall, who was only called to the bridge of his steamer at the last moment but there can be no question that substantial justice has been done, in a collision which, occurring as it did in the open sea, was so easily avoidable and so entirely unnecessary.

INTERPORT FOOTBALL.

Yokohama still retains its preeminence in Rugby football, defeating Kobe for the second time by two tries to *nil* in the Interport Rugby match on Saturday. The game was keenly contested all through and aroused a good deal of excitement in Kobe, where the event took place.

Commenting on the Interport Rugby Match played at Kobe on Saturday, the *Kobe Herald* says:—It was a fast and exciting game but rather ragged at times. The visitors showed better combination and their passing was superior to Kobe's. Their forwards were not only a heavier lot, although they did not give so much proof of this in the scrums as might have been expected, but they had the knack of feeding their three-quarters better than the Kobe men did. The Kobe three-quarters line did not figure so well as their friends predicted, nor did they play anything like such a fast game as the Yokohama three-quarters. There was some good tackling on both sides and most of the runs were rendered fruitless by the clean and effective work of the backs. That the best team won there is no doubt, and Kobe deserves praise for her plucky defensive game.

THE LAW COURTS.

CLAIM FOR FUNERAL EXPENSES.

The hearing of this case, instituted by the representative of Mr. Chris. Holgate, undertaker, No. 81, Bluff, Yokohama, against Mr. S. Goorman, staying in an hotel at No. 119, claiming *yen* 75 and costs, began in the Yokohama Local Court before Judge Nagatsuka on Jan. 6th.

Plaintiff's complaint was presented by Mr. T. Batchelor, for whom Mr. Amano, lawyer, appeared. Defendant was represented by his second daughter, Miss T. Goorman, who was accompanied by a Japanese interpreter.

Plaintiff's counsel asked the Court to make an order for the payment of *yen* 75 and costs. He stated that defendant is a Jew and calls himself a Russian subject but counsel after making inquiry at all the consulates in Yokohama found that he was not a subject or citizen of any of the treaty Powers. On Nov. 5th last, Mr. D. H. Harman died, and defendant, who was a relative of the deceased, asked plaintiff to defray the expenses of the funeral—*yen* 60 for coffin, etc., and *yen* 15 for coolie hire. Defendant later refused to pay the bill.

Miss Goorman said that her father never asked plaintiff to defray the money expended as funeral expenses. When Mr. Harman died his wife came to the house of defendant and simply asked him to be present at the funeral rites. This was all that defendant had do with the obsequies.

The Japanese interpreter reminded the Court that defendant was a Russian and could not understand English very well.

Plaintiff's counsel asked the Court for leave to examine Mr. Samuel Brandenstein, No. 124, Yokohama, as a witness who knew of the promise between the parties with regard to the funeral expenses. The Court granted consent and adjourned the case till Jan. 18th at 10 a.m.

CUSTOMS DECISION.

The Director of the Yokohama Customs delivered on Dec. 30th a decision on a protest filed by the American Trading Company, No. 28, Yokohama. The firm imported porcelain jars which were intended to be re-exported after filling them with iodide, on which goods the appraisers imposed 20 per cent *ad valorem* duty in accordance with No. 468 of the general statutory tariff. The importers protested that the jars should be free. The protest was rejected.

The same official rendered on Dec. 16th a decision on a protest instituted by Messrs Singleton, Benda & Co. L'td. No. 96, Yokohama. The firm imported mirror glass, silvered, both concave and convex, on which the appraisers imposed 20 per cent *ad valorem* duty under No. 172 of the tariff The importers contended that the goods should be dealt with under No. 168 of the same tariff. The protest was sustained on the ground that though the glass in dispute was made concave and convex yet it was plate glass in nature.

On the same day, the Director of Customs gave another decision on a protest brought by the China and Japan Trading Company, Ltd, No. 89, Yokohama. The foreign firm imported a certain number of pencil holders on which the appraisers imposed 20 per cent. *ad valorem* duty in accordance with No. 271 of the tariff, but the importers held that the goods should be subject to duty under No. 298 as stationery at 15 per cent. *ad valorem* duty. The protest was rejected on the ground that the article in dispute was a kind of stationery made of metal, to carry pencils in the pocket.

Mr. H. Minakami, Director of the Yokohama Customs, gave a decision on Dec. 16th on a protest instituted by Messrs Gysin and Schoeninger, No. 93, Yokohama. The firm imported steel bars, not exceeding a quarter of an inch, with certificate of origin, on which the appraisers imposed specific duty at the rate of *yen* 1.81$\frac{8}{10}$ per 100 *kin* in accordance with the conventional tariff between Japan and Germany. The firm contended that the duty should be *ad valorem* 7½ per cent. under the same tariff. The protest was rejected on the ground that steel bars excepting those that exceed a quarter of an inch are all to be comprised in the rate of *yen* 1.81$\frac{8}{10}$ per 100 *kin* under the stipulation of the tariff, which rate is also provided in the conventional tariff between Japan and Great Britain.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Princesses Fumi and Yasu (daughters of the Emperor) will leave on Jan. 7th for Kamakura, where they will stay during the cold season.

Mr. Frank Lammert, on his return to Hongkong, has been elected rowing captain of the Victoria Recreation Club. The Secretary of this Club, Mr. H. C. Austen, is an old Yokohama boy.

The *Yorodzu* announces that a Russian attired in Japanese costume was arrested on Dec. 26th at the village of Iwane, Kimitsu, Chiba prefecture, by the Kisaradzu police on suspicion of being a spy. The paper adds that the foreigner had a very detailed map of Japan.

Glasgow telegrams of Dec. 6th say that the speed trials of the battleship *Libertad*, which, with her sister ship, the *Constitution*, has been sold to Great Britain by the Chilean Government, have resulted in an average of 20.3 knots per hour, thus showing that she is the fastest battleship afloat.

The American Board of Foreign Missions has issued a statement concerning the ravages of the strange epidemic known as the "sleeping sickness," now prevalent in certain parts of Africa. Notwithstanding all efforts on the part of the British authorities there is no abatement in the ravages of the disease in Uganda. No less than 68,000 persons have died of it, 10,000 within the last five months.

Five hundred cotton-cloth weavers have struck at Burnley, as a protest against what they call "the Americanisation of the weaving industry." The employers proposed a reduction in the weavers, in consideration of relieving them of certain duties, which would, in future, be attended to by extra hands, thus enabling the weavers to give their entire attention to their specialty. The strike is the first of the kind in the cotton districts of England.

A Montreal telegram dated Nov. 25th says:—The tender of the Allan Line for the fast Atlantic mail service is now pratically accepted, and an official announcement may shortly be expected. The contract will date from August 1st, 1904, and will run for two years. Two new vessels are being built with turbine engines, and of 17 knot speed, which will cut the trip short by almost a day. They contract also provides for carrying British mails to Canada.

The Westminster Abbey authorities declined to allow the body of Herbert Spencer to be sepultured in the British Valhalla. They were informally approached, but expressed regret that it was impossible. The question of religion could not have entered into the decision, as Darwin is buried there. Mr. A. J. Balfour, the Prime Minister, who had many controversial bouts with the dead philosopher, expressed himself favourably to burial in the Abbey, but the Dean and Chapter proved adverse.

A Moscow dispatch of Dec. 6th reads:—Maxim Gorki is now a marked man under the Russian censorship. Mr. Skirmunt, a wealthy admirer of the tramp novelist, who published his works in Moscow, has been sent to Siberia for five years. Skirmunt is not a regular publisher, but he thought to benefit the Russian people by devoting a large sum to circulating Gorkii's works. These are now being subjected to careful re-examination by the censorship, and several have been suppressed, though formerly they were allowed to circulate freely.

An Ottawa telegram of Nov. 26th said: Mr. Alexander McLean, of Ottawa, has been appointed Commercial Agent for Canada to Japan, Mr. McLean is best known as the St. Noir member of the firm of McLean & Roger, which published the Ottawa *Times* in the early seventies, and afterwards became contractors for the Parliamentary and departmental printing. Later on the firm was for a short time at the head of the Montreal *Herald*. Mr. McLean is an able writer, and has a thorough knowledge of the trade of the Dominion. He will make a good business representative.

A wonderful case of anæsthesia under terrible injuries has just occurred in Paris. A young married lady, Mdme. Deplats, fell in her room in a fit of giddiness, upsetting a lamp, from which her clothing caught fire. The lady's husband found her unconscious, and suffering from very severe burns about the lower limbs. At the sound of his voice she recovered consciousness, but seemed to suffer no pain, and to be quite unaware of her condition. She merely urged him to "see that the soup does not boil over" At the hospital she displayed similar freedom from discomfort, to the utter bewilderment of the doctors, considering the extent of her injuries. Death took place within a few hours.

Some interesting facts are given by the Rev. W. R. Mounsey, secretary to the Bishop of New Guinea, concerning a tribe of Papuan cannibals, who are supposed to have exterminated all the males of the newly-discovered marsh-dwellers in British New Guinea. He says they are known as the Agaumba, and live in houses erected on piles in a lake. They are remarkable for the shortness of their legs, these from the knee downwards being less than a foot in length. When they walk, which is but rarely, they do so on the sides of their stunted feet, producing a waddle like that of a duck. In the water they are like ducks, and pass an amphibious existence, living on sago, fish, and the roots of water-lilies.

If, says the *British Medical Journal*, some one with leisure to explore the by-ways of the history of science would compile a sympathetic account of those women who have been content to give the work of brain and hands with the sole desire to help on the scientific investigations of husband, brother, or father, he might make a very interesting book. If it is ever written, not one of the least striking chapters will describe the share of Mrs. Bruce in the work which Lieut.-Col. David Bruce has done to elucidate the part played by the typanosomes in the production of disease in animals and man. Mrs. Bruce worked as sole laboratory assistant throughout the inquiry. Mrs. Bruce, again accompanied her husband to Uganda to study sleeping sickness, and again gave invaluable assistance in the laboratory.

T. Ishike (28) and his younger brother, *sake* brewers, living at the village of Heiwa, Shimososa, Chiba prefecture, murdered on Dec. 27th M. Tasuka (54) and N. Goto (28), officials of the Choshi Tax office, in the brewery godown. The murderers were arrested on Dec. 30th. The cause is not yet known, but the *Jiji* states that the officials were examining the *sake* casks on the day of the crime in the godown as there was a suspicion that the brewers had illicitly manufactured liquor in such a way as to escape the imposition of the tax. The following day, the police were acquainted with the event when they went to the godown and found that several parts of the building were stained with blood. The bodies of the victims are missing and it is suspected that the murderers have packed the remains in casks.

At a meeting of medical men in Vienna the other days, Dr. Ullmann presented a woman of sixty-two years whose entire stomach had been removed in an operation for cancer. Nevertheless, she digests all her food and has gained weight since the operation. The doctor statey that the operation of removing the stomach had now been successfully performed over twentd times. The stomach really plays only a small part in the complex act of digestion, its principal use being that of a reservoir. Hence it is that without this organ meals have to be taken inconveniently often and unusually small. There are several little organs, of complex chemical function, far more indispensable than the stomach, which are seldom heard of. We could not exist, for instance, without the supra-renal capsules and the pancreas.—*Harper's Weekly*.

On the authority of the Bank of Japan, Tokyo papers give tables showing the amount of money required during the month of January to meet various calls:—

	Yen.
TO BE PAID.	
Land tax, 3rd payment	8,208,732
Land tax in cities, 2nd payment	880,649
Mixed Saké tax, 2nd payment	86,116
Medicine tax, for first half year	58,488
Osaka-Kobe Electric Railway Company, 4th payment on new shares	225,000
Kyushu Railway Company 2nd payment on new shares	1,040,000
Aichi prefectural loan, at rate of *yen* 97 per face-value of *yen* 100	679,825
TO BE PAID OUT.	
Dividends of various banks	12,175,693
Dividends of various mercantile companies	4,122,796
Dividends of various railway companies	298,932
Interest on debentures of various banks and companies	16,850
Interest on debentures of Industries Encouragement bank	101,084
Redemption of debentures of the Industries Encouragement Bank	62,040

Indian papers of recent date report that the Board of Trade has received a dispatch through the India Office from the British Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf throwing some light on the extent to which Russia is subsidising the steamboat service to the Gulf. This document states that the Russian Government not only pays an annual subsidy for twelve years of £21,000 to the Russian Steam Navigation and Trading Company but also reimburses the dues paid for passage through the Suez Canal. The effect of this will be realised when it is mentioned that the Russian line has undertaken to carry mother-of-pearl shells from Luigal to Hamburg, including transhipment at Port Said, at 40s. per ton of 20 cwt., free of collecting commission as against the Anglo-Arabian and Persian Steamship Company's rate of 62s. 6d., plus 2½ per cent collecting commission.

We learn from Hongkong papers that a Japanese, Aizo Shimizu, went into Cheung Wo's shop in Wanchai Road on December 13th and selected a box, for which he offered $1. After the usual bargaining the box was sold, and the Japanese tendered $5 note in payment. As the shopkeeper had no change Shimizu left the shop, taking the key of the box with him, and saying he would call for the box and his change later on. The note was sent to a money changer's, who said that it was bad, and refused to change it. Cheung Wo took the note to No. 2 Police Station, and returned to wait for Shimizu. About nine p.m. Shimizu went back to the shop and asked for the box and four dollars change. As he entered, Cheung Wo sent for the police, but Shimizu dashed out of the shop and sped down the street. He was followed by Cheung Wo's fokis, who shouted as they ran. Sergt. Cushman heard the noise, and joined in the hunt, catching the Japanese a few streets further on. The man was charged at the Magistracy, and—after his solicitor had withdrawn from the case—was committed for trial. At the Court of Criminal Sessions on the 18th ult. the jury returned a verdict of "guilty." The Chief Justice sentenced the prisoner to two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

YOKOHAMA CHRISTIAN BLIND SCHOOL.

ANNUAL STATEMENT.

Expenditures.

	Yen.
Teachers' salaries	367.00
Musical Instruction	59.10
Rent	80.00
Janitor	36.00
Miscellaneous	25.66
One "Koto" (Japanese harp)	14.00
Christmas Expenses	13.68
Total	595.44

Receipts.

	Yen.
Tuition and Fees	14.70
Profits on Sale of Drawn Work	113.71
Gifts from Friends	217.85
Total	346.26

The following is the list of gifts noted above:—

	Yen.
L. Pollard	5.00
Mrs. Maeda, Nagoya	5.00
Rev. H. Loomis	2.00
Birthday Box, Union Sunday School	12.69
King's Daughters, Aoyama	7.00
King's Daughters, Tokyo	15.00
Proceeds of Lantern Exhibition, through C. Griffin	8.00
Mrs. C. V. Sale	25.00
P. A. Smith	5.00
Offerings at Family Worship, No. 262, Bluff	11.66
Miss Clendenin, Vigan, P. I.	4.00
"Well-wisher;" through L. Pollard.	50.00
Yokohama Young Men's Bible Class	10.00
Miss Thompson	1.50
"One who is Thankful for Sight"	50.00
Mrs. Jas. Ballagh	3.00
Mrs. Arnold	3.00
Total	217.85

The generous aid thus kindly afforded is hereby gratefully acknowledged. The School is moving forward quietly. The students have increased in numbers to 19 and while it is not intended to give them a home, for they work in the afternoon and evenings and thus support themselves, yet their quarters were so poor that the School now pays a matron a part of her rent so that she may offer a more suitable home to these unfortunate ones. In view of this and other additional expenses the funds needed for the next year will be considerably more than the amount shown in this report for 1903.

GIDEON F. DRAPER, PRIN.

222 Bluff, Yokohama.

AMERICAN TOPICS.

Hunting in Wisconsin is evidently quite as dangerous as deer-stalking in the woods of Maine, for the present open season is said to be responsible already for twenty-five deaths and twenty-one persons seriously injured through mistaking human beings for game.

The world's consumption of raw cotton was estimated at 13,698,000 bales of 500 pounds in 1902-03. Of this quantity the United States used 4,015,000 bales, Great Britain 3,185,000 bales. The former now consumes more raw cotton than any other on the globe.

Sixty-two years ago a man named Jones moved from Kentucky to Dade country, Mo., taking with him a family of ten children. At a recent reunion of his descendants, held at Everton, nearly all of his 1019 descendants were present. Evidently, the charge of race suicide will not hold against that family.

Professor Alexander H. Phillips of Princeton University says that radium exists in the United States. Professor Phillips has been experimenting with western minerals to learn if any traces of this element were on the America continent. He has at last discovered it to exist beyond all question in carnolite, an ore from Utah.

President Roosevelt was riding to Kock Creek Park, Washington, on the afternoon of Dec. 5th when he witnessed an accident to Mrs. William Petts, of Washington and gallantly went to her assistance. Mrs. Petts was thrown from her horse and lay for a moment unconscious in the roadway until the President dashed up and dismounted. President Roosevelt assisted Mrs. Petts to her feet while his orderly went in pursuit of the horse. Mrs. Petts was only slightly hurt.

President Eliot of Harvard University has the correct notion regarding the use and value of athletics in college life when he says girls and young women should be moderate in athletic exercise and should not try to compete with young men in the more exacting forms. The only thing that is lacking in this sensible advice, says San Francisco contemporary, is that it does not go far enough. It ought to be applied to the male students also, and a reasonable limit should be established beyond which no student in the university should be permitted to go; and, in its definition, the line of safety to life and limb should be so clearly drawn that no one would be able to mistake it.

The *Boston Herald* has some judicious remarks on the misleading effect of percentage in discussing trade relations. It refers particularly to the assumption that Canadian trade is growing faster than that of the United States because it increased 103 per cent in the last ten years, while that of this country increased less than 68 per cent. The actual gain in ten years for Canada was $109,000,000, while the United States gained $561,000,000. The *Herald* might have instanced the remarkable efforts of the rivals of New York to demonstrate by the percentage method that they were passing the metropolis of the country in an easy canter, but somehow or other the port on New York bay retains its pre-eminence.

Albert A. Honey of Chicago, inventor of the underground trolley, is dead from a stroke of paralysis, in the Chicago Union Hospital. Honey was an old-time telegraph operator, beginning when 12 years old with the old Illinois Telegraph Company. He was one of the three operators first employed by the Associated Press in Chicago. Later he entered into the employ of the Union Pacific Railway Company, and later superintended the construction of the lines of the Union Pacific from Bismarck to the Pacific Coast. Honey located in Chicago in 1891, and until within the last six months, when illness necessitated his resignation, he was president of the Magnetic Equipment Company. He was one of the organizers of the Old Time Telegraphers' Association.

No change will be made in the name of the

Protestant Episcopal church in the immediate future, and the next triennial council of that church will take no action whatsoever on the movement which has been on foot for a change of name of the church to the Catholic church of America. The statistics in regard to the vote on change of name were collected by the Living Church, an Episcopal order of Milwaukee, and are as follows: The vote which favoured a change at once is: Bishops 22, clergy 940, laity 64,883. The vote against change was: Bishops 21, clergy 384, laity 92,655. The vote which favoured an ultimate change, but did not desire it at this time, was: Bishops 12, clergy 598, laity 92,342. The largest vote did not pass at all on the question of a change, but considered it unwise to act on the question at this time.

A New York telegram of December 5th says:—After a highly prosperous year in the New York subway on railroad construction and in the Western mines, Italians resident in the United States are hastening to sunny Italy, some to remain, others to return after the hard American winter ends. Vast crowds of these Italians, who belong mainly to the pick and shovel profession, are pouring into New York to take passage on steamers. Five steamers that sailed to-day carried 5000 Italians. Fully 16,000 sailed this week. Each one took with him earnings of from $300 to $500, so a conservative estimate is that $5,000,000 in American coin, not mentioned in the bank statement, went abroad. The exodus will continue all next week. The gathering of so many uneducated and unsophisticated Italians here has afforded a rare opportunity for the bunko men, and some American money has thus been kept from going abroad.

In her official trial over the Cape Ann course December 5th the cruiser *Des Moines* exceeded her contract speed requirements of 16.5 knots an hour, making an average of 16.633 knots an hour. It is thought that the tidal correction will not materially change these figures. Next to speed the noticeable feature of the trial was the remarkable steadiness of the ship. The conditions of the trial were favorable, on the whole. The sea was moderately smooth, and the wind which struck the war ship abeam on the north and almost ahead on the run home served to make good draft for the boilers. On the other hand, the atmosphere was hazy during the greater part of the run, so the stake boats could not be made out with any great certainty. The northerly run was covered in three seconds over two hours, a speed of 16.49 knots, or .01 of a knot under the contract. It was on the run back that the *Des Moines* showed her true worth. One by one the number of the revolutions of her engines were increased until on the second leg they reached 191 per minute. The machinery worked in fine form and a speed of 16.77 was attained on the return.

A writer of a calculating turn of mind has figured out that the wool product alone of the "Louisiana purchase" in 1902 would more than pay the original cost of the vast tract of land embraced in the deal made by us with France in 1803, when the Louisiana purchase was consummated; while the corn crop of Iowa in the same year would have settled the bill six times over. In 1900 the value of the wheat, corn, cotton, oats, rye, barley, hay and potatoes raised within the limits of the purchase was $750,000,000. Since the purchase Colorado, one of the twelve states of the tract, has produced $800,000,000 of gold, silver, copper and lead, and Montana has yielded a billion dollars' worth of the four metals named. Taking it all in all, Uncle Sam may be set down as a judicious land speculator to get such results out of a $15,000,000 disbursement.

Representative clergymen of Rhode Island, headed by the Right Rev. W. W. McVickar, Episcopal Bishop, who have been endeavouring for years to have the State divorce law amended, have entered into an agreement regarding the matter of marrying divorced persons. Out of 650 clergymen in the State more than 200 have agreed to make it as difficult as possible for divorced persons to remarry and to treat all questions of marriage and divorce in such a way as to advance interdenominational comity. Of the number signing the agreement, sixty-three ministers will refuse to marry a person of another denomination than their own, who has been divorced, and who could not marry again according to the ecclesiastical laws of that denomination; eighteen agree not to marry a person who has been divorced for any cause. In cases where divorce has been granted for unfaithfulness, 115 ministers declare they will only solemnize the marriage of the innocent party. Nearly all the denominations in the State are represented,

CORRESPONDENCE.

A LETTER OF THANKS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—The parents and friends of the Scholars of the Union Church Sunday School, who, like myself had the privilege of being present at the Christmas Entertainment held yesterday afternoon, cannot help but join with me in thanking Mr. Clarence Griffin, the Superintendent, for the admirable programme the children went through. How thoroughly each child did his or her part could only be known by the appreciative audience, who, one and all, must feel grateful to Mr. Griffin for all the time and trouble (he would call it great pleasure) he has taken to train the children.

Hearty thanks are also due to all the teachers and especially to Mrs. Moore, who gave so much of her time in being present at all the reheassals and presided at the piano.

I trust Mr. Griffin may long be spared to this community, and may he continue to have greater success in the coming years than even in the past.

Trusting that this letter may be allowed a space in your paper,

Yours, etc., A PARENT.

Yokohama, 31st Dec., 1903.

AN INACCURATE EXPRESSION.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Your correspondent Will Pattillo, who in the Dec. 26th number of the *Japan Weekly Mail*, p. 712, complains of the inaccurate expression, "The American Church," is quite right. The only proper expression is "The Church in the United States." It is pure ignorance for the part to claim to be the whole. Canada is in America, so is Mexico. There is also a South America as well as a North America. As teachers we should especially strive to be accurate. Many of my native friends have shown by their questions that they thought the war for the Union was a war between the governments of North America and of South America. A prominent merchant of Sendai, whom I met at Aone some summers since in the dog days, red from the bath, on sitting down to play *go* with me, remarked in a casual way that he supposed that Grant Napoleon was the King of North and South America now.

Another was very indignant with me because I said that my country was the United States. He wanted to know the exact state and was with difficulty pacified when I told him. He had his opinion about a man who was ashamed of his native state, etc. So you see we should be very careful to state the exact geographical location of our bodily mental and spiritual states. Of course if there be only one God, there cannot possibly be more than one church.

"One army of the Living God
Part of the host have crossed the flood,
And part are crossing now."

Even the distinction between the visible church militant here on earth, and the invisible church triumphant, may exist only in our own imaginations, and may fade into insignificance, when from that side our eyes are opened to see the horses and chariots of fire and the ministering spirits sent forth to aid the heirs of salvation. But *pro tempore* we should be careful about the geographical distinctions that exist for purposes of registration and government. For one thing we can be thankful. No boundaries or divisions of any kind that we can set up can stand for a moment against the gregarious instinct of the Lord's flock in this land. They are one, and they follow lovingly the One Bishop and Shepherd of our souls.

Wishing your correspondent *et id omne genus*, A Merry X'mas and a Happy New Year,

I am as ever yours,

HENRY SCOTT JEFFERYS,
Sendai.

SOLE SURVIVOR OF THE "FINSBURY" ARRIVES IN HONGKONG.

The loss of the steamer *Finsbury* is still fresh in the minds of many people in the Far East. All that was known about the matter was that the vessel was lost, while on a voyage from Hongkong to Japan, during that terrific typhoon which raged in the China Sea about the 20th September. We now learn that one man survived after undergoing fearful privations and hardships. That man arrived at Hongkong from Shanghai yesterday morning, says the *Hongkong Daily Press* of the 22nd December.

The *Finsbury* arrived at Hongkong from Hamburg in September. On the voyage out, it appears, some of the crew did not "hit it off" with the skipper: some of the men asked to be paid off at Hongkong. The captain paid off five Europeans and one Chinese. The Europeans having been only on the vessel for five weeks or so, and having drawn an advance in Hamburg when they shipped, had not enough money coming to them to pay a month's board at the Sailors' Home. Chinese were shipped in their place. The steamer left Hongkong on the 11th September. On the morning of the 21st the vessel was badly caught in the typhoon. The wind blew with terrific force, and tremendous mountains of water washed over the vessel. No vessel could stand such usage. First of all the boats were smashed up and washed out of the davits; the deck fittings were swept overboard. The engines could avail nothing; the vessel lay helpless, completely at the mercy of the elements. After some time, an enormous volume of water, much heavier than the seas which had preceded it, came down with full force over the forward cargo hatches; they gave way and water found its way into the ship's hold. The vessel was doomed, and the crew had no means at hand wherewith to save themselves from a watery grave. The steamer gradually filled, and, suddenly, with a gulp, sank beneath the dark waters. Those aboard were sucked down with the vessel, except, of course, the Chinaman who was the sole survivor. He managed to cling to the fore-and-aft bridge which, when the vessel disappeared from view, was left floating on the surface. After nine days—too bitter to contemplate—clinging to this wreckage, he was picked up by the crew of a Japanese schooner which had also been lost in the typhoon. This crew, however, more fortunate than the poor men on the *Finsbury*, had been able to take to the boats. After three days in the boat, the men landed on one of the small islands of the Japanese group. After some time on the island, the sole survivor of the *Finsbury* was conveyed in a steamer to one of the Japanese ports, from whence the Chinese Consul had him sent to Shanghai. After three weeks in hospital at Shanghai he returned to Hongkong, arriving yesterday.

THE INSURANCE ORDER.

The following circular has been sent to us:—

TO POLICY-HOLDERS OF THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the 24th June, 1903, an order was issued by the Imperial Government of Japan calling upon foreign insurance companies to deposit a sum of *yen* 100,000, and, in the case of life assurance companies, a further sum equivalent to the annual reserve set aside by each company for the benefit and protection of policy-holders.

The Society has always been willing to make a deposit for the security of policy-holders in Japan, as a condition to the continuance of the business; the order is not, however, limited to a deposit but requires the entire legal reserve on all policies issued in Japan to be placed under the control of the Government. This order in its entirety has been most carefully considered by this Society; and it is with great regret I have to inform you that the Directors have decided that compliance with it is not consistent with the principles upon which the Society conducts its business, and the guarantees given to policy-holders. The Society has, therefore, decided to suspend the acceptance of all further proposals for life assurance made in Japan.

Care will be taken to protect the interests of existing policy-holders, who are requested to continue the payment of their premiums as heretofore. Effective arrangements will be made to settle claims, make loans, and fulfil all the conditions of the policies during their currency.

By order of the Board of Directors,

J. T. HAMILTON,
Representative for Japan.

Yokohama, 31st December, 1903.

RUSSIAN PAPERS ON JAPAN.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Port Arthur, December 17.

As I remarked in my last letter, the Russian papers are devoting a good deal of attention at present to Japan; not only political papers like the *Rusky Viedomosti* (which is now publishing a series of fine articles on Japan by the foremost of Russian journalists), but even comic and society papers. The well-edited *Niva* has, in one of its last issues, a a short, moderate account of the present trouble with Japan, accompanied by good photographs of General Katsura, Minister President, and of General Kodama, "Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese army," these photographs being taken specially, it is stated, for the *Niva*.

The *Streknosa* (Dragon-flag) devotes the front page of its issue for 2nd November to a coloured picture of a cock wearing the cap of a Japanese soldier and labelled "Japan." Korea is represented as a hen sitting on an egg, but Russia does not seem to come into the picture, which seems to me to be rather pointless. The cock is represented as in the act of crowing and below the picture is the motto "peremyena budet" (there will be a change), and a short poem on that motto, which runs as follows:—

People not seldom
Are accustomed to say,
When the cock crows
That a change there will be.
The Japanese cock
Now splits our tympana
With its fearful outcry
About something or other.
It is dreadfully roused,
And sings out of time,
And all we can ask is,
When will it stop?

Foreign Merchants in Siberia and Manchuria.

It is surprising to what an extent the Americans have got hold of the trade in Eastern Siberia and Manchuria, although this surprise will probably lessen gradually. What will make it lessen will be the disappearance of the Americans, one by one. The American Trading Company has closed its branches here and in Vladivostock, and I suppose by and by only one American firm will be left,—indeed I am not sure but only one is left now. Thus will be closed that chapter of Siberian history which tells of American enterprise exerted in the opening up of the country.

A very interesting volume could, by the way, be made out of the experiences of American merchants in Siberia from the days of the old Russian-American Company until the present time. During the first attack on Petropaulofsk in 1854 by an Anglo-French squadron, two American residents of that town gave important information about the land approaches to Petropaulofsk to the English who did not, however, profit much from it; and on the occasion of the second attack in the following year the allied fleet found that all the Russians had cleared out and that the American flag was the only one flying in the town.

In spite of the rapidity with which the Americans here generally learn the Russian language and of all the talk about the "traditional friendship," it cannot be denied that the action of the two American residents of Petropaulofsk is typical of the feelings of Americans in the Russian Far East. They feel that they are in the same boat as the English, and that the Russians are rather afraid of their commercial ability, so that the sight of the Union Jack is almost as welcome to them therefore from a commercial point of view [illegible] that of Old Glory itself.

The principal American firms in the Russian Far East are Messrs. Clarkson & Co. and the American Trading Company. As I have just remarked, however, the American Trading Company has closed its branches here.

The English are not as a rule prominent in Siberian trade. By the way, the head of a flourishing Danish Company in Port Arthur bears the name of O'Reilly which does not strike one as being Danish or Muscovite, although Gospoden O'Reilly speaks both Danish and Russian with great fluency. Mr. O'Reilly, who is now in Japan, is shortly going to open business here on his own account.

The Germans, I think, take the foremost place among the foreign residents both as linguists and in the extent of their commercial operations. The proximity of the German and Slavonic races in place and in blood, and the well-known enterprise of the Germans, explain this; but, while Russia certainly gains by the exertions of these Germans, it is not quite certain that the Fatherland itself benefits, for Germans seem to become Russified in Russia almost as quickly as they are Anglicised in England. The firm of Messrs. Kunst and Albers, the great bankers and storekeepers of Eastern Siberia, and whose splendid premises are among the most prominent features of Vladivostock, Habarovsk, Port Arthur, and even Mukden, seem to be gradually becoming Russian, for one of their partners is a naturalised Russian and others connected with the firm seem, for business reasons (the right to buy land being one of them), to be gradually following the same path; while the number of German names one meets with here among patriotic Russians, some of whom do not speak a word of German, is a proof that Germany is giving good men to Russia as well as to England and America. For you generally find these men with German names at the top of the tree. At the head of the Navy you find Vice-Admirals Stark and Stackelberg: at the head of the Army Staff you find General Pflug. Germans seem to leaven the whole mass of the population in this part of the world as is shown by the extent to which the German language is spoken. About 20 per cent of the Russians seem to speak it more or less, and one is constantly finding it come in handy in the most unexpected quarters. I once had an interesting conversation, for instance, with a private soldier who, being a Lett, spoke German,—but a strange German it was,—monat (month) being pronounced as if written Monheit and various other old forms being used.

On my way to Port Arthur from Korea some time ago, I met a German who belonged to the German Colony on the Volga, which numbers nearly half a million people, and of which the members are descended from immigrants who went to that region in the eighteenth century in response to the invitation of the Empress Catherine. It seems that this colony was promised the perpetual right of self-government, complete religious liberty, and freedom from liability to military service, but that, of late years, these privileges have been one by one withdrawn. The members of this colony are still, however, more German than Russian, remaining in language, in religion, in their domestic habits and social customs, the same as when they first came to Russia over a century ago. They still wear the old German costume, they are closely shaved, and in many respects form an indigestible morsel, like the French settlers in Canada.

This is an exceptional case, however, for the Germans seem as a rule to adapt themselves quickly to Russian ways. I am afraid, however, that until the process of adaption is completed, they are cordially hated by the common people. A Russian was once prosecuted for assault. "Why, he called me a German, your Worship," said the defendant, whereupon the judge dismissed the case, holding that such provocation was intolerable.

This degree of dislike, very surprising when met with in the kindly-hearted Russian peasant, is put down, I believe, to the effect of the operation of unscrupulous German-speaking Jews of a low class but powerful organisation. What truth there is in this charge I cannot tell; but this old prejudice, like many others, is like anti-clericalism in France, not an article of exportation. At least I do not find it in Port Arthur.

THE "TANSAN" TRADE MARK CASE AT SINGAPORE.

In the course of his judgment in the case of Clifford Wilkinson v. McAlister & Co. at Singapore, Sir Lionel Cox, the Chief Justice, said the question to be decided was whether plaintiff was entitled in Singapore to the exclusive use of the word "tansan" in connection with a mineral water imported by him from Japan. Plaintiff was the owner of a spring at a place called Takaradzuka in the vicinity of Kobe, the water of which he has sold since 1890. He first used the label produced (and marked F) describing the water simply as a mineral water. Later, in consequence of representations regarding the name, he altered the label, and instead of "Takaradzuka mineral water" he had a label printed in 1893 on which the word "tansan" in white on a blue ground was printed across the other writing. Plaintiff stated that he did not know till some five years later the meaning of the word "tansan," which he states is a scientific term not in common use. From that time he advertised his water as tansan, and to a large extent since 1895 he had spent between $800 and $1,000 a month in advertisements. One striking mode of advertising was referred to by a witness who had spent some time in Japan, and who told the Court that on the slope of a mountain at Moji, the word "tansan" was written so large that it could be read by ships at sea off the coast. He registered his label in Japan in 1897, in America in 1900, and in Java, India, and Australia. The water was first introduced into Singapore under the name "tansan" in 1898, and in 1897 the defendants became agents. The water was ordered, invoiced, advertised and sold under the name "tansan." In April, 1901, the plaintiff wrote to defendants complaining that the sales had not increased and informing them that he had appointed the Borneo Company as agents. The Borneo Company seem in fact to have acted in this capacity in January of the year, and Mr. F. Hilton says that the sales have been considerable, and that he had not heard of any other water being sold under the same name, till Mr. Stephens of McAlister's notified him of their intention to run a rival water. Plaintiff also heard that Messrs. Hasegawa and Co. were shipping "Funagoya tansan" to Singapore, and instructed his agents to take proceedings, and eventually the suit was started towards the end of 1901. On these facts, which he, the Judge, could not take otherwise than as proved, plaintiff sought an injunction entitling him to restrain defendant from using the word "tansan" or any word in which it was a part, and defendant's reply was that the word was a common word in Japanese, used to denote a mineral water collected from a carbonic acid spring. It was clear that in trade mark law the mark must be distinctive, and if plaintiff had taken the name simply as descriptive of mineral water his claim could not be supported, unless it had acquired a secondary meaning, and become associated with his name. His Lordship reviewed the evidence and said he thought from the evidence produced that the word "tansan" had come to mean in Singapore Wilkinson's mineral water; it could mean nothing else because there was no other water of the kind on the market until the defendant brought in the "Funagoya tansan." Whilst many people might be ignorant of the plaintiff's personal name, yet people who ordered "tansan," though not knowing Wilkinson's name, wanted the "tansan" to which they had been accustomed, and that was no doubt plaintiff's mineral water. It was also contended that the defendant's label was so different from the plaintiff's that they could not be mistaken. There was no doubt that anyone looking at the bottles could not help distinguishing them, but that was not sufficient; the same defence was set up in the "Club Soda" case, and was rejected. The strong case in favour of plaintiff on this point was that in which the Apollinaris Company were concerned (33 Law Times 242). With regard to the other contention of the defendant, the question did not arise in Singapore, because there was no evidence of any mineral water under the name "tansan" having been imported here by any other than the plaintiff and defendants since 1901. The injunction sought must be granted. Defendants must bear the plaintiff's costs, and parties would be heard again on the question of damages.

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Special Service.)

BUYING WAR MATERIAL.

London, December 31.

Russia and Japan are buying quantities of beef in Chicago.

100,000 barrels of flour have been sold at St. Paul for export to Japan.

150,000 tons of coal are loading at Norfolk, Virginia, for Japan.

JAPAN BUYS WARSHIPS.

Later.

Japan has purchased the Argentine war-vessels *Moreno* and *Rivadavia*, whose sale was reported on the 29th ult.

RUSSIAN TORPEDO-BOATS.

Five Russian torpedo-boats from Tunis have arrived at Malta, where they are to be docked.

THE FRANCO-RUSSIAN ALLIANCE.

His Excellency M. Nelidoff, the new Russian Ambassador, has presented his credentials to the French President. In the speeches that were exchanged on the occasion the sentiment was emphasized that the Franco-Russian Alliance constituted a valuable guarantee of the peace of the world.

A TERRIBLE DISASTER.

PANIC IN A THEATRE.

HUNDREDS OF LIVES LOST.

London, January 1.

During a matinee performance on Wednesday of the Drury Lane pantomime "Blue Beard," the audience fell into a panic and rushed to the exits, fighting desperately through the corridors.

One hundred persons were burned to

death and the loss of life is estimated at 400 to 600. The occupants of the gallery were caught in a death-trap and many were burned alive or suffocated. Some leaped in a frenzied state to the stalls below where the flames swallowed them up. Many bodies were afterwards found wedged upright between the seats. The greatest mortality occurred at the foot of the gallery stairs, where the bodies were afterwards found piled up twelve deep.

Many of the victims were young women and children.

THE CHICAGO HOLOCAUST.

FURTHER DETAILS.

Later.

The theatre fire was not at Drury Lane, London, but at the Iroquois Theatre, Chicago. It broke out during a matinee performance of the Drury Lane pantomime "Blue Beard."

The final computation is that 564 people were killed; 157 were removed injured, of whom about one-third received fatal wounds; and many are reported as missing.

The audience numbered 1,300.

REASON FOR THE BIG DEATH ROLL.

It seems that the asbestos curtain which shuts off the stage from the body of the house was lowered halfway when the fire broke out and then stuck, thus forming a flue through which the flames poured all over the house in less than ten minutes.

[The above telegrams were issued as an extra on Saturday morning.]

A GLOOMIER FEELING.

London, January 2.

The views of the Japanese Legation in London yesterday were distinctly gloomier upon unofficial advices from Paris indicating that Russia's reply was unfavourable.

[This telegram does not seem worthy of credence. It is understood that Russia's reply has not yet been formulated.—Ed. *J.M.*]

MORE RUSSIAN TROOPS.

The Russian steamer *Kazan*, with upwards of a thousand picked men, artillery and stores, has passed the Suez Canal for the Far East. This makes 4,000 picked troops similarly despatched during the present month.

RUSSIA'S COAL SUPPLIES.

It is estimated at Cardiff that Russia has ordered 250,000 tons of coal since October.

THE SITUATION.

London, January 3.

The absence of news from Japan has increased the pessimistic feeling here. London papers suggest that despatches are being purposely delayed.

Underwriters are demanding an additional premium to cover the war risk on vessels proceeding east of Singapore.

The five Russian destroyers left Malta hurriedly without completing their repairs.

FUNERAL OF THE CHICAGO VICTIMS.

The funeral of a part of the victims of the Chicago disaster took place yesterday. The numbers are so great that the funeral continues till to-day (Monday). The city is turned into universal mourning; all public institutions and shops being closed.

Many of the victines are still unidentified.

MEXICO AND A GOLD STANDARD.

The Mexican Monetary Commission has reported in favour of a gradual adoption of the gold standard.

VICEROY ALEXEIFF.

A new *ukase* issued by the Czar grants to Viceroy Alexeiff a special vice-regal flag and accords him a salute of 12 guns.

RUSSIAN SILENCE.

London, Jan. 4.

St. Petersburg maintains silence. The reports from Peking are extraordinarily pessimistic.

THE FRANCO-RUSSIAN ALLIANCE.

The officers of the Russian squadron at Bizerta, which is *en route* for the Far East, gave a brilliant reception on Saturday. The most cordial toasts were exchanged, the French residents expressing the unchanging affection of France for Russia.

The squadron leaves to-day.

RUSSIAN SQUADRON DETAINED AT BIZERTA.

PEACE BUREAU OF BERNE PETITIONS THE POWERS.

London, January 5.

The Russian squadron at Bizerta has postponed its departure for the Far East for some days in consequence of telegraphic instructions. The Peace Bureau at Berne has drafted a memorandum in support of a petition to the Powers, calling upon them, under the Hague Convention, to offer to Russia and Japan their services with a view to a peaceful settlement.

RUSSIA'S REPLY CONCILIATORY.

Later.

Russia's reply, according to various inspired reports from St. Petersburg, is quite conciliatory. Even if it does not concede everything that Japan has asked for, it will certainly pave the way for future negotiations.

A PEACEFUL FEELING.

It is noteworthy that the Continental press always represents Russia's replies as pacific and Japan's attitude as provocative. At any rate the prevailing feeling to-day is peaceful.

THE RUSSIAN REPLY.

London, January 6.

According to information from an official source in St. Petersburg the Russian reply is most conciliatory. Some of the Japanese proposals have been accepted. Others are made the subject of extended observations, and are met by counter proposals. It is hoped in official circles that the Tzar will be able to announce peace on Thursday, the Russian Christmas Day.

IMPERIAL RUSSIAN COUNCIL.

London, January 7.

Telegrams from St. Petersburg mention the holding of a grand council presided over by the Czar, at which several Grand Dukes, M. de Witte, and the leading ministers were present.

It is supposed that a reply to Japan was drafted at this Council.

JAPAN'S NEW WARSHIPS.

One hundred and fifty Japanese officers and sailors left London on the 6th of January for Genoa.

THE U.S. AND MANCHURIA.

Mr. Shaw, the U.S. Secretary for the Treasury, has recommended to the House of Representatives at Washington, the establishment of a consulate-general at Mukden and a consulate at Antung.

(Received at the Legation of France.)

THE CHICAGO DISASTER.

Saigon, January 4.

The number of victims at the theatre disaster at Chicago is 600 killed and 300 wounded.

FRANCE AND SIAM.

The Minister of Siam at Paris, having accepted the basis of a complementary agreement, as proposed by France, the Convention of the 7th of October, 1902, is postponed till the 15th February, 1904.

THE FAR EASTERN SITUATION.

According to reports from London, from Japanese sources, the negotiations between Russia and Japan continue.

There are still hopes of a peaceful settlement of the dispute.

FRICTION DIMINISHING.

Saigon, January 5.

The *Cologne Gazette* announces that the friction between Japan and Russia is diminishing.

The preparations for war continue on both sides, but these notwithstanding, the negotiations have a chance of succeeding.

ALEXIEFF RECEIVES INSTRUCTIONS.

Saigon, January 6.

It is announced from St. Petersburg that Viceroy Alexieff has received instructions with respect to Russia's answer to Japan's last note.

(From the "Deutsche Japan-Post.")

THE SITUATION CLEARING.

Berlin, December 31.

In consequence of a report coming from Tokyo that Japan has not sent an ultimatum to Russia and that such is not intended, a feeling of quietness has set in in Europe. The Russian Government is especially pleased at the conciliatory attitude maintained in the latest Japanese note. The Russian press has also become more peaceful. No European Powers are now considering war unavoidable.

THE BALKANS.

Russia has become more free by the quiet state of the Balkan Peninsula. The Sublime Porte has appointed an Italian gendarmerie colonel as chief of the police in Macedonia.

FRANCE AND SIAM.

The Franco-Siamese conflict has been settled.

ACCIDENT TO EMPEROR FRANCIS JOSEPH.

Kaiser Francis Joseph of Austria fell down in one of his apartments and slightly injured one of his eyes. His health is otherwise good.

THE SITUATION.

Berlin, January 1.

It is expected that Russia will enter upon a quiet and fair discussion of Japan's latest demands. The European press still considers the warlike preparations of Japan to be merely by way of diplomatic pressure. No disquieting news of an official character has arrived here.

THE CHIGAGO CATASTROPHE.

In Chicago at a matinee performance, the Iroquois Theatre, a magnificent building, was burnt down. The theatre was crowded, principally with women and children. The occupants of the second and third galleries could not get out and a panic set in. Some sprang down from the dress circle upon the people in the stalls. Ten minutes after the first cry of fire, six hundred persons were suffocated. More than a thousand are dead. During the afternoon 736 bodies were recovered. Several prominent actors are missing. The cause of the fire was a short circuit of an electric wire. The asbestos curtain refused to act.

RUSSIA AND JAPAN.

Berlin, January 3.

Russia has not yet replied to the last note from Japan. Consequently the pessimistic reports of the London press are unfounded. Count Lamsdorff, the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the New Year's reception expressed himself in favour of a peaceful settlement of the pending difficulties, should no hitch occur.

THE CHICAGO FIRE.

At the fire of the Iroquois Theatre at Chicago 690 dead bodies have been recovered up to now, about 300 are still said to be missing, and 170 wounded are in the hospitals. Some of the theatre employees have been arrested.

THE CHICAGO FIRE.

At Chicago 587 victims were recognized. All theatres are closed in order to examine their safety appliances.

The German Emperor has ordered that to increase safety against fire, the stage of the Royal Opera House in Berlin be rebuilt; some new entrances are also to be made. Until these alterations are finished, the galleries will remain closed. Later on perhaps a new building on another site will be erected. The stages of the Royal theatre, the Schauspielhaus, are also to be reconstructed.

MEXICAN CURRENCY.

The Mexican monetary commission has rendered its report, in which it is recommended to gradually introduce the gold standard.

BERLIN NEWS OF THE SITUATION.

Berlin, January 5.

The hopes entertained in Berlin that in the Far East extreme steps will be averted, are becoming stronger. The energetic war preparations by the Japanese have made an impression in St. Petersburg, which is proved by the conciliatory remarks made by the Russian Government and press. The *Novoie Vremya* writes: The Manchurian question must not divert Russia's attention from her traditional intentions in the East. The German press is also certain that, owing to the firmness shown by Japan the conflict can only be avoided by Russia climbing down the ladder.

Reuter's telegram from Peking that Russia is being supported by Germany and France, is strongly denied from Berlin and Paris. The Japanese Minister to Berlin, Viscount Inouye, is maintaining the best relations with the German Government.

The *Cologne Gazette* has received quieting news from reliable sources in St. Petersburg.

In the last few days the negotiations have taken a turn for the better with such good prospects that a complete settlement of the pending difficulties is expected very shortly.

The Governor of the Far East, Admiral Alexieff, will depart for St. Petersburg in February next.

RUSSIA'S ANSWER.

Berlin, January 6.

The Russian Government sent its answer to the last Japanese Note to Admiral Alexieff, with instructions that he hand the same to Baron Rosen in Tokyo. As reported by the Russian Commercial Telegraphic Agency, Viceroy Alexieff sent this answer to the Russian Minister, Baron Rosen, in Tokyo, who will probably hand the same to-morrow to the Japanese Government.

In the best-informed circles in St. Petersburg the conviction prevails that Russia will not break the peace. It is stated that Russia has agreed to the last demands of Korea concerning that land, but on the other hand has made some new demands and has proposed to negotiate with regard to these fresh points in St. Petersburg.

In diplomatic circles in Paris the idea is that no action taken by Japan in South Korea will constitute a *casus belli* for Russia. If the Russian note is favorably received in Tokyo, Viceroy Alexieff will depart for St. Petersburg.

THE CHICAGO FIRE.

On account of the great theatre fire at Chicago, Kaiser Wilhelm and President Roosevelt have exchanged friendly telegrams.

DEATH OF PROF. JOLLY.

The celebrated professor of Neurolgy, Friedrich Jolly (born 1844) has died at Berlin.

THE SITUATION IN KOREA.

Berlin, January 7th.

It is expected that no Power will resist the Japanese action taken in South Korea. The English and Americans are each sending a man-of-war to Chemulpo, to strengthen, if necessary the guards of their respective legations in Seoul.

KAISER AND KING.

King Edward and Kaiser Wilhelm have exchanged the most cordial New Year's congratulations. Probably King Edward will pay a visit to Berlin in May next.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Victoria [1]	F. Jan. 8
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric [2]	Sa. Jan. 9
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic [3]	M. Jan. 11
Canada	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India [4]	Tu. Jan. 12
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Aki Maru [5]	F. Jan. 15
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Shawmut	F. Jan. 15
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Sachsen	Sa. Jan. 16
America	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Su. Jan. 17
Hongkong	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	M. Jan. 18
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co	Em. of China	Th. Jan. 21
Europe	M. M. Co.	Ernest Simons	Th. Jan. 21
America	P. M. Co.	Siberia	M. Jan. 25
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	China	Th. Jan. 28

[1] Left Kobe on the 7th inst.
[2] Left San Francisco on the 22nd ult.
[3] Left Hongkong on the 2nd inst.
[4] Left Vancouver on the 28th ult.
[5] Left Seattle on the 29th ult.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Bayern	Sa. Jan. 9
Europe	N. Y. K.	Sanuki Maru	Sa. Jan. 9
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Victoria	Sa. Jan. 9
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Su. Jan. 10
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	Tu. Jan. 12
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Kaga Maru	Tu Jan. 12
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	W. Jan. 13
Europe	M. M. Co.	Polynesien	F. Jan. 15
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Shawmut	F. Jan. 15
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	M. Jan. 18
America	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	W. Jan. 20
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Hakuai Maru	Th. Jan. 21
Canada	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	F. Jan. 22
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Siberia	Tu Jan 26
America	P. M. Co.	China	Sa. Jan. 30

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Jinsen Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,332, I. Higo, 31st Dec.,—Otaru, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saint Kilda, British steamer, 2,269, Jones, 31st Dec.,—Barry via Singapore, Coal.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,591, C. Sakai, 31st Dec.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 412, N. Teranaka, 31st Dec.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Iyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,918, M. J. Curnow, 31st Dec.,—Seattle, Wash., via Victoria, B.C., 15th Dec., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Behring, Russian Barkentine, 377, Spade, 1st Jan.,—Petropaulovski, Salt Salmon.—Smith, Baker & Co.

Yangtsze, British steamer, 4,149, H. L. Allen, 1st Jan.,—Liverpool via ports and Kobe, 31st Dec., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Kosai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,419, F. E. Cope, 1st Jan.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Volute, British steamer, 2,599, A. E. Deacon, 1st Jan.,—Novolossisk via ports, and Kobe, 20th Dec., Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,706, T. Tibballs, 2nd Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yeijio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,538, K. Noda, 2nd Jan.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nikko Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,434, E. W. Haswell, 2nd Jan.,—Nagasaki 31st Dec., Ballast.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Athenian, British steamer, 2,428, S. Robinson, 3rd Jan.,—Vancouver, B.C., 14th Dec., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, G. Nomura, 3rd Jan.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bayern, German steamer, 3,128, H. Formes, 4th Jan.,—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, and Kobe 3rd Jan., Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Lytton, British steamer, 1,834, Collins, 5th Jan.,—Portland, Oregon, Flour.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,831, C. A. Lee, 5th Jan.,—Kobe, 3rd Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,551, K. Sudzuki, 5th Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hyades, American steamer, 2,932, Geo. Wright, 6th Jan.,—Tacoma, Wash., via Victoria, B.C., 11th Dec., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, K. Nobeta, 6th Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Korea, American steamer, 5,651, W. B. Seabury, 6th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 5th Jan., Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Wuerzburg, German steamer, 3,246, von Binzer, 7th Jan.,—Hamburg via ports, and Hongkong, 31st Dec., General.—C. Illies & Co.

Indrasamha, British steamer, 3,367, Wm. E. Craven, 7th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 5th Jan., General.—P. & A. S.S. Co.

Polynesien, French steamer, 2,916, Le Coispellier, 7th Jan.,—Marseilles via ports, and Kobe, 6th Jan., Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Kasuga Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,214, S. J. G. Parsons, 7th Jan.,—Melbourne and Sydney via ports, and Kobe, 6th Jan., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 772, K. Higo, 7th Jan.,—Moji, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, Y. Nomura, 6th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,710, K. Kobori, 7th Jan.,—Bombay via ports, and Kobe, 5th Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Tremont, American steamer, 6,195, T. W. Garlick, 31st Dec.,—Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Hakuai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,419, C. Young, 31st Dec.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, Y. Nomura, 31st Dec.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Annam, French, steamer 2,338, Girard, 1st Jan.,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S. S. Co.

America Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,256, P. H. Going, 1st Jan.,—San Francisco via Honolulu. Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

China, American steamer, 2,422, D. E. Friele, 1st Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Taihoku Maru Japanese steamer, 1,723, T. Kitano, 2nd Jan.,—Takao via ports, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,591, C. Sakai, 2nd Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, N. Teranaka, 2nd Jan.,—Yokkaichi General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,526, G. Lapraik, 2nd Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Jinsen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,433, I. Higo, 2nd Jan.,—Kobe via Moji, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,789, K. Kawahara, 2nd Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Iyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,918, M. J. Curnow, 3rd Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Athenian, British steamer, 2,428, S. Robinson, 3rd Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, Y. Nomura, 4th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,706, T. Tibbals, 4th Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Japan, British steamer, 2,796, E. P. Martin, 4th Dec.,—London via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Wyneric, British steamer, 3,,264 Niven, 4th Jan.,—Hongkong via Kobe and Moji, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,551, K. Sudzuki, 5th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yeijio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,538, K. Noda, 6th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yangtsze, British steamer, 4,149, H. L. Allen, 6th Jan.,—Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Hyades, American steamer, 2,932, G. Wright, 7th Jan.,—Port Arthur and Dalny via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Kosai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,419, F. E. Cope, 7th Jan.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Korea, American steamer, 5,651, W. B. Seabury, 7th Jan.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,831, K. Nobeta, 7th Jan.,—Yokosuka.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nikko Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,437, ——, 7th Jan.,—Yokosuka.—Nippon Yusen Kaish.

Indrasamha, British steamer, 3,367, Wm. E. Craven, 7th Jan.,—Portland, Oregon, Mails and General.—P. & A. S.S. Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Kosai Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. E. Workman, Mr. A. R. Riddle, Mr. P. Marx, Master S. Clarke, Miss Summers, Mr. T. Gravenhorst and Mr. G. W. Lewis in cabin; Mr. K. Arima, Mr. B. Mori, Mrs. Mori, Mr. W. Matsumoto, Mrs. Matsumoto, Mr. Shimasoye and Mr. S. Deguchi in second class; 36 in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Iyo Maru*, from Seattle, Wash., via Victoria B.C.:—Mr. Y. Arai, Mr. Arthur M. Knapp and Mr. M. Matsdorf in cabin; Mr. K. Sudzuki and Mr. Wan Yen in second class; 129 in streerage.

Per British steamer *Athenian*, from Vancouver B.C.:—Mr. Albert Uilliger, Mr. Arthur C. Fort, Dr. J. H. Eghere, and Dr. Arthur Smith in cabin; 15 Chinese in steerage.

Per German steamer *Bayern*, from Europe via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Crombie, Misses Irwine, Dr. G. Hirte, Mr. White, Mr. Phipps, Mr. Samson, Major Hofrichter, Mr. R. Illies, Mr. H. Irwine, Mr. A. Hasche, Mr. R. Henzler, Mr. J. A. Lund, and Mr. J. Hoshi, in cabin.

Per American steamer *Korea*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. K. Sueton, Mrs. Geo. Denny, Mr. C. K. M. Martin, Mrs. Martin, Mr. C. A. Fraser, Mr. K. Kanatani and servant, Mr. H. M. Arnould, Miss Hill, Miss Abenheim, Mr. S. Kishi, Dr. Hardie, Major Heneage, D.S.O., and Mr. A. H. Winn, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Governor W. H. Taft, Mrs. Taft, Miss Taft, Master Taft, Mr. T. W. Carpenter, Mr. Carson Taylor, Mr. M. Lopez, Miss J. Maret, Gen. L. R. Wilfley, Mr. A. M. Gray, Mr. T. G. Kell, Dr. Ramsden, Mrs. Ramsden, Mrs. M. P. Hale, Miss M. E. Hawley, Miss W. M. Hawley, Mrs. T. Bong, Mrs. G. H. T. Allen, Miss Allen, Mrs. C. A. Willard and infant, Mrs. Strillwalter, Mr. H. M. Manning, Mrs. H. M. Manning, Mrs. E. S. Luttie, Mrs. James Law, Lt.-Com. E. A. Anderson, U.S.N., Ensign E. A. Weichert, U.S.N., Ensign H. Ellis, U.S.N., Dr. J. M. Brister, U.S.N., Mrs. L. M. Guerrero, Mr. A. Guerrero, Mrs. M. P. McCormick, Capt. F. E. Cofren, U.S.A., Mr. E. Devault, Mrs. L. A. Bear, Master James Bear, Master Robert Bear, Mr. H. F. Kendall, Mr. J. S. McCoy, Mr. W. Armstrong, Mr. Robert Schoen, Mr. L. L. Moore, Mrs. L. L. Moore and infant, Miss Moore, Mrs. Hardie and infant, Miss E. L. Hardie, Miss A. E. Hardie, Mrs. Alice P. Hudson, Miss L. Curry, Mrs. A. M. Gade, Miss T. Sheppard, Miss S. R. Long, Mr. H. D. Morrison, Mr. Jose Quatras, Mr. J. Galoez, Mr. A. G. Escamilla, Rev. W. L. Hornsby, Mr. H. Sutherland, Mrs. Sanford and child, Miss E. Ogden, Mr. W. McC. Osborne, Miss G. A. Hardie, Miss S. G. Hardie, Master R. W. Hardie and servant, in cabin.

Per French steamer *Polynesien*, from Marseilles via ports:—Dr. Mecre, Miss Mecre, Mr. M. Pontus, Mr. Papasian, Mr. Yuen, and Mrs. Mecre, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per American steamer *China*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. F. E. Barto, Mr. H. F. Bridges, Mrs. S. J. Bridges, Mr. W. W. Castle, Mrs. W. W. Castle, Mr. W. H. Childs, Mr. M. M. Crook, Mr. E. K. Crumb, Mr. J. Drake, Mr. R. Douglas, Mr. J. W. Duncan, Mr. A. J. Eveland, Mr. M. Friedeman, Rev. Edw. Fowler, Mrs. F. A. Gentz, Rev. E. P. Gilman, Mrs. E. P. Gilman, Mr. J. E. Grey, Archbishop J. J. Harty, Mr. A. K. Hitchcock, Mr. J. G. Howard, Mr. L. K. Kentwell, Mr. S. Kishi, Lt.-Col. C. H. Lanchheimer, U.S.N., Mrs. M. E. Levy, Mr. J. Lurie, Mr. A. McDermid, Mr. M. B. Meyer, Mr. V. L. Minehart, Miss E. O'Mara, Mr. W. W. Pettit, Mr. C. F. Pfefferle, Mr. W. F. Pointe, Mr. W. G. Pottinger, Mr. J. A. Rathke, Mr. M. Scherr, Mr. J. A. Sexton, Mr. F. H. Slagle, Mr. W. F. Sparklin, Mr. Herbert Still, Mrs. Herbert Still, Mr. J. B. Suttor, Mr. W. T. Townsend, Mr. W. F. Umphrey, and Mr. H. M. Van Tine in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *America Maru*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Miss C. W. Bailey, Mrs. L. L. Bailey, Mr. Thos. Bauman, Mr. J. T. Bigelow, Mr. C. M. Cooke, Mrs. C. M. Cooke, Miss Alice Cooke, Lt.-Col. A. D. Dobovsky, Mr. A. Estudillo, Lt.-Col. Fischer, I.G.N., Mr. A. P. Hagen, Mr. J. Hashimoto, Mr. S. Kojima, Mrs. S. Kojima and child, Mrs. W. W. Lockerby, Mr. Thos. W. Myrick, Mr. R. Onishi, Mrs. R. Onishi and child, Mr. C. Oshima, Mr. B. Stiebel, Mr. H. K. Strive, Mrs. H. K. Strive, Mrs. J. J. Seaver, Mr. U. Uchida, Mrs. U. Uchida, Mr. Y. Ukita, Mrs. Y. Ukita, Mr. Chen Cheong Wo and servant, Miss P. Zamora, and Mr. A. W. Taylor and servant in cabin.

Per French steamer *Annam*, for Marseilles via ports:—Mr. Papasian, Mr. N. Castello, Mr. Potin, Mr. Kojima Nobujiro, and Mrs. Papasian and 2 children in cabin.

Per British steamer *Japan*, for London via ports:—Mrs. Yate, Mr. H. Keswick, and Mr. and Mrs. Bourne, in cabin.

Per American steamer *Korea*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mrs. H. F. Allen, Miss Allen, Lieut.-Com. E. A. Anderson, U.S.N., Mr. K. Ando, Mr. W. P. Armstrong, Mr. I. Asaoka and servant, Mr. C. R. Bard, Mrs. C. R. Bard, Mrs. L. E. Bear, Master James Bear, Master R. Bear, Dr. J. N. Bristen, U.S.N., Mrs. Tong Bong, Mr. W. K. Brice, Mr. F. W. Carpenter, Capt. F. E. Cofren, U.S.A., Miss L. Curry, Mrs. E. H. Davenport, Miss E. Davenport, Mr. E. Devault, Miss Dunkin, Miss Alice Dunkin, Mr. Samuel Dusenbery, Mrs. Samuel Dusenbery, Master H. S. Dusenbery, Ensign H. Ellis, U.S.N., Mr. A. G. Escamilla, Mrs. A. N. Gade, Mr. J. Galoez, Miss Goodfellow, Mr. A. M. Gray, Mrs. E. E. Gregory, Mr. A. Guerrero, Mr. L. M. Guerrero, Mrs M. P. Hale, Mrs. Hardie, child and servant, Miss A. E. Hardie, Miss E. L. Hardie, Miss G. A. Hardie, Master R. W. Hardie, Miss S. G. Hardie, Miss M. E. Hawley, Miss W. M. Hawley, Rev. W. Hornsby, Mr. Vossuge Hozour, Miss Alice P. Hudson, Mr. Y. Imanishi, Mr. K. Iwaya, Mr. F. G. Kell, Mr. H. F. Kendall, H. H. Mirza Ali Asgar Khan, Atabake Azam, Mr. Mehdi Oouli Kan, Mr. Mirza Ahmad Khan, Mr. Hassein Khan, Mr. Abdollah Khan, Mr. Abass Khan, Mrs. James Law, Miss S. A. Long, Mr. M. Lopez, Mrs. E. S. Luthi, Mr. S. Mayekawa, Mr. H. A. Manning, Mrs. H. A. Manning, Miss I. Maret, Mrs. M. P. McCormick, Mr. J. S. McCoy, Mr. L. L. Moore, Mrs. L. L. Moore and child, Miss Moore, Mr. H. D. Morrison, Mr. S. Nunome, Miss E. Ogden Mr. W. McC. Osborne and servant, Rev. Sheldon Painter, Miss B. L. Pettigrew, Mr. Jos. Quartras, Dr. Ramsden, Mrs. Ramsden, Mrs. Sanford and child, Mr. Chas. Schlessinger, Mr. R. Schoen, Mr. H. Schossberger, Miss F. Sheppard, Mr. Geo. A. Sterling, Mrs. Stritmatter, Mr. K. Sugawa and servant, Mrs. K. Sugawa, Mr. H. Sutherland, Governor William H. Taft, Mrs. William H. Taft, Miss H. Taft, Master C. Taft, Mr. Carson Taylor, Rev. Henry Topping, Mr. K. Tosawa, Ensign E. A Weichart, U.S.A., Lt. Gen. L. R. Wilfley, Mrs. Chas. A. Willard and child, Miss M. E. Williams, and Mr. S. Yoshida, in cabin.

CARGO.

Per American steamer *Tremont*, for Tacoma:—

TEA.

	Canada.	Chicago & West.	New York & East.	Pacific Coast.	Other Cities.	Total Packages.
Hongkong	—	390	—	94	—	484
Shanghai	—	594	—	123	—	717
Kobe	—	425	—	—	—	425
Yokohama	236	200	—	—	—	436
Total	236	1,609	—	217	—	2,062

SILK.

	New York.	South Manchester.	Total Bales.
Hongkong	45	—	45
Shanghai	—	—	—
Yokohama	345	—	345
Total	390	—	390

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw & Waste silk shipped per steamer *Annam*:—

	Raw.				Waste.			
	France.	Swit.	Russia.		France	Lyons	Russia.	
L. Mottet	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
Siber Wolff	42	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jewett & Bent	6	26	—	—	—	—	—	—
Robison & Co.	—	30	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kaiki Gomei Kaisha	—	67	—	—	—	—	—	—
H. Bernardin & Co.	—	82	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jardine, Matheson & Co.	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sieber & Co.	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sulzer Rudolph & Co.	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Herbert & Dent Co.	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Bavier & Co.	—	—	—	—	179	—	—	—
Cl. Eymard	5	—	—	—	16	—	—	—
Total	121	215	5	—	199	—	—	—

Per British steamer *Japan*, for London via ports:—Waste Silk for Europe, 113 bales.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The market is still dull and lifeless.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER YARD.
White Shirting—{40 yds. 36 in. 50 yds. 36 in.}	0.09 to 0.10

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼ ℔, 38¼ yds. 39 inches	Y.2.85 to 3.60
Grey Shirting—9℔, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.80 to 4.25
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	3.00 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton Italians and Satteens	0.20 to 0.40

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	Y.0.35 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 32 in.	0.30 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.16 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.50 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 @ 65 inches	0.90 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5℔ per ℔	0.60 to 0.66
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	9.50 to 12.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.90 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0℔ 24-25 yards, 30 inches	1.90 to 2.25
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 5℔, 24-25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.65

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Y. 140.00 to 150.00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	—
Nos. 38/42, Singles	—
Nos. 32, Doubles	145.00 to 150.00
Nos. 42, Doubles	155.00 to 160.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/100, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	245.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	295.00 to 305.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	425.00 to 435.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling	Nominal.	31
Indian Broach		26
Chinese		23

METALS.

A fair business is passing for certain kinds but generally speaking there is little doing.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward	Y.3.95 to 4.25
Iron Plates, assorted	4.25 to 4.45
Sheet Iron	4.45 to 6.70
Galvanised Iron sheets	10.10 to 11.10
Wire Nails, assorted	5.30 to 5.90
Tin Plates, per box	6.40 to 7.30
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.95
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1½ inch)	4.95 to 5.45

KEROSENE.

Moderate volume of business. Prices are firm.

American	$3.25
Russian	3.10
Langkat	2.90

SUGAR.

Nothing to note in this market.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	Y.6.00 to 6.30
Brown Manila	5.90 to 6.90
Brown Daitong	4.80 to 6.20
Brown Canton	5.50 to 7.60
White Java and Penang	7.10 to 7.90
White Refined	8.50 to 11.25

INDIGO.

Still nothing doing.

	PICUL.
Java, Medium to best	270.00 to 320.00
Calcutta, Medium to best	180.00 to 290.00
Madras (*Kuryah*), Medium to best	140.00 to 170.00
Madras (Dry Leaf), Medium to best	100.00 to 140.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The state of the market is somewhat mixed. The decline in exchange has assisted holders in putting up *yen* prices, while the demand is fitful and irregular. News from consuming markets is bad, but the opinion of buyers here is evidently divided, some operating freely while others abstain altogether. Prospects are not bright and it is difficult to see how profits are to be made at present.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra Best, Coarse	Y.1,070 to 1,080
Filatures—Extra, Fine	—
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	1,020 to 1,030
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	—
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	920 to 930
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	990 to 1,000
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	900 to 910
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	940 to 950
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	880 to 885
Common—Coarse	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	930 to 935
Re-reels—No. 1½	920 to 925
Re-reels—No. 2	900 to 905
Re-reels—No. 3	890 to 895
Kakedas—Extra	940 to 945
Kakedas—No. 1	920 to 925
Kakedas—No. 1½	900 to 905
Kakedas—No. 2	890 to 895

WASTE SILK.

Prices show a slight decline, and there is not very much business doing. Stock is somewhat depleted and assortment poor.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	180 to 185
Noshi—Filatures, Good	170 to 175
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	125 to 130
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	115 to 120
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Good...	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Joshiu, Best	130 to 135
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	120 to 125
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	150 to 160
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	140 to 145
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	70 to 80
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	70 to 80

TEA.

The season is closed.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	—
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine...	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common...	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, January 7.

London silver ¼ higher and China sterling quotations ⅛ [illegible] ¼ higher have caused local rates on China to rule lower, whilst other rates have also declined $\frac{1}{16}$ for Bank as well as Private paper.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0$\frac{31}{32}$
— — Bills on demand..............	2/0¾
— — 4 months' sight	2/0$\frac{7}{16}$
— Private 4 months' sight..............	2/0¾
— — 6 months' sight..............	2/1⅛
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	254
— Private 4 months' sight......	259½
— — 6 months' sight......	260½
Hongkong—Bank sight ....per $100.	90*
— Private 10 days' sight do.	88*
Shanghai—Bank sight	78*
— Private 10 days' sight	80*
India—Bank sight	150
— Private 30 days' sight	153⅜
America—Bank sight..............................	49
— Private 30 days' sight	50
— Private 4 months' sight	50¾
Germany—Bank sight	206
— Private 4 months' sight............	211
Bar Silver (London)	26$\frac{11}{16}$

* Nominal.

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JANUARY 16TH, 1904.

BORN.

To Mr. and Mrs. C. S. GRIFFIN, Tokyo, on Wednesday, January 6th, a Daughter.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

FIFTY-THREE Chinese students arrived at Shimonoseki on January 12th from Hupeh.

A NAGASAKI telegram reports that the French warship *Pascal* arrived there on Jan. 11th from Annam.

A TELEGRAM from Otsu reports that a slight shock of earthquake was felt there on Jan. 11th at 10.37 a.m.

PRINCESS MITSU, daughter of Prince Kitashirakawa, has obtained the Emperor's permission to marry Count Kanroji.

IT is officially reported that a case of plague appeared on Jan. 8th at Yensui-ko, Formosa, and that the victim died.

THE New York *Journal* hears from Berlin that Princess Charlotte of Saxe-Meiningen, a sister of Emperor William, who has been ill for some time, is suffering from cancer and that the verdict of the physicians created consternation in the German court.

MR. T. OI, an official of the Nara prefectual office, attempted to commit suicide on Jan. 9th by cutting his throat with a sword.

MR. MATSUNO, president of the Bank of Japan, proceeded to Osaka on Jan. 9th and held a conference with prominent bankers there.

THE Hokkaido Railway Company has decided to issue debentures amounting to *yen* 1,160,000. These will be issued in the beginning of February.

THE *Kokumin* states that the branch of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha at Vladivostock has been closed. Many of the staff returned to Kobe on Jan. 9th.

MR. FURUICHI, the President, and Mr. Takenouchi, the Manager of the Seoul-Fusan Railway Company, will leave Tokyo at the end of this month for Korea.

A TELEGRAM from Nagano states that a gale prevailed on Jan. 11th to the south of Adzumi with the result that a house collapsed and a man was killed.

A COOLIE employed at the Ogaki station of the Tokaido line was run over on the evening of Jan. 10th by a train while he was attempting to set fire to a car.

THE steamer *Genyo Maru* went ashore on Jan. 10th off Areki, Hirato. A telegram from Saseho also gives a similar report, but the details are not yet known.

IT is officially telegraphed that small-pox is prevalent at Vladivostock. Twenty Japanese residents have been attacked by the disease and five have died.

THE Empress will leave Tokyo on Saturday for Hayama detached palace by the 9 20 a.m. train. She is expected to stay there for about three months.

THE Japanese Minister in England, Viscount Hayashi, has been unanimously elected Worshipful Master of the Empire Lodge of Freemasons, No. 2,108.

A LOCOMOTIVE collided on Jan. 11th with another in the warehouse of the Osato station, on the Kyushu railway, both being damaged. An engineer was injured.

THE Nippon Industries Encouragement Bank intends to declare an interim dividend for the last half-year of 5 per cent. The general meeting will be held on January 25th.

A TELEGRAM from Nagano reports that Kesa Shimidzu and her grandson, living at the village of Inouye, Takai district, were found murdered on the morning of Jan. 9th.

THE Crown Princess is reported to be suffering from slight indisposition. The Crown Prince, who was suffering from cold, is stated by the *Nichi Nichi* to have recovered.

IN consequence of a broken axle a car of a train coming from Kobe was derailed on the night of Jan. 8th at point near Oi river, Shidzuoka prefecture, causing damage to the line.

MARQUIS NABESHIMA, President of the Italian Society, Tokyo, on January 11th conveyed a message of condolence to the widow of the late Signor Martino, who recently died at home.

THE *Asahi* mentions a rumour to the effect that the Government intends to recall 50 *sen* silver pieces through the Bank of Japan and to issue again 1 *yen* convertible notes to the amount of several million *yen*.

THE Italian Court replied cordially on the night of Jan. 9th by telegram to the Japanese Empress, who had previously sent a congratulatory telegram on the birthday of Queen Elena.

THE Naigai Cotton Company, Osaka, has received a telegram from Bombay to the effect that the insurance companies in the latter city have agreed to suspend insurance on cargo to Japan.

T. SANO, a blue-jacket belonging to the Yokosuka Naval Station, committed suicide on January 8th in the house of one of his relatives, Nagatacho, Kojimachi, Tokyo. The cause is reported to be insanity.

THE N. Y. K. have suspended their European, American, and Australian services temporarily, while the T. K. K. have also suspended their San Francisco-Hongkong service in view of the present situation.

ACCORDING to the *Asahi*, the Nippon Shosen Kaisha has purchased the British steamer *Glengory* through Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Yokohama, for *yen* 150,000, and renamed it *Koto Maru*. The gross tonnage is 3,035 tons.

IT is announced by the *Asahi* that three Chinamen of Hongkong intend to purchase three gun-boats constructed at the Uraga Shipbuilding Yard. The price asked is *yen* 200,000 for the three. The ships are not completed.

THE wife of Okado, the chief priest of the Buddhist temple Choshoji, in the village Asase, near Tokyo, committed suicide on the evening of Jan. 9th, hanging herself with a cord from a tree in the garden. Jealousy is reported to be the cause.

ACCORDING to Tokyo papers, it is officially reported that the warships *Nisshin* and *Kasuga* left Genoa on Jan. 9th. They were expected to pass the Suez Canal on the afternoon of the 12th, and arrive in Japan about February 10th.

THE Hakata Railway Company has commenced the construction, under instructions from the Government, of a branch line between Suye and Niiharu. It is two miles in length and is expected to be completed before the end of March.

TOKYO papers state that the President of the French Republic has conferred a decoration on Kawamura Moto, a nurse of the Red Cross Society, for having attended French wounded soldiers who were brought from China to the Hiroshima military hospital at the time of the Boxer disturbance.

TWENTY-ONE Japanese stowaways were found on Jan. 9th on board the steamer *Victoria*. They were removed by the Harbour police to the Court. It is said that they left Kobe on the 7th by the same steamer, paying the proper passage money to Japanese men who declared themselves to be members of an emigration company.

A JINRIKISHA coolie ran into a canal on the night of Jan. 7th at a point near the Bizen-bashi, Odawaracho, Tsukiji, Tokyo, with his vehicle, in which was an American missionary lady. She had entered the vehicle at the Shimbashi station. Both were saved without injury by three Japanese passing at the time. It is reported that the coolie is short-sighted and was under the influence of saké. The following morning, the foreign lady went to the Kyobashi police station to return her thanks through the office to the men who rescued her.

FOREIGN POLITICS.

January 8.

All the Tokyo journals write as though Russia's second reply had been actually received, and the *Kokumin Shimbun* goes as far as to give publicity to a rumour that the Cabinet held a meeting on the 7th instant, and passed a resolution in favour of refusing to be satisfied with the reply, which resolution was at once conveyed to the Imperial Russian Legation by Baron Komura. These statements are somewhat bewildering in view of equally positive assertions in other quarters that the reply has not yet reached the Foreign Office in Tokyo. Possibly the explanation is that some intimation of the contents of the reply has been made by way of preliminary, and that there has been a consequent interchange of views. That would be not unnatural, and might be regarded as an indication on Russia's side of a sincere desire to reach a pacific solution. But we do not pretend to speak with any certainty. Secrecy is admirably guarded. The troublesome interjection of public opinion has been most successfully averted by the Tokyo Foreign Office. When the right moment arrives, confidence will be given, we have no question. In the meanwhile a kind of appeal appears to have been made to the opinion of Western nations by an *exposé* of Japan's proposals. That seems to us to have been an eminently wise move. Indeed no other effective method offered of dispelling the false impression produced in many parts of Europe by the inspired writings of newspapers which persistently represented Russia as conciliatory and Japan as provocative. Japan, in reply, lays her case before the world and says, "Here is what we have been asking for. Judge for yourselves whether it is moderate or excessive." The verdict of the world has evidently been what she hoped. In the meanwhile there is some not unnatural discontent in Japan since equal frankness is not displayed toward the people of this country, but the same cause for frankness does not exist, and we can not but say that in view of the war of criticism and the clash of political wrangling which would surely be excited in Japan by any revelation, whatever its nature, the reticent policy of the Cabinet appears to be the most prudent.

As for Japanese newspapers of all complexions they are virtually a unit in condemning further delay and in declaring that they have no desire for a peace of procrastination. If Russia can not control the arbitrary procedure of her officials at the front, and if she allow them to continue their disturbance of international amity, then it is for Japan to lose no time in adopting decisive measures. The *Jiji Shimpo* declares that Japan wants nothing from Russia now except a plain answer "yes," or "no." The Japanese nation is weary of fruitless colloquies and diplomatic finessing: it wants something solid and trustworthy.

January 9.

It is reported that the four Russian ships which left Vladivostock a few days ago for Port Arthur, have returned to the former port.

To-day (Saturday, 9th) all kinds of rumours are circulating in Tokyo. Some allege that Mr. Kurino has actually been ordered to haul down his flag in St. Petersburg. Others say that an ultimatum has been sent. Yet others allege that no conclusive step will be taken until a meeting of the Elder Statesmen has taken place. And finally there are folks who affirm that hopes of a peaceful settlement have not been entirely abandoned. The fact is that outside the inner circle of officialdom nothing is certainly known. What may be assumed, however, is that Russia's answer, whenever it arrived, did not prove satisfactory to Japan. We can not tell, however, whether it suggested any margin for fresh negotiations.

It is known to our readers that on the eve of Mr. Taft's departure from Yokohama, Marquis Ito came up from Oiso, and had an interview with the Secretary for War at the United States Consulate General in Yokohama. According to the *Nichi Nichi* Mr. Taft assured the Marquis that in the event of war between Japan and Russia, the United States would observe strict neutrality, and if Japan had occasion to employ American vessels for transport purposes, the matter would be treated with all lawful leniency by the Washington Government.

Japanese four-per-cents have fallen to £74 and Japanese five-per-cents to £86 15s. 5d. on the London market. On the other hand, the Tokyo Stock Exchange seems to have recovered its tone in some slight degree. Quotations are still very much lower than they were before the recent war scare set in, but they are considerably higher than they were on the 5th instant, the day of greatest depression, and nearly all the best securities show an upward tendency. We do not infer from this any existence of hope as to a pacific settlement. What has probably happened is merely that brokers and speculators have appreciated the folly of the panic into which they were thrown by the first prospect of war and have made the discovery that business affairs need not be interrupted seriously because international peace is disturbed. That is especially true of such affairs as railways, whether steam or electric, and indeed all forms of transport enterprises.

January 10.

Apparently the leading English journals are taking a very strong line with reference to the situation. In Reuter's telegrams, published elsewhere, will be found the extremely emphatic views of *The Times*, and from intelligence published by the *Jiji Shimpo* we learn that the *Standard* insists on the danger of Japan losing her opportunity if she continues to brook Russia's procrastination, while the *Morning Post* insists that the Anglo-Japanese alliance must have a strong influence on England's position throughout the whole of Asia, and that the Government should at once abandon its luke-warm attitude.

It is stated that with the exception of nine vessels the whole of the Russian Far-Eastern squadron is collected at Port Arthur. These nine are distributed thus—4 at Vladivostock, 1 at Talien, 1 at Chemulpo, 2 at Shanghai and 1 at Newchwang. The squadron at Port Arthur totals 20, exclusive of torpedo vessels; namely, 8 line-of-battle ships, 5 cruisers and 7 gun-boats. Preparations for action are in busy progress. The vessels are all painted black, and the greatest haste is exercised in fitting and repairing. About 80,000 tons of coal are stored and additional supplies are arriving. It is added that a great number of oxen have been obtained from the district about Chin-wan-tao, and that they are wandering about the hills at Port Arthur, there being no shelter for them.

Nothing can be stated about the general situation. Things remain quite uncertain so far as public knowledge is concerned. There has not yet been any meeting of statesmen in the Palace, as was anticipated, nor does it appear that anything like an ultimatum has yet been handed to the Russian Representative. The indications are that some sort of *pourparlers* are still going on, and on Saturday evening a feeling existed that the tension had relaxed in a slight degree, but whether there was any valid ground for such an idea, we are not in a position to say. What may be regarded as certain is that the margin of peace has dwindled to very petty dimensions.

The *Asahi Shimbun* comments on the effects of the Anglo-Japanese alliance. After noting that at first the alliance seemed disappointing to some people inasmuch as it had no influence in restraining Russia's aggressions in Manchuria, our contemporary asks whether the eyes of those that took that view are now opened. Could Japan venture to enter the arena against Russia to-day unless England were keeping the lists? A Japanese success would mean the certain intervention of Russia's European friends, and a Japanese disaster would signify the absence of all succour to save her from the worst. But with England for ally this nation can boldly take the field, knowing that no third party will venture to raise a hand against it. The *Asahi* then cites the many evidences of sincere friendship recently furnished by England, as the desire of her people to volunteer for service with the Japanese colours, the offer of nurses, and the employment of retired English naval officers and men to bring out the *Nisshin* and the *Kasuga*. Our contemporary concludes that England has done more than her part, and that Japan owes her a debt of profound gratitude.

It will interest our Japanese and foreign readers to know that Australia also has made offer of at least a thousand men to fight Japan's battles, and also has proffered the services of a band of trained nurses. Japan has not accepted the offer inasmuch as her military regulations do not sanction the services of aliens in her ranks.

Telegrams from London to the *Asahi* and the *Jiji* say that there are grave suspicions as to the purpose of the Russian Government in delaying the departure of the Bizerta squadron, that purpose being to intercept the eastward voyage of the two cruisers *Nisshin* and *Kasuga*. The cruisers were to have been ready for sea by the middle of this month but great exertions having been made to expedite their preparation, it was thought that they might start by the 9th. The Bizerta squadron could then catch them somewhere in the Mediterranean, supposing that a state of war existed, and to that end the squadron has been kept in European waters. It certainly seems not improbable that the Bizerta squadron would be employed in that way if war broke out, or even that its departure might be timed so as to threaten the *Nisshin* and the *Kasuga* throughout the whole of their outward trip whether a state of hostilities existed or did not exist. On the whole, however, it would seem that Russia's wisest plan would be to get out her own ships as quickly as possible. It would be a difficult matter to intercept the two cruisers between Genoa and the Canal, and once they were through the Canal, the stern chase would be almost hopeless.

January 11.

There is nothing special to report about the situation. Some rumours allege that the 20th will prove a momentous date, whereas others have it that nothing decisive need be expected for some time. All observers agree that Japan is greatly strengthened by the unequivocal evidences lately furnished of other Powers' sympathy. Then again there is evident uncertainty as to whether she would draw the sword were not Korea endangered, or whether she would regard Manchuria alone as a sufficient reason for fighting. The only solid point in this morass of conjectures is that no final step will be taken without another conference in the presence of the Sovereign. Count Katsura is laid up with influenza and could not attend such a conference. The question then is whether it would be held without him, or whether it would be preceded by a meeting of the Elder Statesmen at his residence. At any rate there is á moment of delay, during which we may be confident that those directly responsible are sparing no pains to find a pacific exit. It is noticeable that Marquis Ito does not come to the capital. He has been gravitating between Oiso and Hakone. There was talk of his arrival in Tokyo yesterday, and of Marquis Yamagata's coming at the same time.

The vernacular newspapers abound with statements as to who has been where, what Ministers have met what colleagues, what interchanges of letters and telegrams have taken place and so on. It is plainly believed that Barons Komura and Rosen are in the closest relations, and are exhausting their ingenuity to avert a warlike ending. Some papers allege that M. Arsenieff was to leave for Nagasaki on the 11th instant, carrying important documents for transmission to Viceroy Alexieff, and that a man-of-war would convey him to Port Arthur.

Meanwhile there are fresh rumours of a change of Cabinet, but it is impossible to place any reliance on such talk. The figures of Count Kabayama and Viscount Takashima, however, are much *en evidence*.

Since the above was in type we learn from Tokyo that a conference of statesmen took place yesterday afternoon at the Premier's house.

January 12.

The meeting of statesmen at the Premier's residence on the 11th instant was exceptionally large. It included the four Elder Statesmen, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, of War, of the Navy and of Finance, Field Marshal Marquis Oyama, Lieut.-General Baron Kodama, Admiral Viscount Ito and Real-Admiral Ijuin. This is the fullest meeting hitherto assembled. It came together at half past one and broke up between 6 and 7. It need scarcely be said that the exact results of the meeting on the 11th are not published, but what seems certain is that the nature of Russia's reply, though not satisfactory in substance, was of a sufficiently conciliatory tone to invite further negotiation, and that the meeting of statesmen did not go beyond determining what answer should be returned. We may fairly assume that it was not a reply in the nature of an ultimatum, and that *pourparlers* may therefore be regarded as still progressing.

The *Jiji Shimpo* deems it necessary and timely to advise that the declaration of war, should such a document become necessary, ought to be couched in the fullest and minutest terms. Hitherto the custom has been to frame such proclamations in terms calculated mainly to stir the spirit of the nation on behalf of which they are issued; but civilization has gone beyond that method. What Japan has to do is to set herself right in the eyes of Europe, and to that end she should submit to the nations not a proclamation of war so much as a manifesto of reasons.

The *Asahi* urges the Japanese Government to lose no time in appointing consuls to Mukden, Antung and Tatung, which are now open to foreign trade by the terms of the new commercial treaty with China. The United States will probably proceed with all expedition to exercise the privilege thus obtained, and a very interesting situation will arise, for certainly Russia must find it exceedingly inconvenient to have foreign consuls entering Mukden and Autung at this juncture. Of course under the most favoured nation clause all the Treaty Powers acquire the same right.

Before going to press we learn that the meeting of Elder Statesmen in the presence of the Sovereign took place yesterday, but the result is not expected to materially influence the situation.

January 13.

The *Asahi* declares that everything was settled at the conference in the Emperor's presence on the 12th instant, and that the Japanese nation has now merely to await the result quietly. In fact, without distinctly saying so, our contemporary constructively asserts that the conference decided on war. Very likely it did, in certain eventualities. But our own opinion is that the conference merely resulted, and was only intended to result, in formal sanction of the resolution previously adopted at a Cabinet Council. Everything appears to indicate that events have not yet emerged from the negotiation stage, and truly if some road to peace can not be found on the basis of such very moderate proposals as Japan has formulated, it will be a pitiful business. However, the *Asahi* evidently looks forward to war, and reminds its countrymen that they must be prepared to give not only their lives but also their treasure. There has been some talk of getting financial aid from a third Power. That kind of expectation had better be abandoned at once, says our contemporary.

Nagasaki transmits news that whereas the Russian Legation in Tokyo has been sending messengers to Nagasaki for the purpose of more direct communication with Port Arthur, Port Arthur has now sent a messenger to Nagasaki, who, with a suite of two, reached that place on the evening of the 12th, and after despatching a telegram to Port Arthur, proceeded at once to Tokyo.

January 14.

A telegram to the Osaka *Mainichi Shimbun* from Vienna suggests that the Russian Government is somewhat surprised and even alarmed to find Japan in an unequivocally fighting mood. All news of this kind must be received, we think, with great reserve, but on the whole there are apparently good reasons for thinking that, up to a very recent date, Russia doubted Japan's earnestness, and believed that very trifling concessions would suffice to avert all danger of war. She knows now, we may be quite sure, that such is not the case, and since on her own side the absence of any desire to fight in circumstances unfavourable alike from a strategical and a moral point of view may fairly be assumed, there ought to be no serious difficulty in coming to an understanding. The Osaka journal's news represents the St. Petersburg statesmen as strongly disposed to make concessions sufficient to satisfy Japan. We sincerely hope that the Vienna correspondent who sends this intelligence is well informed, but it is to be feared that unless the situation be saved soon it will prove to be beyond salvation. War exercises a grim magnetism of its own. Nations that approach too close to it lose their power of free volition and are drawn beyond recourse. That unhappy condition is on the verge of being realized in the East. Very soon it will be impossible for either of the disputants to step back without incurring the reproach from which above all others human nature shrinks, the reproach of cowardice. That would certainly be a miserable ending.

The *Jiji's* London telegrams say that Mr. Balfour, speaking at Manchester on the 11th instant, said that England was determined to discharge all her treaty obligations and duties towards her Far-Eastern ally and that no occasion exists for outsiders to discuss the matter vehemently or to interfere in any way. Side by side with this news comes another item, namely, that the leading English journals continue their insistent suggestions that Great Britain should materially assist Japan at this juncture. It is doubtless in reply to such counsels that Mr. Balfour spoke at Manchester. Englishmen appear to be looking beyond the questions immediately under discussion, and to be sensible that should Russia emerge victorious from her struggle with this empire, her position and influence in the Orient would be so enormously strengthened as virtually to overshadow every other Power. Evidently the fate of Manchuria is in the scales. Russia would go into battle with the determination that if she won, the compensation coming to her for her large expenditure of blood and treasure would be Manchuria. In the sequel of a successful war, any assurances previously given by her to China would become as evanescent as bubbles in water. Korea also would lie at her mercy, and that she would grasp it is beyond all question. For if England stood aloof when she might have availed herself of Japan's strong assistance to save Eastern Asia from Russia's domination, she will scarcely enter the lists after Japan is crippled. What is now at stake therefore, is large effacement for Great Britain as well as for Japan, and to that outlook English publicists have evidently awaked.

The Japanese Representative in Berlin, telegraphing under date of the 12th instant, gives the gist of an article appearing in the *Vossische Zeitung*. That journal says that the fact of Japan continuing the negotiations is a proof of her earnest desire to preserve peace. Nevertheless an event has now occurred which must still further complicate the situation; namely, the exchangs of ratifications of the new commercial treaties between China and the United States as well as Japan. These treaties provide that immediately on the exchange of ratifications, Mukden, Tatung and Antung shall be opened to foreign trade. It is, however, beyond question that Russia will object to the carrying out of that provision. Last summer the St. Petersburg Government promised Washington that no obstacle should be placed in the path of American trade in Manchuria. The question is will Russia observe that promise, and if she does agree that the United States shall at once enjoy the privileges guaranteed by the treaty, how can she discriminate against Japan? Thus Japan's position has been markedly strengthened by this exchange of ratifications. For by this event a foundation of legal right is given to one part of her demands.

Several Tokyo journals publish a telegram to the effect that M. Bezobrazoff and the other leaders of the War party in Russia have been completely discredited, and that St. Petersburg's thoughts are now bent upon peace. We sincerely hope that this may be at least a shadow of coming events, but underlying the item we seem to trace the hand of the untrustworthy news agency which so often misleads the Japanese public. A French journal recently stated that leave had been granted to Bezobrazoff. That is probably the proverbial grain of truth.

THE NEW TREATY MARTS.

The *Svet* is stated to have declared that attempts to open Mukden, Antung and Tatung without Russia's permission are merely incentives to Russia's indignation. Naturally a Russian journal, without any responsibility, takes that line. But the Russian Government is reported to have officially signified its willingness to see foreign consulates established at the new treaty marts. It objects, however, to the formation of settlements, and as settlements have always been counted an essential element of commercial equipment, an interesting question may here arise. The impression is that Russia would not be averse to American settlements, but she regards with extreme aversion the prospect of seeing a number of Japanese locate themselves at important points in Manchuria. No discrimination of that kind being possible, however, she must either allow all or none, and there would seem to be here a problem capable of causing some trouble. But, after all, the elasticity of the international conscience is perpetually surprising the world. Neither China nor the Powers combined have been able to recover from Russia's hands the administration of Newchwang, where she has even less title to exercise such functions than she would have at Mukden were the new treaties put into actual operation. If rights already possessed can not be guarded, what hope is there for rights not yet practically asserted? The United States may take a strong line about Mukden, Tatung and Antung, and unless England be greatly wedded to her modern policy of self-effacement, she too should put a strong shoulder to the wheel on this occasion, for here and now, if anywhere or ever, stands the question of the much proclaimed and acclaimed open-door policy waiting to be carried into effect. We do not see a very solid prospect, all the same.

THE LATEST FROM EUROPE.

It certainly excites our admiration as well as our indignation to observe with what splendid courage some European newsmongers transpose the parts that Russia and Japan are acting. Every month, that passes, nay every week, adds to Russia's belligerent potentiality in the Far East, whereas it brings no access of strength whatever to Japan's fighting capacity. Yet Europe has now the fine assurance to tell us that Japan is prolonging the negotiations in order to gain time for getting ready. For a long while the *mot d'ortre* was that Russia should be represented as conciliatory and Japan as provocative; but there is now a change of method, and we are to believe that Japan is simulating pacific intentions for the sake of completing her warlike equipment. These versions are too inconsistent to be artistic. Besides, a simple comparison of dates shatters this new theory. At the close of September Baron Rosen visited Port Arthur, and in the beginning of October he returned, bringing with him materials for a series of negotiations which are understood to have culminated in a very tolerable basis of agreement. An *ad referendum* basis, it was forwarded to St. Petersburg from the Russian Legation on the 30th or the 31st of October. Russia replied on the 11th of December, an interval of 42 days. On the 21st of December, that is to say 10 days subsequently, Japan handed in a request that Russia should reconsider her reply. Russia's answer came on the 7th of January, an interval of 17 days. On the 11th of January a meeting of Japanese statesmen was held in Tokyo to consider what answer should be made to this second note. Up to the present time, therefore, Russia's reflections have occupied 52 days and Japan's have occupied 16 days. Yet we are asked to believe that Japan is prolonging the negotiations in order to have time for completing her preparations for war. It is very thoughtless and very silly. Whatever delay is taking place now may be safely attributed to the earnest desire of Japan's statesmen to find a peaceful exit through which the nation will be willing to follow them. In saying this we do not desire to be understood as alleging that Russia shows herself unyieldingly obdurate. Unless general report be much mistaken Russia's last reply undoubtedly made some concessions; concessions which, though not enough to satisfy Japan, may at all events be accepted as evidence that St. Petersburg also is not bent upon fighting. It should be permissible to hope that, in such circumstances, bloodshed may be avoided.

THE CHEVALIER DE MARTINO.

The death is announced of the Chevalier de Martino, who represented Italy for many years at the Court of Japan. The Chevalier was only in his sixty-second year when the final summons came. During the latter period of his residence in Tokyo he complained frequently of heart trouble, and, the strong probability is that death resulted from that cause. A man of exceptional ability and a keen lover of literature and art, he took the liveliest interest in everything relating to Japan and the Japanese, always seizing every opportunity of displaying sympathy with the aspirations of this country and furthering its legitimate aims. From Tokyo he proceeded to Peking as Italian Representative. There he became intimately associated with Italy's attempt to obtain a share in the spoils of the post-bellum division of Chinese territory when Russia, Germany, England and France all profited by China's exposed decrepitude. The Chevalier was declared by Rome to have exceeded his instructions in pressing Italy's claim, but the public were inclined to conclude that he was sacrificed to diplomatic expediency. At all events he left Peking and remained for some time *en disponibilité* until a post worthy of his abilities offered in Brazil. He spent the last few years of life quietly in Italy, always looking forward to a period of renewed activity in the service of his country. Very many friends and admirers in Japan will sincerely mourn his decease. The Chevalier's son is in the Italian Diplomatic service and his daughter is married to Count Quadt, who filled the post of Secretary of the German Legation in Tokyo during the last few years of the Chevalier de Martino's residence there.

KOREA.

January 8.

A telegram to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* says that on the evening of the 6th instant a detachment of 20 Russian soldiers with 2 officers entered Seoul and proceeded to the Russian Legation, where they will be quartered for the present. We have not heard that the despatch of these troops was preceded by any communication with Japan, nor indeed was there any conventional necessity for such communication.

The Korean Government appears to have adopted extraordinary precautions in connexion with the obsequies of the late Empress Dowager. Not only were the Imperial Guards posted at every place in the immediate vicinity of the Palace, but numbers of policemen and gendarmes were also employed, and all the Legations were carefully watched.

It is stated that numbers of Korean soldiers and ordinary residents have fled from Seoul to the provinces, in anticipation of war, and that others are preparing to follow their example.

Li Keun-thaik and his fellow-thinkers, including Li Yong-ik, are said to have advised the Emperor that the situation does not present any elements of danger for Korea, inasmuch as Japan's bellicose attitude is assumed merely for the purpose of deceiving Russia, whom she has no intention whatever of fighting. These statesmen are alleged to have explained the arrival of American marines to a plot between the Legations of Japan and of the United States, the object being to lend colour to Japan's bluff. His Majesty, who had previously regarded the outlook with much perturbation, and who had even been advised to prepare for flight to the French Legation in case of emergency, is said to have been reassured by these assertions.

It must have taxed the ingenuity Li Keun-thaik and his friends to explain the arrival of British and Russian marines in rapid succession after the American. Evidently if there be any truth in these stories they indicate that M. Pavlow, who doubtless constitutes Li Keun-thaik's source of inspiration, still labours under the delusion entertained by many Russians, the delusion that Japan will not fight. There never was a greater mistake. Japan means business: means it with all her might. Those that know anything of her character know what that signifies.

The disturbances in the southern provinces of Korea do not seem to have been quelled. It is a question of taxation, and the people are said to be particularly incensed against Li Yong-ik. Petitions for his capital punishment have been presented.

January 10.

It appears that the detachment of British marines said to have entered Seoul on the 6th instant, did not really reach that town until the afternoon of the 8th. The detachment consisted of 22 or 23 men under the command of an officer, and had been furnished by the *Cressy*. It is intended to act as a Legation Guard.

Speaking generally the summoning of these detachments to Seoul is a natural precaution. Should Korea become the scene of any operations, or even of a mere demonstration on Japan's part, internal commotions may easily break out, not merely because there appears to be an evilly disposed element of the population ready at all times to take advantage of any occasion for rioting, but also because the rivalries and dissensions between political cliques seldom fail to develop violent proportions in the face of anything like a national crisis. But if it be true that Russia is sending a regiment of rifles, as a Saigon telegram published yesterday says, that would be an act bearing an entirely different complexion. A regiment of tirailleurs is not wanted to guard the Russian Legation in Seoul. The detachment already landed from the Russian Squadron can easily discharge that duty.

A telegram to the *Asahi Shimbun* from Seoul says that some 2,000 men of the Imperial Guards and the city's garrison have made themselves scarce, in view of a possible conflict between Japan and Korea, and that many of the citizens are preparing to remove to the provinces, or have already done so.

Further reports indicate that the so-called insurrection in the southern provinces of Korea is nothing more than a protest against excessive taxation, and that the movement has not assumed anything like an organized form, or been productive of serious disorder.

The *Nichi Nichi's* correspondent in Seoul says that Ming Yong-hwan recently appealed to the United States Legation for protection in the event of troubles. This statement assumes larger dimensions in the hands of the *Kokumin's* correspondent, who speaks of two or three Ministers of State as having taken the same course. Whatever the number was, however, Dr. Allen seems to have given the same answer; namely, that it is not the duty of statesmen to think only of their own personal safety in moments of national crisis, and that he trusted there would be no repetition of the escapade of 1896, when the Sovereign took refuge under a foreign flag.

Another detachment of Russian troops seems to have entered Seoul on the 9th instant. They numbered 47, and it is added that there are signs of further landing. The first Russian detachment totalled 22, so that there are now 69 or 70 Russian soldiers to guard the Seoul Legation. That is probably twice as large a force as any other Power possesses, but then it must be admitted that Russia has more reason to apprehend enterprises at her expense. An extra published by the *Chuo* on the evening of the 10th said that another force of 100 Russians was to enter the city on the 11th. That is probably an exaggeration.

On the 9th instant a detachment of 21 Italian troops with one officer arrived in the Korean capital to guard the Italian Legation. Thus the Legations of the United States, of Great Britain, of Russia and of Italy are all provided with garrisons. Germany will not be long before she makes similar provision for the protection of her nationals.

January 11.

It is reported from Seoul that another detachment of Russian marines, numbering 100, is about to enter the city. There is some uncertainty about the Russian force already in the Korean capital, but apparently official information puts the total at about 70 of all ranks. Rumours are persistent, however, that this force will quickly receive a considerable addition. Some telegrams speak of 20 men entering on the 11th and 100 more on the 12th, the idea being to bring the force up to the same strength as that of the Japanese. The *Nichi Nichi* has it that several hundreds were to have been moved up from the coast, but that owing to some unexplained cause this large programme has been abandoned, and the dimensions of the so-called Legation guards will be limited to those of the Japanese establishment.

It may be well to recall here the terms of the Komura-Waeber Convention, which is the only agreement regulating the forces of Japan and Russia in Korea. The 4th Article of that Convention runs thus:—

> IV. For the protection of the Japanese Settlements at Seoul and the open ports against possible attacks by the Korean populace, two companies of Japanese troops may be stationed at Seoul, one company at Fusan and one at Gensan, each company not to exceed 200 men. These troops will be quartered near the Settlements and shall be withdrawn as soon as no apprehensions of such attacks can be entertained.
>
> For the protection of the Russian Legation and Consulates the Russian Government may also keep guards not exceeding the number of Japanese troops at these places, and which will be withdrawn as soon as tranquility in the interior is completely restored.

Russia is therefore strictly within her conventional rights in bringing her force up to the Japanese standard. It must be confessed indeed, that such procedure accords ill with the pacific intentions attributed to her by her continental European friends. Japan remains in precisely the same military position as that occupied by her before these complications began, whereas Russia is plainly evincing her determination to regard Japan as a dangerous rival. The provocation is wholly on one side, it seems to us. That Russia should send a force to guard her Legation in view of possible eventualities would be natural enough, but did she care to avoid adding fuel to the fire she would be content with a guard of about the same size as the guards of England, America and other Powers, instead of seizing the occasion to show that her precautions are adopted against Japan rather than against the Korean populace. However, it would be unjust, perhaps, to elaborate this point.

Meanwhile it is stated that these arrivals of Russian troops contrasted with the absence of any such steps on Japan's part, are tending to sway Korean sentiment in the direction of Russia. That is natural.

France also is about to send a Legation Guard to Seoul, but we do not hear that Germany has yet taken any such step. She will do so, doubtless.

There are various rumours about Yong Am-pho. The *Jiji's* correspondent says that the place will soon be opened; the *Nichi Nichi's* that it has already been opened.

It appears also that the Korean Government has been prompted by the situation to contemplate various administrative, legal and financial reforms. Some of our Tokyo contemporaries are disposed to ridicule this move, but it also invites pity. Korea must be thinking sadly how much better it had been for her to put her house in order long ago. If she had done so, she would not now find herself in the position of a no-man's-land, not unlikely to be converted once more into the battle-field of nations contending for the right to dispose of her goods and chattels.

In the *Kokumin's* correspondence it is stated that the unhappy Emperor of Korea is still perturbed about his own personal safety. He is said to have despatched Li Yong-ik, Li Keun-thaik and another official to the French Legation, to make arrangements for their own asylum there in the event of trouble, and also to make preparations for being followed thither by His Majesty. But it would appear that the interpreter of the Legation declined to convey any such matters to his Minister. If he did decline, he certainly can not have acted on his own individual authority. He must have been in previous possession of instructions how to proceed.

The British Representative is said to have officially informed the Korean Government of the arrival of a Legation Guard—as did also the other Representatives, no doubt—and to have accompanied the notice with an assurance that the troops might be relied on to behave in an orderly and considerate manner. No one seems to have consulted the Korean Government beforehand, and their remonstrances in the face of accomplished facts would have been useless.

Three Ministers of the Crown are said to have represented to the Emperor that unless steps were taken to punish Li Yong-ik and Li Keun-thaik the domestic commotion now threatening could not be averted. The two Li were listening from an adjoining chamber to this impeachment—so the story runs—and they doubtless took immediate steps to obliterate the impression produced upon their Sovereign's mind. On the other hand it is predicted that the two Li will presently be at daggers drawn. Seoul is not big enough for two Richmonds. Li Yong-ik's star is in the ascendant, and he is said to have secretly warned the Emperor that nothing can save the State except the speedy decapitation of Li Keun-thaik and the latter's brother.

The business of guarding the palace on a scale of exceptional magnitude, a business nominally undertaken on account of the obsequies of the Empress Dowager, but said to have been really suggested by the Emperor's fears for his own safety, has resulted in extensive desertions on the part of the Seoul troops. It appears that the guards consisted in part of the Seoul garrison and in part of troops from Pyong-yang. The latter were treated much better than the former, and the consequence was that many of the metropolitan braves threw away their weapons and absconded.

The *Chuo's* correspondent sends a message to the effect that the two Li are endeavouring to induce the French Representative to undertake the duty of mediating between Japan and Russia.

January 12.

Another detachment of Russian troops, numbering 28 of all ranks, entered Seoul on the 11th instant. As far as can be ascertained the number of foreign troops in the Korean capital now is as follows:—

America	36	......entered on the 6th instant.
Russia	97	......namely, 22 on the 6th, 47 on the 8th, and 28 on the 11th.
British	22	......entered on the 8th.
Italy............	21	......entered on the 9th.

There is talk in Seoul of a change of Cabinet in view of the gravity of the situation. The new Ministry would have Ming Yong-hwan for pivot but would apparently be under the premiership of Pak Chong-yong.

It is reported by the *Kokumin Shimbun's* correspondent that the Emperor of Korea having asked M. Pavlow to state his views of the situation, the Russian Minister replied that Japan desired nothing more than the opening of Yong Am-pho and that there was little apprehension of her entering into a struggle with Russia. M. Pavlow recommended to Korea an attitude of the utmost caution, since any false step might now involve serious consequences.

The same journal's correspondent alleges that Li Keun-thaik and his partizans are now excluded from the Councils of State. This marked change is attributed to Li Yong-ik's representations. It will be remembered that previous reports from Seoul spoke of growing jealousy between the two men and the probability of a rupture. The relations of these politicians are difficult to understand. Li Yong-ik's complexion used to be very doubtful. At one time he was regarded as strongly pro-Russian, and that estimate received marked confirmation when, at a moment of loss of office and even personal peril, he was transported to Port Arthur in a Russian warship. But thereafter good authorities spoke of him as being inclined to Japan rather than to Russia, and some tangible evidences of that mood were said to have been given. On the one hand it can not be forgotten that Li Yong-ik was interpreter at the Russian Legation in 1896, when the King took refuge there, and on the other we have the unquestionable fact that he has of late been by no means a *persona grata*—in appearance at all events—at that Legation, his place in M. Pavlow's good graces being usurped by Li Keun-thaik. Some shrewd observers estimate that Li Yong-ik's colour in foreign politics is taken solely from whatever conjucture seems best adapted to his own interests, and that he has no settled principles of any kind. At any rate the present situation seems to be that Li Keun-thaik represents the Russo-phil party and that his star is sinking below the horizon. Perhaps it will rise again by the route of some catastrophe.

On the 11th instant the Korean authorities signed at Seoul a concession granting to the Kawakita whaling company the privilege of establishing boiling and curing stations at three places on the south-eastern and eastern coast, of which Ulsang is one. This matter had long been under discussion. The concession is for 12 years.

There are rumours of a Russian force crossing the Tumen into Korean territory. It has not actually crossed. The newsmongers are exceptionally circumspect in this instance.

The *Chuo's* Seoul correspondent wires that the Korean Government, greatly perturbed by the prospect, inclines to take shelter under Russia's wing, and that, consequently, the opening of Yong Am-pho is likely to be deferred.

January 13.

There is some confusion about the number of troops sent by Russia to Seoul. Whether she has withdrawn one of her detachments and replaced it by another, or whether she has merely added another batch, it is hard to make out. The *Nichi Nichi's* correspondent says that making allowance for everything in the way of exchanges, Russia has now 120 men at the Legation. There is nothing to be excited about in that, and indeed, to do the Japanese papers justice they do not appear to be at all excited.

It is stated that the Korean troops have been deprived of their ammunition lest they should fail to observe, in case of disputes between foreign nationals, the attitude of strict non-interference enjoined by the authorities.

There are said to be ten thousand Korean soldiers at Chemulpo, who, in the event of Japan suffering any reverse, would be likely to turn their arms against the Japanese settlement, and to include Occidentals in their onslaught. On the other hand, if a Japanese reverse brought about a Russian landing at Chemulpo, the European inhabitants are said to be apprehending worse things even than the contingencies of a Korean attack. Apparently they think that safety lies for them only in Japan's success or in the preservation of peace.

Some correspondents of Tokyo journals continue to report a growing tendency in Seoul to lean upon Russia, the impression being that Japan has no stomach for fighting and is merely making a demonstration.

Since writing the above official news has been received of the withdrawal of one small Russian detachment from Seoul and its replacement by a larger body of men.

January 14.

It is now stated that the total number of Legation guards sent by Russia to Seoul does not exceed 55 of all ranks, to whatever figure it may subsequently be raised. The *Jiji*, however, says that if the recent reinforcements be added to the guards already on duty at the Legation, the total becomes nearly 80. Some importance appears to be attached to this arithmetical question by our contemporaries in Tokyo, but truly one can not see what serious difference would result from fifty or sixty men on the plus or minus side.

An interesting point connected with these estimates of Russia's forces in sight is that Korea is represented in the light of a veritable weathercock moving at the impulse of the most trivial breeze. When the Legation guards of the great Northern Power seemed to be growing into the region of a hundred, the Korean disposition was stated to be all for Russia, but now that a score or two have been taken off the total, the fickle vane has revolved back again, and is moreover said to be in a very tremulous condition. It would add very much to the actualities and the prospects of Far-Eastern peace were the Korean Empire swallowed up by some strong Power.

The lumber question in the Yalu Valley is still unsettled. News published by Tokyo journals is to the effect that M. Stroniloff, who represented the Russian interest, recently returned an explicitly negative reply to the demands preferred by the Japanese commissioner, Mr. Okabe, and then took his departure for Port Arthur, leaving in his place an official ignorant of any language but Russian. This *remplacant's* linguistic equipment is said to be proving a successful barrier to further negotiations, which difficulty suggests that the negotiators can not be in very grim earnest.

CHINA.

January 8.

General Ma seems to be actively engaged making preparations to move his troops to the north-eastern frontier of the Eighteen provinces. Orders have been given for the delivery of five millions of rifle cartridges from Wuchang and Nankin. It is stated that China is embarrassed by lack of ammunition.

The *Asahi's* Peking correspondent wires that His Excellency Na Tung has the field practically to himself in Chinese councils at present, the pro-Russian party being altogether in the descendant. This does not mean, however, that China has definitely made up her mind to act one way or the other. She is still in a vacillating state.

There is again talk in Peking of a secret convention being on the *tapis* between Russia and China. This rumour crops up periodically when nothing more exciting occupies public attention.

M. Dubail is reported to have suggested to the Chinese Government that as the Russo-Japanese complication is likely to be adjusted by the intervention of the Powers, China's best plan would be to conclude an agreement at once with Russia on the subject of Manchuria. M. Dubail being an eminently prudent and tactful diplomatist, the various proceedings recently attributed to him by the newsmongers have to be discounted.

January 9.

Mr. Uchida, Japanese Representative in Peking, is said to have called on Prince Ching on the 8th instant, and to have conveyed to him the contents of Russia's second reply to Japan as well as the latter's rejoinder. The Japanese Minister further urged the vital importance, in China's own interests, of losing no time in effecting the exchange of ratifications in the case of the China-Japan revised commercial treaty.

There is a report from Tientsin to the *Jiji* that some six thousand Cossacks recently arrived from Odessa in Manchuria, and were distributed at the various points of strategical importance between Chita and Mukden.

From the same source comes a statement that the Russian force garrisoning Mukden now numbers twenty thousand, and that there is great activity in building barracks. The total Russian army now in Manchuria is put by this authority at a hundred thousand men of all arms, and he adds that there is an obvious intention of stationing a large force at Liao-yang as extensive quarters are in course of construction. In all directions there are signs of military activity, and special efforts are being made to establish defensive works along the Liao River.

The *Asahi Shimbun* has a telegram from Chefoo saying that the Russian ships at Port Arthur have landed all their superfluous gear and are hastening to get into fighting trim. It is added that every effort is being made to raise a warlike spirit among the men, but that little success attends these endeavours. The correspondent gives some trivial particulars in support of this alleged failure, but we do not think them worth quoting, for it is absurd to suppose that Russian soldiers or sailors need any special incitement to prepare them for fighting what they regard as their country's battles.

The Chinese, on their side, are said to be busily making warlike preparations, and the Viceroy of Canton is reported to have memorialized the Throne in favour of drawing the sword. But the eventuality against which the Chinese may be supposed to be getting ready is still in a distant future.

January 10.

A telegram to the *Jiji Shimpo* from Peking dated the 9th inst. confirms the statement that on the 7th Mr. Uchida called on Prince Ching and informed him that Russia's second answer having been received in Tokyo and found as inconclusive and unsatisfactory as the first, Japan could see nothing for it but to appeal to the *ultima ratio*. He desired therefore to be informed of the attitude that China intended to take. Prince Ching is said to have thanked Mr. Uchida for the information, and to have intimated that in the event of hostilities China would maintain strict neutrality. The same information is said to have been conveyed to Viceroy Yuan.

Latest news indicates that the exchange of ratifications is likely to take place immediality in the case of the new commercial conventions with China. The Japanese treaty was ratified on the 8th instant, and the exchange of ratifications will take place, it is stated, on the 11th, His Excellency Na Tung representing China. The exchange of the ratifications of the American treaty will be in Washington.

On the exchange of ratifications the question of opening the new marts will immediality come on the tapis. The United States Government is not likely to waste much time in giving practical effect to this part of the treaty, but at the quickest some two or three months must elapse before consulates are opened at Mukden and Antung.

The Governor of Sinkiang, in Kansu, is said to have telegraphed to Peking that Russian soldiers are entering Ili in constantly increasing numbers, and that there is much alarm among the inhabitants. He adds that if things be left in their present condition, some serious complication can scarcely fail to occur.

It is conceivable that Russia may be seeking to create a diversion in the direction of Ili. That would be shrewd policy, for in the presence of a new danger looming on the north-western horizon, China might and probably would look on her north-eastern troubles with more tolerant eyes. It is better to bear the ills we know than to fly to those we know not. For the sake of averting a wave of Russian aggression on one frontier, the Peking statesmen might be willing to endorse facts which are virtually accomplished in the Three Eastern Provinces.

The telegraph says that there are two Russian men-of-war lying in the river at Shanghai and that some apprehension is felt as to their possible action against Japanese merchant ships in the event of war between this country and Russia. The Japanese residents of Shanghai are naturally anxious to have a ship of their own nationality by way of protection.

January 11.

The Chinese Government's conception of the limits within which China has strength to discharge the duties of neutrality appears to be the district westward of the Liao River. Such is the idea we gather from a telegram to the *Asahi*. It is certain that Russia has never troubled herself much about the portion of Manchuria lying westward of the Liao, and she might possibly acquiesce in the theory that this region is beyond her sphere of influence. At any rate Viceroy Yuan is said to have received instructions to make whatever military preparations and dispositions are required for the above end.

There are two stories about the death of 3 Japanese subjects and the wounding of two others near the Golden Hill at Port Arthur. One report attributes the outrage to Manchurian banditti; another says that the bloody deed was done by Russians who objected to the continued employment of these men at Port Arthur. According to this latter version it is not safe for Japanese subjects to be abroad in the Liaotung peninsula. If that be true it indicates a very savage mood among the Russians, but we prefer to think that rumour is as usual an exaggerator.

January 12.

As anticipated, the exchange of ratifications of the new China-Japan commercial treaty took place in Peking on the 11th instant, Japan being represented by Mr. Uchida and China by Mr. Na Tang. The exchange in the case of the China-America treaty was to take place in Washington at the same time.

The Russian officer who has replaced Colonel Wogack is reported by the *Jiji Shimpo's* correspondent to have called on Viceroy Yuan and informed him that Russia has no desire whatever to fight, but that should the Japanese fail to appreciate her pacific intentions, she will not hesitate to draw the sword. He further explained that Russia's original reply to Japan's proposals had been a categorical refusal of one and all, but that subsequently for the sake of peace some slight concession had been made. It was not probable that Japan, conscious as she is of her own comparative weakness, would resort to war.

Reports of this nature come to us through a very doubtful medium. It is in the interest of the Chinese who convey them to impart to them a provocative colour, since, in existing circumstances, though China might gain by war between Japan and Russia, she thinks she can hardly lose. Perhaps too Colonel Wogack's successor is one of the typical "men at the front." At any rate such rumours are at once mischievous and untrustworthy.

Prince Su is said to have reported to the Throne that China having been requested by both Russia and Japan to observe strict neutrality in the event of war, all preparations should be made to enforce that policy throughout Manchuria as well as throughout the eighteen Provinces. Strict neutrality in Manchuria would mean that, in the first place, Russia should be required to evacuate the territory. No conception of neutrality can be reconciled with the fact that Russia would be using an immense tract of the neutral Power's domain as a basis of belligerent operations. Prince Ching's programme, as described in our last issue, is much more rational. The Prince would limit China's neutrality to the districts westward of the Liao River. Very likely even that procedure might prove too great a tax on China's strength. Certainly Russia would not regard the river as a boundary if it suited her convenience to ignore it.

It is alleged by the *Nichi Nichi's* correspondent that Russia is making arrangements to increase her Legation Guards in Peking.

A number of Chinese students for Japan were to embark at Chin-wan-tao on the 12th instant.

January 14.

Chang Chih-tung is again attracting some interest. The old Viceroy is renewing his efforts to return to the Yangtse Valley, where he would doubtless find much more congenial work than in Peking. The account alleges that he asked the Emperor and Empress to let him resume his former viceregal post, but they replied that at the present crisis his services were more urgently needed in Peking. Another story says that he has informed the Japanese Legation of the probability of his speedy departure from the capital.

The *Asahi Shimbun's* Peking correspondent wires that out of a fund of 40 millions of francs lodged with the Russo-Chinese Bank for the purposes of the Paoting-Chingting Railway, 10 millions have been sent by the Bank to the Viceroy at Port Arthur.

A telegram from the Chinese commander-in-chief in Manchuria says that in view of the imminence of war, the Russian authorities are not allowing the people to make any changes of abode, and are interdicting all movements of Chinese troops.

There is a report that the Russian Authorities at Newchwang recently proposed to re-name all the streets, their contention being that such a measure would facilitate administrative duties. They selected titles like "Alexieff Street," "Consular Street" and so on. But the Consuls objected that such a measure would bear a character of permanency which did not properly belong to Russia's administration.

Now that China is considering what shall be the limits of her neutrality in the event of war between Japan and Russia, it is interesting to recall the following, which appeared in *The Times* on December 1st, having been sent by its Peking correspondent on Nov. 30th:—

> Small bodies of Russian troops are patrolling the country round Hsin-min-tun, the termination of the branch line from the railway between the Great Wall and Niu-chwang, on the pretext of the alleged necessity of suppressing brigands in the country west of the Liau River, a region which, since the Russian troops were withdrawn on October 8, 1902, has been perfectly quiet and peaceful. Hsin-min-tun is only one day's ride from Mukden city, where the Russians recently largely increased their garrison. The Chinese expect any day to learn that the Russians have occupied the rail head at Hsin-min-tun and resumed the military occupation of the country down to the Great Wall.

It appears to us not unlikely that if China attempted to extend the neutral zone as far as the western bank of the Liau River, she would be apt to come into collision with Russia.

REVENUE.

The Government of Japan will soon find itself confronted by the problem of how to raise an increased revenue, since the expenditures made out of the special funds during the present crisis must be repaid, according to law. This question is taken up by the *Shogyo Shimpo* which suggests the following sources:—

	Million *yen*.
Land Tax (doubled)	36
Income Tax (increased by 50 per cent.)	3
Business Tax (increased by 30 per cent.)	2
Sake Tax (increased by 10 per cent.)	6
Home Tax, Tobacco Tax, Sugar Tax	20 to 30
Administrative Reforms	10

This is an extensive order, but we presume that should the country see itself confronted by war, the Diet will not raise any difficulty about increased taxes. One thing is certain, as our contemporary justly remarks, namely, that unless a different system be adopted in selling loan-bonds, they will find few buyers. The experience furnished by the China-Japan war-loans is fresh in the recollection of Japanese capitalists. When they purchased bonds in 1894 and 1895, they did so in full confidence that after the war was over measures would be adopted to redeem the bonds at par. But that expectation proved fallacious. Not only did the Treasury leave the bonds unredeemed but also, instead of adhering to the old system of redemption by lot at par, permission was sought and obtained from the Diet to effect redemption by purchases in the open market at the ruling price of the day. In other words, the Treasury instead of assisting to strengthen the market for the bonds, became a purchaser at lowest figures, thus discrediting the securities issued by itself. It resulted that capitalists who had bought bonds at par to assist the Government in a time of national embarrassment, had to sell at a heavy discount or be content to leave their money in a comparatively unprofitable investment. Some assurance must be given that no such methods will be pursued in the case of bonds to be issued hereafter.

Chinese silver sycee to the value of $200,000 was brought to Kobe on Jan. 13th by the steamer *Hakuai Maru* from Shanghai. It was at once taken to the Osaka Mint.

THE CHINA-AMERICAN TREATY.

The Government of the United States is evidently in deadly earnest about the new commercial treaty. Previous information saidthat the exchange of ratifications was to follow the ordinary course, which would have meant that a month must elapse before the operation could be entirely completed. But according to telegrams just received the exchange is to be effected by telegraph. We do not clearly understand the distinction, but apparently the difficulty of the former method is that the ratifications themselves have not yet reached the respective capitals. At all events the fact seems to be that on the 12th instant the Chinese Minister in Washington received the President's ratification and the United States Minister in Peking received the Chinese Emperor's ratification, and each having telegraphically communicated the receipt to the other, the exchange was held to be effected. It is added that Mr. Conger had already been instructed to choose Consular officials for the new marts, Mukden and Antung, so that the Stars and Stripes may be expected to be soon flying at those places.

A very strong article appears in the *Jiji Shimpo* about this incident. That journal says that happily a beacon-light for trade and manufacture has been kindled in the distance, but that its rays must be projected uselessly into the darkness so long as a third Power blocks the path, weapons in hand. Japan must not suffer this treaty to become a dead letter. She must assert the privileges thus legitimately won, and assert them by force of arms if necessary. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* observes that while Japan does not ask any third Power to interfere between her and Russia, she may reasonably welcome any incident which brings the States of the Occident into line with her. Such an incident is this new treaty. Its provisions can not be carried out so long as Russia remains in military occupation of Mukden, and China is powerless to terminate that occupation. She has not been able even to recover the administration of Newchwang, where so many other States have material interests. It will be necessary to assist her vigorously in the matter of Mukden, Tatung and Antung, so that the treaty may not become a dead letter. That is the only route to peace. Other newspapers speak in the same strain. The *Yomiuri*, for example, insists that Russia should be at once required to withdraw her troops from Mukden, and that if she refuse, the sword must be drawn.

THE ACTION OF THE JAPANESE DIET.

We are beginning now to receive the newspaper comments of the Occident with reference to the procedure of the Japanese House of Representatives in impeaching the Cabinet. Already in the middle of December, doubtless owing to statements appearing in the London *Times* and to telegrams published in its columns, it was beginning to be thought that Russia's "prime object was to force upon Japan the responsibility of beginning a war," by which manœuvre Russia would have figured before the world as the injured party. That is the way the journal from which we quote puts the matter. And then it goes on to say that in this policy the Japanese Representatives gave aid to Russia by proclaiming their dissatisfaction with the Government's conservative policy. In other words, the House of Representatives signified that it objected to a policy of patience. "Even traditional subservience to the Throne could not compel them to abate their demand that their country should show to Russia a bold, unyielding front."

The most sensible criticism we find in American journals is that of the New York *Tribune*, though it is evidently the criticism of one writing at a long distance:—

> It would probably be a serious mistake to interpret this action of the house of representatives as either a manifestation of hostility toward the emperor or a portent of war with Russia. So far as it is a reflection upon governmental policy, it is a reflection upon the ministers, and not upon the sovereign. The real significance of the incident probably is that the Japanese representatives are adopting European and American ideas more fully than before. For a European parliament, especially for the British parliament, in one house or the other to vote lack of confidence in the ministry is a common thing. It is sometimes serious, no doubt, but it is generally nothing but a move in the game of party politics. Nobody ever thinks of it as imperiling the dynasty, but as merely bringing about a change of ministry, or perhaps an appeal to the people and a general election. At Westminster there is seldom an opening of a session without one or more motions to make just such a critical and dissenting address in reply to the speech from the throne. Japan has now adopted the same custom. That, we imagine, is all this incident means. It is sensational, partly because of the nervous tension the world has been suffering over far eastern affairs, and partly—perhaps chiefly— because it is a "new departure" for Japan.

ENGLISHED.

It is strange that when correspondents of Western journals take the trouble to send home translations of important Japanese documents, they do not also take the trouble to choose, among the versions that offer, something at once true to the original and worthy of it. Here, for example, are the renderings of the Emperor of Japan's speech at the opening of the Diet and of the reply of the House of Representatives as published in America:—

> It gives us profound cause for rejoicing that the friendly relations between our empire and other treaty powers ever continue to grow. As regards the negotiations concerning the important diplomatic matter of maintaining peace in the orient and our rights, we have instructed our ministers to carefully attend to their duties. We have instructed our ministers to make a financial scheme and introduce it in the diet budget for the next fiscal year with other bills. You are required to discharge your duties and meet our wishes by harmonious, careful discussions.
>
> Your majesty has been gracious enough to open parliament personally to-day, delivering a cordial message, which has been received with great gratitude by this house. The empire of Japan is now at its zenith. Its position is one that has not been paralleled in the last thousand years.
>
> The members of your majesty's house of representatives profoundly regret that at a juncture so critical, involving the fate of the nation, the course pursued by the cabinet is ill adapted to the needs of the situation and is not consistent with the enhancement of national influences.
>
> The policy of the ministry has been shown to be inconsistent with the progress of the empire, being purely domestic and temporizing. Their diplomacy is a failure, and we humbly appeal to your majesty to review the situation. Solicitude for the progress of the empire dictates this reply, which represents the national expectations.

We do not recognise the *provenance* of this translation, and will therefore be acquitted of all intention to attach blame in any particular quarter when we say that, independently of containing matter which did not exist in the original, the above renderings are at once ungrammatical and hideously clumsy. As a matter of fact, all such documents in Japan are compiled with the utmost care and may be regarded as models of classical style. But their English parodies, as quoted above, make the Mikado and the Representatives talk like ill-educated children.

"THE TIMES" ON THE SITUATION.

Exceptionally keen attention seems to have been attracted in Tokyo by a recent communication from the Tokyo correspondent of *The Times* and by the resulting comments of the latter journal. The communication is not indeed very recent, since it is dated the 12th of October and it appeared in *The Times* on the 24th of November, followed by a leading article on the 25th. We reproduce the communication and also the editorial comments of *The Times*:—

> As a matter of historical accuracy it is well to correct an error which seems very prevalent in Europe. By several publicists the statement has been made that, if when, in 1895, she was required to retrocede Liao-tong Japan had exacted a Chinese engagement against the future cession of any part of Manchuria to a foreign Power, all subsequent complications might have been avoided. In point of fact, that is precisely what Japan did endeavour to exact. She stipulated that not only should China give such a promise, but also that Mukden and Taku-shan—a port on the Bay of Korea westward of the mouth of the Yalu—should be opened to foreign trade. Russia objected. She said that the stipulation was apparently directed against herself, whereas she entertained no ambition whatever with regard to Manchuria. Further, the French representative in in Peking espoused Russia's cause. He offered to Japan friendly advice in the sense that by pressing her demand she would offend Russia. Of course, Japan was not in a position to offend Russia, or, single-handed, to insist upon anything. Had it been possible for her to impose her will in any way on the three Powers confronting her, retrocession of Liao-tong would not have been inevitable. Inasmuch, however, as Russia, Germany, and France were ranged against her, while, on the other hand, neither England nor the United States showed any disposition to assist her, she had to abandon her demand of a guarantee. In short, it was not that Japan lacked foresight, but that she found no friend to show any practical appreciation of the foresight she actually displayed. This page of history is not known to the bulk of the Japanese people. Were it known, they would have additional reason to chafe against Russia's present action.
>
> Another misconception which appears to be current among the publicists of Continental Europe is that Japan's objection to Russia's permanent presence in Manchuria has its origin solely in disappointed ambition. The Japanese, these publicists say, wanting Manchuria for themselves, cannot bear to see it fall into other hands. Evidently no one is in a position to deny that allegation completely. It is not possible to vouch for the sentiment of every section of a nation numbering 45 millions. It may be affirmed, however, that never has a hint of any such ambition found expression in the Press or on the platform in Japan. The Japanese do, indeed, frankly claim that Manchuria offers an important field for their surplus population and for their commercial expansion, But not one of them argues that the attainment of these objects is incompatible with the maintence of Chinese sovereignty in the "Three Provinces." They say that it would probably be incompatible with the establishment of Russian sway, but they give no indication whatever of deeming it dependent on the establishment of their own sway. Two facts are brought out clearly by the writing that this crisis has inspired in Japan, newspapers writing, pamphlet writing, and manifesto writing. They are, first, that Japan fears for Korea, and, secondly that she fears for China, should Manchuria be absorbed by Russia. The first of these apprehensions is based on conditions apparent to all—namely, that Korea is necessary, not only strategically, but also economically, to the Power which holds Vladivostock and Port Arthur. It is in the ports of Southern Korea, not in those of Liao-tong or the Gulf of Tartary, that Russia must find her long-sought access to ice-free oceans, and if her line of communication from the Usuri to Port Arthur is to be secure she cannot have it menaced from Korea. This proposition needs no elaboration, but it has never been fully stated by Japanese publicists until the present time. As for the dangers to China, that is the Yellow Peril seen through Japanese eyes. It would be difficult to say whether the idea of welding the Chinese masses into an instrument for defending the East against the West has ever been entertained in Japan. During 38 years of close association with the educated classes in this country I have never detected any indication of such a thought, and if an even more ominous ambition with regard to East Asia's millions is read into the mind of Japan by European pessimists the Japanese themselves have always ridiculed it.
>
> Yet the Yellow Peril has reality in their foresight. They believe, as their recent writings show, that

it would certainly materialize into a vast menace were Russia settled in Manchuria. For she would then find it as easy to organize and equip an army of half a million Tartars as England has found a similar task in India, and the Yellow Peril would thus be launched, not against the Occident by Oriental leaders, but against China by Russian generals. This child of time may be still in the lap of a very distant future, but who dare dismiss it as a mere chimera? The wave of Russian aggression has been rolling steadily over the face of Asia for cycles, and certainly at this moment, when it threatens to engulf Manchuria, there are no indications that its impetus is likely to be checked. Suppose its momentum reinforced by huge legions of well-drilled, well-armed, and well-led Tartars, is there any power that could withstand it? Would not China lie completely at its mercy? The arms of the Tartars would not be unnerved by any feeling of patriotic reluctance to invade China. They would follow an Alexieff [illegible] Peking as readily as their forefathers followed Tai-tsung, and just as Tai-tsung prefaced his advance against the Chinese capital by overrunning Korea, so the Russian leader would find it necessary to protect his flank by a similar conquest. Russian journals in St. Petersburg and Port Arthur lately sought to convince themselves and to persuade their readers that the great northern Power's presence in Manchuria is necessitated by Japan's aggressive ambition. The existence of such ambition remained undiscovered until its detection by these publicists. They have also endeavoured to prove that the desire of Japan to add the Korean peninsula to her own dominions is her sole reason for objecting to its absorption into Russia's. Probably, if the heart of Japan could be dissected, some such desire would be found engrained in its fibre. But it may safely be affirmed that her thoughts do not run upon forceful conquest. She would be altogether content to trust to the slowly working instruments of commercial and industrial development, since her ambition is, not to annex for the sake of empire, but to preserve for the sake of protection. Russia in Korea would stand at the very gates of Japan, and Russia in Manchuria and Korea, with her shadow projected over China, would mean a sentence of perpetual restriction and shrinkage for Japan.

Extracts from an Editorial in *The Times*:—

Delay puts, as we very well know, a considerable strain on the patience of the Japanese people. That might conceivably be a salutary national discipline, though as a matter of fact Japan has, for a young Empire, given such indubitable proof of her self-control that she cannot fairly be said to stand in need of a lesson from the school of experience. A more serious point is that the prolongation of the crisis may have an embarrassing effect upon her economically, temporarily impairing to some extent her commercial enterprise. Even this, we believe, she could bear so long as she felt it was putting no intolerable strain on the national prosperity, and did not pass the limit at which no powerful and self-respecting State could submit to it with honour. The horizon is heavily clouded, but the Japanese, with all their keen patriotism, are so essentially practical that they are much more likely to accept a reasonable compromise than to wreck themselves in the pursuit of vaulting ambition.

Such, at any rate, is, we believe, the view held by all well-informed people in this country who have got beyond the elementary idea of Japan as an upstart State, and have made some effort to understand the modern history of the Far East and the true nature of the forces at work within and around the moribund Empire of China. It was expressed with compactness and felicity at the Guildhall banquet by the Prime Minister. Our Japanese allies, he said, are as certain to show moderation, discretion, and judgment in the demands they make as firmness in carrying those demands into effect. This gives in a sentence a very just appreciation of Japan's political virtues. * * * * Essentially moderate as we believe our ally to be, we do not expect, or desire, to see her backing down before Russian demands or making concessions in an infinite series. We realize perfectly well how vital to her permanent interests is the problem she has to consider, and we recognize that there is a point beyond which she will find it expedient not to go. She will not, we presume, relinquish the firm front she is at present maintaining on any terms short of the guarantee of her legitimate interests in Korea. But this is not a point on which there is really any necessity for us to educate the Japanese. They have the problem at their very doors, in the forefront of their external policy, as it has always been in recent days, and they know it as we cannot expect to do. But we know enough about it to be satisfied that Japan is doing nothing hastily or rashly when she lays her finger on the border of Korea as the limit to Russia's agressive expansion.

For Russia in Korea, as our Tokyo Correspondent told us in the very interesting article from his pen which we published yesterday, would stand at the very gates of Japan, and Russia in Manchuria and Korea, with her shadow projected over China, would mean a sentence of perpetual restriction and shrinkage for the young empire. It would take the hardiness of that bellicose Russian print the *Novy Krai*, which the other day affirmed that all that could be tolerated in the matter was the immigration of Japanese into Korea under control, seriously to traverse this assertion. Nobody can look at the map of the Far East without seeing that Japan has the best of reasons for objecting to the armed presence of Russia in the Hermit Kingdom; and nobody who knows anything of the close economic and industrial interdependence of Korea and Japan will deny that the Japanese have every justification for scrutinizing with a jealous eye attempts by the Russians to exploit the mainland country. Japan has seen, like the rest of the world, the vast political consequences of a railway concession in Manchuria, and when the Russians began pushing to mysterious dimensions their timber concession in the valley of the Yalu and making the most of their very dubious position at Yongampho, a situation was obviously created which Japan could not afford to neglect. She did her best in 1895 to exact an engagement from China not to cede any of Manchuria to a foreign Power, but confronted by the united force of three European Governments, she was naturally debarred from pressing that claim with effective results. She knows nothing of those vast dreams of Asiatic aggrandisement which have their birth in the brains of Europeans who are either maliciously disposed towards her or ill-acquainted with the facts. If there is a yellow peril, it is, as our Tokio Correspondent has suggested, much more likely to be found some day in Tartar legions launched southwards by the might of Russia than in the designs of a Power whose best interests lie in commerce and in peace.

The *Kokumin Shimbun* translates a part of the Tokyo correspondent's letter, but apparently the leading article in *The Times* has escaped our local contemporary's observation. Emphatically, however, the *Kokumin* insists that the real danger for the East is a conquering Colossus with a Russian head and an Asiatic—or, to put, it more accurately, a Tartar—body, and that such a peril menaces not the Orient alone but perhaps also the Occident. Further the world should understand clearly, says the Tokyo journal, that when Russia intrudes into Korea her conduct is as that of a man who enters a neighbour's house and purloins his sword.

NAVAL PROGRESS IN GERMANY.

The launch of certain German warships within recent weeks, and particulars published concerning the naval progress that is being made in Germany, have attracted interest, and evoked comment in England. The *Army and Navy Gazette* says, for instance:—"It is impossible for us not to regard the rise of Germany and the expansion of her fleet without a great deal of curiosity and some concern. The Emperor has declared that the future of the Fatherland 'lies upon the water,' and last December, at the new Palace, Potsdam, he said that every day showed more plainly a sound development of the country without the co-operation of sea power to be impossible—*nicht denkbar* was the phrase he used. In the year-book of the German 'Nauticus,' a chapter upon World Politics and Sea Power expresses the ideas of those who are doing great things to extend German influence at sea. Within the last thirty years the population has increased from 41,000,000 to 58,000,000, and where four men lived there are now six, while one man out of five is dependent upon food from abroad. Germans are found extending the commerce of their country in every market and emporium of the world, and the foreign commerce of the country has increased by leaps and bounds until it has reached a volume whose magnitude a few years ago was never anticipated. 'Nauticus' expresses the feeling of Germany when he qotes the Hanseatic maxim, 'My Field is the World.' The German colonies laboured under difficulties, but their time is coming, and the colonial agitators are asking for more. It is not, therefore, surprising that a great fleet should be called for and constructed. In World Politics, says 'Nauticus,' that Power has the advantage which possesses the greatest strength at sea, and he holds up the lesson of Fashoda as an inspiration and a warning to his countrymen. He tells them that imperfect preparation is dear and useless, and we hear the ring of Captain Mahan's words where he says that the fall of Bonaparte resulted from the battle of Trafalgar—he might have said from the sea conditions that made Trafalgar possible—and that Moscow, Leipzig, and Waterloo were the logical consequences of French naval decline. The passage of the German Navy Act was something of a surprise to those who were acquainted with the hesitancy which had characterised the dealings of the Reichstag with naval affairs in earlier years. In the votes of this present year the navy has shared to some extent in the industrial depression recently felt in Germany. The estimates amounted to 216,300,000 marks, but the votes were only 209,500,000, the consequence being that in certain directions progress will be retarded. A river gunboat and a storeship will not be put in hand, and the reconstruction of the *Kaiserin Augusta* and *Irene* will not be begun. There will also be some reduction in the sums allotted to the artillery and torpedo armament of the battleships. These matters are greatly regretted by the strong advocates of naval expansion, but they do not touch the organic development of the fleet under the scheme of the Navy Act. Provision is made for two new battleships, *M* and *N*, for a large cruiser designated as *Ersatz Deutschland*, the small cruisers *M* and *Ersatz Merkur* and a division of torpedo boats or destroyers. The plan of transferring the men from the old hulks to barracks on shore is in hand, and torpedo stations are being established, while improvements are going forward in the ports, including Danzig, which is to undertake a larger share of work, and is to be provided with a floating crane and a floating dock. . . . . Turning to the *personnel* of the German fleet, we find expansion going on commensurate with the growth of the navy."

THE OUTCOME OF WAR.

An article in *Harper's Magazine* on the results of a war between Russia and Japan has been somewhat widely quoted and appears to command credence in civilian circles. There are reasons, however, for doubting the correctness of the writer's conclusions. He alleges, for example, that defeat would mean annihilation for Japan, as she is much more vulnerable than Russia, since the real Russia lies thousands of miles away with Asian deserts and Siberian wastes between, whereas "Japan is open on all sides to attack by the Russian fleet and invasion would mean for her the end of the game." Surely it is a little illogical to talk of Russia being farther away from Japan than Japan is from Russia? We are reminded of the tiger that measured 13 feet from the top of his tail to the end of his nose and 18 feet back from his nose to his tail. The Asian wastes and Siberian deserts are just as great a barrier to Russia's advance against Japan as they are to Japan's advance against Russia. It is unquestionably true that Japan can not reach a vital part of Russia's immense frame, but it is not true that "all Japan's 45 million children, her cities and resources are open on all sides to attack by the Russian fleet." Very few places indeed are open to such attack. Any hostile squadron attempting to reach an important city in Japan would have to run the gauntlet of powerful forts. The writer in *Harper* appears to forget that the Japanese islands are fortified perhaps as strongly as any region in the world is now or ever was. Concerning invasion, again, that chimera scarcely merits a moment's serious attention. To invade Japan would be a task far beyond the strength of any Power, not excluding Russia. People that have no knowledge of military affairs talk of carrying an army of two or three hundred thousand men over the sea and landing them on foreign soil as though such performances were within the range of every-day doings. It is just conceivable that England, did she strain her capacities to the very utmost, might be able to transport to Japan from India a force of a hundred and fifty or two hundred thousand troops; but she would require ample time and entire freedom from molestation *en route*. And when she did get her army to Japan it could not effect anything permanent. But for Russia the whole feat from beginning to end would be impossible. She is not in any way equipped for over-sea fighting. We do not mean to suggest any superiority for Japanese troops over Russian or English. Nothing is further from our thoughts. The simple fact is that the invasion of a far distant over-sea country which possesses a fine army and ample means of defence is a task not to be contemplated by any modern State.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Many complaints are reaching us about the late delivery of the *Japan Mail*, more particularly in towns to the north of Tokyo. We have made enquiries and find that the fault does not lie with the Yokohama Post Office, but with the authorities in Tokyo. To give three instances of the delays in the Tokyo Post Office, we may mention that a letter posted at the Netherlands Legation on January 2nd reached us on Sunday, January 10th at 9.30 o'clock; a letter, enclosing a postal order, sent from Azabu on Dec. 31st reached us at 11 o'clock on Sunday, January 10th; another letter posted in Tsukiji on the evening of December 31 addressed to this office was delivered on Saturday, January 9.

We hope that the Tokyo Postal Officials having now distributed the accumulated mails of the New Year will endeavour to deal with each day's work as it comes along. To our country subscribers who naturally at this time are anxious to get their papers as early as possible we can but extend our assurances that everything that can possibly be done in this office to expedite the delivery of the paper will be done.

The Tokyo Post Office has not yet caught up with its daily business. By the 10 o'clock delivery on Wednesday (Jan. 13) we received in Yokohama a postcard which had been posted on the morning of January 7th! This note will, we hope, explain to some of our correspondents in Tokyo why it was that the usual announcements of church services in the capital failed to appear last Saturday—their postcards did not reach as till Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

DR. BAELZ' CRITICISM OF STRATZ.

Dr. Baelz asks us to correct two inaccuracies in our recently published translation of his interesting criticism on the work of Mr. C. H. Stratz. Our translator made Dr. Baelz say:—"I think, without being presumptuous, that I have a special right to criticism for the matter in Stratz's book is so completely built up from my own works, that without them it could not have been written at all." Instead of "the matter in Stratz's book," the translation should run, "as far as actual facts are concerned, Stratz's book, etc." Dr. Baelz says:—"In German I used the expression *das sachliche* and put it in italics to show the sharp distinction I wanted to draw between actual data, which he borrowed from me (as the average height, the proportions of the body and other anthropological facts) and what he gives on his own account. As the translation runs the reader might suspect me of having furnished to Stratz far more material than I actually have, for if the 'matter' of the book is entirely built up on my own works, then people might suppose that by me also were suggested the thoughts and ideas on art which I afterwards repudiate. I of course take the responsibility for the actual data borrowed from me, but I refuse to have anything to do with the windy structure he raises upon these foundations."

The second inaccuracy is that the translation makes Dr. Baelz say "such prints as pictures of Kyosai," whereas he really said "such prints, and pictures of Kyosai." Kyosai never made prints as might be suggested by the words "such prints as pictures of Kyosai." But this is merely a printer's error, "as" being written for "and."

A REMARKABLE STORY.

On December 8th *The Times* published the following from its Paris correspondent:—

It will be remembered that in the early part of October intelligence reached different quarters in Europe from the Far East of the appearance of a large Japanese squadron on the Korean coast off Ma-san-pho. It was supposed that the information might refer to the annual despatch of relief guards for the Japanese telegraph lines in Korea. Confirmation of the news in question came, however, from *The Times*' correspondent at Seoul a fortnight later when he announced that "the recent visit of a large Japanese squadron to Ma-san-pho had increased his (the Emperor's) feeling of apprehension." To-day the Paris *New York Herald* publishes an interesting communication from its correspondent at Port Arthur, dated November 14, giving particulars of the Japanese expedition.

This authority recalls the fact that some weeks ago the Japanese squadron caused quite a sensation by sailing into the bay of Ma-san-pho and apparently preparing to take possession of it. The original plan, as explained by the *Herald's* correspondent, was that the Japanese fleet, escorting a number of transport ships, should make a sudden descent on Ma-san-pho. Everything was to be carried out exactly as if the intention had been to seize that or some other Korean port. Care was taken to let a slight inkling of the affair escape so that the Russian authorities should feel convinced that their enemies were in earnest. The correspondent says that the plan was very nearly being successful, as if the Russian vice-admiral at Port Arthur had received his orders six hours earlier, he would have sunk the Japanese transports without hesitation. These transports appear to have had but a handful of men on board.

Whatever the intention of the Japanese may have been, the construction put upon it by the *Herald's* informant, which is possibly that of the Russian authorities at Port Arthur, is that the Japanese idea was to prove that their squadron had been wantonly attacked by Russia while engaged in mere naval manœuvres consisting of a trial transport of men to Korea. They would have been able to prove that there was only a small number of men on the sunken tansport, and that consequently Russia was in the wrong and was the real aggressor. The Japanese fleet could have worsted that of Russia and could have attacked Port Arthur. It is not without interest to note that the correspondent and, presumably, his Russian informants attribute the conception of the Japanese scheme to the discovery of a serious defect in the defences of Port Arthur. He says that during the Russian naval manœuvres a section of the squadron which represented the invaders succeeded in landing a large body of troops a little north of Ta-lien-wan owing to an unaccountable break in the land defences. Six regiments penetrated into the fortress and captured it. The news of the defect in the fortifications is supposed to have reached the Japanese Government by telegraph from Chifu. As the defect in the defences of Port Arthur could not be made good for weeks, the Japanese, it is said, were bent on taking advantage of the opportunity.

"In petty strategy," says the representative of the *Herald* at Port Arthur, "the Japanese are infinitely ahead of the Russians. I do not know how the two nations stand with regard to the higher strategy of war. Seeing that its scheme had failed, the Japanese Government listened courteously to a hint dropped casually by the Russian Minister in Tokio with regard to the presence of its squadron at Ma-san-pho and the anxiety caused thereby in Russia. . . . . Some time after the Japanese mentioned in their turn the violent tone of the *Novy Krai*, supposed to represent Admiral Alexieff. . . . . The result was that the articles in the *Novy Krai* became suddenly peaceful. . . . I am sorry to state that Russia's object is merely to gain time. She has no more intention of allowing Mukden or any other town in Manchuria to be opened, or of evacuating Manchuria than she ever had. So far as I can gather from my conversation with Russians, and from the tone of the Russian Press, her position is this. She is ready to bestow an unctuous benediction on Japan's efforts to civilize Formosa. She is even prepared to go so far as to approve, within certain limits and under certain guarantees and conditions, of Japanese emigration to Korea. But when asked to open up Manchuria, or even to give Japan a free hand in Korea, she answers only with the half-amused, half-pitying smile of a man whom a spoilt child asks for the moon."

To what special faculty, or lack of faculty, the invention of such tales should be ascribed it is hard to tell. In this instance there was a grain of truth for 21 Japanese war ships did sail to Masampo at the close of September, arriving there on the 29th of that month, and remaining a few days. But all the embroidery about the decoy transports and the scheme of betraying Russia into warlike action is pure invention. It might have occurred to the Port Arthur correspondent that Russia is not the guardian of southern Korea, and she would be arrogating a singular position did she undertake to expel by force of arms everyone agressing there.

THE UNITED STATES OF EUROPE.

Mrs. Emily Crawford writing in the December *Fortnightly Review*, says:—Edgar Quinet, and Charles Lemonnier, then a French advocate and counsel for the Northern railway company, "proclaimed" at a peace congress at Geneva, in the sixties, the United States of Europe. Victor Hugo echoed the proclamation, which called forth enthusiasm among French Republicans. But the 1870 war and its consequences quenched for some time the sacred fire. I am sure it is but smouldering and not extinct. A few months ago, the Italian statesman Luzzatti declared his sympathy for the abolition of frontiers in Europe, and I am aware that in other countries not only poets, but very matter-of-fact statesmen, accustomed to responsibility, are of the same way of thinking. Europe now seems almost ripe for federation. European middle-class minds are united in scientific knowledge and faith. They have received an almost identical high-school and university training. Their different patriotisms—I would lay great stress on this remark—are of similar *quality*; ideal and historical, very different from the realistic patriotism of newer countries. My forecast of Europe is federation. The lessons of the Boer war and the commercial competition of the United States bid Europe to federate. Submarine destroyers will work in this direction. Russia wants quietly to digest her more recent acquisitions. A universal impulse in favour of peace may be felt everywhere on this continent. The action of three monarchical states in sending squadrons to Algiers to salute President Loubet is a hopeful sign. Europe has been lopsided since 1871; firstly, under the diplomatic supremacy of Bismarck; and, secondly, under the effect of the Russian-French alliance, which has been more or less of a mystification for the French. Europe is manifestly recovering her balance. France sees that she has drawn too many chestnuts out of the fire for Russia, and is sick of militarism. She would gladly revert to her eighteenth-century status, when she had an intellectual sway and was supreme in art and fashion from the Neva to the Tagus. She does not ask better than to refer troublesome international questions to The Hague conference. Nothing short of a revolution has taken place since the death of President Faure in French ideas about military prowess and glory. The French begin to feel that they are too good for the rough colonial work of the world, and that, in addicting themselves to art and science chiefly, they can hold an enviable primacy in the world. Americans should not imagine that Europeans are their inferiors. The nations of the world are chained down by survivals of the bad old times, by vested interests based on birth privileges and monopolies, and by the disunion among the European peoples which necessitates big armies. Circumstances render Americans free of all these fetters. When a European can follow a vocation without any let or hindrance, he does as well as the best American, and may do better, on the very high peaks of intellect, whether in science or in literature. Berthelot has no parallel anywhere. Marconi and Hertz equal Edison—to put it very mildly—and Lord Kelvin is illustrious as an inventor. The emancipation of Europe from the military incubus would free her genius, give it wings, and enable it to soar to heights yet undreamt of. Hope and joy could not but stimulate the sense of beauty, so strong in most European races, and better material conditions give scope to warm-hearted, generous sentiment. The European man or woman values happiness more than great wealth—a state of mind that helps the artist, author, or scientist, and is the beginning of wisdom. The French and the Germans enjoy more than the British, save the Scotch, the use of their higher intellectual faculties. The Spaniard is happy in feeling he has a highly wrought soul, and Italy is a country of great mental and esthetic capabilities. The neutral states are forward in the production of middling people and a decent working class population, but are not distinguished for high thought. A small country breeds small minds. Ibsen, however, relieves Norway from this reproach, and Maeterlinck Belgium. Denmark boasts of a great critic, Brandes. Nobel, whose peace prizes have rewarded the efforts of Frédéric Passy and Ducommun, was a Swede. He looked forward to a federated Europe, but never hoped to see it. Though asked to speak of war dangers, I feel bound rather to descant on peace prospects, and on the good time for Europe which I see coming.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

The Additional Convention concluded between Austro-Hungary and Japan ceased to be operative, according to its terms, on the 31st of December and the fact has now been officially announced. This Convention provided for mutual tariff concessions with regard to imports from the territories of one of the contracting parties to those of the other.

We read in the *Kokumin* that the Asiatic Society of Washington has telegraphed a message to the Yokohama branch, in the sense that Japan is fighting for civilization if she engages Russia; that she has the sympathy of the American people, and that she need not fear anything.

It is reported that the personnel of the Military Council recently instituted by Imperial Ordinance will be as follows:—

Field-Marshal Marquis Yamagata.
Field-Marshal Marquis Oyama.
Admiral Yamamoto, Minister of the Navy.
Lieut-General Terauchi, Minister of War.
Admiral Viscount Ito,
Admiral Count Kabayama.
Admiral Baron Inouye.
General Count Nozu.
General Baron Kuroki.
General Baron Oku.
Lieut-General Baron Kodama.
Rear-Admiral Ijuin.

It appears that the question of freights for transports has been settled. The Government has agreed to pay nearly what the Nippon Yusen Kaisha asked, namely, 4.50 *yen* for first-class ships, 4 *yen* for second-class and 3.50 for third-class.

On the whole we can not but think it wise on the part of the authorities to interdict at this juncture the publication of all newspaper items about the movements of ships and troops. It is better that the public should not be kept in a fever of excitement by stories of which the vast majority have no grain of truth. Be that as it may, however, we desire to correct a misapprehension into which a local contemporary has fallen in saying that the same veto does not extend to the correspondents in Japan of foreign journals. It does extend to them, and we have knowledge of a telegram addressed to a London newspaper being "stopped" in Tokyo. The telegraphic head office through which all telegrams for over-sea countries pass, has orders, we believe, to hold back any message which violates the terms of the recently issued order.

It is reported that the Italian cruiser *Elba* has run on a rock near Tsushima and gone down. Details are not to hand.

A full report of the Board of Trade on Shipping Casualties to British vessels during a quarter of a century has just been issued. It shows that during the last 25 years 6,621 wrecks and casualties to ships belonging to the United Kingdom have been attended with fatal results to 41,267 persons, of whom 34,955 were members of the crews and 6,312 were passengers, pilots, or other persons not on the articles of agreement. The average annual loss during the last 25 years was 1,651 persons, consisting of 1,398 crew and 252 passengers, and the loss in 1901-1902 was 1,657 persons, of whom 959 were crew and 698 were passengers. Compared with the average for the previous 24 years, the figures show a decrease of 457 in the number of seamen and an increase of 464 in the number of passengers lost, the loss of seamen in 1901-1902 being lower than in any of the previous years except 1897-98 and 1900-1901. The loss of life during 1901-1902 was swollen by the loss of the steamer *Camorta*, of Glasgow, which was reported as missing while on a voyage from Calingapatam to Rangoon with a crew of 82 hands (including 73 Lascars), and 655 native passengers. The loss of life in 1895-96 was swollen by the loss of 247 lives through the wreck of the *Drummond Castle*, near Ushant, and the loss of 277 lives through the sinking of the *On Wo*, of London, by collision with the *Newchwang* near Shanghai. The number of passengers lost in 1894-95 was swollen by the large number (1,150) of Chinese soldiers drowned by the sinking of the *Kowshing*, of London. The number of seamen lost in sailing vessels in 1901-1902 was 380, and of passengers 22, against averages of 892 seamen and 48 passengers for the last 25 years. The number of seamen lost in steamships in 1901-1902 was 579, and of passengers 676, against averages of 506 seamen and 205 passengers for the last 25 year.

It appears, after all, that the mysterious loss of thirty thousand *yen* at the Bank of Japan was no mystery at all. The thing was of the simplest. An assistant clerk, named Ono Shuzo, was on duty at the delivery wicket when a trayful of bank notes reached him for transmission to the person by whom a cheque had been presented. He had to count the notes finally before handing them over. The counting he did faithfully enough, but when it came to the handing over, he put the bundle in his own pocket and returned the accompanying cheque through the usual channel. Nothing could have been simpler. He has made full confession. But he obstinately refuses to implicate any accomplices and there is a strong impression that accomplices were involved.

It has been shown almost conclusively that the robbery at the Bank of Japan was not the work of one junior official only. Three others seem to have been involved in it. One of these was a chief clerk, Totsuka Kei. He has fled to Shizuoka and steps are being taken to arrest him, though it is necessary to note that as yet he is only under suspicion.

In Japan one of the commonest methods of fertilizing the soil is to plough into it beans that have been grown in the intervals of more valuable crops or on ridges reserved for the purpose. History does not show when or by whom this device was invented, but it has been used for centuries all over the country, though the farmers were quite ignorant of its scientific explanation, namely that whereas certain cereals deprive the soil of nitrogen, which is essential to their growth, others restore that substance. The fact has led a German savant to think out and work out a process which seems destined to do great things for agriculture. He observed that the nitrogen-restoring quality of beans, clover and so forth, is due to the presence of small nodules on their roots, which are produced by nitrifying bacteria. Professor Nobbe concluded that these bacteria could not establish themselves on the root of a plant if they did not exist in the soil, and from that conclusion he passed to the inference that in the case of soil lacking bacteria, these might be furnished artificially. Thereupon he set himself to cultivate bacteria, differentiating them according to the crop desired, and after much experimenting and much exercise of that remarkable quality, German intelligence, he succeeded in getting a set of bacteria fertilizers contained in little phials, a quantity sufficient to restore nitrogen to half an acre of ground being saleable for 50 cents. American chemists have improved upon Nobbe's methods by putting up the bacteria in small dry masses like yeast cake instead of having them in moist cultures in glass tubes. A farmer has nothing to do except to soak one of the cakes and use the solution to treat the seed he is about to sow.

The application of Miss Bertha Cave for admission as a student of Gray's Inn has been denied by the House of Lords on the ground that no precedent exists for admitting a woman and that there is no occasion for creating one. The decision moves one American newspaper, the Cleveland *Plain Dealer*, to remark :—

> The decision is not surprising in view of the numerous and formidable obstacles thrown in the way of woman's advancement by this fetich worship of precedent. Even the battle for the higher education of women is not yet won. Co-education in the American sense not only does not prevail, but many of the opportunities and rewards of the university courses are still withheld from women. At both Oxford and Cambridge, those one-time homes of light and leading, the proposal to admit women to full university fellowship recently gave rise to student disturbances, which were by no means universally reprobated. Probably these great centres of learning will continue some time longer to live up to their reputations as homes of lost causes, and England, in spite of her vaunted liberalism and enlightenment, will deny women equality in the professions with men.

In view of this action of the highest court of England, it is somewhat surprising to read in an article by Mary L. Breakell, in the *Ninteenth Century*, on the practice of medicine by women, that there is not only no law against it, but that "it is encouraged by the authorities, and almost every advantage of study offered to men is open to women also, if they have private means at their disposal to enable them to make use of it. The distinguished and better class of medical men are not antagonistic, and, when necessary, meet qualified women amicably in professional consultation." The author admits, however, that women physicians are still looked upon dubiously, especially by their own sex. The opportunities for the training of the women who desire to enter the medical profession would appear to be adequate.

Concerning the position of the medical woman in England, in a retrospect of the last century, we find that the London School of Medicine for Women was opened in 1874; that three others have been inaugurated in the metropolis since then; that there are now six schools in England where they can study with men, and, though Oxford and Cambridge are closed to them, six universities where it is open to them to take degrees and diplomas equally with men. Therefore it will be seen that women have had full opportunity of study and hospital practice for close on thirty years: And the result in numbers, according to the last census for England and Wales, is that there were then 212 fully qualified medical women registered in the country; as a matter of fact there are now, including Ireland and Scotland, 249. It is interesting to learn that fully half of the 249 are registered as holding some public medical appointment in attendance on their own sex. Thus, as is only natural, the New Hospital for Women, founded by a woman, is entirely officered by them; also the Royal Free hospital has women house-surgeons and physicians in collaboration with men on its staff, and a female registrar. A number of poor-law infirmaries and county asylums employ medical women in their female wards. And some female medical appointments are made under local authorities.

The fourth part of "Great Masters," the wonderfully reproduced collection of famous pictures which Mr. William Heinemann is issuing from 21, Bedford Street, London, fully maintains the high standard of excellence set in the opening numbers. Anything more beautiful than the large photogravure of Gainsborough's "Miss Linley and Her Brother," or Metsu's "Young Cavalier Writing," or the Rubens' landscape, would be difficult to imagine. They are beautiful in every way, and to those who become their happy possessors they should prove in all verity a joy for ever. With Part IV. is issued a fuller prospectus, giving a list of the works about to be issued, as well as the special privileges given to subscribers, from which we make the following extract :—

> Our complete series will consist of 25 Parts, containing in all 100 Pictures, representing every Great Master by some of his best works, and every great collection by some of its gems. These 25 Parts would at the price we had fixed for them amount to £6 5s., but we offer to supply them to purchasers of of Parts I. to IV., on return of the Coupons contained in these 4 Parts, for £4 in addition to what they have already paid, making in all £5 for the complete work. This brings the individual cost of each Picture down to One Shilling, a price 20 per cent. below what we were originally able to offer, and one absolutely out of comparision with anything that has ever before been offered to the public.

This is an opportunity that we strongly advise our readers to take advantage of, for, in the language of the market-place, they will reap extraordinary value for their money. Messrs. Kelly and Walsh will receive orders in Japan.

Australian papers contain very full accounts of the inaugural banquet in the Town Hall of Melbourne when Sir Malcolm McEacharn, the recently elected Lord Mayor of that city, entertained a large and brilliant assembly, to celebrate his assumption of office. Among those present were the Governor-General Lord Tennyson, the Governor of Victoria, the Bishop of Melbourne, the Admiral commanding on the station, the General commanding the Federal Army, the Ministers, the Judges, and many other distinguished persons. Several toasts were drunk and several excellent speeches made, but we presume that Sir Malcolm's response to his own health was brief for we find no report of it. Sir Malcolm and Lady McEacharn are said to be among the best loved and most public-spirited people in all Australia, which, it will be admitted, is no slight praise.

The *Asahi's* London correspondent says that an attempt was made by some miscreant to blow up the *Nisshin* before she left Genoa. A rough idea of the details are given but we can not gather anything more definite than that the idea was to fire the magazine by tampering with the electric conductors. Some slight explosion seems to have taken place but its effects were purely local. Probably the affair had its origin in the brain of some anarchist who would have been ready to shatter anything savouring of government and discipline.

Thoughtless authors and atrabilious critics rail at the English publisher and declare that the dullness in the book-trade and literary market is due to the publisher's stedfast refusal to advertise. The publishers do not answer back, but instead take practical measures. Every one of the big London publishing houses has now its own particular organ dealing solely and particularly with the books which it publishes. One of the latest and perhaps the most attractive of these special journals reaches us from Mr. Fisher Unwin, of Paternoster Buildings. He calls his paper M—mainly A—about B—books. The paper runs to 32 pages of the size of the *Japan Weekly Mail* and is devoted simply to book-notices, special literary articles, verses, and letters, and on every page appear portraits, specimen pictures or excerpts from the books referred to. M. A. B. should be of great assistance to the book-buyer.

At half-past ten on the morning of the 14th Generals Count Nozu, Baron Kuroki and Baron Oku were summoned to the Palace to receive their commissions, as the Imperial nominees on the recently organized High Martial Council. We may mention in this context that the *Official Gazette* of the 14th instant announces the abolition of the three *Totokubu* (command sections) hitherto in existence. Generals Nozu, Kuroki and Oku were the Chiefs of these Sections, and they are now appointed to be members of the High Council. They were duly installed at the Palace yesterday, the Minister of State for the Navy acting in the place of the Premier, who is still indisposed. Admiral Baron Inouye was also appointed a member of the Council, and Major-General Usagawa Kazumasa received the post of *Kanji-cho*, which corresponds, we presume, to that of Chief Secretary.

Japanese newspapers mention with profound appreciation the fact that the Right Honorable Sir Malcolm McEacharn, Lord Mayor of Melbourne, recently telegraphed to Mr. Kondo Rempei, President of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, in the sense that Australia was prepared to furnish a thousand volunteers to fight in the Japanese army, and a corps of trained nurses, in the event of an outbreak of hostilities between Japan and Russia. Such an offer shows that for all her anti-Oriental legislation the heart of Australia is with the Japanese nation in its present struggle for its rights.

News from Vladivostock says that the ice is now a foot thick in the harbour and that it has been found necessary to beach the torpedo-craft. The squadron of vessels lately reported as anchored in the port seems to have taken its departure, but nothing is publicly known about its destination. There can be no doubt that the degree of frost this year is exceptional throughout the whole of the Far East.

Russia, according to London telegrams, is exceedingly angry because English officers and English sailors are helping, and indeed taking the main part, in bringing out the *Kasuga* and the *Nisshin*. England would be angry too were the cases reversed. But it strikes us that Russia has more valid cause for umbrage than these cruisers furnish. In her place we should be much more profoundly affected by the news of numerous applications from Englishmen to serve in the ranks of the Japanese army, and by Melbourne's offer of a thousand volunteers. England is Japan's ally, and if Russia gets vexed about the natural consequences of the alliance, it can not be helped.

THE WAXING MOON.

The four days' crescent moon that clasps the old,
A silver acorn in a cup of gold,
Waxes, sun-lighted, night by night apace,
Till the old moon, earth-lighted, hides her face.

So waxing truth shall shine full-orbed one day;
So earthborn error fade and pass away.

Louis Bevier, Jr.

Rutgers College, New Brunswick, J. N.

YOKOHAMA GENERAL HOSPITAL.

The following additional subscriptions have been received in answer to the Committee's appeal :—

Amount already acknowledged.........	16,022.00
Messrs. Martin & Co.	100.00
G. Akiyama, Esq.	30.00
Total to date	16,152.00

MAURICE RUSSELL,
Hon. Treas.

THE KAISER AND WATERLOO.

A GERMAN correspondent to whose opinion we attach much importance, writes thus:—*A propos* the KAISER's words about the Prussians at Waterloo, it will probably interest you to hear that two English authors—W. O' CONNOR MORRIS in *Great Commanders of Modern Times*, and E. HORSBURGH in *Waterloo a Narration and a Criticism*—and an American (J. C. ROPES in *The Campaign of Waterloo*) say in so many words that BLUCHER saved WELLINGTON from a crushing defeat. That fact should go far to show how little cause the British press and public had to be angry with the KAISER, but unfortunately the feeling in England is so anti-German and so touchy, that out of an unintentional needle-prick they make an intentional sword cut. The motto as to Germany is now 'What good thing can come out of Galilee'? Let us hope that this unfortunate state of affairs may soon cease."

No one wishes more than we do that what our correspondent justly calls an "unfortunate state of affairs" may soon cease. But, speaking frankly, our hopes for that result are not increased when we see that even the profoundest thinkers among the Germans, even the men who may be regarded as freest from international prejudices, justify this last speech of the KAISER's on the ground that two English writers and an American had said the same thing previously, and when such Germans speak of the anti-German and "touchy" feeling in England to-day. For our own part, when we recently alluded to this subject we were well aware that certain Anglo-Saxon publicists had taken the view now openly proclaimed by the German EMPEROR. But we were also aware that their view had not been endorsed by the most competent authorities, and that it finds no expression in the accounts of those who had intimate and personal knowledge of the incidents of NAPOLEON's last campaign. Be that as it may, however, the great point, the point before which everything else pales into insignificance, is that the German Sovereign should have made this declaration from his high place *urbi et orbi.* Suppose that it were true, suppose that it were a thousand times true, what can be said of the tact or friendliness of a monarch who, at an interval of three-quarters of a century, proclaims as an unquestionable fact that the soldiers of his country's ally, the soldiers who bore the brunt and heat of a day of terrible conflict, would have been annihilated had it not been for the succour of his own country's troops? It is not, so far as we can see, conceivable that anything more ungracious and less chivalrous could have been done, and we are astonished that the precedent of two or three obscure annalists should be adduced in defence of a great Sovereign's indiscretion. The German EMPEROR is too big to forget even for an instant the obligations of his station, and though we do not like him the less because his strenuous impulses sometimes betray him into unwise deeds or words, we find that the offence to England in this particular instance is only aggravated by attempts to condone it on any grounds except that humanity's fate is to err. If our German friends see the matter with different eyes, all the less hope is there of genuine reconcilement. Waterloo is one of the memories that might fairly have been conjured to dispel the cloud now dividing England and Germany. Both sides might have remembered, as certainly the English do remember, that they fought side by side on that field in a noble cause, that both did their soldier's duty bravely and stoutly, and that every invidious essay to distribute the honours of victory unevenly is wholly unworthy of the gallant feat then achieved. Unhappily the German EMPEROR has deliberately robbed that memory of all its chivalrous features and dragged it into the mire of international jealousies. The utterances of fifty obscure annalists, instead of three, would not begin to justify such a mistake.

As for anti-German feeling and touchiness in England, it is astonishing that such sentiments should be referred to by Germans in terms of reproach. Is the South-African war forgotten? By no immediately conceivable possibility could any nation have displayed bitterer rancour and more unreasoning hostility towards another than Germany showed towards England on that occasion. In our hour of storm and stress, she did everything in her power to make the world hate us. Not her KAISER, indeed. To him England owes a debt of gratitude which we gladly acknowledge and will never forget. But the German nation! Let us not dwell upon the subject, but let us only say that until Germans begin to have some sense of the hideous wrong they wrought us at that crisis of our national destiny, until they begin to feel some contrition instead of attempting to ascribe the present division between the two peoples to anti-German feeling or touchiness in England—until that time the rapprochement which we sincerely join our correspondent in desiring, can never be brought about.

JAPAN'S PROPOSALS.

LONDON sends us through the *Jiji Shimpo* a statement of the irreducible minimum of Japan's proposals to Russia. They are two, namely:—

1. Russia and Japan shall both use their endeavours to preserve the independence and the territorial integrity of China and Korea.
2. Russia and Japan shall mutually recognise any special concession obtained by either of them by virtue of special treaties in China or Korea; provided that this condition shall be without prejudice to the policy of equality of commercial and industrial privileges for other nations.

Face to face with this statement of requirements the *Jiji Shimpo* naturally renews its suggestion that no time should be lost in communicating the course of the negotiations to the Japanese people. Russia, in our contemporary's opinion, has shown unequivocally that she has no real desire for peace, and the Japanese nation will be strengthened in its attitude, if that be possible, by learning to what limits the patience and forbearance of its statesmen have been carried. In short, since we now know what Japan has asked for, let us know also how Russia has received these very moderate demands. That is the *Jiji's* view. What is to be said on the other side is that so long as negotiations are not definitively abandoned, the whole story had better not be told, for whatever be the details they are quite certain to furnish materials for a platform of discontent and agitation in some quarter. It is much better to keep the doors of the Council-chamber shut so long as the voice of the rabble is capable of producing any injurious effect. Should it unfortunately happen that the two Powers have to descend into the barbarous arena of war, then, and not till then, will the time have come to let the multitudes shout.

This statement of Japan's proposals will show clearly how false have been the rumours hitherto circulated to the effect that she wanted to exchange Manchuria against Korea, and that her main object was to obtain for herself a preponderating place in the peninsular empire. She has simply asked Russia to avow an intention of preserving the independence and territorial integrity of China and Korea, and she has offered to recognise all concessions obtained conventionally by Russia in either country, so long as such concessions are not prejudicial to the principle of equal trading, equal commercial rights and the open door for all. It might be supposed that Russia would not object for one instant to accede to such proposals. They are the very bases of international orthodoxy, and they accord strictly with the professions already made by Russia herself, made not once only but repeatedly. Why then does she raise difficulties? That is what the world waits to learn. For the moment Russia has public opinion emphatically against her. The publication of such proposals necessarily condemns any Power hesitating to agree to them, and totally discredits any Power willing to make war rather than agree to them. We have never lost our faith in the pacific intention of the St. Petersburg Government or in its willingness to obey the dictates of reason and international respectability. But St. Petersburg is now the defendant. The nations would like to hear its defence.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

It is a remarkable fact that both of the great non-Government Schools of Tōkyō, the Keiōgijiku and the Waseda Semmongakkō have deemed it expedient to adopt a decided attitude to existing systems of ethics. What is known as the Mita system of ethics was elaborated by Mr. Fukuzawa and his fellow-thinkers some four years ago, and was embodied in a small work called the *Shūshin Yōryō.* This system and Mr. Fukuzawa's views on morality generally were fully discussed in these columns in two articles that appeared in the *Japan Weekly Mail* on Feb. 10th and June 23rd, 1900. The system is distinctly Utilitarian and contains no religious, mystical, or philosophic elements of any kind. It is founded to a considerable extent on the old Bushidō, but the world-wide, work-a-day modern ethical standard has contributed more elements to it than any ancient system of morals. It is essentially the product of the Meiji era. Up to four or five years ago Professor Tsubouchi Yūzō had devoted his whole time and strength to literature. The magazine with which he was formerly connected, the *Waseda Bungaku*, had five or six years ago no superior among literary organs, and its premature decease caused much grief in the literary world. But Professor Tsubouchi was of opinion that he could serve his country's highest interests better by dropping literature for a while and taking to teaching morality. He perceived that the old system of ethics could no longer hold its ground when subjected to modern influences, material, literary and critical, and so he undertook to elaborate a new system and to make it thoroughly intelligible to ordinary students by means of a series of popular lectures delivered at the Waseda Semmon Gakkō. These lectures having extended over four years, have now been published; and they constitute what we may designate the Waseda System of Ethics, though it is only right to say that Mr. Tsubouchi claims no such authority for them and that they have not as yet been publicly endorsed by the School, though they undoubtedly represent the unwritten code that has been observed in that school, which resembles in many essential particulars that practised in the Keiōgijiku. The *Tsūzoku Rinridan* (Talks on Popular Ethics), the title given to Mr. Tsubouchi's lectures, was briefly noticed by us a few months ago, but considering the ripe scholarship and great talent of the author and his position as one of the leading professors in the Waseda University, the work seems to call for fuller comment. It covers 492 large-sized pages, printed very clearly in No. 6 type. In the preface the author apologizes for the imperfections of the book as a literary production. It was not, he tells us, written to satisfy scholars and critics, and it does not pretend to be a full exposition of the author's views on ethics. Its principal aim is to supply students with some definite ideas on ethical subjects, to show them what remains from the wreck of Japan's ethical ship, to explain to them how immensely important to Japan is the formation of character of a high type by her young men. The style adopted being that of high class colloquial, the lectures can be understood by any ordinary reader. With the object of attracting the attention of students and of widening their views, Dr. Tsubouchi has ranged over a great variety of subjects. The book contains many comparisons of the ethical standards of the West with those of the East. Nearly 40 pages are devoted to a comparison of Socrates with Confucius. The work is divided into three Sections, and sub-divided into Chapters. The opening Chapter of Section I. is on the Essence of the *Yamato-Damashii*. It covers no less than 38 pages. This term, we are told on p. 9, came into use shortly after the introduction of Chinese literature. Throughout this chapter Dr. Tsubouchi shows that he has a very high opinion of Japanese national character and he evidently thinks that no finer specimens of humanity are to be found anywhere than those produced here. And as regards the future, he is of opinion that the Japanese have only to go on developing the strong points of their character—their love of absolute purity and truth undiluted, and their veneration for the good and the beautiful. These qualities in the nation will, he considers, serve it in better stead than anything else that could be named and will, it may be, in the future make other nations look up to the Japanese as leaders of thought. The language he uses is very strong. We quote a few sentences to show its gist. *Nihonjin wa hontō seiketsu wo ai suru kokumin de aru kara, kanarazu ya wareware ga yobō suru tokoro ni yoreba, tabun ta no kokka ni sakidatte, Nihon kokumin ga makoto no michi wo hakken shi, makoto no ri wo hakken suru yō ni naru darō to omou; sunawachi ii-kayereba gakumon-jō ni oite mo ningen no michi ni oite mo, Nihonjin ga kore kara sekai no michi-annaija ni naru no de arō to omou; mata narasanakereba naranu.* The substance of this is that since the Japanese love truth for its own sake, in both general knowledge and in ethics they are likely to lead the world later on. We say, later on, as Dr. Tsubouchi subsequently admits, that it will take another generation of Japanese to establish the pre-eminence which he predicts for his fellow-countrymen. Chapter IV of the First Section of Dr. Tsubouchi's work deals with the code of morals practised at the Semmon Gakkō and the ways of the school. He tells us on pp. 132, 133 that the central principle of the Waseda Ethics is a spirit of independence and self-reliance. This is supplemented by a profound respect for the rights and liberties of others. The Waseda school was, Dr. Tsubouchi reminds us, founded on the principle of the independence of learning, that is, as a protest against making learning subservient to religion or politics. So that it is not surprising that independence of spirit should figure as an ideal in the ethics of the school. Another characteristic of the school to which Dr. Tsubouchi calls attention is its thorough matter-of-fact character. "It cares little for the letter and much for the spirit, little for names and titles and much for sterling worth." A spirit of equality is manifest among us, says the Professor. The school is most distinctly an anti-class institution. We have no space here to notice the many interesting topics discussed by Professor Tsubouchi in his lectures. There are few subjects connected with practical morality in Japan to-day that he has not touched on in a charmingly fresh and candid way. He points out in a most clear manner how evil ever mixes with good in all human affairs. A chapter is devoted to military abuses and literary abuses and another to the abuses which characterize the world of thought. The "Work of the future" and the "Pleasures of the future" are discussed in the last two chapters of the first section of the book. In the second section will be found a thorough system of ethics and definite views on all the greater questions of morality, such as the moral standard, the origin of virtue and vice, the comparative value of various virtues, diverse types of character and the importance to be attached to each. The last part of section 3 is occupied with a reply to Mr. Tobari Chikufū, who in the pages of the *Teikoku Bungaku* some time ago, very strongly objected to Dr. Tsubouchi's attitude to the teaching of Nietsche. Into this controversy we have no space to go here. The tone of Professor Tsubouchi's book throughout is extremely optimistic. His system of Ethics may be said to be essentially utilitarian and his doctrines bear a striking resemblance to those of Hobbes. The gist of the whole work may perhaps be summed up in the quotations from Plato and Aristotle which Dr. Tsubouchi compares with to quotations from Confucius and Mencius. "In all things the law of 'limit' is the cause of good, while the unlimited, the unregulated, the chaotic is evil" (Plato).

"To hit upon the 'mean' exactly requires a fine tact, for virtue is more nice and delicate than the finest of the fine arts. This tact, or sense of moral beauty we have by nature, but it only exists in perfection. after cultivation by experience, in the mind of the wise man, and to him in all cases must be the ultimate appeal." (Aristotle.)

The work is published by the Fuzambō and sells at 1 *yen* 25 *sen* per copy.

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The *Kiristokyō Sekai* thinks that great importance is attached to the appointment of a New President of the Dōshisha. According to a long article penned by Mr. Muramatsu Yoshitarō that appeared in the *Kiristokyō Sekai* some weeks ago, entitled *Dōshisha Daigaku Fukkō no Kiun* the future of the institution is by no means assured and it is thought that its success will depend largely on adroitness in its management.

Mr. Ebina Danjō writes in this paper on the connection of music with religion, and the Rev. Geo. Allchin contributes an article on the subject of a revised hymnal to be used by most of the Protestant Missions. This book has been in course of compilation for several years and is now ready for use. Its compilation has cost over 2,600 *yen*. This sum has been provided by the Missions concerned, namely by the American Board, the Presbyterian Missions, the Methodists, the Baptists and the Christians. Mr. Allchin hopes to see periodical singing classes held in various towns which will be attended by members of the various congregations.

Under the title of "Impressions received at the General Synod" the *Kiristokyō Sekai* publishes the opinions of various members of the Kumiai Church. All are agreed in thinking that the cordiality of feeling among the members has never been more marked than it is now. One characteristic of the Conference held a few months ago, already noticed in these columns, was the fact that everything was managed by the Japanese. We are told that the name of no foreign missionary was to be found among the Councillors (*Gi-in*). Mr. Takemoto informs us that to allow freedom of thought is one of the principles of the Congregational Churches (*Shisō no Jiyu wa Kumiai Kyōkai no Shinkō de aru*). There are theologians of the old school and theologians of the new, but they work harmoniously together and help each other in various ways. The project for despatching missionaries to foreign countries met with much favour, though some expressed doubts as to the feasibility of the scheme just at present, owing to insufficient means. Mr. Hino Mazumi has published three articles on the "Immortality of the Soul" taking the line that the theory, though not capable of mathematical or logical demonstration is capable of much verification and coming to the conclusion that the privilege of living for ever cannot be enjoyed by animals, their nature being of too inferior a type.

Mr. Miyagawa Tsuneteru in an article on "The Degenerate Koreans" argues that the only way to save Korea is to establish a Japanese protectorate over the peninsula. The desire for reform hardly exists among the governing class. There is no prospect of any radical change being effected as long as the country is left in a state of nominal independence without possessing a vestige of self-reliance or self-respect. Under Japanese management education in Korea would soon make rapid strides, says Mr. Miyagawa, and by degrees the world would witness the birth of a new nation.

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Mr. Matsumura Kaiseki still continues to put a great deal of energy into his magazine the *Keisei*. Though principally a religious organ, it usually contains at least one political article. A recent number has a leader entitled, "We must be prepared for a fight," which blows the war trumpet in a fashion that will certainly delight the ardent young patriots addressed. Mr. Matsumura predicts certain victory for Japan. When once war is declared it will not be long, says the *Keisei*, before half the Russian fleet is sent to the bottom of the sea* and on land 100,000 troops will be mown down by Japan's guns. Neither Russia's bigness nor her prestige count for anything. It is Japan's invincible spirit that will carry the day. To his fellow-countrymen Mr. Matsumura says: Covĕt the honour of dying for the sake of establishing your country's supremacy in the Far East. We must all die some time or other. Rather than die in an ignominious fashion like so many insects, perish like heroes on the field of battle. The *Keisei* makes it a special object to influence young men. Hence a number of articles are to be found in its pages dealing with the mistaken educational policy of the Mombushō in past years and advocating the granting of entire freedom to those who desire to establish schools throughout the country. In No. 67, under the title of "The Training of Young Men and the Future," Mr. Inagaki Manjirō contends that the Mombushō officials for a series of years took steps to discourage all the refining influences exercised in the West by music, art, religion, and the like, and contented themselves with developing the intellect only.†

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* This, we observe' is the opinion of an Austrian military expert quoted by the *Jiji Shimpō* on the 30th ult. :—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

† At the present time there is a marked change in this respect. Music is taught in some of the High

The consequence is that in the matter of feeling and sentiment the nation to-day is altogether behind Europeans and Americans. This did not escape the keen scrutiny of the Russian Minister of War during his recent visit to this country, who when pressed by Marquis Itō to say what he considered the great defect of the Japanese, replied, "The entire absence of a taste for music." Modern Japanese human nature is developed only on one side, the rational side. To be able to reason is the great ambition of our young men, as though human life consisted principally of logic-chopping (*Nihon kokumin ni kanjō ga refine serarete oranu kara, ippan kokumin ga yutori no nai kosekose shite, daikokumin no kifū ni toboshi no de aru to omou*). In view of the important *rôle* Japan aims at playing as the Eastern pioneer of Western civilisation, it is of vital importance, says Mr. Inagaki, that she should at once take steps for remedying the above-named defect in the mental constitution of her people. Their interests are too narrow, their outlook too confined; they have not as a people yet entered the great world of Western sentiment, feeling and aspiration. Mr. Inagaki goes on to observe that in the near future Japanese character will be put to a severe test in this part of the world, where she will be brought into closer competition with Occidentals than she has hitherto known. Mere military prowess will not serve her purpose in time of peace. The question will be asked: do the Japanese as a nation possess the qualities which tend to beneficent rule? Will those who become subject to them be greatly benefited thereby? Japan has now reached the parting of the ways that lead to heaven and hell. Whether she follows the road to paradise or descends to the fires of hell depends on the development of the character of her young men. The solution of the Far Eastern problem lies here. Will Japan show herself worthy of the high rank she aspires to occupy in the Far East? High moral qualities will render her position far more secure than mere physical force can do.

In a subsequent article published in No. 69 of the same magazine Mr. Naruse Nizō, writing on "Freedom in Education" expresses the same sentiments. The article opens with the words "Deficient in common-sense, weak in purpose, without deep convictions, with no special aim in life is the modern student. And in the meanwhile society cries "Oh for a man!" Mr. Naruse then proceeds to furnish proofs of these assertions. The Government Schools as now constituted and conducted Mr. Naruse regards as a serious hindrance to character development. No real liberty of action is allowed in these schools. Mr. Naruse describes them tersely as "rule-ridden, but lifeless" (*Kono gakkō ni wa kisoku aru nomi, kwatsudō aru nashi.*)

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In the *Shinjin* (New Man) appears an article entitled "The Future of Japanese Christianty" which hardly answers the expectations raised by the title. Mr. Murata Tsutomu is the writer. He begins by relating the story of a knight who had decided to be baptized, but who prior to receiving the rite asked whether if he became a Christian and went to heaven his non-Christian ancestors would be found there. On being told by the officiating minister they would not, he there and then refused to enter the church; saying that it would be no pleasure to live in a paradise from which his beloved forefathers were banished. This is precisely the feeling we Japannese have, says Mr. Murata. He then goes on to urge his fellow-Christians to strive to make Christianity a national religion. The rest of the article [illegible] mostly historical, showing what have been the forms Christianity has taken in various countries. In the concluding paragraph Mr. Murata says that in his opinion both Buddhism and Confucianism will retain their hold on a certain section of the nation for several centuries to come. But he goes on to observe, "Christianity is more suited to our modern life and hence has been welcomed by us." But if it should ever lead to developments that endanger the existence of the state; if circumstances should arise that involve the separation of Christians from their kith and kin thoughout the country, then, says Mr. Murata, like the knight of old, I would refuse to be a member of the Christian Church.

Mr. Ebina Danjō contributed to a recent number of the *Shinjin* a long article on "The Tendency of Modern Religious Thought" in which the views of Spinoza are discussed in detail. The Article concludes with the following comparison between religion founded on philosophy and religion founded on a revelation. But before entering on this subject it may be well to state that Mr. Ebina holds that what is called the Christian Revelation is by no means the only one in existence. This is what he says on that subject:—*Tenkei wa tokubetsu naru ichi minzoku mata wa ichi jinshu ni kagirarete oru mono de wa nai. Oyoso jinrui no dantai wo nashite seison suru chihō ni wa, kanarazu tenkei ga aru. Shikamo seisho wa tenkei no ichijirushiki mono de, Kami no kotoba to shite sonchō suru ni taru.** Mr. Ebina then proceeds to explain the sense in which he believes the Bible to be a revelation, taking the view that in geographical and historical details the Bible may be inaccurate, but that it is throughly reliable in its teaching about God and man's relation to him. He concludes his article with the following remarks:—"Religion that is founded on revelation appeals to the imagination. Religion that is founded on philosophy appeals to reason. The strength of the former rests on authority; the latter fulfils its object by means of the hold it has on the minds of men. Each has its strong and weak points. Both are designed to be carried into practice, the object of both is to lead man to forego the gratification of many of his desires, to make him a holy man. The religion that is founded on philosophy is in the possession of the few; that which is founded on revelation, in that of the many. The chief object of the latter is to teach submissiveness and veneration and thereby lead men to God; that of the former to develop the reason of each individual man. In rendering man more God-like by means of the clear conceptions imparted they pursue different methods, but they have the same object in view. Though the teaching of truth is one of the objects of revelation, it is not its leading object, which is to fully develop obedience and reverence; hence though the arguments it upholds may have a thousand discrepancies, they must be received without questioning.† Hence there is no need to mix up philosophic investigation with a religion that is founded on revelation. Since a rational religion founded on philosophy is something that cannot be understood by the majority of people, nobody has any right to despise a religion founded on revelation. Though the spheres of the two forms of faith are different, their object is plainly one and the same. Spinoza recognized this fact and did his best to reconcile the two forms, but his arguments from the point of view of his philosophy were illogical. Having banished imagination from his system of philosophy, it was impossible for him to deduce convincing arguments in favour of the theory that revealed religion and rational religion had only one object in view. Reason which was capable of allying itself to imagination was to him an imperfect form of reason."

We have stated at considerable length Mr. Ebina Danjō's views and we shall continue to do so in future, as there are few men in the Christian Church who have so many admirers, Christian and non-Christian, as Mr. Ebina. His outspokenness, manliness, sincerity and deep religious fervour combined with a wide knowledge of the special needs of his fellow-countrymen enable him to command large audiences in any of the great cities of Japan where he may happen to be lecturing.

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The *Chuòkōron*, though professedly a Buddhist organ, mostly fills its pages from month to month with the discussion of other subjects. It is a well edited journal. Its monthly extracts from other magazines convey a very good idea of what are the chief topics of discussion in the whole of the Japanese press. It is in every sense a thoroughly liberal organ, opening its pages to writers of all schools, Buddhist, Christian or agnostic. It aims at showing up abuses wherever they exist. Educational questions receive a large amount of attention. Sectarian narrow-mindedness seems to be banished from its pages, and most of its articles are written by men who are more or less acquainted with foreign literature. Like so many other religious magazines, it constantly publishes political articles. Its aim seems to be to discuss any and every subject that may be interesting the general public at the time. Broad ethical questions and topics are as a rule handled in a very thorough manner by its contributors. The December number contains an excellent article of this kind, the first of a series, entitled "What is Humanity?" written by Mr. Kuroiwa Shūroku, which shows how keenly the moral progress of the Western world is watched by modern Japanese scholars. Here is the substance of the first of Mr. Kuroiwa's articles. Among the moral sentiments prevailing in all civilised countries to-day there is none that is stronger or more universally honoured than humanity. Wherever there is a ruthless and needless slaughter of human beings the anger of whole communities is aroused and the perpetrators of the cruel deed are branded with lasting disgrace by all right-thinking men. Witness the feeling aroused throughout the civilised world by the Russian slaughter of the Jews and by the Turkish atrocities in Armenia. In Europe more than half of the difficulty of what is termed the Eastern Question is connected with the inhumanity of the Turks. In England's subjugation of the Transvaal and in America's war with Spain the question of humanity was constantly under discussion in the European and American press. So that we may say that in modern times there is no international question, no political question, no diplomatic question debated but the sentiment known as humanity makes itself felt, and no self-respecting nation can afford to disregard it. This virtue has its source deep in man's original nature. It is, as the term implies, the possession of this feeling that differentiates man from all other animals. Self-love and the love of others in human society exist side by side. Exclusive and extreme egoism, were it to exist, would render the formation of communities impossible. Society may be said to be founded on altruism. As was pointed out by Adam Smith and other writers on sociology, sympathy or fellow-feeling is the most important of all the foundations of society. Here then is a feeling which not only all moralists but all modern sociologists recognize to be the most essential to human progress and welfare and to the consolidation of nations. In our language we cannot better express this love of our fellow-creatures than by calling it 友愛, *yūai*, brotherly love. The same feeling exists among the lower animals to a certain degree, but with them its exercise depends entirely on controlling passions and is dictated by mere animal instincts. They do not regard themselves as under any obligation to show kindness to fellow-animals, and only do so under certain conditions. It is then vain to look for any real affinity between the principle of humanity as understood by us and the tenderness felt by one animal for another. With our humanity there is authority. It is one of the great laws of our being; with the fellow-feeling possessed by animals there is no authority. The term humanity implies that it is the duty of men to control their passions when to gratify them would be a grave injustice to other human beings. Confucius, Shaka and Christ all alike lay stress upon the importance of this virtue and make it the ruler of man's passions. All morality

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Schools out of school hours to those who wish to learn and concerts are periodically given for the benefit of the students,—(WRITER OF SUMMARY).

* "Revelation is by no means confined to one nation or one race of people. In whatever country a community of human beings exists, there will certainly be a revelation. While this is so the Bible contains a remarkable revelation, and is entitled to be honoured as the Word of God."

† The original is as follows:—*Tenkei no mokuteki wa shinri wo kyôshi suru ga sono shushi* (主旨) *ni arazu shite, jūjun* (從·順) *keiken* (敬虔) *kwansei suru no de areba, tattoi sono shucho suru giron wa sen-sa man-betsu de aru tomo, aete toubeki de wa nai.*

as all social organization of a permanent type may be, said to begin with what Confucius calls 仁 *Jin* (benevolence), Shaka, *Jihi* (compassion) and Christ, *ai* (love). But so long as humanity was a mere moral sentiment, it lacked the power to enforce its observance. Men were found in large numbers who ignored the moral obligation to act considerately towards others. So that it was necessary here as in so many other cases to enforce morality by law. When this occurred its full importance as a fundamental moral principle was fully realized. This took place in the palmy days of the Roman empire. Prior to that time the law regarded man as an object, an article of commerce like other commodities, but Roman law declared that man was not not to be considered as a mere object. The very foundation of that law treats man subjectively and not objectively, that is to say it takes into consideration the feelings of human beings towards each other and aims at regulating those feelings. In subsequent ages what is called natural law was recognized in the codes of various nations and thus the obligation to treat human beings in a considerate manner led by degrees to the suppression of the slave trade and other cruel practices.

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We observe that Mr. Kanō Jigorō's monthly organ, the 國士, *Kokushi*, was to be discontinued from last month. It has been running for nearly 5 years in connection with the interesting Young Men's Society formed by Mr. Kanō called the 造士會 Zōshikai (Lit. Samurai-forming Association). This Society, as is doubtless known to some readers, is by no means simply an Athletic Association, though great attention is paid to physical exercise of all kinds, specially to *Jūjutsu*, by the members. The Society, according to its rules, which are now before us, in addition to increasing physical strength, aims at developing to the full the intellectual and moral faculties of young men. The branch associations which have sprung up in various towns are numerous. They have hitherto all been under the direct control of Mr. Kanō himself. They will henceforth be independent of each other, but will be conducted on the lines laid down by Mr. Kanō. In the opening article of the last number of the *Kokushi* Mr. Kanō tells us that in the 63 numbers of the magazine which have appeared he has during the past 5 years treated most of the general topics connected with the proper training of young men. He purposes in future to issue a yearly pamphlet for circulation among his numerous disciples, dealing with such subjects as altered circumstances suggest. Mr. Kanō adds that there are now such a number of magazines written for young men which have the same object in view as the *Kokushi*, so that his organ can be dispensed with.

The final number of the *Kokushi* contains the last of a series of excellent articles on "Success," addressed to young men by Dr. Murakami Sensei. Both as a public lecturer and as a writer Dr. Murakami never fails to produce a powerful impression on young men. He has a great command of language and his thoughts are so arranged that the chief points of his discourses are evident at once to ordinarily intelligent listeners. The article now before us is written in colloquial language. Dr. Murakami first warns young men against the danger of expecting immediate success. It is a case of "the more hurry the less speed" in the formation of character or in the preparation for great enterprises. Three or four years do not amount to much in the training of the mind to fulfil all its functions. The saying of Confucius *Taiki wa bansei* (Large vessels take a long time to make) should never be forgotten by young men. Dr. Murakami then goes on to trace out in a most interesting manner the bearing of self-denial on permanent success, his theory being that unless a man has sufficient strength of character to suppress every desire whose gratification would interfere with the full realization of his principal object in life, he never can be thoroughly successful. The title of this part of his long essay is *Seigyō no seikō ni mottomo hitsuyō naru mono wa Kokkishin* (克己心) *nari*. (In lawful enterprises there is nothing which insures success like self-denial.) The greatest of all the struggles that the young man has to pass though is the fight with his lower self, is the subjugation of the wild desires that rise within him. Dr. Murakami next goes into the various available methods of forming, developing, and perfecting the habit of self-denial. He refers to Benjamin Franklin and to Washington at some length, and shows how the foundations of their subsequent greatness were laid in the self-denying habits of youth. In Franklin's case he tested his daily conduct by no less than 13 tests, all of which had self-denial as their chief object.

WEEK OF PRAYER.

The Week of Prayer which extended from Jan. 3rd to Jan. 10th inclusive, was very largely attended, and the meetings were unusually devout and interesting. Rev. B. W. Chappell, Dean of the Awoyama Gakuin. Theological Department, preached the sermon for the opening day, and Rev. E. S. Booth, the Pastor of the Yokohama Union Church, that of the closing day. The Sunday evening services, as were the daily 6 p.m. services, were led by various Ministers and laymen. The Japanese Churches, as usual, united with the exception of the Methodist Episcopal Churches, in a Union Service held at the various Church edifices in the City. The Pastor of each presiding in turn at his own church, and a Pastor of a different body making the leading address. The addresses and the prayers were of a most edifying nature. The Programme of the Evangelical Alliance was followed, with the single exception of an additional topic for the day of prayer for "God's Ancient Covenant People Israel," when "Missions for the City of Yokohama" was added. This was not because of lack of interest in the Jews—but contrariwise, never has there been so earnest and intelligent an interest exhibited. The Methodist Protestant Pastor, Rev. Tsugawa, surprised his foreign auditors as well as his own countrymen by his exposition of the Spirit of the Great Apostle to the Gentiles in regard to his own countrymen, and the importance of the conversion of the latter as affecting the evangelization of the world. Very appositely the results of Bishop Schereschewsky's labour on his translations into Chinese of the Scriptures, into easy Wenli, and the Mandarin dialects, was referred to by other speakers, and the remarkable providence that has sent a Russian Jew early to Japan, where he embraced Christianity, and for a few years laboured most acceptably in Korea, and after a course in theology in the United States, where he outstripped 40 competitors, and was offered a 600 dollar scholarship for further studies, modestly declined and has been doing yeoman service in the Philippines as an American Missionary, and is now seeking to be transferred to Korea for his life work. Besides his linguistic skill he is both a poet and musician. He has written Hymns for both the Koreans and Filippinos. His desire is to render a translation of the Old Testament into Korean.

Some interesting facts in connection with the coming Centenary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, to be held on the 6th of March in London were given by the Rev. H. Loomis, Agent of the American Bible Society. He said that at a preliminary meeting held 6th of March 1903, the Lord Major, of London, Sir Marcus Samuel, presided, and said that while some of his co-religionists objected to his doing so as he is a Jew, he thanked the Society for its publication of the Holy Scriptures, and for its efforts for his people. Lord Polwarth, the President of the Society, said while the Society at its first organization contemplated only to supply a neglected part of Great Britain, it had been constrained to undertake a world-wide mission. There were Scriptures published in 50 languages at the beginning and now the entire Bible is found in 100 languages; and portions in 330. The total output for the 99 years had been 180 millions. And still there were 450 millions of the earth's inhabitants that are without any knowledge of the Bible. Mr. Loomis also gave some most encouraging facts about Bible distribution in Japan. In the 37 years of the Bible Societies work here, there had been 2,585,846 portions of Scripture circulated, and fully 2,600,000 if statistics of two of the Societies for a few years were forthcoming. The circulation of the past year was 167,825 portions. The increase over the year before was 143 Bibles, 31,884 Testaments. This includes 1796 English Bibles, and 12,834 English Testaments. Total receipts for 1903 were 13,621 *yen*, showing an increase over the previous year of 2,414 *yen*. These evidences of the favour of God upon the work of the distribution of the Word of Life caused yet more earnest prayer that all obstructions to the free circulation of the Scriptures and for inculcation of its principles might be removed. Many and earnest were the prayers for the removal of the opposition of school teachers and of the Educational Department, and of the Prison regulations forbidding free circulation of religious truth. An amusing instance came to light in one of the most advanced and liberal prisons, where when the Salvation Army's *War Cry* is admitted, the Buddhist Priests in charge cause the faces of females in the pictures in its columns to be inked over or painted black to prevent unchaste thoughts arising in the minds of the prisoners! A fine instance surely of "straining at a gnat, and swallowing a camel."—*Communicated.*

AMERICAN TOPICS.

The results of the change from steam to electrical power on New York's elevated railways are a reduction of cost per passenger from 2.24 cents under steam to 1.98 cents, and an increase in gross earnings of $400,000 accompanied by a decrease in expenses of $99,000.

Mr. Ben Campbell, assistant traffic director for the Harriman lines, has been in Europe investigating trade conditions, and it is stated that two more vessels will be placed in commission between San Francisco and the Orient as a result of his investigations. The ships will be added to the fleet of the Pacific Mail Steamship Co.

Papers have been served upon Professor Borden D. Bowne, of Boston University, calling him to trial before the ecclesiastical court of the Methodist Episcopal Church to answer to the general charge of heresy. The specifications, five in number, are based upon the general allegation that the professor has disseminated "doctrines which are contrary to the articles of religion or established standards of doctrines in the Methodist Episcopal Church."

The New York Bible Society has just issued its seventy-ninth report, showing a distribution during the past year of 72,398 volumes of Scripture, in twenty-seven different languages, of which 4,941 were Bibles, 11,231 New Testaments, and 56,226 were portions, the latter being usually one of the Gospels. Of the total distribution 44,965 volumes went to the immigrants at Ellis island, 9,364 volumes were placed among the shipping of the port, 6,943 volumes were taken by the churches, Sunday-schools, missions, and public institutions, 11,154 volumes were placed in the hands of individuals and families through missionaries, canvassers, or at the office of the society.

On account of the recent acquisition by Canada of two islands near the southeastern boundary of Alaska, as recently laid down by the Joint Tribunal at London, it is expected that the United States Government will eventually establish fortifications in the neighbourhood. The fortifications which the War Department will probably establish either on Sitkian or Kannaghunut, will command absolutely the entrance by sea to Port Simpson, at the terminal of the proposed Grand Trunk Pacific Railroad. General Greeley, chief signal officer, recommends the extension of a military cable to whichever one of the islands the United States fortifies.

"The action of the U.S. Government in awarding a contract for 6,000 tons of armour plate with a company that has not an armour-plate mill is indicative of the policy of the Administration to protect itself in future awards by stimulating competition," says *The Railway and Engineering Review*. "The Midvale people at Philadelphia have been bidders for Government work for many years, but have been bowled out each time on account of not having facilities. The present requirements of the Government, however, are so large that it is found practicable and advisable to encourage the establishment of a third armour-plate works. Armour plate is promised in twenty months from the projected plant, and considering the character of construction necessary it will call for the expenditure of the highest type of American energy to meet the requirements."

Garnets, opals and tourmalines have been found in clay deposits near Lue du Bonnet, a village forty miles from Winnipeg. Experts say the clay formation is the same as at Kimberley and that diamonds may yet be discovered in it.

A consular report says that Harvard University has succeeded in buying the library of the late Gehelmrath Karl Maner of Munich. The library contains a magnificent collection of scientific books. Especially valuable is the part thereof which relates to the early history of Scandinavia.

Cardinal Herrerar y Espinosa, archbishop of Valencia, who died the other day, left a legacy of 50,000 pesetas to the "first Spanish general who will land on territory of the United States with an army sufficiently strong to avenge the defeats of Spain in Cuba and the Philippines. Pending this happy event the money shall remain in the Bank of Spain."

Lieutenant Chandler's torpedo flotilla, consisting of the destroyers *Decatur*, *Chauncey*, *Bainbridge*, *Barry* and *Dale*, sailed from Hampton Roads on Dec. 12 upon their trip to Manila, which is to be made via the West Indies, Gibraltar, the Mediterranean Sea, Suez Canal and Indian Ocean. The Naval Inspection Board is making the trip down the coast with the flotilla.

The strike among the drivers of horse vehicles in Chicago was still on when the last mail left and was causing some curious developments. It was only with the greatest difficulty that the great city could bury its dead, owing to drivers refusing to drive hearses, and at one time the police had to escort all funeral processions to protect mourners from the mob of drivers who objected to the undertakers-men conveying corpces to the cemeteries.

The New York Board of Education has decided to erect the largest schoolhouse in the world in that city. It will contain 124 classrooms, to accommodate 4500 boys and girls, and an auditorium room which will seat 1600 persons, It will be six stories high and will have numerous elevators, lunchrooms, bathrooms, sewing-rooms, where women will be employed to mend the torn and tattered garments of the poorer children, and tanks and swimming pools into which the dirty may be tossed and scrubbed. If a pupil is too poor to buy lunch it will be provided free of cost, for a time, at least.

There is much discussion in England as to the probable fate of the original manuscript of the first book of "Paradise Lost," dictated by Milton to an unknown amanuensis, which Sothebys are commissioned to sell at auction in March, unless it is previously sold privately. Efforts are being made to keep it in England, it being feared that it may follow numerous historical treasures to the United States. The *Daily Express* announced that a New Yorker residing in London has offered £50,000 for the manuscript. The authorities of the British Museum are trying to induce the Government to make a grant to purchase it, the museum not having the money to compete with millionaire collectors. Milton sold "Paradise Lost" to Samuel Simmons, a publisher. He received £5 down and a promise of two more payments of £5 each if two editions were sold.

A Chicago mathematician announces that Chicago, with 60,396 widows, has a larger number than any other community in the country. It is added that the number of widowers in the city is only 23,097. As a matter of fact, the State in which widows are most numerous is New York, in which they number 320,000. The city in which they are most numerous is the City of New York, where there are 105,000, says the *Sun*. There were by the last Federal census 2,720,000 widows in the whole United States, of whom, it is worthy to remark, 88,000 were in Indiana and only 8,000 in Utah. There were 128,000 in Massachusetts, less than the total number in the two states of Alabama and Mississippi, though the view pretty generally prevails that the number of widows is disproportionately large throughout New England. There are nearly 2,000 in Hawaii and 1,700 in Alaska, a proportionately larger number than in the City of Chicago.

The President has tendered the position of Civil Service Commissioner, made vacant by the death of John R. Procter, to General John C. Black of Chicago, Commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. General Black is a well-known lawyer of Chicago. He was a member of Congress at large from 1893 to 1895, was United States District Attorney for the northern district of Illinois from 1895 until 1899 and is a prominent member of the Loyal Legion. He entered the Army as private and left as a brevet Brigadier-General. At Pea Ridge he was severely wounded upon the right arm and at Prairie Grove his left arm was disabled. In the campaign and siege of Vicksburg he gallantly bore his part. His last battle was at the storming of Blakely batteries, April 9 1865. He left the service in August, 1865, after a continuous service of four years and four months. General Black was born in 1839.

According to the Boston News Bureau's New York correspondent, writing in the first week of December, the readjustment that is taking place in business is beginning to rival in magnitude the great shrinkage in security values during the past year. Already more than 140,000 people are idle by reason of closing down of plants and many thousands more are working on a reduced wage scale or on shorter hours. The theatre business is a good barometer of business conditions and the volume of theatregoers is the smallest in years in New York city. Leading hotels are not nearly so prosperous as a year ago and restaurant receipts at Delmonico's and Sherry's have fallen off sharply. In New England between 60,000 and 70,000 mill operatives have gone on a 10 per cent. wage reduction, which means over $60,000 a week less for them. In Fall River alone 30,000 are affected and in Rhode Island 20,000. The following table shows the effect on labour of the trade shrinkage:—

	Hands laid off.
Railroads	20,000
Paper mills	15,000
Montana copper mines	4,000
Pennsylvania and Ohio steel and iron	28,000
Southern iron and steel	15,000
New England textile industries	65,000
Total	147,000

Cardinal Gibbons has issued an appeal to the Roman Catholic bishops, priests, and people of the United States in behalf of the national Catholic University at Washington. Remarking that the first communication of the new Pope to the hierarchy of the United States "expresses his concern for the welfare of this pontifical institution," Cardinal Gibbons goes on to say: "The generous endowment of educational institutes by non-Catholics is one of the most significant movements in our national life. That Catholics, who have contributed so freely to so many other needs of the church, are ready, in respect of educational zeal, to rival their non-Catholic fellow citizens we may take as an assured fact. What is requisite to direct their generosity toward the work of higher education is clear perception of its importance and necessity. . . . Leo XIII., of happy memory, has publicly registered his hope that the Catholic University of America should be to the American people what the Catholic University of Louvain is to the people of Belgium—the bulwark of religion and the crown of our Catholic educational system."

Senator Hoar has introduced a bill into the United States Senate of great interest to sailors. It proposes to amend the law relative to shipping commissioners and to prevent the practice of crimps in attaching the clothing of sailors. The bill provides that when a crew is shipped by a shipping commissioner for any American vessel in the coastwise, Canadian or American trade, an agreement shall be made with each seaman engaged in the same manner, as is provided in sections 4511 and 4512 of the Revised Statutes, and such agreement shall be posted and such seaman shall be discharged and receive wages as already provided by law, but in all other respects such shipment shall be regarded as if both shipment and agreement had been entered into between the master of a vessel and seamen without going before a commissioner. This proviso added: "Provided, that the clothing of any seaman shall be exempt from attachment, and that any person who shall detain such clothing when demanded by the owner shall be deemed guilty of misdemeanour and punished by a $500 fine or six months' imprisonment, or both."

"When, thirty-four years ago, the builders of the first transcontinental railroad pushed the line around the rocky northern shore of Great Salt Lake, they little thought that in a generation 147 miles of that costly road would be abandoned for a cut-off straight across the lake forty-four miles shorter," says the *Railway Age*. "Their engineers perhaps the ablest of that day, seem never to have thought of piling and filling through thirty miles of water, and so they carried the line by infinite labour, over grades reaching 104 feet to the mile, with curves innumerable, and bequeathed to the Southern Pacific one of its most expensive pieces of track to maintain and operate. Now the modern engineer and builder devise aud carry out the cut-off, by means of 75⅓ miles of land work and 27⅞ miles of trestle and filling, thus making a line between Lucin and Ogden 103 miles long, against 147 around the lake, straight as a ruler, for the most part, and practically level, except a slight grade on the western end—a far better and shorter line than the original and probably costing less money. The engineers of 1869 would have said of Salt Lake cut-off, it they had thought of it, 'It can't be done.' The railway executive of to-day draws a straight line on the map and says 'Build there,' and the engineer finds the way to do it. Whether or not the cut-off will save all of the $200,000 or so a year necessary to pay interest on its cost may be a question, but the increase in both passenger and freight business which the shortening of distance and time must attract will doubtless justify the additional outlay."

The Louisiana special commission has recommended the passage of a bill by the State Legislature creating a non-cotton-growing belt between that State and Texas to bar out the boll weevil and prevent its progress northward. This little bug has already caused a loss estimated at $25,000,000. The boll weevil is a small greenish-grey bug only a quarter of an inch in length, and is creeping Northward through the great cotton-belt of Texas at the rate of seventy-five miles a year. Within the next decade, the cotton boll weevil will probably cost the country many millions sterling a year, and the price of clothes and of all cotton manufactures throughout the world will go up. The very name of the boll weevil strikes terror to the soul of the Southern cotton-planter. A man who returned to his home in Georgia from Texas with a specimen of the boll weevil in his possession was threatened with tar and feathers. So far, nothing has availed against the pest. Burn it, beat it, soak it with poisonous spray, thresh it with revolving brushes, and it still creeps forward. All the science and wisdom of the United States Department of Agriculture has been of no avail to stop it. As a matter of fact the boll weevil can stand almost any sort of temperature or environment.

It is certainly significant, in view of recent experience in the stock market, that the aggregate capitalization of new corporations with $1,000,000 capital or more chartered during the month of November is the smallest for any month since records were first compiled by the New York *Journal of Commerce*, more than four years ago. The total for the month is only $56,100,000, as compared with $115,140,000 in the corresponding month of 1902, and the total for eleven months of the current year is $1,572,201,000, as compared with over $2,500,000,000 in the same period of 1902, $3,500,000,000 in 1901 and $2,255,000,000 in the corresponding months of 1900. The figures for 1901, it should be noted, include the $1,400,000,000 capitalization (stocks and bonds) of the United States Steel Corporation and the $400,000,000 capital stock of the Northern Securities Company. Following are comparative figures for the past three years. The returns cover only the principal eastern states, and there have necessarily been some changes in the list of these during the period covered:

	1903. $	1902. $	1901. $
January ..	177,990,000	146,950,000	105,250,000
February.	175,975,000	294,850,000	79,500,000
March ...	144,975,000	158,150,000	190,500,000
April......	243,200,000	231,575,000	1,619,650,000
May	307,666,000	226,500,000	177,980,000
June	135,695,000	196,182,800	303,450,000
July	106,100,000	469,856,400	236,325,000
August....	77,950,000	241,879,550	57,450,000
Sept........	79,250,000	195,194,900	66,800,000
October...	67,300,000	244,550,000	164,600,000
Nov........	56,100,000	115,140,000	508,850,000
Totals...	1,572,201,000	2,520,828,650	3,510,355,000

According to Secretary Wilson of the Department of Agriculture, the eastern farmers are rehabilitating themselves by means of dairies, buckwheat, rye and potatoes, sweet and white. The south has gone in for corn, wheat, sweet potatoes, cane and sorghum sirup, hay, fruits, cattle, farm-made cheese, tobacco and home-made butter. The Pacific slope and Rocky mountain states, the north central states and all parts of the country where agriculture is followed are more prosperous than ever before. Secretary Wilson presents figures of crop production to show how great the value of some of the principal crops is. In this table is shown what the farms of the country should produce of certain crops in a year under favourable circumstances:—

	Quantity.	Value. $
Wheat, bushels	675,000,000	400,000,000
Corn, bushels	2,225,000,000	1,000,000,000
Oats, bushels...........	1,000,000,000	300,000,000
Barley, bushels.........	100,000,000	50,000,000
Rice pounds	390,000,000	—
Hay tons..................	55,000,000	500,000,000
Cotton, bales............	10,500,000	530,000,000
Tobacco, pounds	900,000,000	60,000,000

The Department of Agriculture took a census of the nation's farm animals on January 1st of this year. The count showed the following animals on hand, and the department estimated their value:—

	Number.	Value. $
Horses.....................	16,557,000	1,031,000,000
Mules......................	2,728,000	200,000,000
Milch cows	17,105,000	517,000,000
Other cattle	45,000,000	829,000,000
Sheep......................	64,000,000	168,000,000
Hogs	47,000,000	365,000,000

Under the authority of M. Delcasse, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. E. Spencer Pratt, former United States Minister to Persia, who is now residing in Paris, is making extensive researches in the archives of the Foreign Office relative to the transfer of the province of Louisiana by France to the United States. In speaking of his investigations, Mr. Pratt said:—"One of the most curious documents found is an autograph letter of Louis XV., giving away the vast Louisiana territory to his cousin, then King of Spain, as a present. The fact of this gift has heretofore been known only in a general way, but the text of the letter discloses the casual nature of the gift, and also the fact that Louis XV previously offered Louisiana to Great Britain, which refused to accept it." The text of the letter relating to the gift is as follows:—"I have caused the Marquis de Grimaldi, subjected to your majesty's pleasure, to sign a cession of New Orleans and Louisiana to Spain. I had offered it to the English in place of Florida, but they refused it. I would have ceded them other possessions to have spared Spain having to cede this latter one, but I fear that any cession in the Gulf of Mexico might lead to serious consequences. I feel that Louisiana but poorly compensates your majesty for the losses you have sustained, but in ceding you this country I consider less its value than the good accomplished in uniting the Spanish and the French nations. Union is alike necessary for our subjects and our house." The letter of the King of Spain accepting the present, said Mr. Pratt, refers to the further strengthening of the union of the two nations by a number of royal marriages. Later documents show the recession of Louisiana by Spain to France and gives minute details of the sale by Napoleon of the province to the United States.

The U.S. Secretary of War on December 15th approved the recommendation of the General Staff establishing military divisions and somewhat changing the present boundary lines of departments in the United States. There will be four divisions in the United States and one in the Philippines. The Northern divisions will be composed of the present Department of the Lakes, the Department of Missouri and the Department of Dakota. The Department of Missouri is enlarged by adding thereto the State of Wyeming, which has been detached from the Department of Colorado. The head-quarters of the Northern division will be at St. Louis. The Pacific division will be composed of the present departments of California and Columbia. The headquarters of the division will be San Francisco. The Southwestern division will be composed of the departments of Colorado and Texas. The Departments of Texas will be enlarged by the addition of the states of Louisiana and Arkansas, and Oklahoma and Indian territories. The headquarters of this division will be Oklahoma City, O. T. The Philippine division will remain as now constituted, The following division commanders have been decided upon: Atlantic division, Major-General Corbin: Northern division: Major-General Bates; Pacific division, Major-General MacArthur; South-western division, Major-General Sumner; Philippine division, Major-General Wade. The order becomes effective January 15, 1904. The following officers have been designated to assume command of the several departments; Department of the Gulf, Brigadier-General Haines; Department of the Lakes, Brigadier-General Grant; Department of the Missouri, Brigadier-General Wint (Brigadier-General Carr temporarily); Department of Dakota, Brigadier-General Kobbe; Department of California, Major-General MacArthur, temporarily: Department of the Columbia, Brigadier-General Funston; Department of the Colorado, Brigadier-General Baldwin; Department of Texas, Brigadier-General Lee (Brigadier-General Barry temporarily); Department of Luzon, Brigadier-General Randall; Department of Visaya, Brigadier-General Carter; Department of Mindanao, Major-General Wood; Commandaut of the Infantry and Cavalry School, Fort Leavenworth, Brigadier-General Bell.

VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.

(COMMUNICATED.)

It has been contended by some esoteric musicians that vocal music does not belong to the domain of absolute music, and that instrumental music should rank above vocal, because the instrument evokes "pure music," bereft of the factitious aids of language and of the emotional associations which are grouped about the peculiar *timbre* and individual psychic powers of the human voice. This distinction is both technical and etymological, since music, "the science of harmony," is considered as being an act presided over by one of the muses and hence something to be evoked from an instrument under the instruction or guidance of a muse, rather than poured forth spontaneously by the voice, unrestricted by any conventional rules of art. Those peculiar emotional associations are, no doubt, what is chiefly enjoyed in music, when we speak of the great mass of people who have never had a proper, or perhaps it would be more exact to say a technical, musical education. It has probably been noticed by most persons that, in a miscellaneous assemblage of all sorts and conditions of people, songs are always received with much heartier appreciation, even when rendered in the most amateurish way, than the most artistic performances upon the piano or any other instrument, unless it may be when the instrumental performer plays the airs of songs that are generally familiar to all of us. There are not many individuals, among those who have never studied music as a fine art, who really appreciate the music which is termed "classical," Listz's, let us say, and when such is performed to a mixed audience, gathered together by chance in a drawing-room—not assembled for a definite purpose in a concert-hall, it is generally received with polite toleration, rarely evoking enthusiasm such as follows the less artistically rendered "Nancy Lee" or "Home, Sweet Home." Hence it would seem, at a first glance, that the suggestion that instrumental music is entitled to rank above vocal, speaking scientifically, is plausible; but on analogous grounds the piano might be set above the orchestra, because the piano gives pure harmony and counterpoint, without the adventitious aid of variety in *timbre* which asserts itself when a number of different instruments are played in concert; and it is undoubtedly true that, for some such reason as this, the thoroughly trained and enthusiastic musician delights in pianoforte sonatas, which are above all things tedious and unintelligible to the ears that have not been carefully trained in music, and have not a fundamental love for music in its highest, purest form. Nearly all of the great composers dislike the duty of arranging their compositions for instrumentation by an orchestra; not because orchestral music in itself is not good but because they usually think that the grouping of instruments tends to smother the purity of the original theme: the apparently conspicuous exceptions to this statement do not militate against its truth, for such composers as Wagner (and he will doubtless be thought of at once as the most brilliant exception) have in mind the dramatic results to be produced by the combined effects of orchestral instrumentation and sympathetic vocalization. Nevertheless, in spite of its great and peculiar prerogatives, it would be absurd to prefer the piano to the orchestra, and there is a similar absurdity involved in setting the orchestra above the mighty union of orchestra, organ, and voices which we get in the oratorio. One thoroughly competent critic has said, very appositely of the comparative effects of the different kinds of music:—"When the reason alleged for ranking symphony above the oratorio leads us likewise to rank the sonata above the symphony, we seem to have reached a *reductio ad absurdum*."

Rightly considered, the question as to superiority between vocal and instrumental music amounts to this: What does music express? This is really a psychological question, and as such its answer depends entirely upon the mood or emotional shade which possessed the composer at the time when he produced his work, and, reflectively, the moods which it is desired to arouse in the listener when the composition shall be played or sung by another person to a general audience, and since there is always great danger that purely instrumental music may run riot in the extravagant utterances of emotional states for which it is possible to arouse a responsive emotion in all listeners, it may well be contended that that music is best which appeals most directly and most strongly to the moods of the majority of that large body of listeners who are blest with that certain amount of refinement which is never utterly lacking in even the most casual company. Now, in real life our emotional states are generally determined by their association with intellectual ideas that are connected with our own past experiences, and when music arouses in us a sequence of emotional thoughts which sway us strongly, it may surely be called, for us at any rate, the best music. Even Trilby's grotesque rendering of "Ben Bolt" had another effect upon her amazed yet sympathetic listeners than that which excited their risibles and moved them to wonder how any human voice could so distort a well known tune as to deprive it, although the singer was totally unconscious of the fact, of the least resemblance to what it was supposed to express: there was, on the part of her listeners, association of ideas with what they knew that song meant for so many, and this moved them as well, yet in quite a different way. Without stopping to trace the development of that emotional association through all the various gradations, if that could be done, we may say at once that in the effect of such a combination of voice and instruments as that of the "Hallelujah" chorus, we have all the precision that belongs to the best instrumentalization combined with that flexibility which pertains to the noblest organ of sound, the human voice, and in this combination we seem to have reached the highest pinnacle to which music can carry us. Hence, while we may feel that vocal music is better, we must still admit that the two kinds of music are complementary and at most times mutually interdependent.

Admitting, therefore, that for the majority of human beings there is more real musical satisfaction in a song than in any instrument played alone, we may well ask: What kind of song appeals most strongly to the greatest number? The exact answer is, of course, to be given by each person for himself alone, yet daily association and past memories exert a powerful influence, and the temperament of a person can often be guessed with a good deal of shrewdness by hearing him! It has been said of a certain individual, whose influence in the financial circles of two continents is perhaps not quite so great to-day as it was a year or two ago, that his humming is an accurate personal barometer: if the tune is lugubrious, let no one approach him with a new scheme, no matter how promising it may be; if the air is sprightly, there is reasonable hope for anyone! Another thing to be noted in connection with the influence of a song upon those who are listening to it, is that the majority of them are always in sympathy with the singer and tremble with kindly anxiety when the notes rise much above the scope of the average voice, or descend to the rumbling ones that are executed with precision only by the exceptional basso, therefore it is those songs that have a moderate range which} invariably receive the heartier welcome when the singer is not a well known professional upon whom entire confidence may be placed, and it is those we hear the people humming as they leave the concert hall or opera house.

THE LAW COURTS.

AN EX-POLICEMAN *v.* GOVERNOR HIGAKI.

Mr. I. Taniguchi, ex-police officer of Okayama has filed a case in the Okayama District Court against Mr. N. Higaki, the Governor of Okayama prefecture, claiming *yen* 3,068. According to the complaint, Mr. Taniguchi was appointed a police officer on Nov. 30th, 1899. Since then he had been most diligent in the performance of his duties. In August 1903, he was ordered to take the service at the Oku station and on the 6th of the same month he was discharged, the reason given being that he was stupid. The Governor afterwards published serious reasons in the prefectural police periodical, *Keisatsuho*, and circulated the copies. It caused injury to reputation of plaintiff, for which defendant should be responsible.

Z. Horii, a shareholder of the Nihonbashi Bank, Tokyo, lodged information on Jan. 7th at the Tokyo District Court to the effect that K. Sudzuki, one of the directors, and K. Ito, chief cashier, had forged documents of the bank. It was alleged that they had lent *yen* 20,000 to the Hongo theatre on the security of its building, and that they afterward transferred the security to a third person and borrowed money on it.

YOKOHAMA ENGINE AND IRON WORKS, LTD.

The half-yearly general meeting of shareholders of the above-named company was held on Monday afternoon, there being present Messrs. Jas. Dodds (in the chair), B. Gillett, J. W. Weaver, C. B. Bernard, B. C. Howard, C. K. M. Martin and R. T. Bell (Secretary).

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the meeting, said: In accordance with the usual custom at our annual half-yearly general meeting, the directors have the pleasure to lay on the table a statement of the liabilities and assets of the Company and the profit and loss account for the half-year ended on 30th November last. It will be observed from these statements that the profit for the past half-year, after providing for depreciation of buildings, plant, and machinery directors' and auditors' fees, amounts to .... *yen* 22,808.88
which, with the balance of profit brought forward from last year's account, viz:— 9,207.55

leaves an available balance of...... *yen* 32,056.43
which the directors have no doubt the shareholders will regard as a very satisfactory showing. The stock at the end of the half year has, as usual, been most carefully taken and as will be observed has been slightly reduced in amount. The directors have the pleasure to recommend to the shareholders that an interim dividend of *yen* 5 per share be declared at this meeting. This will absorb *yen* 13,000, leaving *yen* 19,056.43 to be carried forward to this second half of the year. This appropriation will require to be confirmed by the present meeting. The directors regret to have to report the resignation of Mr. Johnstone, the chairman of the board, on account of ill-health, and his place on the board has been filled by the appointment of Mr. E. W. Frazar; Mr. Dodds taking up temporarily the duties of chairman.

There being no remarks, Mr. Martin formally proposed and Mr. Gillett seconded that an interim dividend of *yen* five per share be paid.

The CHAIRMAN announced that the dividend warrants would be issued the following day.

The meeting then dispersed.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Messrs. Vivanti Bros. publish the following list of silk shippers from Yokohama to the United States, for the season 1903-1904, from 1st July to 31st December, 1903:—

		Bales.
Messrs.	Vivanti Bros.	4,175
,,	Bavier & Co.	2,615
,,	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	2,178
,,	Siber, Wolf & Co.	1,762
,,	Herbert Dent & Co.	1,278
,,	China & Japan Trading Co., Ltd.	*1,263
,,	Otto Reimers & Co.	1,141
,,	Jewett and Bent	939
,,	Varone & Co.	695
,,	Ulysse Pila & Co.	538
,,	Boyer, Mazet, Guilliee & Co.	482
,,	Pollak Bros.	369
,,	American Trading Co.	*292
,,	Sieber & Co.	172
Mr.	L. Mottet	100
Messrs.	Sulzer, Rudolph & Co.	97
,,	Nabholz & Co.	82
,,	J. Brett & Co.	†35
,,	Yokohama Kiito Gomei Kaisha	6,515
,,	Mitsui Bussan Kwaisha	2,622
,,	Doshin Kwaisha	1,164
,,	Hara Yushutsu Ten	2
	Total	28,516

* 1 Bale of the American Trading Co., are Spun Silks.

* 5 Bales of the China and Japan Trading Co., are Spun Silks.

† 2 Bales of Messrs. J. Brett & Co. have been shipped to City of Mexico, under the name of Messrs. Winckler & Co.

A gang of fifteen bandits, captured in Albay, P.I., have been taken to Manila, where they are all to be hanged as soon as arrangements can be made.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

In the Sydney Courts Louis Becke, the author of various Australian and South Sea Island tales, has been held to have deserted his wife, who sued for a divorce and practically got it.

One danger haunts the legal author who goes into court—he may be answered out of his own book. This was the unhappy experience of Mr. Scrutton, K.C., in the action by Messrs. Novello and Company against Mrs. Brown Potter. Mr. Lawrence, K.C., contesting one of Mr. Scrutton's arguments, triumphantly quoted a passage from his learned friend's admirable work on copyright law. "Oh, that mine enemy would write a book!" Mr. Justice Kekewich made the obvious comment on the situation, and the Court was merry.

Messrs. Williams and Norgate, Publishers and Booksellers of 14, Henrietta-street, Covent Garden, London, send us a copy of their 137th International Book Circular. Besides a capitally compiled catalogue of books in many languages and dealing with every imaginable subject under the sun, ecclesiastical topics, perhaps, predominating, the Circular contains a sympathetic, well written article on Adolf Harnack, the German theologian, by the Rev. Dr. W. J. Cobb; and a critical review by the same writer of some Recent Foreign Theological Publications, which thoroughly deserves a wide circulation.

The first American book, according to William P. Trent, of Columbia University, in his recently published "History of American Literature," was the "Bay Psalm Book," which was produced at Cambridge, Mass., in 1640, by Stephen Daye, who had set up the first printing press in America the year before. This statement is not quite in accord with the late Mr. William Blades's note, in his "Pentateuch of Printing," that "in the New World the first city to receive a printing press was Mexico, where Comberger worked in 1540." In the North, Stephen Daye erected a press at Cambridge, Mass., in 1638. It is easy to guess why Prof. Trent may have ruled Cromberger out; and the trifling discrepancy as to the date of Daye's press is of no importance.

The first Christmas Card was issued fifty-seven years ago. Mr. John Caldecott Horsley, R.A., the artist who designed it, died on October 19th. He was born in 1817, and, as the *Book Monthly* for October reminds us, became an R.A. in 1866. He designed the card at the suggestion of "Felix Summerly," otherwise Mr. (afterwards Sir) Henry Cole, and it was issued in 1846, from the office of that gentleman's *Home Treasury*, 12, Old Bond Street. The picture on the card represents a family party, from grandparents to grandchildren, enjoying the "good cheer" appropriate to the Christmas season. On the right of this central group is a woman giving garments to a woman and a child; and on the left a man feeding the hungry. About a thousand copies of this card were issued. Probably but few of them are still in existence. The late Mr. Horsley's reminiscences are announced for publication by Mr. John Murray.

The latest issue of Lord Ronald Gower's reminiscences is eagerly welcomed in literary circles in England. The book possesses a distinct flavour of its own for Lord Rovald has led a life fuller of interesting events than falls to the lot of men less nobly born. And better still, his eye has been quick to see and to record the good, and he has given his knowledge of the great to the world. It has been his fate to outlive many who have been too early called away. What he feels looking back, he sums up in the beautiful words of a correspondent whose name the reader would fain see engraved in gold. "As one's life draws near its end, we must learn to be more lenient, more forgiving towards one another. Here, within the chime of the old cathedral bells this Sunday morning I feel it is all such a fleeting show—this life, with its offences, its resentments—that the best lesson one can learn is to forget all but the love, the friendship, the kindness one has found and cherished, which has sweetened one's pathway."

A distinct loss to the ranks of contemporary novelists is caused by the death of Mr. Hugh Stowell Scott, better known as "Henry Seton Merriman." He had only been before the public as a writer for about ten years, and less than a dozen works have come from his pen, but he had gained a wide and appreciative public, by whom his premature death will be heard of with deep regret. Like Mr. Shorthouse and others, Henry Seton Merriman long combined business with novel-writing, but latterly he had taken up his permanent residence in Ipswich and adopted definitely the literary life. His health, unfortunately, was never robust, and he travelled a good deal, a fact of which his books—which are always wholesome and stimulating—bear witness. He was ever a conscientious worker, and it has to mentioned to his credit in these self-advertising days that he persistently refused to be dragged into notice, and hated the methods by which so many writers now keep their names before the public. Had he lived he would no doubt have added much to his already considerable achievements; but that was not to be.

In response to a number of requests from local authorities the Editor of the *Schoolmaster* has compiled a list of a hundred books wherewith to start a school library, and the list appears in the last number of our contemporary. It was submitted, among others, to Sir John Gorst, and some of his criticisms are interesting. For instance, he asks whether "Lorna Doone" is not above a child's comprehension, and further, whether "Allan Quatermain" is not "too bloody." He says, too, that "The Last of the Barons" is "very immoral." On the question of "Ivanhoe" he writes: "I am told modern children don't read Scott, otherwise I should have advised more." As to the inclusion of one of Marryat's works, Sir John writes: "There are others of Marryat's in the same style which are very good—'The Children of the New Forest,' 'The Settlers in Canada,' and 'The Mission.'" Sir John asks whether "Sesame and Lilies" is not above a child, and would add to the two books from the pen of Charlotte Yonge "The Dove in the Eagle's Nest." Sir William Anson has also looked through the list. He strikes out Dean Farrar's "Eric" altogether. Sir William would add Jules Verne's "Round the World in Eighty Days" and Rolf Boldrewood's "Robbery Under Arms." The Bishop of Hereford would omit the following: "Eric," "Our Village," "Sesame and Lilies," "The Heir of Redclyffe." On the other hand, Dr. Percival would add the following: "'Black Beauty,' 'The Heroes' (C. Kingsley), Lamb's 'Tales from Shakespeare,' 'The Little Duke' or 'The Caged Lion' (C. Yonge), or any of Mrs. Emma Marshall's books." Dr. Percival would like to see more poems, ballads, &c.

FIRES.

On the night of Jan. 6th, fire broke out in the barracks of the 8th pioneer battalion at Hiromae, Aomori Prefecture, destroying three buildings.

A telegram from Takata, states that an outbreak of fire occurred early on the morning of Jan. 7th in the well-known hotel, Koyo-Kwan, burning down the building.

Fire broke out on Jan. 9th in the Methodist Church, Toyama, destroying the building. A defective chimney is reported to be the cause.

On the night of Jan. 10th, fire broke out at Suwa-cho, Koishikawa, Tokyo, burning down three houses. The cause is not yet known.

A telegram from Morioka states that fire broke out on the night of January 11th at Morimachi, Kesen-gori, burning down over thirty houses.

A fatal fire occurred on Jan. 13th at the village of Tomioka, Sunto district, Shidzuoka prefecture, burning down a building. A farmer and his wife were killed.

"UNION JACK CLUB" FUND.

The following subscriptions have been received at the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation towards the above fund:—

Proceeds of Theatrical performance	560
Sir Claude Macdonald, K.C.B., G.C.M.G.	25
Lady Macdonald	25
Maurice Russell	10
F. S. James	25
F. Schroeder	10
H. C. Pigott	25
Baroness D'Anethan	10
Total received to date	690

FOOTBALL.

Though the weather on Saturday afternoon was decidedly pleasanter in the matter of temperature than we have experienced for some weeks past there were but few spectators at the football match. The game was played under Sokker rules and Colours emerged from a rather uninteresting contest victors by three goals to two.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

A telegram from Nagasaki states that a British steamer with 4,000 tons of coal arrived at Saseho on January 9th.

A British steamer with about ten thousand tons of coal, arrived at Nagasaki on January 12th *en route* to Vladivostock.

The *Jiji* states that over fifty Japanese residents in Dalny arrived at Nagasaki on Jan. 11th. More are expected to arrive at Kobe.

The Nippon Industry Bank will hold an ordinary general meeting on Jan. 25th to discuss a proposal to issue debentures amounting to not less than *yen* 4,500,000.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha will hold a general meeting on Jan. 23rd to pass the accounts for the past half year. An interim dividend is expected at the rate of 5 per cent.

Wireless telegraphy, according to the *Electrical World and Engineer*, is to be used in the suppression of the smuggling of opium into the Chinese quarters of the United States.

The lead and tin markets in Osaka are reported by the *Jiji* to be active. The price of lead advanced on Jan. 11th from *yen* 7 to *yen* 8.80 and tin from *yen* 70 to *yen* 86 per 100 *kin*.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha's European liner *Sanuki Maru*, which was due to leave Kobe on Jan. 12th, outward, was stopped there by orders from the head office, the previous day.

The *Nichi Nichi* says that Mr. M. Alfonso Gasco, interpreter of the Italian Legation at Tokyo, who had obtained leave to pay a visit home, is alleged to have resolved to stay in Tokyo.

T. Tanaka, book-publisher, living at Honjo, Tokyo, who was charged with having published a book injurious to social order, was sentenced in the Tokyo District Court on Jan. 11th to twenty days' imprisonment.

The Japanese consul at Bombay telegraphed on Jan. 9th that having been over shadowed by serious rumours with regard to the Russo-Japanese negotiations the cotton market is very dull. The stock is estimated at 213,800 bales.

Mr. K. Mori, superintendent of a police station, and Mr. T. Iimpo, headman of the Mamerikawa street, Toyama prefecture were arrested on Jan. 10th on a charge of having forged official documents. A judicial official searched their domiciles.

Dr. H. Sano, President of the General Hospital at Tientsin, on Jan. 11th married Miss Shidzu, a daughter of Dr. S. Goto, Chief of Civil Affairs Bureau, Formosan Government. The wedding party was held on the evening of the same day at the Imperial Hotel.

The British warship *Vestal* arrived on Jan. 14th at Kelung, Formosa.

The *Jiji* reports that the Russian warships *Oslabya* and others have left Bizerta for the Far East.

A telegram from Taipeh, Formosa, says the price of silver *yen* advanced on Jan. 13th from *sen* 93 to *sen* 95.

An official report from Formosa states that a fresh case of plague appeared on Jan. 13th at Yensuiko. The patient died.

The Emperor of China has decorated Mr. Niwa and other officials of the Board of Ceremony, who attended on Prince Tsai when he paid a visit to Japan last year.

The *Asahi* states that the amount of money borrowed by the Government from the Bank of Japan since the end of December amounted to *yen* 25,000,000.

The godown of the Imaharu Commercial Bank is reported to have been entered, the burglars breaking through a part of the wall. About *yen* 1,600 was stolen.

Mr. J. J. B. Heimskerk, an old Shanghai hand, has been appointed agent of the Chartered Bank of India, etc., at Hamburg. Mr. Heimskerk was in Japan thirty years ago. Later he was in business in Shanghai and then in Hongkong.

The mother of Baron Sone, Minister of State for Finance, died on Jan. 12th at her villa at Katase. Her age was 77 years. The remains were removed on the following day to Tokyo. Tokyo papers report that she had been ill for a considerable time.

Shocking news comes by telegraph from Mito, Ibaraki prefecture. A farmer living in the village of Yata, Tsukuba district, is reported to have strangled his two children on Jan. 12th, and then committed suicide by hanging himself. Poverty is said to be the cause.

With reference to information to the effect that the Russian warships *Gromboi*, *Rossia*, etc., have left Vladivostock for China and Korean waters, the *Asahi* states that no official information has been received by the Government authorities, and that the report is probably groundless.

The shareholders of the Tokyo Gas Company will hold a general meeting on Jan. 19th to discuss a proposal to add *yen* 4,200,000 to their capital, which now stands at *yen* 4,200,000, so that the capital will then be *yen* 8,400,000. The interim dividend of the last half year is expected to be at the rate of 7 per cent.

The *Jiji's* Osaka correspondent announces that Mr. S. Harada, of that city, has purchased a first class Lloyd steamer (2,070 tons) delivery being received on Jan. 9th at Yokohama. It was renamed the *Seiun Maru* and will be employed on the line between Kobe and North China.

The average rate of the steamers of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha chartered by the Navy is reported by the *Nichi Nichi* to be *yen* 4 per ton per day. To meet actual expenses, however, *yen* 6 is needed, and therefore the directors of the firm intend to appeal to the Government for an increased charterage.

The Nippon Life Insurance Company, Osaka, has decided not to increase the rate of premia for insurers who belong to the military services even at this serious time, but to cut 10 per cent. from the insured amount on payment in cases of death during the war. The insurance of military men now amounts to *yen* 1,900,000.

According to the *Official Gazette*, Mr. C. Yamada, Japanese consul at Lyons, sent a telegram on Jan. 10th that the condition of the raw silk market is stationary since the end of the previous week. Anxiety as to the outcome of the crisis in the Far East seemed to be hampering transactions. Japanese filatures, No. 1½—9 to 11 deniers—are quoted at 47 francs.

The nominal editor and publisher of the *Niroku Shimpo* was prosecuted on Jan. 13th in the Tokyo District Court on a charge of having published some information with regard to military movements, without permission of the authorities.

The *Daily News* says that the late James McNeil Whistler's painting, "La Prince se du Pays de la Porcelaine," has been bought by an American for $5,000, and will be immediately shipped to the United States. Since Mr. Whistler's death there has been an extraordinary demand for his works.

Looking over the Index of the English Hansard one finds that an old acquaintance, Mr. Galloway Weir, heads the list of loquacious private members, fourteen columns recording the multitude of queries he proposed during the Session to Mr. Graham Murray, whose six columns are mainly devoted to replies to Mr. Weir.

According to information brought by the Russian steamer *Amur*, which arrived at Nagasaki on Jan. 11th, the Russian warships lying at Port Arthur were busily engaged in loading coal but all the officers and bluejackets had landed. Apparently affairs in the port are very quiet. A rumour that a Japanese had been killed by Russians in Port Arthur is baseless.

Two men armed with swords entered early on the morning of Jan. 13th the Buddhist temple Joshinji, at the village of Urasato, Miura, Kanagawa prefecture, where a naval officer of the retired list was lodging. One of the would-be robbers was killed by the officer and the other was subsequently arrested by the police.

The *North-China Daily News* says that the riot at Amoy, during the races, arose between the Sikh police and the Chinese outside. The latter pursued the police into the race-course enclosure. Some bluejackets from H.M.S. *Rambler* assisted the police in driving the mob back. A few of the bluejackets and some civilians were slightly wounded. Quiet was restored before night.

Princesses Tsune and Kane (daughters of the Emperor) left on Jan. 10th for the detached palace at Odawara by the 10 a.m. train, accompanied by Count and Countess Sasaki and some officials and court ladies. Governor Sufu and Mr. Hamada, the chief police inspector of the Kanagawa Kencho, escorted the princesses from the Yokohama station.

The Berlin Wagner Society has published an indignant protest against the production of "Parsifal" in New York, declaring that "Richard Wagner's holy legacy to art, whose production he designed [illegible] reserve for the consecrated temple of art which he created, is thrown away upon auditors in the land of dollars, who possess no conception of the true essence of Wagner and probably never will possess any."

The gun which Captain Roberts, son of the Commander-in-Chief, lost his life in rescuing from the Boers at the battle of Colenso, has arrived at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. An inscription, approved by the War Office, recording the heroism of the deceased officer is being engraved upon the gun. When completed it is to be presented to Earl Roberts as a family heirloom.

According to the *Official Gazette*, Mr. Otagiri, Japanese Consul at Shanghai, telegraphed on Jan. 11th that owing to the fear of war and to the fall in exchange the cotton yarn market is very inactive and but few transactions are carried on. The native importers do not intend to make contracts for forward delivery. The stock of the Japanese product is calculated at 28,000 bales.

In the little mining town of New Philadelphia, Pa., are three foreigners, John Motske, Jocstavi Slavoni and Mike Parko, who are in a position to dispute the Rooseveltian theory of race suicide. While at work on Dec. 9th, the three men received word that male twins had been born to each one of them. American papers add that the six little babes are chubby and strenuous and will very likely live.

A policeman of the Yokohama Harbour Station went to the Hotel Joshuya, Benten-dori, on Jan. 9th and took away a fowling-piece from a Russian who had just arrived from Hakodate by the steamer *Miike Maru*. It appears that the foreigner had obtained the gun at the shop of Morikame, Hakodate, and without making payment left there for Yokohama. The Japanese ammunition dealer telegraphed to the police here requesting that it be returned to him.

The Central Tea guild received a telegram on Jan. 10th from New York to the effect that owing to the serious rumours with regard to the complications between Russia and Japan, the demand for tea had greatly increased, but no change occurred in prices. The *Kokumin* believes that having foreseen that means for transportation would be greatly decreased at the critical time, thus preventing the import of tea, the dealers have imported for speculative purchase.

Tokyo papers agree that the Japanese Government intends to place an order with Messrs. Armstrong or Vicker's Shipbuilding yards to construct another first class battleship of about 16,000 tons displacement. The authorities have given instructions by telegram to the Japanese inspecting officials staying in London, so that the contract will shortly be made. It is also reported by Tokyo papers that as the result of the scheme of the third expansion of the navy, the authorities have requested the shipbuilders to present their estimates for the proposed ship.

Miss Marie Corelli, the novelist, was awarded a farthing damages, each side to pay their own costs, on Dec. 16th, in a libel suit brought by her against the proprietor of the *Stratford-on-Avon Herald* in connection with the recent controversy, in which Miss Corelli opposed the erection of a Carnegie library on the ground that it involved a desecration of Shakespeare's birth-place. The alleged libel consisted in a statement that Miss Corelli desired to erect a library at the same place.

National loan bonds at present amount to:—

	Yen.
Redemption	167,128,350
Pension	115,641,150
Naval	8,297,300
Old	3,950,181
Railway	54,826,650
Industries	143,186,850
Hokkaido Railway	5,592,500
Formosan Industries	23,707,900
Financial Document	10,000,000

Holland is just now passing through a very severe financial crisis. A good many banks have failed in Haarlem, Delft, and other northern towns, and some in the south. Even at The Hague and Amsterdam, one or two houses have fallen into serious difficulties. Much of the trouble has been directly caused by the recent disturbance of the American market, but in its origin is due to reckless speculation and reaction, after a period of inflation. The weaker houses are now feeling the strain, and some experienced observers doubt if the trouble is at an end.

As a result of the French interdiction of religious orders, England, it is said, has received about 6,000 monks and nuns. Some 1,800 have gone to the United States, and about 1,100 to Canada. Monks and nuns have come in about equal numbers to England. and the convents and monasteries have been increased by about 602 by the influx. In the diocese of Southwark alone thirty-one new missions have been opened. Throughout Great Britain forty-seven new convent schools were established last year. The exiles brought a considerable sum of money with them.

S. Akita (30) was arrested by the Kagacho police, on Jan. 6th at a Chinese exchange shop, No. 165, Yokohama, where he attempted to exchange false Russian notes for Japanese money. He stated at the police station that he was employed in 1895 by the Russian authorities as a coolie on the construction work of the Siberian Railway and the East China Railway and that he returned home in December last. The notes which are declared to be counterfeit had been saved by him during his employment in Russia and he believed them to be good. He is under examination at the station.

Governor Sufu issued a notice on Jan. 7th to the foreign insurance companies in Yokohama with regard to the deposit of *yen* 100,000 which the Minister for Agriculture and Commerce ordered last year. The note states that the deposit in the form of cash will be accepted up to Jan. 31st, which is the last day of the specified period, but that in case of securities the deposit will not be received on the last day, as the Minister's consent must precede their acceptance. It is stated by the Kencho that the only firm which has made the deposit as yet is the New York Life Insurance Company.

It is probable that the season of 1904 will see a new departure in county cricket. Several leading county cricketers have been approached, and unofficial meetings have been held in London and Birmingham, and all were in favour of pushing forward the proposal that, in addition to the present county championship, a new inter-county tournament, by which all beaten teams shall fall out in each round, shall be instituted. Circulars have been sent to the first-class counties requesting meetings to consider the scheme, and even if some of the richer counties do not fall in with the idea, it is believed that the support of the remainder will prevent it being dropped.

The *Kobe Herald* reports that a fire broke out in the upstair rooms of Mr. F. Domballe, No. 63, Sakaye-machi, Ichome, Kobe, at about 2.20 on Thursday morning, and the rooms, together with the upper story of a Chinese exchange shop to the north of the premises, were destroyed. The cause of the fire is not clear and the authorities are making enquiries. The rooms where the fire is believed to have originated were let to Messrs. Yamashita and Ueta. The amount of damage to the property of Mr. F. Domballe is not known but that to the Chinese Exchange shop is *yen* 3,000. The property of the former was insured for *yen* 8,000 by two insurance companies and that of the Chinese shop for *yen* 2,600.

Lecturing at Leeds, Mr. Edward Whymper, the well-known mountain climber, gave an interesting account of the first ascent of Chimborazo in the Andes of the Equator, upwards of 20,000 feet above the sea. Mr. Whymper had many stories to tell of mountain sickness through the rarefaction of the air, and of the means used to overcome the dangers to be faced through the want of oxygen in the air after a certain altitude had been reached. The sickness having been overcome, Mr. Whymper and his men succeeded, in spite of the failure of their food supplies, in reaching the summit of the mountain. So fascinating had the experience been that the ascent of Chimborazo was made a second time.

The Queen of Holland has just done an Englishman—the Rev. Kirsopp Lake, of Lincoln College, Oxford—the honour of appointing him a Theological Professor at the famous Dutch University of Leyden. Mr. Lake succeeds the well-known Dr. Manen in the Chair of New Testament Exegesis. Leyden has a historical roll of great men second to that of hardly any University. She can boast the illustrious names of Descartes, Grotius, Scaliger, Salmasius, Boerhaave, and Arminius. In the eighteenth century, owing chiefly to the fame of Boerhaave, Leyden had one of the most popular medical schools in Europe, and great numbers of English medical students went there for their degrees. Among them were Garth and Akenside, the poets, Goldsmith, and John Aikin.

The list of prize-winners in the competition organised by the *Times* in the spring of last year, in connection with the completion of the tenth edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, has been published. No fewer than 11,080 persons entered for the competition, and 5,646 of these persevered to the end and sent in answers to all the three question-papers. The *Times* had offered £1,000 to the purchaser who could pass the best examination in its *Encyclopædia Britannica*, as well as other prizes for the less expert, ranging from £225 to £10. An Army tutor came out at the top in this competition. More than 10 per cent. of the winners were clergymen or ministers. The process of compiling answers, says the *Times*, "has been productive alike of pleasure and profit," for, apart from the prize-winning, "the work of ranging through the *Encyclopædia* in search of knowledge has been its own-reward."

The coroner of Derby has just held an inquest concerning the death of a carter named Day, aged 51. This poor fellow had in his time saved no fewer than 27 persons from drowning, but had never sought public recognition of his heroism. It seems hard that such a man should have lost his life by drowning at last, but he did, and it is feared that he committed suicide under mental depression. In the last week of November he left home and was never seen again until his body was found in a canal, his cap and muffler being on the bank. The jury returned a verdict of found drowned, and gave their fees to the widow.

Going through the financial matters of the Vatican as left by Pope Leo, the present Pope has found that several millions had been employed in restoring the private patrimonies of a number of aristocratic families, the members of which had remained faithful to the Holy See, particularly those of the Princes Boncampagni and Borquez, but more especially the latter. The historic palace of the latter, built by Pope Paul V. at the beginning of the seventeenth century, had fallen into the hands of creditors of the princely house, who rented it as an office to the Grand Orient of the Italian Free Masons, which Pope Leo considered to be a desecration. All rumours to the effect that Pope Pius intends to get this money back through the application of coercive measures are considered at the Vatican as altogether without foundation, because the families subventioned are repaying the money loaned them by yearly instalments.

A London telegram of Dec. 3rd said: The Royal Commission on Arsenical Poisoning from Food and Drink recommends the prohibition of the sale of beer and other liquids entering into the composition of food which contains one-hundredth of a grain or more of arsenic per gallon, and the prohibition of the sale of solid food containing one hundredth of a grain per pound, "no matter whether habitually consumed in large or small quantities or whether consumed alone (like golden syrup) or mixed with water or other substances (like chicory, etc.)." The commissioners find there are serious defects in the present machinery available [illegible] safeguard the public, and urge that more extended powers be given to the authorities to condemn unwholesome food, the establishment of official "standards" and the creation of a "board of reference," to whioh could be referred specific points and whose decisions should be carried out by the department concerned, the latter's action being subject to the control of Parliament.

It is with the most poignant regrets, says the *Korea Review*, that we are obliged to note the death of Mrs. Vinton, the wife of Dr. C. C. Vinton, of Seoul. Dr. and Mrs. Vinton have lived in Seoul for the past thirteen years, having arrived from America in the Spring of 1891. Mrs. Vinton was a native of New York City and it was there that she was married to Dr. Vinton on the eve of their departure for Korea. From that time till her death on the fourth of this month she was a prominent member of the small social circle in Seoul. Many are the people who could tell of her unstinted hospitality and her words of encouragement in times of despondency and of sympathy in times of sorrow. Such memories of her form the best monument in her honour. The quiet, forceful, womanly influence which she exerted is measured by the void which her absence makes. The sympathy of the entire community and of hundreds of friends in China, Japan and America is extended to Dr. Vinton and his children. Mrs. Vinton leaves six children, three boys and three girls. The funeral took place on Monday, the 7th December

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The disagreeable fact has to be faced, according to the concurrent testimony of fishermen of several nations, that the shark has once more to be reckoned with in European waters. In the Baltic, where sharks had been extinct since 1759, they have made their reappearance in considerable numbers, and several fishing boats report having had whole draughts of fish devoured from the nets, which were broken, in the Belt and the Cattegat. A fisherman who fell overboard narrowly escaped with his life. Shoals of sharks, some of them of large size, have been seen off the German coast, and they are even reported as becoming far from rare in the North Sea. Their presence is attributed to their pursuit of the herring shoals on the west coast of Norway.

The British Admiralty evidently contemplates the extensive adoption of oil fuel for warships in the near future. Three old gunboats at Portsmouth have been transformed into oil hulks, their engines, guns, and everything below deck having been removed and replaced by tanks for oil, with a pump by which fluid may be raised for filling oil tanks on battleships. Experiments are still being made on board the destroyer *Surly*, and the destroyer *Spiteful* is being prepared for a series of trials. The old battleship *Sultan* is having her furnaces adapted for oil burning, and it is proposed to carry out a series of experiments on her with various kinds of oil and different modes of combustion. Classes of stokers will also be trained to use the liquid fuel, so as to produce the maximum of heat with the minimum of smoke. The battleships *Mars* and *Hannibal*, on returning to Portsmouth, will have the whole of their furnaces adapted for oil. At present they use coal in half the furnaces. The oil furnaces have so far given encouraging results, and the extension of the system is no doubt the result of the experiences gained in the summer manœuvres, during which the oil fuel was in constant use.

According to the *Jiji's* correspondent, the Osaka Chamber of Commerce held a general meeting on the night of Jan. 11th and decided to present the Minister of State for Finance, the President of the Bank of Japan, the President of the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., and the Committee of the Osaka Bankers' Society's, their views with regard to the control of financial affairs, which are involved by current complications. The note to the Committee of the Osaka Bankers' Society is summarized as follows: "As diplomatic dangers are just pending, it is unavoidable that the stock and other markets will fluctuate for speculative purposes. In this case, should those concerned take fright the result will be disastrous to commercial circles. They must thus endeavour not to be deceived by the deluding changes but to keep up the interests of their business. The maintenance of a quiet attitude is influenced by the actions of the bankers. They are, therefore, strongly requested to maintain a firm attitude and not be influenced by the actions of individual speculators." The representations to the presidents of the Bank of Japan and the Yokohama Specie Bank were in effect similar to the foregoing. The Chamber of Commerce advised the Minister of Finance to pay attention to the inspecting of bankers.

The British ship *Thornliebank* 1,962 tons, from Philadelphia, arrived at Sydney at the beginning of last month after a most exciting voyage of 165 days, during which she encountered terrific gales and narrowly escaped destruction. On September 9 the rivets began to start, causing an alarming leakage. The ship took in water steadily, though the sailors toiled uneasingly at the pumps for the remainder of the voyage, a period of two and a half months, during which the vessel made 8,000 miles. The situation was most critical, as only the hand pumps could be used, owing to the donkey engine having been destroyed in the first gale. To the constant fight with the inrush of water was presently added a new difficulty. The cargo began to shift dangerously, creating a heavy list, now to port, now to starboard, rendering the *Thornilebank* at times nearly unmanageable. The ship pitched and rolled in the teeth of persistently contrary winds, until the crew began to fear that they would never reach port. In anticipation of a catastrophe, the boats were kept constantly provisioned and ready for launching. Fortunately for the plucky crew their desperate struggle, which the maritime authorities extol as a feat of marvellous seamanship, was successful.

On the evening of Dec. 8th the first annual dinner of the staff of the London office of the International Banking Corporation (whose head office is in New York) was held at the Holborn Restaurant, the chairman being the manager, Mr. John C. Budd, ably supported by Lord Fairfax of Cameron, and Mr. C. E. Thomson.

In the course of the really impressive and enthusiastic meeting of London Liberals, which was held on Nov. 25th in the Surrey Theatre, there was one unpremeditated incident which, for significance, quite eclipsed everything else. Towards the end of a long and characteristically brilliant speech, Lord Rosebery, with sudden energy, put to his crowded audience this question, "Will the Government fool this people once again?" In a moment came the answer—an answer for which, apparently, he was not altogether prepared—"Not if you will take the lead." As this response, prompt and pat, broke upon the rhetorical pause which Lord Rosebery had made, the crowded audience rose, as if to a signal, and spent itself in a roar of enthusiastic acclamation. In every part of the house, men—and women too—clapped and cheered and waved hats or handkerchiefs with an energy that was as spontaneous and sincere as it was impressive. What would be his answer to this "message of leadership" so unexpectedly "flung back" to his "message of peace"? As silence at last asserted itself again every ear was strained in eager attention to catch his next words. "I say," repeated Lord Rosebery, with studiously preserved imperturbability, "will the Government fool this people once again?" The humour of this discreet evasion of an embarrassing situation at once appealed to Lord Rosebery's baffled admirers, and in a shout of laughter the incident was extinguished.

In the *Naval and Military Record* "Paratus" writes anent H.M.S. *Centurion*, which has jus' joined the China squadron:—

> The battleship *Centurion* is proud of herself. She has a reputation to keep up, but she is not content with that; she has started on her third commission with a firm determination to enhance her reputation. She laughs at records; in her eyes they are merely things to be broken, and 14 days after commissioning two of them had already gone to the wall. Record the first—Commissioned on Tuesday, Nov. 3, the *Centurion* left Portsmouth for China at 10 a.m. Tuesday Nov. 10 and she was ready to leave two days earlier had it been necessary. This has never been equalled befor. Record the second—Arrived at Malta 6 p. m. on Tuesday, Nov. 17th. No ship in the Navy has ever accomplished the feat of reaching Malta, 14 days after she was commissioned, and the run from Portmouth would have done credit to a liner. I repeat the *Centurion* is proud of herself, and we are proud of her. In the words of Rudyard Kipling, she is a "ship that has found herself" in a remarkably short space of time. Everything is ship-shape, from the brass-work to engines, and, in the opinion of the ship's company as a whole, she is in every respect the most comfortable vessel in the service. And it is the same with her officers and men. We had "shaken down" almost before we had left Spithead, and perfect harmony and goodfellowship exists both aft and for'ard. Everything points [illegible] our being what is of considerable importance—a happy ship. Physically the men are as fine a set of bluejackets as ever manned a warship, and they go about their work in a way that cheers our hearts and augurs well for our efficiency in the future. We look for a hearty welcome from the fleet in the Far East, and are confident that we shall be found ready and willing to undertake anything that we may be called upon to do, and do it in a way that will prove a credit to the service and to our ship.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE UNION JACK CLUB.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I shall esteem it a favour if you will kindly publish the accompanying letter in your paper.

The kind and patriotic spirit shown by all in Yokohama, which speaks for itself in Mr. Beart's letter, encourages me to suggest that we should try by private subscription to make up the sum already in hand to £100. This will provide a Bedroom to be named the "Tokyo-Yokohama Room" in the Union Jack Club.

The Manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank has kindly consented to receive and acknowledge subscriptions. It is proposed to limit these to *yen* 25, but the smallest sum will be gratefully received.

As an old soldier I gladly head the List.

	Yen.
Sir C. MacDonald	25.00
Lady MacDonald	25.00

Thanking you for your courtesy in according space in your paper.

I remain, Yours faithfully,

Claude MacDonald.

British Legation, January 9th, 1904.

To His Excellency
Sir Claude M. MacDonald,
G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,
etc., etc.

Sir,—Enclosed I beg to hand you details of the result of the Amateur Dramatic performance given in the Public Hall, Yokohama, on Monday, the 21st December, 1903, in aid of the funds of the "Union Jack Club," London, under your patronage.

	YEN.
1. Note from Messrs. C. Thwaites and Co., booking agents, showing amount of gross receipts	633
2. Receipt for Hire of Band	18
3. Receipt for amount paid for stage carpenters, stage hands, small sundries and gratuity to Public Hall Momban............	15
4. Receipt for hire of Public Hall	40
Making together a total of	73
Showing a balance of	560
5. My bank cheque in your favor on Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Yokohama Branch, for the above amount...	560

In presenting this statement of accounts I would add that the proprietors of the *Japan Mail, Japan Herald, Japan Gazette, Japan Advertiser*, and *Box of Curios* have most generously waived all claims for cost of advertising and printing, that Messrs. Thwaites & Co. make no charge for commission on the booking and sale of tickets, besides lending a piano free of charge, that the Public Hall Association granted the use of the Hall at a reduced rate, and that Mr. E. J. Moss was good enough to lend the furniture for the stage without any charge whatever. The Amateur Dramatic Club of Yokohama were also kind enough to place the necessary scenery and appliances at the disposal of the company.

With compliments, I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) Edward Beart.

111-B, Bluff, Yokohama, December 31st, 1903.

JAPANESE OPTIMISM.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In your issue of the 25th instant appears an editorial note, evidently written by yourself, and a letter contributed by Bishop Awdry commenting on certain statements that appeared in my review of Captain Brinkley's work on *Japan*. I will take the note first. What I said was that you had "omitted to dwell at any great length on the extreme pessimism that characterizes its teaching" and this assertion it seems to me is quite correct. The passages you quote did not escape my notice, but it seems to me that in these as well as elsewhere you under rate the influence of Buddhist pessimism on the minds of that section of the nation which accepted Buddhist teaching. The stated opinions of Dr. Inoue Tetsujirō, Dr. Murakami Sensei, Dr. Inoue Enryō and many other writers that could be named on this subject, the whole literature of Japan down to the Meiji era, and even the Japanese language itself tend to show how enormous was the influence of Buddhist pessimism. But notwithstanding this fact, taking the nation as a whole, the croakers and Jeremiahs were in the minority. The buoyant human nature of the Japanese people was no more oppressed by the doctrines of Buddhism than are the majority of professing Christians in Europe and America to-day by the Christian doctrines of sin and eternal punishment. The simplest and truest explanations of both of the above phenomena is that the doctrines referred to appeared to most Japanese and appear to most Occidentals to be untrue. You will perceive, Sir, that the difference between us is slight. You allow for a certain amount of pessimism, but according to my view you do not allow for as much as really existed.

That what I said about Japanese optimism should offend Bishop Awdry is no cause for surprise. What is astonishing is that in this twentieth century, when public opinion throughout the whole of the Western world has become so much fairer, so much broader and more enlightened than it was even thirty years ago, Bishow Awdry should be found treating us in the columns of a newspaper, instead of in his own pulpit, with a sermon on the cheerful effects on the mind of the Christian doctrine of sin. Certainly the present writer needs no enlightenment on that subject, for he was unfortunate enough to have been brought up in a family where the doctrine of sin referred to by the Bishop was dinned into him from early youth. Happily for Europe and America, the majority of enlightened people have dismissed the spectre of an offended and avenging God standing over human beings ever ready to punish them for their transgressions, here and hereafter, as a product of pure imagination. To say, as the Bishop does, that Japanese optimism is inferior because the Japanese have never known or have only known to reject that extremely perverted view of human nature taught by St. Augustine, Calvin and others, and still taught by their modern representatives seems to me too absurd to need serious discussion. Bishop Awdry describes Japanese optimism as the "butterfly's joy" and his own cheerfutness, with fine self-assurance, as "a patriot's well-founded confidence." If Bishop Awdry will allow me to say so, this *haut en bas* attitude ill becomes a man who has come to this country as a missionary. I have had the privilege of mixing with Japanese of all sorts and conditions for over 30 years, and I have no hesitation in saying that what the Bishop is pleased to call their low type of optimism, in that tone of superiority which it is the fashion of Occidentals to adopt when speaking of non-Christian Orientals, is very much superior to such optimism as is to be found in Western communities. The fundamental assertion of the Bishop that Christian doctrines are conducive to optimism, that is, to a cheerful view of this life, for about the next we know nothing and can know nothing certain, has been, it seems to me, disproved by history. No such gloom has ever enshrouded human beings as that caused by the religious teaching of former centuries throughout Europe. The very assertion that salvation depends on belief—a state of mind that can't be forced and in the case of the intellectual can usually only be reached by the suppression of the rational faculties—is anything but cheering. In his own pulpit it is of course the duty of the Bishop to say all he can in favour of Christianity, and on the ethical side, as distinguished from the doctrinal and dogmatic side, there is much that is to be said for it. But when in the columns of a daily newspaper the Bishop addresses hundreds of American and European agnostics, church-goers and non-church-goers, as well as his own special followers, he has no right to fill his letter with unproved and unprovable assertions. The tone of his letter is "We are the people, and wisdom shall die with us." This sounds mediæval. The Japanese light-heartedness of which the Bishop has so poor an opinion is much deeper than he supposes. It is a perfectly natural state of mind in a people who have no belief in a future life—a state of mind which the Greeks had in an eminent degree; and which during the past 50 years has been increasing to an extraordinary extent throughout Europe and America, thanks to the rapid decline of the terror-striking doctrines of Christianity. Most of the publicists who have come to this country from the West have envied the Japanese their habitual cheerfulness. The very sight of it is exhilarating. But what galls the Bishop and those who think with him is the fact that this light-hearted race of people are really and permanently happy as agnostics. A happy agnostic is an eye-sore to every real Christian; as Christians are taught to think that happiness is solely dependent on belief. That is the real sore with the Bishop and his fellow-thinkers. When facts and theories do not agree, rather than give up a pet theory, it is the fashion with some to deny or to question the fact. If the Japanese, without believing in Christianity, are really and essentially happy, as happy as human beings can be, then Christianity is not needed here wherever else it may be needed. It was this consideration that set the Bishop's pen agoing. It was natural for him to say something, but he might have put his case in a much more telling form had he borne in mind the fact, of which he is no doubt aware, that the reviewer of Captain Brinkley's "Japan" writes as an agnostic and therefore could not reasonably be expected when stating his own views on Japanese life to understate or misstate anything for fear of wounding ecclesiastical susceptibilities. There is far too much trimming and paring in journalism as far as the editorial columns are concerned—a course that business interests forces on most editors. But in outside contributions to newspapers in the correspondence columns, let men say what they really think. The present writer has as good a claim to be heard on Japanese national traits as the reverend prelate who takes him to task for daring to suggest that there exists in this country something that is superior to the optimism of penitent Christians. It is, I admit a very unpleasant-sounding theory to the ears of a Churchman. But in the search for truth, we must not be daunted by surprises of this kind. Facts are facts; and nothing that the Bishop writes will persuade thoughtful students of Japanese character that the habitual brightness of Japan's leading statesmen, scholars, educationists, business men and mechanics to-day is the result of mere animal spirits or of mere levity. Many divers causes, some positive some negative, have produced the Japanese optimistic state of mind. Their fatalistic ideas lead them to see that certain powers of nature are invincible and that it is best to cultivate a philosophic calm in submitting to them. Resignation where resistance is hopeless is one of the most beautiful of Japanese virtues. Thus the Japanese as a people enjoy nature to an extent unknown among us. We grind at our professions till either physical weakness or mental weariness incapacitates us for the enjoyment of hardly earned leisure. Our faculty of enjoyment is apt to grow atrophied by disuse. Not so the Japanese. Their view is that life is given to be enjoyed. And their view, is certainly the right view, as is pointed out by a polished English writer, W. R. Greg, who says in his Literary and Social Judgments "That life was given us to be enjoyed few men in their sober senses, not distracted by unendurable anguish or *rendered morbid by a perverse Theology*, have ever seriously dreamed of doubting. The analogy of the lower animals confirms the consciousness. Human infancy holds the same language. The brutes that perish but never speculate and the young whose native instincts are not yet marred by thought, alike listen to nature, and alike are joyous. The earth is sown with pleasures, as the heavens are studded with stars—*wherever the conditions of existence are unsophisticated.* Scarcely a scene that is not redolent of beauty; scarcely a flower that does not breathe sweetness. Not one of our senses, that in its healthy state, is not an avenue to enjoyment, not one of our faculties that it is not a delight to exercise. Provision is made for the happiness of every disposition and of every taste—the active, the contemplative, the sensuous, the ethereal. Provision is made for the happiness of every age, for dancing infancy, for glowing youth, for lusty manhood, for reposing age." The answer to your question, Sir, whence comes Japanese cheerfulness, is that it was developed in a natural and normal manner in Japan as in ancient Greece. Remove theological terrors from the mind of man. Banish the idea of a future life as too improbable to be seriously considered and men are free to follow their natural instincts. If this natural state of mind be pronounced a childish state, then all we can say is that our clubs, our concerts, our theatres, our dances, our many games prove that it is a state to which the majority of us wish to revert. The civilised world is sick and tired of the theological gloom of bygone ages. "What's the odds as long as you are happy?" may be very vulgar, but it expresses the growing conviction of millions of enlightened people and this principle it is that constitutes the strength of the world-wide system of ethics know as utilitarianism. Apologizing for the extreme length of this letter.

I am, yours, etc.

THE "WRITER OF THE REVIEW."

December 30th, 1903.

DR. STRATZ'S NATIONALITY.

(To the Editor of the "Japan Mail.")

Sir,—In your paper's issue of the 7th inst. I see that Stratz, the author of the book recently criticised by Dr. Baelz, is said to be a Dutchman. Allow me to correct this statement by informing you that Stratz, although he served as a Surgeon in the Dutch Indian Army, is a Russian by birth and a German by descent. Moreover Stratz is not Mr., but a doctor of medicine, a pupil of the late celebrated Prof. Schroeder in Berlin, and himself a gynaecologist of great repute, practising at the Hague, Holland.

Very truly yours, A DUTCHMAN.

Kobe, January 10th, 1904.

THE HIGHWAYMEN OF VAFIN.

(From our Correspondent.)

Port Arthur, December 30.

The burial of the bodies of the Russian soldiers who were killed in the fight with the Hunghutze, or Manchurian highwaymen, at the village of Vafin, in Mongolia, on the 13th of November last, took place with the usual ceremonies at Dashitzyo in Manchuria on the 9th of December.

At the same time full information of the little campaign which terminated at Vafin has been published. It is a long story but an interesting one, for it bears a close resemblance to many of the British campaigns against De Wet during the South African war. The Manchurian De Wet is called Tulensan by the Russians and seems to be a resourceful leader. He had under him two lieutenants, one of them a Chinaman called Tenben, and the other a Russian convict who had escaped from the penal colony at Saghalien, and who called himself Fulenhoy, but this is probably an assumed name. Mention is also made in the reports of the campaign of a brother of Fulenhoy who was captured by the Chinese and put to death, and it may be here stated that Fulenhoy himself, who was about as useful to Tulenson as Abdullah Sheri was to the Mad Mullah of Somaliland, broke his back in attempting to escape from the Russians at Vafin. Tulensan got away, however, with the loss of several of his fingers. A singular feature of the affair is that the Chinese authorities seem to have connived at Tulensan's raids although they showed no hesitation in executing any of the captured marauders whom the Russians handed over to them. But it is clear that the Russians take care of the more important of the robber chieftains themselves, at least they have a fine collection of them in the Arrestny Dom in Port Arthur which is, in consequence, visited frequently by important-looking Chinamen who drive up to the portals of that establishment in izooscheeks and spend a long time conferring with the captured bandits. It is not improbable that the authorities at Peking are indirectly encouraging the highwaymen to make things hot for the Russians, but a more short-sighted policy it would be difficult to imagine for it only gives the latter an excuse for remaining in Manchuria.

The hunt for Tulensan seems to have now lasted for a whole year. It began in the August of 1902 when intelligence was received that this redoubtable brigand was in full flight. He seems, by the way, to have always managed to do the most damage when in full flight. He was then, in the Liao River district not far from Moukden, and at the head of 600 men who are described by the Russians as perfectly disciplined and mounted on fine horses. Lieutenant Konshina endeavoured to surround him with the 41st Sotnya but Tulensan escaped through a gap left on the left flank of the Russians and the Liao River. Cornet Levsheenovsky was sent in pursuit of him with a flying column while the 41st Sotnya came on behind. On the 19th of August last the cornet located Tulensan in the village of Syakhontu, or rather the robbers made known their presence to the Russians by greeting the latter with a volley as they entered the village. The Russian accounts say that the bandits were defeated but as they only lost a few men and succeeded in getting clean away, this defeat was really a very creditable one for them. They suffered more severely on the 20th of August at the village of Tendostun although that place is surrounded by marshes hitherto believed to be impassable. They were driven out of this village with a loss of 25 men killed, many arms and horses, five pood of powder and 12,000 cartridges. After this defeat Tulensan fled to Mongolia.

Towards the end of October, this year, news was received that Tulensan with a new band of 300 men was at Apshanchjuan on the Chinese Eastern Railway between the rivers Taiuzikhe, Khunkhye, and Liao. A party was at once sent in pursuit of him under the direction of Captain Vestermark. Along with Tulensan was the famous Russian renegade Fulenhoy with 500 mounted men, also the other celebrated brigand chief Tenben, with about 100 mounted men. In view of this formidable combination the Russian force sent in pursuit was sufficiently strong, consisting as it did of the 7th Sotnya, two companies of the 4th Brigade, one commando of cavalry, and four guns under the chief command of Captain Trotsky of the General Staff. The object of the expedition was to surround the highwaymen and to prevent them making their way into Mongolia. In the *Novi Krai*, from which I take this account, it is stated that Tulensan had been previously in Peking and had received permission to cross into Mongolia.

In order to catch Tulensan it was manifestly necessary to guard all the fords on the Liaoho but the robber captain succeeded in finding a ford which was not guarded. By the night of 30th October (old style), however, the Russians had overtaken him at the village of Vafin in Mongolia. They were not sure at first if it were he and there were not a large number of Russians present so that some care was necessary. But the Russians took no precautions. A non-commissioned officer and two privates penetrated into the village, killed several armed robbers, and had soon the whole nest of hornets about them. The robbers numbered no less than 900 men and their equipment and good shooting as well as their method of attack seemed to indicate that they were regular soldiers. For a time the Russians were in great danger but they crouched down behind some Chinese houses on the outskirts of the village and held their own gallantly. But they were unable to prevent the escape of the robbers when the latter mounted their horses and came to the conclusion that it was time to be off. According to the Russian accounts, the robbers lost 178 men killed and about 200 wounded and had to leave behind 250 horses and a large number of guns as well as considerable supplies of cartridges.

The Russian losses consisted of one officer wounded and of four men killed and nine wounded. A local English doctor, a Mr. Learmont, and his wife tended the wounded with an attention which was much appreciated by the Russians.

THE SITUATION.

The situation is now so bad that it could not well be worse. The Russians say that the Japanese evidently want a war and are acting in the right way to get it. The conduct of the Chinese on the borders of Manchuria is also disquieting, in fact it is clear that they are encouraging and supporting the mounted bandits, a course of policy in which they are believed to be assisted by the Japanese but which is a very mistaken line for them to take. If China openly joins Japan in a war with Russia, her position will be still worse, for the Russians will annex Mongolia and Chinese Turkestan and perhaps overthrow the Manchu dynasty. However, that may be, there can be no doubt that we are now trembling on the brink of war.

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Special Survice.)

ALLIES.

London, January 7.

One hundred and twenty British naval reservists, with ten officers, have left London for Genoa to assist in navigating Japan's recently purchased vessels. Much enthusiasm was displayed and cheers for Japan were raised when the party was leaving Victoria station.

CARDIFF COAL.

There was an extraordinary demand for Cardiff coal on the exchange yesterday. For tonnage to the Far East, the Admiralty agents paid twenty shillings a ton for a 5,000 ton vessel for Hongkong.

FATAL EXPLOSION ON BRITISH CRUISER.

London, January 8.

A boiler explosion occurred on board the third class British cruiser *Wallaroo*, at Sydney, killing 43 men.

(The *Wallaroo* was built at Elswick in 1889 for service on the Australian station. She is of 2,575 tons, 265 ft. long and 41 ft. beam, steaming 15½ knots. She cost £123.592.—Ed. *J.M.*)

AMERICA'S ATTITUDE IN CASE OF WAR.

A telegram from the United States says that a message has been sent to Admiral Evans, U.S.N., conveying orders for his guidance in the event of hostilities breaking out. The American Navy is to observe the strictest neutrality unless American treaty rights are infringed.

THE "WALLAROO" EXPLOSION.

London, January 9.

Only four were killed and three injured by the explosion on H.M.S. *Wallaroo* at Sydney. The signals were misread.

THE "TIMES" ON ENGLAND'S DUTY.

Later.

The *Times* adopts a stronger tone than hitherto regarding the crisis. It declares that England's first duty in the event of war is to prevent others from joining against Japan, and insists that England can in no circumstances afford to see the dominion of the Far East pass into the hands of a single unfriendly Power, nor look on and see Japan obliterated or reduced to the rank of a second-rate Power. If war comes, it continues, we must watch vigilantly and be prepared to protect our interests.

RISE IN FOOD PRICES.

The price of corn has risen a shilling per quarter in consequence of the Far Eastern situation.

ADMIRAL EVANS' ORDERS.

The Cabinet at Washington has instructed Admiral Evans not to proceed to Japanese waters at present.

MORE HOPEFUL.

London, January 10.

All the Bourses are stronger, reflecting a sudden reversion to hopefulness, based on well-accredited reports that Russia's latest note recognizes Japan's preponderance in Korea, which, at the instance of Viceroy Alexieff, was previously refused. It is generally believed that this admission will lead to a continuance of the negotiations, making for peace.

THE JAPANESE WARSHIPS.

The Japanese warships have left Genoa for Suez, flying the Japanese flag. The crews are half English half Italian. They are commanded by English officers. All the other officers are English, except five Japanese.

RUSSIA'S REPLY, ACCORDING TO PEKING.

London, January 11.

According to trustworthy diplomatic information received in Peking the Russian reply is thought to be conciliatory in tone but unsatisfactory in substance. Japan desires further delay in order to complete her preparations: therefore she continues the negotiations.

The prospects of war before the spring continue to be very strong.

[Note.—The latter part of this telegram is pure nonsense. It is evidently one of those reports put into circulation by a certain section of the European press with the express object of discrediting Japan's sincerity in the eyes of the world.—Ed. *J.M.*]

NEUTRAL POWERS.

London, January 12.

Germany and other Powers forming the Triple alliance are determined to maintain strict neutrality in the event of hostilities breaking out between Russia and Japan.

RUSSIAN OPINION.

The present uncertainty is having a disturbing effect upon Russian public opinion, which is becoming more pessimistic. But the press, while warning Japan that Russia has reached the limit of her concessions, professes to be hopeful of peace.

FIGHTING IN SOMALILAND.

Later.

A successful engagement has taken place in Somaliland in which a thousand of the enemy were killed. Two British officers were killed and eight severely wounded.

PROBABLE TIEING OF RUSSIAN HANDS.

London, January 13.

Advices from the Balkan countries point to the certainty of a general conflagration in the Spring. This is regarded as an important factor in the Far Eastern situation, because Russia is unlikely to desire to be engaged both in the Near and the Far East.

CONGRESS EXPEDITES MATTERS.

London, January 14.

China has assented to the request of the U. S. Congress that the immediate signature of the protocols at Washington shall be considered to be equivalent to the exchange of ratifications of the China-American commercial treaty.

ARBITRATION.

An influential conference of representatives of all parts of the country has been held at Washington to promote the conclusion of an Anglo-American arbitration treaty.

CHINA-AMERICAN TREATY RATIFIED.

Later.

The ratifications of the China-American treaty, opening Mukden and An-tung, have been exchanged at Washington.

THE APPROACHING RUSSIAN FLEET.

The Russian battleship *Aurora* and the cruiser *Dimitri Donskoi*, with seven torpedo-boats, have arrived at Port Said.

The *Dimitri Donskoi* has entered the Canal, but the others will follow on the arrival from Brest of Admiral Wirennieff's squadron.

GERMAN OPINION CHANGING.

German Government circles, which have hitherto been optimistic, now regard war as a proximate contingency.

(RECEIVED AT THE LEGATION OF FRANCE.)

THE POWERS IN KOREA.

Saigon, January 7.

It is announced from Seoul that two Russian, two British and one American warship have arrived at Chemulpho, to remain there till the end of the crisis.

RUSSIA SENDS TROOPS.

The *Bourse Gazette*, of St. Petersburg, announces the despatch of a regiment of riflemen to protect the interests of Russians, which are menaced by conflicts between Japanese and Koreans.

RUSSIA'S REPLY.

Saigon, January 8.

The reply of Russia has been sent to the Japanese Government. It is rumoured in London that the reply is not satisfactory.

THE "WALLAROO" EXPLOSION.

An explosion has taken place at Sydney of a boiler of the cruiser *Wallaroo*. It is reported that there are 43 killed and wounded.

FRANCE AND BRAZIL.

The negotiations between France and Brazil for a commercial treaty have failed.

THE FAR-EASTERN CRISIS.

January 9.

Foreign marines are guarding the legations in Seoul as a precaution against possible disorders. English dispatches say that public opinion in Japan demands the rupture of negotiations and the opening of hostilities.

THE "WALLAROO" ACCIDENT.

There were only four killed and three wounded in the explosion on board the *Wallaroo*.

THE SITUATION.

January 10.

It is announced from Tokyo that Japan denies the approaching despatch of an expedition to Korea. This denial is regarded as indicating that the Russian note recognizes the preponderance of Japan in Korea.

The French cruiser *Pascal* is expected at Chemulpho.

CHINA TO OBSERVE NEUTRALITY.

Saigon, January 11.

It is announced from Peking that Prince Ching has informed the Japanese Minister that in the event of war between Russia and Japan, China will observe neutrality.

FEELING IN ST. PETERSBURG.

Saigon, January 12.

The journals of St. Petersburg declare the impossibility of making the least concession to Japan about Manchuria.

In Russian official circles the hope of seeing peace preserved is maintained.

M. DELCASSE ON THE SITUATION.

Saigon, January 13.

M. Delcassé, Minister of Foreign Affairs, has announced to the Council of Ministers that the situation in the Far East seems to be getting better.

P. & O. STEAMER "PALERMO" IN COLLISION.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Kobe, January 14.

The P. & O. steamer *Palermo* has been in collision at Woosung with a Mitsu Bishi coasting steamer. The Japanese vessel sustained the most damage, and will not be out of dock in less than four weeks. The *Palermo's* damage was slight and she proceeded to Kobe where she arrived yesterday.

[NOTE.—On enquiry at the local office we learn that no particulars of the collision have yet reached Yokohama.—Ed. *J. M.*]

(FROM THE "DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST.")

GERMAN OPINION.

Berlin, January 8.

The newspapers in Europe are reporting movements of Russians and Japanese in Korea. These movements will not constitute a *casus belli* as long as Russia does not attack with weapons Japan in South Korea or Japan Russia in Manchuria. But this seems not probable.

The Press in Germany is of the opinion that the Japanese will, in so far, gain a point, by having Korea divided between themselves and Russia. This is anticipated and approved of in Germany.

JAPAN'S NEW WARSHIPS.

Berlin, January 9.

A fear is entertained in England that the former Argentine cruisers bought by Japan at Genoa and the Russian squadron coming from Bizerta (Algeria) may collide and a naval engagement ensue in the Mediterranean. This fear is unfounded. The cruisers are going with British crews and under the British flag *via* Suez to Eastern Asia. The Russian Mediterranean squadron, war not being declared, will not begin hostilities. The closing of the Suez Canal against Japanese vessels cannot be demanded by Russia, because in this case the Canal would have to be closed to Russian ships also.

JAPANESE OFFICERS ABROAD.

The Berlin representative of Japan denies the report that the Japanese officers sent to Germany have been recalled.

JAPAN AND KOREA.

In Berlin the idea is that Japan ought not to abandon the present time for occupying the great southern half of Korea, especially as such action would not trouble Russia in her enterprises.

INTERMEDIATION.

Nothing is known in Berlin about an intended Anglo-French intermediation.

THE SITUATION AS SEEN IN BERLIN.

Berlin, January 10.

The English idea that in consequence of the Russian answer Japan must declare war is not agreed with in Berlin. The German Government is remonstrating against the propagation of reports in Tokyo that Japan's liberty of action is restricted by the attitude of Germany. There does not exist any German partisanship for Russia, much less any active support, and Russia has never requested such. Germany is less interested in Korea than England or America and would willingly agree to territorial acquisition by Japan in that country.

The London *Daily Telegraph* writes that England has only the duty of giving moral assistance to Japan, unless the territorial independence of that country is menaced. This declaration seems superfluous, because Russia in no case has any purpose of cutting down the state or possessions of Japan; on the contrary she will give full play to Japan in a great part of Korea.

KRUPP GUNS.

The Dutch Minister of War declared in the Chamber, that Krupp's guns are to be preferred to those of Ehrhardt.

DISGRACE OF AN ARCHBISHOP.

The Archbishop of Olmütz (Austrian province of Morovia), His Eminence Kohn, has had to undergo a disciplinary investigation. He is charged with dishonest administration of his office. He has resigned all rank and honours.

PRUSSIAN DIET.

The Prussian Diet (Landtag) will be opened on January 16th (next Saturday) by Kaiser Wilhelm.

RUSSIAN BUDGET.

The Russian Commercial Telegraphic Bureau in St. Petersburg reports: The regular budget of Russia has:—

	Roubles.
Receipts	1,980,004,493
Expenditures	1,966,458,251
Surplus	13,636,242

The items of the extraordinary budget are:—

Receipts	2,750,000
Plus from the amount of ready money in the Reichsrentei (Imperial Revenue Department)............................	195,792,562
Expenditures	212,178,864

All extraordinary expenditures, save two millions, are set aside for railway construction. The whole Budget is balanced at 2,178,637,055 roubles.

THE SITUATION.

Berlin, January 12.

The Japanese Ministers in Europe have declared that Japan during the time the negotiations are still pending, will respect the *status quo* in Korea. These assurances are universally acknowledged in Europe to be a proof of the correctness and discretion exercised by the Japanese diplomats. The French press also opposes unanimously the bellicose reports in England and dwells on the peaceful intentions of all Powers concerned and the prudent tactics of Japan.

THE KAISER.

Kaiser Wilhelm has gone to Silesia, to take part in the wedding of Count Platen-Hallermund, and is going to visit at the same time Prince-bishop Kopp in Breslau.

(FROM THE "JIJI SHIMPO.")

RUSSIAN EXCITEMENT.

London, January 12.

Russia is extraordinarily excited over the fact that British seamen have been employed by Japan to navigate the warships *Kasuga* and *Nisshin* to the Far East.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Tacoma............	N. P. Co.	Shawmut	F. Jan. 15
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Sachsen	Sa. Jan. 16
America	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Su. Jan. 17
Hongkong............	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China [1]	Th. Jan. 21
Europe	M. M. Co.	Ernest Simons [2]	Th. Jan. 21
America	P. M. Co.	Siberia [3]	M. Jan. 25
Hongkong............	N. P. Co.	Lyra	W. Jan. 27
Hongkong............	P. M. Co.	China	Th. Jan. 28
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Tu. Feb. 2
Hongkong............	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Su. Feb. 7
Canada	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. Feb. 8

[1] Left Hongkong on the 13th inst.
[2] Left Hongkong on the 11th inst.
[3] Left San Francisco on the 5th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	M. M. Co.	Polynesien	F. Jan. 15
Hongkong............	N. P. Co.	Shawmut	Sa. Jan. 16
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Hakuai Maru	Th. Jan. 21
Canada	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	F. Jan. 22
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Sachsen	Sa. Jan. 23
Europe	N. Y. K.	Hakata Maru	Sa. Jan. 23
Hongkong............	P. M. Co.	Siberia	Tu. Jan. 26
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Riojun Maru	Tu. Jan. 27
Tacoma............	N. P. Co.	Lyra	Th. Jan. [illegible]
America............	P. M. Co.	China	Sa. Jan. 30
Hongkong............	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	W. Feb. 3
Hongkong............	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. Feb. 8
America............	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Tu. Feb. 9

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,526, G. Lapraik, 8th Jan.,—Kobe, 6th Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,533, K. Homma, 8th Jan.,—Otaru, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Victoria, American steamer, 2,112, J. Truebridge, 9th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 9th Jan., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Miike Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,060, F. W. Horton, 9th Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,157, R. Iida, 9th Jan,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Indravelli, British steamer, 3,152, R. J. Craven, 10th Jan.,—Portland, Oregon, Astoria, 18th Dec., Mails and General.—P. & A. S.S. Co.

Benledi, British steamer, 1,481, David Clark, 10th Jan.,—London via ports, and Kobe, 8th Jan., General.—Cornes & Co.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer 437, N. Teranaka, 9th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, 8th Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Chefoo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,198, K. Soyeda, 9th Jan.,—Moji, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Doric, British steamer, 2,936, Harry Smith, 10th Jan,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 22nd Dec., Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Badenia, German steamer, 4,243, Roerden, 10th Jan.,—Hamburg via ports, and Hongkong, 2nd Jan., General.—C. Illies & Co,

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,706, T. Tibballs, 10th Jan.,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kaga Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,906, N. Ohno, 10th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,169, Y. Tamuke, 11th Jan.,—Kobe, 9th Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tai Lee, German steamer, 828, P. Michelsen, 11th Jan.,—Hongkong, Sugar.—Becker & Co.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 772, K. Higo, 11th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, 10th Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 11th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 10th Jan., Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 12th Jan.,—Vancouver, B.C., 28th Dec., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,789, K. Kawahara, 12th Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Osterbek, German barque, 1,510, P. Petersen, 13th Jan.,—Junin, Chili, Oct. 6th, Nitre.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Kumamoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,237, K. Iwanaga, 13th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yeiko Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,219, J. Arawaka, 13th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Awa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,911, N. Trennt, 13th Jan.,—London via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kierun Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, H. Mikuni, 14th Jan.,—Kierun, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Tategami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,673, Y. Yamanouchi, 8th Jan.,—Yokosuka.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, C. A. Lee, 8th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 772, K. Higo, 8th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Lytton, British steamer, 1,834, Collins, 8th Jan.,—Moji via Kobe, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Kasuga Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,214, ——, 8th Jan.,—Yokosuka.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bayern, German steamer, 3,128, H. Formes, 9th Jan.,—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Sanuki Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,793, W. Townsend, 9th Jan.,—Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Victoria, American steamer, 2,112, J. Truebridge, 9th Jan.,—Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Volute, British steamer, 2,599, A. E. Deacon, 9th Jan.,—Singapore, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,533, K. Homma, 9th Jan.,—Yokosuka.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,157, R. Iida, 10th Jan,—Yokosuka.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Miike Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,060, ——, 10th Jan.,—Kure.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hyogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, Y. Nomura, 10th Jan.,—Bonin Islands, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, N. Teranaka, 10th Jan.,—Handa via Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,623, G. Lapraik, 10th Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Chefoo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,189, K. Soyeda, 10th Jan.,—Yokosuka.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Doric, British steamer, 2,936, Harry Smith, 11th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Wuerzburg, German steamer, 3,246, von Binzer, 11th Jan.,—Havre, Bremen and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Saint Kilda, British steamer, 2,269, Jones, 11th Jan.,—Yokosuka, Coal.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,716, ——, 11th Jan.,—Kobe.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,706, ——, 11th Jan.,—Saseho.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 12th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Kaga Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,906, S. J. G. Parsons, 12th Jan.,—Seattle, Wash., via Victoria, B.C., Mail and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Indravelli, British steamer, 3,152, R. J. Craven, 12th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. & A. S.S. Co.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 772, K. Higo, 12th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 13th Jan.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,169, Y. Tamake, 13th Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,065, T. Tibballs, 14th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yeiko Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,219, J. Arakawa, 14th Jan.,—Yokosuka.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Doric*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Miss T. Morrison, Mr. E. Rogers, Miss L. Wirick, Mr. P. Marshall, Mrs. P. Marshall, Mr. Geo. Garton, Prof. Francis Ramaley, Mr. C. P. Witt, Capt. J. H. Lyman, Mrs. J. H. Lyman, and Mr. W. H. Miles, in cabin. For Nagasaki:—Mrs. M. V. Pratt, and Miss E. Larned, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. T. M. Bieler, Mr. B. B. Bramell, Mr. R. K. Buckland, Mr. W. S. Card, Mr. Lewis Carrigan, Mr. W. Chamberlain, Mr. I. B. Corcoran, Mr. H. W. Davis, Mr. Eng Hok Fong, Mr. G. H. Goerdrum, Mr. F. D. Hyaden, Mrs. F. D. Hyaden, Mr. S. T. Kendall, Miss J. E. Lide, Mr. C. A. Lull, Mr. J. E. Madara, Mr. G. R. Martin, Mr. J. R. Morrill, Mr. G. H. Potts, Miss M. Rogers, Mr. J. D. Russell, Mr. W. H. Seright, Rev. Antonio Serra, Mr. E. M. Stanley, Mr. E. N. Stevens, Miss M. Stewart, Mr. G. W. St. Clair, Mr. H. A. Tash, Mrs. W. E. Thompson, Mr. F M. Tunny, Mr. H. E. Walker, Mr. L. W. Wilkinson, Miss Elsa Hink, Mr. J. Harry Scott, and Mrs. J. Harry Scott, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kaga Maru*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. G. Komura, Mr. Ehlers, Mr. Tanimura, and 2 Chinese, in cabin: Masters Bolelo, Mr. Chan Chaw Tak, and 7 Japanese, in interdiate; 38 Japanese, and 1 Chinese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, from Hongkong via ports:—Capt. W. Kidston, Mr. J. G. Sandridge, Miss A. Mendelson, Mr. D. Meredith, Mr. O. J. Bainbridge, Mr. M. Ebert, and Mr. H. H. Stratton, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Mr. H. E. Deputy, Mr. F. C. Graves, Mrs. Graves, Mr. Chas. C. Tyler, Mr. L. Roser, and Mrs. H. D. Wilson, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Lieut. Allen, Lieut. Cameron, Major Gurdon, Mr. Kelly, Mr. I. B. Laughlin, Mr. Osmond E. Leroy, Mr. S. D. Lessner, Mr. J. Lyon, Col. C. C. Manifold, Mrs. Manifold, Mr. G. A. Matthews, Mrs. Matthews, Lieut. Milman, Mr. C. G. Nix, Captain Wakefield, and Lieut. Whyte, in cabin.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The market for Piece Goods has been in a state of deadly dullness for some time now and the prospects of a revival seem rather remote. The only goods attracting attention at the present moment are White Shirtings and Victoria Lawns. We leave our quotation unchanged, though they are below the rates at present ruling.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER YARD.
White Shirting—{40 yds. 36 in. 50 yds. 36 in.} ...	0.09 to 0.10
	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	Y.2.85 to 3.60
Grey Shirting—9 lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.80 to 4.25
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches...	3.00 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton Italians and Satteens...	0.20 to 0.40

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	Y.0.35 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 32 in....	0.30 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches...	0.16 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.50 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 @ 65 inches ...	0.90 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches... ...	0.60 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5 lb per lb	0.60 to 0.66
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	9.50 to 12.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches...	0.90 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0 lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches...	1.90 to 2.25
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 5 lb, 24-25 yards, 32 inches...	2.50 to 3.65

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Y. 140.00 to 150.00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	—
Nos. 38/42, Singles	—
Nos. 32, Doubles...	145.00 to 150.00
Nos. 42, Doubles...	155.00 to 160.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/100, Plain...	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	245.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	295.00 to 305.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	425.00 to 435.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling...	Nominal.	33
Indian Broach...		26
Chinese		23

METALS.

Practically nothing doing.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward...	Y.3.95 to 4.25
Iron Plates, assorted	4.25 to 4.45
Sheet Iron...	4.45 to 6.70
Galvanised Iron sheets	10.10 to 11.10
Wire Nails, assorted	5.30 to 5.90
Tin Plates, per box...	6.40 to 7.30
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.95
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1¼ inch)	4.95 to 5.45

KEROSENE.

Stocks are greatly reduced and prices are consequently very firm.

American	$3.25
Russian	3.10
Langkat	2.90

SUGAR.

The market is practically unchanged, but there are some enquiries for Iloilo new crop.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	Y.6.00 to 6.30
Brown Manila...	5.90 to 6.90
Brown Daitong	4.80 to 6.20
Brown Canton...	5.50 to 7.60
White Java and Penang...	7.10 to 7.90
White Refined...	8.50 to 11.25

INDIGO.

Very little doing.

	PICUL.
Java, Medium to best...	270.00 to 320.00
Calcutta, Medium to best	180.00 to 290.00
Madras (*Kurpah*), Medium to best ...	140.00 to 170.00
Madras (Dry Leaf), Medium to best ..	100.00 to 140.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Prices have again been advanced to compensate for the lower rate of exchange. Considerable business has been done; but at the close things are quieter. Consuming markets are inclined to wait for lower prices; and hesitate to follow the advance required by holders of stock on this side.

	QUOTATIONS.
Filatures—Extra Best, Coarse	Y.1,090 to 1,195
Filatures—Extra, Fine	—
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	1,030 to 1,035
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	—
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	930 to 935
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	1,000 to 1,010
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	910 to 915
Filatures—No. 2, Fine...	940 to 950
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	890 to 900
Common—Coarse	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	940 to 950
Re-reels—No. 1½	930 to 935
Re-reels—No. 2	910 to 915
Re-reels—No. 3	900 to 905
Kakedas—Extra	950 to 955
Kakedas—No. 1	925 to 930
Kakedas—No. 1½...	910 to 915
Kakedas—No. 2	890 to 895

WASTE SILK.

Conditions unchanged from last week Market steady with no excitement.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	180 to 185
Noshi—Filatures, Good	170 to 175
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	125 to 130
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	115 to 120
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Good...	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Joshiu, Best	130 to 135
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	120 to 125
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	150 to 160
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	140 to 145
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	70 to 80
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	70 to 80

TEA.

The season is closed.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	—
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine...	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, January 14.

London silver and China sterling quotations are unchanged and local rate though quoted the same are weak, some business having been done at lower rates.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0⅜
— — Bills on demand................	2/0 7/16
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 9/16
— Private 4 months' sight................	2/0⅝
— — 6 months' sight................	2/0¾
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	253½
— Private 4 months' sight......	258½
— — 6 months' sight......	259½
Hongkong—Bank sight ....per $100.	92½*
— Private 10 days' sight do.	90*
Shanghai—Bank sight	76*
— Private 10 days' sight	78½*
India—Bank sight	153
— Private 30 days' sight	149½
America—Bank sight..................................	49
— Private 30 days' sight	49⅞
— Private 4 months' sight	50⅜
Germany—Bank sight	210½
— Private 4 months' sight..............	205½
Bar Silver (London)	27 5/16

* Nominal.

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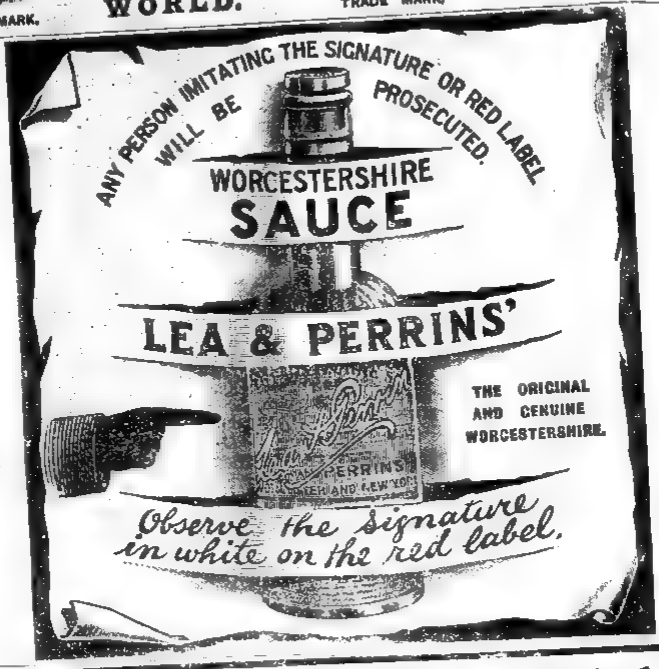

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JANUARY 23RD, 1904.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

TOKYO papers announce that diphtheria is now prevalent in the capital.

THE Emperer of China has decorated Viscount Nagaoka, Vice-President of the East Asiatic Literary Society.

THE Emperor of China has decorated Mr. Sakamoto and another police inspector of Kanagawa prefecture.

THE *Kokumin* announces that 3,600 tons of Cardiff coal was brought on Jan. 16th by a British steamer to Nagasaki.

IT is officially stated that the U.S. squadron, under command of Rear-Admiral Evans, left Guam on Jan. 13th for Manila.

A TELEGRAM from Yamagata reports that a gale prevailed on Jan. 16th in the district of Kawo. Six fishermen were drowned.

THE German steamer *Batavia* arrived at Nagasaki on Jan. 14th with 9,800 tons of coal from England, *en route* to Vladivostock.

TOKYO papers state that the Bank of Japan sent thirty cases of convertible notes on Jan. 14th to Moji by train. The gross weight is reported to be about four tons.

THE steamer *Yokohama Maru* arrived at Shimonoseki on Jan. 15th from Shanghai carrying Tls. 200,000, the interest on the Chinese indemnity.

MR. KUBOTA SHUSUKE, father of the Minister of State for Education, died on January 19th at Toyooka, Tajima province. He had been ill for some weeks.

THE Yokohama Agents of the State Fire Insurance Company and the Transatlantic Marine Insurance Company have decided to close their business in Japan.

A MAN's dead body, was found on Jan. 14th in the canal at a point near Satowara street, Ushigome, Tokyo. He had been injured in the forehead and nose.

A CONVICT escaped on Jan. 14th from Negishi jail. He was about to be removed to the Yokohama District Court where he has been found guilty of a charge of fraud.

M. YAMAUCHI (52) living at Matsuyama, Iyo province, murdered his wife on Jan. 16th and gave himself up to the police. No definite information was given as to the cause.

IT is stated by the *Jiji* that K. Yamakami, a clerk employed in the office of the Public Procurators in Aomori District Court, stole *yen* 250 belonging to the office and absconded.

THE steamer *Noto Maru* collided on the morning of Jan. 15th with a junk off Nakao, Ishikawa prefecture, with the result that the latter was sunk. The crew were saved by the *Noto Maru.*

AI KUWABARA (27), living at Nagoya, committed suicide on Jan. 12th on the railway, with her three infants. The cause is reported to be poverty, resulting from the death of her husband.

THE Mitsui Bussan Kaisha has chartered five steamers from Norway and Germany for a term of six months. They will be employed between Hongkong, Shanghai and on the Chinese coast.

THE net income of the Kyoto Railway Company during the last half-year was reported to be *yen* 94,380, and the dividend will be 1½ per cent. The general meeting will be held on Jan. 25th.

A TELEGRAM from Toyama states that two *habutae* silk weavers were arrested on Jan. 14th on a charge of having used illegal means to add weight to their products. Their domiciles were searched.

THE interim dividend of the Teikoku Life Insurance Company, Tokyo, for the last half-year will be at the rate of 6 per cent. The net income of the same period is reported to be *yen* 61,672.

THE following is the composition of the Australian Commonwealth Parliament after the elections. In the Senate:—22 Protectionists; 14 Free-traders. In the House of Representatives:—42 Protectionists; and 33 Free-traders.

THE dwelling of a *saké* dealer, T. Miura, Tamachi, Hongo, Tokyo, was entered by a man armed with a sword early on the morning of Jan. 17th. The would-be robber cut down the dealer and took away some articles.

THE Todzu Steamship Company's steamer *3rd Todzu Maru*, plying on the line between Tokyo and Idzu province, sank ont he night of Jan. 13th at a point near Ishikawajima Shipbuilding Yard, Tokyo, passengers and cargo being saved. Tokyo papers say the accident was caused by the vessel springing a leak.

S. NOZAWA, a wealthy cotton weaver, living in the village of Ika, near Osaka, was arrested on January 19th on a charge of having forged several promissory notes valued at *yen* 16,000 in all.

THE Sapporo Beer Brewing Company is expected by Tokyo papers to pay an interim dividend for the last half-year of 15 per cent. The general meeting of the shareholders will be held on Feb. 10th at the branch factory in Tokyo.

ITO (22) a waiter employed at Clausen's Hotel, No 66, Yokohama, who stole *yen* 240 belonging to his employers and absconded on Jan. 8th, was arrested on the 15th in Tokyo. He was subsequently removed to the Yokohama District Court.

THE P. and O. Company has followed the sale of the *Austral*, *Carthage*, and *Iberia* with that of the *Massilia* and *Parramatta.* The *Massilia* is to be broken up, and the *Parramatta* is to run on the Indian coast. All were formerly Australian mail steamers.

ACCORDING to the Spanish newspapers, a project is on foot for the marriage of King Alfonso to the daughter of his aunt, the Infanta Maria de la Paz. The Infanta is the wife of Prince Ludwig of Bavaria. Their daughter, Maria del Pilar, was born on March 13, 1891.

OWING to his mistreatment of soldiers on 1,520 counts and abuse of authority on 100 counts, a non-commissioned officer named Franzki, of the 85th Prussian Infantry, has been sentenced to five years' imprisonment and dishonorable discharge from the army by a court-martial at Rendsburg.

IT is reported by the *Nichi Nichi* that six British army officers are expected to have left London for Japan at the end of December. Their purpose is to study the Japanese language and to investigate military operations; they have no connection with the present situation.

S. OKABAYASHI, a merchant living at Kotobuki-cho, Yokohama, attempted to commit suicide on the evening of Jan. 16th by cutting his throat with a fish-knife. He was immediately removed to the Juzen Hospital. The cause is believed by the Kotobuki-cho police to be temporary insanity following on excessive drinking.

THE *Asahi* reports that the marriage of Prince Tsunehisa Kitashirakawa (the first son of the late Prince Yoshihisa Kitashirakawa) and Princess Masako Tsune (the sixth daughter of the Emperor) has been arranged. The Prince was born on September 26th, 1882 and the Princess in September, 1888. The wedding day is not fixed.

WE are officially informed that the local Branch of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation has received a telegram from its Head Office, stating that, subject to audit, the Bank Dividend for the half year will be 30/- with a Bonus in addition to Dividend of 10/- per share. $500,000 will be added to Reserve Fund and $1,400,000 carried forward to next year.

IT is stated by the *Jiji* that the representatives of the Nippon, Teikoku and Tokyo Marine Insurance Companies held a conference on the night of Jan. 13th at Osaka and decided to effect war insurance on hulls of steamers, whereas insurance was heretofore imposed only on cargo. They also resolved to add *yen* 1.50 per *yen* 100 to the ordinary rate of premium for steamers chartered by the Government as transports in case of war, the term being for three months.

THE SITUATION.

January 16.

The public are beginning to be informed by the Tokyo press that such and such a thing happened and such and such a thing did not happen at the recent conference of statesmen in the Palace. We place little faith in any of these accounts. But, on the other hand, we are not in a position to deny them altogether. Thus it is likely enough that Marquis Ito addressed the assembly for nearly an hour on the topic of foreign affairs and that he adduced some instances of the cabinet's divergence from his views, attributing to such divergence some of the troubles now confronting the country. It is also likely enough that he ended by admitting the necessity of ignoring all such differences and facing the crisis with resolute unanimity, which declaration meant that the Elder Statesmen and the Ministers of the Crown are now absolutely united for the purposes of a strong policy. We can further credit the assertion that Marquis Yamagata made an almost equally long *exposé* of the military situation, and that Counts Matsukata and Inouye spake on the topic of finance. But all these things might have been described without access to any source of special information. It is observable also that Tokyo journals now confirm what our readers already know on literally good authority, namely, that Japan's last reply to Russia was not of the nature of an ultimatum, but that it merely asked her to reconsider her position in view of the fact that something was due to the preservation of peace and the dictates of amity. For the rest, there is nothing to be said about the situation. We may now expect another interval of suspense, ornamented with optimist or pessimist rumours from European capitals.

There have been several intimations of late that the Japanese in the Liaotung Peninsula find themselves very insecure, the Russians having little regard for their persons and property, and the Chinese being not indisposed to follow suit. Apparently the Japanese in Port Arthur addressed a petition to Viceroy Alexieff on the subject, for we learn from telegrams in the *Asahi* that on receipt of this petition the Viceroy summoned the representative of the petitioners and the Chief of Police to his presence, and gave to the latter explicit instructions that every possible precaution should be taken for the security of Japanese life and property. It may be that the petition had no reference to past occurrences but was directed solely to future contingencies. That seems likely enough, but we remain in doubt as the exact nature of the document is not stated.

A message from Chemulpo says that the S.S. *Echigo Maru* having unloaded the cargo she had taken for conveyance to Japanese ports and having suddenly departed for Moji, no little alarm was felt by the Japanese residents. Prices of necessaries immediately rose and there were other signs of perturbation. But it must be assumed that the case of the *Echigo Maru* was exceptional, for we can not learn that there is any intention of suspending the services of Japanese steamships to Korea, Southern China or Formosa. The lines which are likely to be immediately suspended are the European, the American (alike of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha and the Toyo Kisen Kaisha), the Bombay and the Australian. It appears to be contrary to police instructions to permit any reference to the uses now likely to be made of the ships thus released. The public must be content with conjectures. But we may observe that the suspension of the European and American lines places 20 splendid steamers on the *disponibilite* list, though of course some of these boats being now on voyage, they are not immediately available in Japan.

Voluntary contributions to meet the cost of the impending war are beginning to reach the Treasury. Among them the largest sum offered by an individual is 5,000 *yen* by Mr. Tonomura of Omi. The bill-brokers of Osaka give 5,000 *yen*, and the Rice Exchange of that city send 3,000. Mr. Tomita of Ise gives 1,000, and Mr. Takagi, President of the Kyoto Electric Railway Company, the same amount. Some swear-off tobacco and contribute the proceeds, one such contributor promising 25 *yen* per month. There are a great many names and among them we note two foreigners, one a Chinese resident of Kobe who gives 25 *yen* and the other a member—whose transliterated name is not familiar to us—of the firm of Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co. It will be observed that Osaka, always smart and decided, takes the lead conspicuously. Tokyo does not add a single name to the 60 odd thus far advertised.

January 18.

There is no apparent change in the situation. The *Asahi Shimbun* publishes telegrams from St. Petersburg and London saying that Russia will agree to the open door in Manchuria and, while preserving for herself ample rights in connexion with her railway, will recognise all the treaty privileges acquired by other States. That would mean a pacific attitude which would virtually terminate the present crisis. But on enquiry in official quarters the *Asahi* is unable to obtain any confirmation of such a rumour. On the contrary, the story is said to be contrary to facts. Our contemporary therefore infers that these rumours are merely inaccurate versions of some assurances given by Russia to the Washington Government with regard to the latter's new commercial convention with China. It is more than likely that Russia has taken some step with the object of inducing the United States to refrain from any immediately embarrassing course in Manchuria. Such a step would be the giving of a solemn assurance that in any circumstances, the policy of Russia will be the open door and full recognition of all treaty rights.

The Tsar is said to have made very pacific declarations on the occasion of the Russian New Year's Levee on the 14th instant No doubt is entertained by the world as to the Emperor of Russia's peaceful intentions. He gets full credit for the best possible impulses, and many Japanese probably still believe that His Majesty's excellent intentions will save the highly perilous situation now existing. But when we remember how little Russia has to do in order to preserve peace, it must be confessed that the Tsar's professions lose their serious sound. Russia has only to carry out the promises made by herself in the most explicit and unequivocal terms less than two years ago. No reason has ever been shown why she should not carry them out. If there be such a reason, its frank statement, and a renewal of the promises with an engagement to discharge them so soon as the reason is removed, would doubtless secure the preservation of peace. If Russia can neither keep faith nor offer any justification of her failure to do so, her Sovereign's fair words must be regarded as aggravating rather than ameliorating the situation, and that, we are assured, is the very last result His Majesty would desire.

A telegram from London to the *Asahi* and the *Jiji* says that the Russian Government applied to Turkey for permission to send the Black-Sea Fleet through the Dardanelles *en route* for the Far East. Turkey, however, at the instance of Great Britain, refused to permit the passage. The telegram adds that in spite of this refusal four Russian line-of-battle ships and two cruisers are loading ammunition and stores at Sevastopol. Russia's Black-Sea fleet may be said to consist of 7 line-of-battle ship only, since all the other units of the Squadron would be virtually useless for the purpose of a campaign in East-Asian waters. Already the ships she has *en route* for Port Arthur will bring her naval strength in this part of the world to a point higher than the strength of Japan, and could she re-inforce her squadron with, say, four battle-ships from the Black Sea, the superiority would be marked. Reuter has told us of the passage of the Dardanelles by two of her Volunteer steamers carrying troops. The *Jiji Shimpo* thinks that these vessels were intended as pioneers, and that their unobstructed voyage was designed to prelude the application now said to have been refused—the application for the passage of the war ships.

January 19.

Among Tokyo newspapers the only one that ventures to make any definite pronouncement about the situation to-day is the *Chuo*, which alleges that Mr. Kurino has telegraphed to Tokyo that the Russian Foreign Office shows no sign whatever of yielding to Japan's proposals. But there is no confirmation of this statement, nor do we see much reason to suppose that the *Chuo* alone would have come into possession of such news. The *Yomiuri*, however, makes a vague assertion that a long telegram from Mr. Kurino, received on the 17th instant, contained an analysis of the situation bearing out the *Chuo's* news, and an expression of opinion that Russia would merely manœuvre for the purpose of gaining more time.

The *Jiji Shimpo*, writing without reference to any telegrams, says that Russia shows not the least sign of a conciliatory disposition. She is answering all Japan's proposals by crowding out troops and ships to the East. In fact, by her own procedure she has practically removed the question from the realm of diplomacy to that of arms. Meanwhile she preserves ostensibly a semblance of pacific purpose with the plain object of inducing the world to believe that Japan is the peace-breaker. But the world's eyes are now fully opened, and Japan will be mad if she allow shadowy sentiment to restrain her from striking until all her enemy's preparations are completed.

It is noteworthy that the *Kokumin* takes almost the same line. Once again, it observes, peaceful intentions are attributed to Russia by reports coming from Berlin, from Paris and even from London. But Russia's idea of a peaceful settlement is to send to the Far East every ship and every soldier she can muster. On the eve of her long-delayed answer last month, Count Lamsdorff spoke openly of the conciliations and concessions his Government was about to make to Japan. But when the answer came, it did not contain a concession or a conciliation worthy of the name. Whenever Japan has spoken about Korea, Russia's method has been to reply by pointing to her own position in Manchuria; whenever Japan spoke about

Manchuria, Russia retorted by proposing the partition of Korea. The Japanese public must not be for one instant deceived by any renewal of professions on her part. The arrow is laid in the notch and must be drawn unflinchingly at the right moment. It is only great minds that can frankly withdraw from an untenable position. Russia has not such a mind. She will shilly-shally and discuss petty points, but neither by deed nor by word does she deal with the main issue.

As illustrating the losses inflicted on Japan by the present crisis, the Kobe Chamber of Commerce has compiled figures showing the state of commerce with North China and Korea during the last four months of 1903, as compared with the last four months of 1902. These figures are published by the *Chuo Shimbun*. From them we learn that though exports to North China from Kobe declined by 2.6 per cent. only during the period September to December, 1903, compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, imports showed a decrease of 16.4 per cent.; while in the case of the trade with Korea, a growth of 16 per cent. between January and July of 1903, was converted into a decrease of 23 per cent. between October and December. These figures become still more striking when it is observed that the total bulk of the country's foreign trade grew from 300 millions of *yen* in 1897 to 500 millions in 1902 and to 600 millions in 1903. There is every reason to suppose that, under normal conditions, the North-China and Korean sections would have shared the general expansion, and from that point of view their marked decrease is doubly significant.

The *Asahi* feels confident that Great Britain will never be a consenting party to the passage of the Dardanelles by Russia's Black-Sea Fleet, and that Japan need not be concerned on that account. As to Russia's recent declarations about respecting the treaty rights of the Powers in Manchuria, the *Asahi* wants to know whether any one is now likely to be deceived by these hollow pretences. So long as Russia retains armed possession of Manchuria, it is pure moonshine for her to talk of not interfering with the enjoyment of any rights granted by China to foreigners in Manchuria in the exercise of Chinese sovereignty. Only one plain step has to be taken by Russia. She has to discharge her own solemn promise by putting an end to the armed occupation of the Three Provinces; restoring them to the condition existing prior to her seizure of them. The world is utterly weary of her protestations of good intentions and her never-kept pledges. Such things scarcely evoke a smile from the Japanese.

The Department of Communications has taken steps to organize a field service or posts and telegraphs which will be in complete working order should the troops be required to take the field. This step has provided employment for several of the officials who were placed on the retired list in connexion with recent administrative reforms.

January 20.

The *Jiji Shimpo* insists that the public must not be deceived by the pacific reports coming from Europe. Such rumours are circulated, our contemporary thinks, purely in Russian interests. Russia's first answer to Japan's proposals, the answer handed in on the 12th of December, did not contain the slightest substantial concession, though it was heralded by announcements of most amicable purpose. Japan's reply, made on the 21st of December, did not depart in any way from her original proposition. Russia's second answer submitted on the 6th of January, may perhaps be said to have embodied some slight sign of friendliness about Manchuria, but altogether lacked practicality. Japan's second reply, made on the 13th of December, recapitulated her original proposals. There is no real sign of rapprochement, and any that place confidence in the rumours now arriving will probably be deceived.

The *Jiji*, we think, is a little pessimistic. What may be regarded as certain is that any step taken by M. Delcassé is sincere, and has nothing to do with any simulation or dissimulation planned by Russia. It is on France that the best hopes of a peaceful issue rest. Russia will listen to France where she would turn a deaf ear to any other Power. If M. Delcassé be really and earnestly moving, we consider that a very strong ray of light has been shed upon the situation.

A telegram from Nagasaki says that Viceroy Alexieff has issued a most emphatic proclamation. His Excellency swears by the hopes he has of being mercifully judged by heaven that if any one under his jurisdiction lays so much as a finger violently on any Japanese subject in Manchuria, he, the Viceroy, will at once have recourse to uncompromising measures of punishment. We are altogether prepared to learn that such a proclamation has really been issued. It represents precisely the attitude which we should have expected the Viceroy to assume. But it has not re-assured the Japanese apparently. Some 90 of them have fled to Nagasaki from Dalny, where they are said to have suffered severely, and others are preparing to follow.

It is stated that depositors in both of these banks in Peking are withdrawing their deposits and placing them with the Wei-feng Bank. It is probable that in the event of war between Japan and Russia no institution would be more inconvenienced than the Russo-Chinese Bank. The Yokohama Specie Bank would have to greatly restrict the area of its private operations. Indeed it has already begun to do so. But, on the other hand, the functions falling to it on Government account would amply repay any loss under that heading. Perhaps the same is true of the Russo-Chinese Bank in a degree.

January 21.

Leading English journals are reported by the telegraph (*Jiji Shimpo*) as casting doubts on the sincerity of Russia's pacific avowals, which they regard as mere pretexts for gaining time to complete preparations. *The Times* pertinently remarks that if St. Petersburg have any genuine desire for peace, the simple and obvious course is to accede to Japan's moderate and just demands.

The *Jiji Shimpo* continues its bitter complaints about the obscurity in which all matters connected with the complication are enveloped so far as the Japanese nation is concerned. All the dates of the various conferences and communications are marshalled by our contemporary, and it must be confessed that they make a remarkable showing. However, as to the matter of the Japanese Government's patience and as to the criticisms that the favourable opportunity has been lost by Japan, we suggest that throughout all this long period of waiting Japanese statesmen have been manufacturing a force which counts for a great deal in the final negotiations. They have been manufacturing the force of the world's opinion. So far as can be seen, the sympathy of the nations is with Japan to-day, and though it may justly be urged that sentiment counts for very little when the sword is drawn, it may be pointed out with at least equal force that this goodwill possessed by Japan is not without influence in keeping the sword in its sheath. For Russia has some respect for the opinion of the nations. The knowledge that by pushing matters to an extremity she will alienate the world's goodwill can not but influence her. Japan acted wisely, we think, when she courted the aid of that moral factor. She would not have gained it had she not proved her patience and moderation in the most signal manner; and it must be remembered that to complete such a demonstration is a hard task for an Oriental Power when Occidental States are the judges.

As to the time when Russia's answer may be expected, certain Tokyo journals take the view telegraphed from Paris, and allege that if not the answer itself, then at any rate a long telegram embodying its probable gist, did actually reach Tokyo on the 19th instant. But the *Nichi Nichi* points out that Japan's note was not telegraphed to St. Petersburg until the 14th or even the 15th, since, though handed in to the Russian Legation on the afternoon of the 13th, it had to be translated first into French and then into cipher. Hence the Tsar probably did not see it until the 16th or 17th, and a Council to consider it can not have been opened before the 18th. All this is true enough, but we deem it scarcely credible that the gist of the note was not telegraphed to the Russian capital from Tokyo on the evening of the 13th. To wait until the translation into French and cipher had been effected before sending any information to St. Petersburg would have been a very leisurely proceeding.

Meanwhile news has been received in apparently trustworthy quarters that the Emperor of Russia has banished M. Bezobrazoff and the Grand Duke Alexander from St. Petersburg and that both have left Russia. These two officials were the very pith and marrow of the war party in Russia. It may be remembered that on the 5th of this month news reached Tokyo to the effect that the pacific views of Count Lamsdorff and General Kuropatkin were constantly overshadowed by those of Bezobrazoff and Alexander and that, in consequence, Russia's rejoinder to Japan was expected to be unfavourable, as it certainly proved. The disgrace of the Grand Duke and the Private Secretary at this juncture would be very significant. The inference would be that these men had misrepresented Japan as not having any heart to fight and had therefore counselled an uncompromising attitude, which has been found unsuited to actual events. Undoubtedly the Tsar himself is for peace if it can be obtained without loss of prestige. As to that, too, some people may be disposed to think that Russia's prestige is in more danger from failure to keep her promises than from any concessions she makes to Japan.

The *Asahi Shimbun* has a telegram from London to the effect that the Tsar's pacific utterances to the Japanese Representative at the New Year's levée on the 14th instant had a strong effect in Russian official circles, and that in London the crisis is now also believed to have passed.

We have no stirring news this morning about movements of Russian Legation staff. A few days ago Japanese journals announced the departure of Mr. Arsenieff for Nagasaki, bearing important despatches, whereas he was really going to Atami to amuse himself; and on Tuesday they told us that Mr. Trautchold had taken his departure for Nagasaki by the express train on Monday morning, whereas on Tuesday he was going about his business as usual in Tokyo.

January 22.

The *Jiji Shimpo* has a telegram from Vladivostock, dated the 19th instant, 7 p.m., saying that in official circles there it has suddenly come to be stated that Russia will make whatever concessions are necessary to preserve peace.

The Times declares that the whole of the English people sympathise heartily with the Japanese, who are fighting for the assertion of Anglo-Saxon ideals in Asia against the establishment of a military despotism.

In the *Chuo* we find an extraordinary estimate that Japan's outlays in the event of war with Russia would amount to eighteen hundred millions of *yen*; that is to say, six hundred millions per annum for three years. That strikes us as a truly absurd forecast. The war of 1894-5 cost 200 millions in all and involved some outlays which would not now be needed. On what conceivable account would such immense sums have to be disbursed? Our contemporary appears to think that the affair would be as costly as the South-African war.

It is not expected that Russia's answer can come before the 23rd or 24th.

The *Jiji Shimpo* again insists that the Emperor of Russia, when he made his pacific statement at the New Year's levee on the 14th instant, did not know the nature of Japan's reply, which had been handed to the Russian Legation on the afternoon of the 13th. We can only repeat that, considering the difference of longitude of the two capitals, Tokyo and St. Petersburg, His Majesty must be badly served if, before nightfall on the 13th, he did not know at least the gist of Japan's reply.

The *Jimmin* dwells upon the fact that the speed of a naval squadron manœuvering for fighting purposes is the speed of the slowest unit. On that basis the speed of the Russian line-of-battle-ship squadron in Eastern waters would be 16.3 knots at best, and the speed of the armoured-cruiser squadron would be 17 knots. In this respect the Japanese ships would have a marked advantage.

There is some unfounded talk in Tokyo journals about the Japanese Government's invertebrate attitude. The cry is for information, and greed for that commodity betrays our contemporaries into some indiscretions.

Colonel Oshiro and another Imperial Chamberlain have been despatched to Nagasaki, presumably to inspect the state of affairs there and make a report to His Majesty.

Telegrams received in Tokyo announce that the *Nisshin* left Perim on the 20th and that the *Kasuga* left Aden on the same day. The latter vessel is a little behind the former owing to some question of coaling.

Meanwhile it does not appear that the Russian ships are making any effort to keep in touch with the Japanese. The *Dimitri Douskoi* and the *Aurora* are lying at Suez, and the *Oslabia* and the torpedo flotilla are at Port Said.

News has been received in Tokyo that the Japanese residents of Vladivostock are suffering greatly at the hands of the Russians, and that it will probably be necessary to remove them all. The advisability of at once despatching steamers for that purpose was under discussion yesterday in Tokyo. We are reluctant to believe that such uncivilized procedure is adopted by Russians or permitted by their authorities, but apparently the reports are trustworthy.

KOREA.

January 16.

There has been some talk of administrative reforms in Seoul on account of the present crisis. Apparently the idea is to effect economies such as shall place some funds at the disposal of the Government. But if there was any real disposition to mend matters it appears to have received a rude check. A high official named Li Keun-myong is reported to have suggested to the Emperor that the Construction Bureau be abolished, but His Majesty took the suggestion in very bad part, regarding it as an attempt to interfere with the free exercise of the Imperial prerogative. Li Keun-myong therefore fell into the state of deferential alarm appropriate in such circumstances, and retired to pen his resignation.

January 18.

The United States Government has sent another detachment of marines to Seoul. There is some uncertainty about the number, but it is certainly in the neighbourhood of sixty, and it thus brings the total American force to about a hundred. It is as well that these guards, and those of the other Powers, should be in the Korean capital, though the ultimate necessity of their presence is not quite clear.

It is stated that the American section of Korean politicians has been much strengthened by these evidences of resolute procedure on the part of the United States, and that there are schemes of administrative and financial reform such as would miminise or completely remove all pretexts for foreign interference, while there is also talk of relying mainly upon America in the event of war between Russia and Japan. The Koreans can not possibly have any better friends than the Americans, and if this friendship took the form of prompting genuine reforms, it would not perhaps be too late to invest the Korean empire with some attributes of permanency. But truly it appears to us that the impulses of Korean statesmanship merit little confidence: they vary with the apparition of a score of soldiers.

News has been received in Seoul that a kind of insurrection has broken out at Chhon-an in Chhung-chhong-do, and that it has involved an attack upon Japanese residents, of whom some have received injuries. One account says that two Japanese were wounded; another puts the number at 18, and a third speaks of over twenty.

Later news says that these Chhon-an rioters do not in any sense represent a political movement. They are made up of mere loafers, some 300 or 400 of whom formed a band and robbed the local offices of a considerable sum of money. A detachment of 15 Korean soldiers were sent against them, but they defeated the soldiers and deprived them of their arms and ammunition. Among the rioters are said to be included several of the soldiers who were recently reported to have deserted from their corps in Seoul on account of discontent. Chhon-an is in the neighbourhood of the Seoul-Fusan railway line.

M. Pavlow is said to have made a very vigorous remonstrance to the Korean Government with reference to the disregard shown by Korean officials for boundary obligations in the Amur region. The Russian representative claims that Korean soldiers constantly cross the frontier and commit all kinds of excesses against the persons and properties of Chinese and Korean subjects residing in Russian territory. M. Pavlow says that protests of this nature have been frequently made by him and that the Korean Government would be wise if it attended to the matter vigorously and promptly.

Our readers will remember that there has recently been talk of a sharp conflict for official power in Seoul between Li Keun-thaik, rightly or wrongly supposed to head the pro-Russian party, and Li Yong-ik, a statesman of doubtful proclivities. The latter appears to have gone under in the fight, for a telegram from Seoul says that he has resigned his post of Minister of Finance, and has been succeeded by Chhim Sang-hun.

The telegraph recently informed us that the French frigate *Pascal* had been ordered to Chemulpo. She arrived there on the 15th instant, apparently, and on the following day she landed a party of 35 marines under two officers, who immediately proceeded to Seoul to serve as legation guards.

January 19.

There are nine ships of war now at Chemulpo, namely, 2 Russian, 2 English, and 2 Italian, and one each of the Chinese French and German squadrons. The *Asahi's* correspondent says that the Englishmen are showing great sympathy with the Japanese, and are keeping them informed of all the movements of the Russians.

It is now stated that the rioters in the south of Korea do not exceed twenty, and that only two Japanese have suffered at their hands. In fact rumour has been at its usual work of exaggeration. On the other hand news comes from Pyong-yang that the Tonghaks in that region show signs of insurrection and that Korean troops are numbered among the insurgents.

A detachment of French marines, numbering 39 with two officers, entered Seoul on the 16th instant.

A letter from Wiju dated the 22nd of December is published by a Tokyo news agency. It says that the Koreans and Chinese in that region are quite convinced that their fate is to become Russian subjects unless the matter is put to the test of the sword. They believe that no pacific arrangement can save them, and they talk of making voluntary submission to Russia in good time.

January 20.

The Korean insurgents at Chhung-chhyong, Chholla and Kyong-san are said to be developing strength. Apparently the military fugitives from Seoul—of whom there are said to be some 2000—have joined the rioters, who thus find themselves formidable in the possession of arms. Vigorous measures have been inaugurated to crush the movement and latest advices do not regard it as of any importance.

It appears that Germany has not yet landed any troops for the protection of her Seoul Legation. The *Hertha*, however, arrived at Chemulpo on the 16th instant, and probably she will soon contribute a party of marines to the foreign detachments now in the Korean capital.

January 21.

Another small detachment of British marines, numbering 15, entered Seoul on the 19th instant.

Several Tokyo newspapers publish a statement, that whereas Japan, England and America were a unit in pressing for the opening of Yong Am-pho, the United States Representative has now changed his attitude and is attaching more importance to Wiju. On the other hand, the Korean Government would gladly shelve the Yong-Ampho question by the opening of Wiju, their idea being that such a course would placate both Russia and Japan. The British and Japanese Representatives, however, are not disposed for a moment to endorse such a compromise. We may add that this story is accompanied by a suggestion that the American clique in Seoul has become sympathetic with the Russian; a conjuncture which we take leave to doubt altogether.

It would appear that the entry of French troops into Seoul, as reported in our last issue, was not preceded by any communication from the French Representative to the Korean Government, and the latter has consequently lodged a protest. Such, at any rate, is the rumour.

January 22.

The disturbances in southern Korea seem to be gathering force. They had their origin in nothing more serious than indignation about the excesses of tax collectors, but the petty numbers of the rioters having received accessions of strength in the shape of deserting soldiers and malcontents in general, the affair is said to be now rather formidable. A rumour is current that some Japanese subjects are assisting the rioters, but that story must be regarded with much doubt. At all events the central Government is taking steps to send a force to restore order.

Some excitement seems to have been caused in Seoul on account of the reports carried home by one Hyon, chief interpreter to the Chamberlains' Bureau, who has just returned from a tour through Russia and France. Hyon is said to have been immensely impressed with what he saw of Russia's military might. He has informed his Sovereign that Japan has not the smallest chance of succeeding in a contest with the Great Northern Power, and that the latter's forces now actually in East Asia or on their way thither must aggregate many tens of thousands. Only, therefore, by placing herself under Russia's wing can the forlorn little Korean chicken hope to find safety. Li Yong-ik, the statesman of doubtful complexion, is said to have endorsed this advice by reminding the Emperor that he too had tendered similar counsels before the issue of Hyon's travels was known, and the distracted monarch appears to have rejoiced at this prospect of *terra firma* for his wavering proclivities. His Majesty has directed that further inspection be made of Russia's forces. Fate has apparently decided that he shall kiss the rod.

The Korean Government's protest against the unannounced and unsanctioned entry of French marines into Seoul is said to have been accompanied by a demand for their withdrawal. But the French Representative replied that all the other Legations having been already furnished with guards before the coming of his nationals, the only feature inviting criticism, as he thought, was the tardiness of this precaution on France's part. There the matter will probably end. The French official was undoubtedly guilty of an oversight, but from another point of view he merely failed to act a part in a farce.

A Korean subject, Li Pyon-u, formerly a student of law in Japan, seems to have really left Seoul on the 19th instant for the purpose of endeavouring to secure the extradition of U Pon-son's murderer, Ko Yon-Keun, who now lies in a Japanese prison under sentence of death. The only instrument carried by Li Pyon-u seems to be a purse of two thousand *yen*. We should be glad if he possessed some more cogent arguments, for if U was truly the Queen's assassin Ko's act scarcely deserves the halter.

The Korean Government is about to organise a Red Cross Society in Seoul. Li Yong-ik appears to be an active promoter of this project.

Accounts vary as to the disposition of Korean officialdom. The *Hochi's* correspondent wires that everything is quiet and that the people place their reliance on Japan. The *Chuo's* correspondent alleges that in pretending to trust Japan they are merely obeying the sinister suggestions of M. Pavlow, who counsels simulation of trust with an underlying resolve to turn to Russia at the moment of crisis. We apprehend that the *Chuo's* correspondent is in some danger of cutting himself.

CHINA.

January 16.

There are two accounts of China's intentions. One represents her as having determined to maintain strict neutrality, the other says that, in accordance with American and English counsels, it will be benevolent neutrality. Benevolent it certainly ought to be at the very least, seeing that Japan, if she fights, will be fighting on behalf of China's independence and integrity. At all events the telegraph alleges that there has been a meeting of leading statesmen in Peking, in consequence of Japan's announcement that her final note had been presented to Russia, and that the meeting decided to entrust to Viceroy Yuan the duty of guarding the metropolitan province and the northern regions in general, to summon from the South China's three serviceable war-ships, and direct the Yangtse Viceroys to adopt such precautions as shall prevent Shanghai from being used as a Russian basis. This last order will be very difficult to carry out. There will be, in the event of war, a great many operations at Shanghai which could not be reconciled with any theory of strict neutrality, still less of neutrality benevolent to Japan.

The leading Japanese journals are all agreed that, strange as an attitude of neutrality on China's party may appear at this juncture, it is the only course permitted by her condition. Japan asks nothing else. Among these journals the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* notes that all the Powers have now virtually declared their intention to preserve strict neutrality, and that the inconvenience thus caused to Russia will be very great. Japan can obtain all the supplies she needs without any difficulty. She has them at home within easy reach of the scene of operations. But Russia will have to carry everything an immense distance. Fuel and food alike will be unprocurable for her wants. Our Tokyo contemporary thinks that it is here she will first feel the pinch. Indeed it regards the situation as most dispiriting for Russia from that point of view.

January 18.

One result of this crisis appears to be the return of Chang Chih-tung to his old Viceroyalty in the Yangtse Valley. A telegram to the *Asahi Shimbun* says that in view of the urgent necessity of maintaining peace and good order throughout that region, the Court has deemed it expedient to restore Chang to his former post, where he rendered such invaluable service during the Boxer troubles. This step will be welcomed by foreigners of every nationality. Meanwhile Viceroy Yuan, in conformity with instructions from the Throne, has made arrangements for General Ma to move all available troops towards China's north-eastern frontier, with the object of asserting and maintaining neutrality in that region. But we are not told what is understood by the north-eastern frontier. Is it the frontier bounding the Three Eastern provinces, or is it the Liao River? If the former, then China tacitly admits that the effective administration of the whole of Manchuria is in Russia's hands. If the latter, then troubles with Russia are not unlikely to ensue.

The *Jiji Shimpo* and the *Asahi* both publish telegrams to the effect that the Russian troops in Peking and Tientsin were to be withdrawn to Port Arthur on the 17th instant, with the exception of 20 men who are to remain in Peking. There is some uncertainty about the numbers of these detachments. One authority puts them at 80 men in Tientsin and 2 companies in Peking; another suggests smaller forces. The fact, however, is important not the dimensions. The withdrawal of these detachments would seem to imply that Viceroy Alexieff, at all events, has virtually abandoned all hope of peace.

January 19.

Russia seems to have now withdrawn practically the whole of her detachments from Peking, Tientsin and Chingwan-tao. At the last named place she had some 300 men of all ranks. The three detachments have gone to Liaotung.

A telegram from Chefoo conveys the incredible news that numbers of Russian soldiers and officers are making their escape to that place, their complaint being that they were not engaged for war purposes. That may be the case with some persons of foreign nationality serving in the Russian ranks, but from any other point of view the story is absurd.

A telegram to the *Asahi Shimbun* says that a Chinese Company has been formed for the purpose of constructing a railway from Szchuan to Hankow. The Company is to have a capital of 50 million taels, 10 millions of which will be subscribed by the projectors, 10 millions will be put up by the inhabitants of Szchuan, and the remainder will be raised throughout China. The length of the line is something over a thousand miles, and the programme is to pay ⅜ of the net earnings to the Government and to hand over the road to the State, free of cost, at the end of 45 years. Our contemporary's correspondent, in sending this information, adds that a British syndicate has been trying to obtain a concession for the line, but that the Chinese Government naturally shrinks from repeating the experiences it has garnered in connexion with railway concessions to foreign syndicates within its borders. It will therefore gladly accede to the proposition of the Szchuan Company if the latter can be shown to have any back-bone. The Szchuan projectors are said to have taken advantage of the anti-foreign prejudice by declaring in their application that they intend carefully to avoid all use of foreign capital.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun's* Tientsin correspondent says that Viceroy Yuan has now under his immediate command 36,000 men, and that to this fact is to be attributed much of his influence at Court. The force has its head-quarters at Paoting, where there are some 11,500 men. In Peking there are 3,000, including 1,000 palace guards, who have been recently raised. Tientsin has only 2,000 of the force and the remainder are stationed at various places throughout Chili. It will be remembered that Viceroy Li Hung-chang, in the days of his greatest power, was supposed to have an army of 37,000 under his command. There is an interesting similarity of numbers.

January 20.

Russia has in contemplation two railways. One would start from Sim-min-ting on the Liao River to Mukden and thence to An-tung; another from Peking to Chan-kia-kow. The latter would open up the approaches to Peking from the north-west; the former would bring the far-east of Manchuria and practically the Korean frontier into direct communication with the Manchurian system of lines. Some time ago Russia asked China's permission to build these lines. China has now definitely refused. Two things strike us as remarkable in connexion with this. The first is that Russia should entertain any idea of success in making such an application. Russia it is that has demonstrated to China in the most unequivocal manner the danger of granting railway concessions to foreign Powers. The proof is about as complete as proof can be. The Peking Government, even though it possessed only a moiety of the shrewdness it really has, must know beyond all peradventure that railways in the hands of a Power like Russia are simply and purely instruments of aggression. China has just shown her appreciation of this object-lesson by refusing an English syndicate's application for a Szchuan-Hankow line. Surely it is merely courting a similar refusal when Russia seeks further railway concessions in Manchuria, and when she proposes, in effect, to repeat from the direction of Mongolia and Ili the drama she is now acting on the north-eastern frontier? The second curious feature of the business is that she should ask China's leave at all in the case of the Simminting-Mukden-Antung road. Every mile of the line lies in Manchuria. It would be, in effect, an arc line traversing Manchuria from west to east just as the Mukden-Dalny line cuts it from north to south. Russia's actual position in Manchuria, her military tenure of the whole region, invests such an application with an element of comedy. Why should she make pretence of seeking China's permission? Apparently she still entertains some notion that China's sovereignty in the Three Provinces it not wholly a thing of the past.

January 21.

A sum of ten million taels has been devoted by the Chinese Government to meet outlays on account of the new military organizations. Two millions of the amount are to be disbursed from the Treasury, but nothing is said about the provenance of the other eight millions. It will be remembered that there was some talk recently of calling upon the provincial authorities to find the money, but that the project met with vehement opposition from certain high officials, who insisted that the provinces were already burdened to the limit of their capacity on account of the Indemnity taxes.

The Japanese seem to be all leaving Newchwang, Liaoyang, Port Arthur, Dalny, Mukden and Harbin. Whatever be the issue of the present complication, the losses it will have inflicted on the Japanese can not but amount to a large figure.

A Belgian missionary who has just come to Peking from Kansu is reported as having stated that General Tung Fuh-hsiang died at Chen-chi in the middle of December. If this be true, one source of periodical sensations is removed.

A telegram from Chefoo says that a committee of examination appointed by Viceroy Alexieff has reported in the sense that fully one half of the military stores and provisions at Port Arthur are in an unserviceable condition. The Viceroy has consequently made sweeping changes in the personnel of the intendance. This story, coming in the sequel of a recent rumour that much of the flour in stock at Port Arthur had been lying unchanged for five years, seems to warrant a belief that everything is not as it should be; but as for the statement that one-half of the stores are unserviceable, it may be regarded as a great exaggeration.

January 22.

It is reported that Manchurian bandits have begun to raid the districts near Kinchow; that is to say, the district northward of Shanhaikwan and westward of the Liao River. General Ma has received orders from the Peking Government to take steps for the repression of the raiders. This would place his troops on the right flank of a Russian army marshalled for the defence of Manchuria against invasion from the south, which is exactly the position that Ma would take if he desired to become an inconvenient menace to the Russians. However, we have little faith in the theory sometimes advanced that the bandits and such disturbers of the peace can be made to order whenever their existence would further the aims of high policy. Doubtless these Kinchow freebooters are merely a repetition of incidents which used to be common as Vallambrossa leaves in the days prior to Russia's presence in the Three Provinces.

This distinguished Chinaman, formerly a member of the Legislative Council in Hongkong, possessor of an English law diploma and for several years a prominent figure in Washington private and official circles, has been appointed to a post in the Wai-wu-pu. What post it is we do not yet know, but the appointment is attributed to a memorial relating to the Manchurian question. Five suggestions are said to have been submitted by Mr. Wu to the Throne, and they all found approval. The raising of men like Wu Ting-fang to places of power and influence in China is probably her sole hope of salvation.

It would seem that some lingering doubts still troubled China as to the possibility or propriety of remaining neutral when the integrity of her own empire was an object of warlike action between two foreign Powers, for only now at the direct instance of Sir Ernest Satow, Mr. Conger and Mr. Uchida, has she definitely decided to maintain neutrality in the event of a Russo-Japanese war. It is said that the three Representatives fully demonstrated to Prince Ching that the balance of advantage for China lay in keeping out of the fighting arena.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

We observe a change in the general tone of the Japanese press. Hitherto the leading journals have devoted themselves chiefly to advocating strong insistence on Japan's just demands and the maintenance of a resolute attitude by the Government, as well as the adoption of a determined policy. But now their comments turn mainly on the question of ways and means. That alteration of theirs seems to indicate plainly that they regard war as inevitable. The *Jiji Shimpo*, for example, urges that as the country is now on the verge of a conflict such as it has never before undertaken, a conflict with one of the greatest of European Powers, no expense should be shrunk from, no effort spared, to make the fullest preparation. If the outlook be a war lasting one year, precautions should be taken to provide for two years; if an army of two hundred thousand men be deemed sufficient steps should be adopted on the scale of three hundred thousand. It may be argued that a peaceful ending is not yet impossible; that Russia may still make in the interests of tranquillity such concessions as will save the situation. That is earnestly to be desired. But if she be so advised, it will be easy for Japan to recoup the outlays made on account of preparations, whereas incalculable loss may result from any parsimony at this stage.

In this context it is interesting to note Japan's financial condition at the outset of the war of 1894-5, and to compare it with her condition to-day. In 1894, she had an accumulation of revenue surpluses amounting to 26 million *yen*; the voluntary contributions made by the people totalled 160,300 *yen*, and the gifts in aid were 2,788,741 *yen*. To these totals the Treasury added 116,800,000 *yen* raised by floating bonds, and the remainder of the 200 million *yen* spent on the [illegible] months' war was taken from the Chinese Indemnity. But the country's financial rank to-day is very different from what it was ten years age. The total revenue of the State in 1894 was 84½ million *yen*, whereas in 1903 it was 282½ millions; the foreign trade in 1894 aggregated 180 millions, whereas in 1902 it was 600 millions, in round numbers. The time has now come when the nation must be prepared to put up all, or at any rate a great part, of the money accumulated during the past ten years. That is the only spirit wherewith to meet the situation. War bonds, should they be issued, must be subscribed at any sacrifice. But, at the same time trade and industry should be pursued with redoubled vigour.

Meanwhile the Minister of State for Finance has been busying himself to confer with the leading financiers of Tokyo and Osaka, explaining to them the situation and urging their coöperation. The *Shogyo Shimpo* criticises these measures on the ground that the proper line would have been to summon the bankers and financiers in open conclave and repose in them some frank confidence as to the facts of the situation. On the other hand, our contemporary is altogether unhesitating in its avowal that the Minister's appeal should meet with the warmest possible response. It makes, however, the shrewd comment that the extraordinary reluctance shown by bankers to grant accommodation during the past few months, though it has resulted in a great accumulation of funds which will be most useful, has had the collateral effect of impairing the wealth-earning capacity of the nation. That is an extremely unwise policy. If large expenditures have to be faced, it is obviously advisable that the sources of supply should be refreshed as much as possible.

BANQUET IN TOKYO.

On the evening of the 15th instant the leading business men of Tokyo and Yokohama, to the number of about seventy, entertained the naval and military *Attachés* of the United States and the British Legations, several Japanese naval and military officers, and the correspondents in Japan of European and American journals. Scarcely one of the prominent figures in the world of Japanese affairs was absent; presidents of railways, presidents of steamship companies, presidents of banks, directors of commercial and industrial companies, all being among the hosts. The banquet took place in the upper rooms of the celebrated restaurant, Kame-sei, near Ryogoku Bridge, and was in pure Japanese style, except that the perennial *sake*-cup was supplemented by the champagne glass. The two second-storey rooms of the Kame-sei make a salon of a hundred mats when thrown into one, that is to say, a chamber 30 feet wide by 120 long. Thus although the hosts and guests totalled over eighty, the accommodation was not only ample for dining purposes, but also sufficed for the appropriation of a fourth part of the space to histrionic purposes. Mr. Fukuzawa, proprietor of the *Jiji Shimpo*, and Mr. Zumoto, editor of the *Japan Times*, were conspicuous in welcoming the guests, as they had been instrumental in making all the admirable arrangements for the celebration. Colonel Shiba, of Peking fame, sat in one of the places of honour, and the foreigners present were Captain Troubridge, R.N.; Colonel Hume, R.A.; Lt.-Com. Marsh, U.S.N.; Major Wood, U.S.A; Mr. Egan representative of the Associated Press of the United States; Mr Bennet Burleigh, correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*; Mr. Kirby, correspondent of the *Standard*; Mr. Harrison, correspondent of the London *Daily Mail*; Mr. Knapp, correspondent of the *Boston Transcript*; and Captain Brinkley, correspondent of *The Times*. Shortly after all had taken their seats and the first course had been served, a curtain suspended at one end of the long room rose and displayed a girl dressed in *Samurai* costume. Seated, she held a sheathed sword upright in one hand, the point downward, and seemed to be pensively considering some necessity for action. To her came prancing from the wing another girl disguised with the hide and head of the King of Beasts, and after some pas-seul pantomime by this new arrival, there emerged upon the stage a third lassie in the conventional habiliments of Brother Jonathan—striped trousers eked out with straps, a starry waistcoat, a spangled coat, an immense white beaver hat and a colossal collar. She too went through some exhilarating pacings and significant gestures for the benefit of the thoughtful *samurai*, but when he would have risen in response to these invitations, he was conjointly restrained by the Lion and Jonathan until the former had placed a ship and a rifle at the *samurai's* side, and the latter had presented him with bags of flour and tins of preserved meat. Then indeed the fortified *samurai* sprang up, drew his sword and wielded it victoriously, with of course a sequel of much hand-shaking and congratulatory gesture, the while a chorus of *samisen*-players and vocalists, ranged among drapery of the three flags, Japanese, American and English, chanted a semi-humorous semi-martial libretto, which we refrain from publishing lest its jests cause unintended offence. Needless to say this performance elicited loud applause, whereafter, loving cups having been exchanged and some semblance of order restored, Mr. Sonoda Kokichi, President of the Nobles Bank, rose and spoke as follows, every word obviously coming from his heart, and almost every sentence being vociferously cheered:—

CAPTAIN TROUBRIDGE AND GENTLEMEN,—We business men and financiers of Tokio and Yokohama are met here to-night to pay our respects the to hônorable and gallant members of the British and American Legations and also to the distinguished representatives and correspondents of the press now assembled in Tokyo. It is highly gratifying to us to find all our honoured guests present, and we consider it a special favour that notwithstanding this time of unusual pressure, our own naval and military officers of distinction should have accepted our invitations and attended this banquet. Gentlemen, unfortunately things look very gloomy and it is an anxious moment for us, but that ought not to prevent us from drinking each others healths, and from cementing our mutual friendship.

The present situation reminds me of that well-known popular song which I heard sung in England some 30 years ago. It runs in this way:—We don't want to fight, but by jingo if we do, we've got the men, we've got the ships, we've got the money too." Now let me examine in a few words how far this song corresponds with our present case. In the first place, curiously enough, we are exactly in the same position as Britishers were, because we ourselves don't want to fight at all. We are peace-lovers. If we did want to fight we would have started long ago. There were many occasions; there were many pretexts. Gentlemen, we Japanese are sometimes called a warlike and bloodthirsty nation. It is utterly untrue. I emphatically deny it. I don't think we are quite so barbarous and cannibal-like. It is true that we fought twice within the past 10 years, but that was solely for the cause of humanity; for the cause of civilization; for the cause of a permanent peace in the Far East, and for the cause of the benefit of mankind at large. If we have to fight again it will be simply for the purpose of self-defence. When the very existence of our Empire is threatened as it is now, and when it is a question of life or death for us, what else can we do but to take up arms and defend ourselves? Such being the present situation, if a war unfortunately breaks out we must decline to take its responsibility upon our own shoulders. It is only just that responsibility should rest upon one who constantly threatens us and who constantly endeavours to disturb the peace of the East, and I trust and believe that on this point the whole Civilized World will pronounce judgment in out favour. Now as to men. We have not only got them but they are pretty well disciplined and are always ready to stand and die in defence of their dear country.

How about ships? We have got them too. They are not very numerous but I believe they are substantial enough. Besides our officers and crews are highly experienced and disciplined, to say nothing of their patriotism and valour, upon which we depend more than on weapons.

Now the last and most important subject—money. Have we got it? That is a question you foreign gentlemen are perhaps desirous to ask and that is a question we financiers ought to answer. I am not in a position to give you a detailed account of our present economic condition to-night, but I can say this much that during the Japan-China war we spent about 230,000,000 *yen* and we managed to carry out the war without borrowing a single penny from abroad. The coming struggle would cost us a great deal more. We must be prepared for it. But on the other hand I can confidently say that we are now far better off than we were 10 years ago, and I see no reason why we should not be able to bear a much heavier burden than we did before. Besides, gentlemen, the temper of the nation has reached its highest pitch, and when a patriotic people are strongly united in one common cause as we are at the present moment, I am sure every one is prepared to sacrifice even his last penny. We fear not therefore war expenses. We fear not the result of the struggle.

There is another thing on which we place much reliance, and that is we have England as our ally; we have the United States as our best national friend. Of course they will have nothing to do with the coming struggle, but I feel bound to say that in case of our national calamity the sympathy or moral support we may receive from these friendly and powerful nations cannot fail to be an incalculable strength to us.

Gentlemen, I ask you to join me in drinking to the health of all our honoured guests, coupled with the name of Capt. Troubridge.

Captain Troubridge had then to perform the difficult task of replying in such a manner as to do justice at once to the dictates of his official capacity and the impulses of his private friendship. How well he acquitted himself will be seen from his speech:—

MR. SONODA & GENTLEMEN,—I rise on behalf of my colleagues and on my own behalf to return you our best thanks for the kind words of welcome which you, Mr. Sonoda, have spoken, and which you, Gentlemen, have so very cordially received.

I was relieved to hear from my friend Mr. Zumoto that a speech was not expected of me to-night. It is merely then my duty and my great pleasure to express to you how entirely we appreciate the beautiful, clever and interesting entertainment you have offered to us this evening.

Our greatest poet, in whose works all your guests of to-night, American and British, have a common heritage, has told us that "Peace hath its victories no less than war," and it seems therefore peculiarly appropriate that you, Gentlemen, whose business it is to strive toward the attainment for your country of the victories of peace, should entertain my colleagues and me, whose business it is to strive toward the attainment for our countries of the victories of war.

But I was expected to be brief, and I will be brief. I am speaking only among gentlemen of whom the majority we Englishmen are proud to call our allies, the minority are our blood relations, and if in these very few words I have failed to convey to you how deeply we appreciate the honour you have done us in inviting our presence to-night; if I have failed to convey to you how agreeable to us is the enjoyment of the friendship of you gentlemen representing as you do all that is most cultured and intellectual and perhaps I might add most rich in your charming and hospitable country; if I have failed to convey to you how much we respect and esteem your kindly and gentle people and how earnestly we desire your future welfare and prosperity; then I must ask you to remember and to apply to these very few words of mine one of your own proverbs, *ichi wo kiite ju wo shiru*, which for the benefit of such of my fellow guests who may not understood it, I will very freely translate: For one thing you hear, you may understand ten.—(Loud Applause.)

Captain Brinkley, speaking on behalf of the press, said:—

MR. SONODA AND GENTLEMEN—Allow me to express to you on behalf of my fellow press-men and myself very earnest thanks for this charming and significant entertainment, for the honour you have paid us in inviting us, and for the opportunity you have given us of meeting the leading business men of your capital. I can not profess to be a complete representative of my craft, for I have no direct connexion with the stormy-petrel section of it. That section is personified here by several distinguished journalists who will perhaps speak for themselves. But I know all are with me when I say how sincerely we appreciate your graceful hospitality. There is another sentiment also which we have in common to whatever section of journalism we belong. It is a sentiment of hope—a hope whose fulfilment would defeat a great part of the purpose that has brought some of my celebrated colleagues to the Far East, but nevertheless a hope which I am confident they would like to see realized, the hope that this occasion may prove another illustration of the old adage, "the darkest hour is before the dawn," and that, gloomy as the outlook is at present, the sun of peace may yet shine through the clouds lowering on the horizon. But if most unfortunately that hope can not be realized, then I desire to substitute for it, not another hope, but an assurance that, whatever happen, Japan will come out on top for she has the right on her side.

After these speeches about an hour was devoted to the usual features of a Japanese entertainment; one of which was that the flowers forming a huge motto "Welcome,"—flowers in the form of hair-pins—were taken from their place in a framework of greenery and handed to the guests by the fair hands of some forty *geisha*, who acted now as waitresses and anon as dancers. The party broke up shortly after nine o'clock amid enthusiastic demonstrations of mutual friendship.

DOMESTIC POLITICS.

January 18.

No less than five Tokyo journals, all of the second class, insist that a change of Cabinet is imminent. Some speak of Admiral Count Kawamura as having memorialized the Throne, and all agree that Count

Katsura has determined to make his present illness an occasion for resigning. They say that he would be succeeded by Marquis Ito, and that the new Cabinet would include Count Matsukata, Count Inouye and Count Kabayama. We repeat these stories for what they may be worth.

January 19.

We do not hear anything of consequence about the much-talked-of change of Cabinet which occupied the attention and the columns of five Tokyo journals very recently. The rumour has now dwindled to nothing more portentous than certain activities on the part of Mr. Kono Hironaka and Count Kabayama, and to an alleged attempt to gain the sympathetic cöoperation of Count Okuma, who, however, turned a deaf ear to all suggestions. Evidently there is not to be any swapping of steeds in mid-stream.

The Niigata branch of the *Seiyu-kai* held a meeting on the 15th instant for the purpose of making arrangements for the election next March. The same course was adopted by the Fukushima branch of the Progressists on the same day.

January 20.

Viscount Sone on the evening of the 18th invited the bankers of Tokyo to dine at his official residence and consulted with them on the subject of floating Government bonds, and also on the advisability of refraining from disposing of their available funds by giving accommodation to ordinary borrowers It is further stated that the Bank of Japan has lent the Government 24 millions of *yen* and that the debt will soon be increased. Even though war be avoided, there will probably be a necessity for issuing some war bonds.

All the Elder Statesmen have returned to Tokyo, presumably in expectation of speedy developments.

THE FATHER OF THE FLEET.

The death of the Hon. Sir Henry Keppel, G.C.B., D.C.L., M.V.O., Commander of the Legion of Honour, Second Class Medjidie, etc., etc., removes one whose span of life touched the reigns of four British Sovereigns. Born on June 14th, 1809, at Earls Court, Kensington, when George the Fourth was on the Throne, he lived through the reigns of William IV., and Victoria, and into the reign of Edward VII. For eighty-two years his name has been on the Navy List, for he entered at the age of 12 the Royal Naval College, and serving in all the grades as an officer, rose to be Admiral of the Fleet on Aug. 5th, 1877, just twenty years after he had attained full flag rank. His entry into this world can scarcely be termed auspicious. He tells us in his book "A Sailor's Life under Four Sovereigns":—

> It was only in 1820 I learned from my sister Mary that three weeks after birth, I was deposited in my father's footpan to be interred in the garden at the back of the house, not being entitled to a berth in consecrated ground. That mattered little, as before the final screwing down the old nurse discovered there was life in the "small thing."

In Keppel's breezy log he gives a pen and ink sketch of this scene. There is the old four-poster bed with its voluminous hangings, the scanty bedroom furniture of that era, and in a chair by the hearthrug sits an old body of the Betsy Prig variety—mob cap, quilted gown, etc., who is holding up her hands in horror at the sight of a wee white toe kicking itself free from the encumbrance of the cloth that is smothering its owner as the latter lies in a small wooden tub, while through the open door comes in the village carpenter bearing a tiny coffin, hammer and nails, followed by the "first grave-digger." It was scarcely a promising start for a man who was to outlive the century but as Keppel says in his log "what matters how you get away so long as you keep the course." Sir Henry, who was the fourth son of the fourth Earl of Albemarle, was descended from Arnold Joost Van Keppel, who was with the Prince of Orange's expedition in 1688 and for his services was created a Baron, a Viscount and finally Earl of Albemarle.

In 1820, Keppel tells us, he and his brother Tom were summoned to their father's dressing room and there were informed that it was time to select a profession. Keppel was then 11 years old. He says:—

> We both decided for the Navy. Father thought we should have separate professions. As we disagreed I hit Tom in the eye which he, being biggest, returned with interest. When we had had enough Father decided we should both be sailors.

He joined the Naval College, taking his place among the ranks with other small boys in a "blue tailed cutaway coat, standup collar, plain raised gilt buttons, round black top hat, gold lace loop with cockade, white trousers and shoes, with a big metal buckle across the foot." These young gentlemen had each a cabin about 7 feet square with a window "except the corner ones which at the monthly changes were occupied by those who had been oftenest on the black list and did not require daylight."

He was appointed on February 7th, 1824, to H. M. S. *Tweed* and sailed from Portsmouth on April 12th for a cruise up the east coast of England, his position on board being that of gig's midshipman. Promotion came quickly for on Jan. 29th, 1829, he received his commission as lieutenant. He had made his first crossing of the line in the meantime (in 1824) and was received by the god Neptune in the manner of those days—that is, his face was plastered with a mixture of tar and dirt, which was scraped off with a jagged piece of iron representing a razor; he was then tipped backwards into a ducking pond and allowed to struggle out as best he could. But, as he writes, "I was then free for life to join in any future orgy of the kind."

While at Simon's Bay at the Cape he received news—May 21, 1829,—of his promotion to lieutenant, and he writes: "This was indeed an unexpected pleasure, enough to turn the brain of an older head. Sapient resolves no longer to play the fool." Seventy years later he writes: "Still playing the fool." There is a very steep cutting in the cliff of Fishhook Bay (Simon's Bay) which is still known as "Keppel's Folly" for there at this time he drove a tandem down a pathway which had been cut in the cliff for the accommodation of led horses, the sheer drop to the sea being between 30 and 40 feet.

On Feb. 11th, 1830, he joined the *Galatea*, one of the Channel Squadron, Capt. Charles Napier, C.B., and had his first experience of grounding. On June 27th that year he notes in his diary: "Hoisted colours half-mast on death of His Majesty George IV. June 28, yards manned, double royal salute fired on the accession of William IV. July 15th, fired 30 minute guns on interment of his late Majesty George IV."

Now commenced Keppel's active experience of running down slave traders on the west coast of Africa, a duty that kept him there for many years in various ships, though his fame in this connection centres chiefly round the *Childers* brig, of 16 guns, to which he was appointed Commander on Jan. 30th, 1833. Before his promotion, however, he made his first visit to the Far East on H.M.S. *Magicienne*, and nearly lost his life by being chased by a rogue elephant in Ceylon. On June 6th he anchored off Malacca and took part in the expedition that is known to history as the Nanning War. This was the first of Great Britain's attempts to inculcate the principles of peace and good order in what we now know as the Malay States. Keppel's description of his first palaver with a Malay rajah makes breezy reading, but we have not space to quote it here, a limitation which also prevents us from giving any account of his actions during the war, and of his refusal of the daughter of this Rajah, offered him for his services.

Sir Henry Keppel had paid his first visit to Singapore on Sept. 5th, 1832, and even in those early days found it a charming place. A year later he notes in his diary:—"Came to in Singapore Roads. It was curious to find almost every European down with the influenza and that within three degrees of the equator."

Keppel's exploits on the west coast of Africa in the *Childers*, breaking up the slave trade, earned him his commission as Captain. In 1841 he commanded the *Dido* and was employed in the China War of 1842, and afterwards in the suppression of piracy in the Eastern Archipelago. From November, 1847, till July, 1851, he commanded the *Meander*, 44 guns, on the China and Pacific station; in May 1853 was appointed to the command of the *St. Jean d'Acre*, 101 guns; served in the Baltic and in the Black Sea, and having in July, 1855, exchanged into the *Rodney*, 74 guns, obtained command of the Naval Brigade before Sebastopol. After the fall of that stronghold he returned to England, and was appointed to the *Colossus*. In September, 1856, he hoisted his pennant as Commodore on board the *Raleigh*, 52 guns, and proceeded to China.

It was in 1857, while he was in command of the *Raleigh*, that the famous incident occurred of an English man-of-war saluting the French flag as she herself was sinking. Keppel was making for Macao when he struck a rock which rent a great hole in the fine wooden frigate. The French Admiral was lying off Macao and Keppel ordered his first lieutenant to "lower the fore-royal, hoist French flag and fire a salute." The *Raleigh* sank so rapidly that the water was pouring in at the portholes as the last gun was discharged. Rear-Admiral Guérin at once pulled over to offer assistance and, reaching Keppel, "embraced and kissed me, exclaiming, 'C'est magnifique, c'est magnifique,' then breaking into English 'a British frigate saluting the French flag while sinking!'" Keppel was then 48 years of age, and took an active part in the battle of Fatshan Creek and all the operations around Canton.

The China operations concluded, he was sent down to Borneo and, repeating his West African experiences, smashed up the slave trade. On Sept. 20, 1857, he heard that he had been promoted Admiral and made K.C.B. Curiously enough, the unconventional old sea dog was never a favourite of Queen Victoria, though a perennial source of delight to her children and grand-children, and she was always chary of bestowing marks of royal favour upon him. Doubtless he was too free and easy for her and shocked her sense of decorum by many mad escapades which of course reached the royal ears through channels none too favourable to Keppel.

In 1859 Her Majesty seems to have overcome her dislike to the Admiral sufficiently to allow of his becoming a Groom-in-waiting, but the office was not congenial and he gladly relinquished it in May, 1860, upon being appointed to the Cape of Good Hope as Naval Commander-in-Chief, from which he was transferred to the Brazilian station. In January, 1867, he hoisted his flag on board the *Rodney*, as Vice-Admiral Commander-in-Chief on the China and Japan station, a position which he owed greatly to the friendship of Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, who wrote: "I am only too happy if I have in any small way been the means of getting Sir John to give you this command."

Sir Henry Keppel's first visit to Japan seems to have been paid on June 18th, 1867, on H.M.S. *Manila*, when he entered "the deep bay which forms the beautiful harbour of Nagasaki. Flag shifted to *Pelorus*." He gives long descriptions of his first rides in and around Nagasaki and mentions many of the old residents, Haswell, Lindau, Norton, Alt, etc. He passed through the Straits of Shimonoseki into the Inland Sea in H.M.S. *Salamis*, and arrived at 4 p.m. on July 5th, 1867 at Yokohama, staying but a few minutes, and then laid a course for Yedo at which he arrived in an hour and five minutes. In his log Keppel has much to say of Sir Harry Parkes and the troubles of those days. He seems on the whole to have spent a very pleasant time in Yokohama for he writes:—

> There is more to see and be amused with at Yokohama than at most places. The Club is well managed by a ci-devant Marine officer, W. H. Smith, but that which makes the society and place most agreeable is the presence of the second battalion Ninth Norfolk Regiment, commanded by Colonel Knox.

Sir Henry's description of a ride to Kamakura and his impressions of Daibutsu make interesting reading for us sojourners of the present day, while he has nothing but good to say of the Japanese with whom he came in contact. The Shogun was still Lord Paramount, and Sir Henry Keppel's diary is full of allusions to contemporary events. Like the sailors of the present day he seems to have been enchanted with Hakodate and the scenery around that place and he made many riding excursions with Mr. Mitford, then in the English Legation. It was about this time that the bungalow at 109 Bluff, for so many years occupied by the late Mr. C. D. Moss, was built and was known for years after as the Admiral's bungalow. He seems to have taken a considerable share in the social life of the place and left Japan with great regret. Old residents have many memories of the "little Admiral," and Mr. Mollison, speaking before the Yokohama Literary Society last year, told of Admiral Keppel's charm of manner—a charm which hung around him to the very last days of his life. It was one of his idiosyncracies to have as his coxswain the tallest seaman on his ship and in the Hongkong Club some years ago there was to be seen a pencil sketch of the "short and the long of it," the Little English Admiral five feet nothing and his coxswain six feet four—which had appeared in the pages of the Hongkong *Punch*.

On November 2nd, 1869, he came to the end of his naval career in the Far East, having spent the greater part of 27 years in these waters. Of his departure for home as a "P. and O. passenger," he writes: "Although my uniforms had long since been packed I was to embark from the Government wharf under a salute and with a guard of honour. At 8 a.m. the Royal standard was hoisted on board the *Galatea* and a general royal salute, with ships dressed, took place. I passed the guard, with Colin (his little son, now a Commander in the Navy) clinging to my hand. At the Pier we found all the Government officials in full costume to bid farewell to the little old Admiral rigged out in his Norfolk shirt and 'Rodney' hat, and instead of his galley there were the *Galatea's* barge and cutter—the former manned by His Royal Highness (the Duke of Edinburgh) and wardroom officers, and steered by the Commodore, to take me off, while the latter was manned by the gunroom officers to take my wife and children. Colin, however, refusing to quit his hold of me partook of the honour of being so conveyed. Never was such a demonstration, such a triumph, for an Admiral degraded."

Arriving in England in 1870 he attained the rank of full Admiral, being promoted to the highest honour of the Service on Aug. 5th, 1877, that of Admiral of the Fleet. His interest in the Far East continued to the very end of his life and it is only a little over a year ago that he said his final Goodbye to Singapore, having come out when 93 years of age to escape the rigours of an English winter. A thorough sailor in all his ways, habits, and outlook on life, he was a typical product of the Royal Navy when its ships were really the wooden walls of old England, and their white sails were the most picturesque things afloat. Yet he adapted himself to the conditions of steam and was fully alive to all the possibilities of the modern commerce destroyer which makes its 22 knots an hour under bare poles. He lived down the official antagonism which his too breezy nature provoked and was undoubtedly one of the best loved men in England at the time of his death. It is significant that the dedication to his most famous book "A Sailor's Life under Four Sovereigns" reads: "To my sailor son, in the hope that he will avoid all those shoals on which I so often grounded." And now, in conclusion, may we be permitted to say that he was

A fine old English gentleman,
One of the olden time.

THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

The Privy Council met on Wednesday at half-past nine in the forenoon, and after an explanation from the Vice-Minister of the Navy, approved the draft of a law (*Kaimen-rei*) dealing with the laying of torpedoes and with other maritime arrangements in time of war. This law will probably be published as an urgency Imperial Ordinance.

Marquis Ito attended the Council at 10.30 a m

The Minister of State for War, the Minister of State for Communications and Mr. Inuzuka, Chief of the Railway Bureau, offered explanation of a draft law relating to the transport of troops by rail and the State purchase of private lines in time of war. This draft also obtained approval.

Finally a measure was approved relating to the special employment of officials by the Department of Communications. This doubtless had reference to the postal service which the Department is now organizing for use in time of war.

After the above business had been concluded, Marquis Ito proceeded to the Palace, and was received in audience by the Emperor.

An interesting piece of news reaches the Paris *Herald* from Alexandria. It is that, as a concession to French susceptibilities, the name "Fashoda" will disappear from the map. The scene of Major Marchand's exploit will henceforward be known as Cabak.

GOLF SIXTY YEARS AGO.

In the course of an interesting article written to the *Outlook* on this subject, Mr. W. L. Watson says:—Passing through Furnival-street, off Holborn, the other day, I saw in the window of a second-hand bookshop a volume entitled "Saint Andrews as it was and as it is; being the third edition of Dr. Grierson's Delineations, containing much curious and valuable information never before printed." This edition is dated from Cupar in the year 1838. A memory of the "twelve plates" with which the book is "embellished" came over me from boyhood's days. It was an old book in an old bookcase then, and I found that the first edition bore the date 1807. But to my delight I discovered that this 1838 edition contained a chapter on the "Company of Golfers," embodying a description of the links, the game, and the implements thereof. Two shillings made it mine. . . . Even the Scots had to be enlightened, it appears, as witness this statement by Dr. Grierson: "As golf is believed to be a game peculiar to the Scots, and, on account of the particular nature of the ground required in playing it, not generally understood even among them, it may be proper, in speaking of such a place as St. Andrews, where the sport is admitted to have been long found in great perfection, to give an idea of the nature of this elegant amusement." Considering the many things which golf has been called, flattering and the reverse, it gives one a peculiar satisfaction to reinstate it in its proper class as an "elegant amusement." But it is in regard to the implements of the game that this old account becomes most interesting. The balls, we are told, were "five quarters of an inch in diameter," which to a mathematical mind seems to work out to about 1¼in. The diameter of a 27½ ball to-day is nearly half an inch greater. The weight of these old balls is given as from 26 to 30 drams avoirdupois. A Haskell ball of the present day weighs 24 drams. Apparently therefore, the old feather ball was smaller and considerably heavier. . . . If there is one thing in which we of these days believe ourselves superior to the golfers of 1838 it is pre-eminently in length of drive. But listen to the testimony of Dr. Grierson. He tells us that "the bat or club" with which the feather balls were played was about 4ft. in length, and that "a good player with one of these clubs will strike a ball to the distance of 180 to 200 yards." Now a drive of 200 yards with the newest of patent clubs and with a Haskell ball will serve perfectly on any course in existence, and we might just as well go back to the four foot "bat" and the feathery ball. In other respects, too, the olden golfer did not differ from the present-day player. For, while a set of clubs consisted of "four at least, viz., the common or play club, the spoon, the putter, and the iron, most golfers have ten or a dozen sorts." In regard to the play of the game, Dr. Grierson describes golf as it still is, only premising that "no proficient at golf ever plays" in a match "exceeding four players, that number being allowed to be the most elegant and convenient." But in describing the method of reckoning the game he makes an observation which recalls an interesting point. . . "A plays off, and then B. A's ball lies farthest behind, and, therefore, by the rules of the game, he is obliged to play again. This is called playing one more or the odds." There is a deal of other interesting matter in this old account of the game.

CHANGING SEASONS.

Ever and anon one hears in the course of the weekly round of work a remark to the effect that the climate of some particular place is changing. Old residents of Japan, for instance, invariably tell newcomers that the summers nowadays are nothing like so hot, so dry, so moist, or what you will, as they were twenty or thirty years ago; or mayhap it is the winter they are alluding to, and then the remark is that our present winters are nothing like so severe, etc., etc. Considering the wonderful samples of climate that England is blessed with, it is little matter for wonder that similar notions are very prevalent there. From our youth up have we listened to them until at last we began to believe that our grandfathers did once upon a time know what summer-weather was like and that our fathers actually learnt to skate during periods of prolonged frost which came principally during the Christmas holidays. We can not remember many Christmases spent in the Home Land which were accompanied by the traditional weather of the Christmas-books and Christmas-cards. Rather more often than not we had a "green Christmas," and the frost and snow came when we were all back at school again and unable to take advantage of their presence, at least to any considerable extent. So we also believed with the majority that the climate was changing. Mr. C. W. Saleeby, in the course of an interesting article in the *Academy* fully bears out the truth of popular contention on this point. He says that it is an astronomical fact that the seasons are changing.

> When first we considered the causation of the seasons most of us guessed, I fancy, that the earth—which every-one knows to move not in a circle but an ellipse—must be nearer the sun in summer and further from him in winter. That, however, as we were soon assured, is a delusion; for the earth is nearer the source of its heat to-day than it was at mid-summer. Probably this unexpected state of affairs was not always so. The geologist, attempting to explain the cold of the Ice Age, suggests that the earth once moved in an orbit even more eccentric than her present path, so that the difference between her nearest and furthest position in relation to the sun was much greater than now. And he further suggests that perhaps the period of greatest distance from the sun coincided with the winter of our Northern Hemisphere; so that herein may be found some explanation of the cold of the Glacial Epoch. Enough, then, to say that the variations in the earth's distance from the sun are not only an inadequate explanation of the seasons, but that any action they have is in the direction of modifying the severity of winter and the glow of summer.
>
> The real explanation of the seasons, as every one knows, is the fact that the earth is tilted on her axis. If we think of the earth as travelling round the sun in the plane of this sheet of paper, the North Pole would not stand vertically upwards from the page but would be inclined to it. And the interesting fact is that this inclination of the earth's axis is constantly altering. We all know the Pole-Star, to be found by tracing a line upwards from the two stars—the "pointers"—which form the right border of the Plough. When the Pole Star received its name, the North Pole of the earth did actually point towards it, but the axis of the earth has so altered in the interval that the true North Pole of the heavens is now some little distance from the Pole-Star. The astronomical phenomenon known as the "procession of the equinoxes," first observed by Hipparchus, is also due to this cause.
>
> Now, if the direction of the earth's is changing, so constantly must the seasons be changing. And where will it stop, you may ask? The answer is that this is one of the cycles of the universe. In about twenty-six thousands of years, the axis of the earth will have completed the circle which it is ever describing in the heavens, and will have returned to its present point. One can often see the movement in a spinning top. This period of twenty-six millenia—the *annus magnus*—through which the seasons pursue their course of cyclic change, has been calculated to a year by astronomers, as a deduction from the law of gravitation and the shape of the earth. For if the earth did not bulge at the equator there would be on such Great Year.

"LOVE SONGS AND OTHER SONGS."

Readers of English journals published in Japan have had several opportunities of enjoying the verses of Madame la Baronne d'Anethan, and they will be glad to learn that these admired poems (with many not previously published) have now been rescued from the comparative oblivion of newspaper columns and gathered into a little volume. The book has been printed at the "Kyo Bunkwan" in Tokyo. There are some typographical errors and the printer's work, on the whole, is scarcely worthy of the matter. This defect is partly atoned for, however, by illustrations well chosen and very attractive. The authoress has unquestionably the gift of song. Her range of subjects is not wide—a criticism which future publications will render inapplicable, we trust--and occasionally the even melody of her verse is broken by notes of jarring rythm. But this latter is a fault very rarely avoided altogether by poets, who detect in words a music not perceptible to common ears. We are not quite certain as to the theme that receives happiest treatment at Baronne d'Anethan's hands. To say that she is at her best when pourtraying passion is to repeat a comment almost universally appropriate. Yet if the definition be a little restricted, if it be limited to the passion of love, many readers would probably endorse it. But it is love tinged strongly with regret, and on the whole we shall perhaps be right in saying that the melancholy of memory is the dominant tone of the most moving poems in this volume.

"Night after night in dim unconscious dreams,
"I feel those flitting kisses on mine eyes,
"Vain vagrant vision! Vanished with the beams
"Of morn, that bids to waking life arise,
"Bids us arise, and cast delusions sweet,
"Far, far from us,—and once more lift the load
"Of life. Once more its stern dull duties meet
"Exiled,—once more to tramp its lonely road."

These are "tears for the days that are no more," and we seem to hear the sound of such tears falling through all the "Love Songs."

The great gray waves are breaking on the shore,
In angry ebb and flow: and blinding rain
Obscures the distant view. The wind's deep roar
Shares with the sea one weary wail of pain,
Ah! whirling wintry wind! tempestuous sea!
Yon fragile bark wrenching in wrath apart,
Why storm thee thus? Why rage thee ceaselessly?
Does not calm love thrill through my happy heart?
The silver sea is slumb'ring on the strand;
The wind sings sweetly 'thwart the Summer trees;
The sun's rich glow gleams 'cross this smiling land;
All nature joins in laughter with the breeze.
Ah! witching winsome wind! ah! happy sea!
Sweet voices ming'ling e'er the white waves part.
Why whisper thus thy soft love songs to me?
Thy kisses cannot heal a broken heart!

The fickle falseness of the twentieth century is powerfully treated in three poems "A Twentieth Century Episode," "Her Reward" and "The Up-to-date Wife" with its contrast "The Out-of-date Wife." We should like to quote all these in full but must restrict ourselves to two verses, one from the "Episode," another from "Her Reward:"

"Methinks if this were Love, 'twere best
"To treat love as a transient guest.
"'Twas wafted by the Summer breeze
"And died when died the Autumn leaves.
"A flitting dream, unmarred by tears.
"So—if we meet in after years
"I wonder if I'll feel surprise,
"While gazing in thy deep, dark eyes,
"That I on thee had once bestowed
"One kiss, one thought—brief Episode!"

"I think for just a little space
"I loved this woman carelessly.
"She eased the dullness of the place,
"And passed those hours beside the Sea,
"What do I hear? She's ill, you say?
"The doctors croak and prophesy?
"Poor thing! Ah well! 'tis fine to-day;
"I'll drop a card; I'm passing by."

For truest pathos, however, pathos that must appeal to the most callous heart, we have no hesitation in choosing the verses "Beside a Grave. J. R. H. aged 10:"—

The weary years have sped away—my dear,
Since thou wast laid within the churchyard green.
The years have flown, and yet how very near,
Thy boyish form with me to-day has been.
Thy bright young voice that echoed through the hall,
Thy pure blue eyes, sparkling with fun and joy;
Ah! who could dream that Death's relentless call,
Would summon thee, and claim thee,—darling boy?
Ah! who could dream, that thou—replete with youth,
So loving and so loved,—so talented,—so brave;—
Dream that thy gifts,—thy virtues, and thy truth,
All—all should vanish 'neath this little grave?
And yet thou liest now where boyish pain
Is felt no more.—Beyond in lasting joy!
Say! who of us would call thee back again,
To fold thee in our arms?—Not I—my boy!

With these beautiful and profoundly sad verses in our ears we take leave of Baronne d'Anethan's little volume, offering her sincere congratulations on her work and hoping that the welcome which this book can scarcely fail to receive from the public will prelude further publications.

SPORT-CRAZY WORKMEN OF ENGLAND.

It seems that England is at last waking up to the evils which attend upon the too great devotion to sport shown by the working classes, more particularly during the football season. Kipling's diatribe against the "muddied oafs at the goal" though railed at at the time of its first appearance, is being taken up seriously by the more sober journals of the country, and following in their wake the men who control the big manufacturing centres of the Kingdom are taking steps to combat the manifold mischiefs. It must not be forgotten that practically every mine, foundry and factory operative in England has the Saturday half-holiday off, and most of the football contests, pigeon-flying matches and rabbit coursing take place on that day. But the average English coal miner, iron-worker and factory hand never seems to consider this for a moment if there is a midweek contest which he thinks worth seeing, for even when trade is at its worst thousands of operatives still find money to enable them to attend the playing fields on Wednesday afternoons. Work is neglected, duty can go hang, if sport conflicts with labour. According to recent reports from London the evil is worst in the iron and coal districts in the north country. In the case of an important football match to decide a tie for a cup, 40 per cent of the men in the pottery factories have been known to stay away without leave, men have neglected the ovens during important firing operations,* and great loss has been the result. Now manufacturers and mine owners are beginning to deal with the evil with a stern hand, and we read that china manufacturers have served notice on their employes that absentees on midweek match days will be instantly dismissed. The colliery owners have taken a similar step. Hitherto the manufacturers have found it more profitable to shut down for half a day than to work with only half the usual number of men. But now the loss of half a day when there is a contract to be filled has become a serious matter. Even in strike times, when the workers have been supposed to be starving, the attendance at the weekly football games in which the contestants are practically professionals drawn from the district, has shown but slight diminution. In the pottery districts a man without a suit of respectable clothes will still go regularly to a foot-ball match. He would rather lose his furniture than not have the sixpence admission fee. At present, owing to bad trade, many of the workers have Monday as well as Saturday off. They are piece-workers and the loss is theirs, but the attendance at League football games is increasing enormously. Thus, with trades-union tyranny curtailing his output on one hand and foreign competition cutting off his markets on the other, the harassed British manufacturer is compelled to tackle another hindrance to his retaining for England her industrial supremacy.

RUSSIA'S TROOPS IN CHINA PROPER.

The telegraph says that Russia has withdrawn her whole force from Tientsin and that there is every appearance of her adopting the same course in Peking. This is somewhat perplexing. It is possible, of course, that she anticipates troublesome contingencies should she leave small bodies of soldiers in places like Peking and Tientsin during the progress of her war with Japan, but the value of that apprehension is not very apparent in view of the facts that China's neutrality is now assured and that Russia is merely pursuing, in common with other Powers, the programme mapped out in 1901, when it was agreed that all should have a certain military force in Chili. In Peking also people are evidently perplexed about her doings. They suggest that she is adopting a policy not by any means new to her, the policy of converting her own convenience into a pretext for conferring obligations on China. She took, in 1900, a line independent of all the other Powers when she withdrew her forces from the Chinese capital, and it is quite possible that she may now bid for the recovery of China's goodwill by a similar act of spontaneous self-effacement. There is a suggestion that such a course would have specially marked effect because Japan's new treaty with China provides for the opening of Peking so soon as it is relieved of the presence of foreign garrisons. But on the other side of the account has to be set the obvious consideration that the withdrawal of the Russian detachments from Peking and Tientsin at present would certainly be construed by the Chinese as a relief brought to them by Japan's warlike pressure upon Russia. They would surely say—probably they are already saying with regard to Tientsin—that even before the outbreak of actual hostilities Russia's grip upon their country has been loosened by apprehension. That aspect of the case being quite unequivocal, we should certainly have expected Russia to keep intact her Peking and Tientsin garrisons at all hazards. As for the notion that her removal of them at this special juncture could be successfully represented to Chinese eyes in the light of a gratuitous concession to the cause of international goodwill and commercial expansion, we really think it may be dismissed with a smile. Should the withdrawal be effected, it will have to be attributed solely to apprehension that the presence of small bodies of Russian troops in these two great Chinese cities throughout the course of a conflict between Russia and Japan to determine the integrity or the disruption of the Chinese empire, would be at once an incentive to some deed of violence and an opportunity for it.

The *Kokumin* states that the Tokyo Beer Brewery Company intends to wind up its business. It will hold a general meeting on Jan. 30th at the Doki Club, Tsukiji, to discuss business arrangements.

THE NEW COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH CHINA.

The publication of the text of the new commercial treaty between Japan and China was made in Tokyo on the 19th instant. That is a striking illustration of the extreme reserve shown by the officials of this country towards their own nationals. For the full text of the treaty reached London at the end of November, and copious extracts from it appeared in *The Times* of December 2nd. London, therefore, was just seven weeks ahead of Japan.

There is a great deal of interesting matter in the treaty, but of course the clause overshadowing all others at this juncture is the one relating to Mukden and Tatung-kow. The document's language is perfectly explicit. Not only are these places to be opened to trade, but also they are to be opened to international residence, and the selection of sites for residential purposes is to be effected after consultation between the Governments of China and Japan. Now it is understood that Russia, while not objecting to foreign consular representation at the places indicated, does distinctly object to the establishment of settlements. Here, then, a crucial issue is raised. But we do not imagine that it is likely to create international difficulties —not immediately at all events.

An interesting fact is that whereas Japan, by means of the Shimonoseki Treaty, relieved foreign Powers from the disability under which they had previously laboured in the matter of manufacturing enterprises in China, so she now, by this new convention, removes the difficulty that proved so disastrous to an English financial venture, the difficulty that Chinese shareholders in a foreign enterprise can not be compelled to pay calls.

THE AMERICAN NAVY.

The report of Mr. Moody, the Secretary of the United States Navy, made public at Washington on December 4th, announces that in the last fiscal year closing with June 30, 1903, the effective force of the Navy was increased by the addition of 25 new vessels. These were the battleship *Maine*, the four harbour defense monitors, *Arkansas*, *Nevada*, *Florida*, and *Wyoming*; 12 torpedo-boat destroyers; one torpedo boat, and seven submarine boats. Since the close of the fiscal year additional vessels have been accepted as follows: One protected cruiser, the *Cleveland*; one torpedo-boat destroyer, the *Macdonough*. Aside from the vessels which were built for the Navy, there were transferred from the army the transports *Hancock* and *Lawton*, which have been fitted up for use as receiving ships, and the hospital ship *Relief*; and from the Treasury Department, the schooner *Eagle*. During the year two vessels were dropped, the iron tug *Leyden*, which was wrecked, and the iron paddle-wheel gunboat *Monocacy*, condemned as unserviceable, and later sold. Secretary Moody devotes some space to changes in procedure in order that vessels may be finished with greater dispatch. These steps have necessitated some delay in letting contracts, but this, he believes, will be more than offset by the thorough preparation of plans and specifications and by greater severity in the relations with contractors. With regard to armour plate the report proceeds:—

> The armour manufactories of the United States, in accordance with promise, have added to their facilities, and deliveries amounting to 11,493 tons have been made—a marked increase over any previous year. Armour plates are now tested with capped projectiles. The acceptance tests for armour-piercing projectiles have been made more rigorous, it being now required that they shall, at a prescribed velocity, perforate unbroken a plate of hard-faced armour equal in thickness to the diameter of the projectile, and then be in a condition for bursting.

The subject of docks and naval bases is also exhaustively treated, but we have space for only two paragraphs:—

> The chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks reports that fairly satisfactory progress has been made during the year in the construction of the dry docks at Boston, where the work is now carried on by the surety on the contractor's bond, and at League Island, but that progress in dock construction at Mare Island has been hindered by difficulties encountered by the contractor in placing a satisfactory cofferdam to exclude the water from the site. A private firm has completed and has in operation in San Francisco Bay a concrete dock which was begun after the Mare Island dry dock was contracted for, while even the excavation for our own dry dock is yet uncompleted. The floating steel dry dock purchased from Spain and transferred from Havana to Pensacola has been repaired and will soon be placed in commission, and the construction under contract of new floating steel dry dock for use in the Philippines has been commenced.
>
> Although it is almost five years since we acquired the Philippines, no steps have been taken to establish a naval base there. We have in Asiatic waters a large fleet, comprising not only smaller vessels but cruisers and battleships. There is no naval base at present nearer than Puget Sound or San Francisco Bay. In time of universal peace it is possible to repair our ships in the dockyards at Hongkong and in Japan, and to transport without molestation stores and supplies to eastern waters. If we were at war with any Power these facilities for repairs would not be available, and the possibility of furnishing stores and supplies would be greatly lessened. If other Powers were at war in those waters, it would be difficult for us to procure the necessary facilities for the repair of our ships."

The Secretary also comments upon the necessity of keeping a naval force in the Caribbean. Finally we read that the expenditures for the year were $82,618,034. By reasonable approximation the valuation for that year was $106,239,266,872, Thus there was expended for this year for each dollar of the national valuation $0.00077. If the average of the last century had been reached, the expenditures would have been $130,674,298.25.

JAPANESE SUBJECTS IN MANCHURIA AND SIBERIA.

It appears from calculations published by the *Jiji Shimpo* that there are some nine thousand Japanese subjects in Manchuria and Korea, namely, about 3,000 in Manchuria and 6,230 in Siberia. Saghalien has now only a few Japanese residents though in the summer they are very numerous. Our contemporary insists that steps should be at once taken to remove these people as Russia's observance of the laws of civilized warfare can not be depended on. It is certainly necessary that some measures should be adopted to secure the safety of Japanese subject, but we (*Japan Mail*) can not for a moment endorse the apprehension that they would not receive due protection from Russia in accordance with the usages of modern warfare. The incidents that happened in 1900 are calculated, it is true, to inspire doubts as to the extent of Russian humanity in time of emergency, but if isolated cases are to be regarded as general guides, few countries would emerge with unimpaired reputations. It is our opinion that the situation in Manchuria and Siberia might be fully met by entrusting to the American Consular authorities the duty of looking after Japanese life and property.

Mr. S. Hayashi, Japanese Consul at Bombay, telegraphed on Jan. 16th that the cotton market remains stable. The demand by Japanese traders and spinners is very slight.

ANNUAL BANQUET OF THE ENGLISH SPEAKING SOCIETY.

On the 16th instant the English Speaking Society held its annual banquet in the Peers' Club. Baron Kanda, President of the Society, occupied the chair, and on his right and left respectively sat Baron Kikuchi and Baron Kaneko. Covers were laid for about thirty. The principal feature of these gatherings is the speeches, and before each guest was placed the following list of toasts:

TOASTS.

EMPEROR AND EMPIRE.

"O child of nations, giant-limb'd,
Who stand'st among the nations now."

GREAT BRITAIN.

"Rule, Britannia! Britannia rules the waves!"

AMERICA.

"Sweet land of liberty."

NAVY.

"Your glorious standard launch again
To match another foe."

GUESTS.

"You're welcome sirs, you're welcome all,
We'll have a straight speech;
Come, give us a taste of your quality."

EIGO-KWAI.

"Let us swear an eternal friendship."

LADIES.

"Dich liebt'ich immer, dich lieb'ich noch heut,'
Dich werde ich lieben in Ewigkeit!"

PRESS.

"I must have liberty
Withal, as large a charter as a wind
To blow on whom I please."

The Emperor's health having been drunk with great enthusiasm, Baron Kanda proposed the toast of "Our Country" to which Baron Kikuchi responded as follows:—

Looking back fifty years we may well feel surprised and we may congratulate ourselves on the progress we have made during that period, in our civil administration, in our education, our army and navy, our commerce and industry. The poet has said "Better fifty years of Europe than a cycle of Cathay." Well I think the last fifty years of our country have been in many ways equivalent to two or three centuries of Europe. Gentlemen, we are just now on the brink of grave events, the gravest in the history of this nation, and are we not supported by the sympathy of the whole civilised world, feeling that our cause is universally recognised to be that of civilisation? And it is not thirty years ago that in foreign books on geography which I read when I was a boy Japan was mentioned among "semi-civilised" nations. Wonderful as this change has been, it is a mistake to suppose, as has been done sometimes, that we have as it were, jumped suddenly from barbarism to civilization. Our civilisation was not of the same nature as the Occidental, but in many respects it was just as high, if not higher: we have proved our wonderful capacity of assimilating alien civilisation and making it our own; we have always been earnest seekers after new knowledge. Seeds sown here by Thunberg,Kaempfer, Siebold and others have not been cast on arid ground, I can never sufficiently admire the spirit of eager and patient search after truth shown by Mayeno and his band, when with the help of a book written in a language of which they knew literally only the alphabet, in face of the opposition of the Government and the public, they secretly studied the anatomy of the human body as a necessary preliminary to their practice of medicine. Again, look at the work of the Restoration, the spirit which animated men on both sides, that set the welfare of the nation supreme and regarded the sacrifice of the lives and interests of individuals or sections as nothing in balance with those of the country. As long as we have such a spirit amongst us, we need not fear for the future of our country, immediate or distant; it behoves us therefore to be most strenuous in keeping up this spirit of earnest knowledge-seeking and of highest patriotism.

Baron Kanda then proposed "Great Britain," coupling with it the name of Captain Brinkley, who, he said, during many years of residence among them, had made the Japanese language his own, had made Japan his home, and had showed himself a true friend of their country.

Captain Brinkley responded as follows:—

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—The toast to which I have to respond being "England," you will permit me to dispense with any detailed reference to Baron Kanda's flattering remarks about my wholly insignificant self. There are not many British subjects present, but in their behalf and in my own I thank you heartily for your cordial reception of this toast. Concerning England it may be justly said, I think, that though she showed some tardiness in recognising your early claims as an autonomic empire, she has offered in recent years the strongest possible evidence of confidence in the reality of your progressive successes. I had it in mind to say something about that progress, but Baron Kikuchi has already dealt so fully with the subject that nothing remains for me to add. I should like, however, to note one feature of that progress, its eclecticism. Since you emerged from the seclusion of your old home you may be said to have adopted the career of intellectual wanderers, travelling here, there and everywhere in search of the good, and taking it wherever you found it without respect for person or place. In these wanderings of yours your feet were not turned very often to England, and possibly you may imagine that we Englishmen entertained some feeling of jealousy on that account. But for my own part I can assure you that through all these years I have never entertained the smallest doubt that the trend of your national sentiment would ultimately be in the direction of Anglo-Saxon ideals, for those ideals are founded on principles whose realization surely makes for the greatest happiness of the greatest number of humanity, the principles of liberty, equality and fraternity. I would ask you whether the events of the past few years and whether the position in which your country now finds itself do not warrant the confidence I have entertained. Baron Kikuchi's reference to the past 50 years reminds me of the first visit I paid to this city of Tokyo. It was just 37 years ago, that is to say, before the old order had given way to the new and before the Meiji era had dawned. You will probably understand, without much explanation from me, that the opportunities we foreigners then had for studying the conditions of life in Yedo at first hand were not very numerous and could not be enjoyed in a very leisurely or comfortable manner. But my brief visit to the city produced two very vivid impressions on my mind. One was that the entrance to every mansion of importance was flanked by long rows of barracks; the other that almost the whole population consisted of two-sworded *Samurai*. The ubiquitousness of the *Samurai* was not, perhaps, as real as it seemed. Probably some of you are old enough to remember that these gentry took up a great deal more of the road than their numbers actually warranted. But the impressions I speak of were none the less vivid. Yedo seemed to be a military city. The citizens appeared to live under the shadow of the sword. Well, gentlemen, we foreign onlookers at that time fondly imagined that when you emerged from your isolation, when you abolished military feudalism, these evidences of militarism would disappear, and you would engage permanently in a struggle for the victories of peace, victories in art, in science, in literature, in commerce and in industry. But looking back over the past 40 years, it would be hard to say that our hope has been fulfilled. In 40 years you have had two fights with foreign Powers in your own waters; you have had to deal with a terrible domestic tragedy; you have sent three expeditions over-sea to do battle with foreign countries, on each of which occasions you emerged with enhanced reputation, and you are now apparently on the verge of an armed struggle that overshadows all the rest. Seven belligerent incidents, gentlemen, in 40 years, or an average of more than one every six years; whereas, under your own old system, though the paraphernalia of war were so conspicuous, you managed to live in absolute peace for nearly 300 years. That is a very strange difference, and I daresay if you were to ask an ethical philosopher like our friend here, Mr. Lloyd, he would tell you that the cause is to be found in the fact that the practical basis of Occidental civilization is egoism, and that when you stepped out of your seclusion you entered a society of Powers each of which was working for its own interests without any regard or consideration for the interests or rights of its neighbours. That explanation may not be exhaustive, but it is true so far as it goes, and what I would ask you is whether you do not think that two Powers may fairly be excluded from the category, Great Britain and the United States of America. I do not for a moment claim that England is sinless. She has many sins of selfish aggression recorded against her; there are not a few incidents that we Englishmen would fain see erased from her records, and perhaps she is even now adding to the list in some part of the world. But so far as East Asia is concerned, it may be truly claimed for England that she has divested herself of all aggressive ambition, and that her international policy is as altruistic as is consistent with safety. For whatever privileges she acquires are freely shared with all nations, and wherever her flag flies there every one, whatever his race, can be sure of finding in active operation the principles of liberty and equality. The same is essentially true of America, and it may be hoped that this identity of policies supplementing the promptings of kinship, will ultimately draw the two Powers into a union which would be the greatest force for good the world has ever seen, the Anglo-Saxon-Union. We seem to be nearing such a union and yet it is not achieved. Something is still wanting and I have often thought that Japan's destiny may be to supply that something. She may perhaps furnish an occasion for the combined exercise of the high principles I have alluded to, since the strong sympathy that America and England feel with her in this hour of her trial, and the approval they extend to her cause may constitute a bond to draw them together and may be the means of materializing their mutual sentiments of kinship and appreciation. Nothing could possibly make for the good of humanity more than would a union of all the Anglo-Saxon races, and may it not be in the lap of the future that that union should be largely promoted by Japan and should be called, not merely the Anglo-Saxon Union, but the Anglo-Saxon-Japanese Union? Gentlemen, if that result could be brought about the nations would owe to Japan an immense debt of gratitude.

The toast of "America" was acknowledged by Mr. H. St. George Tucker:—

Mr. President,—I count it an especial honour to be asked to respond to the toast, "America," here to-night because I feel sure that the Anglo-Saxon-Japanese union alluded to by the preceding speaker, though it may not yet be a formal union between the nations, is at least an accomplished fact in the hearts of all in this room. When I was a very young boy, I imagined that there was but one "sweet land of liberty," but when I grew a little older, I soon learned that in the mother country across the sea the same ideals of true liberty were upheld. Again when in the course of time I left the shores of my native land, and crossed the broad Pacific, I woke up one morning to find still another sweet land where Anglo-Saxon ideals of liberty are cherished. It is hardly necessary for me to recount the history of America's efforts to render herself worthy of the high title. The torch of liberty which her sons brought ready lighted from Old England, they have endeavoured to keep burning brightly. Of course there have been mistakes and deviations from the right way, but on the whole she has succeeded in restoring to honour the ideal that had at one time fallen somewhat into disrepute, because of the excesses of its advocates. What then is the underlying principle of Anglo-Saxon liberty? It is expressed in the phrase "equal rights for all, special privileges to none." It means so far as is consistent with law and order to give to each one an equal opportunity in the competition of life. It insists that success shall not go by favour, but by true merits. This is the same spirit of liberty which we find in the hearts of the people of this country. I noticed it first in your educational system. In it you offer equal advantages to every one and success depends only upon the ability and perseverance of the individual. But especially does the spirit with which Japan is approaching the present crisis convince us Anglo-Saxons that her ideal of liberty is the same as our own. We see her standing as the champion of the Anglo-Saxon principle of "a fair field and no favours." We see her insisting upon the same policy in the East, that it has always been the aim of England and America to establish in the West. This identity of ideals and purposes assures us that the Anglo-Saxon-Japanese union is, except in name, already accomplished. Let us hope that England Japan, and America may long continue to stand shoulder to shoulder as the upholders of true liberty, and as the promoters of true civilization.

The "Navy" brought Captain Iwasaki to his feet, who said:—

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is a pleasing task for me to have to thank you for the kind way in which the toast of the Navy has been proposed and for the cordial manner in which it has been received. Indeed it is alike a pleasure and an honour for me to respond to it.

It may be needless to say that the mission of the Navy is to preserve peace and if war should ever break out, to fight to win.

There is no sort of difference between war and peace as far as the duties of the navy are concerned, with the single exception that in war the target the ships fire at fires back at them, but in peace it does not.

The freedom of the Empire, the prosperity of its people, the continuance of its industries, and the happiness of its homes, nay even its absolute existence, depend upon one thing, what is that? Of course as you all know, that is the Navy.

It is therefore of the utmost importance that the nation at large should be awoke to the necessity of a strong navy, and that they should have absolutely and without any question the supreme command of the sea around their coasts. It is with the greatest pleasure that I hear such sentiments so warmly expressed by this distinguished assembly. With such strong moral support to back us up, we can hardly fail no matter what task we may be called upon to perform.

In behalf of the officers and men of the Imperial Navy I again express my warnest thanks for the toast and for the way in which it has been received.

The Rev. Arthur Lloyd, responding for the "Guests," said :—

I am admonished by the poem in front of me to give you "a straight speech," which, I take it, means that I am to stick to my subject; and also to give you "a *taste* of my quality," which I think means a short speech. I will try to obey the admonition.

We have had the praises of Japan sung this evening from various points of view. We have been told that it is progressive and energetic. We have also been told that it is a sweet land of liberty. I want to bring out the thought that it is a very pleasant land to live in, precisely because it is progressive and energetic and free.

A Greek poet once gave vent to a very dreadful sentiment. He said that patriotism was all nonsense —"A man's country," he said, "was the place in which he was comfortable." And yet the sentiment after all has much that can be said for it. A man's country is the place where a man feels at home—and when a country is progressive and earnest and is withal a sweet land of liberty a man feels at home in it, and soon considers it as his country.

In England, in the United States, in Japan— all three lands of progress and liberty, we all feel at home. It is good to live in them, and the Anglo-American-Japanese alliance which has been spoken of this evening means that each of these countries is what the Greek poet would call our home.

In the name of my fellow guests I beg to thank you for the practical exposition of the future Anglo-American-Japanese Alliance which you have given us by making us feel at home in this room which is for the present yours.

Baron Kanda himself proposed the health of the "Eigo-Kwai." He created much amusement by reading the programme of one of the Society's earliest meetings, many years ago, when several men, now leading lights in the world of science, of literature, of jurisprudence, of art, of politics and of education, had figured in the recitations and theatricals with which the Society celebrated its annual assemblies. It was a source of sincere pleasure to him to see how the institution had grown from small beginnings to be an association of no little influence and popularity. That it had so grown was proved, he thought, by the character of the gathering that evening; a gathering which might justly be described as one of the most important they had ever witnessed. There could be no doubt about the services the Society had rendered in popularizing and spreading the study of the English language in Japan, and when they observed what the English language was, what an immense factor of civilization it constituted, and how steadily its use was spreading, they might feel absolutely confident that their efforts were in a good cause.

The health of the "Ladies" having been drunk and responded to wittily by Mr. Sakai, and the toast of the "Press" having been worthily acknowledged by Mr. I. Yamagata, Baron Kaneko rose and spoke as follows :—

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—Before I respond to your President, I must ask you to excuse me for not observing the usual rule to appear in foreign evening dress; but as I was invited to a Japanese dinner to-night, I at first declined your kind invitation. However I was requested by your Secretary to come here irrespective of dress, even though the dinner might be over. My appearence only, he said, was needed, and no more. Now I know what you wanted of me to-night, for your President has called upon me and you want me to say something.

Although I am dressed in Japanese costume yet the heart under it beats in English. And this is not my case only: there are many thousands—millions —ten millions—who though Japanese externally to-day, carry within their bosoms the same feelings as the Anglo-Saxon people. As you all know our country was opened up and introduced to the world by Commodore Perry in 1854; and afterwards the Treaty of Comity and Commerce was made with England and other European Powers; therefore Occidental civilization was first introduced to Japan by the Anglo-Saxon nations; and after the Imperial Restoration in 1868, the work of reorganizing the Japanese Empire was carried out by the spirit and powers of the Anglo-Saxons; because in that early period were found many English advisers or American councillors in all the Departments of Government, and through them the best qualities of Anglo-Saxon civilization were firmly engrafted upon the Japanese mind. Maintaining and carefully preserving the fundamental principle of the ancient Japanese monarchy our nation has since undergone many social and political changes while incorporating the spirit and freedom of the Anglo-Saxon nations

You all know well how courageously English people and statesmen met face to face the invading tide of the French Revolution, and finally succeeded in crushing down the erroneous and dangerous ideas of militarism and asserting those of liberty and freedom. Again we remember well how bravely the English soldiers and seamen fought against the tyranny of Napoleon Bonaparte, when the whole of Europe was trampled under his feet, and the peace of the civilized world lay at his mercy.

Still further we may add how patriotically the Americans—the descendants of the Anglo-Saxon—stood up for the freedom and independence of their country, when the interference and invasion of European Sovereigns were threatened in the affairs of the American continent.

The history of England and America shows that the aim of the Anglo-Saxon is Freedom, Peace and Happiness, and all the English-speaking nations are now coming nearer and nearer one another to form an alliance for the attainment of that aim. And as I said in the beginning, our country was opened up to the world by the advent of the Anglo-Saxons, and their influence was felt all over the Island Empire from Hokkaido to Kagoshima, and in every school of the country the English language is now taught to our boys and girls. Moreover in Asia English is the language used in diplomatic circles and by the commercial community and in intellectual society. Thus by the spread of the English language, the aim of the Anglo-Saxon is permeating every strata of the Japanese people.

At this critical moment of the Manchurian question, our people only desire the peace of Asia—nay, the peace of the whole civilized world. But we will not seek to obtain that peace by disgracing our national honour, or by endangering the freedom and happiness of our people. That is the stand of the Japanese people. We are often misrepresented in Europe and America as "born fighters" but we have never fought, during our national existence, a guerilla war. Whenever we have fought, we fought for the honour and independence of the nation and the freedom and happiness of our people.

Now I thank you for your patience, and for the permission accorded me to speak before you and exchange our feelings at this moment through the medium of the English language. I have many things more that I should like to say to you particularly at this moment. Being the last speaker this evening, I ought perhaps to conform to your old saying, "Last, but not least" and say a great deal on matters of critical moment; but on the contrary, I will say " last and least " to-night; because I do not like to disturb the peace of the table.

The party broke up at about 10 o'clock after a most successful evening.

FACTORY GIRLS' LIFE IN JAPAN.

(COMMUNICATED.)

Eight years ago articles appeared in the Japanese papers pointing out the evils prevalent in modern cotton factories. The readers of those revelations were filled with righteous indignation at the abuses of which they read, but were comforted on hearing that the Government intended to thoroughly investigate the matter. This was eight years ago and very little has yet been done. As yet there are no laws. Among the worst of the many evils connected with the Japanese factory system is the practice of night work. In specially busy times cases have been known of girls going into the factory at 6 p.m. and remaining there until noon of the day following, all the time they had for food and sleep being six hours out of the twenty-four. This, it is needless to say, is more than any ordinary constitution can stand and it is not surprising that the girls suffer from weak eyes and aching heads and that their lives seem to them a burden almost intolerable. Also, besides five holidays in the year, there are no rest days in most factories, except when the day and night shifts of operatives are exchanged, they then have some leisure, but at such times all the machinery has to be cleaned. Comparing the condition of the women factory workers in Japan with those in England, we find the comparison most unfavourable to the former. No woman in any English cotton factory is allowed to begin work before 6 a.m. or to work later than 6 p.m. with a whole day off on Sunday and half holiday on Saturday, nor in any but exceptional cases is she allowed to work more than 10 hours out of the twenty-four. Out of these hours she is given two hours for meals, and she is never allowed to work more than five hours on end.

This arrangement leaves the English factory girl with twelve hours at her own disposal, twelve hours which may be spent away from the factory and its surroundings, On the other hand, the whole rest the Japanese factory girl has is spent in most cases within the factory walls. For, according to a system peculiar to Japan, sometimes as many as 2,000 girls are sometimes boarded together in dwellings within the factory walls, or in the very precincts of the factory. Thus never for a minute can they free themselves from the feeling of oppression, or the remembrance of toil. The Cox and Box system is observed. When half have risen and are at work the other half are in possession. Most of the workers in the large factories are girls brought up from the country on a three years' contract. It is not an easy matter to procure operatives, so the agents who fetch the girls are given so much commission on each girl they succeed in persuading to accompany them. The usual rate at which they are paid is one *yen* per girl and they can aim at getting 500 or more.

It can easily be understood how unscrupulous agents will use all manner of wiles to allure and attract the girls, and the poor deluded things often accompany them with the idea that they are going to a regular palace of ease and plenty. When they discover the real facts of the case the disappointment they experience is most painful. Under the stress of grinding work, poor food, and the effect of night work, these once strong and healthy girls grow daily weaker and weaker. Many die from consumption, others from sheer hopelessness. A well known worker among English factory girls once said that she had found more natural wit and humour among them than among any other class of people with whom she had had to deal.

Think of this and then look for a moment at their poor wretched sisters in Japan whose stock of vitality soon becomes so small that they begin to feel that they are, in truth, what their managers seem to deem them—mere machines, but worse off than machines in most respects, being sufficiently human in spite of all to be deeply conscious of their misery and degradation. For nothing can be more degrading to the ideal of womanhood than for women to be helplessly at the mercy of coarse underlings who at night often strike them should they not be able to keep awake. Some girls have continuous headaches resulting from blows. When they have complained of such treatment at the office there has been no redress, the answer given being, "you should not have fallen asleep." But the younger children take all as a matter of course and do not complain. There are also many other evils. These result for the most part from the inattention of those in responsible positions to details which of necessity incur both time and trouble and expense. For though there are dispensaries, resident doctors, nurses in uniform and all outward forms of order, in some factories the mats in the wards are so disgracefully dirty and full of vermin that the girls would far rather suffer the ills they have than resort to evils of which they are only too well aware. When the girls do go into such hospitals the attention they get is so scant that they are really better off out of them. In one factory a girl who had been ill for fifty days had never once been washed during that period. Her nails were an inch long. In another factory hospital two rows of girl patients were seen lying on "futon" packed together like herrings, side by side with their feet to the wall and only a passage of two feet between those lying one way and those lying the other. In this same ward a patient died early one evening, and her body was not removed until the following morning, an occurrence which helped further to aggravate the nervousness and misery of the girls who were left. Again, in another factory one day the two nurses had gone out on the spree because, forsooth, there were so few patients to attend. Of these patients, two were dying and one overcome by violent thirst was seen feebly dragging herself across the room to a tray in the corner, on which stood an empty teapot and cups, where she poured dregs from one teacup into another and drank them up. Surely if the factory companies go to the expense of hospitals and staff, some plan should be arranged by which all such abuses would be avoided. As it is, most of the Companies are ashamed of their hospitals, and do not care for kind Japanese ladies from outside to visit the patients. It would be well if trained and well educated ladies as nurses, with diplomas, in the employment of the Government had free access to the factory hospitals to see that the laws of nursing are observed, and to report on inefficiency. Another great evil which ought to be stopped is child labour. We would remind readers that not only elder girls and women but also children have to suffer from the evils mentioned, evils of excessive work and poor food. Children's natural heritage is one of joy. But the lines which we quote below are more eloquent than words of ours and as true for the children of the East as for the children of the West: for the children of to-day as for the children of half a century ago.

> They look up, with their pale and sunken faces;
> And their looks are sad to see,
> "Your old earth," they say, "is very dreary;
> Our young feet," they say, "are very weak;
> Few paces we have taken, yet are weary:
> Our great rest is very far to seek.
> Ask the aged why they weep, and not the children;
> For the outside earth is cold,
> And we young ones stand without in our bewildering,
> And the graves are for the old."
>
> They look up, with their pale and sunken faces,
> And their look is dread to see,
> For they mind you of the angels in high places,
> With eyes turned on Deity.
> "How long," they say, "how long, O cruel nation,
> Will you stand and move the world on a child's heart,—
> Stifle down with a mailed hand its palpitation
> And tread onward to your throne amid the mart?
> Our blood splashes upward, O gold heaper,
> And your purple shows your path!
> But the child's soul, in the silence, curses deeper
> Than the strong man in his wrath."

Of course it must be understood that the managers of all the factories in Japan are not thoughtless and inhuman. There are several conscientious and enlightened men, who are doing all that is in their power to ameliorate the conditions under which the women have to labour. There are good companies. The superintendents in these factories' boarding houses are as a rule, bright and educated young women, who treat the girls with courtesy and kindness. Unfortunately, these factories even have their abuses, where the practice of night work is enforced.

One who has given much attention to this sad subject of Japanese child-labour writes with regard to Japanese factories: "Firstly they differ from the English ones in this particular that inside the walls of the factories there are sometimes thousands of girls living there as boarders, most of them drawn from the labouring farmer class living in the remote country districts. They have been accustomed to an out-of-door free life, and when more or less prisoners within the four walls of the factory they feel their privation of liberty (especially those who have had the brightest prospects put before them by unscrupulous agents). Disappointed, they often try to escape and failing sometimes pine away long before their contract is over. The long hours, and more specially the night work, saps their vitality. In busy times I have known girls to be put on for 15 hours out of the 24 and in other factories for 18 hours. The agitation about factory laws which commenced about eight years ago, has not resulted in legislation yet. All the good managers in the factories wish that the night work should be stopped. They deplore an evil which they have no power to remedy. If the foreign residents who see the brightly lit up factories at night could imagine the unnatural sight of weary little children keeping a long night vigil from 6 to 6 they would find their sleep disturbed. What a contrast are the girls when they come up fresh from the country to a factory to what they become after a year of work. Some observers have seen the changes, and their hearts bleed. Many children who ought to be playing with dolls are working in the factories for 12 hours; poor little girls; so lifeless and so sad, the long hours of work, the monotony of existence, the loss of strength, home-sickness—the picture conjured up can hardly fail to bring tears to the eyes of the kind-hearted."

Happily all the poor factory girls are not quite without comforters. There are a few ladies who devote their whole time to teaching and entertaining them. They have been much handicapped in their work by the lack of suitable books to give them. Now really entertaining ones can be bought, but an enormous number are needed and without aid it is impossible to cover the ground. Every time the teachers visit the factories they like to leave something behind to brighten the lives of the girls—the number in all is about 5,000—but to give one *sen's* worth of literature to each once would cost 150 *yen.* Then there are the outside boarding houses, sometimes even more wretched than the others, where there are many thousands under the control of unscrupulous proprietors. Therefore the public are asked to lend a helping hand. Who can tell the boon of sunshiny thoughts which may come through a book to refresh the young toilers in Japan? Mechanical toys or dolls are also needed. Mrs. Townend, Negishi, and Mrs. McArthur, 211, Bluff, will be pleased to receive contributions to this end.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

A well-known hunting song, an old established favourite in England, tells how a meeting of the foxhounds at a certain county town led to the adjournment of Her Majesty's Court of Assize.

> The Judge sits in Court: he gets wind of the sport,
> For the lawyers apply to adjourn;
> No witnesses come and there're none found at home,
> They've followed the horn and the hound.
> Says his Lordship, great fines they must pay
> If they will not my summons obey;—
> But its very fine sport, so we'll break up the Court,
> And we'll all go a-hunting to-day.

A telegram from Albuerque, New Mexico, in the New York *Commercial*, brings the old song back to memory, though in this case it is a rush for gold, not fox-hunting, that interrupts the judicial proceedings. Here is the story, revised version:—

> Messages from Hillsboro, N. M., confirm the reports of the discovery of bonanza gold ore near the old Hillsboro placer workings, which had been abandoned. The sand is exceedingly rich, and it is said that it can be separated by blowing the sand as it falls from hand to hand.
>
> Judge Parker has adjourned the Third Judicial District Court, now sitting in Hillsboro, and the entire court, officers and jurymen have rushed to the scene of the find.
>
> The greatest excitement prevails in Hillsboro. Many large nuggets have been found already, and miners from all over Sierra County are flocking into Hillsboro by stage, on horseback and on foot.
>
> Hillsboro is in the heart of the Sierra County mining district, and was once one of the famous placer camps of the Southwest. Of late years it has been almost abandoned, due to the apparent working out of the rich ore. Only a few prospectors have remained in the district. When the find was first reported it was said that one rich streak of placer dirt had been found. It is now said that the sand is showing richer with every spadeful, and the richest find New Mexico has known is believed to be sure.

A singular statement has been made by a leading vernacular journal and is now going the rounds of the local English newspapers—a statement to the effect that the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Sir Malcolm McEacharn, has offered to lead a thousand Australian volunteers to the assistance of Japan in the event of war. We need scarcely say that no such absurd offer was ever made. Information was privately conveyed, through the Lord Mayor, that many volunteers were offering their services to Japan, but as to Sir Malcolm's leading them, or associating himself in any way with the movement so long as he occupies an official position, the notion is so palpably silly that we are astonished to find it treated seriously by any newspaper.

There is a rumour that the Russian Minister of War, General Kuropatkin, is likely to visit Port Arthur soon in a private capacity. Such an event seems scarcely credible, for unless the horizon clears very unexpectedly in the near future the Minister's services would be essential in St. Petersburg.

From the 20th of this month all ordinary telegrams will cease to be sent from the office at Takeshiki in Tsushima.

The Countess of Minto is said to have been greatly charmed with her visit to Japan, and to have shown her appreciation since her return to Canada, by taking every occasion to eulogise the civilization of this country and express grateful appreciation of the hospitality shown to her here.

We take the following from the *New York Commercial*:—

> San Francisco, December 20.
>
> A dispatch from New York states that Mrs. A. S. Rosenthal, wife of a silk importer in that city, has succeeded in establishing her claim to a share of a $25,000,000 estate, consisting of valuable lands in

and about Melbourne, Australia. Mrs. Rosenthal is said to be one of six heirs.

The chief discovery of the year in the Roman excavations was that of the foundation of the Equus Domitiani, the colossal equestrian statue of Domitian described by Statuis in the Silvae. The foundation consists of concrete, in which some of the original beams and planks are still embedded. It blocks one of the subterranean galleries, supposed to have been built by Julius Cæsar in connection with the gladiatorial shows. The statue, which seems to have entirely disappeared occupied a central position in the Forum, being about six times life size, and must have dominated the surrounding temples. It faced the temple of Julius, and behind it lay those of Vespasian and Concord. The excavation, begun in August on the site of the Ara Pacis Augustæ, has been stopped for the winter by an inflow of water, and the necessity for underpinning the Palazzo Fiano Ottoboni and the Via Lucina, about sixteen feet below which the base of the monument lies. This monument commemorated the return of Augustus from the western provinces in B.C. 13, and his achievement of peace throughout the Roman empire. It was finally dedicated by the Senate on January 30, B.C. 9. The sculptured panels of the enclosing wall form the masterpiece of Augustan sculpture. Along the outer face ran a frieze representing a procession, in which Augustus, his family, and the great ecclesiastical dignitaries of Rome appear. A panel of this frieze is now partially uncovered, which fills a gap between two at present in the Uffizi at Florence, and is thought to contain the figures of Livia and Julia, the wife and daughter of the emperor.

The bank that has shown the most remarkable expansion of any bank in the world during the last thirty-five years is Lloyds Bank of London, remarks the *New York Commercial*. This bank was formed in 1865. Within three months it absorbed two large private banking houses. Since then it has absorbed no less than twenty separate joint-stock and private banking concerns. Lloyds Bank has twelve offices in London, two hundred and sixty country branches and one hundred and twenty sub-branches and agencies. For the past five years it has paid dividends of 18¾ per cent to its stockholders, of whom there are about twelve thousand. Lloyds Bank is now much the most powerful banking institution in England, with the exception of the Bank of England. It was announced the other day that arrangements have practically been completed for the absorption by Lloyds Bank of the Liverpool District Banking Company. With the absorption of this company Lloyds Bank will have deposits and current account balances amounting to $360,000,000. This compares with $5,830,009 in 1863. No other bank in the world shows such a remarkable expansion.

With regard to the short-period loans authorized by the recent Imperial Ordinance at rates not exceeding 6 per cent., it is thought probable that a sum of a hundred million *yen* will be raised at once in that manner. The *Shogyo Shimpo* affirms that such a resolution was announced by the Minister of Finance to the bankers at his recent conference with them, and that preliminary measures are now in progress. We are inclined to think that the statement is exaggerated. The Government has several sources of supply in immediate sight without such extensive recourse to domestic loans. The issue of a loan amounting to 100 millions would be an extreme measure. On the other hand, the Minister may possibly think, and experience favours the idea, that the first issue of such a loan is likely to be the most readily subscribed and he may therefore be inclined to make a big coup forthwith. From what Mr. Sonoda said at the recent banquet in Tokyo it is probable that the money will be put up at once. Meanwhile volnntary subscriptions continue to reach the Treasury. Seventy-five names were published yesterday. Among them we find the name of Mr. Abe of Yokohama, who gives ten thousand *yen* and promises to take fifty thousand *yen* worth of war bonds. As yet Tokyo has not joined this movement, which is confined to Kobe, Osaka, Kyoto, Yokohama and Nagoya.

As an example of gulling an anxious public some credit belongs to an extra issued in Tokyo on Monday evening. It was hawked about the city by stentorian criers and a great many folks bought it only to find that it contained chiefly a list of the successful combatants in the wrestling matches of the day, a statement that French marines had joined the legation guards in Seoul, and the following sentence, which evidently was intended to serve as the *piece de resistance*:—

* * of * * * to * * ed * * * * the * * * has arrived.

If that is not feeding the public with chaff we do not know what is.

Mr. J. M. Barrie, the well-known novelist and dramatist, has been satirizing the English, in a play he calls "Little Mary," for eating too much, and his comedy has, through its own direct effect and that exercised by what has been said and printed about it, quite opened the minds of many thoughtful people to a consideration of the subject. Oddly enough, almost simultaneously with Mr. Barrie's humorous screed, Mr. Horace Fletcher, an English merchant resident in Italy, has made a serious attack on the eating habit. He does not confine his assault to the English, says the *Chicago Chronicle*, but asserts that it is the rule with nearly "everybody who can get the chance" to eat too much and not to eat it in a right way. By experiments on himself and officers he claims to prove that even the so-called daily ration prescribed by science is 50 per cent too large. He holds that the energy needed to digest the surplus half is a total loss of vital force. He holds, also, and this is the gist of his theories, that a worse fault than eating too much is not masticating thoroughly, and that less than half in amount of food, masticated four or five times as long as is customary, sustains life, strength and flesh far better than is now done and does not furnish the causes of indigestion and many of the diseases common among all peoples. It is said that the American War Department is now making thorough investigation of the subject, which may be said to be a guarantee that it is no joke. It is a curious theory and not the least of its possibilities are economic. If nearly everybody eats 50 per cent too much and all the people of the United States could be educated to eat according to Mr. Fletcher's theory, the saving, subtracted from the daily trade of dealers in all kinds of provisions, would create disturbance in the market and a readjustment of occupations all along the line.

The five Judges of the Court of Cassation who fell into a mistake in their judgment against Mr. Tachibana, have had their resignations accepted. They committed the blunder of finding the accused guilty of violating a law which had not been enacted at the time he committed his offence.

The foreign officers and men that are navigating the two new cruisers *Nisshin* and *Kasuga* to Japan, are likely to receive a very warm welcome. It is just in the nature of the Japanese people to show their glad acknowledgement of such services. The *Jiji Shimpo* has a leading article on the subject and the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce is moving.

FIRES.

The fire at Messrs. Heller and Co.'s godown, at No. 176-A. Yokohama on Friday evening proved more disastrous than was at first imagined. The godown was gutted and through the falling in of the roof much of the valuable merchandise stored therein could not be salved. A list of foreign companies interested shows that the insurance runs up to nearly *yen* 130,000, as follows:—

	Yen.
Lancashire	35,000
Atlas	25,000
Norwich Union	21,700
Commercial Union	10,000
Transatlantic	10,000
Hanseatische	10,000
London	10,000
Netherlands	7,000
	128,700

Fire broke out on Wednesday about 6 p.m. in the two-storied godown of Messrs. Becker and Co. at No. 195 Yamashitacho, Yokohama. The Fire Brigade was promptly in action, but the outbreak was subdued by a supply of water by means of buckets. Superintendent Morgin reports that the floor had been set fire to from the outside by the use of straw saturated with kerosene, from which incendiary act a serious conflagration might have resulted.

Early on the morning of Jan. 18th, fire broke out at Sarugaku-cho, Kanda, Tokyo, destroying 16 houses and damaging 14. The cause is reported to have been embers left in the kitchen stove.

A fatal fire broke out on the morning of Jan. 20th in the compound of the Shinto temple, Chiba-Jinsha, Chiba prefecture, destroying the temple and its offices as well as four dwellings. Mr. Y. Chiba (65) the chief priest, lost his life while endeavouring to save the sacred image. The cause is not yet known,

VAUDEVILLE AT THE U.S. NAVAL HOSPITAL.

A most enjoyable entertainment was given at the U.S. Naval Hospital on Wednesday evening, the proceeds being devoted to the fund for equipping the hospital gymnasium. Under the supervision of Dr. Garton the concert hall had been very tastefully decorated for the occasion, the stage especially presenting a fine appearance.

The fare provided was of the best and distinctly varied in character. Mr. Brady, though suffering from a severe cold, gave three turns, each of which was, of course, vociferously encored. Messrs. Aslet and Bernard also met with a very warm reception for their banjo duets. The second-sight act created much amusement. Mr. C. H. Thorn gave some clever conjuring tricks, some of which were loudly applauded. Mr. Tucker, in his coon song, and Mr. Mann and Mr. Somerton were also heartily received, and Mr. Windett's comic songs provoked much laughter. All the accompaniments (with one exception, when Mrs. Thorn presided at the piano) were played by Mr. Berrick.

The hall was crowded, and it was announced that the entertainment would be repeated on the 28th inst.

THE NEUTRALITY QUESTION.

MR. UCHIDA'S communication to Prince Ching is said to have taken the form that if the negotiations between Russia and Japan should prove abortive, the latter Power trusted that China would maintain strict neutrality, and that she would devote all her strength to preventing domestic outbreaks as well as to protecting the lives and property of foreigners residing within her borders, since any troubles caused by rioters or insurgents would surely furnish a pretext for measures leading virtually to the disruption of the Chinese empire. The Prince is said to have entirely approved this counsel. It can not be doubted that he, in common with other leading Chinese statesmen, has learned the lesson that only by extreme circumspection can China hope to preserve her integrity. Should war break out between Russia and Japan, it will be a war having for its cardinal issue the destruction or the salvation of that integrity, not merely as regards Manchuria, but also as regards other parts of the Empire. For, should Russia come out victor, it is in the nature of things that her grasp upon Manchuria will be permanently tightened, and it is also in the nature of things that the immense access of power thus accruing to her in Eastern Asia will incite other States to seek compensatory advantages, which can not be effected except by further inroads upon the Middle Kingdom's sovereignty and integrity. The prime aim should be to avoid furnishing pretexts for such inroads. On the other hand it would appear that the Chinese Government has entertained some doubt as to whether, in either of the two impending contingencies, China can look forward to anything but disaster. Should Russia emerge from the war victorious, she will surely regard the permanent tenure of Manchuria as her legitimate reward; or, at any rate, being relieved from all danger of disturbance there, she will defer every thought of evacuation for an indefinite period. But should Japan win, will not she, in turn, consider the Three Provinces her own? She held them once in her possession, and if she fights for them now, it is not merely because of a kindly sentiment towards her distressed neighbour: it is mainly because she does not want to see the region fall into the hands of an interminably aggressive and immensely strong Power. But to avert that danger the best, if not the only, plan is to occupy the provinces herself and thus in whichever direction the tide of victory flow, China would come out minus the cradle of her dynasty. That is the doubt which seems to have distressed the minds of Chinese statesmen, and its logical sequel was that the Middle Kingdom should strike into the quarrel on her own account, so as to preserve a tangible right to be heard in the final court of settlement. But it would appear that Great Britain's representations have reassured the Peking Government as to that point, and that, consequently, China is making preparations for neutrality with a comparatively quiet mind. It is certainly a curious and interesting situation. Less than four years ago, when the foreign community in Peking, threatened with sanguinary destruction, reposed its only hope of salvation in the promptitude of succour from Japan, not a few voices were loudly raised in Europe against the danger of entrusting to Japan a task which, if successfully carried out, might invest her with the practical hegemony of Oriental races and thus call into real existence the Yellow Peril. To-day on the eve of a war from which, if she emerge successful, it would be natural and reasonable that she should claim some over-lordship of the territory in dispute, we have the British Government placing such confidence in Japanese self-restraint and Japanese pacific impulses that they guarantee her freedom from ambition in the presence of temptations to which any other nation, if history has been truly written, would yield incontinently and would not be condemned for yielding. To-day no one seems to fear that if Japan force her adversary to loosen his grip upon Manchuria, she will herself take his place or think of retaining what she has won by strength of arms. It is a most singular transition from unconcealed doubt to unprecedented faith, and yet we are absolutely confident that if subjected to such a trial of her international morality, Japan would justify England's confidence.

GERMANY AND JAPAN.

GERMANY has received a good deal of attention at the hands of Japanese journalists of late: the *Nippon* has written about her, the *Kokumin* has written about her and the *Niroku* has written about her. This last journal calls her a *kwaji-dorobo* and affirms that for many years she has been nothing else. *Kwaji-dorobo* is a term vulgarly applied to a man that takes advantage of a conflagration to purloin the property of the unfortunate victims of the catastrophe: a fellow, in short, that profits by his neighbour's calamities. The *Niroku* is always more vigorous than polite. Less indiscreet, the *Nippon* affirms that among all nations Russia is regarded by the world as the most untrustworthy, and that next to her in that unenviable distinction stands Germany, for whose sake the *Nippon* professes to be sorry that things are so. This opinion is elicited from our contemporary by the fact that whereas the attitude of all the other Powers with regard to the situation in the Far East is clearly known, the attitude of Germany remains still obscure. The *Nippon* thinks that although the Emperor William the Second is universally admitted to be a great man, it may be doubted whether he has any definite and thorough policy. Several incidents of recent history are adduced in support of that theory, prominent among them being Germany's action with regard to her convention with England concerning the Far Eastern question, on which occasion, after signing an agreement textually pledging herself to assist in maintaining China's integrity, she turned round and declared that Manchuria could not be regarded as Chinese territory for the purposes of the agreement, and that the document's real object was to secure to herself in the Yangtse Valley privileges which did not enter into the question at all and for which she did not even pretend to have given any equivalent. It is matter for rejoicing, says the *Nippon*, that England averted her face from such an unworthy ally and clasped hands with Japan. If in the sequel of her alliance with Japan England treated the latter as she was herself treated by Germany, it would be Japan's right to adopt a course similar to that taken by England towards Germany, whereby, we understand the *Nippon* to suggest a Russo-Japanese alliance. "But," continues our contemporary, "England is not Germany. England is a friend that can be trusted. The sympathy she has shown with us since the Manchurian question came upon the tapis has excited the admiration of the nation. In proportion as the situation became more critical, her sincerity assumed a more and more practical form. We therefore infer that there is a great difference between the international trustworthiness of England and Germany, and that in choosing a national ally the same principles apply as when choosing a personal friend." The *Kokumin Shimbun* similarly takes for its text the evident ambiguity of Germany's attitude at this juncture. Germany's statesmen to-day seem to have inherited the Bismarckian maxim of the "honest broker," and to regard it as the gold and jewels of international policy. Germany's habitual attitude is neither one thing nor the other. Her plan is to set other Powers by the ears, and then, without any labour on her own part, she steps in and carries off the prize. Seldom or ever does she show a definitely hostile mien. She is all things to all men, and the result is that the whole world doubts her. Then when any great problem of international politics calls for solution, the first impulse of the Powers is to fix their attention on Germany and to speculate on her ultimate attitude. "Outwardly she shows herself in the guise of a good friend to all, but in practice her friendship is not always a thing to be grateful for. She can not be counted on either as an open enemy or as a sincere ally. Such appears to be the sentiment of the nations towards her. They have often burned their fingers by touching her; have often been involved in heavy losses; have often garnered bitter experiences. In truth, among all the statesman of Europe few regard Germany other than as the great stirrer-up of troubles in the world. Thus there are many conjectures about her attitude towards the Far-Eastern question and many criticisms. But we believe that she will maintain strict neutrality. Should she again have recourse to procedure such as she adopted on the occasion of the triple alliance (in 1895), what could she hope to gain? In Europe she would unquestionally accentuate France's dislike and would offend English sentiment, while at the same time she would provoke America's opposition. In the Far East she would be making an enemy of our country, Japan, which the Powers can no longer leave out of their account. In a word, for the sake of gaining the goodwill of Russia alone, she would take the risk of isolating herself from the sympathy of all the civilized nations. We can not believe that the far-seeing German EMPEROR will so easily ignore the principles of right or that he will adopt so unwise and unprofitable a course."

These comments can not but have interest for our German readers. They have interest for us all. Of course no thinking person can admit for a moment that the morality of the German nation justly exposes it to any charge of international chicanery. There is probably no people on the face of the globe whose instincts and inclinations would prompt the pursuit of higher ideals. But the terrible difficulty of position perpetually oppresses Germany. She is compelled to consider Russia before everything, and since Russia happens just now to be stricken with a fever of territorial aggression more violent than anything recorded since the days of ALEXANDER or GHENGIS, Germany, greatly to her people's disgust, has to act a part wholly uncongenial to her own heart. What educated Germans think of it all, there is not much difficulty in conjecturing.

PLANS OF CAMPAIGN.

ONLY the Japanese themselves know what line of action they contemplate in the event of war with Russia, and we may be quite sure that the Japanese will keep their counsel. In the middle of December people in Europe were speculating much about this topic and many of them had fully persuaded themselves that they knew exactly what would happen. One thing they regarded as certain, namely, that Japan would not attempt to destry the Russian fleet in the neighbourhood of Port Arthur. By adopting that course she would deprive herself of two of the prominent advantages her squadron possesses, speed and homogeneity. Rather would she choose some plan of imposing upon Russia the obligation of attack. Such a plan would be the occupation of Korea, where Russia could not tolerate her armed presence, but where, at the same time, it would be very difficult for Russia to get at her. The probabilities, then—according to these forecasts—are that Russia would deliver her blow at Nagasaki, since "without beating Japan there and securing a coal supply the Russian fleet could not hope to round Japan and attack Tokyo and the farther side of the island, fifteen hundred miles from its base." It will be observed that this conjecture takes no account of Japanese land fortifications. It assumes that Nagasaki can be easily approached by a hostile squadron and that this same is true of Yedo Bay. But there is one thing that these prophets do take into account; that is the contingency of Russia sitting quietly in Manchuria and leaving Japan to disport herself in Korea. Could she do that? Many people think that she might; think even that from Japan's presence in Korea as an armed occupier Russia would derive a new mandate for her own tenure of Manchuria. It is not easy to share that view. In the first place, Russia, while admitting that Japan is entitled to a voice in the destiny of Korea, denies that she has any right to be heard about Manchuria. Therefore nothing that Japan does outside Manchuria could theoretically affect Russia's arbitrary pretensions there. But it is more than doubtful whether Russia would permit Japan to hold Korea and dominate the sea between the peninsula and this empire. For that would mean that the Russians would have to abandon all their enterprises in the Yalu Valley, and that their direct line of communications between Liaotung and Vladivostock would be severed. They would have either to crush the Japanese navy or to send all their ships round by the east coasts of the Japanese islands, with the added difficulty that to enter or emerge from the Gulf of Tartary and the Japan Sea, either the strait of La Perouse or that of Tsugaru would have to be passed. In fact, the sea approaches to Vladivostock would be practically sealed by a Japanese occupation of Korea. That is where Russia has a distinctly vulnerable point. We know nothing about Japan's plan of action in the event of hostilities breaking out. What we are doing here is merely discussing the soundness of the views put forward in Europe a month ago, and our conclusion is that whereas Russia's presence in Manchuria has only remote consequences for Japan, Japan's presence in Korea would have immediate consequences for Russia, and would compel her to attack or to accept the necessity of occupying an inconvenient and humiliating position. As to our own belief concerning Japan's programme we say nothing.

SUPPLEMENTARY TREATY OF COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION BETWEEN JAPAN AND CHINA.

Following is the text of the above treaty:—

His Majesty the Emperor of Japan and His Majesty the Emperor of China, in order to give full effect to the provisions of Article XI of the Final Protocol signed at Peking on the seventh day of the ninth month of the thirty-fourth year of Meiji, corresponding to the twenty-fifth day of the seventh moon of the twenty-seventh year of Kuang-hsu, have resolved to conclude a Supplementary Treaty of Commerce and Navigation, designed to facilitate and promote the commercial relations between Japan and China, and have for that purpose named as Their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say:

His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, Hioki Eki, Jugoi, Fifth Class of the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun, First Secretary of Legation, and Odagiri Masnosuke, Shorokui, Fifth Class of the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun, Consul General;

And His Majesty the Emperor of China, Lu Hai-huan, President of the Board of Public Works, Sheng Hsuan-huai, Junior Guardian of the Heir Apparent, formerly Senior Vice-President of the Board of Public Works, and Wu T'ing-fang, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Commerce:

Who, after having communicated to each other their Full Powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed upon and concluded the following Articles:—

Art. I.—Whereas China, with the object of reforming its fiscal system, proposes to levy a surtax in excess of the tariff rates on all goods passing through the Custom Houses, whether maritime or inland and frontier, in order to compensate in a measure for the loss incurred by the complete abolition of *likin*, Japan consents to pay the same surtax as is agreed upon between China and all the Treaty Powers. With regard to the production tax, consumption tax and excise, and the taxes on native opium and salt, leviable by China, Japan also consents to accept the same arrangements as are agreed upon between all the Treaty Powers and China. It is understood, however, that the commerce, rights and privileges of Japan shall not, on account of the above, be placed at any disadvantage as compared with the commerce, rights and privileges of other Powers.

Art. II.—The Chinese Government agrees to permit Japanese steamship-owners to erect, at their own expense, appliances for hauling through the rapids of that part of the Yangtze-kiang between Ichang and Chnngking. But as the interests of the population of the provinces of Szechuen, Hunan and Hupeh are involved, it is therefore necessary that the approval of the Imperial Maritime Customs be obtained before such appliances may be so erected.

These appliances, which shall be at the disposal of the vessels, both steamers and junks, shall not obstruct the waterway nor interfere with the free passage of junks or of persons on the banks of the river. Such appliances shall be subject to special regulations to be drawn up by the Imperial Maritime Customs.

Art. III.—The Chinese Government agree that any Japanese steamer capable of navigating the inland waterways, upon reporting at the Imperial Maritime Customs, may proceed for the purpose of trade from a treaty port to places inland, so reported, on complying with the Original and Supplementary Regulations for Steam Navigation Inland.

Art. IV.—In case Chinese subjects conjointly with Japanese subjects organise a partnership or company for a legitimate purpose, they shall equitably share the profits and losses with all the members according to the terms of the agreement or memorandum and articles of association and the regulations framed thereunder, and they shall be liable to the fulfilment of the obligations imposed by the said agreement or memorandum and articles of association and the regulations framed thereunder as accepted by them and as interpreted by Japanese Courts. Should they fail to fulfil the obligations so imposed and legal action be taken against them in consequence, Chinese Courts shall at once enforce fulfilment of such obligations.

It is understand that in case Japanese subjects conjointly with Chinese subjects organise a partnership or company, they shall also equitably share the profits and losses with all the members according to the terms of the agreement or memorandum and articles of association and the regulations framed thereunder. Should such Japanese subjects fail to fulfil any of the obligations imposed by the said agreement or memorandum and articles of association or by the regulations framed thereunder, Japanese Courts shall in like manner at once enforce fulfilment of such obligations by them.

Art. V.—The Chinese Government agree to make and faithfully enforce such regulations as are necessary for preventing Chinese subjects from infringing registered trade-marks held by Japanese subjects.

The Chinese Government likewise agree to made such regulations as are necessary for affording protection to registered copyrights held by

Japanese subjects in the books, pamphlets, maps and charts written in the Chinese language and specially prepared for the use of Chinese people.

It is further agreed that the Chinese Government shall establish registration offices where foreign trade-marks and copyrights, upon application for the protection of the Chinese Government, shall be registered in accordance with the provisions of the regulations to be hereafter framed by the Chinese Government for the purpose of protecting trade-marks and copyrights.

It is understood that Chinese trade-marks and copyrights properly registered according to the provisions of the laws and regulations of Japan will receive similar protection against infringement in Japan.

This Article shall not be held to protect against due process of law any Japanese or Chinese subject who may be the author, proprietor or seller of any publication calculated to injure the well-being of China.

Art. VI.—China agrees to establish itself, as soon as possible, a system of uniform national coinage and provide for a uniform national currency which shall be freely used as legal tender in payment of all duties, taxes and other obligations by Japanese subjects as well as by Chinese subjects in the Chinese Empire. It is understood, however, that all Customs duties shall continue to be calculated and paid on the basis of the Haikwan tael.

Art. VII.—As the weights and measures used by the mercantile and other classes for general and commercial purposes in the different provinces of China vary and do not accord with the standard fixed by the Imperial Government Boards, thus resulting in detriment to the trade of Chinese and foreigners, the Governors General and Governors of all the provinces, after careful inquiry into existing conditions, shall consult together and fix upon uniform standards which after a Memorial to the Throne for sanction, shall be adopted and used in all transactions by officials and people throughout all the Empire. These standards shall be first used in the places opened to foreign trade and gradually extended to inland places. Any differences resulting from divergence between the new weights and measures and those now in vogue shall be equitably settled, whether by way of increase or decrease, according to the amount of such difference.

Art. VIII.—The Regulations for Steam Navigation Inland of the fifth moon of the twenty-fourth year of Kuang-hsu and the Supplementary Rules of the seventh moon of the same year having been found in some respects inconvenient in working. the Chinese Government hereby agree to amend them and to annex such new Rules to this Treaty.

These Rules shall remain in force until altered by mutual consent.

Article IX.—The provisions of all treaties and engagements now subsisting between Japan and China, in so far as they are not modified or repealed by this Act, are hereby confirmed; and it is hereby expressly stipulated in addition that the Japanese Government, Officers, Subjects, Commerce, Navigation. Shipping, Industries and Property of all kinds shall be allowed free and full participation in all privileges, immunities and advantages which have been or may hereafter be granted by His Majesty the Emperor of China or by the Chinese Government or by the Provincial or Local Administrations of China to the Government, Officers, Subjects, Commerce, Navigation, Shipping, Industries or Property of any other nation.

The Japanese Government will do its utmost to secure to Chinese Officers and Subjects resident in Japan the most favourable treatment compatible with the laws and regulations of the Empire.

Art. X.—The High Contracting Parties hereto agree that, in case of and after the complete withdrawal of the foreign troops stationed in the province of Chihli and of the Legation guards, a place of international residence and trade in Peking will be forthwith opened by China itself. The detailed regulations relating thereto shall be settled in due time after consultation.

The Chinese Government agree to open to foreign trade, within six months from the exchange of the Ratifications of this Treaty, Ch'ang-sha-fu in the province of Hunan on the same footing as the ports already opened to foreign trade. Foreigners residing in this open port are to observe the Municipal and Police Regulations on the same footing as Chinese residents, and they are not to be entitled to establish a Municipality and Police of their own within the limits of this treaty port, except with the consent of the Chinese authorities.

The Chinese Government agree that, upon the exchange of the Ratifications of this Treaty, Mukden and Tatungkow, both in the province of Shengking, will be opened by China itself as places of international residence and trade. The selection of suitable localities to be set apart for international use and occupation and the regulations for these places set apart for foreign residence and trade shall be agreed upon by the Governments of Japan and China after consultation together.

Aet. XI.—The Government of China having expressed a strong desire to reform its judicial system and to bring it into accord with that of Japan and Western nations, Japan agrees to give every assistance to such reform, and will also be prepared to relinquish its extra-territorial rights when satisfied that the state of the Chinese laws, the arrangements for their administration and other considerations warrant it in so doing.

Art. XII.—The present Treaty is signed in the Japanese, Chinese and English languages. In order, however, to prevent future discussions, the Plenipotentiaries of the High Contracting Parties have agreed that in case of any divergence in the interpretation between the Japanese and Chinese Texts of the Treaty, the difference shall be settled by reference to the English Text.

Art. XIII.—The present Treaty shall be ratified by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan and His Majesty the Emperor of China, and the Ratifications thereof shall be exchanged at Peking as soon as possible and not later than six months from the present date.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the same and have affixed thereto the seals of their arms.

Done at Shanghai this eighth day of the tenth month of the thirty-sixth year of Meiji, corresponding to the eighteenth day of the eighth moon of the twenty-ninth year of Kwang-hsü.

(L.S.) Hioki Eki.
(L.S.) Odagiri Masnosuke.

Signature of His Excellency Lu Hai-huan.	Signature of His Excellency Sheng Hsuan-huai.	Signatnre of His Excellency Wu T'ing-fang.

INLAND WATERS STEAM NAVIGATION.

ANNEX I.

1.—Japanese steamship-owners are at liberty to lease warehouses and jetties on the banks of waterways from Chinese subjects for a term nor exceeding twenty-five years, with option of renewal on terms to be mutually arranged. In cases where Japanese merchants are unable to secure warehouses and jetties from Chinese subjects on satisfactory terms, the local officials, after consultation with the Governor or Governor General or Minister of Commerce, shall arrange to provide these on renewable lease, as above mentioned, at current equitable rates.

2.—Jetties shall only be erected in such positions that they will not obstruct the inland waterway or interfere with navigation, and with the sanction of the nearest Commissioner of Customs; such sanction, however, shall not be arbitrarily withheld.

3.—Japanese merchants shall pay taxes and contributions on these warehouses and jetties on the same footing as Chinese proprietors of similar properties in the neighbourhood. Japanese merchants may only employ Chinese agents and staff to reside in warehouses so leased at places touched at by steamers engaged in inland traffic to carry on their business; but Japanese merchants may visit these places from time to time to look after their affairs. The existing rights of Chinese jurisdiction over Chinese subjects shall not by reason of this clause be diminished or interfered with in any way.

4.—Steam vessels navigating the inland waterways of China shall be responsible for loss caused to riparian proprietors by damage which they may do to the banks or works on them, and for the loss which may be caused by such damage.

In the event of China desiring to prohibit the use of some particular shallow waterway by launches, because there is reason to fear that the use of it by them would be likely to injure the banks and cause damage to the adjoining country, the Japanese authorities, when appealed to, shall, if satisfied of the validity of the objection, prohibit the use of that waterway by Japanese launches, provided that Chinese launches are also prohibited from using it.

Both Foreign and Chinese launches are prohibited from crossing dams and weirs at present in existence on inland waterway where they are likely to cause injury to such works, which would be detrimental to the water service of the local people.

5.—The main object of the Japanese Government in desiring to see the inland waterways of China opened to steam navigation being to afford facilities for the rapid transport of both foreign and native merchandise, they undertake to offer no impediment to the transfer to a Chinese company and the Chinese flag of any Japanese steamer which may now or hereafter be employed on the inland waters of China, should the owner be willing to make the transfer.

In the event of a Chinesa company registered under Chinese law being formed to run steamers on the inland waters of China, the fact of Japanese subjects holding shares in such a company shall not entitle the steamers to fly the Japanese flag.

6.—Registered steamers and their tows are forbidden to carry contraband goods. Infraction of this rule will entail the penalties prescribed in the treaties for such an offence, and cancellation of the Inland Waters Navigation Certificate carried by the vessels, which will be prohibited from thereafter plying on inland waters.

7.—As it is desirable that the people living inland should be disturbed as little as possible by the advent of steam vessels to which they are not accustomed, inland waters not hitherto frequented by steamers shall be opened as gradually as may be convenient to merchants and only as the owners of steamers may see prospect of remunerative trade.

In cases where it is intended to run steam vessels on waterways on which such vessels have not hitherto run, intimation shall be made to the Commisioner of Customs at the nearest open port, who shall report the matter to the Ministers of Commerce. The latter, in conjunction with the Governor General or Governor of the province, after careful consideration of all the circumstances of the case, shall at once give their approval.

8.—A registered steamer may ply within the waters of a port, or from one open port or ports to another open port or ports, or from one open port or ports to places inland, and thence back to such port or ports. She may, on making due report to the Customs, land or ship passengers or cargo at any recognised places of trade passed in the course of the voyage; but may not ply between inland places exclusively except with the consent of the Chinese Government.

9.—Any cargo and passenger boats may be towed by steamers. The helmsman and crew of any boat towed shall be Chinese. All boats, irrespective of ownership, must be registered before they can proceed inland.

10.—The above Rules are supplementary to the Regulations published in the fifth and seventh moons of the twenty-fourth year of Kuang-hsü, which remain in full force and effect in so far as they are not modified by the Rules now agreed upon.

The present Rules and the Regulations of the fifth and seventh moons of the twenty-fourth years of Kuang-hsu may hereafter be modified, as circumstances require, by mutual consent.

Done at Shanghai this eighth day of the tenth month of the thirty-sixth year of Meiji, corresponding to the eighteenth day of the eighth moon of the twenty-ninth year of Kuang-hsü.

ANNEX 2.

Shanghai, the 8th Day of the 10th Month
of the 36th Year of Meiji.

Gentlemen,—According to Article III. of the present Treaty the Chinese Government agree that any Japanese steamer capable of navigating the Inland Waterways, upon reporting at the Imperial Maritime Customs, may proceed for the purpose of trade from a treaty port to places inland, so reported, on complying with the Original and Supplementary Regulations for Steam Navigation Inland.

It is understood that all classes of Japanese steamers, whatever their size, provided they are capable of navigating the Inland Waterways, may on complying with the Regulations receive an Inland Waters Certificate and carry on trade with inland places, and the Chinese Government will in no case raise difficulties and stop such steamers from plying to and from inland places.

We have the honour, in order to prevent future misunderstandings to address this despatch to Your Excellencies and to request that instructions be sent to the Inspector General of Maritime Customs to act in accordance with this understanding. We have further the honour to request a reply from Your Excellencies.

ANNEX 3.

Shanghai, the 18th Day of 10th Moon of the 29th Year of Kuang-hsü.

GENTLEMEN,—We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellencies' despatch of this date, written with a view of preventing future misunderstandings, to the effect that, in accordance with the provisions of Article III. of the present Treaty, all classes of Japanese steamers, whatever their size, provided they are capable of navigating the Inland Waterways, may on complying with the Regulations receive an Inland Waters Certificate and ply to and from inland places, and that the Chinese Government will in no case raise difficulties and stop them.

During the negotiation of this Article, we received a list from Your Excellencies of the Japanese steamers—viz.: *Sanyo Maru, Setagawa Maru, Hinga Maru, Urato Maru, Neisei Maru, Heian Maru, Taiko Maru, Yoshino Maru, Meiko Maru, Fukuju Maru, Hijikawa Maru, Nagata Maru, Kyo'o Maru, Horai Maru, Kwanko Maru, Keiko Maru, Kinrin Maru, Zensho Maru* and *Kohei Maru,* ranging from one hundred and twenty-one tons to four hundred and ten tons register—plying from Chefoo to inland places in Manchuria, under Inland Waters Certificate and in accordance with the Regulations for Steam Navigation Inland, which vessels have not been prevented from doing so on account of their class.

At that time we instructed the Deputy Inspector General of Customs to make inquiries into the records of the Custom Houses, and he reported that the circumstances were in accordance with Your Excellencies' statement.

In consequence of the receipt of Your Excellencies, despatch we shall communicate with the Wai-wu Pu and request that instructions be sent to the Inspector General of Customs to take these circumstances into consideration and to act accordingly, and we have the honour to write this despatch for purposes of record.

ANNEX 4.

Shanghai, the 8th Day of the 10th Month of the 36th Year of Meiji

GENTLEMEN,—The provision contained in No. 9 of the Supplementary Rules governing steam navigation on Inland Waters published in the seventh moon of the twenty-fourth year of Kuang-hsü, regarding the appointment of an officer to collect dues and duties, not having in all cases been given effect to, we have the honour to request that Your Excellencies' Government will again issue instructions to all provinces to give strict effect to this provision, as it is a matter of importance.

We trust that Your Excellencies will comply with the request contained in this despatch and that you will favour us with a reply.

ANNEX 5.

Shanghai, the 18th Day of the 18th Moon of the 29th Year of Kuang-hsü.

GENTLEMEN,—We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellencies' despatch of this date to the effect that, the provision contained in No. 9 of the Supplementary Rules governing steam navigation on Inland Waters published in the seventh moon of the twenty-fourth year of Kuang-hsü, regarding the appointment of an officer to collect dues and duties, not having in all cases been given effect to, you request that instructions be again issued to all provinces to give strict effect to this provision, as it is a matter of importance.

We have noted the above and have communicated with proper authorities in order that action may be taken, and have now the honour to write this reply for Your Excellencies' information.

ANNEX 6.

Shanghai, the 18th Day of 8th Moon of the 29th Year of Kuang-shü.

GENTLEMEN,—According to the provision of Article X of this Treaty, regarding the establishment in Peking of a place of international residence and trade, it is agreed that in case of and after the complete withdrawal of the foreign troops, now guarding the Legations and Communications, a place in Peking outside the Inner City, convenient to both parties and free from objections, shall be selected and set apart as a place where merchants of all nations may reside and carry on trade. Within the limits of this place merchants of all nationalities shall be at liberty to lease land, build houses and warehouses, and establish places of business; but as to the leasing of houses and land belonging to Chinese private individuals, there must be willingness on the part of the owners and the terms thereof must be equitably arranged without any force or compulsion. All roads and bridges in this place will be under the jurisdiction and control of China. Foreigners residing in this place are to observe the Municipal and Police Regulations on the same footing as Chinese residents, and they are not to be entitled to establish a Municipality and Police of their own within its limits except with the consent of the Chinese authorities. When such place of international residence and trade shall have been opened and its limits properly defined, the foreigners who have been residing scattered both within and without the city walls, shall all be required to remove their residence thereto and they shall not be allowed to remain in separate places and thereby cause inconvenience in the necessary supervision by the Chinese authorities. The value of the land and buildings held by such foreigners shall be agreed upon equitably and due compensation therefor shall be paid. The period for such removal shall be determined in due time, and those who do not remove before the expiry of this period shall not be entitled to compensation.

We have considered it to be to our mutual advantage to come to the present basis of understanding in order to avoid future unnecessary negotiations, and we beg that Your Excellencies will consider and agree to it and will favour us with a reply.

ANNEX 7.

Shanghai the 8th Day of the 10th Month of the 36th Year of Meiji.

GENTLEMEN,—We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellencies' despatch of this date in which you state that—

> "According to the provision of Article X of this Treaty, regarding the establishment in Peking of a place of international residence and trade, it is agreed that in case of and after the complete withdrawal of the foreign troops, now guarding the Legations and Communications, a place in Peking outside the Inner City, convenient to both parties and free from objections, shall be selected and set apart as a place where merchants of all nationalities may reside and carry on trade. Within the limits of this place merchants of all nationalities shall be at liberty to lease land, build houses and warehouses, and establish places of business; but as to the leasing of houses and land belonging to Chinese private individuals, there must be willingness on the part of the owners and the terms thereof must be equitably arranged without any force or compulsion. All roads and bridges in this place will be under the jurisdiction and control of China. Foreigners residing in this place are to observe the Municipal and Police Regulations on the same footing as Chinese residents, and they are not to be entitled to establish a Municipality and Police of their own within its limits except with the consent of the Chinese authorities. When such place of international residence and trade shall have been opened and its limits properly defined, the foreigners who have been residing scattered both within and without the city walls, shall all be required to remove their residence thereto and they shall not be allowed to remain in separate places and thereby cause inconvenience in the necessary supervision by the Chinese authorities. The value of the land and buildings held by such foreigners shall be agreed upon equitably and due compensation therefor shall be paid. The period for such removal shall be determined in due time, and those who do not remove before the expiry of this period shall not be entitled to compensation.
>
> We have considered it to be to our mutual advantage to come to the present basis of understanding in order to avoid future unnecessary negotiations, and we beg that Your Excellencies will consider and agree to it and will favour us with a reply."

In reply we beg to inform you that we agree generally to all the terms contained in the despatch under acknowledgment. As to the detailed regulations, these shall in due time be considered and satisfactorily settled in accordance with Article X of this Treaty; but it is understood that such regulations shall not differ in any respect to our prejudice from those which may be agreed upon between China and other Powers. We have the honour to to send Your Excellancies this communication in reply and for your information.

We have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servants,
(Signed) HIOKI EKI.
(Signed) ODAGIRI MASNOSKE.

Their Excellencies
LU HAI-HUAN.
SHENG HSUAN-HUAI,
WU T'ING-FANG,
His Imperial Chinese Majesty's Commissioners for Treaty Revision.

King Edward has invested Mr. James Knowles, founder, editor and proprietor of the *Nineteenth Century*, with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, and conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood.

"THE CANADIAN HABITANT."

The usual fortnightly meeting of the above-named Society was held at the Van Schaick Hall on Friday evening, the Rev. J. L. Dearing, D.D., presiding over a large attendance of members and invited friends. Mr. Dearing in introducing the Rev. C. J. L. Bates, who was to speak on "The Canadian Habitant," said that the lecturer was peculiarly able to place before them the habits, dialect, etc., of the French Canadian.

The Rev. C. J. L. Bates commenced by giving a very fine reading of a poem entitled "The French Habitant." He then briefly outlined the history of Canada from the time of its discovery, speaking of the characters and deeds of many of the great Frenchmen who played such a conspicuous part in the development of the country. Proceeding, he spoke of the habits, sentiments, and religion of the French-Canadians, paying a fine tribute to their staunch loyalty to the British throne. This section (if it may so be called) of the lecture was nicely finished off by the reading of a poem, entitled the "Habitant's Jubilee Ode." Mr. Bates went on to speak of the poets, musicians, diplomatists, sculptors, etc., which Canada has produced, and brought his remarks to a happy close by reading the poem, "How Albani Sang." All the poems read were the compositions of Dr. William Henry Drummond, and as they each and all introduced the characteristic patois of the Habitant, they conveyed capital word-pictures of the people he described. During the address a number of magnificent pictures were thrown upon the screen, each of which were fully commented upon by the lecturer. This is the first time Mr. Bates has appeared before the Literary Society, but it is sincerely to be hoped that it will not be the last, as the general expression on Friday was that he had furnished "one of the most enjoyable evenings the members have ever spent."

The pictures on Friday evening were shown to far better advantage than on former occasions, in fact they were the best we have ever seen at the Society's gatherings. This was due to the new electric apparatus which has just been imported from America through the instrumentality of the Rev. G. Allchin, of Osaka, a keen enthusiast in all matters pertaining to the magic-lantern.

At the conclusion of the lecture Mr. Dearing proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Bates for the extremely enjoyable exposition he had given. The speaker then went on to refer to the good work done by Mr. Clarence Griffin, Mr. Allchin and others in refitting the lantern, saying he was sure the very best thanks were due to them for the amount of time and trouble they had devoted to assisting in giving the excellent entertainment that all present seemed to have enjoyed.

The second part of the programme has already been published, but we may mention that Madame La Croix's French Canadian songs were highly appreciated, a hearty encore being accorded for her rendering of "L'Alouette." Miss Watt played a pretty pianoforte solo, and Mr. A. H. Atkinson gave a dainty rendering of two songs. Mr. Bates, however, was *par excellence* in his two further readings, having to bow his acknowledgements of the vociferous applause accorded to each. At the next meeting Mr. W. Karl Vincent has arranged "An Evening with Sir Arthur Sullivan."

PART I.

Lecture. "The Canadian Habitant," (Illustrated.)
Rev. C. J. L. Bates.

PART II.

Piano.............. "Au Printemps"..............*Grieg.*
Miss Watt.
Song........"La Claire Fontaine"....*Fch. Canadian.*
Madame La Croix.
Reading........"Les Vieux Temps"............
Rev. C. J. L. Bates.
Song.................."L'Alouette"......*Fch. Canadian.*
Madame La Croix.
Reading..........."Poleon Doré"...............
Rev. C. J. L. Bates.
Songs...... (a) "The Rose"..........*Noel Johnson,*
(b) "Daffadowndilly"......*G. W. Cox.*
Mr. A. H. Atkinson.

KOBE CRICKET CLUB.

The annual general meeting of the Kobe Cricket Club was held on Thursday, Mr. G. C. Pakenham, the President, being in the Chair. In opening the proceedings he said that the thanks of the Club were specially due to Mr. F. J. Bardens for presenting a cup to the member playing the best all-round game during the season, and to Mr. H. E. Bottlewalla for presenting a similar trophy to the member giving the best performance in the Interport match. The former cup was won by Mr. A. H. Gillingham and the latter by Mr. E. C. Jefirey, and the Club was much indebted to the donors. The Committee's report stated that only one century was scored this season by a member of the Club, viz., Mr. A. H. Gillingham, 110, not out. The batting average was won by Mr. A. H. Gillingham with the very fine average of 57.71, while Mr. H. E. Green secured the bowling average at a cost of 9.56 runs per wicket. The balance sheet shows a credit balance carried forward of *yen* 710.66. Mr. G. C. Pakenham was unanimously re-elected President of the Club, and Mr. G. C. Murray, Captain of the Club; Mr. D. McLaren was re-elected Captain of the Baseball section; and the new Committee was balloted for, the following gentlemen being elected:—Messrs. A. W. Allen (Hon. Treasurer), A. H. Gillingham, H. E. Green, G. Watrous, and C. H. Lightfoot. Mr. F. J. Bardens announced that in order to keep up the interest in the game he intended to give a cup again this year for the best all-round performance, on the same terms as before.

THE LAW COURTS.

CASE AGAINST A CHINAMAN.

La-tow, a Chinaman, was charged in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Hadano, on January 7th, with digging in the Cemetery at Byobugaura, near Negishi, with the purpose of stealing the bones of the departed. After hearing evidence, the Court acquited accused on the ground of insufficient evidence.

OBJECTION TO THE SEIZURE OF PROPERTY.

The hearing of an appeal brought by Mr. H. V. Gielen in the case which he brings against Mr. J. H. Jewett, petitioning that a judgment given in the Yokohama Local Court be quashed, began on Jan. 19th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Kato.

Mr. R. Masujima was present for the appellant, and Mr. H. Sato for the respondent.

Appellant's counsel asked the Court to quash the judgment given by the lower court and to sustain the order seizing the property of Mr. J. H. Jewett.

Respondent's counsel contended that Mr. Jewett was a wealthy and popular raw silk exporter having offices in Yokohama, and Mr. Gielen had been one of his employees at the time when the former was a partner in the firm of Messrs Bavier and Co. Mr. Gielen therefore was well acquainted with the financial position of Mr. Jewett. Mr. Gielen seized, on September 23rd, 1903, the property of Mr. Jewett on an unreasonable claim for *yen* 4,604.80 just as the latter was about to leave for America on a business tour. To avoid trouble Mr. Jewett paid to the bailiff temporarily the amount claimed, but at the same time filed an objection to the seizure in the Yokohama Local Court, where judgment was subsequently delivered cancelling the order of seizure. Mr. Gielen, however, appealed against this cancellation. His appeal seems to be entirely groundless as there was no necessity to seize the property. Mr. Jewett possesses several parcels of land in perpetual lease, and buildings in Yokohama besides, while he had a good amount of cash deposited with the banks: his departure for America was also temporary and connected with his business. If there had actually been any responsibility for the money claimed by Mr. Gielen, Mr. Jewett would have paid it without any such extraordinary action as seizure through a bailiff. The only purpose Mr. Gielen would seem to have was to injure the fame of Mr. Jewett.

Mr. Masujima, appellant's Counsel, stated that the firm bearing the name of Bavier & Company was established by Mr. Gielen in accordance with Japanese law and was registered as a *Goshi-Kaisha* (Partnership Company) after Mr. Bavier, one of the partners, had retired. Mr. Jewett who was also one of the partners of the old firm had no connection with the new firm established by Mr. Gielen. In spite of this fact, Mr. Jewett, before the enforcement of the revised treaty, forged several private letters with which he registered the new firm of Bavier & Company. Afterwards he asked Mr. Gielen to return the books of the old firm which were kept by Mr. Gielen. This having been refused, Mr. Jewett seized the books, by which action Mr. Gielen sustained damage amounting to *yen* 2,604.80. To recover this loss, Mr. Gielen lodged a claim in the Court against Mr. Jewett and at the same time seized his property as the latter was leaving Japan and going to America. Mr. Gielen of course did not know when Mr. Jewett would return here.

Both parties then presented several documents to the Court as evidence after which Counsel entered on a brief discussion.

On Jan. 21st judgment was delivered rejecting the appeal.

T. BACHELOR v. THWAITES.

The hearing of this case, in which plaintiff claimed *yen* 2,500 with interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum from Oct., 1902, till the execution of judgment, was resumed on Jan. 20th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Yasuda.

Upon the assembling of the Court counsel for plaintiff repeated the explanation as to the claim as given in the previous hearing on Dec. 24th, which appeared in this paper the following day.

Defendant's counsel held that defendant made a contract with a third person to give a magical exhibition on joint account, in which project plaintiff proposed to invest *yen* 3,000. In October 1902, plaintiff paid *yen* 2,500 to defendant, at the same time promising that the remaining *yen* 500 would be paid in case of necessity. The parties agreed that plaintiff should have one-third of the profits from the performances or that defendant might obtain the sole rights in the exhibition on payment of *yen* 4,500 nine months after the contract. Defendant, however, did not promise to bind himself with regard to the funds invested by Mr. Bachelor, in case of loss. Defendant did not in September arrange with plaintiff for any places where the exhibition should be shown, but plaintiff insists that the parties agreed that the show should be given in the Osaka Exhibition of 1903. Before the opening of the 5th Osaka Industrial Exhibition the performance was shown in Tokyo and unfortunately the syndicate sustained heavy loss and it was well understood that the show was unpopular. The Magical Exhibition was removed to Shanghai where again it met with unfavourable results. The syndicate at first thought to recover these repeated losses by opening at the Osaka Exhibition, but they found they could not do it under the circumstances. Defendant was very sorry and informed plaintiff of the ill result, but also informed him that it arose through no default on the part of the former.

Plaintiff's Counsel presented to the Court as evidence three letters written by defendant with regard to the contract between the parties. A discussion thereupon followed, after which the Court adjourned the case till Jan. 22nd at 10 a.m. when judgement will be delivered.

S. NAKAKAMI v. THE SINGER MANUFACTURING CO.

The hearing of this case instituted by a Japanese, S. Nakakami, ex-employee of the Singer Manufacturing Company, against the firm claiming *yen* 187.55 with interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum from July 14th, 1903, till the execution of judgment, began in the Yokohama District Court on Jan. 20th before Judge Yasuda.

Plaintiff's Counsel stated that plaintiff was employed on Aug. 23rd, 1902, as a salesman of sewing machines and continued in the company's service till July 3rd, 1903, when he was discharged without notice. When first employed by the firm, plaintiff deposited with them *yen* 60 as guarrantee, and *yen* 30 as a further guarantee at a time when he was taking ten sewing machines out of this city, as this was an office rule. As the result of business done by plaintiff, *yen* 38.55 was due to him as commission in accordance with the contract between the partes. Beside the guarantee money and commission an amount for wages was also due when plaintiff left the firm's empoly. He had very often applied to the firm for payment but the latter refused under several pretexts.

Defendant's counsel contended that plaintiff did not pay to the firm certain money received from customers to whom he sold the machines while in the service of the firm. As his conduct was such as to defraud the firm, defendants informed the police. Afterwards plaintiff paid *yen* 134 to the firm and consequently the latter withdrew the information. The office appropriated the guarantee and commission due to plaintiff to compensate for the expected loss. Plaintiff was also negligent in his work so when he claimed wages the firm said it had no responsibility.

The counsel discussed these facts, after which Plaintiff's counsel asked the Court for leave to examine two Japanese and Defendant's counsel four others as witnesses. The Court granted consent, and decided to examine witnesses in the Local Courts of the respective places where they might be living.

The case was adjourned *sine* die.

JOHNSTONE v. MARKS.

This case, filed by Mr. J. Johnstone, No. 7, against Mr. Alexander Marks, who has temporary offices or chambers at the office of Messrs. Witkowski & Company, No. 93, Yokohama, petitioning for the enforcing of a receipt for ground rent which plaintiff was to pay on behalf of a Chinaman, Kwan Chon, who is absent, began in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Yasuda on Jan. 20th.

Plaintiff's Counsel stated that the Chinaman on Nov. 28th, 1900, rented property on lot No. 118, Yamashita-cho, from defendant for *yen* 113.68 per month, on a 20 years' lease on the promise that the building should be transferred to the land owner without compensation after the cancellation of the lease. The Chinaman built a house on the ground and borrowed *yen* 10,000 from Mr. V. Blad, offering the building as security, after which he went home without giving any intimation to defendant. As plaintiff has an interest in the building, he presented the rent to defendant in behalf of the Chinaman but the land-owner refused to receive payment insisting that the contract with the Chinaman was void and null. Plaintiff thereupon deposited on May 10th, 1908, *yen* 682 with the Local Court as six months' rent. Counsel petitioned the Court to give judgment, ordering defendant to receive the deposited money and the rent for the following months.

Defendant's Counsel contended that the petition was not valid in accordance with Art. 413 of the Civil Code and asked the Court to reject the case.

Plaintiff's counsel stated that the present case was to be controlled by Art. 474 of the same Code. After a discussion this part of the complaint was altered.

The Court then rejected the case, ordering plaintiff to bear costs.

CLAIM ON PROMISSORY NOTE.

The case instituted by Dr. Paul Ritter against Mr. J. F. Wagen, claiming *yen* 387.60 and interest came up in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Kato on Jan. 21st.

Plaintiff was represented by Mr. Nagashima, a Tokyo lawyer and defendant was present in person.

At the outset of the hearing, defendant asked the Court to postpone the case on the ground that his counsel, who is living in Tokyo, was not present. Plaintiff's counsel did not agree to the request, after which the Court decided to go on with the hearing, holding defendant to be absent.

Plaintiff's counsel stated that plaintiff lent defendant 1,000 francs, receiving on December 1st, 1902, a promissory note payable on Jan. 1st, 1903, the French money being convertible into Japanese at *yen* 387.60. Defendant did not pay the note when due. Counsel produced the promissory note in Court as evidence.

The Court thereupon gave judgment ordering defendant to pay the amount claimed and interest at the rate of 6 per cent. from Dec. 2nd, 1902, till the execution of judgment, and to bear costs.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

We have received the following German books:—"The Application of the Bamboo in Japan" and a "Catalogue of Spörry's Bamboo-Collection" by Hans Spörry, with a botanical introduction by Dr. C. Schröter, Professor of Botany in the Confederate Polytechnic in Zürich, published by a Zürich firm. It is divided into 6 parts. The first treats of "The Bamboo in Japan"; the second of "The Application of the Bamboo in Japan"; the third of "The Conversion of the Bamboo, as a Motive of Art and Decoration"; the fourth, of "The Bamboo in Language and Literature;" the fifth of "New Applications of the Bamboo;" and the sixth Part contains "Notes from China" the two latter Parts forming an appendix. The book contains numerous illustrations.

"The Over-sea Emigration of the Chinese and its Influence on the White and Yellow Races," is a Study by H. Gottwaldt, published in Bremen. In this work Herr Gottwaldt deals with the history and laws of the Chinese; the recruiting of workmen; the distribution of emigrants; agreement and business relations in the foreign colonies; the extent of emigration; female emigration; the effect on China of the emigration; Chinese subjects of foreign nations; the Chinese abroad, and the yellow peril. An appendix is added containing the convention of March 5, 1886, between the Ministers of France and Great Britain and China's representatives, regulating the nature of emigration, (which convention has never been ratified nor brought into force), the Swatow Regulations, and an ordinance of the year 1896 concerning the distribution of Chinese passengers on German ships in East-Asiatic waters.

One of the most coveted volumes in the world of book-collecting, "Original Poetry by Victor and Cazire" (the pen names of Shelley and his sister), has been sold at Sotheby's for £600. It was a presentation copy from the printer to Charles Phillips. The sale-rooms were filled to their utmost limits by a crowd, which included eager book dealers, connoisseurs, and a sprinkling of American agents prepared to bid high prices to secure the treasure for the wealthy collectors they represented. £300 was the first serious bid, and the price rose rapidly £10 at a time. The Americans were keen, but dropped out towards the end, and two Englishmen were left in, Mr. Sabin, a dealer, and Mr. Wise. To the latter finally fell the prize. This gentleman, a private collector, now possesses the only two known copies of this valuable pamphlet, for it is nothing more. He securéd his first copy in 1898. The sum paid on this occasion is a record for a "Shelley," but has of course been far exceeded in the case of other much-sought-after volumes. The greatest sum ever paid for a book is £4,950 for a volume of psalms at the Syston Park sale.

The new editor of the *Academy* has followed the old in giving his readers a list of the preferences of well-known people among the books of the year. Mr. Frederic Harrison has read with most interest and pleasure Mr. Morley's "Gladstone" and Part II. of Sir George Trevelyan's "American Revolution." Mr. Andrew Lang gives Mr. Myers' "Human Personality," and Mr. Oman's "Peninsular War." Mr. Austin Dobson has read "for pleasure" nothing but Madame Sevigné's Letters, and some novels of Scott. Mr. Edmund Gosse has missed some of the most important books of the year, but says:—"I question whether any of the new books I did not read can possess more ingenious originality or a finer grace than Mr. Henry James' 'Life of W. W. Story,' which I did read." Mr. George Gissing has read Mr. Conrad's "Typhoon," Mr. H. G. Wells's "Mankind in the Making," and Mr. Morley Robert's "Rachel Mar." Mrs. Craigie votes for the "Gladstone" and S. G. Tallentyre's "Life of Voltaire."

In the *Revue Bleue* appears a most interesting letter of Balzac, hitherto unpublished, and one that gives a fine impression of the novelist's character. It bears date December 23, 1843, and relates to his candidature for the Academy, for which his poverty was known to be an obstacle among the more fortunate Immortals. This had deeply wounded Balzac, and in a letter to M. de Pougerville, an Academician and friend, he expresses himself as follows; "If fortitude in an uphill struggle, if the independence which refuses to exchange labour for irritating Government protection, if poverty constitute an obstacle to my election, then I ought never to offer myself when Fortune shall have favoured me. It would be as discreditable for me as for the Academy that gold should give a claim higher than that of a life devoted to literature. . . . You will approve, I trust, an attitude dictated by the self-respect inseparable from love for one's own good name."

AMERICAN TOPICS.

The number of illiterate children in the United States between ten and fourteen years of age is: In Alabama, 66.072; Georgia, 63,329; Louisiana, 55,691; South Carolina, 51,536; North Carolina, 51,199; Mississippi, 44,334; Tennessee, 36,376.

On the Ogden-Lucien cut-off of the Union Pacific there are 11.1 miles of permanent trestle and 11.8 miles of temporary trestle. The temporary structure, which is being gradually filled in, is in twenty-seven feet of water. The permanent trestle is nearly all in water from thirty feet to thirty-four in depth.

Before work is started on the Panama canal the Government and its contractors will be in the market for $125,000,000 worth of materials and supplies. Some of these expenditures have been summarized: Steamships and barges, $5,000,000; dredgers, $2,000,000; engines, machinery, rails, etc., $12,000,000; lumber, etc., $1,000,000; coal and other supplies, $1,000,000; horses and mules, $500,000; medical stores and outfit, $500,000.

According to the *Railway Age*, the total railway mileage of the United States on January 1, 1904, will be 209,855 miles, the present year having added 5,723 miles. This mileage takes into account all of the new track laid up to the last days of the year. Compared with 1902, the present year is about on a parity in matter of railroad construction. The construction reported was done on 380 lines and in thirty-nine states and territories, including Alaska. Early in the year it was shown that there were 8,500 miles of railroad under construction, but labour troubles and financial difficulties caused some of the work to be abandoned.

The U. S. Postoffice Department has issued a new two-cent stamp that will replace the ridiculed issue now in use. The most noticeable new feature is the abandonment of the oval frame inclosing the head of Washington and the adoption of a general shield design for the back-ground. In the upper portion of the shield all but four of the stars are hidden by the inscription, "United States of America, Series 1902," and by the upper portion of the framed engraving of Washington, which also covers the greater portion of the thirteen vertical stripes. The figure "2," which has been placed at each lower corner of the frame, is encircled by an oval laurel wreath. The three-quarter engraving of Washington, which was so severely criticised, has been replaced by an engraving of the Stuart head. Beneath this is a ribbon bearing the inscription, "1732—Washington—1799." The new issue is more neatly executed than the old, and has a darker tint.

No fewer than 62,354,965 acres are now embraced within the national forest reserves of the United States. This represents an increase of 2,179,200 acres over last year. There are now in all fifty-three forest reserves. Two additional ones have been established during the year, and two have been slightly reduced in area. There have also been some consolidations. The Yellowstone and Teton forest reserves in Wyoming and the Absaroka reserve in Montana have been consolidated under the name of the Yellowstone forest reserve, and the Lewis and Clark and Flathead reserves in Montana have been consolidated under the name of the Lewis and Clark forest reserve. It appears that, taking them year by year, the reserves are experiencing the good effects of the forest fire laws and of the enducation of the people by the forest force. Fires still occur, it is true, covering large areas, but there is a great reduction in the number of camp and other small fires discovered by the forest rangers.

"If the Pennsylvania Railroad Company had done, twenty-five years ago, what it is now beginning to do in coöperation with the United States Bureau of Forestry for its future supply of ties, namely, planting 1,000,000 young locust trees, it would now have the timber for 5,000,000 ties, worth, say, $2,500,000. Similarly, if all other railway companies, as some of the largest systems have now decided to do, had taken the suggestions of a number of far-seeing men of affairs," says the *Railway Age*, "and had planted catalpa, locust and other quick growing trees along their right of way and on vacant and practically valueless tracts of land, they long ago could have been cutting their own ties alongside their own lines, at a saving of many millions of dollars. A few companies did take the advice and started tree-growing on a limited scale, but the majority lacked the wisdom, in consideration for those who should come after them, to plant the seed of whose harvest they themselves might not reap, and so the railways have been consuming the natural forests at a tremendous rate without making any serious effort at replacement. The lost time cannot be restored or credited back to the treeless land, but it is not too late to start a general movement of tree-panting for the railways of the next generation, and it is a matter for congratulation that such a movements is now under way."

The geological department of the California University is studying a fossilized egg, preserved in a hard nodule, which is claimed by the owner to have been purchased from an Arizona miner. As far as known, there is only one other specimen in existence, that in the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. According to the experts, there can be no mistake about the nature of the curiosity, as an examination has revealed the fact that the delicate shell has been perfectly preserved, even to the fine pitting of the outside. In places where the shell is cracked the inside is seen to be filled with some mineral substance, the exact nature of which is still undetermined. Professor John C. Merriam, head of the palaeontology department, is inclined to the belief that the original organic contents of the egg have been changed by the intrusion of some delicately percolating mineral substance to form a new material, and, in order to settle this point, Dr. Arthur S. Eakle, instructor in mineralogy, has undertaken the investigation of the nature of the egg's contents. The specimen is about the size of an ordinary hen's egg, but a trifle longer. From its general character, Dr. Merriam judges that it must date from a period older that the Quaternary, and possibly older than the Pliocene.

According to the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, the outlook for tin mining in Alaska is improving. Lode tin has been found in the Lost river district, about thirty miles east of Cape Prince of Wales. The tin occurs in a dike of granite traversing limestone. Prospecting is now going on at this locality, and the outlook appears to be good. The reconnoissance work of the United States Geological Survey indicates that the distribution of tin in the Seward peninsula is wider than supposed, although the occurrence of placer tin has only been proved in the creeks at York, and in the valley of the Snake river, 100 miles east of York and about twenty miles inland from Nome. The cassiterite is grayish brown to black, and is more often confused with magnetite than with garnet. Even tourmaline has been mistaken for tinstone by prospectors unfamiliar with the mineral. Outside of Alaska the only tin mining in the United States at present is found at Gaffney, in the northwestern part of South Carolina, near the North Carolina line, The first shipment, amounting to twenty tons, of tin ore from this Gaffney deposit was recently made, the ore going to England.

Bradstreets remarks that unless all signs fail "1904 will witness the beginning of a number of improvements of great magnitude, the completion of which cannot fail to effect profoundly the transportation interests not merely of the country, but of the continent. In one case, indeed, the effects cannot be less than worldwide. We refer to the isthmian canal, the construction of which we may perhaps regard as now destined to proceed without interruption. The completion of this great work cannot but affect materially the trade routes of the world as they exist to-day. Another improvement, of smaller scope indeed, but still of high importance, is the project of the Pennsylvania Railroad to connect its system with Manhattan and Brooklyn by tunnelling under the Hudson and East rivers. The Erie canal improvement in New York is a scheme of great magnitude, and the new transcontinental railway in Canada will be a work of capital consequence to that country. Added to these, the demands for betterments on the railroads throughout the country will go to swell a demand for engineering skill and labour which should render the coming year one memorable in the annals of enterprise and industry."

The following is a translation of an article from the *Taegliche Randschau* regarding the establishment of American retail stores in Germany: "It certainly has not escaped the careful observer of our economic development that American commercial enterprises are systematically trying to gain a firm and lasting footing in the larger cities of Germany for the sale of American products by the establishment of retail stores. Wandering through the business streets of our large cities, these efforts of Americans become self-evident. Generally speaking, this was heretofore only the case with branches of a specifically American nature. Of late, however, the Americans appear also as competitors in the most varied branches of our home, large scale industry. American competition has almost paralyzed some of our industries—for instance, those of typewriters, sewing machines and cash registers. Photographers' articles and musical instruments also form an important branch of American competition. Now the experiment is added to establish American shoe stores. The tendency of all these American establishments is, above all, this: to deal directly with the purchasing public, avoiding as far as possible all middlemen"

The *Manufacturers' Record* of Baltimore, in a review of the effect of the present prices of cotton on the prosperity of the south, points out that in the last five years. during which there has been a gradual rise in the price until the present very high figures have been reached, the excess in the value of the south's cotton crop over the preceding five years is $800,000,000. The magnitude of this excess and the influence which it must have upon the prosperity of the whole country, especially upon the south, is illustrated in the fact that it is nearly twice as much as the entire capital invested in all the cotton mills of the United States in 1900; it is about equal to the present market value of the entire property of the United States Steel Corporation; it is more than the market value of the Standard Oil Company, and more than the entire capital of all the national banks of the United States. For the first two or three years of this five-year period the southern farmers used their increased earnings to pay up debts; then they began to accumulate a little, and this year, they will be in shape to spend more freely than for many years. Commencing with 1891, there was a very heavy decline in the price of cotton, continuing until 1898-99, when the average price in New York for twelve months was 6 cents a pound. The crop of that year, of 11,247,000 bales, the largest ever produced, was worth $282,000,000, while the crop for the present year, of about 10,000,000 bales, will be worth about $600,000,000. The value of the seed in each year was about $50,000,000 so that the total income of southern farmers from their cotton and cotton seed this year will be not less than $650,000,000, or at least $320,000,000 more than the big crop of 1898 yielded. The total production of cotton for the last five years has not been very much in excess of the total production for the preceding five years; but for the last five years the total value has been $2,575,000,000, against $1,775,000,000 for the five preceding years, much of the greatest gain being during last year and this.

It is not generally appreciated, but it is none the less a fact, that few articles of American export trade show a greater growth in a shorter time than do shipments of shoes. The Department of Commerce reports that for the calendar year 1903 the exports of shoes from the United States will exceed $7,000,000 in value, against a value in 1893 of only $590,754. Sixty countries or colonies of the world take these shipments, but Great Britain takes one-third of all. Curiously enough, too, the value of the shoes exported is said to be 50 per cent. greater than the value of similar exports from the greatest shoe exporting country, Great Britain. For instance, the exports from Great Britain in 1902 aggregated 9,466,056 pair, valued at $9,229,823, or about 97 cents per pair, while those from the United States numbered 3,966,766 pairs, valued at $6,182,098, an average of $1.56 per pair. Despite this excess in value the growth of the export trade from the United States is greater than that of the leading exporting country, as the following table, giving the exports in quantity and value for ten years past from the United Kingdom and the United States, shows:—

	United Kingdom.		United States.	
	Pairs.	$	Pairs.	$
1893...	8,316,588	8,259,580	493,027	590,754
1894...	8,022,756	7,854,901	647,318	777,354
1895...	8,095,440	7,692,379	822,412	1,010,228
1896...	8,940,216	8,754,979	1,036,235	1,436,686
1897...	7,707,168	7,681,624	1,224,484	1,708,224
1898...	7,667,040	7,270,215	1,307,431	1,816,538
1899...	7,241,976	6,042,588	1,934,277	2,711,385
1900...	7,562,928	7,198,274	3,016,720	4,276,656
1901...	8,142,516	8,045,250	3,492,041	5,526,290
1902...	9,466,056	9,229,823	3,966,766	6,182,098

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF JAPANESE CURRENT LITERATURE.

The December number of Dr. Ariga's organ the *Gwaikō Jihō* (*Revue Diplomatique*) has several articles on the present political situation in the Far East. Among them there is one by Mr. Makino Eiichi which discusses the principal points of difference between Russia and Japan Mr. Makino sets out by observing that opinion among the Japanese and opinion in the West differ in some material respects; specially in regard to Japan's right to interfere with Russia in Manchuria. The general feeling abroad, says Mr. Makino, is that Russia has gone too far in Manchuria to be able to withdraw. In so far as the negotiations which have been going on for many months between the Chinese and the Russian Minister at Peking have been made public, they indicate most plainly that Russia has denied Japan's right to have a voice in the settlement of the Manchurian question. It is considered in Europe that other countries have great interests in Manchuria and most people in Europe and America fail to see why Japan should feel under any obligation to act by herself in attempting to solve the Manchurian problem. In our press, continues Mr. Makino, it is all *Manshū Mondai*! (the Manchurian Question), as though that were the chief question of the hour. But it is by no means so. The Korean question is undoubtedly of far greater moment to the nation. The European press has recognized the fact that Russia is settled in Manchuria and that she does not mean to relinquish that province unless forced to do so. That it is obligatory on Japan to undertake this task nobody contends. But Russia having shown distinct signs of having territorial designs on Korea, the Western world does expect Japan to defend her rights there. The rapid increase of Russia's armaments in this quarter of the globe indicate some deep design on her part beyond the mere protection of her railway lines, and to frustrate that design we have been steadily preparing for many weeks past. The constant changes in the officers of our Head-quarters' Staff has attracted the attention of foreigners and it is asserted that the reason of this is that we are despatching officers to China to superintend the Chinese military preparations; so that in the event of war China and Japan may act together: and it is stated that preparatory orders for mobilisation have already been issued by our War Office.* For some weeks past the hope of peace has been confined principally to one quarter. The relations of our Foreign Minister and Baron Rosen are still apparently on a friendly footing, but how long this can last nobody knows. The partition of Korea has apparently been proposed—Russia to occupy the North and Japan the South, and the centre to be declared neutral territory. But this naturally Japan would not hear of. There is no hope for peace unless Russia agrees to withdraw from Korea altogether, and this nobody seems to think she will do. (*Sareba yoron no kichaku suru tokoro wa, Rokoku ga Chōsen yori te wo hiku ni arazareba, Komura, Rosen no kaiken* (會見) *wa heiwa ni sono kyoku wo musubu atawazarubeshi to iu ni aru mo, Rokoku ga kore ni ōzuru koto nakarubeshi to iu mo, mata ippan ni shinzeraruru tokoro nari*). It is recognized in Europe and America that war is inevitable if Russia persists in claiming equal rights with Japan in Korea. The exchange of Korea for Manchuria is a proposal which now finds few supporters in this country. Mr. K. Tomizu, we note in passing writes at great length on this subject in the December *Taiyō*, showing the futility of trying to permanently settle the Far Eastern question by coming to any such arrangement. My idea is, concludes Mr. Makino, that all we need to do is to occupy Korea. Having driven Russia out of the peninsula, we can leave the Manchurian question to settle itself.

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We learn from the *Rikugō Zasshi* that Dr. Inoue Enryō has decided to convert the Tetsugakkan into an independent private academy of learning, and Mr. Nakajima is still to be retained as a lecturer in the institution. The *Rikugō Zasshi* welcomes this new policy. For years past, says this organ, every private school in the country from the Keiōgijuku and the Waseda Semmon Gakkō downwards has been always hankering after Government recognition and certain special privileges, and on this account has not been free to conduct its affairs unhampered. What are needed in this country are schools that have no connection with the Government whatever. The non-Government schools have hitherto sold their birthrights, that is, their independence, for a mere mess of pottage. Let them do so no longer. Well conducted private schools stand in no need of Government patronage in any shape or form The nation is gradually beginning to see that the best school is the one which prepares a lad best for the business of life, whatever that may be. Degrees are for the most part mere empty titles, and if we were to look well into the statistics bearing on this subject to-day, we should find that our banks, business houses, and numerous companies employ quite as many graduates of private schools as they do graduates of the Universities or of other subordinate Government institutions. No names will make up for the lack of real ability, and it is high time that other educationists of note should follow Dr. Inoue Enryō in striking out in a new line. Henceforth the students of the Tetsugakkan will receive no privileges whatever from the Government beyond exemption from the Conscription Laws. In private schools the teachers enjoy liberty which is denied to them in Government institutions. If they are men of character and learning, they should be allowed to teach as they please. It is only by adopting this course that real progress is made and men of purpose are given an opportunity of imparting decision of character to others. We trust, concludes the *Rikugō Zasshi*, that there will be many to follow this new departure in the educational world.

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* This, it must be borne in mind was penned at least six weeks ago.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY).

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The New Year's number of the *Jiji Shimpō* was less bulky than last year and made a change in the kind of extra material inserted. This year's articles were mostly on scientific or practical subjects. Botany, Entomology and even shipbuilding were made to contribute instruction to readers who know next to nothing on these subjects. The summary of the events of the year published by this paper seems to us open to grave objection. It consists of little more than a recapitulation of the instances in which the paper was ahead of its contemporaries or more accurate than they were in publishing news. This savours too much of the American and English self-advertising style of journalism. The *Jiji Shimpō* is publishing a series of articles on "Industry and Health," written by Mr. Nakai Eijirō. There is no doubt much ignorance in this country as to the injurious effects of certain classes of labour on the young men and women employed. Mr. Nakai furnishes a number of statistics on the subject, derived mostly from reports drawn up in western countries. He discusses the question of hours of labour at some length. He takes the view that industry should be regulated by the Government in a special manner, as otherwise thousands of needy people will be found engaged in occupations that undermine health or will work more hours than they ought to do.

The *Jiji Shimpō* recurs to the much-discussed subject of school-textbooks. It will be remembered that notwithstanding the objection of both Houses of the Diet to granting money for the Government compilation of Primary School text-books, principally on the ground that the Mombushō was not trusted to carry through work of this kind in a satisfactory manner, the sum of 40,000 *yen* was drawn from the Government's Reserve fund and devoted to the carrying out of the original scheme. Well, it is now stated that in great haste the work of compilation was forthwith commenced by Messrs. Okada Seibi, Hoshina Kōichi and a graduate of the High Normal School, who in the space of 3 or 4 months are said to have compiled quite a number of books. Care is taken, says the *Jiji*, that the public shall not be in a position to criticize these books before they are put into use in April next. Instructions have been given to those concerned to keep their contents a secret. Educationists have reason for the greatest dissatisfaction with the manner in which the compilation has been done, and the most probable outcome of the whole affair will be that prefectural councils will refuse to make use of the books which have been prepared, as the Tōkyō Municipal Assembly has already done; and this makes it pretty certain that no Diet that may be convened will sanction the expenditure of 40,000 *yen* in the manner above described.

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The *Jiji Shimpō* writes somewhat anxiously in reference to the proposed anti-Japanese legislation in America. It holds that the question calls for great watchfulness on the part of the Japanese authorities, as the labour party in America exercises enormous influence over the action of legislators, and hence it is that every now and then great surprises are sprung on the public. Any legislation that affected Japanese immigration in Hawaii would be a serious calamity, for at the present time over 10,000 emigrants leave this country for the Sandwich Islands every year, and there are now 65,000 Japanese in Hawaii. Any laws passed in America which placed the Japanese on a level with the Chinese as labourers would be regarded as an insult to this country, says the *Jiji*: (*Shinajin to dōyō no tori-atsukai wo ukuru wa, Nihonjin ni totte, kono uye mo naki chijoku ni shite, kuni no taimen ni mo kwan suru koto nareba, sono hōan no seihi* (成否) *ni tsuite wa ōi ni chūi suru tokoro nakarubekarazu*). In view of the increase of anti-Japanese feeling in some of the States the *Jiji* recommends the Japanese Government to impose limits on the annual number of emigrants sent to that country.

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A very able and interesting article appeared in the September number of the *Taiyō*, entitled "The New Tendency of Education in England," written by the head of the General School Business Bureau, Mr. Sawayanagi Masatarō. There is no doubt that Mr. Sawayanagi is one of the ablest of the high officials of the Education Department. His rise to power was very rapid. When appointed to the Directorship of the Second High School in April, 1897, in succession to Mr. Yoshimura Toratarō, who had resigned on account of the disturbed state of the school, Mr. Sawayanagi, who had graduated in literature at the Imperial University 7 or 8 years before, was quite a young man who up to that time had been acting as Director of the Gumma Chiūgakkō. His management of a difficult situation at the Second High School showed so much real talent that after a short tenure of office in Sendai, he was appointed Director of the First High School in Tōkyō, a post which was only a stepping-stone to the headship of a Mombushō bureau. At the beginning of last year he was in England and the article before us gives his impressions of the present state of education in that country and dwells at considerable length on the radical change of opinion throughout Great Britain on educational questions. It is perhaps allowable to suppose that writing at a time when the abolition of the Japanese Education Department was under discussion in this country, Mr. Sawayanagi intended to draw a strong plea for the retention of the Department from the creation of a Board of Education in England not so many years ago and the extension of its powers still more recently. Be that as it may, Mr. Sawayanagi has, it seems to us, rightly guaged the state of public opinion in England on this question. We give below the salient points of his article. Prinicipally on account of the extraordinarily rapid progress made by Germany and the United States, it has been the fashion with some people in recent years to speak of England as "behind the age" and to represent her as in a state of decrepitude. She has been pronounced to be an essentially conservative country and radical changes in her policy have been declared to be impossible. Now I do not pretend to deny that in some few points Germany and America may surpass Great Britain, but the notion that the British have resigned themselves to the fate of being permanently left behind in the race of nations can only be entertained by persons who are grossly ignorant of the trend of modern thought in England. For a time England did doubtless think that she could afford to disregard the progress made by other countries; but she no longer holds this opinion. What do we see to-day? Instead of rejoicing in "magnificent isolation" she is seeking the friendship of other countries and has even made an alliance with us. In industry, instead of doggedly keeping to her own ways as regards machinery and the kind of fabrics and articles manufactured, she has steadily adopted improvements borrowed from other countries. In commerce the trust system, or at any rate certain combinations of capital have become increasingly common. But the change in national ideas respecting education is still more marked. Up to the present time it may be said that in education the English Government have gone on the *laisses faire* principle. Private schools have been allowed to spring up everywhere. The institutions where most of England's great men have been trained may be counted on one's fingers. These consist of 8 public schools* and two Universities (Oxford and Cambridge). So famous have been these public schools that it is said that since the year 1714, with three exceptions, all England's noted statesmen were educated in one of these schools. The exceptions were William Pitt, Edmund Burke and Benjamin Disraeli. The same may be said of the shining lights in other professions: they almost all have come from one of these schools. What to us Japanese is so remarkable about these schools is their thorough independence of the Government. The Government cannot interfere with them in any way. The Board of Education even is not at liberty to inquire into the curricula or the system of teaching followed in these institutions. It is stated that on one occasion the late Queen appointed certain commissioners to inquire into the teaching carried on at the Universities and ordered them to draw up a report. But on applying to the faculties of the various colleges for permission to collect the information required, the Commissioners were informed that on no account would they be allowed to make any inquiries and that no report would be furnished to the Government by the University faculties, and there the matter rested. The public schools, were they applied to, would certainly return the same answer. It is a striking fact that for ages England's greatest men have been trained in institutions which have neither been controlled nor even inspected by the Government. But within the past few years these schools have become the subject of severe criticism in the English press. The things said against them may be thus briefly summarized. It is affirmed that they are too exclusive, being run in the interests of the gentlefolk only. They are said to encourage extravagant habits in the scholars. They are alleged to be intensely and bigotedly conservative, to be ultra-classical and to ignore modern science and modern progress altogether. It is objected to the young men they turn out that they are all of one stamp like men taken out of a mould, that individualism is crushed by the inflexibleness of the system. But the most serious criticism of all is the allegation that the schools neither turn out real scholars nor do they succeed in making the boys trained there fond of learning. In recent years England's greatest scholars have seldom been trained at these schools. They have studied in Germany or elsewhere. The result of the whole discussion is that in the opinion of the most advanced of modern English thinkers these schools can no longer be run successfully on the old lines. They are behind the age and call for a thorough overhauling. In reference to the English Universities, we Japanese are accustomed to think that their principal function is to develop character, and that though as seats of learning they may not be equal to the German universities, this is no cause for concern on England's part. But this is not the opinion of many English journalists and magazine writers, nor is it the opinion of the leading men at Oxford and Cambridge. The latter constantly maintain that the teaching at the various colleges, especially on scientific subjects, should be thoroughly up to date and that the colleges should be supplied with all the latest appliances in order to teach efficiently.

In the matter of elementary State education a great change has come over the English public mind. The policy of non-interference has been abandoned and it is now declared to be the duty of the Government to devise a system of education for the poorer classes that shall be abreast of the times. For years it was the fashion to resent Government interference with education, but now the tendency is all the other way. The change may be said to date from 1872, with the establishment of State primary schools and the creation of local School Boards to control them. But for some time these Boards were not placed under central control: in fact not until a Department of Education was created in connection with the Privy Council. This was followed by the creation of a Department of Science and Art in the Privy Council. It was not till the year 1899 that England came to the conclusion that State education demanded the creation of a new and separate Department of State, and the present Board of Education was called into existence. The creation of this Board marks a new departure in English education, a tendency to bring all elementary education under direct State control.

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* The names of the schools given are Eton, Rugby, Harrow, Westminster, Winchester, St. Paul's, the Merchant Taylors' and the Charterhouse.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY).

In connection with the proposal to abolish the Department of Education here, Mr. Sawayanagi adduces the fact that there are only four European countries which have no Departments of Education. They are Holland, Belgium, Switzerland and Portugal. These are comparatively small countries. In America there is no separate Department of Education in connection with the Central Government, only a Bureau, but this is because each State to a large extent looks after its own schools. Mr. Sawayanagi has much to say on the enormous interest taken in education by the press and by all public men in England. The excitement caused by the Education Bill passed last year and the heated discussion which took place in and out of Parliament was a revelation to Mr. Sawayanagi. Nothing of the kind ever happens here, says this keen observer. In England the Prime Minister undertook to defend the Bill in the House of Commons instead of leaving it to be done by an under-official. Whatever measure is brought forward here by a Department is considered to concern that Department only, and to awaken national interest in such a measure is extremely difficult; and as for the Ministers of State generally, if it be a question of education, they usually treat the matter with utter indifference. There could be no greater contrast between two countries in the matter of education than is displayed by the attitude of the whole English nation to the Bill passed last year and that invariably shown here to educational questions by the bulk of the nation. Lord Rosebery's opposition, which went to the length of telling people the new law was not really binding on them, astounded Mr. Sawayanagi, but he regards it as a fine example of the earnest way in which men fight for principles in the West. He goes into a number of interesting things connected with English life and English ways which took his fancy. But we have no space to follow him further. He concludes with expressing the conviction that England has just entered a new educational era, that henceforward her progress in teaching every branch of useful knowledge will be equal to that made by the most advanced countries of the world.

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Dr. Inoue Tetsujirō and Dr. Inoue Enryō have both contributed articles to the January number of the *Taiyō* in favour of war. Dr. Inoue Tetsujirō's article is of great length. It discusses the whole situation in the Far East. We can do no more than jot down here the subjects treated by the learned Doctor, which will give a very good idea of the line he takes. (1) The writer proposes in this article to consider the current question from the point of *view of progress of the Japan's civilisation*, leaving its diplomatic, political, commercial, financial, legal, and military aspects to other writers. (2) *Japan's Situation* – Geographical, ethnological and religious, *and her situation as a highly civilised country in alliance with one of the most advanced of Christian countries.* Her present situation is unique in the history of the world.* (3) *Japan's relation to Western countries specially to England and America.* The benefits received from these country have been infinitely more than those conferred on them by us. (4) *Japan's relation to France and Germany.*—the benefits she has received from them in the matter of learning. The political attitude of these countries to Japan, their uncalled for and unfortunate alliance with Russia against her in 1895 and the feelings engendered in the mind of the Japanese nation by that event. (5) *Japan's relation to Russia.* The benefits Japan receives from this relation spring from the propinquity of the two States. Russia's nearness is a perpetual stimulus to Japanese effort. As for Russian civilisation, it is behind that of the most advanced Western nations. Beyond the writings of Tolstoi there is little benefit that the Japanese learned world has received from Russia. (6) *Our relations with Russia have for some time past been growing more and more strained*, and it is difficult to see how a conflict can be permanently warded off, considering that Russian ambition and Japanese interests are in direct antagonism to each other. (7) *Russia may be regarded as a second China and by no means a very formidable enemy to deal with.* (*a*) That country is in a very disturbed state bordering on revolution in some parts, so that the withdrawal of Russia's available forces from the home land would involve a terriuble risk to the State. (*b*) Russia's means of transport are very poor. One line of railway would in the event of a severe struggle with Japan prove quite insufficient. (*c*) She lacks facilities for repairing her ships in this part of the world. (*d*) She has an insufficient supply of coal. Victory in war does not depend on numbers by any means nor on superiority in the matter of weapons, but principally on the *personnel* of an army. It is in this that Japan is stronger than Russia. (8) *It is stated in certain Russian newspapers that have come to hand that one of Russia's objects in trying to annex Japan is to Christianize her.* This is a rich joke after Russia's recent doings at Kishineff and the outrages perpetrated by her troops in North China a year or two ago. The notion of her adopting the *rôle* of a teacher of humanity to the Japanese is one of the strangest that I have ever met with. (9) *Japan has been pronounced both weak and poor compared to Russia by certain critics.* This is a mere assumption. Her strength in war has yet to be tested against that of Russia, but I have no apprehensions on that point. As regards poverty, the country is certainly poor. But is Russia very rich? If we are poor our habits are inexpensive, our food and clothing cost but little. We can support armies at a rate of cheapness that removes half of the disadvantages of proverty. (10) *Japan must maintain peace as long as possible.* Let her not be the first to break the peace. She has held out a long time. Let her continue to do so until she is attacked. If she fight, she will fight in the cause of justice, true enlightenment and fair play, and also in the cause of humanity.

Dr. Inoue Enryō is of opinion that Japan should establish her pre-eminence in the Far East. But in doing this she must not depend upon force alone. India is not held by England by force of arms, but by adroit administration of public affairs, by fair dealing, by strength of character. It is these things that make a nation strong. In Dr. Inoue's opinion what is needed to make Japan's influence thoroughly felt throughout the Eastern world is the adoption of measures to make her the centre of a great religious and ethical movement. Dr. Inoue proposes that (1) A Confucian and Buddhist University be established in this country. (2) That Japan be made the centre of all Oriental learning, and that an Academy of Learning be founded here with branches in Korea, Manchuria and Mongolia. (3) That a huge meeting of Buddhists be held in Japan, which all Oriental Buddhists be invited to attend.

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In the *Keizai no Nihon* (No. 22) appears a very long and interesting article on "Emigration into the United States" by Mr. Motoda Toyojirō. The article opens with the remark that the Americans are the most optimistic people on the face of the earth, an observation which strongly resembles one that appeared in one of the November number of the *Spectator re* Tammany Hall. If this were not so, says Mr. Motoda, the tremendous mixture of races and the comparatively small amount of real assimilation which takes place would seem fraught with danger to the union of the republic. Mr. Motoda furnishes tables showing the number of emigrants that entered the States during the years 1902 and 1903 for which we have no space here. He compares the invasion of the States by European emigrants to the invasion of Europe by the Goths and Vandals in olden times, and the rush, he says, still goes on year after year. He next discusses the peculiar causes which in each Western or Eastern country result in this phenomenal yearly rush to the United States. Here is his enumeration under 7 heads. (1) Dissatisfaction with the political and social environment in which people find themselves in the old countries. (2) Religious intolerance, stupidity and narrow-mindedness. (3) Dissensions and jealousies caused by the mixture of alien races under despotic Governments, where the liberties of each race are constantly violated. (4) Inability to bear the heavy taxes levied in many old countries. (5) *Hatred of the conscription laws now in force in European states*, which rob men of some of the best years of their lives without conferring on them any permanent benefit or preparing them for subsequent duties. (6) Excess of population in the old countries. (7) The comparatively limited number of sources of wealth and the consequent difficulty of making a living. The three last causes may be said to influence Japanese emigrants, says Mr. Motoda. But he regrets that there should be any Japanese sufficiently disloyal to wish to escape the conscription laws. The Chinese and Japanese alike, he says, are drawn to America and American territory principally by the high wages to be obtained there, and most of them have no intention of permanently settling in a foreign country. Mr. Motoda next passes on to discuss the moral effects of this tremendous influx of European mal-contents, using the term in its very best sense. Though among all the nationalities represented there will be found some first-class citizens, the vast majority are ignorant, immoral and irreligious, occupying a very low grade among people who claim to be called civilised. According to an English emigration report that I have seen, says Mr. Motoda, for some years no less than 74 per cent. of the Irish emigrants were persons who had been in prison for some offence or other. The political effects of this mixture of multifarious races are diverse. To say that there is no such thing as an *imperum in imperio* in America would not be true. There are scores of undesirable combinations whose objects are unworthy if not absolutely immoral and the Government is powerless to deal with many of these. For voting purposes people are guided solely by their individual interests or by ignorant prejudices. The number of foreigners who use their own languages and object to assimilation on principle is very large. Within the great American world there is the German world, the Italian world, the Austro-Hungarian world, the Irish world, and so on. The ignorance, the greed, and the cliquism of the various emigrants constitute a danger to the stability of the republic which is recognized by many thoughtful Americans, observes Mr. Motoda. The real object of Mr. Motoda's article appears on the last two pages, where, with considerable show of reason, he accuses the American Government of gross unfairness to both Chinese and Japanese emigrants. From whatever point of view regarded, says Mr. Motoda, the mass of Oriental emigrants are infinitely better than the European scum which finds its way to the American shores. They make better subjects, are guilty of fewer crimes and are on a higher plane of civilisation. Yet America goes on legislating against China and not infrequently against Japan, while it welcomes with open arms the riffraff of Europe, because such riffraff happens to be white or whitish in colour. Could any policy be more foolish or more unjust, asks Mr. Motoda. It amounts to this that the standard of the American Government would seem to be a skin standard. The white-skinned may enter, wicked and ignorant though they be; the yellow-skinned shall be proscribed, despite their many merits.

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* The Doctor thinks it to be a fact of enormous significance that in the opinion of England's greatest statesmen Japan's non-acceptance of Christianity was no valid reason for refusing to enter into an alliance with her. That is a big stride in the advance of English public opinion.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY).

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Thirty-two Chinese students arrived at Shimonoseki on Jan. 15th from Peking.

An American transport arrived at Nagasaki on Jan. 20th with 1,035 soldiers for home.

A union meeting of the *Seiyu-kai* and the Progressists is expected to be held in Tokyo on Jan. 23rd.

The Japanese Consul at Lyons, under date of Jan. 16th, says that there is no change in the raw silk market.

Mr. K. Minami, President of the Hankaku Railway, died on January 19th at Osaka of paralysis of the heart.

The telephone between Nagasaki and Saseho, which is under construction, is expected to be completed this week.

Seventy-four Japanese residents, including nine infants, arrived at Nagasaki from Dalny on Jan. 18th in a Russian steamer.

Owing to a heavy fall of snow trains on the Akita-Wada and Akita-Okubo railways have been suspended since Jan. 19th.

The Commercial Bank, Taipeh, Formosa, being unable to pay its depositors, decided on January 19th to declare itself bankrupt.

Six civil engineers and thirty workmen employed by the Seoul-Fusan Railway Company will left Tokyo on Jan. 16th for Korea.

Electors in Yokohama belonging to the *Seiyu-kai* have decided to vote for Mr. Sudzuki Inanosuke in the coming general election.

The Heian Bank, Kyoto, held a general meeting on Jan. 17th, when it was decided to amalgamate with the Kitahama Bank.

Owing to scarcity of steamers, charter-parties, says the *Jiji*, have advanced in Kobe from 2.50 to *yen* 3.50 per month per gross ton.

The construction of the railway between Wakamutsu and Kitakata being completed, the line was opened on Jan. 20th for traffic.

The price of dynamite used in mining has advanced in Osaka and Kobe to *yen* 40 from *yen* 26.60 the ordinary rate. Stocks are scanty.

The *Jiji's* Kobe correspondent says that the Russian Government has chartered seventeen Norwegian steamers for use as transports.

The Nippon Cotton Spinning Company, Osaka, declared on Jan. 18th an interim dividend for the last half-year of 6 per cent.

Dowie, the Chicago faith-healer, has started on a round-the-world tour in company with some of his Zion Overseers. He visits Australia first.

Mr. K. Abe, sugar importer, Yokohama, on Jan. 18th asked the Municipal Office to accept his contribution of *yen* 10,000 towards the war fund.

Mr. T. Sakurai, Director of the Kobe Customs, left on Jan. 17th for Europe to inspect customs systems abroad as well as to visit the Panama Canal.

The *Jiji* states that an official of the Russian Treasury arrived at Nagasaki on Jan. 18th via Port Arthur. His business is reported to be the investigation of Japanese financial affairs.

The *Asahi* states that the German steamer *Tai Lee* which arrived at Yokohama on Jan. 11th from Hongkong, has been sold to the Chuetsu Steamship Company, Toyama prefecture, through Messrs. Becker and Company, No. 42, Yokohama. The paper adds that her gross tonnage is 1,301 tons and registered tonnage 826.

Gretschin and Marmsjuk, two of the men who were charged with complicity in the massacre of Jews at Kishenev, have been convicted and sentenced to seven and five years penal servitude, respectively Twenty-two others have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from six months to two years.

By a landslide which occurred on Jan. 19th on the hillside, near 724, Negishi, Yokohama, a coolie who was working at the bottom was killed.

The U.S. squadron consisting of three battleships and four cruisers under command of Rear-Admiral Evans, arrived on Jan. 18th at Manila from Guam.

A telegram from Fukuoka announces that the coal mine owners in Chikuzen and Buzen provinces have agreed not to sell their output to Russia.

According to latest official investigations, the number of dwelling houses and the population in Kanagawa prefecture were 164,806 and 996,735 respectively.

The German Minister on the evening of Jan. 21st was to entertain Mr. Yamakawa, President of the Imperial University, and the professors of the College of Literature.

The Yorkshire, Canton Fire, and Hongkong Fire Insurance companies on Jan. 20th deposited *yen* 100,000 each with the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, through the Kencho.

Y. Otaki, a farmer living at the village of Kurokawa, Toyama prefecture, entered on the night of Jan. 19th a house where he had formerly been employed and murdered the head of the family. The culprit was immediately arrested.

Mr. Morita, Director of the Commerce and Industry Bureau, will pay a visit about Jan. 25th to the district of Kawamata, Fukushima Prefecture, to examine *habutae* silk which is now unpopular abroad in consequence of defective quality.

Countess Hirosawa died on Jan. 20th from congestion of the brain a few hours after being delivered of a daughter. The deceased lady was the second daughter of Viscount Yamao and was married in 1895. She was 27 years of age.

The 34th Bank, Osaka, says the *Jiji*, has received a telegram from its Kobe branch to the effect that Viceroy Alexieff and Baron Rosen are expected to hold a conference at Nagasaki and that Russia has decided to consent to the demands of Japan.

The *Kokumin* has a Mito telegram stating that the President of the Chamber of Commerce, and the chief clerk of the City Office were arrested on Jan. 20th in connexion with the charge against members of the Prefectural Assembly who are accused of accepting bribes.

Mrs. Kaneko, wife of an engineer in the service of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, who arrived at Kanagawa from Shidzuoka by the 1.26 train on Monday, accidentally fell off the platform while alighting from a car, and as a result had both her legs broken and received some injury to her left arm. She was immediately removed to the Juzen Hospital.

With regard to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's claim of *yen* 148,000 against the owner of the Russian steamer *Progress*, which collided with the *Tokai Maru*, with the result of the sinking of the latter, the Russian Consul at Hakodate, says the *Asahi*, presented a protest to the Court contending that the accident was due to the crew of the Japanese steamer.

Miss von Rheinbaben, daughter of the Finance Minister Baron von Rheinbaben, had a narrow estape from serious injury or death in Berlin on December 17th. She fell between two electric cars, An English naval constructor, Henry Davidson, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, rushed to her assistance, and in pulling Miss von Rheinbaben out of danger was himself killed. Miss von Rheinbaben was uninjured.

The Hundredth Bank held an ordinary general meeting of shareholders on Jan. 17th when the accounts for the last half-year were submitted. The net income amounted to *yen* 148,596.25. Out of this *yen* 15,500 was set aside as reserve; *yen* 87,500 paid out as interim dividend at the rate of 15 per cent.; *yen* 11,600 granted to employees as bonus; and the remnant carried forward to the next account.

"Young Corbett" of Denver, featherweight champion, beat Hanlon of California, challenger for the title, on Dec. 30th at the Mechanics' Pavillion, San Francisco The fight was fast, Hanlon receiving very severe punishment, though he sent the champion twice to the floor in the seventh round, and after appealing vainly to his seconds to throw up the sponge, the referee awarded victory to Corbett, the latter's opponent being then completely at his mercy.

According to the *Official Gazette*, Mr. Uchida, Japanese Consul-General at New York, sent a telegram under date of Jan. 15th to the effect that owing to the firmness of buyers, and to heavy re-purchases, prices in the cotton market have advanced. Later the market fell as most of the sellers abandoned their speculative transactions. The market is over-shadowed by the Japan-Russian complication. Closing prices on the 15th for February delivery were 13.51 cents.; for March 13.72; for May 13.93; and for present delivery 13.80. The stock of cotton is calculated at 1,311,482 bales.

G. Yamazaki, a transport agent, was arrested on Jan. 17th by a Shinagawa policeman on a charge of having laid stones on the railway at a point near Shinjiku, Tokyo, on the night of the 15th. Owing to these obstacles a locomotive sustained damage. It is reported by the Tokyo papers that this man's horse, drawing a waggon was killed by a train while passing a crossing on the railway, but the railway company refused to pay compensation for the horse on the ground that the fault was not due to the train. The transport agent therefore tried to wreak his revenge.

Few men pass into retirement better earned than does Admiral of the Fleet Sir F. W. Richards, who recently celebrated his seventieth birthday. His record, says the *Globe*, is one full of good work, both on active service and in the discharge of those onerous and important duties which developed upon him as First Sea Lord of the Admiralty. His tenure of office in Whitehall synchronised with a time of great development in the Fleet, and it will be remembered that it was during his seven years at the Admiralty that the Special Service Squadron was called into being with such significant suddenness. His war service goes back to the time of Laing's Nek.

The share market which had been very shaky for several days slightly recovered on Jan. 20th, the greatest activity being shown in Osaka. The principal changes are as follows:—

	Closing price 20th. Yen.	Closing price 19th. Yen.
Sanyo Railway...........	59.40	58.20
Kyushu Railway.........	55.60	54.60
Hokkaido Colliery and Railway	66.70	65.20
Tokyo Electric Railway.	83.10	79.80
Street Electric Railway..	72.00	68.90
Nippon Yusen Kaisha...	71.70	69.60
Tokyo Gas	87.40	85.30

Although railway travelling in Russia is slower than in any other country in Europe, there are more accidents on the Russian than on any other continental system. The average speed of passenger trains is thirty-six miles an hour, and that of a few of the so-called "fast expresses" forty-two miles. Approximately speaking, there are now about 29,000 miles of railway in European Russia. According to an official return, just published, the number of accidents last year amounted to 9,890. Of these, 1,212 were collisions, and 1,521 derailments. One thousand five hundred and twenty-nine persons were killed, and 7,908 injured. The damage done to railway stock was estimated at 1,600,000 roubles, a paltry sum as compared with the terrible loss of life and the number of people injured. The greater part of the permanent way in Russia is laid without either chairs or fish-plates, the old and insecure method of rivets and staples being still in vogue, a fact that largely accounts for the enormous number of accident.

"UNION JACK CLUB" FUND.

The following subscriptions have been received at the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation for the above fund:—

	Yen.
Already acknowledged	690.00
J. T. Hamilton, Esq.	25.00
J. Dodds, Esq.	10.00
"J.C."	10.00
"B.D.Q.C.D."	10.00
Total received to date	745.00

EUROPEAN NOTES.

At the unveiling of a marble bust of Chaucer in the Guildhall Library London, on Dec. 9th, Mr. Alfred Austin, the Poet Laureate, pointed out that Chaucer anticipated by 500 years the opinion expressed by Captain Mahan on Sea Power, and also the talk about "A Fleet in Being."

The construction of tunnels along the Trans-Baikal Railway is reported to be causing the authorities a great deal of trouble. It is now stated that the electrical boring machines supplied by a foreign firm have proved to be unable to carry out the work. Thus, the constructors of the line have been compelled to entrust the work to hand labour by Italian workmen.

It is announced from Genoa, that, as a result of an agreement between the Gio Ansaldo Company and Messrs. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., of Newcastle-on-Tyne, a new company has been formed to construct warships at Genoa, with a capital of 30,000,000 lire. It will be known as the Ansaldo, Armstrong Company. The company's statute provides for the distribution of 5 per cent. of the annual profits among the employees and hands of the shipyards.

Few more sensational schemes are recorded in the annals of crime than that laid to the charge of Angelo Vicchio, well known at Naples as a dog-fancier, journalist, and artist. It is alleged that he decoyed a rich friend to his country house, extorted from him, under the muzzle of a revolver, a bequest of £40,000 and a confession of intended suicide, and then handed him over, bound, to a servant, who was to have drowned him in a bath, and hurled his body into the river. The man, however, set him at liberty.

A marriage which excited much interest was celebrated on Dec. 5th at St. James's, Piccadilly, London, the bride being the Hon. Mrs. William Keppel, a sister of Lord Saltoun, and the bridegroom—Admiral Sir Henry Stephenson—First and Principal Naval A.D.C. and Extra Equerry to the King. Amongst those present in the church was Admiral of the Fleet Sir Harry Keppel. Capt. Faussett, R.N., Equerry to the Prince of Wales, supported the bridegroom as best man. The bride was given away by her brother, Lord Saltoun.

Mr. Frederick A. Ingle, B.A. of St. John's College, Oxford, who has just been awarded the Senior Kennicott Hebrew Scholarship at the University, is probably the first Roman Catholic who has carried off that prize since its foundation. Mr. Ingle had a distinguished undergraduate career, winning both the Pusey and Ellerton Scholarship and the Septuagint Prize, and graduating with honours in the Final School. Since he joined the Church of Rome, some eighteen months ago, Mr. Ingle (who had previously been in Anglican orders) has been studying for the priesthood in the Collegio Beda, founded in Rome by Pope Leo XIII.

"Some years ago," says a correspondent, "my reply to an advertisement in a literary journal brought me a letter from Mr. Herbert Spencer making an appointment. I attended, and after an examination, brief but searching, he informed me that I might consider myself engaged, subject only to an interview with a gentleman whom he had yet to see. I was naturally jubilant. But the morrow brought a letter which put a period to my hopes. He informed me that he had, not without reluctance, felt compelled to give the appointment to the rival candidate he had mentioned, because not only did he apparently possess all my qualifications for the post, but one more to which I could certainly lay no claim—a knowledge of Chinese!"

With reference to the recent announcement that an order for locomotives for the Canadian Pacific Railway had been given to a German firm, a news agency has learnt officially that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, requiring engines of unusual hauling power, and after specifications prepared by their own engineer, offered the contract to a Glasgow firm which had been in the habit of building locomotives for them. The Glasgow firm, however, owing, it is interesting to learn, to pressure of work already in hand, could not undertake the new contract within the specified time. Other British firms, it is equally instructive to know, were in the same position, and so the order went to Germany, where the time limit was not considered an obstacle.

Speaking in London on Dec. 7th Mr. Akers-Douglas, the Home Secretary, indicated that the Government are taking practical steps to deal with the alien problem. The nature of the proposed legislation will be outlined in the King's Speech when Parliament again meets. What he described as the "dumping of the undesirable" was he said, a growing evil. There were at present 286,900 aliens in the United Kingdom and during the last 20 years the increase in their numbers had been to the extent of 150,000. Of these 135,300 dwelt in London and 54,000 in Stepney. One serious result was the over-crowding and displacement of the native population. The tendency was for these numbers still further to increase unless the immigration of aliens was placed under stringent regulations. The time had come for stringent measures.

The new battleship *Libertad*, which Messrs. Vickers, Sons, and Maxim have built for the Chilian Navy, and which, like her sister ship, also building in England, has been bought for the British Navy, completed on Dec. 5th her long series of official trials. They were carried out under the direction of Admiral Simpson and the Chilian Naval Commission, with Mr. T. E. Vickers, C.B., chairman of the Vickers and Company present. These trials consisted of lengthened runs at various powers. A 27 hours' test at 17¾ knots proved exceptionally satisfactory, the coal consumption being 1·7 lb per i.h.p., while on a six hours' trial with six runs over the measured mile it was found that a speed of 20·2 knots had been obtained. This result displaces from the position of honour, as the world's fastest battleship, the *Tzarevitch*, a battleship built in France to the order of the Russian Government, which recently obtained just over 19 knots. The *Libertad's* rate exceeds that of a large proportion of the older cruisers in the great European navies. No ship of anything approaching her power of offence and defence has ever done as well as the *Libertad* by three-quarters of a knot. This vessel, as already stated has an exceptional armament, mounting in all 42 weapons, ranging from the ubiquitous Maxim and pom-pom to the new Vickers 7½ in. and 10 in. guns, the former firing a 200 lb. projectile, the latter a 500 lb. projectile, capable respectively of penetrating modern armour at three and four mile ranges.

The Paris *Figaro* has received from the office of the Molé Society a communication stating that the report published by the journal of a passage of a speech delivered by M. Pelletan, Minister of Marine, at a dinner given by the Society, in which he was alleged to have said that nothing would be easier than to take Gibraltar from the British, is absolutely incorrect. The Minister of Marine, continues the statement, was invited to the dinner as a former member of the Society, adding, "Neither in the toast which he gave, nor in the very cordial conversation which followed the dinner, did he say what has been attributed to him." The *Liberte*, on the other hand, says too many people heard M. Pelletan's singular remarks on Gibraltar at the Molé-Tocqueville banquet for the denial now issued to be credited. Indeed, the Minister of Marine made a good many equally strange assertions on the same occasion. Not content with declaring that Gibraltar could be captured any day, M. Pelletan further asserted that owing to her numerous submarines and torpedo-boats France had no longer any need to fear the British Navy. On the contrary, in the case of war it was more than likely that the latter would have to act on the defensive before the French Navy's admirable means of attack. The Minister of Marine further delivered himself of the opinion that if Corsica were properly fortified France could be mistress of the Mediterranean, and he even went so far as to intimate the measures he intended taking to transform Corsica into a powerful naval base.

LADIES' LAWN TENNIS AND CROQUET CLUB.

The annual general meeting of this Club was held at No. 119 Bluff, on Tuesday, January 12th. The ballot for the new Committee resulted as follows:—President, Mrs. James; Vice-President, Mrs. Litchfield; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Syme Thomson; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Stedman; Gardens, Mrs. James Walter; Balls, Mrs. Read; Advisory Committee, Messrs. J. C. Hall and W. Hagen.

The hon. treasurer's statement of accounts for the year 1903 were as follows:—

ASSETS.

January 1st, 1903.	Yen.
To Balance	539.96
,, Fees	2,313.00
,, Donations to Bluff Gardens	47.00
,, do fund for returfing lawn. &c.	535.00
,, Sale of tennis balls	31.75
,, Interest from Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	20.35
	3,487.06

LIABILITIES.

January 1st, 1903.	Yen.
By Ground Rent for two years 1903 and 1904	375.00
,, Gardeners' wages and kimono	843.03
,, Tea a/c.	99.55
,, Tennis balls, posts, and croquet balls	543.14
,, Commission for collecting fees and donations	87.00
,, Fence, grass, hedge, oilcake, stones, and wellrope	47.75
,, Broom, string &c., and small repairs	18.38
,, Nets for new and gate lawns	28.15
,, Printing and Hon. Sec. a/c	43.40
,, Repairs to lawn mower	13.00
,, Returfing and draining upper lawn	714.23
,, Prizes for Spring Handicaps	62.50
,, Balance	611.23
	3,487.06

E. & O. E.

H. SYME THOMSON,
Hon. Treasurer.

Yokohama, December 31st, 1903.

LADIES' BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION.

COMMITTEE.—President, Mrs. Eldridge; Vice-President, Mrs. Bonar; Hon. Treasurer; Mrs. Baker; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. James; Managers, Madame de Sivers, Mrs. Abegg, Mrs. Merriman, Mrs. Field, Mrs. Issacs, Madame Gielen; Hon. Secretary, Tokyo.—Baroness d'Anethan.

Your committee has much pleasure in placing before you the 31st Annual Report of this Association, and of the sums of money received and how expended. The amount received during the year 1903, including the balance brought forward from 1903, is *yen* 3,758.44. The amount expended in relieving cases of necessity was *yen* 2,172.82, which leaves a balance of *yen* 1,585,60. While the balance may seem large for a charity organisation, yet the constant changes that occur in this community, and where all cases of want irrespective of creed or nationality are helped, large and sudden calls are frequently being made on the Association, and we earnestly beg that our list of subscribers may be enlarged. All donations of either money or clothing will be most gratefully received. All cases requiring assistance are thoroughly investigated by two members of the Committee and assistance given to the extent deemed necessary. The sincere thanks of the Ladies' Benevolent Association are tendered to the kind friends who have sent donations, to the King's Daughters' Circle for their generous yearly contribution towards the maintenance of a destitute sick woman at the General Hospital until her death; to Colonel Ellis of the Salvation Army, for his assistance in caring for and helping to get positions for a number of destitute men who have applied to this Association; also to the *Japan Herald* for printing our last year's Report at reduced rates. It has been thought expedient to expend the G, or Gorman fund, for the education of the two younger boys, to enable them later on to support themselves, and they have been placed as boarding pupils at Mr. Bruce-Mitford's School. The fund brought forward from 1902 was *yen* 3,838.88. After expenses for 1902, we carry forward *yen* 3,545.35. An account of work done by the Ladies' Benevolent Association during the past year will be seen by the Hon. Treasurer's report.

FRANCES H. ELDRIDGE,
President, L.B.A.

Yokohama, January 14th, 1904.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1903.

LADIES' BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION.

DR.

		Yen.
Paid to Hospital for one bedridden woman.		517.50
Paid funeral expenses and sundries for poor woman		62.00
Paid board and clothing deserted European child		150.40
Paid to assist in educating three American boys		450.00
Paid to assist poor Englishman for one year		240.00
Paid board for deserted French child		126.50
Paid schooling and board for one European child		164.52
Paid to assist poor German		120.00
Paid to assist poor American woman		60.00
Paid schooling and board for three poor English girls		120.00
Paid passage for an American woman to Shanghai		20 00
Paid to assist poor American woman		20.00
Paid to assist poor Spanish woman		15.00
Paid to assist poor American woman		50 00
Paid to assist poor English woman		6.00
Paid to assist a Portuguese		5.00
Paid to assist a Portuguese		20.00
Disinfecting expenses		10.00
Paid printing, postage and stationery account to Secretary		15.90
		2,172.82
To Balance of Society's funds represented by balance at Bank	Yen. 1,585.13	
Cash in hand	49	1,585.62
		3,785.44

CR.

	Yen.
Brought forward from 1903	1,536.91
Received in Subscriptions 1903	1,414.00
Received in Donations 1903	710.81
Interest on Current Account to 30th June, 1903	51.01
Interest on Current Account to 31st December, 1903	45.71
	3,758.44
	Yen.
By balance Society's funds	185.62

LADIES' BEVEVOLENT ASSOCIATION "G" FUND.

DR.	Yen.
To 9 monthly payments, Y.16 each	144.00
Board and tuition for two boys and sundries for one term	336.95
Balance	3,545.35
	4,026.30

CR.	Yen.
Brought forward from 1902	3,838.88
Interest to 30th of June, 1903, at 5 per cent. per annum	94.22
Interest to 30th of December, 1903, at 5 per cent. per annum	93.20
	4,026.30
By Balance L.B.A. "G" Fund	3,545.35

ALICE BAKER, *Hon. Treasurer, L.B.A.*

THE GRAND HOTEL, LIMITED.

Report of the Directors to be submitted at the Twenty-ninth Semi-Annual Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders, to be held at the Grand Hotel, Yokohama, on Wednesday, the 27th day of January, 1904.

The Profit and Loss Account, and Statement of Assets and Liabilities, for the half-year ended December 31st, 1903, accompany this Report.

	Yen.
The net profit for the half-year, including balance brought forward from June 30th, 1903, and after providing for general expenses, Directors' and Auditor's fees, bonus to Manager, and Sundry Creditors, and after writing off bad or doubtful debts, amounts to	66,627.09
which it is proposed to apply as follows:—	
In payment of a dividend of *yen* 10.00 per share for the half year	25,000.00
Suspense account	39,815 04
Carried forward to new account	1,812.05

In view of the large account, *yen* 40,511.39, written off for the preceding half-year, the Directors see no necessity to write off anything for this half-year.

To provide for certain obligations already incurred and in view of existing circumstances, the Directors think it advisable to create a Suspense Account.

Messrs. Kaufmann and Mottet retire from the Board by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

It is proposed that the dividend shall be payable on the 28th day of January, when warrants will be issued.

C. H. H. HALL, } Directors.
L. MOTTET, }

Yokohama, 13th January, 1904.

THE GRAND HOTEL, LIMITED.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st December, 1903.

LIABILITIES.

	Yen.
Capital 2,500 Shares at Yen 100	250,000.00
Sundry Creditors	9,954.30
Debentures	10,000.00
Kurumaya Security Fund	200.00
Unclaimed Dividends	646.04
Profit and loss account	66,627.08
	337,427.43

ASSETS.

	Yen.
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank	50,064.66
Cash in hand	573.74
Fire Insurance } Value of running policies }	2,581.78
Ground (Estimated value October, 1879, Yen 85,000)	60,000.00
Buildings	130,788.43
Furniture	55,828.46
Electric Light Plant	12,994.25
Steam Launch	4,500.00
Wines in stock	6,475.15
Provisions in stock	3,159.17
Cigars and Cigarettes in stock	2,814.78
General stock	738.25
Sundry debtors	6,908.76
	337,427.43

Profit and Loss Account:—31st December, 1903.

DR.

			Yen.
To Insurance Account			2,831.49
" General Expenses			33,762.47
" Directors' and Auditor's Fees			1,358.33
" Bonus to Manager			500.00
" Taxes Account			1,409.02
" Balance available for division		66,627.09	
To be dealt with as under:—			
Dividend at Yen 10.00 per share	25,000.00		
Suspense Account	39,815.04		
Carried forward to new Account	1,812.05	66,627.09	66,627.09
			106,488.40

CR.

	Yen.
By Balance brought forward from 30th June, 1903	24,098.67
" Transferred from Working Account	80,701.85
" Balance from Rent Account	1,340.00
" Balance of Interest Account	149.01
" Share Transfer Fees	4.00
" Share Warrant Fees	50
" Sale of Old Materials	194.37
	106,488.40

Yokohama, 31st December, 1903.

MARSHALL MARTIN, } Directors.
B. C. HOWARD, }

I have examined the foregoing accounts and compared them with the vouchers of the Company, and certify them to be in accordance therewith.

J. C. COX-EDWARDS, Auditor.

Yokohama, January 11th, 1904.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE DEADLY PARALLEL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—The last three paragraphs (pp. 276 and 277) of Sadakichi Hartman's "Japanese Art" (1903) and the last paragraph of Ernest F. Fenellosa's article on "Chinese and Japanese Traits" in the *Atlantic Monthly* for June, 1892, bear a most striking resemblance, as will be evident from the following parallel:—

"Thus, I believe that, theoretically and practically, it will be best for Japan to hold fast to her own ideals of Asiatic tradition. It is a solemn service which she owes to humanity. She is the last custodian of the sacred fire. She alone has the unspeakable advantage of seeing through the materialistic shams with which Western civilizations delude themselves, while she appropriates their sounder materials to rekindle her flame. In bringing to pass the fusion of Eastern and Western types which, two thousand years after Alexander the Great carried the borders of Greece to India, becomes for a second time possible, and which shall create in both hemispheres a far more rounded civilization than either has ever known, Japan has the inestimable privilege of becoming our most alert pioneer. Through her temperament, her individuality, her deeper insight into the secrets of the East, her ready divining of the powers of the West, and, more than all, through the fact that here, the spiritual factor of the problem, must hold the master key to its solution, it may be decreed, in the secret council chambers of Destiny, that on her shores shall be first created that new latter-day type of civilized man which shall prevail throughout the world for the next thousand years."—*Fenellosa* in 1892.	"Thus theoretically as well as practically, it will be best for Japan to hold fast to her own ideals of Asiatic tradition. It is a service which she owes to humanity. She is the last custodian of ancient Oriental culture. She alone has the advantage of seeing through the materialistic shams with which Western civilizations delude themselves, and of appropriating only such material as may help to rekindle her native flame. "The fusion of Eastern and Western ideas, which was accomplished two thousand years ago by Alexander the Great, who carried the borders of Greece to India, would become for a second time possible, and create in both hemispheres a far more rounded civilization than either has ever known. "Though her temperament, her individuality, her deeper insight into the secrets of the East, her ready divining of the powers of the West, and more than all through the fact that she enjoys the privilege of being a pioneer, it may have been decreed in the secret council chambers of destiny that on her shores shall be first created the new art which shall prevail throughout the world for the next thousand years."—*Hartmann*, in 1903.

Apparently, great minds *do* often run in the same channel!

Yours, &c., E.W.C.

CUSTOMS DECISIONS.

Mr. Minakami, the Director of the Yokohama Customs, gave a decision on Jan. 15th on a protest instituted by Messrs Runge and Thomas, No. 90-C., Yokohama. The firm imported some imitation precious stones with certificate of origin, on which the appraisers imposed 30 per cent. *ad valorem* duty in accordance with No. 470 of the general statutory tariff, but the importers contended that the duty should be at the rate of 10 per cent., as the articles in question are made of glass. The protest, was, however, rejected on the ground that the enforcement of the conventional tariff between Austria-Hungary and Japan, which provides 10 per cent. *ad valorem* duty, has expired.

The same day, the Director of Customs rendered another decision on a protest filed by the American Trading Company, No. 28, Yokohama. According to the decision, the firm imported a certain quantity of gelatine, on which the authorities imposed 10 per cent. *ad valorem* duty under No. 136 of the tariff. The importers were not satisfied with the imposition of this duty, insisting that it should be levied in accordance with No. 443 of the same tariff, and that the article in question was common glue, and not gelatine. The protest was dismissed on the ground that it was gelatine in the nature of its refinement.

THE CANTON-FATSHAN RAILWAY.

Within the last two or three days rumours of a most alarming character have come to Hongkong regarding the progress of the work on the Canton-Fatshan railway. According to our information, the work is practically at a standstill on all the sections of the railroad. The natives are apparently bitterly opposed to the European venture, and, if all accounts are true, are ready to resist by force of arms the incoming of the foreigners. Europeans who have come down from the line lately all tell the same tale of the Chinese showing bad feeling toward the Westerners who are engaged on the line. The attack on one of the railway construction camps lately will be fresh yet in the public memory. On that occasion the matsheds were burned and all the tools and plant were destroyed. The Europeans were chased for their lives into the middle of the river and had most of their property destroyed. Now it appears that the people in charge of the construction of the line have been informed of an imminent rising against the whites there. Orders have been issued that no Chinese are to be allowed in European houses there. It is an open secret that at Chinese New Year a rising may be prophesied in Canton similar to that which occurred a year ago. The rumour goes that all the Europeans in the neighbourhood of the new line are to be butchered. Naturally, the greatest possible precautions are being taken, and there is little fear workers being caught napping It is an eloquent fact, however, that there has been a steady exodus of men from the railway working within the last week or so. The new arrivals in Hongkong give it out as a fact that trouble is expected, and that it will be serious when it comes, Work on the line is more or less disorganised owing to the recent looting of one of the camps, and it is quite on the boards that there may be a simultaneous attack on all the camps together. The workers have been ordered not to keep Chinese in their houses at all.—*Daily Press.*

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Special Service.)

THE "KASUGA."

London, January 15.

The Japanese cruiser *Kasuga* has arrived at Port Said from Genoa.

ROOSEVELT SELECTS CONSULS.

President Roosevelt has already selected consuls for Mukden and An-tung. He sends their names to the Senate directly Congress provides their salaries.

PROMOTION.

Later.

Mr. Townley, Secretary of the British Legation in Peking, has been transferred to Constantinople.

MOVEMENTS OF WARSHIPS.

The British cruiser *King Alfred* and the Russian cruiser *Dimitri Donski* are coaling at Suez.

The Japanese cruiser *Nisshin* is passing the Canal.

The Russian battleship *Oslyabia* has arrived at Port Said.

AMERICA AND MANCHURIA.

An official communication from Washington says that the establishment of foreign Consulates at Mukden, An-tung, and Ta-tung-kou will powerfully contribute towards ensuring the policy of the "open-door," whereunto America is irrevocably committed; it will also contribute to the integrity of China and the administration in central Manchuria.

RUSSIAN TROOPS.

London, January 15.

Two large Russian Volunteer steamers have passed the Bosphorus with troops for the Far East.

THE TSAR AND PEACE.

At the New Year's reception at St. Petersburg, the Tsar said :—"I intend to do all in my power to maintain peace in the Far East."

DESPERATE FIGHTING IN SOMALILAND.

The recent action in Somaliland was fought at Jiddali. The enemy charged, advancing as far as the British square, only once, when 300 fell under the Second Sikhs' withering fire. Major Kenna pursued the survivors for four hours, slaying six hundred. The Mullah will possibly make a further stand, but not in the open.

THE "KASUGA."

London, January 16.

The Japanese cruiser *Kasuga* has left Suez.

RUSSIA AND AMERICA.

The Tsar, speaking to the American Minister at the New Year's reception, renewed his assurances sent to Washington, that Russia would not hinder American rights and interests in Manchuria.

LIBERAL VICTORY IN ENGLAND.

London, January 17.

Mr. Ben Tillett, Liberal Labour leader, has been elected for Norwich in place of Sir Harry Bullard, Conservative, deceased.

RUSSIA'S OPINION.

The *Koelnische's* St. Petersburg's correspondent says that Russian official circles maintain that war is a long way off, and that grounds exist for a complete understanding by creating spheres of influence and a neutral zone in Korea.

BIG PURCHASES OF COAL AND WHEAT.

London, January 18.

Japanese and Russian agents are buying all the available coal throughout the world. The operations have hitherto centred chiefly in Cardiff. Japan ordered 300,000 tons in England alone since Thursday. She also purchased 500,000 bushels of wheat at Winnipeg.

U.S. CONSULAR APPOINTMENTS.

President Roosevelt has appointed Mr. J. W. Davidson, now Consul at Tamsui, to act as a roving commercial agent, with headquarters at An-tung. Mr. Edward Morgan is appointed Consul at Dalny.

ILLNESS OF THE TSARITZA.

The Tsaritza is suffering from pleurisy. The Court Ball has been postponed.

ADMIRAL KEPPEL DEAD.

London, January 19.

Admiral Keppel is dead.

THE BLACK SEA FLEET.

Absolutely nothing is known at Constantinople of any application for the passage of the Russian Black Sea fleet through the Dardanelles.

ITALIAN CONGRATULATIONS.

The Italian Government has telegraphed to the British Government congratulations on the victory in Somaliland.

THE RISING IN GERMAN AFRICA.

Count Buelow, speaking in the Reichstag, dwelt upon the seriousness of the outbreak of Hereros in South West Africa. He said the fruits of ten years' labour have been destroyed. Reinforcements of troops and marines sail immediately ior the seat of action.

JAPANESE MINISTER TO MEET THE TZAR.

The Japanese Minister sees the Tzar today by invitation for the purpose of conferring.

DISASTER AT BLOEMFONTEIN.

London, January 20.

One hundred and seventy houses have been destroyed at Bloemfontein, and 25 persons drowned, in consequence of heavy rains having burst a reservoir.

THE HEREROS' RISING.

A supplementary estimate of 1,500,000 marks has been submitted to the Reichstag for the purpose of dealing with the uprising in South-west Africa.

JAPAN'S LAST NOTE.

Later.

The *Times* understands that the Japanese note plainly intimates that it is the last communication Japan will address to Russia. It announces that Japan will wait only a reasonable time before taking steps to safeguard her interests. The note also invites Russia to formally recognize Chinese sovereignty in Manchuria, and signifies Japan's inability to accept the restrictions which Russia desires to place upon the strategic measures which Japan proposes to take in Korea. Japan also declines to entertain the idea of a neutral zone.

(Received at the Legation of France.)

JAPAN'S REPLY.

Saigon, January 16.

It is affirmed that Japan's reply to the Russian note is not an ultimatum but that it rejects the Russian proposals.

FRANCE AND SIAM.

The signature of the Franco-Siamese treaty is expected. It is said that it will confirm the convention of 1902 with certain modifications. It will regulate the conditions for the evacuation of Chantaboon and will replace on a perfectly amicable footing the relations between France and Siam.

RUSSIA'S REPLY.

Saigon, January 18.

M. Nelidorff, Russian Ambassador in Paris, has telegraphed to St. Petersburg the result of an interview that he had with M. Delcassé which will have a considerable influence on the reply that the Russian Government is to make to the Japanese Government. The reply will be made on Tuesday. The general impression is that war will be avoided.

THE CRISIS.

Saigon, January 19.

The news as to the Japan-Russia conflict is re-assuring.

(From the "Deutsche Japan-Post.")

THE RUSSIAN BUDGET.

Berlin, January 15.

The Russian budget contains no provision fo any expenditures in Eastern Asia. Only for the Siberian Railway, especially for its extensio round Lake Baikal, 17 million roubles hav been allowed.

THE CHINESE TREATY WITH AMERICA

In Washington the American-Chinese treat has been ratified, by which Mukden and Antun in Manchuria are opened to the world's con merce. President Roosevelt has appointed co suls for these places.

GERMAN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

In German South-west Africa the Hereros ha commenced hostilities.

GERMAN FINANCE.

The budget committee of the German Di (Reichstag) approved of appointing consuls f New Orleans (Louisiana), Atlanta (Georgia), Sai Paul (Minnesota) and Seattle (Washington).

THE SIBERIAN RAILWAY.

To the Russian Railway Summer Time Tal the Siberian Saloon Express Train has been add The journey from Alexandrowo (German bou dary) to Dalny will take thirteen days only.

THE SITUATION.

Berlin, January 16.

The Paris *Matin* prints a report that Anglo-French pressure is being brought to bear upon Japan. It is doubtful whether this news is true.

As a result of the last Japanese note a climb down on the part of Russia in regard to the Manchurian question is expected.

At the Russian New Year's celebration (Jan. 14th), a long conversation concerning peace took place between the Tsar and the Japanese Minister.

The cöoperation of Japan and America in opening Manchuria has evidently made an impression upon Russia.

The *Cologne Gazette* prints an article which mentions in most cordial terms the strong self-confidence and quiet courtesy shown by Japan during all the negotiations.

THE PRUSSIAN DIET.

Berlin, January 17.

The Prussian Diet (Landtag) was opened last Saturday by Kaiser Wilhelm with a speech from the Throne. He said that, in consequence of commercial and industrial improvements, the financial situation of the country had improved, and a balance between receipts and expenditures could easily be made. A bill calling for funds necessary for the projected Rhine-Elbe-canal, leading to Hanover, and for the regulation of rivers in Silesia, to prevent inundations, will be introduced. The Government this time expects that an understanding concerning the canal bill will be arrived at.

THE FAR EAST.

"Ignotus"—the fictitious name of a secretary of M. Delcassé, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs—states in the *Figaro* that the peaceful influence of France is prevailing in Tokyo and St. Petersburg. The *Eclair* reports that before answering the previous Russian note England and France advised in Tokyo that Japan should continue the negotiations.

The peaceful words spoken by the Tzar to the Japanese Minister in St. Petersburg, are now confirmed by the Russian authorities. Viceroy Alexieff is expected to be recalled to St. Petersburg.

THE PROSPECTS OF PEACE.

Berlin, January 19.

The peaceful New Year's remarks of the Tsar have made the deepest impression in Europe. Especially are the French papers full of praise. The Paris newspaper, *Temps*, says that Count Lamsdorff and M. Delcassé, the Russian and French Ministers of Foreign Affairs, are very much astonished at the publicity of the alleged intentions of intermediation. The German press is hoping that Russia will now accept the Japanese demands.

The report that Russia is sending men of war through the Dardanelles is wrong.

The Tsar's telegraphic answer to the New Year's congratulations from Viceroy Alexieff prays to God for peace and prosperity during the coming year. This telegram has given new hopes in Port Arthur for a peaceful settlement of the difficulties.

GERMAN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

The riots in German South-west Africa have increased. Windhuk, the capital, is threatened. Several stations were taken by the insurgents. On the detached farms pillage and murder are the order of the day. The marine battalion is leaving Kiel for Africa to strengthen the colonial troops.

Later.

Chancellor Count Buelow in the Imperial German Diet (Reichstag) gave information regarding the Herero rising in German South-west Africa.

There is no feasible cause why the riot should take such play and acquire such dimensions. The return of hard labour and industry of twenty years have been destroyed. Great anxiety exists as regards the safety of the white colonists, who are fighting desperately against the enemies outnumbering them considerably The natives have profited by taking their chance when the governor with the greater part of the colonial troops had burried to the South to protect the colony against the revolting Bondelzwarts. The villagers in Okabandja and Karibito near Windhuk are badly pressed and the capital, Windhuk, itself is threatened. The latest news is very grave and gives cause to the greatest fear. Reinforcements for the colonial troops have been sent out from home. Further five hundred marine soldiers will depart Thursday next and arrive at Swakopmund on the 8th of February, The German gunboat *Habicht* has left Capetown for Swakopmund. The Bundesrath (German Confederation's Diet) granted at once the amount required to cover the expenses of the expedition, There is no doubt that the Reichstag will do the same.

GERMAN SOUTHWEST AFRICA.

Berlin, January 10.

The German Reichstag has agreed to the credit demanded by the Chancellor for the overthrow of the insurrection in German Southwest Africa.

RUSSIAN OPINION.

In London it is stated that Russia, to avoid war, has decided to apply to the Powers. The Russian press is said to demand freer action concerning the Balkan Question.

GERMAN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

Berlin, January 21.

From the place of insurrection in German Southwest Africa the following reports arrive: The German gunboat *Habidt* has landed a part of her crew at Swakopmund. They have arrived at Karibi. Otjimbingue is not exactly exposed to immediate danger. Omahuhu is besieged. The railway is destroyed, mostly by heavy rainfalls. The relief of Windhuk is now being prepared.

RUSSIA'S PEACEFUL DESIRES.

Russia in its differences with Japan does not desire any intervention by other Powers. The activity of the Russian ambassadors in Paris and London is explained by the wish of Russia not only to come to an understanding with Japan alone but also to make agreements with the other Powers too.

DEATH OF HERR MANNLICHER.

Ferdinand de Mannlicher, the inventor of the magazine-rifle named after him, has died in Vienna. He was born on January 30th, 1848, at Mainz, Germany.

(From the "Jiji Shimpo.")

RUSSIA'S POLICY.

London, January 19.

Mr. Jenzahoff (?) a Russian tactician, having analysed the Russian military and naval power, has advised the Government to perfect its preparations for war and to gain time.

ARGENTINE WARSHIPS.

It is rumoured that other Algentine warships have been sold.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
America	P. M. Co	Siberia [1]	M. Jan 25
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Lyra	W. Jan 27
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	China	Th Jan 28
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Gera	Sa. Jan. 30
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Tacoma [2]	Su Jan 31
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic [3]	Tu Feb. 2
Europe	M. M. Co.	Yarra	Th. Feb. 4
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Athenian	F. Feb 5
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Su Feb. 7
Canada	C. P. R. Co	Em. of Japan	M. Feb. 8
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co	Em. of India	Th. Feb 18

[1] Left San Francisco on the 5th inst.

[2] Left Tacoma on the 13th inst.

[3] Left San Francisco on the 15th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Sachsen	Sa. Jan. 23
Hongkong	P. M. Co	Siberia	Tu Jan. 26
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Kosai Maru	Th. Jan. 28
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Lyra	Th Jan 28
Europe	M. M. Co.	Ernest Simons	F. Jan. 29
America	P. M. Co.	China	Sa. Jan. 30
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Tacoma	Su Jan. 31
Hongkong	O. & O. Co	Coptic	W Feb. 3
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co	Athenian	Sa. Feb 6
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co	Em. of Japan	M. Feb. 8
America	O. & O. Co	Doric	Tu Feb 9
Canada	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	F. Feb 19

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 412, N. Teranaka, 14th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yeijio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,538, K. Noda, 14th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Radnorshire, British steamer, 1,889, C. H. Burch, 15th Jan.,—London via via ports, and Kobe, 13th Jan., General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Aki Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,995, J. W. Ekstrand, 15th Jan.,—Seattle, Wash., via Victoria, B.C., 29th Dec., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Lothian, British steamer, 3,224, J. C. Williamson, 15th Jan.—Portland, Oregon, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 772, K. Higo, 15th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hakuai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,419, C. Young, 15th Jan.,—Shanghai via ports, 9th Jan., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Alesia, German steamer, 3,312, Schoenfeld, 15th Jan.,—Hamburg via ports, and Hongkong, 8th Jan., General.—C. Illies & Co.

Shawmut, American steamer, 6,195, Wm. Smith, 16th Jan.,—Tacoma, Wash., via Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Tydeus, British steamer, 4,802, M. H. F. Jackson, 16th Jan.,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 15th Jan., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Strathgyle, British steamer, 3,284, J. R. Gordon, 16th Jan.,—Hongkong, 8th Jan., Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Ascot, British steamer, 2,786, C. E. Cox, 16th Jan.,—Portland, Or., via Comax, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Saint Hilda, British steamer, 2,269, W. Jones, 16th Jan.,—Yokosuka, 16th Jan., Ballast.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Palermo, British steamer, 4,909, E. G. Andrews, 17th Jan.,—London via ports, and Kobe, 16th Jan., General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,716, F. W. Horton, 16th Jan.,—Kobe, 15th Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,437, W. W. Greene, 17th Jan.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 30th Dec., Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Hongkong Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,434, W. E. Filmer, 17th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe 16th Jan., Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Carl, German steamer, 2,153, J. Jockimsen, 17th Jan.,—Danzig via Hongkong, White Sugar.—Otto Reimers & Co.

Sachsen, German steamer, 3,119, R. Pesch, 18th Jan.,—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, and Kobe, 17th Jan., Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer 437, N. Teranaka, 18th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, 17th Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 772. K. Higo, 19th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,369, S. Yamamoto, 20th Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,065, T. Tibballs, 20th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ernest Simons, French steamer, 2,162, Charbonnel, 21st Jan.,—Marseilles via ports, and Kobe, 20th Jan., mails and General.—M.M. S.S. Co.

Chusan, British steamer, 1,282, J. Jenkins, 21st Jan.,—Samarang and Surabaya, 4th Jan., Sugar.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Rugby, British steamer, 2,110, W. Brown, 21st Jan.,—Christmas Island, Phosphate Rock.—Cornes & Co.

Amagi Kan (10 guns), Japanese gunboat, 920, Com. Minami Yoshitaka, 21st Jan.,—Yokosuka.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 21st Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 20th Jan., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Polynesien, French steamer, 2,916, Le Coispellier, 15th Jan.,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Badenia, German steamer, 4,243, Roerden, 15th Jan.,—Calcutta via Rangoon, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, M. Teranaka, 15th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kierun Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, H. Mikuni, 15th Jan.,—Yokosuka, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Lothian, British steamer, 3,223, J. C. Williamson, 16th Jan.,—Hongkong via Moji, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 772, K. Higo, 16th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yeijio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,538, K. Noda, 16th Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kai-sha.

Aki Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,995, J. W. Ekstrand, 17th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,814, F. L. Sommer, 17th Jan.,—Kure.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shawmut, American steamer, 6,195, Wm. Smith, 17th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, and Manila, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Saint Hilda, British steamer, 2,269, W. Jones, 17th Jan.,—Kobe, Ballast.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,437, W. W. Greene, 18th Jan.,—Kobe, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Kumamoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,237, K. Iwanaga, 18th Jan.,—Otaru via Kobe and West Coast, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Radnorshire, British steamer, 1,889, C. H. Burch, 19th Jan.,—Havre, London, Hamburg and Antwerp via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,716, F. W. Horton, 19th Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hongkong Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,437, W. E. Filmer, 19th Jan.,—Yokosuka.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Tydeus, British steamer, 4,802, M. H. F. Jackson, 19th Jan.,—Victoria, B.C. and Puget Sound ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Ascot, British steamer, 2,786, C. E. Cox, 20th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, N. Teranaka, 20th Jan.,—Handa via Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 772, K. Higo, 20th Jan.,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Alesia, German steamer, 3,312, Schoenfeld, 21st Jan.,—Havre, Bremen and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Hakuai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,419, C. Young, 21st Jan.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Benledi, British steamer, 1,481, David Clark, 21st Jan.,—Moji, Ballast.—Cornes & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Aki Maru*, from Seattle, Wash.:—Mr. Braess, Mr. L. Ostrander, Mr. W. McPherson, Mrs. W. McPherson, and Mr. W. Gracey, in cabin; Mr. Haruta, Mr. Mori, Mr. Hattori, and Mr. Fisher, in second class; 41 Japanese, 1 Russian, and 15 Chinese, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Hakuai Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. N. B. Morton, Mr. J. S. Salter, and Mr. A. Wills, in cabin; 5 Japanese, and 3 Chinese, in second class; 14 Japanese, 65 Chinese, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Nippon Maru*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. T. Aoki, Mrs. T. Aoki, Mr. S. Hiraoka, Mr. F. A. Mackenzie, Mr. M. Ito, Mr. A. F. Reid, Mr. T. Tanaka, and Mr. F. B. s'Jacob, in cabin. For Nagasaki:—Mr. E. A. Merritt, Mr. L. W. Merritt, Mrs. L. W. Merritt, in cabin. For Manila:—Miss M. Ardery, Mr. Wm. Auerbach, Mr. J. W. Baumgardner, Mrs. J. W. Baumgardner, Mr. R. A. Blair, Mr. H. Borgstadt, Mr. H. W. Brown, Mrs. J. G. Brown, Mr. Peyton Carter, Mr. G. P. Cowan, Mr. C. B. Crabtree, Mr. A. C. Derkum, Mrs. A. C. Derkum, Mr. C. B. Dickinson, Mrs. C. B. Dickinson and infant, Mr. John Geraghty, Mr. V. D. Gibson, Mr. H. G. Herold, Dr. Max Herzog, Mr. W. Lamont, Mr. Sixto Lopez, Mr. L. D. Lockwood, Mr. J. A. McGuffin, Mr. H. B. Millis, Mr. Theo. Muller, Mr. P. S. Nichols, Mr. J. B. Peat, Mr. E. A. Rabun, Mr. S. A. Roberts, Mr. L. A. Salinger, Mrs. M. L. Sawyer, Mrs. J. B. Shellenberger, Mrs. G. W. Simmie, Mr. W. A. Smith, Mr. A. Steinrauf, Mr. Byron Stevens, Mr. E. R. Tarwater, Mr. F. M. Thompson, Mr. G. Wagenlander, Jr., Mr. C. A. Webster, Mr. L. P. Willis, and Mr. A. J. Storm and wife, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. W. L. Farnham, Miss J. Harris, Mrs. H. L. Keith, Miss F. Meyers, Mrs. J. B. Fascoe and Infant, Mrs. M. M. Rudd, Mr. W. B. White, and Mrs. W. B. White, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Hongkong Maru*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. B. W. Fisher, Mr. John Ryan, and Mr. W. W. Campbell, wife, 2 children and amah, in cabin. For Honolulu:—Mr. W. A. Edgar, Mr. G. R. Venables, Mrs. E. W. Sterling, Dr. O. Merleker, Miss Nichols, Miss E. Mathie, Mr. F. G. Pyne, Mr. H. O. Pirley, Mr. E. W. Sterling, and Miss E. D. Kellar, in cabin.

Per German steamer *Sachsen*, from Europe via ports:—Mrs. B. Kellevink, Mrs. H. M. Hancock, Mr. von Metternich, Mr. Otto Gonnermann, Mr. Klaus von Drathen, Mr. Robert Mayor, Mr. Alfred Woolley, Mrs. Neubert, Mr. D. Colman, Mr. H. W. Lea, Miss Hatcher, Mr. Geo. Marshall, Baroness Hosoya, Mr. Abdoulaf Toussouf, Mr. and Mrs. Benari, Mrs. Grand, and Mr. Diederich, in cabin.

Per French steamer *Ernest Simons*, from Marseilles via ports:—Mr. Deboulet, Mr. Baud, Col. A. W. Noyes, Mr. Hezard, Mr. Valdelievre, Mr. de A. Thomas, Mr. Magdalena, Mr. Marquis and Mrs. Pontus in cabin

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mrs. V. A. C. Hawkins, Mr. V. A. C. Hawkins, Mr. Robt. Fulton, Mrs. W. C. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. N. Pope, Mr. Haberer and servant, Mr. Graystone and servant, Mr. Hemsted, Mr. L. F. Davydoff and 2 servants, Mr. R. Sale, Mr. and Mrs. A. Cameron, Mr. Hantot, and Mr. A. J. Cawdrey, in cabin. For Vancouver:—Mr. A. W. Parks, Mr. J. D. Wall, Mrs. A. C. Gutzler, Mrs. G. L. Hall and child, Mr. A. Cheek, and Mr. L. Debrunner, in cabin; 1, in intermediate; 43, in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Polynesien*, for Marseilles via ports:—Mr. E. Matthaei, Mr. Paw Kong Chew, Mr. Inouye, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. L. Munyon, Mr. Fong Ming, Mr. Wong Kwong, Mr. Yuk Chi, Mr. Cheung Sun Woo, Mr. Wong Sik Chung, Mr. St. Guillaume Michel, Prince Ichijo, Princess Ichijo, Princesses Ichijo, Mr. and Mrs. Okoshi, Mr. Fevre, and Mr. Yamada, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Nippon Maru*, for Kobe:—Mr. Wm. Auerbach, Mr. J. W. Baumgardner, Mrs. J. W. Baumgardner, Mr. R. A. Blair, Mr. H. Borgstadt, Mr. H. W. Brown, Mr. J. G. Brown, Mrs. J. G. Brown, Mr. Peyton Carter, Mr. G. P. Cowan, Mr. Mr. C. B. Crabtree, Mr. A. C. Derkum, Mrs. A. C. Derkum, Mr. C. B. Dickinson, Mrs. C. B. Dickinson and infant, Mr. W. L. Farnham, Mr. John Geraghty, Mr. V. D. Gibson, Miss J. Harris, Mr H. G. Herold, Dr. Max Herzog, Mrs. H. E. Keith, Mr. W. Lamont, Mr. L. D. Lockwood, Mr. Sixto Lopez, Mr. J. A. McGuffin, Miss F. Meyers, Mr. H. B. Millis, Mr. Theo. Muller, Mr. F. S. Nichols, Mrs. J. B. Pascoe and infant, Mr. J. B. Peat, Mr. E. H. Rabun, Mr. S. W. Record, Mr. M. M. Rudd, Mr. L. A. Salinger, Mrs. J. B. Shellenberger, Mrs. G. W. Simmie, Mr. W. A. Smith, Mr. A. Steinrauf. Mr. Bryon Stevens, Mr. A. J. Storm, Mrs. A. J. Storm, Mr. E. R. Tarwater, Mr. F. M. Thompson, Mr. G. Wagenlander, Jr., Mr. C. A. Webster, and Mr. L. P. Willis, in cabin.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw & Waste silk shipped per steamer *Polynesien*:

	RAW.				WASTE.			
	Marseilles	Lyon.	Russia.		France	Lyons	Russia.	
Siber Wolff & Co....	67	299	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sulzer Rudolph & Co.	47	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sieber & Co.	65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Boyer Mazet Guillée Co.	134	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
L. Mottet	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—
Cl. Eymard	—	10	—	—	77	—	—	—
Ulysse Pila & Co....	—	57	—	—	—	—	—	—
H. Bernardin & Co.	—	30	—	—	—	—	—	—
Robison & Co.	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Longin & Co.	—	28	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bavier & Co.........	—	—	—	—	122	—	—	—
Total...........	313	360	15	—	199	—	—	—

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

No improvement in Yarns and the prospect of war seriously affects imports of Cottons. There is persistent enquiry for Whites, as the market is bare of supplies, but little business is booked owing to the strength of Cotton. In other branches business is also quiet.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER YARD.
White Shirting—{40 yds. 36 in. 50 yds. 36 in.} ...	0.09 to 0.10
	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼ lb, 38½ yds, 39 inches	Y.2.85 to 3.60
Grey Shirting—9lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.80 to 4.25
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches...	3.00 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton Italians and Satteens...	0.20 to 0.40

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	Y.0.35 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 32 in....	0.30 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches...	0.16 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.50 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 65 inches ...	0.90 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches... ...	0.60 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0.60 to 0.66
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	9.50 to 12.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches...	0.90 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches...	1.90 to 2.25
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 5lb, 24-25 yards, 32 inches...	2.50 to 3.65

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Y. 140.00 to 150.00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	—
Nos. 38/42, Singles	—
Nos. 32, Doubles...	145.00 to 150.00
Nos. 42, Doubles...	155.00 to 160.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/100, Plain...	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	245.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	295.00 to 305.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	425.00 to 435.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling...	Nominal.	33
Indian Broach...		26
Chinese		23

METALS.

The market is quiet; home prices have strengthened owing to an advance in freights.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ⅝ inch and upward...	Y.3.95 to 4.25
Iron Plates, assorted	4.25 to 4.45
Sheet Iron...	4.45 to 6.70
Galvanised Iron sheets	10.10 to 11.10
Wire Nails, assorted	5.30 to 5.90
Tin Plates, per box...	6.40 to 7.30
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.95
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1⅝ inch)	4.95 to 5.45

KEROSENE.

The market is firm.

American	$3.25
Russian	3.10
Langkat	2.90

SUGAR.

A little more business is doing but the advance in silver exchange is restricting sales.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	Y.6.00 to 6.30
Brown Manila...	5.90 to 6.90
Brown Daitong	4.80 to 6.20
Brown Canton...	5.50 to 7.60
White Java and Penang...	7.10 to 7.90
White Refined...	8.50 to 11.25

INDIGO.

Nothing doing.

	PICUL.
Java, Medium to best...	270.00 to 320.00
Calcutta, Medium to best	180.00 to 290.00
Madras (*Kurpah*), Medium to best ...	140.00 to 170.00
Madras (Dry Leaf), Medium to best ..	100.00 to 140.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The covering of short sales by speculators and the closing down of many filatures owing to the cold have materially reduced stocks which at present amount to about 14.000 bales. Re-reels have been in good demand but scant supply.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra Best, Coarse	Y.1,090 to 1,095
Filatures—Extra, Fine	1,030 to 1,035
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	—
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	930 to 935
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	1,000 to 1,010
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	910 to 915
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	940 to 950
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	890 to 900
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	—
Common—Coarse	—
Re-reels—Extra	940 to 950
Re-reels—No. 1	930 to 935
Re-reels—No. 1½	910 to 915
Re-reels—No. 2	900 to 905
Re-reels—No. 3	950 to 955
Kakedas—Extra	925 to 930
Kakedas—No. 1	910 to 915
Kakedas—No. 1½...	890 to 895
Kakedas—No. 2	

WASTE SILK.

Small business but prices remain firm at quotations.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	180 to 185
Noshi—Filatures, Good	170 to 175
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	125 to 130
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	115 to 120
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	

Noshi—Bushiu, Good...	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Joshiu, Best	130 to 135
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	120 to 125
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	150 to 160
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	140 to 145
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	70 to 80
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	70 to 80

TEA.

Nothing to report.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	—
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine...	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common...	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, January 21.

London silver ⅛ lower, Shanghai sterling quotations quoted ⅛ lower, Hongkong ⅛ lower have caused local rates on China to harden further whilst other rates have not been affected, quotations for the outgoing mail per steamer *Empress of China* being as under.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 1/16
— — Bills on demand..............	2/0⅛
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 5/16
— Private 4 months' sight..............	2/0 5/16 @ ⅜
— — 6 months' sight..............	2/0 11/16 @ ⅜
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	251½
— Private 4 months' sight......	257½ @ 7
— — 6 months' sight......	258½ @ 8
Hongkong—Bank sight .... per $100.	92½*
— Private 10 days' sight do.	79⅝*
Shanghai—Bank sight	78*
— Private 10 days' sight	80½*
India—Bank sight	149½
— Private 30 days' sight	152½
America—Bank sight..............................	48¾ @ ¾
— Private 30 days' sight	49¾ @ ½
— Private 4 months' sight	50¼ @ ⅛
Germany—Bank sight	205 @ 4½
— Private 4 months' sight...........	210 @ 9½
Bar Silver (London)	26⅛

* Nominal.

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, January 21.

Club Hotels, buyers at *yen* 70, offers of shares are wanted. Grand Hotels changed hands at *yen* 240 cum the dividend now due. Helm Bros., a few shares changed hands at *yen* 45. Langfeldts, buyers at *yen* 30. Nickels, sellers at *yen* 37. Kirin Breweries, sales at *yen* 105. Y. U. Club debentures, sales at *yen* 110.

	YEN.	
Yokohama E. & I. Works	90	Buyers.
Grand Hotel	240	Sellers.
Club Hotel............................	70	Buyers.
Oriental Hotel, Kobe	75	Nominal
Langfeldt & Co......................	30	Buyers.
Japan Brewery Co.	105	Sales.
C. Nickel & Co......................	37	Sales.
Helm Bros.	40	Buyers.

Telephone No. 323.

TELEGRAPHIC QUOTATIONS.

January 19.

Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	$642½	Sellers.
Indo-China Steamship Company, Limited..........................	T.51	Sales.
Punjom Mining Company, Limited	$ 1	Sales.
Raub Australian Gold Mining Company, Limited	6	Sellers.
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co., Ld...............	95	Sellers.
Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Company, Limited. .	157	Buyers.
Humphrey's Estate and Finance Company, Limited	11½	Sales.
Green Island Cement Co., Ltd....	24½	Sellers.
S. C. Farnham Boyd & Co., Ltd.	T.123	Buyers.
Shanghai Land Investment Company. Limited	107	Buyers.

A. C. HUTTON POTTS,
Stock and Share Broker,
75, Main Street.

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And Other Itching, Burning, Scaly Eruptions with Loss of Hair.

Speedy Cure Treatment.

Bathe the affected parts with Hot Water and Cuticura Soap, to cleanse the surface of crusts and scales, and soften the thickened cuticle. Dry, without hard rubbing, and apply Cuticura Ointment freely, to allay itching, irritation, and inflammation, and soothe and heal, and lastly take Cuticura Resolvent Pills, to cool and cleanse the blood. A single set is often sufficient to cure the most torturing, disfiguring, itching, burning, scaly, pimply humours, eczemas, rashes, irritations, and chafings, with loss of hair, when all else fails.

The agonizing itching and burning of the skin, as in eczema; the frightful scaling, as in psoriasis; the loss of hair and crusting of the scalp, as in scalled head; the facial disfigurement, as in pimples and ringworm; the awful suffering of infants and the anxiety of worn-out parents, as in milk crust, tetter, and salt rheum,—all demand a remedy of almost superhuman virtues to successfully cope with them. Such are the CUTICURA remedies, the purest, sweetest, most speedy and economical curatives for the skin, scalp, and blood ever compounded. Mothers are their warmest friends.

Millions of Women Use Cuticura Soap

Assisted by CUTICURA OINTMENT for preserving, purifying, and beautifying the skin, for cleansing the scalp of crusts, scales, and dandruff, and the stopping of falling hair, for softening, whitening, and soothing red, rough, and sore hands, for baby rashes and chafings, in the form of baths for annoying irritations and inflammations of women, or too free or offensive perspiration, in the form of washes for ulcerative weaknesses, and many sanative, antiseptic purposes which readily suggest themselves, as well as for all the purposes of the toilet, bath, and nursery.

CUTICURA RESOLVENT PILLS (Chocolate Coated) are a new, tasteless, odourless, economical substitute for the celebrated liquid CUTICURA RESOLVENT, as well as for all other blood purifiers and humour cures. Put up in screw-cap pocket vials, containing 60 doses.

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JANUARY 30TH, 1904.

MARRIAGE.

On Thursday, the 21st January, 1904, at the residence of Dr. A. G. Smith, No. 10 Bund, Yokohama, by the Rev. E. S. Booth, in the presence of E. C. Bellows, Esq., Consul-General of the United States, GEORGE DENISON MORGAN, of New York, to Miss YUKI KATO, of Kyoto. New York papers please copy.

DEATH.

At Okayama, on Jan. 24th, Mrs. HISA YAMADA, beloved mother of Mrs. Gauntlett, aged 58 years.

At Shanghai, on the night of the 26th inst., CHARLES STANLEY MOSS, third son of the late Chas. D. Moss, of Yokohama, aged 24 years.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

OWING to a heavy snow fall the Buddhist temple Shinseiji, at Ogawa-cho, Kanazawa, collapsed on Jan. 25th.

AN explosion occurred on Jan. 25th at the Komatsu coal mine, Fukuoka prefecture. Two workmen were severely injured.

THE Central Tea Guild received a telegram on Jan. 23rd from its branch at New York to the effect that the tea market was again quiet.

IT is rumoured in Peking that the control of the Russo-Chinese Bank is to be transferred from the Ministry of Finance to a Special Commission.

MISS T. YASUI, who has been engaged by the Siamese Court as an adviser for the proposed Peers' Female School, left Kobe on Jan. 24th for Siam.

BARON SHIBUSAWA, President of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce, and of the First Bank, who was suffering from severe illness for some weeks, is reported by the *Nichi Nichi* to be recovering.

IT is telegraphed from Otaru, that owing to a heavy snow storm, a junk capsized on Jan. 21st off Shikinai, with the result that seven fishermen were drowned.

A TELEGRAM from Shimonoseki states that the branch of the Bank of Japan received on Jan. 23rd silver coins amounting to *yen* 500,000 from the Osaka Mint.

MR. MOROI, Japanese Consul at Antwerp, telegraphs that the committee for the International Sugar Industry will hold a conference on March 15th at Brussels.

AN official telegram from Formosa reports that a case of plague appeared at Tainan on Jan. 20th and another at Taipeh on the following day. The former case proved fatal.

A LOCOMOTIVE and two cars of a train on the Nippon Railway were derailed on the morning of Jan. 22nd at a point between Kominato and Kariba. One person was injured.

THE floor of the fourth-storey room of the Onoda Cement Company, Yamaguchi collapsed on Jan. 22nd with the result that a female worker was killed and three others were injured.

THE Sultan of Johore has gone to Europe with his motor car, chaffeur, and retinue of servants. He expects to be away about two years. From Marseilles he will travel to Paris in his car.

DURING the last voyage of the Italian sailing ship *Lothair* from Callao to Hongkong, fifty-five of her Chinese passengers died. Old age was reported to be the cause of death in each case.

ACCORDING to official statistics, the number of suicides in Japan in 1903 aggregated 465—287 male and 178 female. There were also 217 instances of attempted suicide—109 male and 108 female.

THE pilot's certificate of Capt. James, who was in charge of the M. M. steamer *Australien*, as pilot, when she stranded in the Inland Sea, has been suspended by the Osaka Marine Bureau for two months.

A MAN armed with a sword early on the morning of Jan. 24th entered the dwelling of a merchant, at Kawasaki. Having tied up the family with copper wire, the intruder stole a number of articles.

A FIREMAN employed by the Tokyo Gas Company attempted to murder a companion on the evening of Jan. 13rd, inflicting severe injuries on the arm with a large kitchen knife. He was arrested on the following night.

THE Crown Prince who had been indisposed for about a week is reported to have recovered. He is expected to leave a shortly for Hayama accompanied by the Crown Princess. They will stay there during the cold season.

THE British steamer *Afridi* of 3,648 gross tons (whose Yokohama agents are Messrs Dodwell and Company) has been chartered by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. The *Asahi* states that she will be employed on the North China line.

A ROBBER, H. Numano (31), was executed on Jan. 21st at the Ichigaya jail. He entered on the night of Aug. 21st, 1900, the dwelling of T. Yamamoto, a wealthy farmer, living at Tsuga, Chiba prefecture, and killed the latter with a large cooking knife. Having been arrested, the culprit was sentenced in the Chiba Court to death but he appealed to the Tokyo Appeal Court. In the latter Court, the appeal was rejected and the original sentence confirmed.

MARQUIS ITO, who has been staying in Tokyo for a few days by order of the Emperor, proceeded to his villa in Oiso on Jan. 21st. Count Katsura, the Premier, who has been indisposed is reported to have recovered.

THE *Kokumin* states that early on the morning of Jan. 25th two robbers entered the dwelling of Miss S. Ballard, living at Yarai-machi, Ushigome, Tokyo. Having tied up two female servants, they took away *yen* 3 and a gold watch.

MR. MIMASU, Japanese Consul at Seoul, telegraphed on Jan. 25th that the reports published by Japanese papers with regard to the riots at Tienan and other places are exaggerated. The fact is that only some ten thieves are causing the uneasiness.

THE recently-purchased Chilian battleship *Libertad*, now the property of the British Government, is to be named the *Triumph*, taking the place on the Navy List of the recently withdrawn ship of that name, which formerly did guard duty on the Pacific Station.

A FORGED ten *yen* note was found on Jan. 23rd in the shop of a tobacco dealer living at Kanasugi, Shitaya, Tokyo. A man looked about forty years old bought cigarettes of *sen* 20 and stoll *yen* 9.80. The counterficted note was later removed to the police station by the receiver.

A TELEGRAM from Taipeh, Formosa, reports that the guards are searching at Kotosho for the natives who last month attacked an American ship that had taken shelter in the bay after a storm. More troops will be sent to the place within a few days to punish the tribe.

ACCORDING to the investigations of the Kanagawa Kencho, deaths in this city in 1903 numbered 1,662 of which 855 were due to scrofulous complaints. This disease has been gradually increasing during the past few years. The present figures are 19.4 per 100 deaths, while in 1902 it was 15.7 per 100.

IT is stated by the *Jiji* that the steamer *Seigi Maru* (600 gross tons) went ashore on Jan. 22nd off Kafuri on her way from Nagasaki to Hakata. The hull was filled with water, the cargo being all damaged. She was built in 1864 in Scotland. The Tokyo Marine Insurance company insured the hull.

BY the *Siberia* on Monday a whole batch of war-correspondents arrived. They included the novelist, Mr. Jack London, representing the Hearst Syndicate; Captain Lionel James, who with Mr. Frazer, represents the London *Times*; Mr. Frederick Palmer for *Collier's Weekly*; Mr. Percival Phillips of the London *Express*, and Mr. Sheldon Williams of the London *Sphere*.

ACCORDING to telegrams from north-eastern districts, severe snow storms have prevailed since January 21st. The steamer *Esashi Maru* experienced a storm on the 22nd on her way from Masuke to Otaru with the result that four of the crew were washed overboard by the waves. Owing to the heavy snowfall, a school and two dwellings at Shakotan, Hokkaido, collapsed. Three persons were killed. Railway traffic in the prefecture of Awomori and in the neighbourhood of Wakamatsu was suspended on Jan. 21st, and between Mure-Naoyetsu, Fukushima-Yonezawa, etc., on the following day.

THE SITUATION.

Friday, January 22.

We observe that some of our local contemporaries have assumed the correctness of a London telegram saying that Japan's note of the 13th instant contained a declaration that it was the last communication this Empire would address to Russia on the subject; that, failing a satisfactory reply, a reasonable time would be allowed to elapse whereafter such measures as might seem necessary for the preservation of Japan's interests would be adopted, and that Japan objected altogether to the principle of a neutral zone. The exact contents of the Japanese note are still kept secret, but enough information is possessed to justify us in saying that the statements contained in the London telegram should be regarded with some incredulity. We do not think that the note was textually described as an ultimate communication, nor do we think that it contained any threat concerning recourse to active measures after the lapse of a reasonable time, nor do we think that the principal of a neutral zone was rejected. Beyond negations, however, we are unable to go, and we frankly confess that even these negations are not based on official authority. Two things, however, seem to be openly acknowledged and generally accepted as certain, namely, that Japan has never wavered in her moderate proposals and that Russia has hitherto treated them in an evasive manner. Japan has asked for one thing, and Russia's method has been to ignore Japan's askings and substitute askings of her own. That method does not conduce to a settlement, and the probability is that Japan's note of the 13th re-stated the issues in a much more insistent fashion than that previously adopted.

The people of Tsushima are said to be making arrangements for the transfer of their old folks and children to Moji, Hakata and Shimonoseki in the event of an outbreak of hostilities. Tsushima, if it possesses great natural beauties, has the misfortune to be situated in the very centre of the probable field of operations, or at least, one of the probable fields. Its position inflicted great suffering on its inhabitants in the days of the Mongol invasions.

The Wakamatsu Foundry is reported to be working day and night manufacturing rails for the Seoul-Fusan line. It appears further that whereas officers on the seconded list had been largely employed there, they have all been now withdrawn.

From Bakan it is stated that the passage of ships has become remarkably infrequent. There are now, however, 14 steamers in the Strait all loading coal to fill Russian orders.

The Japanese residents of Fusan are making arrangements to organize a corps of volunteers in the event of an outbreak of hostilities. Their spirit is said be very high. They are taking various measures to assist the operations of Japanese war ships, and many of them have offered to contribute money.

Saturday, January 23.

Events are likely to shape themselves so rapidly at this juncture that what we write at one moment may be stale or worthless news a few hours hence. However, it is necessary to take that risk and to record things as they come.

The Chinese Representative in St. Petersburg is said to have reported to his Government that Russia, seeing the determined mien of Japan, has become desirous of invoking the intervention of a third Power, and that the Tsar made an intimation in that sense to Mr. Kurino on the occasion of the latter's recent audience. Intervention is the next best thing to arbitration and such a suggestion as the above would well become a monarch so conspicuously favourable to peace as the Emperor of Russia. But we do not for an instant believe that any suggestion of the kind was made.

The London *Daily Telegraph's* St. Petersburg correspondent has telegraphed (*Asahi Shimbun*) to that journal saying that Viceroy Alexieff recently addressed a memorial to the Throne. The views expressed by the Viceroy are said to be that Russia's geographical and military position ensure the ultimate accomplishment of her aims at a future date, and that from whatever quarter resistance then comes, it will be powerless to prevent the result. But at present preparations are incomplete in precisely the quarter where Russia's greatest strength should lie, namely, the army, and consequently the Viceroy recommends that the resources of diplomacy be employed to effect a temporary settlement so as to avoid an open rupture with any Power immediately. It is difficult to imagine that if such a memorial had been addressed to the Throne, its contents could have become so accurately known to any foreign correspondent. Therefore we take leave to doubt the *Daily Telegraph's* information, though its resemblance to the news sent by Reuter on the 22nd instant is sufficiently remarkable.

With regard to the question of M. Bezobrazoff and his patron the Grand Duke, the former of whom is in Italy and the latter in France, the *Jiji Shimpo* learns on good authority that the departure of the two men from St. Petersburg, though very significant in appearance, is not due to their having fallen into discredit with the Tsar, or to the defeat of the War Party The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, however, while not crediting any statement as to the fall of the War Party, believes that the Private Secretary and the Grand Duke are not in full agreement with their Imperial master, though our contemporary deprecates the idea of basing any greatly pacific hopes on that hypothesis. The Grand Duke has an excellent reason for going to Nice, his invalid mother being there.

Concerning Russia's answer; some folks in Tokyo confidently asserted that it had been received on the 20th instant, but considering that the translation of Japan's note and its transmission did not take place until the afternoon of the 14th, it would evidently have been most improbable that a reply could have reached Tokyo by the 20th. The 23rd or 24th is the earliest reasonable date, and we ourselves incline rather to the 26th or 27th.

The *Dempo* insists that the official view is that Japan's demands must be conceded in their entirety or she will not desist from drawing the sword. But inasmuch as there never yet has been a pacific settlement without some concession on each side, the attribution of such sentiments to Japanese officials can scarcely be credited.

As to the reported interview between the Tsar and Mr. Kurino, the *Asahi Shimbun* says that no news of anything of the kind has been officially conveyed to Tokyo. Of course it is inconceivable that had the Emperor of Russia taken such an exceptional step, the Japanese Representative would have failed to report it, not after the event, but before it.

On the whole, despite the present indications of a peaceful settlement, Tokyo newspapers appear to have little if any expectation that war will be avoided. Evidently an opinion prevails that if the Japanese Cabinet make the least concession, its immediate down-fall and even worse things must be immediately anticipated, whereas that Russia should wholly abandon her position is scarcely to be anticipated. We need not insist upon the self-evident proposition that whatever the Cabinet does will have the endorsement of the Elder Statesmen and the approval of the Sovereign. The Ministers of the Crown, the *Genro* and the Mikado represent a pretty strong combination, and though the nation has set its teeth—a result which we have anticipated for some time with no little apprehension—it is not to be believed that the moderation which has hitherto distinguished Japan will forsake her at the last moment. Yet all careful observers must fully appreciate that the situation bristles with difficulties and that Russia has allowed matters to reach a point whence peace can not be reached without an extraordinary effort.

Various statements are published about meetings of Russian diplomatic officials and naval and military attaches at the Russian Legation in Tokyo, and about private messengers. We often think that if so many false reports are circulated in Tokyo about the doings of Russian officials in that capital, not much reliance can be placed on similar rumours coming viâ Reuter and other sources from St. Petersburg.

Sunday, January 24.

From Peking the *Jiji Shimpo's* correspondent sends news that a very unsatisfactory state of affairs exists at Port Arthur. Frequent desertions are taking place, so frequent that the Viceroy has ordered all outward-bound vessels to be strictly searched. It is further stated that whereas the place was supposed to be provisioned for five years (!) the stock of supplies actually on hand would not last more than five months. This fact having been discovered owing to investigations recently ordered by the Viceroy, several of the responsible officers have been severely punished. News of these disquieting conditions having reached St. Petersburg, the Government there will probably despatch General Kuropatkin to Port Arthur to make an inspection and to appease the anger naturally felt by the staff officers who find themselves in such a plight. We wonder whose imagination is responsible for that story.

The Chinese Minister in St. Petersburg is said to have telegraphed to his Government that Russia is much hampered by prospects of trouble in the Balkan Peninsula, and that her policy in the Far East is correspondingly affected, those that advocate war with Japan having greatly weakened. Now is the time, the Minister thinks, for China to adopt a firm mien with a view to recovering the Three Provinces.

It is stated by the *Nichi Nichi's* correspondent that a great part of the Russian cavalry at Port Arthur is apparently preparing to march to Vladivostock. That would be indeed a strange movement at this season of the year.

Japanese newspapers allege that the Russo-Chinese Bank at Newchwang has stopped all loans and is taking measures to collect monies due to it as expeditiously as possible.

Berlin, according to the *Jiji Shimpo's* news, publishes St. Petersburg telegrams saying that Russia intends to postpone for an indefinite time any reply to Japan's last note.

The Moscow correspondent of *The Times* wires to that journal that two of the Grand Dukes are urging the Tsar to declare war against Japan, and that His Majesty is much perplexed.

Public opinion in England (*Jiji Shimpo's* telegrams) is unanimously persuaded that Japan is fighting on the world's behalf in the cause of civilization and progress.

The *Asahi* has a London telegram saying that a Council of State was held in St. Petersburg on the 20th instant under the presidency of the Tsar himself, and that the question of the answer to be sent to Japan was discussed. No decision was reached, there being a very marked conflict of views.

A few days ago it was announced that the Privy Council had examined and approved the draft of a law relating to marine defences. This law has now been promulgated. It empowers the Minister of State for the Navy to stop all maritime communication and to adopt any defensive measures he may deem advisable at any place in Japanese waters. In the event of emergency similar power is vested in the officers commanding at naval stations. When places have been selected as within the zone of defence all passage of ordinary vessels will be interdicted from sunrise to sunset, and the prohibition will be extended to the night also in the case of naval ports or special ports. This law becomes operative from the day of its promulgation and it embodies severe penalties for its violation.

Stocks and shares took an upward start on Saturday in Tokyo, but, so far as we can learn, this was due solely to Reuter's pacific news, which is virtually contradicted by his subsequent telegram. For he tells us this morning that Russia insists on the recognition of her own political and strategical influence in Manchuria with regard to all commercial concessions granted by China to foreign Powers. That would be an open declaration that the last shred of Chinese Sovereignty had been thrown away. Japan will never agree to such a settlement.

A news agency announces that although Japan did not fix any limit of time in her last note to Russia, she constructively reserved the right to set a limit according to her own judgment, and it may be taken for granted that the limit will expire, at latest, on receipt of Russia's next answer unless the latter be thoroughly satisfactory, which the agency does not expect it to be.

It is semi-officially denied in Tokyo that the Tsar conveyed to Mr. Kurino an expression of desire for the intervention of other Powers in the dispute between Russia and Japan.

It is stated that in spite of the 24th being Sunday the Emperor attended to business from 9 a.m. At 10.15 a.m. the Prime Minister, after an interview with the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, proceeded to the Palace, and had an audience lasting for over an hour.

It is alleged that although the restrictions upon the publication of news relating to military or naval movements is carefully observed by Tokyo journals, the newspapers in the provinces are by no means so circumspect, their distance from the centre of inspection enabling them to take much greater liberties. The *Chuo Shimbun* says that an Urgency Ordinance will probably be issued immediately for the purpose of checking this abuse.

Monday, January 25.

Telegrams from London to the *Jiji Shimpo* speak of the circular note addressed by Russia to the Powers with regard to Manchuria. The note has failed completely to satisfy England, and is regarded merely as a device for procrastinating events. *The Times* and the *Morning Post* recall the fact that Sir Nicholas O'Conor, when British Representative in St. Petersburg, obtained from the Tsar an explicit assurance about Port Arthur, which assurance was at once repudiated by the Russian Government on the ground that His Majesty's statements were not officially binding.

Rumours are said to be circulating in Europe that Japan has landed twelve thousand men at Masampo, but of course the story is contradicted by the Japanese Legation in London.

The High Martial Council met in the Palace on the 25th instant in the forenoon, the Emperor presiding. There were present Field Marshal Marquis Yamagata, Field Marshal Marquis Oyama, General Barons Oku and Kuroki, General Count Nozu, Lieut.-General Baron Kodama, Lieut.-General Terauchi, Major-Generals Usagawa and Uyeda, Vice-Admiral Baron Inouye, Admiral Viscount Ito, and Vice-Admiral Baron Yamamoto.

Tuesday, January 26.

All kinds of rumours are circulating about the situation but we can not find that any of them are trustworthy. There is no evidence that Japanese public opinion places reliance on the peace rumours recently circulated.

Some interesting intelligence from Peking is telegraphed to the *Jiji Shimpo*. It appears that on the 24th instant M. Dubail called on Prince Ching and, having explained that the present strained situation was causing China perpetual solicitude and threatening at any moment to disturb the peace of the East, intimated that France was prepared to act the part of mediator not only between Russia and China but also between Russia and Japan. M. Dubail added that in this task France would undoubtedly be assisted by England and America. It happened that Prince Ching had become somewhat doubtful of Japan's programme. The fact that she had formed a programme and was quite resolved to carry it out, had been intimated by her responsible statesmen more than once, but the Prince, seeing that these intimations were still unproductive of active measures, had begun to query the issue. Accordingly he was not indisposed to listen to the overtures of Mr. Dubail, into whose words, for the rest, he read an expression of Russian desire. On the 25th therefore he sent Lien Fang to the British and American Legations to ascertain what attitude they were likely to take. But the result of Lien's mission was that neither England nor the United States was prepared to interfere at all. There the story ends. What course Prince Ching then adopted we are not told, but presumably he conveyed a refusal of M. Dubail's good offices.

It is officially denied, according to a news agency, that the Japanese Government intimated to Germany, Great Britain and America an objection to intervention. What it intimated was that the present delay is not to be attributed to any waiting for intervention. The measures adopted by Japan for her own convenience are not to be regarded by outsiders as procrastination.

From the same source we learn that in Japanese official circles Russia's answer is not expected for some days, but no reason is assigned for the delay.

A telegram to the *Jiji Shimpo* from Peking says that Viceroy Alexieff has despatched a body of a thousand troops from Port Arthur to the northern frontier of Korea, and that some 80 Cossack troops from a place unrecognisable in its transliterated form have been sent towards Wiju. If Viceroy Alexieff contemplates making arrangements to guard the Yalu Valley at this season of the year, simultaneously with maintaining the integrity of his defences elsewhere, he has a hard task; and if he be really moving troops in that direction, he is not only inviting but actually challenging Japan.

On the 25th instant the Emperor summoned Counts Matsukata and Inouye to the Palace, and had an interview which is said to have related to finance. Meanwhile Marquis Ito has returned to Tokyo, and there is talk of a meeting of Elder Statesmen in the presence of the Sovereign.

At the regular Cabinet meeting on the 26th instant, Marquis Yamagata, Count Inouye and Count Matsukata were present.

There appears to be a growing impression that in view of the special importance of financial administration at this juncture, the present holder of the portfolio—Baron Sone—will give place to Count Matsukata. That would probably lead to a change of Premier.

Friday, January 29.

Marquis Ito, Count Matsukata and Marquis Yamagata had audience with the Emperor on the 28th. It is understood that the questions discussed were with regard to the Cabinet and foreign affairs. The audience lasted from 10.30 a.m. till 1.20 p.m., and after it was over the elder statesmen went to the official residence of Marquis Ito, where the conference was resumed.

KOREA.

Saturday, January 23.

It is reported from Seoul that the reform party—which appears to be regarded as the "American Section"—has offended the Emperor by the sweeping nature of its programme. His Majesty thinks that his prerogatives are threatened by the proposals of these innovators and he is accordingly about to effect a change of Cabinet. Prerogatives are fine things, especially when their exercise impedes reforms essential to the country's progress and safety.

Meanwhile things are said to be very quiet in Seoul. People's attention is devoted to watching the developments of the Russo-Japanese complication.

Major Nozu has ceased to be Military Attaché in Seoul and has been attached to the Japanese forces in Korea, his place at the Legation being taken by Major-General Ijichi.

On the 21st instant 50 engineers and 100 workmen, the first batch of men despatched under the provisions of the Urgency Ordinance of December, reached Fusan. Before proceeding to their stations on the railway works they were addressed by Mr. Furuichi, Engineer-in-Chief, who reminded them of the exceptional measures adopted by the Government to hasten the construction of the line and told them that, in view of the circumstances of the time, they must spare no effort to carry out the Government instructions, namely, to finish the line by the end of this year.

Monday, January 25.

From Korea comes news that symptoms of unrest on the part of the population in the immediate vicinity of the Seoul-Fusan Railway have evoked a protest from Mr. Mimasu, the Japanese Consul at Fusan, who calls upon the Authorities to take efficient measures of protection, and declares that any failure on their part will be necessarily followed by self-protective steps on the Japanese side.

It is alleged in Seoul—*Jiji Shimpo's* correspondence—that acting on the advice of Li Yong-ik, the Korean Government has decided to purchase ten thousand stand of French rifles through a London firm.

There has been a change of Cabinet in Seoul. The new Ministers are Pak Chong-yang (Education), Cho Pyong-ko (Home Affairs) and Ming Yong-Chhol (Chief of Head Quarter Staff). Farther, Li Chi-yong, Minister of Foreign Affairs, receives the additional office of Chief of Gendarmerie, and Li Yong-ik, Chief of the Imperial Estates Bureau, the additional appointment of Minister of War. These changes are said to signify the fall of the pro-American party; that is to say, the fall of the reform party.

The Korean Government is said to be about to send an ambassador to Japan to convey officially the news of the Empress Dowager's death.

The *Jiji Shimpo* has a telegram from Seoul saying that confidence and calm reign in imperial and official circles owing to the Government's final resolve to lean upon Japan. A curious estimate of the situation, in view of the wonderful declaration of neutrality. Nevertheless other Tokyo journals also publish statements to the effect that the recent change of Cabinet Ministers in Seoul has made for the strengthening of Japanese influence.

Tuesday, January 26.

It is stated that the Korean Government's intention of proclaiming neutrality was kept secret from all the Powers—except such as were taken into official confidence—, and that, with the object of preserving secrecy until the end, a Korean official was despatched to Chefoo for the purpose of forwarding the intimation through the French Consul there, who is also Korean Consul. Rumour further alleges that the announcement has been duly received and aknowledged by the British Government, but that the Russian Government is dissatisfied with it. This last item of intelligence is at once mysterious and strange.

Wednesday, January 27.

The *Shogyo Shimpo* seems to have despatched special correspondents to Korea. It publishes several items of news from them. One is that disturbances have arisen in the neighbourhood of the Chiksan mine where the Japanese have a concession, and that constables (Japanese) have been sent from Chemulpo to the scene.

There are various accounts of Korea's strict-neutrality move. The general opinion seems to be that it is an outcome of the policy of perpetual neutrality conceived last year. It will be remembered that a section of Korean statesmen conceived the idea, some time ago, that all their country's distractions and embarrassments might be terminated were it only converted into the Belgium or the Switzerland of the East. They shot a bolt in that direction, but it failed to reach the mark. Confronted, however, with the possibility of seeing their country again converted into a battle field, they thought that some part of the neutral-state policy might be carried out in the present instance. This conception is said to have been fostered by the Belgian adviser of the Government and by certain French and Russian instructors. Indeed it would seem that there is quite an influential and respectable clique at the back of the phantasy, and that it has at its head the many-hued Li Yong-ik together with Hyon Song-kon who recently returned from a trip to Russia. It was in consequence of the French connections of the clique that Chefoo and the French Consul were chosen for the purposes of conveying the declaration of neutrality to the Powers. Of course it is firmly believed that Russian influence acted an important part in the matter, since if Korea really attempted to enforce her neutrality, there is obvious probability that she would come into collision with Japan. It may be here noted that there is no truth in the statement recently telegraphed that the British Government had accepted the declaration with approval. The British authorities did nothing more than formally acknowledge receipt of the document.

Side by side with the above details we are told that credence should be placed in recent rumours as to the desire of certain Korean politicians to obtain the assistance of Russian troops. From several sources it is alleged that Hyon Song-kon made application in that sense during his visit to St. Petersburg and that he was told to address himself direct to Viceroy Alexieff, who would not be found reluctant. He therefore "looked in" at Port Arthur *en route* homeward, and obtained the Viceroy's assurance that the Russian Eagles should be seen in Seoul on the 20th of January—one account says the 2nd. The eagles did not make their presence, however, at the appointed date, and Li Hak-kyun was accordingly instructed to proceed to Port Arthur to ask the reason why. Before he could start, however, the strict-neutrality farce was conceived and the *mise en scene* arranged.

Friday, January 29.

News from Seoul indicates that political confusion reigns. In spite of the dramatic declaration of neutrality, there is a strong party in favour of a Russian alliance, so far as the borrowing of a Russian force to ensure the situation; and there is also a strong party in favour of a Japanese alliance. Indeed the Russo-phils are said to have actually concluded the necessary agreement, whereas the Japanese section are disposed to wait until a Japanese army appears upon the scene.

It is stated that Germany and Denmark have signified their approval of Korea's neutrality scheme.

Li Yong-ik has resigned the supplementary office of Minister of War and has received an appointment connected with the Military Staff. Yun Ungyol becomes Minister of War. It is expected that Pak Che-sun, now Korean Representative in Peking, will become Minister of Foreign Affairs, and that he will be succeeded in Peking by Min Pyonghyok or Song Ki-un.

The Italian Representative in Seoul appears to be taking a very strong line. His recent application for a mining concession on behalf of his nationals having been rejected, he is said to have addressed a despatch to the Korean Government, declaring that whereas such concessions were freely granted to the subjects or citizens of other States, this discrimination against Italy could not be reconciled with the theory of most-favoured-nation treatment guaranteed by the treaty, and were such a course persisted in, he must conclude that the Korean Government deliberately intended to regard the treaty as a dead letter.

The *Dempo* publishes a statement about the present Korean Cabinet, showing the supposed international proclivities of the members:—

Foreign Minister......	Li Chi-yong	Pro-Japanese
Imperial Estates Minister	Li Yong-ik.........	do
War Minister	Yun Ung-yol......	do
Agriculture and Commerce Minister ...	Kwan Chai-yong.	do
Education Minister. .	Pak Chong-yong..	Pro-American
Finance Minister ...	Chhien Sang-hun.	do
Justice Minister	Li Chai-myon ...	Independent
Home Minister	Cho Pyong-ho	do

Korea, like Japan, is suffering from exceptional cold, and great distress is said to prevail. Rumour says that in one house as many as nine people froze to death. It is harrowing to think of such suffering. The aggravating factors have been the depreciation of the nickel coins and the consequent rise in the price of commodities, a rise said to have been accentuated by the advent of foreign troops as Legation guards.

From Chemulpo comes news that Korea is in difficulties with her solitary war-ship. She can not pay the salaries of the officers and men, and local storekeepers refuse to give them credit. As a result of negotiations with the First Bank, five bags of rice are said to have been furnished to the ship!

A telegram from Seoul says that Russian engineers are busily surveying a line of projected railway from Wiju *viâ* Antung and Takushan to Fuh-chow, which lies on the east of the Liaotung peninsula. Assuredly it is very difficult to discover in surveying the field of Russian activities, any indication, however small, of an intention to evacuate Manchuria sooner or later.

An official telegram received in Tokyo says that on the 24th instant at 9 a.m. a goods' cart drawn by eight Korean coolies was about to cross the line of the electric team when a car came into collision with it; one of the coolies was killed and one severely hurt. The remaining coolies aided by a crowd which quickly came together, fell on the driver and conductor of the car, beat them badly and over-turned the car. Subsequently a detachment of American marines who were stationed in the electric railway offices, arrived upon the scene, to the number of 23, including an officer, with fixed bayonets, but their services were not required to restore order. It is alleged that some soldiers were among the riotous mob, but the rioters claim that they had no intention of wreaking vengeance on the company's employees, and that if they upset the car it was merely to disentangle the corpse of the dead man from among the wheels.

THE KAISER'S BIRTHDAY.

In celebration of the anniversary of the birth of the Kaiser, the German community of Yokohama observed Wednesday as a holiday. All German places of business were closed and there was a plentiful display of bunting. The weather was fortunately fine, though intensely cold, and nothing interfered to spoil the holiday.

In the forenoon the usual reception took place at the Consulate-General and in the evening a dinner attended by about seventy was held at the German Club. Consul-General von Syburg was the chief guest and proposed the toast of the evening, the health of the Emperor, which was enthusiastically honoured.

CHINA.

Saturday, January 23.

Russia is said to have submitted certain demands to China in connexion with the latter's proposed declaration of neutrality. The first of the demands is that all foreign officers in the employment of the Chinese Government should be dismissed. The second is that China should definitely state beforehand at what points she proposes to station troops and what their number will be. There are reported to be other demands, but their nature is not indicated by the *Nichi Nichi's* correspondent, from whose wire we take these facts. It appears to us extremely doubtful whether Russia has submitted any such demands. They would be gratuitously insolent. The St. Petersburg Government has no manner of right to prescribe beforehand to China what programme of neutrality she shall observe in a given contingency. Should the programme actually adopted by China be deemed a breach of neutrality, it would be time enough for Russia to protest. Therefore we wholly disbelieve the above news.

It is stated that Viceroy Yuan is occupied day and night making military preparations and that his duties are so onerous that he finds it impossible to respond to summonses addressed to him from the Court in Peking, where his presence is desired for consultative purposes.

Russian troops are said to be constantly moving towards Port Arthur. The telegraph further reports that five companies of Cossacks have occupied Haicheng, but that the statement as to the occupation of Fenhwang-ching is not confirmed. On the 12th a transport reached Port Arthur from Odessa, carrying two thousand men.

Telegrams from Dalny and Port Arthur state that the vicinity of those places is overrun by bandits, and that the Russian Authorities are quite unable to preserve order.

On the night of the 20th, on the morning of the 21st, the new premises of the Russo-Chinese Bank in Tientsin were destroyed by fire. It is stated that the building was very handsome and that it had been sumptuously fitted up. A few days more would have seen its occupation for banking purposes. The fire seems to have broken out in the upper storey and to have defied all efforts to grapple with it. There was insurance to the amount of 250,000 taels. Nothing is suggested as to the cause of the conflagration.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha's S.S. *Taiko Maru* was destroyed by fire at a place about a mile above Wuhu. One telegram gives the name as *Taitei Maru*. The vessel's tonnage is stated as 2,240 tons. All the passengers were saved and there were no casualties among the crew. It is alleged that the fire had its origin in the baggage of a passenger. The ship was engaged on the Yangtse service.

It is certain that, speaking broadly, the basic requirements of Japan at this juncture have been the recognition of Chinese sovereignty in Manchuria and the inviolability of Korea. It is also virtually certain that the consummation of the latter object is not a serious difficulty. But as to the former, the embarrassing point is the form such recognition should take. Has not the problem been now solved? It appears to us that it has. It appears to us that if Russia raise no objection to the carrying out of the conditions of the new commercial treaties, she will have practically acknowledged China's sovereignty in Manchuria. For the treaties provide for the immediate opening of certain places in Manchuria to foreign trade and residence, a provision which could not either be inserted or fulfilled unless China's sovereign authority to make such promises were fully recognised. What more is needed? It is not to be assumed that Japan intends to fight merely for the sake of saving China from being despoiled of her territory, Japan fights, or is ready to fight, in order to keep Manchuria open to the trade of the world under China's sovereignty; that is to say, open to international commerce under conditions arranged with China and for whose satisfaction China alone is responsible. That is now accomplished, or may be accomplished if Russia takes a reasonable view of the situation. And by such a method of accomplishment Japan would transfer from her own shoulders alone to the shoulders of all the Treaty Powers in common the obligation of seeing that the newly acquired privileges did not become a dead letter. Possibly things have gone too far to permit such a solution, but that there is an exit in that direction is very conceivable.

In 1899 the Japanese Government made a contract with Shêng I-fai, the gist of which was that during a space of 15 years the Hangyang Mine should furnish iron ore for use at the Wakamatsu Foundry. The contract was subject to revision every fifth year, counting from 1900, and there has been some anxiety as to the terms of revision in 1905. This matter has now been satisfactorily settled. The Chinese Government wanted three million *yen* and the Japan Industrial Bank has agreed to lend it at 6 per cent. interest for a period of 30 years, on condition that the Mine supplies ore to the Factory at the present rates until August 1905, after which, during a period of 10 years, the rate will be 3 *yen* per ton for first-class ore and 2.20 *yen* for second class. On the expiration of the ten-year period the rate will be subject to revision for the purposes of the next ten years, and similarly for the third ten-year period, and in the event of disagreement as to rates, the matter is to be left to appraisers. The Bank promises to pay one million *yen* at once, and the remaining two millions in two equal installments each at an interval of 3 months. Thus the whole 3 millions will be handed over in 6 months. It is further agreed that all payments made on account of ore shall pass through the hands of the Bank, and that, in normal circumstances, the Mine shall supply from 70,000 to 100,000 tons of ore annually at the rates now fixed, with liability to furnish 20,000 tons more in case of emergency. Thus the Bank is secured so far as the yearly payments of interest and sinking fund are concerned. The Mine and all its appurtenances are to be hypothecated as security for the debt.

Tuesday, January 26.

It is reported from Liaotung that the Russians have begun to requisition horses in that district and that several have already been taken from foreign residents.

The *Asahi Shimbun* has a telegram saying that the Russians are examining all travellers by rail who arrive at Newchwang or Dalny.

Many of the Japanese inhabitants of Newchwang are withdrawing, as best they can. At this season the process is not easy. The harbour being blocked with ice, a passenger has to take the railway eastward to Dalny, which may be a case of out of the frying-pan into the fire, or westward to China proper. It is not surprising that in view of recent events at Vladivostock and in view of the violent acts said to have been committed against Japanese subjects in Liaotung, none should be willing to run the risk of remaining in Manchuria during a war between their country and Russia.

The *Asahi Shimbun* publishes the text of the petition addressed by Japanese subjects in Port Arthur, on the 11th instant, to Viceroy Alexieff, praying for protection against the outrages to which they feared to be subjected, and also the text of the Viceroy's reply. It does not appear from the petition that the Japanese complained of anything already suffered. Their prayer was merely to be taken under the protection of the Viceroy in the event of war, or, if their withdrawal were considered necessary, that as long notice as possible should be given to them. They admitted that they were living in Port Arthur for their own profit, but they pleaded that their presence was a convenience to the other inhabitants also. On the 13th instant the representatives of the Japanese were invited to the office of the chief of the civil administration who assured them in the name of the Viceroy that their petition had been received with all courtesy and sympathy; that the Viceroy announced his determination to afford them the fullest measure of protection; that if any one laid so much as a finger on them he should be severely punished, and that they might pursue their avocations in absolute security. The civil governor, on his own account, added that the Japanese might rely on him to do everything in his power for their protection. It was this officer that invoked the prospect of the judgment of the hereafter in support of his own veracity. He appears, indeed, to have made a most remarkable oration, in the course of which he gave an account of his own career; detailed the success that had hitherto attended his efforts to preserve order in other districts; explained that his name signified "honest spirit"; that his parents had conjured him to live up to such a patronym; that he had always endeavoured to do so and would not now belie his record: that if any Japanese resident suffered outrage, he should at once communicate by telephone with him, the Civil Governor, who, although verging on old age, would forthwith bestride his steed and hasten to the rescue, and finally that the most stringent instructions had been given to the police, which instructions His Excellency read aloud to his audience. This oration was doubtless made in all sincerity. Its vehemence must have greatly re-assured the Japanese.

Wednesday, January 27.

Tientsin telegraphs to the *Asahi Shimbun* that during the past week some 6,500 Russian troops have marched into Newchwang and that the Russian flag now floats over all the buildings. Newchwang also must be guarded, it seems. Newchwang, however, being in communication by rail with Port Arthur, this movement does not represent any special dissipation of force on Russia's part, whatever significance it may have in another direction.

Friday. January 29.

Chang Chih-tung's departure for the Yangtse Valley where he was to have resumed the duties of his sometime viceroyalty, is said to have been deferred owing to illness.

The Russo-Chinese Bank is reported to have forwarded 2½ million dollars in silver to Manchuria from Peking and Tientsin.

This tallies with recently received intelligence that the Bank had ceased making advances and was collecting all its loans.

The time-expired men of the Russian Railway guard, who were recently ordered home, are said to have been stopped *en route*, and to have been redrafted for a further period of service at the front.

The Chinese Government has issued an edict directing an increase in the taxes on *samshu* and tobacco, and ordering the suspension of all public works which are not of pressing necessity. These sources of revenue, supplemented by voluntary contributions, are expected to yield twenty million dollars annually, which is the sum required to meet outlays on account of extraordinary military preparations. But the *Jiji Shimpo's* Peking correspondent, in sending this intelligence, alleges that, according to general opinion, such a source of revenue is too uncertain for the situation.

A warning is said to have been furnished of the dangers Russia would have to apprehend in connexion with her single line of railway did war break out. At twelve places in the line between Dalny and Tashikiao bombs are said to have been placed. Fortunately they were discovered before any casualties ensued. The outrage is attributed to Chinese coolies who have fallen into great distress owing to a sudden lowering of wages by the Russian Authorities. Great numbers of these coolies were employed transporting goods between Newchwang and Port Arthur. But many of them have been thrown out of employment and the others find it difficult to support life on the pittance they are earning. If the greater part of the inhabitants of Manchuria were bent upon doing an injury to the railway, it would become a very precarious asset.

CHINA'S NEUTRALITY.

As to the limits within which her strict neutrality is to be observed, China evidently is still in doubt. The troops of Viceroy Yuan and those of General Ma Yuh-kon are to be sent—or have been sent, we can not ascertain which—to Shan-hai-kwan, but how far into Manchuria their sphere of operations is to extend is a question still undecided. A very curious question, too, for, theoretically speaking, everything in the nature of Russian military measures outside the places in Liaotung actually leased to her, and outside, perhaps, the line of railway, would be a manifest defiance of China's neutrality, the Three Eastern Provinces being still, in name, a part of China's dominions. But China has to deal with facts not theories, and since she can not, for all her declarations, make good her professions of neutrality in their full extent, she must confine her ambition to such districts as Russia has not over-run or does not actually hold. The Liao River would be a clear and naturally defined line of demarcation. But would Russia respect it? The fact is that this problem is embarrassing for Russia also. She can not be indifferent to the close proximity of large Chinese forces on her right flank; forces that might at any moment, and would probably at the first symptom of a Russian disaster, throw their weight into the hostile scale. Over and above the duties of actual combat Russia has an immensely difficult task to perform in guarding the integrity of that single thread upon which her military potentiality in Manchuria depends, the long line of railway. No asset is more valuable in war, no asset more vulnerable. She knows well what risks that line of railway involves, and she will try to keep even the strictly neutral Chinese as far away from dangerous temptation as possible. Perhaps it is to that desire that we should attribute movements described by the telegrams of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*; namely, the crossing of the Liao by a force of 200 Russians, the occupation of a place on the western side of the river, and the deflection of a considerable force towards the Shanhaikwan-Kinchow line. What army, we wonder, does Russia really command in Manchuria? If she has to guard the western, southern and eastern frontiers of an immense region, and at the same time to sustain herself and protect a single line of communications through a country where the population is hostile, her task demands an immense legion.

CENSORATE OF TELEGRAMS.

Some journalistic censure has been provoked, we observe, about the censorate to which telegrams to foreign newspapers are subjected at this crisis. A Kobe editor (*Kobe Chronicle*) complains that no public notice of such censorship was given, and expresses the opinion that notice ought to have been sent to each correspondent individually. We can not agree that no notice was given. On the contrary the press—in which term are necessarily included all its representatives in Japan—was duly warned that from a certain date the publication of any details considered likely to compromise the situation would be illegal. What may not be published by journals circulating in Japan is obviously still less eligible for publication abroad, and if any correspondent of a foreign journal was surprised or shocked to find his telegram censored after the issue of the above notice, he must have been a very unreflecting individual. We are not writing without experience, for we ourselves have had four telegrams stopped in Tokyo. But we say deliberately that any complaint on such a subject strikes us as groundless. What are the rights or privileges of newspapers compared with the interests of a nation and the cause of peace? Newspapers do an abundance of mischief. They are the most effective existing instruments for promoting international ill will. No censorate of their contents or of telegrams addressed to them can be too severe if it be honestly undertaken on behalf of the safety of a State and with the purpose of assisting to avert the horrors of war. As to the claim that notice should have been given to each correspondent individually, it appears to us quite extravagant. The business of a correspondent is to inform himself of the conditions under which his messages may be sent. If he sits and waits to be instructed, the greater simpleton he.

It can not be denied, however, that the details of procedure are open to discussion. If only one clause in a telegram be found objectionable, should that clause be struck out and the remainder of the message forwarded or should the whole be kept back? And when a message is not forwarded by sentence of the censor, should the sender be informed or should he be left in the dark? These are not easy questions to answer, but our inclination is to say that, on the whole, it were better not to meddle with the contents of a telegram at all—send all or send nothing. Speaking personally we should prefer to have the offending part struck out and the residue wired at once, but from the point of view of official responsibility and from the point of view of the average sender's responsibility, an all-or-none rule would probably work better. Concerning, however, the obligation of informing a sender when his telegram is not forwarded, it appears to us quite unquestionable that at least that measure of courtesy is due to newspaper correspondents. Nothing is more vitally important to them than celerity of despatch, and if for the sake of some particular item of news a whole budget is to be pigeon-holed, the sender being left to discover the fact two or three days or perhaps a week later—if at all—, then the telegraph becomes virtually useless for the transmission of journalistic news. We are persuaded that it is the desire of the Japanese Authorities not to exercise their power in a vexatious or needlessly obstructive manner, but truly it savours of mediœval methods that a telegraphic message should be quietly laid aside by a censor without any intimation whatever to the sender. This is especially true when we recall the fact that a correspondent is absolutely without any guide as to the nature of the matter he may or may not send over the wires. The veto against disclosing naval or military movements does not begin to cover the ground of censorial scrutiny as now exercised in Tokyo. All foreign newspaper correspondents—or nearly all—want to help the Japanese Government in this matter, not to embarrass it, and we may therefore be permitted to hope that the present very perplexing and inconvenient methods will be remedied.

Since the above was in type we learn that arrangements have been made to convey information to correspondents immediately on the stoppage of their messages.

THE NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

The Directors of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha have considered it advisable to address a circular to all the Company's branches and agencies pointing out that the error must be avoided of imagining that the employment of the Company's steamers in the public service will be a source of profit as was the case in the China-Japan war. There is a vital difference of conditions. At the time of the China-Japan war the Company was in receipt of a fixed amount of subsidy irrespective of the service maintained by it, and the temporary interruption of those services did not cause any interruption of the subsidy. But the present system is that the sums allowed by the Treasury are for services actually performed, and since the services cannot be performed owing to withdrawal of the steamers for other purposes, the payments from the Treasury necessarily cease. In addition to the loss of this important source of income, there is the fact that the steamers are chartered at very low rates, much lower than those now ruling in the open market. Thus from every point of view the Company will suffer heavily and its employees are warned to be prepared for the fact.

In explanation of this circular we may say that the plan pursued by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, in common with many other Japanese companies, is in a sense cöoperative: the employees receive a bonus in addition to their regular salaries, which are comparatively small. The amount of the bonus depends naturally on the earnings of the ships, and in the circumstances now existing, the employees will probably find their yearly income reduced by some 30 per cent. These are the kind of sacrifices entailed on individuals by the prospect of war. In the case of a steamship company like the Yusen Kaisha the trouble does not terminate simultaneously with the close of the diplomatic complication, for the lines that have been interrupted require necessarily a considerable interval before they recover their previous state of prosperity.

A TERRIBLE TALE FROM VLADIVOSTOCK.

We are unwilling to credit the shocking reports coming from Vladivostock but they are too circumstantial to be altogether ignored and they have been made the theme of a leading article by the *Jiji Shimpo*. The main story is that on the 9th instant a party of Russian marines landed and deliberately proceeded to run riot through the residences of the Japanese. They broke into twenty-four houses, put women to shame, wounded old people and children, smashed furniture, stole valuables and behaved generally as though it was a question of sacking a city in mediæval times. It is stated that they were accompanied by two or three officers, that the civil officials made no attempt to check these excesses, and that a reign of terror lasted for a whole day and night. We need scarcely say that the *Jiji Shimpo* asks what is to be expected by Japanese subjects in time of war if, while peace still prevails, such shocking deeds are permitted? The only prudent course is to remove all Japanese subjects from Siberia and Manchuria. These are the bare facts as stated in Tokyo. We give them for what they may be worth.

Although Viceroy Alexieff has given all the assurances suggested by international courtesy with regard to the protection of Japanese subjects in the regions under his jurisdiction in the event of war, it is evident that Russian official tulelage can not be expected to extend efficiently to every part of those remote regions. The expectation therefore is that the Japanese Government will ask the Consuls of America, France and England to look after its people.

From Nagasaki comes news that 44 Japanese, including women (24) have reached that place in the Russian steamer *Amur*, having retired from Harbin and Dalny. A steamer is now on her way to Vladivostock and will doubtless carry away the greater part, if not the whole, of the Japanese colony there.

Japanese journals report that in the sequel of a squabble between Russian railway employees in a Japanese restaurant at Port Arthur, some altercation took place involving the proprietor, whereupon a party of railway guards surrounded the restaurant, and in the confusion that ensued several Japanese were robbed of money and valuables.

RUSSIAN MILITARY MOVEMENTS.

It is reported from Peking that seventy Russian soldiers have entered Kinchow. Kinchow is the point where the railway from Newchwang joins the Kaiping-Shanhaikwan line. Its occupation by a Russian force means that Russia intends the whole of Manchuria to be under her military control, without any question of the Liao River or any other dividing line. The next problem is, will the Russian forces move down to Shanhaikwan. There is talk of their doing so and the rumour has thrown Peking into a state of perturbation, for the army of Viceroy Yuan and General Ma is under orders to establish itself at Shankaikwan, and if both Powers essay to effect military occupation of the place, a collision is scarcely to be avoided. Seated at Kinchow Russia completely commands the railway from Tientsin *viâ* Tongku and Shanhaikwan to Newchwang, and seated at Shanhaikwan she would cut off all railway communication between the capital and the regions outside the Great Wall. At any rate the significance of this extension of her military sway at the present moment is very significant. One thing to be noted, however, is that such an immense expanse of region to be guarded can not but weaken her position strategically.

A telegram to the *Nichi Nichi* with reference to the above attributes the Russian movement to the prospects of China sending troops into the region outside the Wall for the purpose of enforcing her neutrality there. Russia is determined to show that she regards all places northward of the Wall as within her own exclusive sphere, and she is probably taking the opportunity, at the same time, to offer for Chinese instruction a vivid object lesson as to the bearings of her position in Manchuria. Every one must have foreseen, from the first, as was indeed pointed out in these columns, that the practical enforcement of neutrality by China would involve some curious complications in the country westward of the Liao and northward of the Wall. But Russia, being herself nominally an advocate of China's neutrality, might have been expected to refrain ftom making the situation so very irksome at the outset.

The Chinese Government, much alarmed at these doings, is reported to have sent Lien Fang to remonstrate with M. Lessar. But the latter replied that the advance of the Russian troops was only a temporary measure, and that it need not be regarded with any anxiety by China. The adjective "temporary" as applied to the military occupation of East-Asian positions by Russian forces seems rather out of place. At any rate the Chinese can not be blamed if they attach to the term a meaning different from its dictionary significance. It will be remembered that when the problem of Chinese neutrality first came upon the tapis, the Russian Authorities were reported to have warned China that the occupation of certain places within her territory might be considered necessary, but that such proceedings would be friendly and ephemeral. Peking even was spoken of as threatened with occupation. Nobody treated the rumour seriously at the time, but events seem to be verifying it. Of course, for reasons already assigned in these columns, the military command of the railway from Manchuria to China proper is important to Russia in the event of hostilities with Japan, but, at the same time, it is easy to appreciate that these excursions on the part of the Cossacks may have a diplomatic motive as well as a strategical. They serve usefully to remind China that she might do better by embracing the ills she knows than by fleeing to those she does not know.

Meanwhile the telegraph (*Asahi Shimbun*) speaks of a corresponding extension of the military front in an easterly direction. The Ninth, Tenth and Twelfth Regiments, which have their head-quarters at Port Arthur and Talien, are said to have completed all arrangements for a movement towards the banks of the Yalu. Indeed the advanced guard of this operation is said to have set out on the 20th instant. The massing of troops along the line of the Yalu would be a movement which Japan could scarcely observe with equanimity.

SIR ERNEST SATOW ON MEDIATION.

The *Jiji Shimpo's* Peking correspondent has called on Sir Ernest Satow and sought his opinion about the mediation proposed by the French Representative. Sir Ernest expressed very decided views. He said that he had had a visit from Chan Pei-hi and Fu Yu-fen, who suggested to him the advisability of mediation. His reply had been that so long as no request in that sense came from either of the principal parties concerned, mediation could not be thought of. Moreover, the policy of the Chinese Government was vacillating and uncertain. Chinese statesmen, for all their mental ability, were defective in action and allowed themselves to be swayed by every wind of doctrine. It was probable that the Viceroys and Governors, especially Yuan Shih-kai and Chang Chih-tung, would disapprove of this idea of mediation entertained by the Central Government, and in the face of their opposition success could not attend it.

It would seem from all this intelligence that France's effort to mediate has been a genuine thing, but that the route she has adopted does not lead to achievement. We have always hoped that France would act the part of a peacemaker in the last resort. It would well become her to do so, and her present Minister of Foreign Affairs commands the respect and confidence of the world. But we greatly doubt whether previous reference to England or any attempt to obtain her cöoperation, is the wisest preliminary. Certainly in view of the extremely cordial relations now existing between France and England, such a step on the part of the former is natural. What is wanted, however, is the exercise of influence on the Russian Government to induce it to modify its demeanour towards Japan and to convey to it a truer sense of Japan's cardinal proposals. It is by Russia's action alone that the problem can be solved. She has merely to pledge herself to carry out engagements which she was presumably sincere in making and to refrain from acts which would draw Korea into the vortex of the aggressive maelstrom. We fear that the day for compromise is irrevocably past. Such a day certainly existed two or three months ago, but it exists no longer. France, sincerely desirous as she surely is to avert war between her ally and the ally of her firiend—France's good offices can be best utilized at St. Petersburg.

FINANCIAL.

The Government's financial plan seems to be this:—A sum of 100 million *yen* will be raised at once by floating five-per-cent bonds at 95 with a redemption period of 5 years. This is the short-period loan recently authorized by Imperial Ordinance. Then, in order to provide funds for paying interest and for ultimate redemption, as well as for the purposes of future loans, two schemes are to be adopted. One is to draft into the Treasury all the local land tax, in consideration of which measure the communes will refrain from all public works so far as they can be avoided. This will yield a sum of 30 million *yen* annually. Next the income and sugar taxes will be increased so as to yield a total of about 20 millions. Thus from this first measure—the taxation measure—an aggregate of 50 million *yen* approximately will be obtained. The second scheme is based upon suspension of public works now being conducted by the Central Government and on administrative economies. From these sources a total of 50 millions is anticipated. Thus the Treasury would come into possession of a yearly increment of 100 million *yen*. We suspect the figure to be slightly exaggerated, but even if we put it at 80 millions, there is ample for the service of a five-year loan of 350 million *yen*. As to the loan itself, various rumours have been circulated. It is alleged that capitalists have shown much reluctance to subscribe so long as Baron Sone is in charge of finance, and that, consequently, Counts Matsukata and Inouye, in whose financial abilities the nation has absolute confidence, have been obliged to step into the breach. Osaka appears to have been specially insistent on this point, and for a time the difficulty was likely to lead to the retirement of Baron Sone from the Cabinet. It is stated that the Emperor summoned Count Inouye and Count Matsukata to his presence and himself bespoke their good offices in the matter of finance. By these means the threatened Cabinet crisis has been averted and the bankers and capitalists have agreed to subscribe. The Mitsu Bishi Bank alone will take 20 millions of the loan, it is said. There was evidently a moment's hesitation as to whether the Bank of Japan should be entrusted with the duty of apportioning the loan among all the principal banks. To such a course the bankers themselves would have assented. But a wiser plan has been adopted; namely, to invite subscriptions from the public at large, and to look to the Bank of Japan to supply any deficiency.

A collateral result of this financial programme is that the provinces of the Elder Statesmen seem to be now definitely fixed. Marquis Ito stands supreme as the source of counsel in foreign politics. Marquises Yamagata and Oyama are the final advisers in all affairs of war; and Counts Matsukata and Inouye are charged with finance.

On Thursday the Prime Minister received a deputation of the leading bankers of Tokyo, Yokohama, Osaka, Kyoto and Osaka and discussed with them the possibilities of raising a loan. He subsequently conferred with some leading men in the commercial and industrial world.

A striking example of confidence in the depressed state of the money market is furnished by the action of the Industrial Bank. It has announced an issue of a million *yen* worth of debentures of a thousand *yen* denomination, the rate of interest to be 5 *yen*, the period of redemption 30 years, and the subscription price par or over. We certainly did not imagine that money could be obtained on such terms in Japan. Not very long ago the Treasury offered its bills at 7 per cent. interest. Yet here we have the Industrial Bank offering five-per-cent debentures at par, and the President, Mr. Soyeda, is said to be confident that his operation will be successful. Why should five-per-cent. consols be selling at less than 90 when five-per-cent. debentures of a bank are bought at 100? The only ostensible reason is that in the case of the debentures the purchasers can be certain of getting back their principal undiminished, whereas, owing to the Government's unwise method of redeeming its bonds, holders of the latter have no assurance as to the recovery of the full sum originally invested.

THE UNION JACK CLUB.

The subscriptions to the Union Jack Club have reached 915 *yen* up to date, and only a thousand *yen* is needed to carry out the very modest object originally proposed, and to perpetuate the name of Yokohama and Tokyo in connexion with this charity. The great bulk of the money has been obtained by a theatrical performance, which probably cost some unproclaimed benefactor nearly half as much as the aggregate of the individual subscriptions, to say nothing of the trouble entailed upon the ladies and gentlemen who took part in the acting. It is stated that Mrs. Warton, a lady temporarily residing in Tokyo, has offered to give forthwith whatever is needed to make up the requisite sum. But the projectors must naturally be anxious that if the money goes forward in the names of Yokohama and Tokyo, it should represent a collection made in the ordinary manner and not be indebted to an exceptional effort on the part of one person. We have little doubt that when attention is drawn to the facts this most worthy charity will evoke adequate sympathy. The following is the list as it now stands:—

	Yen.
Proceeds of Theatrical Performance	560.00
Sir Claude M. MacDonald	25.00
Lady MacDonald	25.00
Maurice Russell	10.00
F. S. James	25.00
J. T. Hamilton	25.00
F. Schroeder	10.00
H. C. Pigott	25.00
Baroness d'Anethan	10.00
J. Dodds	10.00
"J. C."	10.00
B.D.Q.C.D.	10.00
H. Vincent	10.00
George H. Barclay	20.00
E. Beart	10.00
Dr. N. Gordon Munro	10.00
A. C. Hutton Potts	10.00
J. Williamson Jones	10.00
Mrs. Purvis	5.00
J. E. de Becker	20.00
W. N. Wright	5.00
Captain Brinkley	10.00
2nd M. A.	5.00
E. W. George	10.00
V. A. Caesar Hawkins	10.00
Rev. A. F. King	10.00
Mrs. Gardner Warton	25.00
Total received to date	915.00

"MUSIC AT THE CLOSE."

As Herbert Spencer lay dying he requested that music, which through all his many illnesses was always his solace, should be played to him, and the incident prompts Mr. W. G. Hutchison to turn up the *English Illustrated Magazine* for June, 1884, in which is printed an exquisite translation by the late George du Maurier of a lyric by Madame Necker, which runs:—

"Kindly watcher by my bed, lift no voice in prayer,
Waste not any words on me when the hour is nigh—
Let a stream of melody but flow from some sweet player,
And meekly will I lay my head and fold my hands to die.

"Sick am I of idle words, past all reconciling—
Words that weary and perplex, and pander, and conceal;
Wake the sounds that cannot lie, for all their sweet beguiling;
The language one need fathom not, but only hear and feel.

"Let them roll once more to me, and ripple in my hearing,
Like waves upon some lonely beach where no craft anchoreth;
That I may steep my soul therein, and craving naught, nor fearing,
Drift on through slumber to a dream, and through a dream to death."

CHINESE STUDENTS IN JAPAN.

The steady increase in the number of Chinese subjects studying in Japan during the past few years has been remarkable. It is stated that whereas they totalled only 579 in February, 1902, they had grown to 1,058 in September of the same year, and they now aggregate from 1,200 to 1,400. They are classified as follows by a Tokyo journal:—

Nobles	27
From Mukden	1
From Chili	77
From Shansi	1
From Shensi	1
From Chekiang	142
From Anhui	55
From Kiangsi	27
From Fuhkien	42
From Kwansi	8
From Szchuan	58
From Kwantung	108
From Kweichou	17
From Yunnan	21
From Honan	7
From Shantung	40
From Hunan	130
From Hupeh	126
From Kiangsu	165

This table accounts for 1,073 only, so we presume that it is not supposed to be quite complete. They are distributed among 45 educational institutions; the greatest number (247) being at the *Kôbunsho-in*, the next greatest number (127) at the *Dôbunsho-in*; and afterwards in order we find 103 studying to be officers in the army, 186 in preparatory military colleges, 40 at the Waseda University, 19 at the Imperial University, 25 in language schools, in the Law College and so on. All this intellectual activity ought to bring forth something. Yet what are a thousand students out of a population of 350 millions?

GERMANY IN THE FAR EAST.

Referring to the recent comments of Japanese journals on Germany's international policy and to our appended remarks, the *Deutsche Japan-Post* has the following:—

> So far the *Mail*. We must admit that it contains a grain of—an attempt at—honest estimation. Germany's geographical situation and the position she holds in European politics have certainly for sometime been drawbacks to us; but the true reasons are not these. Above all, however, all this has nothing whatever to do with the Japanese-Russian question. We have explained a thousand times that the whole thing does not concern us at all. We wish to be neither friend nor foe; we do not want to intrude. The times when the German Michael was good enough to offer his skin when two others cudgelled each other are past. We make our politics ourselves now.
>
> We should be glad if our English consins would at last recognise this. We cannot bear much grudge against the Japanese, to whom Europe is still somewhat far off, if they occasionally do not understand us. But we should like to advise them to be cautious. When big papers continually give out the key-note "against the Germans" and the little coolie sheets blow the same horn in the tone one can imagine, all sorts of hazy ideas take root in the minds of the public. Already, it has been reported to us, a coolie here in Yokohama remarked to German children that if war broke out, the Germans would be the first to come as they are the allies of Russia! We are certainly friends of a free press and open speech, but when in a country like Japan such opinions are called forth and fostered by the press, we must point to the responsibility that these people take upon themselves. They conjure the worst fate for their fatherland. If such a thing as was detailed some time ago in English papers were to happen again in Japan, the results could not be overlooked. That the affair would pass off as easily as in 1650 in the time of Iyeyasu is not to be imagined.

We translate these expressions of our contemporary's for the sake of securing to them greater publicity. But we must frankly say that the *Japan-Post* is a little disappointing in its explanations. The Japanese, we believe, are just as anxious as the English to understand the Germans. For our own part, we find nothing less consistent with the fitness of things than that there should be any wall of emnity separating Germany and England. It would serve a good end, therefore, did our German contemporary elucidate the perplexing features of German policy instead of relying solely on the discernment and intelligence of other nations. Neither can we pretend to admire the minatory tone of the *Japan-Post's* concluding paragraphs. Historically they are somewhat cryptic, for as Iyeyasu died in 1616, it can hardly be said that 1650 was in his time, nor do we associate the latter year with any event that finds an appropriate place in our contemporary's thesis. It might be supposed that the intention is to refer to either the proscription of Christianity or the expulsion of foreigners; but since cognate events are not more likely to occur in modern Japan than the sky is to fall, and since also the connexion between such pages of history and journalistic criticisms of German policy is not evident, we abandon the problem as insolvable. The only thing made quite clear by our contemporary's writing is that the Germans desire to maintain a strictly neutral attitude in the present complication, and that is primarily the point that evoked Japanese comment.

THE INDUSTRIAL BANK.

The Industrial Bank held its half-yearly meeting on the 25th instant, when the following accounts were read and passed:—

Gross Profits	446,102
Brought over from last account	2,836
Total	448,938
Expenditures	354,270
Net Profit	94,668
To Reserve for meeting Losses	7,639
To Reserve for equalizing dividends	1,909
To first Dividend (5 per cent. annually)	62,500
To Rewards to officers	7,000
To Second Dividend (1 per cent. annually)	12,500
Carried forward	3,119

The meeting further adopted a resolution authorizing the issue of debentures to the amount of 4½ million *yen* at a seasonable time, the details of the issue—with reservations that interest shall not exceed 6 per cent. and that the term of the loan shall not be more than 30 years—to be fixed by the Directors in conclave. It is understood that 3 millions of this loan are to be lent on the security of the Hanyang-iron-mine, as recently stated in these columns.

Mr. Soyeda, President of the Bank, in presenting the report, alluded to the dull state of the money market, but explained that by loans on good security a reasonable profit had been obtained. There had been lent 1½ millions to communal bodies, 3,570,000 *yen* to companies, and 4,590,000 *yen* to various industries, the total being about 10 millions. The Bank had built for itself new premises covering 261 *tsubo* together with a strong room measuring 33 *tsubo*. The main part—namely 81,237 *yen*—of the cost had been defrayed and the remainder would fall in the next term. At an extraordinary general meeting held some time ago, it had been decided to issue 5 million *yen* worth of debentures, and 3 millions had been successfully floated, leaving 2 millions to be still issued. The sum of 3 millions was altogether too small for the needs of the time inasmuch as from the last half of 1902 to the last half of 1903, a space of 1½ years, the debentures issued by companies had been:

	Yen.
Railways	14,760,000
Banks	12,340,000
Maritime Enterprises	5,000,000
Cotton Spinning	2,470,000
Paper-making	1,250,000
Others	3,550,000

Here was a total of over 39 million *yen*, and in the face of such facts the Bank's capital was obviously too small. Further, there were offering in China and Korea enterprises in which the Bank must take its part. The debentures hitherto issued by the Bank aggregated 6 millions and it had a further issuing power of 6½ millions. But inasmuch as 2 millions remained to be issued of the 5 millions previously sanctioned, the meeting was now asked to sanction a further issue of 4½ millions only, which would bring the aggregate of debentures to 12½ millions.

THE FISCAL QUESTION.

Steps were taken in Hongkong to obtain a clear record of the Colony's views with regard to Mr. Chamberlain's great "break." Voting lists were exposed in the Chamber of Commerce Room and everybody was invited to enter his name among either the "Ayes" or the "Noes." The opinions of two bodies were clearly expressed—the Union Church Literary Club and the China Association. Both, were unequivocally in favour of the changes proposed by Chamberlain, and as the result of the prebiscite the following telegram was sent: "Right Honourable Joseph Chamberlain, Brimingham. Five days plebiscite of merchants, backers, shipping representatives, and others, British Subjects resident here, taken here for or against your Fiscal Policy from Imperial not local stand-point. Result 392 for; 20 against.—Sir C. P. Charter, Hongkong." The *Hongkong Daily Press*, writing on the day when the voting lists were to be closed, said:—

> The difference between the Briton at home and the Briton abroad is great. The fact that
>
> "Home-keeping youth have ever homely wits"
>
> was stated by the immortal Shakespeare centuries ago, and despite the advantages of improved communication, the line still remains as true as when first written. Things that are obvious to the travelled Briton are not apparent, do not appeal, to the mass of the inhabitants of the United Kingdom, taken up as they are with their own parochial concerns. The little Englander is in a majority in many districts where Imperial questions are neither thought of nor understood. But the Briton who has lived in other parts takes wider views, sees more what is best for the Empire, and is better able to shake himself free from the trammeis of local self-interest. Hence it is that the residents in Hongkong, although it is a free port, and practically much less affected than the Mother Country by fiscal changes, are able to come to a more rapid decision on the question that is now absorbing public interest in the British Isles. It is not wonderful, therefore, that they should have long since ceased to make a fetish of free-trade, should have come to recognise that free-trade exists only in the imagination of the professed disciples of Cobden, and to be painfully cognisant of the fact that by clinging to this shadow they are in danger of losing the substance. The gradual decay and, in many cases, the total loss of many British industries is but too apparent to us here, though the people of Little Pedlington, who have been slumbering for the past half-century, may not be aware of the fact.
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> * * * *
>
> As for Hongkong. This is a free port, and we trust it will always remain so, and that our foreign friends will for ever retain the right to come as freely as they do now and trade and reside here with privileges unabridged. But we also hope that the British Government will be placed in such a position as to be able to persuade other Governments to grant to British merchants and British ships the same advantages as have been so ungrudgingly accorded to foreign merchants and foreign vessels. At present, even here in this British Colony, British shipping is, through the subsidies paid to foreign ships by their Governments, positively handicapped in what ought to be a fair competition. Thus, on the coast and on the Canton river, foreign vessels enjoying heavy subsidies compete with colonial steamers which have to depend solely on their own earnings for the profit on capital embarked. This is surely not as it should be. Neither is it just or fair that the refined sugars of Hongkong should be kept out of the markets of Indo-China and Japan by prohibitive tariffs, while British markets are open to the products of those countries. Of course our neighbours are free to do as they like; they can raise or lower their tariff wall at pleasure; but it is surely the acme of folly to shrink from an endeavour to make them see reason from dread of retaliation. "Free-traders" are obviously frightened by this word. There is nothing to be alarmed at in it, however; it only means that the British trader has at last fully aroused, and that he does not intend in future to give everything for nothing. He was a *quid pro quo* for what he concedes, and he will get it. Foreign Governments are not so foolish or so unreasonable as to quarael with us because we at length have come to see that our fiscal methods are antiquated, absurd, and one-sided, and they will respect us the more when we ask for reciprocity in commerce. We do not fear competition, we have invited it, and we shall not go back on our ancient policy; but we do want that competition to be on even terms. It is because such has ceased to be the case, and that Mr. Chamberlain has timely recognised the fact, that we feel bound to rally to his standard, as we hope Britons will do throughout the length and breadth of the Empire, and wish him success in the arduous task of bringing a slow-moving nation to recognise that its fiscal policy must change with changing circumstances.

Probably a, great many Englishmen are thinking along the same lines as the editor of our colonial contemporary. It used to be our custom to say that America prospered in spite of protection. Now we are saying that England has prospered in spite of free trade. It were a poor kind of world if each generation had not liberty to contradict its predecessor.

LAST YEAR IN THE UNITED STATES.

Writing on January 2nd, the *New York Commercial* said:—

> The financial incidents of 1903 which stand out prominently may be briefly summarized as follows:
>
> 1.—The tremendous decline in the stock market, which for a part of the year overshadowed everything else. The depreciation in stock values amounted to between $2,000,000,000 and $3,000,000,000—a depreciation greater than ever occurred before in the history of the country.
>
> 2.—The withdrawal of the investing public from the stock market when enormous blocks of securities were placed upon the market. The public remained out of the stock market throughout the winter, summer and fall.
>
> 3.—Forced and urgent liquidation by syndicates and wealthy capitalists, who were unable to either sell their "undigested securities" to the public or command enough loans to continue to hold them in the face of the decline in the stock market. The urgency of this forced liquidation by wealthy individuals caused the terrific crash in the stock market during the spring and summer to become generally known as the "Rich Man's Panic."
>
> 4.—The unanimous decision of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in April declaring the Northern Securities Co. to be an illegal corporation.
>
> 5.—The narrowly averted disaster to the new $75,000,000 Pennyslvana Railroad stock issue in May, by the formation of a powerful banker's syndicate to guarantee the success of the issue.
>
> 6.—The virtual failure of the United States Steel Corporation's stock conversion plan, and the cutting in half of the dividend on the common stock.
>
> 7.—The successive revelations in the affairs of the Asphalt Trust, the Lake Shipbuilding Co., which served to throw discredit on the securities of all of the newer industrial cooperations.
>
> 8.—The heavy increase in exports during the fall months, particularly cotton, which enabled the country to reduce its foreign floating indebtedness from something like $300,000,000 in January to a purely nominal sum at the end of the year.
>
> 9.—The importation into this country from Europe of over $20,000,000 in gold during November and December in spite of every obstacle being placed in the way of such a movement by European bankers. This heavy importation of gold caused the price of bar gold in the London market to advance [illegible] the highest price touched in many years.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

Lord Curzon has presented to Les Invalides Museum in Paris a complete collection of Indian Army medals dating from 1799 and extending to 1900. M. Delcassé has written warmly thanking His Excellency for his unique gift. With reference thereto *The Times of Ceylon* writes:—A complete set of Indian army medals since 1799 is a valuable gift, and it should not include any souvenir which France could consider distasteful. France's interest in India lapsed to all intents and purposes when the great Dupleix was recalled by Louis Quinze and left to die in penury with his ambitious dreams unrealised. The Revolution gave France little leisure to continue the hopeless struggle against Great Britain in India, and, when the Little Corporal was in a position to allow his ambition full rein, the prize was gone for ever. The exploits of the French ended in 1755, so the collection of medals which the famous French Military Museum has received will bear no record of La Bourdonnais' capture of Madras, nor of the exploits of Pitt's heaven-born general at Arcot and Plassey and elsewhere. The period from 1799 on has seen stirring times enough in India, but France has had no part in them, so that Lord Curzon's collection of medals can only have a relative historic interest to her.

The tobacco bill of the United States has grown to enormous proportions during the past few years. According to Mr. Yerkes, Collector of Internal Revenue, the American people use more tobacco and snuff every year. While the men spend more money on tobacco, the women are doing a larger business with snuff than ever before. There were 310,654,639 pounds of tobacco and 18,840,747 pounds of snuff withdrawn from warehouses for consumption during the last fiscal year, not counting 8,345,217 pounds withdrawn for export, making a total of the two articles of 337,840,603 pounds used, against 328,464,428 pounds in the preceding fiscal year. A total of 6,788,754,108 cigars were withdrawn for smoking, an increase of 679,437,181 over the preceeding year. Cigarettes smoked during the last fiscal year numbered 3,254,883,330, an increase of 357,213,403 over the year before. The increased use of leaf tobacco in ten years has been enormous. In 1893 the total number of pounds of leaf tobacco used in the production of tobacco, snuff, cigars and cigarettes was 312,907,679. In 1902, the total was 427,553,964 pounds. The States of Missouri, North Carolina, Kentucky, Virginia, Ohio, New Jersey, New York and Illinois, in the order named, were the largest producers of both chewing and smoking tobacco. There was a total increase of 35,817,646 pounds in the materials used in the manufacture of tobacco and snuff as compared with the preceding fiscal year. The production of tobacco by the principal States was as follows: Missouri, 84,332,641 pounds; North Carolina, 52,209,593 pounds; Kentucky, 39,406,680 pounds; Virginia, 31,602,779 pounds, Ohio, 25,437,840 pounds; New Jersey. 21,229,084 pounds. There were 26,423 cigar and 517 cigarette factories in operation. Virginia manufactured 460,702,354 cigars, using 4,096,602 pounds of tobacco. North Carolina makes comparatively few cigars, putting most of her manufacture into plug and other tobaccos. North Carolina, for instance, used only 186,254 pounds of tobacco in cigars and made only 9,423,036 cigars. New Jersey produced more snuff than any other State, the total being 5,583,323 pounds, nearly one-third of all that was used.

The Prime Minister has quite recovered from his recent indisposition. He returned to his official residence on the 22nd instant.

This Company has just held its semi-annual meeting and decided to declare a dividend at the rate of 28 per cent. annually.

The *Jiji Shimpo*, while admitting that war is a terrible thing, believes that peace could not be purchased now except at the expense of a constant rivalry of armaments' expansion in the future between Japan and Russia. On the other hand, it is persuaded that to fight now will be to lay the foundations of a peace lasting for many years. The *Kokumin Shimbun* insists that Russia's pretended concessions are empty talk, as is proved by Reuter's recent telegrams, one of which represented her as willing to recognise China's sovereignty in Manchuria, while the next explained that the so-called sovereignty was to be limited by a free exercise of Russian strategical and diplomatic influence. Nothing coming from Russia can be trusted. The Japanese nation must make up its mind to the worst. So says the *Kokumin*.

Mr. F. J. Norman, writing in the *Spectator*, says that "Maizuru, on the Sea of Japan, and Muroran, in Yezo, are yards of secondary importance, and are mere coaling stations and harbours of refuge for small craft than anything else." The facts are that Muroran is not a yard at all, and that Maizuru, according to the statements of British naval experts, is one of the finest harbours in the East, splendidly fortified and with a fine dock. That is a fair measure of Mr. Norman's general information about things Japanese, especially the Japanese army and Japanese ideals, on which subjects also he descants in the correspondence columns of the *Spectator*.

The two new cruisers are expected to reach Yokosuka on the 10th of next month, approximately. The British and Italian crews will receive an ovation at the hands of the Yokosuka folk as well as at those of the Tokyo citizens. Many leading citizens of the capital have combined to organize a welcome.

On the 23rd instant the Red Cross Society's Committee of Succour in Case of War held a meeting and passed various resolutions which, however, are not published.

Some changes of local governors are announced:—Mr. Yamada Haruzo, Prefect of Shizuoka becomes Prefect of Hiroshima; Mr. Kamei Eizaburo goes from Tokushima to Shizuoka; Mr. Yukatsugi Takejiro, Secretary of Tokyo Prefecture, becomes Prefect to Tokushima; Mr. Sugai Seibi, Prefect of Tochigi, goes to Ehime; Mr. Shirane Takeshi, Secretary of the Home Department, becomes Prefect of Tochigi, and Messrs. Tokuhisa and Matabe, Prefects of Hiroshima and Ehime, are placed on the Retired List.

Japanese newspapers publish a story that the arrest has just been effected of one Takahashi Monsaku, an interpreter to the Russian Naval Attaché in Yokohama. It is alleged that this man has been in receipt of very high rewards for collecting and supplying information about Japanese fortresses and military and naval affairs in general. One Tokyo journal puts his property at a million *yen*, and says that he would have effected his retreat to Russia long ago had he not been asked by his employers to remain a little longer. That is probably embroidery. The police are said to have been on Takahashi's tracks for a considerable time, and his treacherous doings were known in Yokosuka. But the difficulty was to lay hand on proofs, and that has only just been accomplished. We presume that every military or naval attaché in a foreign country has his own private sources of information, but a source of supply for Russian uses is likely to be somewhat mal-odorous in public nostrils at present.

Though President Roosevelt moved with his accustomed vigour in the matter of appointing American Consuls to Mukden and Antung, he was not unmindful of the financial side of the question. We see by a Washington telegram of January 4th, that he directed the Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Loomis, to recommend to the House of Representatives that the salary attached to each place should be 4,000 gold dollars a year.

The export of gold which has been proceeding on a large scale attracts the attention of the *Asahi*. It has an article commenting upon the circumstance. In this context readers may be interested to learn that the C. P. R. steamer *Empress of China* carried hence on her last trip over three million *yen* in gold, the aggregate value of her cargo being some ten million *yen*.

In the *Asahi Shimbun* we find a telegram conveying intelligence as to a message said to have been sent to the Peking Government by its Representative in Llassa. The Chinese Official says that the Russians resident in Thibet are urging the Dalai Lama to oppose the entry of the British expedition into his country, and are promising that in the event of the British refusing to withdraw Russia will lend aid to Thibet. Apparently a new source of trouble is brewing in connexion with the last of the hermit kingdoms. Thibet has managed to prolong her anchorite existence beyond all previously imaginable limits, but her time has now come, and it would seem that she too has not learned many lessons from the teachings of international politics.

On the 27th instant an intimation reached the Imperial Household Department to the effect that a Korean Envoy, bearing his Government's expressions of thanks for Japan's condolences in connexion with the recent death of the Empress Dowager, left Seoul on the 26th instant.

We regret to announce the death of Baron M. Ito's mother, who was attacked with influenza on the 17th instant, and being at a very advanced age—83 years—could not bear up against the disease. Inflammation of the lungs set in, and death took place at 8.30 p.m, on the 26th instant.

The warships *Kasuga* and *Nisshin* arrived safely at Colombo on the 27th. They coaled and afterwards left for Singapore from whence they come straight to Yokosuka.

The rate of wages in New York City has increased over 10 per cent. since 1897, while in the same time the proportion of working time lost by organized wages earners has declined from 30.3 per cent. to 13.9 per cent. This, combined with the advance in rates of wages, yields an estimated increase in yearly earnings of 36 per cent., which is much larger than the increased cost of living.

KOREAN NEUTRALITY.

It is stated on good authority that Korea's declaration of strict neutrality in the event of hostilities between Japan and Russia, took the form of a despatch written in the French language and forwarded to Tokyo, which place it reached on the 21st instant, by the French Consul at Chefoo, who is also the Korean Consul at that port. Further, the Korean Government does not appear to have availed itself at all of the usual diplomatic channel of communications, namely, its own Legation in Tokyo. The despatch bore the signature of the Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs, and its gist is understood to have been that since the complications between Russia and Japan did not seem likely to yield to diplomatic resources, the Korean Government deemed it necessary to announce its intention of maintaining strict neutrality in the event of belligerent operations.

It is a pity that the French language served as a medium for conveying this intimation and that a French Consul had any connection with its transmission. No thoughtful person will commit the error of imagining that the French Government was concerned in the farce. But all onlookers are not thoughtful. There can be little hesitation, we think, in regarding this as one of those pragmatical *coups* with which the name of M. PAVLOW is associated. He has been eminently successful during his service in Seoul—successful in creating trouble. No one knows better than he that Korea's talk of maintaining strict neutrality is pure moonshine. No one knows better than he that the very first operations in a Russo-Japanese war—did such a calamity occur—must render Korea's neutrality an empty delusion. No one knows better than he that but for Japan's championship Korea would not now be in a position to make any independent declaration at all. And no one knows better than he that what threatens the Korean peninsula to-day is not Japanese aggression but Russian aggression. Yet he has now, directly by his own counsel or indirectly through his agents, persuaded the misguided Korean monarch to make an announcement which means that if the Japanese take any of the steps they must necessarily take in the event of hostilities with Russia, Korea will employ all her strength to oppose them. If such comedies assume the character of diplomatic triumphs in M. PAVLOW's eyes, that is his own concern. But to us looking on "from the other side of the river," he seems to forget one thing. He seems to forget that ever since he went to Seoul he has been contriving object lessons to instruct the Japanese in the dangers they have to apprehend from foreign intrigue and foreign interference in Korean affairs. The story of the Yalu valley during the past twelve-month is worthily capped by this neutrality business. Happily the Japanese have the sense of proportion tolerably well developed. They do not magnify mole-hills into mountains. Thus they have not allowed themselves to be excited about recent incidents in Korea. They are learning, however, what to expect, and M. PAVLOW may congratulate himself on having greatly helped to teach them. As for Korea, her councillors have merely succeeded in rendering her ridiculous.

JAPANESE SENTIMENT.

Leading Japanese journals seem to place no confidence whatever in the pacific news coming from St. Petersburg. They declare that the nation and the world are utterly weary of this tergiversation. What Russia says she does not do and what she does is never what she says. Every one of her aggressive acts, every one of her unpeaceful steps, is heralded by a flourish of pacific and amiable trumpets. If she really desire a friendly settlement why does she not accede to Japan's moderate and amicable proposals? The only practical answer she has hitherto made to Japan's overtures has been the answer of warlike preparation, the answer of battle-ship and bayonet. What she has in mind now is perfectly plain to every intelligent observer. She is merely playing for more time to complete her belligerent preparations and seeking to shift to Japan's shoulders the responsibility of breaking the peace of the Orient. She ought to know that such devices are too hackneyed to be successful. Even in the last telegram announcing her pacific intentions, those intentions are attributed to the incompleteness of her belligerent preparations. The note recently handed in to the Russian Legation was an ultimatum whatever its form. Further delay would only be playing into Russia's hands, and will not be tolerated by the Japanese nation.

That is the gist of leading articles in the *Kokumin Shimbun*, the *Jiji Shimpo*, the *Chuo Shimbun*, the *Shogyo Shimpo* and the *Yomiuri Shimbun*. Some of these journals say much harder things than we have here set down; things which we suppress for the sake of saving whatever remnant of good-will survives. Besides, the important fact is not the degree of indignation felt by particular units of the nation, but the general prevalence of a sentiment of wrath and of an impatient resolve not to be played with any more. We record all this with much regret, but we can not pretend that it is unanticipated. Some time ago we ventured to allege, speaking from a knowledge of Japanese character acquired after many years of observation, that if the situation were treated by Russia with continued nonchalance and continued ignoring of Japan's proposals, the temper of this habitually calm nation would suddenly reach a point such that to appease it would be a very difficult task. It has reached that point. The Japanese people may be said to have set their teeth for a fight. They are wholly and completely weary of shuffling, and it evidently appears to them that of all unmanly acts nothing can be more unmanly than to stand vacillating in the presence of an enemy while he gets ready to fight. That was not the way of the Japanese *samurai* in old times. As Count MATSUKATA said at a recent banquet, the *samurai* never drew his sword without good cause, but once drawn he never sheathed it without honour. For all practical purposes Japan may be said to have drawn her sword. Her navy and her army have completed their preparations and are merely awaiting the word of command. We ourselves believe that in Russia there is a strong party headed by the TSAR himself which favours a pacific settlement, and would make any reasonable sacrifice to secure it. The pity is that this party did not assert itself sooner; did not assert itself in the days when an amicable arrangement might have been easily made. Precisely the same situation existed with regard to Treaty Revision. Excellent terms might have been obtained for the foreign communities had the negotiations been concluded while the Japanese were in a yielding mood. But the favourable time was allowed to slip away, or rather was frittered away in useless wrangling, and at the last an almost unconditional surrender was witnessed. Foreign States did not take Japan seriously. That seems to us to be just the error Russia has fallen into, and it must be now a source of sincere regret to a multitude of liberal minded and peace-loving Russians.

THE INSURANCE QUESTION.

As uncertainty seems to prevail regarding the attitude of life assurance companies towards the Order of the Imperial Japanese Government, calling for the deposit of reserves, an enquiry has been made which shows that the Equitable and the Mutual of the United States, the Standard of London, and the Sun of Canada are obliged to discontinue new business as a consequence of the Order.

The retirement from any country of companies whose united assets aggregate $770,000,000, or the equivalent in Japanese currency of 1,570,000,000 *yen*, is an event of such importance that it cannot be regarded otherwise than as a misfortune. The situation of the Government is conceivably one of difficulty. Moved by a natural and proper anxiety to protect Japanese policy-holders, it has been compelled to resort to measures with which foreign companies find themselves unable to comply, having due regard to the interests of the general body of their policy-holders.

The Imperial Government seeks to establish the principle that Japanese policy-holders should have a preferential right over a part of the funds of the companies in respect of their claims; but the fact has apparently been overlooked that as all, or nearly all, of these companies are conducted on the purely mutual principle, no policy-holder can have a greater or less right than another; and in the event of the insolvency of a company, its funds must be distributed with due regard to this vested interest of the general body of policy-holders. Apart from this there is the vitally important question of the class of security in which the companies' investments are made; and it is an additional source of regret that the securities designated by the Imperial Government do not obtain from foreign companies the approval which possibly was anticipated.

Only one of the companies has given official notice of closing its business. But it is not to be inferred that others intend to comply with the Government order, the time limit of which is the 31st instant. On that date it will be found that the companies referred to above have discontinued new business, and that they will remain solely for the purpose of doing gradually, and with due consideration for the convenience and interest of policy-holders, the business now in existence.

This situation is deplorable. The companies all complied with the requirements of law by making application for licenses to carry on business, which were granted without reference to ulterior conditions; and it is not unreasonable to assume that, had the grant of a license been made conditional upon subsequent deposit of reserves, the companies would have then and there abstained from prosecuting their enterprise, for exactly the same reasons as compel them to withdraw now.

It is rumoured that the Government will exact a deposit of *yen* 100,000 whether the companies continue new business or not. That course will certainly lead to fresh difficulties. The companies, it is understood, are not disposed to submit to any condition of that kind; and they are in a position to oppose strenuously any effort to compel the deposit. Whatever the result may be, it is certain that, pending a settlement, the interests of existing policy-holders will be liable to suffer materially, the business of the companies already in force will be subject to partial extinction from lapse of policies due to confusion of circumstances; and the operations of these wealthy corporations, which, a few months ago, promised to confer so much benefit on the Japanese people, will come to an end.

The companies' chief wishes, we gather, are that their retirement from Japan should not be incorrectly interpreted by the public, but that there should be clear understanding of the grounds on which they rest their case; and it will indeed be difficult to convince foreign nations, especially the United States and Great Britain, where life assurance is an immense and progressive business, that the action of the Japanese Government has not been either harsh, oppressive or mistaken.

The evil consequences do not stop here. There are plain evidence of the growth of a belief that this action of the Government towards life assurance companies is but the beginning of similar action towards foreign banks and other commercial corporations within the borders of the Empire; and there is thus engendered a feeling of the greatest disquietude. Had any pressing necessity existed for the protection of Japanese policy-holders, the order would have been, to that extent, justified; but there does not appear to have been any such need. Japanese who have taken policies in large foreign companies have done so because of the excellent security offered by those offices; and when they made their applications they were fully cognisant of the responsibility entailed in accepting contracts extending over a number of years with foreign corporations whose assets were not, as is the case with Japanese companies, under the special control of the Japanese Government. They relied upon the good-faith of the contracting parties, and the experience of all civilised countries is that these contracts are, in the absence of palpable fraud, inviolate.

Another consideration suggests itself. Owing to the course of the complication with Russia, the nations of the world have come to regard Japan as the champion of the Anglo-Saxon principles of freedom and equality and the opponent of military dictatorship or selfish restrictions of any kind. It is a good name to have earned, and the telegraph tells us that the London *Times* declares this country to be possessed of the sympathies of the whole British nation because of that championship. We fear that this insurance episode, unless some practical adjustment can be effected, will be difficult to reconcile with the obligations which Japan's international nobility imposes.

KAISER WILHELM II.

ON Wednesday KAISER WILHELM II., German Emperor and King of Prussia, entired upon his forty-sixth year, having been born on January 27th, 1859, the eldest child of the union of the Crown Prince FREDERICK of Prussia with VICTORIA, Princess Royal of Great Britain and Ireland. Since that June day in 1858 when he was called to succeed his father upon the Imperial Throne of Germany, KAISER WILHELM II. has steadily increased in the esteem of the thinking portion of the world, within the borders of his empire as well as without, until he now, at least in the minds of the great majority of peoples who claim affinity with the grand old Teutonic stock, realises the ideal of what THOMAS CARLYLE held a king should be—the leader of his people in name as well as in fact. Nowhere in the world has the Emperor WILLIAM more sincere admirers than are to be found in the British Empire, for though there are many among our people who dislike his world-politics and view their tendency with something akin to alarm, there are not any that do not admire the man as a man. They see in him one who, despite his high position and its many temptations, has led a life illuminated by those pure ideals which the Puritans have indelibly impressed upon the great sound heart of English domestic existence; they see in him one, who, surrounded by flatterers as a person in such a lofty state must ever be, yet takes the trouble to find out things for himself, and, having found out, applies the lesson that he has learnt for the welfare of his empire; they see in him one who by the sheer force of intellectual ability and nobleness of character has entered into the wide aims and far-reaching aspirations of his people, until he has become their leader, their seer, and inspirer. It is such a man whom Englishmen the world over honour when they pledge his health and pray that he may long be preserved to occupy the Throne he so truly adorns.

Looking down the long list of Emperors who have worn the title of KAISER since that memorable Christmas Day in 800 when CHARLEMAGNE was crowned in Rome by Pope LEO III. as Emperor of the West' one is struck by the fact that the present German Empire is essentially different from the Holy Roman Empire which came to an end in 1806. To begin with, Austria, the most important factor in the earlier empire, is not a member of the present. The Imperial throne, after the extinction of the Carlovingian line, was filled by election, though with a tendency towards the hereditary principle of succession. At first the Emperor was chosen by the vote of all the Princes and Peers of the Reich; but the mode came to be changed in the fourteenth century, when a limited number of Princes, fixed at seven for a time, and afterwards enlarged to eight (nine from 1692 to 1777), assumed the privilege of disposing of the crown, and, their right being acknowledged, were called Electors. With the overthrow of the old Empire by the Emperor NAPOLEON, in 1806, the Electoral dignity virtually ceased, although the title of Elector was retained sixty years longer by the Sovereigns of Hesse-Cassel, the last of whom were dethroned in 1866 by Prussia. The election of WILHELM I., King of Prussia, as German Emperor (1871), was by vote of the Reichstag of the North German Confederation, on the initiative of all the reigning Princes of Germany, and the imperial dignity was made hereditary in the House of Hohenzollern, and has to follow the law of primogeniture.

THE JAPANESE ARMY.

MR. F. J. NORMAN'S letter to the *Spectator* on the Japanese army is an essay that ought to be noticed, we suppose, though really one grows very weary commenting on the views of writers whose egregious blunders are patent to every ordinarily well-informed person. However, it must be confessed that Mr. NORMAN has chosen his medium well, and has also constructed his thesis in a manner calculated to attract attention. The *Spectator* has a perpetual night-mare of Yellow Peril and is delighted to welcome any contribution that justifies its alarm. So Mr. F. J. NORMAN could count on the insertion of his letter. And as for the letter itself, having made its statements sufficiently startling, and having based them on assumptions difficult to refute convincingly, Mr. NORMAN could also count on awakening some interest and holding it for a time. He introduces himself cleverly—"an old soldier, and an old Japan resident and late instructor in her leading colleges, military as well as civilian" (sic). In what "leading civilian college" was Mr. NORMAN an instructor? And what did he instruct in? Unless we are much mistaken he was never anything but a teacher of the English language, whether at a military college or at a "civilian," and it is plain that he himself lacks teaching in that language. But let us deal briefly with his assertions. His points are these:—That the Japanese army has a large preponderance of Satsuma and Choshu men among its officers; that "the commands and staff billets, too, have been reserved for these men and so much so indeed that the subject has (sic) long since become a byword in Japan;" "that young men of other and not too friendly clans are now commencing in ever-increasing numbers to join the naval and military colleges;" that many of them do so with the hope of ultimately "swamping the Satsuma and Choshu elements and so getting a chance of making for themselves a military career"; that the Satsuma and Choshu men, objecting to be swamped, "quarrels innumerable are now the order of the day"; that "there is every prospect of these quarrels increasing as time rolls on and as the rising members of the present generation fit themselves for commands and staff billets"; and finally that "the great danger to Japan is that should war break out between her and Russia before matters at home have had time to settle down, and should the Japanese forces meet with any serious repulses, which is more than likely, then something like a revolution directed against the present Sat-Cho Government may be started by its opponents."

That is a sensational showing. Apparently the Japanese army is in a very bad way. Possibly our own testimony will be counted nearly as good as Mr. NORMAN's, for we have lived almost four times as long in Japan as he did, and have been intimate with probably ten army or navy men for every one he knew. Well, prior to the publication of the essay in the *Spectator* we never heard of the conditions described; never heard of the commands and staff billets being reserved for Satsuma and Choshu men; never heard that there is a large preponderance of these in the officers' ranks; never heard of the innumerable quarrels that are now the order of the day. Moreover, since reading Mr. NORMAN's letter we have diligently searched and inquired for some evidences of these things, but they remain undiscoverable. All seem to be ignorant of them except Mr. NORMAN. However, this is only one voice against another. Let us appeal to a more cogent witness, the army list. Apparently Mr. NORMAN did not think of consulting that authority. He would have saved himself an unpleasant exposure had he done so. For, in the first place, he would have found that these important clan distinctions which bulk so largely in his eyes, count as nothing in the eyes of the so-called clansmen themselves. So lightly do they hold the question of origin that they make a habit of registering themselves as domiciled in the district where their service happens to be. Thus hundreds of men belonging to localities where feudal chiefs once reigned, far distant from the capital, are now registered as men of Tokyo. But even that is partially negative proof. Let us come down to hard arithmetic. There are on the active list 90 general officers in all, and by examining the records of 15 years ago, when distinctions of clan were still recorded, we find that 34 of these are of Satsuma and Choshu origin and that 56 belong to other clans. Now it is in the ranks of the Generals, Lt.-Generals and Major-Generals that the Satsuma and Choshu preponderance ought to show, if anywhere, for undoubtedly in the old days these two clans, having furnished the army of the Restoration, did for a long time contribute a disproportionately large number of officers to the army of the empire. Yet among the Generals there are nearly two of outside clans to every one from Satsuma and Choshu. Passing now to the lower grades of staff officers, Colonels, Lt.-Colonels and Majors, we find that there are on the active list 851 names, among which 112 are those of Satsuma and Choshu men, and 739 are the names of men of other clans. Nearly 7 men of other clans for every 1 of Satsuma and Choshu origin. The final result is that in the first six grades of the army, that is to say, the staff officers' grades, there are 146 Satsuma and Choshu men in all and there are 795 of other clans. It is out of the question to analyse the captains and lieutenants. For them no public records of clans exists. Distinctions of clan have been wholly forgotten in their case. Instead of being sources of "innumerable quarrels with every prospect of increasing," such distinctions are not even traceable by the statistician. In the face of such figures Mr. NORMAN's assertions about the preponderance of the Sat-cho elements, about their absorption of the commands and staff billets, and about the struggles of the young officers to oust them, become the purest moonshine.

And so it is with regard to his prediction that in the event of any serious disaster to the Japanese forces the young officers would turn their weapons against their Sat-Cho comrades rather than against the enemies of their country. That forecast betrays the crassest ignorance of Japanese modern history. For the extraordinary features of that history—the surrender of their fiefs by the *Daimyo* and the abolition of feudalism—were due to precisely the sentiment of country before clan which Mr. NORMAN believes to be lacking to-day. In the very zenith of their power the feudatories gave up their lands, divested themselves of their authority and finally agreed to the total extinction of the clan system, solely because they saw that no lesser sacrifices could save their country from the perils of foreign aggression. It was because of that patriotic conception that the last of the TOKUGAWA *Shoguns* stepped down from a throne into the life of the common crowd, and it was because of that patriotic conception that the *Shogun's* most trusted General violated all the sacred canons of fealty by surrendering Yedo Castle without a blow. And now comes Mr. F. J. NORMAN to prate to us about young officers who, if their country's forces met defeat, would sacrifice the empire on the altar of their private ambition; Mr. F. J. NORMAN to tell us that unpatriotic selfishness which feudalism in its days of vigorous life could not excite is waiting now to become active over the grave of the long-buried system; Mr. F. J. NORMAN to inform us that a people who swept away the clans thirty years ago lest their existence should weaken the country in the face of a foreign foe, would to-day display the worst form of that weakness for the sake of re-asserting clan pretensions. It is very tiresome.

PANAMA.

(BY DR. CARL PETERS IN "DER TAG," BERLIN. TRANSLATED FOR THE "JAPAN MAIL.")

To later observers it will appear that the characteristic feature in the political development of our age is the extraordinary extension of power on the part of Great Britain, Russia and North America. The absorption of Egypt and South Africa by Great Britain; the binding of Manchuria and probably also Mongolia, to the Tsar's empire, and the embarking of the United States on a policy of securing over-sea possessions, are the striking historical events of our times. The most interesting part in this shifting of power during the past decade, is the sudden reaching out, beyond her natural boundary, on the part of the United States. From being a purely defensive continental Power we see before our eyes the development on our planet of a third world Power which has established its influence in the Antilles and the Philippines, and already makes itself felt in the Far East, and in Europe. In the Chinese crisis North America pursued an independent and energetic course and its strong fleet now makes itself felt in the decisions of East Asiatic nations, as well as of European Powers; while in the Near East we saw, several months ago, for the first time, an American squadron on the coast of Asia Minor asserting the power of the Stars and Stripes. Thus, while proclaiming the Monroe doctrine at home, for the purpose of excluding Europe from annexing any part of North or South America, the United States are by no means willing to abstain from appearing in other parts of the world. The jingos of New York and Chicago are already looking across the Atlantic for land in Africa; and that the Pacific Ocean will ultimately become an American sea is a creed which, while as yet kept in the background of discussion is nevertheless an energetic force in this powerful imperialistic movement. The mighty Republic of the West claims, unconditionally, the leadership of political and commercial affairs in the new world, and at the same time hegemony over the Far West and beyond to the shores of Eastern Asia and Australia.

In view of this ambition, and these plans, one can readily understand the importance of connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans by a waterway, for the use of the whole civilized world, but particularly for the United States. If the United States of North America wishes to establish imperialism as a reality on both oceans then their connection by water through the isthmus of Panama is a very vital question. The way around Cape Horne is long and dangerous, especially when the Straits of Magellan, by winter fog, are shrouded in midnight darkness. The overland route from New York to San Francisco, is expensive and for freight almost impractiable. What the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Canal is, in a small way, for the German empire, the Panama Canal will in a gigantic measure prove for North America. It will double the capacity of the American fleet. A glance at the map of the world will at once show us the great importance of the Panama Canal for the commerce of the world. The narrow confines of the Isthmus of Panama, only 46 miles between Aspinwall and Panama, strongly invite the making of a connection with the two oceans here. In this respect the enterprise is the first pendant to the Suez Canal, and it is remarkable that the creator of that was also the originator of the plan for piercing the Isthmus of Central America. Ferdinand de Lesseps organized, in 1881, a French company for this purpose with a capital of 800,000,000 francs. Most of my readers will remember how this Panama company was ruined in consequence of gross mismanagement and the squandering of its funds. Already in 1889 the company had to liquidate, and disappeared in the sequel of a general public scandal, in consequence of which M. de Lesseps, the younger, was imprisoned.

Out of the chaos a second company came forth, in 1894, which has up to date completed about two-fifths of the work, somewhere near 20 English miles. Meanwhile the North American jingos had begun seriously to think upon this subject. The United States realized the great national and political importance of the enterprise and discovered that the Monroe doctrine would never allow that such a work should be placed in the hands of Europeans. In the first place the Nicaragua canal was "boomed" against the Panama project. Threats were made against the French plan by undertaking an opposition enterprise; these threats were no doubt the chief reason why the new Panama company offered to sell its entire interests to America for £8,000,000 or 40 million dollars. This brought the matter to its present position. For now the Union undertook the management of the enterprise, and the next step was to come to an understanding with Great Britain, for up to February 5th, 1900, the Clayton-Bulwer treaty was binding. If the Stars and the Stripes were to wave alone over the Panama Canal then this treaty had to be abrogated. The Hay-Pauncefote treaty took its place in 1900, in which Great Britain relinquished her rights of joint control, and the United States agreed to the neutralization of the Panama Canal after the style of the Suez Canal. This opened the way for the United States to negotiate directly with the Columbian Government with regard to a concession. The last act of the drama led to a *peripétie* of complications, and at the same time settled the matter in the interests of North America, in a way so elegant that its like is seldom found in the history of international intercourse. The United States, always holding in the left hand the threat of the Nicaragua Canal, offered with the right hand to the Columbia Government, for the Panama concession, the handsome sum of 2,000,000 pounds sterling, or 10,000,000 dollars. It was especially stipulated that North America should have sovereign rights over the entire strip of the canal. The United States of Columbia believed that by delay it could hold off the great Northern Republic, and in due time obtain a better offer. But suddenly the world was surprised by the news that a revolution had broken out in the state of Panama; that the Isthmus had proclaimed itself independent of Columbia; and that the United States, "after carefully examining" the wishes of the free citizens of Panama had recognized the new Republic, and was concentrating men-of-war from all directions in the vicinity of the canal. This was done, of course, for the purpose of "protecting its own citizens" and "to keep order." In this way the Gordian knot was cut in two. The new Republic at once sent a Minister to Washington, who accepted the North American demands in the lump. Thereupon France, the next interested Power, also recognized the new order of things, while the other Powers held back, but of course no one protested.

In Bogota all these things produced great noise. The President of Columbia gave expression, in eloquent words, to the sacred rights of the "proud Columbian nation," and rattled his sword. He even appealed to the neighbouring free republics of South America,—among others to our old friend Don Castro of Venezuela, to help in this "holy war." An effort was made to buy arms in Europe, but failed in consequence of the empty state of the state treasury. No one took the statements of the Mestizian Republic seriously; and with the respectful pressure which the United States exerted, coupled with their great moderation, the noise soon subsided. Columbia will accept the reasonable offer of Panama to bear a part of the national debt, the interest on the same to be guaranteed by the United States, and thus this state revolution will remain what it is: a harmless comedy. To interested observers, the whole performance would seem ridiculous were it not for the fact that at the bottom lies a great work in the interest of civilization. The Panama Canal will unite the Atlantic with the Pacific ocean in a trip of 14 hours. Not only will it bring the Eastern states of the Union closer to the Western—Boston, New York and New England nearer to San Francisco—but also the whole of Europe, Great Britain, France, Germany and Russia will be equally benefited by the new sea-route. Even Eastern Asia, the islands of the Pacific and Australia will come nearer, by means of the Canal in a fashion as yet incalculable. That the result will ultimately exceed those of the Suez Canal there can be little doubt. For the Continents of our planet stretch from north to south, and therefore every opening from west to east shortens the way far more than from north to south. The more the Pacific, and the Far East gain importance in the trade of the world and the more the commerce of the Western Coast of America develops, the greater will be the importance of the new canal.

NIPPON RACE CLUB.

The annual general meeting of members of the Nippon Race Club was held on Wednesday afternoon in the Masonic Rooms, No. 78, Yokohama. Dr. Wheeler, Vice-President, occupied the chair and there was a good attendance.

The CHAIRMAN announced that the President, Sir Claude MacDonald, regretted exceedingly that pressure of business detained him in Tokyo.

At the request of the CHAIRMAN, the SECRETARY (Mr. S. H. Somerton) read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said the next business was the passing of the minutes of last meeting. As they were very voluminous and their reading would occupy a great deal of time he asked for a motion that they be taken as read.

On the proposal of Mr. V. Blad, seconded by Mr. A. R. Catto, the minutes were taken as read.

The next business, the Chairman continued, was the consideration of the report and accounts for 1903. If any one present did not have a copy the Secretary would supply the want. He might say that the report and accounts had already been approved of by the Permanent Committee. It was a very full and able report and he thought the thanks of the meeting were due to the Executive Committee, who had worked so hard and spared no time in looking after their interests. The report, he repeated, was very full and the accounts were well looked into and well audited. Before putting them to the vote it would be in order for any member to make comments on them.

There being no remarks,

The CHAIRMAN asked some one to propose their adoption.

On the motion of Mr. J. de Cuers de Cogolin seconded by Mr. A. R Catto, the report and accounts were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN said the next business was election of the Committee. He asked Messrs A. J. McClure and S. Isaacs to act as scrutineers of the ballot and reminded those present that only full members could vote.

While the scrutiny was going on,

Mr. DUKE MARSHALL said there was a very general feeling at the last general meeting in favour of a fixed programme yet nothing at all had been done in the shape of fixing a programme so far as he knew and therefore he would like to ask the Executive Committee if there was any reason why something could not be fixed so as to provide classical races, for which he was perfectly certain owners would provide horses. He thought the same feeling must prevail now as at the meeting last year..

Mr. A. G. MOREY WEALE said he thought a fixed programme, if it could be carried out, was an excellent idea, but he was afraid that in practice it was not so easy. The Committee did not overlook the fact that a fixed programme had been referred to as a desirable thing, but on looking into matters they found it difficult to act. However he had no doubt that the incoming Committee would give the subject their attention and if they should see their way to drawing up a fixed programme of the various classes coming forward and also dropping out from time to time it would be extremely satisfactory to owners, inasmuch as they would always know what they had to look forward to. The retiring Committee found it a very difficult matter to carry through in view of the horses that remained over. He suggested that the incoming Committee might call a meeting of owners in order to ascertain the views of the latter on the point (Hear, hear).

Mr. MARSHALL said if that was the opinion of the Committee, as he thought it must be the feeling of the meeting then it would be as well to take it so as to strengthen the hands of the incoming Committee.

The CHAIRMAN—The incoming Committee would be only too delighted if you call a meeting of owners and formulate something for them to go upon.

Mr. MARSHALL—I suggest that it is for the Committee to call such a meeting not for an individual member.

The CHAIRMAN said the Committee wanted to have the views of the owners.

Mr. MARSHALL said he should like to hear the feeling of this meeting to strengthen the hands of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN asked if Mr. Marshall put that in the form of a resolution.

Mr. MARSHALL said he merely suggested it; he did not think they could pass a motion.

The CHAIRMAN said the meeting could not do anything unless some one proposed and some one else seconded a motion; then they could take a vote.

Mr. MARSHALL—Well, I suggest it.

The CHAIRMAN—You propose?

Mr. MARSHALL—I propose.

While Mr. Marshall wrote out his proposal,

Mr. F. M. TEGNER asked what were the difficulties the Committee had to overcome in the way of fixing a programme.

Mr. WEALE said in having a fixed programme they had to define beforehand what races were to be allotted to certain classes but as he said before classes come up and fall out. If they had a definite skeleton programme and they found that there were not sufficient horses they had to rearrange the whole programme.

Mr. TEGNER asked had they not been racing with Australians and China ponies and would it not be possible to arrange races for these classes, leaving blanks for emergency races?

Mr. WEALE said he thought they would find constant revision necessary—not but that a fixed programme would be an excellent thing if it could be carried out. There was a rule to be considered (28) which said:

"The Programme of the Spring and Autumn Race Meetings shall be drawn up by the Executive Committee as soon after the previous meeting as possible. If owing to special circumstances it be found impossible to decide upon a definite programme within a reasonable time after a meeting, a skeleton programme shall be published which shall be adhered to as closely as possible." Would Mr. Tegner propose to make an alteration in the rule so as to cover his fixed programme.

Mr. Tegner said he would propose that the Committee reconsider that rule and possibly have it changed so that a skeleton programme could be drawn up for three or four meetings. There was something published in the *Japan Mail* about the matter and he thoroughly endorsed the suggestion there made.

Mr. Marshall here read his motion as follows: "That the incoming Committee shall call a meeting of owners to confer with them as to the possibility of framing a fixed programme.

Mr. Weale—Would you not say for how long?

Mr. Marshall said there was a very valuable suggestion in, he thought, the *Japan Mail* as to a fixed programme to be confirmed by the Permanent Committee for a certain time, that confirmation to be renewed from year to year or for as many meetings as necessary. That would cover the difficulty.

Mr. de Cuers de Cogolin having seconded Mr. Marshall's proposal it was carried, 18 supporting it and none voting against.

Mr. Tegner read from the *Japan Mail* of Dec. 14th the following, which occurred in a letter signed "A.R.C.":

"It would be very much better to make provision in the rules such as the following:

"'The Permanent Committee shall have power to frame a skeleton programme, extending over a period of three or more years, which shall be adhered to as closely as circumstances will admit by the Executive Committee, who shall publish detailed programmes for the Spring and Autumn Meetings as early as they conveniently can before the dates fixed for such Meetings. Any changes in the standing skeleton programme found necessary by the Committee, shall be advertised for the information of members as early as possible." I thoroughly endorse that, added Mr. Tegner,

The Chairman said Mr. Marshall's motion included all that.

Mr. Tegner said certainly.

Mr. Marshall called attention to another point that had been referred to in letters, namely the weights. The racing public must surely know that they were racing exclusively under Yokohama weights, and he could see no reason why they should not be brought into line with racing practice in other centres. He did not want to be suggesting everything to this meeting, so perhaps some one else might have something to say.

The Chairman thought the incoming Committee would take Mr. Marshall's suggestion into consideration.

Mr. Marshall said there seemed to be some confusion as to the powers of this meeting. As far as he was aware the meeting had no power to propose or suggest anything whatever. For himself he saw no reason why they should not suggest but if he recollected aright anything in the nature of a proposition was entirely out of place except as to the accounts.

The Chairman said yes, but he had wished to make the matter more emphatic, because a meré suggestion was apt to be forgotten by people.

It was announced that the ballot had resulted in the election of Messrs. V. Blad, D. Marshall, K. Mori, A. J. Easton, C. de C. Hughes, J. de Cuers de Cogolin, and F. M. Tegner.

The Chairman said that closed the formal business of the meeting, but he thought they ought not to disperse without giving a very hearty vote of thanks to their late Executive Committee—a Committee that had done everything for the club, worked hard and worked well in their interests (Hear hear, and applause).

On the motion of Mr. Barclay a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman and the proceedings terminated.

In submitting the Report and Accounts of the Nippon Race Club for 1903, the Committee are pleased to have the opportunity of congratulating Members on a prosperous year's working.

The quality of the sport provided has distinctly tended towards improvement, and it is reasonable to hope that with the increasing interest displayed in local Racing generally, this will not only be maintained but continue to still further develope.

Financially the Club stands on an excellent footing, and at the present rate of progress should shortly find its position independent of any possible contingency.

Membership:—An accession of 28 Active and 19 Subscribing members to the Club roll has to be recorded, bringing the total in each class up to 197 and 103 respectively.

By the decease of H.I.H. Prince Komatsu no Miya the Club has been deprived of an illustrious Patron whose place H.I.H. Prince Kan-in no Miya has graciously consented to fill.

In the same connection the Club has to regret the loss by death during 1903 of some of its older adherents—notably that of Mr. N. P. Kingdon, for many years one of the keenest and most prominent supporters of the local Turf.

Club Property:—Considerable improvements of different kinds have been effected during the past twelvemonth to the Club's property and buildings, which generally speaking are to-day in an excellent state of repair. Under this heading may be mentioned the erection of a new Tiffin Room, etc., which it is hoped has conduced to the comfort of Members and Visitors, the completion of uniform fencing round the Lawn and Weighing Enclosure, alteration to steps of the Grand Stand, etc., etc. The Executive have had under consideration further plans for an entire reconstruction of the older buildings which will be placed at the disposal of the incoming Committee.

A plot of land adjoining Mr. Mottu's stables, about 106 tsubos in area, has been acquired on very cheap terms, and is available for building additional stalls when required Negotiations for the purchase of the strip of land running parallel with a portion of "the straight" on which "stands" for Japanese spectators have hitherto been erected were taken in hand, but unfortunately had to be abandoned.

Private Road:—This has been thoroughly repaired and sufficiently widened at the top to permit of a freer passage for vehicles.

The Kencho have been asked to draw up a complete plan of the Club's Property from official records, showing the boundary line of each lot purchased, rented, and/or loaned by the Imperial Estates Bureau, and have kindly consented to take the matter in hand.

Starting Gates:—At the written request of numerous owners the use of these during the Autumn Training and Racing was abandoned. The two machines imported from Singapore, however, are still available if required.

Club Veterinary Surgeon:—Following up the suggestion put forward in the last Annual Report, the Executive Committee engaged in July last the services of Mr. Harrison—a duly qualified Veterinary Surgeon of Sydney. Mr. Harrison's present contract expires in July next.

Subscription Australian Griffins:—No pains have been spared by the Committee to ensure arrival of these within dates leaving reasonably sufficient time for training, but in spite of special arrangements for direct shipment, etc., the fact is apparent that only by ordering in advance of subscribers' requirements can this be made a certainty.

In the case of the Spring 1904 Griffins the Committee took steps accordingly, with the result that the new batch of Australians are due to reach here within the present month.

Advantage was taken of Mr. Kiss' recent visit to Japan to provide for a second means of supply should a change in the Club's present connection be at any time deemed desirable.

Pony Auctions:—An agreement whereby Mr. J. W. Hall assumes charge for a term of five years of the Club's Auctions in place of his own was finally concluded in November, and will, it is hoped, prove a beneficial step in the interests of sport.

Rules:—Various alterations, of which Members have already been apprised, were proposed and confirmed by the Permanent Committee in the Spring of 1903, and new books of Rules issued.

Prizes:—The value of these has been increased during the past year to figures compatible with the resources of the Club and now stands at roughly *yen* 22,000 per annum.

His Imperial Majesty the Emperor by the gracious presentation of a Cup at both the Spring and Autumn Meetings again conferred a marked honour on the Club, which the Committee on behalf of the Members have to record their high appreciation of. The thanks of the Members are also due to individual donors of prizes.

Also to those gentlemen who in various official capacities were good enough to lend the Committee valuable assistance during the Race Meetings.

Committee Room:—For the purpose of establishing a permanent address available for the holding of semi-official meetings the preservation of the Club's archives, etc., a room at No. 23, Water Street, has been leased to form the Committee's head quarters.

In accordance with Rule IV. the Committee now retire.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Nippon Race Club in Account Current with the Honorary Treasurer for the Year 1903.

Dr.

Dec. 31, 1903.		Yen.
To Rent of Course for 1903.		750.00
To Fire Insurance on Grand Stand, Pavilion, etc.		355.00
To Wages, Keeping Course, etc.		1,487.25
To Repairs to Fences, Roads, etc.		1,702.55
To Repairs to Stables, Paddock Buildings		1,022.46
To Expenses in Connection with Meetings		1,833.99
To Prizes, Spring Meeting	10,700.00	
To Prizes, Autumn Meeting	11,295.00	21,995.00
To China Subscription Ponies, Spring	1,620.00	
To China Subscription Ponies, Autumn	3,016.00	4,636.00
To Australian Subscription Horses, Spring	10,845.65	
To Australian Subscription Horses, Autumn	10,781.71	21,627.36
To Printing, including Race Books, etc.		1,719.35
To Registration Fees, Taxes, etc.		4.43
To Veterinary Surgeon, Salary for 5 months		950.00
To Secretary's Salary for one year		400.00
To Collector's „ „		100.00
To Auditor's Fee		50.00
To Survey Fee, Grand Stand, J. Conder, Esq.		50.00
To Commission and Fees, Mr. Kildoyle		340.82
To New Building		3,760.50
To Telephone Apparatus		646.59
To Sundry Furniture		557.78
To Purchase of Land and Registration Fee		249.32
To Funds in Hand Gymkhana Meeting, 1898, transferred		49.86
To Deposits (H. & S. Bank)	40,000.00	
To „ (Y. S. Bank)	20,000.00	60,000.00
To Credit Balance with the H. & S. B. C.		3,892.11
H. & S. B. C. as per Pass Book	2,592.18	
Since deposited	1,615.00	
	4,207.18	
Cheque not paid	315.07	
Yen	3,892.11	
		128,180.37

Cr.

December 31st, 1903.	Yen.	Yen.
By Balance brought forward		39,546.07
By Interest on Current Account		276.76
By Interest on Deposits		2,238.32
By Members Subscriptions		3,748.00
By Rent of Stables, Jockeys' Licenses, etc.		1,304.00
By Entries:—Spring Meeting	2,120.00	
By Entries:—Autumn Meeting	2,695.00	4,815.00
By China Subscription Ponies, Spring	1,620.00	
By China Subscription Ponies Autumn	3,016.00	4,636.00
By Australian Subscription Horses, Spring	10,845.65	
By Australian Subscription Horses, Autumn	10,781.71	21,627.36
By Rent of Refreshment Room		100.00
By Registration of Names and Colours		2.00
By Subscriptions, Veterinary Surgeon		140.00
By Sundry Receipts		53.63
By Gate Money and Sale of Race Books, Spring	21,321.80	
By Gate Money and Sale of Race Books, Autumn	28,371.43	49,693.23
		128,180.37

E. & O. E.

L. MOTTET, *Hon. Treasurer.*

Yokohama, 19th January 1904.

Subscriptions and Vouchers examined with the Books and found correct.

J. F. COX-EDAWRDS, *Auditor.*

GRAND HOTEL, LTD.

A WELL-DESERVED TRIBUTE TO MR. EPPINGER.

The semi-annual general meeting of shareholders in the Grand Hotel, Ltd., was held on Wednesday afternoon at the Hotel, Dr. C. H. H. Hall, Chairman of Directors, presiding. There were also present, Messrs. A. M. Knapp, E, V. Thorn, L. Mottet, R. Howie, M. Kaufmann, C. K. M. Martin, Jas. Martin, M. McDonald, and G. C. Booth, Secretary.

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN rose and said:—As we have had ample time to examine the Report and Statement of Accounts, we will dispense with the reading of them if there is no objection. The result of the last half year's working, now before us, confirms the indications of the preceding twenty-eight half years, viz., that the Hotel has sustaining power for very good returns. This steady prosperity may be taken as a measure of the public appreciation of the entertainment offered. Several factors have contributed to the production of this good will, but I may say that the chief of them has been the atmosphere of genial welcome and home-like comfort with which the untiring efforts of the Manager have surrounded his guests. Really good hotel management is so quiet and unobtrusive in its methods that probably few who benefit by it realize the expenditure of mental and bodily labour, of patient self-control and earnest study, that is required to secure it. These we have had in generous measure from Mr. Eppinger almost since the organization of the Company, and if there were no natural limit to human life and zealous endeavour we might hope to continue in the enjoyment of his single management of our interests. But consideration for his age and health and for the increasing demands of a steadily growing establishment have suggested to the Directors and to the Manager the advisability of providing additional managerial services. The Board has therefore entered into an engagement for the services of an Associate Manager, who will assume the burden of direct supervision and thus afford a well-earned rest to Mr. Eppinger. The latter will, however, remain with us, for many years we hope, as Advisory Manager and give us the benefit of his long and varied experience. Captain Frederick Davies, who will soon join our staff as Associate Manager, is no stranger to this community, to the travelling public, or to the executive duties he is to undertake in the Hotel. As a commander in the Royal Naval Reserve and captain of one of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's fine European liners, Captain Davies has made a reputation for executive ability and tactful courtesy that warrants expectation of success in a field that does not differ materially from the sphere in which he has won most hearty commendation. The air is so full at present of echoes and rumours of war and its effects upon trade and travel that our deliberations as shareholders would naturally include reflections as to the possible consequences for our business. Upon this topic, however, so fruitful of blind conjecture, it seems wise to preserve a hopeful reticence. Returning now to the Report and Statement, if there are any items concerning which members wish information before voting upon the accounts, I shall be glad to reply as I may be able, after a motion to adopt has been duly seconded. I beg to move the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. A. M. KNAPP—I will second that proposal.—Carried.

The next business was the election of Directors and the Chairman pointed out that as no nominations of new Directors had been received within the seven days required by their articles of association, the retiring Directors, Messrs. Kaufmann and Mottet would succeed themselves if they were nominated,

PAY-INSPECTOR MITCHELL MCDONALD—I nominate for re-election as Directors, Messrs. Kaufmann and Mottet.

Mr. E. V. THORN—I second them.

THE CHAIRMAN pointed out that according to parliamentary procedure a nomination needed no seconder. Messrs. Kaufmann and Mottet were then declared re-elected Directors.

With reference to the remuneration of Directors, Mr. R. HOWIE moved that the Directors receive the sum of *yen* 500 per year each, with a bonus of *yen* 100 apiece.

Mr. KNAPP—Was that the amount voted last year?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes.

Mr. KNAPP—Then I second Mr. Howe's motion.—Carried.

The CHAIRMAN announced that the anditor, Mr. Cox-Edwards, found that pressure of business prevented him from serving the company longer in that capacity, and as the Directors had received an intimation that Mr. E. B. S. Edwards would be pleased to act for them, the Directors had pleasure in submitting his name.

Mr. THORN thereupon proposed and Mr. KNAPP seconded that Mr. E. B. S. Edwards be appointed auditor.—Carried.

This concluded the business.

NIPPON BICYCLE CLUB.

The annual meeting of members of the Nippon Bicycle Club was held on Thursday evening at No. 42 Yamashitacho, Mr. T. M. Laffin in the chair.

The following were elected the new Committee for 1904:—President, T. M. Laffin; Captain, C. J. Helm; Committee, James Helm; B. Roberts; 1st Lieut, R. B. Deming; 2nd Lieut, G. Charlesworth; Hon. Sec. & Treas., R. Meiklejohn.

The report and accounts are as follow:—

Your Committee have pleasure in presenting to you the Seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Club for the Year 1903.

MEMBERS.—The Members roll at date consists of 39 Active and 10 Honorary Members; during the year under review 28 New Members have joined whilst 13 have resigned.

RACING.—It was again attempted to get up an Afternoon's Sports, but on account of the very few Racing Members, the attempt was abandoned.

CLUB RUNS.—The Runs were very well patronised during the early part of the Season, some of the Runs bringing out as many as 22 Members. Full particulars of these Runs are recorded in the Club's Log Book.

ENTERTAINMENTS.—The Members of the Dai Nippon Sorin Club very kindly invited our members to a Garden Party at the Satake Garden at Mukojima which was indeed a very grand affair, particulars may be found in the Log Book. Our members in return gave a Picnic but on account of the unpropitious weather, this had to be abandoned and a tiffin at the "Nisseiro" was given instead, where covers for some 90 members and invited guests were laid. The thanks of the Club are due to Mr. Laffin who so kindly supplied the Band for that day.

CLUB HOUSE.—During the Summer months our Captain, Mr. C. J. Helm, very kindly gave us the use of his Villa at Hommoku for use as a Club House, with facilities for lawn tennis and bathing, which were availed of by nearly all members, and our thanks are due to Mr. Helm for his kind accomodation, also to Mr. Ward for his donation toward buying furniture for the Club House. The opening day was attended by 42 persons including members and their friends.

ACCOUNTS.—The finances of the Club still stand on a very sound basis, the balance in the hands of the Hon. Treasurer being *yen* 63.73 which is considered very well, especially after the drain of *yen* 202.35 spent on account of the Club House.

COMMITTEE.—With the powers vested in the committee at an extraordinary meeting held in January 1903, it was decided to invite Messrs. R. B. Deming and G. Charlesworth to join as Sub-Committees during the year just past. The retiring committee wish the Club every success.

ACCOUNTS.

RECEIPTS.	Yen.
By balance from 1902	33.45
By 35 Members subscription for the 1st half year *yen* 2.00	70.00
By 19 New Members Entrance fee *yen* 2.50	47.50
By Sale of Badges	25.00
By 40 Members Subscription for the 2nd Half year *yen* 2.00	80.00
By 9 New Members Entrance fee *yen* 2.50	22.50
By T. M. Laffin, donation for Picnic	40.00
By R. J. Ward, donation for Club House	20.00
By Income from Club House July/September.	74.36
	421.81

EXPENDITURE.	Yen.
To Postages, Coolie Hire, and Posters	47.76
To Entertainments, Band, etc.	65.37
To Printing and Stationery	16.10
To Badges	17.50
To Club House expenses July/September	202.35
To Balance in hand	63.73
	412.81

Yokohama, December 31, 1903.
GEO. HOOD.
Hon. Secty & Treas.

Examined and found correct.
E. POWYS Jnr.
Yokohama, January 14, 1904.

DESULTORY NOTES ON SPORT.

A curious occurrence is reported from Moorfield, New South Wales, in the race for the Moorfield Handicap, value one hundred sovereigns. The judge's decision was a dead heat between three horses, and in the run off the three proved themselves so well matched that the result was again a dead heat. Thereupon the owners agreed to divide the stakes. The time for the first race was 2 mins. 13 secs, and in the run off they covered the distance in half a second more time. Distance 1¼ miles.

This incident is probably without a precedent. A dead heat between three horses has often been recorded. The Caesarewitch in 1857 resulted in a dead heat between El Hakim, Prioress and Queen Bess. In the run off Fordham was put up on Prioress, ridden in the first try by Tankerley, and with the superior jockey she soon put paid to the account of the other two. Some years ago, at Sandown Park, a race resulted in a dead heat between two horses, Deuce of Clubs and Seasong. They ran it off, and again the judge was unable to separate them. As the owners would not divide, they were sent out for a third time, and Deuce of Clubs won by a head only.

Prioress was the property of Mr. Ten Eroek the leader of the first American invasion of the British turf, and was trained by an American. In his "Recollections," Custance relates that Prioress was given a three mile sweat between the race and the run-off. The modern American trainer is not in the habit of giving his charges long sweats to any extent during training, and would be horrified at the idea of more than a very gentle exercise between a dead heat and a run-off.

Somewhat tardily, the Committee of the Nippon Race Club have allotted another race on the programme for All Comers, China pony class. In the skeleton programme first published, there was only one race for this class, and a handicap at that. The handicapper would have had a very invidious task in allotting weights to a field of ponies without seeing them run previously; and some being newcomers to Japan he would not even have performances at previous meetings to guide him. Somewhat naturally, several owners who had decided to import new China ponies, cancelled their orders, and it is now rather late to expect them to reconsider the matter, even if the two races were sufficient inducement.

There is a proposal [illegible] start a one design class on Lake Chusenji, something after the style of the Larks, which have proved such a success in Yokohama waters. The Nantaisan Club had a certain amount of racing last season with 12 raters; but with boats of the dinghy type capaizes are so frequent on the Lake, owing to the vagaries of the winds from the surrounding hills, that it is proposed to try a safer kind of craft, and a broad beamed, flat-bottomed boat like the Lark design should fill the bill, if some slight alteration could be made in the cockpit, to make them more suitable for ladies. Perhaps a combing, carried aft to the transom, would ensure a dry deck to sit upon. In any case, as the Lark does not heel over to such an angle as does the dinghy type, it is more comfortable to ride in.

The annual general meeting of the Yokohama Yacht Club is due shortly, and it will be interesting to hear if there are any prospects of racing for the 39 rater class, now reduced to three yachts. It would be a pity to let the class die out altogether, but it has been threatened with extinction for some time past, and now that the *Golden Hind* and *Haidee* are out of it, the class seems doomed.

Yokohama yachtsmen and his many other friends will regret to hear that Mr. N. B. Morton, who so successfully sailed the *Vixen* in the 21 rater class, has returned to Yokohama in a very sad state of health.

FIRES.

Miyake-jima seems to have suffered terribly from fires this winter. A conflagration on the 24th of December destroyed 40 houses out of 59 in the village of Iya-mura; and another conflagration on the 4th instant at Kamitsuki-mura reduced 94 dwellings to ashes. The inhabitants are said to be in great straits.

About 3 a.m. on Friday, fire broke out at the back of the bath-house Tsuru-no-yu, Chiyozaki-cho, Kitagata, Yokohama. A northerly wind prevailed and the flames spread immediately, destroying twenty-nine houses. The Bluff Police are investigating the cause, but it is believed to be negligence on the part of the bath-house people.

A telegram from Shidzuoka states that fire occurred on the night of Jan. 20th at the village of Nirayama, Idzu province, burning down fifty-eight buildings including five godowns.

K. Shimada (36), a farmer living at Osato, Saitama Prefecture, set fire to his own dwelling on the morning of Jan. 20th and committed suicide by jumping into the flames. The cause is reported to be a dispute with his son with regard to the property.

Another outbreak of fire took place early on the morning of Jan. 21st at the village of Aoshima, Shida district, Shidzuoka Prefecture, destroying twenty-three houses.

On Sunday afternoon, about 2.30 o'clock, fire broke out in an upstair room of the Central Hotel (formerly Hotel de Paris), No. 74, Yokohama, destroying the building. The origin of the fire is still under investigation by the police, but it is alleged to have been caused by an over-heated stove.

Fire broke out on the morning of Jan. 22nd at the Ashio Copper Mine, destroying two machine rooms measuring over fifty *tsubo*. The loss is estimated at about *yen* 20,000.

On the same day, fire occurred at Niihara, near Mito, burning down fifty-eight buildings.

A telegram from Yamaguchi reports that a fire took place on the night of the 22nd at Kushigahama, destroying twenty-one houses.

In Tokyo, two fires are reported. One occurred on the night of the 21st in a shed in the compound of the hospital belonging to the College of Medicine, Hongo. The flames were limited to two sheds which were destroyed. The cause is believed to be tobacco ashes left carelessly by carpenters who were working in one of the sheds. Another outbreak occurred on the following morning at Minami-Odawara-cho, Tsukiji, destroying six houses.

On the night of Jan. 22nd a fire occurred at Negishi, burning down a Japanese house.

On Sunday (Jan. 24th), about [illegible] p.m. fire broke out at Yawatabashi, Negishi, Yokohama, destroying two houses belonging to a farmer. The cause is reported to be negligence.

A telegram from Osaka states that an outbreak of fire occurred the same day (the 24th) in a school at Shimo-machi, Sennan, burning down the building.

A telegram from Takasaki states that fire occurred on the morning of Jan. 29th at Sayacho destroying over a hundred houses, including a post office.

An outbreak of fire took place on the evening of Jan. 26th at Honcho, Tsushima, burning down over ten houses.

The Obihiro Local Court, Hokkaido, has been destroyed by fire, which broke out on Jan. 27th.

L'ALLIANCE FRANCAISE.

The members of this flourishing institution held a most delightful Réunion Littéraire et Musicale on Thursday afternoon in the Oriental Palace Hotel. There was a large attendance and the various numbers were very warmly applauded, as they deserved to be. M. Paul Louis Couchoud's address on the poetry of Japan was a very clever piece of literary work, while M. Jamain's declamations proved particularly acceptable. Following was the programme :—

Ière Partie.

"Impressions sur la Poésie japonaise."
Conférence par .... M. Paul Louis Couchoud.
Agrégé de l'Université de France.

IIème Partie.

I.—Pensée d' Automne .... Massenet.
Nion .... Tosti.
Chanté par ....Madame E. C. Irwine.
Accompagné par......Mademoiselle E. B. Leach.

II.—J'avais rêvé.. Lassen.
Les Vieilles de chez nous. ....Levadé.
Chanté par..........................M. Ch. Laurent.
Accompagné par.................Madame L. Suzor.

III.—"Ecoutez, les Gascons...!"
(Cyrano de Bergerac).........Ed. Rostand.
Les Mamans.........................Th. Botrel.
Déclamé par ....M. R. Jamain.

IV.—En Ramant.
(Piano) ....Thome.
Madame L. Suzor.

V.—Les Hirondelles..............................Massini.
Duo chanté par.... { Madame E. C. Irwine, Mademoiselle E. B. Leach.
Accompagné par ....Mademoiselle Poole.

THE LAW COURTS.

BATCHELOR v. THWAITES.

This case, in which plaintiff claimed *yen* 2,500 and interest, was again brought on in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Yasuda, on Jan. 22nd, when judgment was delivered ordering defendant to pay plaintiff *yen* 2,500 and interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum from September 18th, 1902, till the execution of judgment and to bear two-fifths of the costs, plaintiff to bear three-fifths of the costs.

BREACH OF CONTRACT CLAIM.

Judgment has been given in the Tokyo Appeal Court in the case appealed by K. Yamada, sugar dealer, against Messrs. Simon, Evers & Co. In the Yokohama District Court judgment was delivered on June 15th, 1903, ordering the appellant to pay the foreign firm *yen* 1,597.17 for loss caused by breach of contract. The Tokyo Appeal Court has now quashed this judgment and disallowed the claim of the foreign company.

CLAIM ON SNAKE-GOURDS.

The hearing of this case, instituted by Z. Suzuki, snake-gourd dealer, against Messrs. Winckler and Company, No. 256, Yokohama, claiming *yen* 195.60 and interest, began on Jan. 22nd in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Yasuda.

Mr. Fujiwara was present for plaintiff and Mr. Nagashima for defendants.

Plaintiff's counsel stated that plaintiff on July 31st, 1903, sold to defendants 34 bales of snake-gourds and delivered the goods to K. Shiojima and S. Tanaka, two representatives of defendants at the warehouses, Midoricho. The total value of the goods was *yen* 395.60, of which *yen* 200 was paid by defendants on delivery of the goods, leaving *yen* 195.60 unpaid.

Defendants' counsel held that the foreign firm did not purchase the goods in dispute.

Introducing five letters as evidence, plaintiff's counsel stated that Exhibit No. 1 was a contract made by Shiojima, Japanese *Banto* of the foreign firm, for the purchase of the goods, and Exhibit Nos. 2 to 5 were letters written by the same *banto* representing the firm confirming the fact of the contract.

Defendants' counsel contended that Shiojima, though one of the *banto* of the firm, was not authorized to represent the firm in any business and that consequently all this evidence could not be recognized. If Shiojima bought the gourds he purchased them for his private account, for which defendants were not liable. The man had since been discharged from the firm for a default.

Plaintiff's counsel asked the Court for leave to examine two Japanese, S. Tanaka and H. Sato, who attended to the snake-gourd business. The Court decided to do so on February 1st at 10 a.m.

CLAIM FOR FUNERAL EXPENSES.

The hearing of this case, filed by Mr. Chris Holgate against Mr. S. Gorman, claiming *yen* 75 and costs, was resumed in the Yokohama Local Court before Judge Nagatsuka on Jan. 25th.

Plaintiff was represented by Mr. Yano, and defendant by his daughter, Miss T. Gorman. Mr. Berenstein, No. 124, Yokohama, appeared as a witness.

At the outset of the hearing, Miss T. Gorman presented a police document in which, she stated, it was certified by the authorities that she was a daughter of defendant.

Mr. Berenstein being examined by the Court, stated that Mr. D. H. Harman died on Nov. 5th last at the General Hospital. With regard to the funeral expenses needed for the deceased, he did not know anything at all, but he remembered matters before the funeral. Witness paid a visit to Mr. Holgate, No. 81, Bluff, accompanied by defendant when the latter asked the undertaker to defray the expenses needed for the obsequies, for which defendant would be responsible, as the deceased was one of his relations. Witness did not remember whether defendant paid Mr. Holgate an advance on the expenses, which amounted to *yen* 75.

Cross-examined by plaintiff's counsel, the witness stated that defendant was one of his acquaintances. They kept a restaurant as partners for seven or eight months. He did not know whether the deceased and defendant were relatives.

Miss Gorman stated that this was the first time she had seen the witness. His statement was worthless. Her father was in Tokyo when the late Mr. Harman died, so that defendant could not have been present at the house of Mr. Holgate, accompanied by the witness. Further, defendant did not know about the death until a lady informed him. The deceased and defendant were remotely related.

Plaintiff's counsel, summarizing a statement given by the witness, insisted that it was most trustworthy. Counsel added that the statement is defence was too vague.

The Court adjourned the case till Jan. 27th when judgment will be given.

CLAIM FOR FUNERAL EXPENSES.

The case in which Mr. Chris. Holgate claims *yen* 75 from the defendant, S. Goorman, again came up in the Yokohama Local Court before Judge Nagatsuka on Jan. 27th when judgment was delivered ordering defendant to pay plaintiff the amount claimed and to bear costs.

P. SARDA v. M. A. RAZA.

The hearing of the case appealed by Mr. P. Sarda against Mr. M. A. Raza petitioning for the quashing of judgment given on Oct. 31st last in the Yokohama Local Court ordering appellant to pay respondent *yen* 51.54, began in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Kato on Jan. 28th.

Counsel for the parties made similar statements to those they made in the Local Court on Oct. 13th last, after which they entered into a brief discussion. It may be remembered that Mr. Sarda claimed *yen* 50 as the rent of a godown and on the other hand seized certain property of Mr. Raza. The latter, under a bailiff's order, paid the claimed amount and *yen* 1.54 as costs on Jan. 15th. Mr. Raza subsequently petitioned in the Local Court to have the money returned which he had paid, contending that Mr. Sarda's receipt was unjust in accordance with Art. 703 and 704 of the Civil Code. Judgment was then given in favour of Mr. Raza.

The case was adjourned till Feb. 22nd at 1 p.m. when judgment will be rendered.

A rumour received in Calcutta from Darjeeling is that the Thibet Mission will encounter Russian Cossacks with the Thibetan soldiers, and that the Russians are already in the country.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

A telegram from Nagasaki states that 6,000 tons of Cardiff coal arrived there on Jan. 25th from England.

The steamer *Kanazawa Maru* arrived on Jan. 27th at Shimouoseki carrying 176 Korean emigrants for Honolulu.

The telephone between Yokosuka, Hayama and Kamakura was opened on Jan. 21st. The charge for a call is *sen* 30.

A case of plague appeared on Jan. 22nd at Yensuiko, Formosa, and proved fatal. The same day a fresh case was reported at Tainan.

Fifty Chinese students arrived at Shimonoseki on Jan. 26th from Hupeh and Hunan. They will proceed to Tokyo by train.

A torpedo-boat collided on Jan. 18th with a junk off Tomioka, near Yokohama. Two fishermen in the junk were saved by the torpedo-boat.

The *Miyako Shimbun* was again prosecuted on Jan. 20th for publishing an article on " the conditions at Saseho " without the permission of the authorities.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha has chartered two steamers the *Katsuno Maru* and *Kissho Maru*. These steamers will be employed in the coasting trade.

Messrs. S. Shoshi and T. Niidzuma, lawyers, living at Sendai, were arrested on Jan. 26th and their domiciles were searched. The charge is reported by the *Asahi* to be fraud.

Chief Boatswain F. St. John Boughton has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in the British Fleet. Lieutenant Boughton was for some years Chief Boatswain of the Hongkong Naval Yard.

A proposition is on foot to open a vaudeville circuit in the Far Fast, Manila reports. Honolulu, Yokohama, Shanghai, Hongkong, and Manila will be included in the new venture if it is carried though.

The Law Union and Crown Insurance Company (Agents, Messrs Samuel, Samuel & Co), are again to the fore with a very artistic calendar bearing a beautiful coloured print of a fair young girl's head, after the painting by Avigdor.

The *Asahi* announces that two Russians, who attempted to murder the captain of a Russian steamer by throwing him into the sea while the steamer was lying at Yamada, arrived at Morioka on Jan. 25th. They were removed to prison.

Among the singers at this evening's meeting of the Yokohama Literary Society will be Miss Lloyd Thomas, who has just returned from a lengthy visit to Europe, during which she won a silver medal in London in a competition of over 400 vocalists.

The directors of the Tokyo Kangyo Ginko, the name of which is similar to that of the Nippon Kangyo Ginko (Japan Industries Encouragement Bank) were arrested on Jan. 14th on a charge of having forged 1,100 19th debentures of the latter bank and of having borrowed money on the debentures.

According to the *Official Gazette*, Mr. Uchida, Japanese Consul at New York, telegraphed on Jan. 23rd that owing to the pressing demands of spinners at home and abroad, and to the apprehension of the mill-owners as to the possible scarcity of supply in future, the cotton market had advanced generally. The stock was calculated at 1,216,606 bales.

At the annual dinner of the Liverpool Shipbrokers' Benevolent Society Lord Inverclyde, in responding to the toast of shipping interests, stated that British shipping laws were out of date. The time had come when the question of the navigation and shipping laws of the country must be faced and reconsidered. Foreign ships that came to British ports ought to be put in exactly the same position as British vessels. They did not ask for any position of advantage over their foreign rivals, but they desired to be able to compete with them on equal terms in the home ports.

An official order has been promulgated intimating that, by the King's command, all men at Portsmouth Naval Barracks are to wear the *Victory's* name on their caps. Hitherto the men have worn the name of *Fire Queen*, the Port Admiral's yacht. The new order has been given with a view of keeping the *Victory* as prominent as possible.

A Hongkong sampan capsized in the harbour the other day carrying down into the water a 36 days' old baby. The little thing was tied to the deck of the boat and before it could be rescued fully five minutes elapsed. Yet on the police using the usual restoratives the baby came-to and next day looked none the worse for its long immersion.

The *Niroku* reports that the German Legation at Tokyo received on the evening of Jan. 22nd an anonymous letter, consisting of 18 sheets, written in Japanese, dealing with the complications in the Far East. It was immediately sent to the Department of War by the authorities of the Legation. The former ordered the gendarmes of the Kojimachi station to find its writer.

According to a passenger who arrived at Shimonoseki on Jan. 24th from Dalny, over thirty Russian warships were lying at Port Arthur and four others were watching outside using their search-lights at night. Many of the Russian and Japanese residents are leaving there. Japanese workmen employed by the Russian authorities are in distress as their wages have not been paid by the latter.

The following is the copy of the cablegram despatched by the Committee of the Hongkong branch of the China Association to Mr. Joseph Chamberlain :—" Large majority of members Hongkong Branch China Association warmly support your fiscal aims. Consider reciprocal treaties absolutely necessary, failing which recommend adoption retaliation." The *China Mail* understands that only two members of the committee voted against the despatch of the message.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha held a general meeting on Jan. 22nd at the Public Hall, Nakanoshima, Osaka, at which the accounts for the last half year were presented. The net income was *yen* 278,517, to which the balance brought from the previous account, *yen* 206,543, was added. Of the total, *yen* 14,000 was set aside for the legal reserve ; the same amount for bonus to employees ; *yen* 275,000 as interim dividend for the shareholders at the rate of 5 per cent. ; and the balance, *yen* 282,060, carried forward to the next account.

The Nippon Industries Encouragement Bank held a general meeting on Jan. 15th at its office, when the accounts of the semi-annual business were declared. The gross income amounted to *yen* 1,007,288, from which *yen* 726,852 was spent as business expenses leaving a net profit of *yen* 280,436. The balance, *yen* 147,128, brought from the previous account was added to the net income making a total of *yen* 427,564. Out of this amount, *yen* 48,000 was set off as a reserve ; *yen* 12,000 as another reserve for the equalization of dividends ; *yen* 162,500 as interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent ; *yen* 28,000 as fees to directors ; and the remainder was carried forward to the next account.

The late British Ambassador, Sir Michael Herbert, was a guest at a dinner at one of the Clubs in Washington not many months before his death. He was one of the speakers of the evening, and was to be followed by Rear-Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, " I am to be followed by a little sailor man," he observed, after an extremely felicitous speech in a more serious vein ; " at least, he has been a sailor ; I believe he is engaged at present in the plastering business." There was a little polite laughter from those who felt sure that a joke was intended, while others waited believing that the final touch was to come. " I see you don't understand my joke," said the Ambassador, taking in the situation ; "I mean that he is engaged in cementing the good relations between England and America."

Professor Vambéry contributes to *Die Zeit* an interesting article on the Tibet question, which he considers may easily lead to International complications next spring. With regard to Russia's aims, he remarks that her greed for territory has no bounds, while she now sees a further opportunity of striking a blow at her British rival. Professor Vambéry thinks that Russia's open intervention on behalf of the Dalai Lama is out of the question, but he insists that Great Britain cannot permit any moral intervention on her part either—first, because Russian policy seeks to find in Thibet a point for attack on China ; or, secondly, because Great Britain must not forget that Eastern Turkestan will sooner or later become the prey of Russia. In conclusion, can Great Britain allow Russia to strengthen the positions which the latter now occupies in Persia, in Afghanistan, and in the Pamirs, which are so dangerous to British interests. Little Tibet has been in British possession for fifty years, and Great Tibet may also become so, if Great Britain only wills it, and Great Britain must so will unless she wishes to lose India.

AMERICAN TOPICS.

On December 28th it was announced in Chicago that " Armour has the wheat market under his thumb and is not in the business for his health."

The artificial, or, as it is technically called, synthetic, production of camphor, on a commercial scale, is in operation at a manufacturing plant at Port Chester, New York. The new artificial camphor is made from turpentine. Camphor is turpentine plus one atom of oxygen. By a somewhat complicated process this atom of oxygen is forced into turpentine, and artificial camphor, which differs in no way from the natural product, is obtained. It is said that by this process camphor can be produced and sold considerably below the prevailing price for the natural product. The yield of camphor is 27 per cent. of the weight of turpentine used ; that is, from one hundred pounds of turpentine twenty-seven pounds of camphor can be made.

It is said that the Rooseveltian pronunciation is rapidly becoming a fad in Washington. Speaker Cannon was in the chair recently, and Representative Mondell of Wyoming arose for recognition. Mindful of the President's pronunciation of the word " delighted " in greeting his guests, " Uncle Joe " said in his most urbane manner, " The gentleman from Wee-o-ming." The President is not responsible, however, for certain Senate vagaries of pronunciation which led Senator Teller to describe his beloved West as the " pa-ra-ras," or Senator Pettus to refer frequently to the treaty of " New-Gren-a-day," with the accent on the first syllable, or Senator Lodge to invariably say " commit-tee."

Captain Robert L. Merriman, one of the oldest and best known sea captains who ever sailed from New York, died in Alemeda, Cal., on Dec. 26. He was 74 years old and for 52 years was a ship master. Captain Merriman was born in Brunswick, Me., and when a boy became mate on a vessel which sailed from Portland. He rose rapidly to the position of captain and came to New York, where he was put in command of a ship in the East Indian trade. Among the vessels he commanded were the bark *Undine*, and the ships *Lydia*, *Lorenzo*, *Marcia*, *Greenleaf*, *General Shenley*, *Aurora*, *Carrie Dove* and *Commodore T. H. Allen*. He lost two of his ships, the *Aurora*, which was wrecked about 18 years ago in Calcutta, and the *Commodore T. H. Allen*, which caught fire about two years ago, near Sandy Hook, while loading with a carge of oil. He was well-known in the Far East.

Details of 11 months' commerce of the year

1903 have been made public by the U.S. Department of Commerce and Labour through its Bureau of Statistics. They show an increase in practically all of the great groups into which the Bureau of Statistics divides the exports and in all of the groups into which it divides the imports. Agricultural products, as a whole show an increase of $74,000,000; products of forests, $10,000,000; products of the mines, $8,000,000; manufactures, $5,000,000, and miscellaneous articles $2,000,000. In the single group, fisheries, is shown a slight decrease of a little more than $1,000,000. The figures for the month of November show a marked growth in exports of manufactures, the total for the month being $34,093,639, against $30,513,512 in November of last year. Agricultural products also showed a marked increase in the month, the figures for November, 1903, being $114,172,255, against $83,035,850 in the same month last year. The increase in agricultural exports occurs chiefly in cotton, of which the value of the month's exports is unusually high.

Mr. Jesse Selegman, formerly a partner in the well-known banking house in New York bearing that name, died in Frankfort on December 27, aged 44.

According to the *Scientific American*, the dumping of garbage outside Sandy Hook is filling up the entrance to New York Bay so rapidly as to seriously menace shipping. A pilot recently reported 7½ fathoms where the chart calls for 11½ to 16. The new forty foot channel which the Government is dredging at great expense, will eventually be blocked up, unless some other than the present primitive method of garbage disposal is adopted by the city. As matters now stand it looks as if New York were undoing with one hand what she is doing with the other.

The Northern Pacific Railway has secretly prepared to bore a two-mile tunnel through Cascade Monntains thereby saving 1,500 feet of climb and descent on all traffic crossing the Cascades. Surveys show that such a tunnel is possible at a point in the Cascades three miles north of the present Stampede Tunnel. The saving in power thus effected will amount to more than $1,000,000 per year on wheat hauled to the seacoast together with 50,000 carloads of lumber and shingles hauled east yearly from Puget Sound, and which are now carried up and dropped down a third of a mile more in crossing the Cascades than will be necessary by the new tunnel.

Fifteen years ago the site whereon the city of Oklahoma now stands was a stretch of prairie. To-day the city contains nearly 30,000 inhabitants. It owns its local water system and all of its streets are paved with asphalt. There are ten and a half miles of electrie car lines. The Masons are building a new temple, and $200,000 has been expended in erecting churches within last year. Several college buildings have been built and a $35,000 Carnegie Library. Oklahoma City has four railroads and sixty-eight wholesale houses and forty-eight manufacturing establishments, with twenty-two newspapers. The eight banks have deposits of over $5,000,000.

A trackless—or automobile—trolley line is now in operation at Scranton, Pennsylvania. The cars, or omnibuses, have bodies similar, although much shorter, than the ordinary trolley car, and will carry twenty passengers seated and fifteen standing. Power is obtained from two wires overhead, by means of trolley poles, which allow a turnout of fifteen feet on either side, so that the car can travel along anywhere on a space thirty feet in width. According to the *Electrical World*, this is probably the only trackless trolley line in the United States, and as such a free-running car requires twice as much power as a trolley car on rails, it does not seem probable that the system will be widely adopted.

One of the best evidences of the general prosperity prevailing in the United States last year was found in the phenomenal importations of diamonds and other precious stones entered at New York. That city is the chief port of entry for gems in America and from there the stones are distributed throughout the United States. During 1902 General Mindil, the Government's diamond expert examiner, reported that he appraised diamouds and other precious stones, including pearls, worth $25,412,775.75, while in the calendar year of 1901 the examiner found precious stone values aggregating $24,862,507.07. In addition to the foregoing figures Deputy Appraiser Wanamaker received last year in so-called "packed packages," imported by express companies and in packages passing through the mails, precious stones valued at about $2,000,000. Altogether, the gem imports at New York last year footed up $37,500.000, which was a gain over 1901 of $750,000.

The Cripple Creek production record for 1903 is as follows:—

Month.	Tonnage.	Gross value.
January	60,200	$1,950,282
February	58,000	1,823,137
March	61,000	2,027,141
April	59,300	1,903,240
May	60,100	1,970,342
June	59,200	1,900,237
July	60,300	1,910,343
August	58,100	1,823,000
September	52,000	1,114,234
October	46,000	845,750
November	56,000	1,727,141
December	58,000	1,900,100
Total	688,000	20,294.897

The strike started by the Western Federation of Miners in September is responsible for a shrinkage of $2,000,000. But the union has been routed.

Private cable advices to officials of the Standard Oil Co. affirm reports that the Deutsch-Amerikanshe Petroleum Gesellschaft, the German branch of the corporation, has succeeded in establishing a working agreement with the rival Russian and Austrian petroleum cartels. For the last three years a bitter warfare has been waged between the German-American company and the Russian Naphtha Co. for control of the German market. Efforts to obtain a majority interest in the Nobel holdings in Russia were unavailable and the latter imitated the methods of the American company in selling directly to consumers. Although the compact now made between the American, Russian and Austrian petroleum interests is ostensibly confined to the direct exportation of Galician petroleum whereby the Standard Oil Co. receives half of the production of the Austrian cartel, the understanding is that this is the opening wedge for a more amicable relationship.

Canada, says *Bradstreets*, has completed the most successful year in her history. Trade from the first day of 1903 to the last of the year has been as steady and uninterrupted as it has been unprecedented. The increase in the foreign commerce of the country and the expansion in its internal trade are equally striking. Sales of domestic and imported goods of all descriptions have increased enormously. Not only has the value of business increased, but profits have been generally better than in previous years. The insolvency record has been comparatively light, considering the increase in general business, and the smaller number of bankrupt stocks offering in the markets helped to keep manufacturing and mercantile trade in a sound, healthy condition, while the fact that the consumption in many staple lines of manufacture has overtaken productive capacity has, by preventing overproduction, contributed handsomely to the same end. The material wealth of the country has been largely added to, as shown by the increase in the public deposits in the banks and other financial institutions, by the extension in old lines of business and the establishment of new concerns, the large investment made in industries connected with the development of the vast natural resources of the Dominion, and, lastly, by the addition to the population of the country of 125,000 to 150,000 first-class settlers.

FOOTBALL.

A game of football under Association rules was played in Yokohama on Saturday afternoon between Whites and Colours, the latter winning by seven goals to one. Most of the probable Interport players were on the winning side and the play at times was distinctly good. The men, however, would do better if they were keener on the ball, and more combination is also to be looked for if Kobe is to be defeated. This, of course, can only come with practice, and Yokohama has plenty of excellent material from which to make up a really strong eleven for the Interport match.

YOKOHAMA SEAMEN'S MISSION.

The following is the annual report of the Yokohama Seamen's Mission for the year ending December 31st, 1903:—

The Chaplain has much pleasure in presenting his Report for the Year 1903, to the subscribers and friends of the Mission. In reviewing the work of the past year, he finds much reason for thankfulness to God, in the continued blessing experienced throughout the year. A steady advance has been made in different departments of the work. Many improvements have been made in the accommodation for seamen at the Institute, No. 82-B Yamashitacho. Six bed-rooms have been comfortably furnished, and a new lavatory fitted up, which has added greatly to the usefulness of the Mission. Close upon eleven hundred seamen were provided with lodgings for the night during the year. During August, a building was rented at No. 20 Kaigan-dori, close to the Nippon Hatoba, and fitted up for use as an Institute for Japanese seamen under the care of Mr. Sutejiro Kanaiwa, the Japanese Scripture Reader. It may be well to state here, that this new venture entails no charge upon our regular mission funds. We are greatly indebted to many kind friends in Tokyo, who supplied the funds for furnishing the Japanese Institute, and who also guarantee the rent, etc., for some time to come. Mr. Ernest James is the Hon. Treasurer of the Tokyo committee for collecting the necessary funds for this work.

The efforts of the Chaplain to provide healthy recreation for sailors when on shore leave have been largely availed of, and greatly appreciated. One party of 130, two of 100 each, and smaller parties, have been organized and personally conducted by him. The places visited being Tokyo, Nikko, Lakes Chuzenji and Yumoto, Miyanoshita, Hakone, and Atami.

The mission steam launch has been continously employed in her most useful work in the harbour, in the visitation of the shipping, and in conveying officers and men, to and from the various meetings and entertainments held at the Institute. Nearly five hundred *yen* were contributed by seamen towards her running expenses during the year. Early in the year a change was made in a Japanese Scripture Reader. Mr. Sutejiro Kanaiwa taking the place of Mr. J. T. Kawana, who is now labouring as Catechist at St. Barnabas Church, Ushigome, Tokyo. Mr. Kanaiwa has proved to be a very energetic and capable worker.

Many expressions of grateful recognition of our work from officers and men have reached us. Before leaving recently for Hongkong, Rear-Admiral Curzon Howe called and personally thanked us, and the next day sent an official letter which is given below. The Chaplain avails himself of the present opportunity to cordially thank all the subscribers and friends of the mission for their continued support, the local press for free copies of their papers and other kind favours, and all others who have contributed magazines and newspapers to the reading room, and clothing for distressed seamen.

(Copy.)

H.M.S. "Albion," at Yokohama, November 17, 1903

Sir,—I beg you and Mrs. Austen to accept my best thanks for all your kindness and help to our people during their stay at Yokohama, and to wish you every success and prosperity in your good work in Japan.

I am, Sir, Yours faithfully,

A. G. CURZON HOWE.,
Rear Admiral.

The Rev. W. T. Austen, 60-C Bluff, Yokohama.

Statistics for 1903.

112 visits to Men of war, 1951 to merchant ships, 497 to sailor's homes, 111 to seamen's boarding houses, 325 to hospitals, 83 services afloat, 109 in Institute, 62 in hospitals, 14 in boarding houses, 17 administrations of the Lord's Supper on shore, 17 temperance meetings, 73 lantern meetings and concerts. 8,566 attendances at the Institutes for reading, games etc., 2465 at services afloat, 1,110 at

services in mission chapel, 642 at services in hospital, 234 at services in boarding houses, 42 at the Lord's Supper on shore, 1,663 at lantern meetings and concerts, 259 at temperance meetings, 1,536 carried by the mission launch *Gleaner.*

Circulated 253 parcels of reading, sold 73 copies of Holy Scripture, given free to seamen 250, supplied 6 ships with neat service boxes for use at services afloat, enrolled 6 officers as mission helpers, 1 associate, 7 temperance seamen, officiated at 2 seamen's funerals.

(Signed) W. T. Austen, Chaplain.

Summary of Accounts.

For Year Ending December 31st., 1903.

Funds.	Balance from 1902. In Hand.	Receipts in 1903.	Total.
Reading Room ……	224.22	1,629.05	1,928.96
Steam Launch ……	112.52	1,147.84	1,291.34
Dormitory …………	6.70	446.90	453.60
	343.44	3,223.79	3,673.90

Funds.	Balance to 1904. Deficit.	Expended in 1903.	Total.
Reading Room ……	75.69	1,928.96	1,928.96
Steam Launch ……	30.98	1,291.34	1,291.34
Dormitory …………	—	453.60	453.60
	106.67	3,673.90	3,673.90

(Signed) A. R. Morris,
Hon. Treasurer.

Yokohama, January 12, 1904.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A WARNING.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—"Boys will be boys," and I am ready to give a wide latitude to young school lads whose spirits and animal energy find vent in pranks and harmless "larks,"—but when they wilfully damage property or inflict injury on others, it is time they were restrained.

The local *coterie* of wild boy-hood rejoicing in the name of "Mitford's gang" have trouble before them,—unless their methods of "sport" are radically changed. So long as their attention was confined to stoning harmless dogs, and "potting at" innocent birds, one could perhaps tolerate the lads' somewhat brutal idea of "fun," but their latest development in this direction will have to be suppressed.

Parties of "snipers" armed with catapults delight to sling stones and shoot at passing horses, especially those being led by bettoes, and on a recent occasion I caught a young vagabond who had just driven a horse frantic by this method, until the kicking beast all but capsized a passing perambulator. One night a party of them stretched a cord across a dark portion of the road, and tripped up a poor old gentleman, against whom they had a grudge. The "old boy" was crippled for several days, but that only added to the "sport,"

Last evening at 6.15, as I turned down the "Bluff Garden lane," I detected 12 or 15 members of the "gang" hiding in the shadow of Mr. Brady's house. Just as I passed, the Strauss' carriage overtook me, and I heard one of the "gang" remark,—"Lucky we didn't do it then, eh?" Anxious to discover what "it" might be, I "laid low," and had not long to wait before the young villains emerged from their hiding, and rolled across the dark part of the road, a heavy telegraph pole, which had been lying in the gutter along Brady's fence. They placed it directly across the road, so that any carriage or *riki* passing down the lane would have crashed into it. Had the Strauss carriage been but a minute later, the two horses would have been lamed for life, and the occupant of the carriage would be in the doctor's hands this morning. A bicycle or *riki* would have been sufficiently serious. The 12 or 15 young gentlemen (save the mark) then coolly walked along the Bluff, in the direction of Hegt's Hill. It took me all the energy I could muster, to get the pole back into the gutter again, and then I set off in pursuit. I have secured the names of the ringleaders, and am inclined to publish the same,—but desist, out of consideration of mothers and sisters of the young villains. The young rascals are being watched, and will be able to investigate the interior of the Police Station before long, as these menaces to public life and safety will have to be dealt with in an effective way.

Thanking you for allowing this space for a word of warning to the public who traverse the Bluff road after dark.

Yours faithfully, "X."

RUSSIAN AIMS IN THE PACIFIC.

Moscow, December 5.

If I am not much mistaken, it appears to lack recognition in England, as elsewhere—at any rate, by the great public—that the question for Russia in the Far East to-day is not one of territory or extension of commercial activity; it is another bid for the completion of an ambition as old as Peter the Great. Russia has undertaken to accomplish on the Pacific what was denied her, at various periods of her history, successively in the Baltic and North Sea, and in the Mediterranean, and is now being guarded against in the other remaining outlet, the Persian Gulf. But there is still the Pacific, and Russia's object in the strenuous efforts she has made and is making to secure herself there, is not the customary territorial aggrandisement, but the more menacing ambition to become one of the great and, if possible, all but the greatest Sea Power in the world. We are so accustomed to regard Russia as the nation of an innumerable army, we have so long known her as indifferent to ships and sailors, that perhaps it has escaped notice how vigorously of late years the idea of Naval power has been propagated in the country. It is not a new idea, of course, but like most other things of worth in Russia, dates from Peter the Great. At intervals Russia has made efforts to get to the open seas, but has never succeeded. The Japan-Chinese War opened the way to some daring and brilliant Russian statesman, and for half a dozen years past all the resources of the Empire have been steadily directed towards the Pacific. With what object? Assuredly none of those as assiduously promulgated by Russia; not in any disinterested 'civilising mission in the Far East;' not with the unselfish desire to provide the 'commerce of the world' with a short cut across the hemispheres; not to champion the cause of the white man against the 'yellow peril.' Yet all these high-sounding 'missions' have been set forth as Russia's objects in spending upon an impracticable railway across two continents more treasure than is wasted in many a modern war.

What Russia aims at, and what Russia, up to a few months ago, thought she had all but secured, is a position which will enable her to become as great a Power at sea as she is on land. The feverish energy which she has shown in getting together a formidable Fleet in the Far East, the special attention of late given to the whole question of Russian shipping, all this might be thought, and has been stated, to be merely a natural expansion of national energies. But what is to be said of the intense fervour of patriotism which has been forced upon the Russian people, as usual from above, on every possible occasion for five years past, precisely on the point of Russian Naval prowess? Readers of *The Standard* will remember the Imperial eulogies on the gunboat affairs at Taku, and the bushels of rewards given. The last few days have provided another opportunity for rousing Russian enthusiasm in the direction of the Navy, namely, the fiftieth anniversary of 'the glorious victory at Sinope,' when eight Russian line of battleships and some frigates gloriously annihilated an equal number of Turkish ships of less than half the Russian rating. There can be no doubt as to the object of Russia's Rulers in forcing public attention towards her Naval prowess. The Russian knows all he wants to know about land-power, for he is liable to serve in the Army individually. But, up to a very short time ago, very few Russians had the remotest conception of the meaning of sea-power. No one who was in Russia during the Spanish-American War will forget the amusing obstinacy with which Russians insisted that America had still her work before her, long after the rest of the world, better acquainted with the meaning of sea-power, had pronounced the matter practically settled. The annihilation of the Spanish Fleet at Manila made no impression at all here, whereas the first few skirmishes on land in Cuba formed for the Russian a satisfactory basis of argument. But since those days a change has been coming over men's ideas, and perhaps the Russian is not so very far behind the rest of the world in his estimate of sea-power as he was, say, ten years ago. The transport of the British legions to South Africa completed his enlightenment.

It is time, therefore, that the public outside Russia should familiarise themselves with the idea that Russia is no longer merely the bear, for she is acquiring some of the capabilities of the whale. In the recognition of this threatening possibility by the responsible Ministers of several European States we may probably see the real reason for the very remarkable *approchement* which has taken place of late between precisely those Powers who would least of all care to have their already vast Naval responsibilities increased by the entrance into their ranks on equal terms of another Great Power. What Russia threatens in the Far East is an Imperial Navy. Her resources in men are inexhaustible, and her history shows that, whatever be the state of abject poverty of the people, their Rulers have never failed to find money for purposes of Imperial aggrandisement. It is this threatened metamorphosis of Russia into an amphibious Great Power which is really the question of the present century. If Russia can keep Port Arthur, she will, in course of time, crack Korea between the two nut-crackers. If diplomacy or war drive her back from Southern Manchuria, leaving her only her railway direct across to Vladivostock, but depriving her of the Southern branch from Kharbin to Port Arthur, then her ambition will be checked for a number of years, Vladivostock not being a favourable take-off for her plunge. In those years the United States will complete the Panama Canal and entirely revolutionise the maritime conditions of the Pacific. Russia's opportunity will once more, as in the Baltic, as in the Mediterranean, have been missed. If the pressure put upon her in the Far East now robs her of her fancied prey, the whole wrath of Russia will fall upon England alone, since the only outlet to unfrozen seas then left to the 'Colossus of the North' will be *via* the Persian Gulf, for which we have made ourselves responsible. For this purpose we are now taking our precautions in those and other regions likely to feel the weight of Russia's resentment for the wrecking of her plans in the Far East.

Whatever may be the facts of the case, the Russian certainly blames England for all these failures. During the crisis of the 'Chinese trouble,' the bombardment of Blagovêsçensk, and the events which followed, a very highly-placed official remarked to a friend of mine that it was only because England was employed in the Boer War that Russia ventured to advance so far into China. Now the Russian Press is carefully instructing public opinion that it is only England which is 'hounding on Japan and China' to undo all that Russia has accomplished for herself in the Far East. The usual threats of pressure on the Indian frontier are again being paraded. The Orenburg-Tashkend Railway, of which less than fifty miles are completed out of six hundred, has been represented as already prepared to fulfil the object for which it is intended, of pouring troops on to the Indian frontier, in conjunction with the Trans-Caspian line. In short, the customary language is being used to which the Russians invariably resort when they fear that England is against them. Curiously enough, this language alternates with the no less customary suggestions for an Anglo-Russian understanding, the ultimate end of which is to be the hegemony of the civilised world. It is characteristic of the Russian idealism periodically to revert back a century or so, to days when England and Russia really did have a common aim—against Napoleon. But then, and later, England learned somewhat of the inner meaning of Russian understandings. Yet the Russian sees nothing impracticable in a firm union between the England of to-day and the mediæval ideas of Government, of right and justice, and a hundred other corner-stones of society, which obtain in the Russia of to-day. Further, the Russian has not yet learned to appreciate the awakening of the United States to a sense of its Imperial destiny as the second great branch of the Anglo-Saxon race. 'Imperial' is an epithet which would rouse the ire of the average American, but the thing is the same; for good or ill the United States has entered into the comity of nations with its acquisition of the Philippines. To the United States, therefore, more even than to England, belongs the task of thrusting back Russia from the open shores of the Pacific. Russia as a strong Naval Power in Pacific waters would provide the foreign policy of the United States with a perpetual source of anxiety analogous to the feeling in England regarding the Northern frontier of India. The United States has already laid down the beginnings of a formidable Navy; the Panama Canal will in a few years consolidate her strength in the Pacific. Assuredly the Rulers of the Great Powers realise the meaning of the Russian advance towards the Pacific; here new Navies are being created, there the sea-kings of the Old World are closing the links of the common interests which bind them to oppose the rise to power of another great naval people. Every new century has opened with some huge convulsion, and all the signs point to a repetition of the phenomenon. In the past age the question has been the 'balance of power' on land. The question of the future, if Russia gets her way in the Far East, will be one of the balance of power upon the high seas. And that is a problem, owing to the mobility of sea-power, which would provide incalculably more food for apprehension than the most threatening combination of land-power.

But there is a positive reason also why Russia should be thrown back upon herself once more. She is rapidly arriving at the belief so boldly promulgated elsewhere that her 'future is on the seas.' It would suit the rest of the world very much better to shape Russia's destiny to other ends. There is every reason to believe that the 'yellow man' is stirring in his sleep, and his awakening can hardly be contemplated with equanimity by any race of white men. Russia will best fulfil her destiny in the Twentieth

Century, as she fulfilled it in the Sixteenth, by holding back the flood-tide of heathendom from the Christian culture of the West. As the Cossack turned back upon itself the conquering wave of the Tartar peril, of the later Mohammedan peril, so let the Cossack in our day fulfil the destiny he is best fitted for, by saving the Christian world from all apprehension of another Mongol cataclysm. There can be no cause of offence in such a suggestion, for have not the leading organs of St. Petersburg repeatedly urged upon Japan the advisability of joining Russia, who will then help them to work out their Continental ambition at the expense of England in regions which offer much more tempting prey than the comparatively bare lands of the North? Japan has been told that Formosa is an excellent base for either commercial or military attack upon the English hold in China, and encouraged to hope for Russian aid if she took this view. Russia is sometimes charmingly naïve, but there is ever deep purpose behind her seeming innocence.—*The Standard.*

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

JAPANESE WARSHIPS PASS PERIM.

London, January 21.

The *Kasuga* and *Nisshin* have passed Perim.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S CAMPAIGN.

Mr. Chamberlain delivered a great oration in the Guildhall, London, on the 19th January. The place was crammed with peers, commoners, leading bankers and merchants.

RUSSIAN WARSHIPS.

The Russian cruiser *Aurora*, the transport *Orel*, the collier *Saratoff* and nine torpedo boats have entered the Suez Canal.

The cruiser *Kubonitz* remains at Port Said.

THE THIBETAN EXPEDITION.

London, January 22.

Various reports are arriving from Darjeeling, stating that the Thibetans are becoming truculent, and that the Lamas declare that they will appeal to Russia if the British advance continues. It is believed in several quarters that fighting is likely in the early future.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE NEGOTIATIONS.

It is stated by high diplomatic authority that an important advance has been made toward a pacific settlement. The peace party has gained the ascendency in Russia in consequence of emphatic representations by certain influential Ministers regarding the unpreparedness of Russia for war. Russia, therefore, replies to Japan in a wholly conciliatory spirit. Russia is prepared to recognize the autonomy and integrity of Korea, and to address a note to the Powers recognizing Chinese sovereignty and integrity in Manchuria. Japan, however, desires the formal embodiment of the latter principle in a special agreement between Russia and Japan.

JAPAN'S IRREDUCIBLE MINIMUM.

London, January 23.

Though there has been no actual offer of mediation, Japan has informed the Governments at London, Berlin, and Washington that mediation is not acceptable.

Viscount Hayashi, referring to the rumours that Japan would modify her demands, has declared that Japan from the first asked an irreducible minimum.

RUSSIAN WARSHIPS.

The Russian cruisers *Dmitri Donskoi* and *Aurora* and six destroyers have sailed from Suez. The battleship *Oslabya* and the transport *Saratoff* will be docked at Suez. One destroyer is disabled.

NEW GOVERNOR OF THE STRAITS.

Sir John Anderson has been appointed Governor of the Straits Settlements.

RUSSIA'S ANSWER.

London, January 23.

It is stated in St. Petersburg that a reply has been drafted and approved. It courteously but firmly insists that whatever commercial concessions are granted, Manchuria must remain amenable to Russian influence, politically and strategetically.

THE KOREAN DISTURBANCES.

London, January 24.

The American Minister in Seoul, Dr. Allen, has cabled to Washington that there are continual disturbances throughout Korea, and that Japanese have been attacked in several places.

The appointment of Major-General Ijichi to the Japanese Legation in Seoul is believed to have been made with the view of his directing any Japanese military measures for restoring order.

PROTRACTED CABINET COUNCIL.

London, January 25.

A protracted Cabinet Council was held on Saturday.

THE BALKANS.

Later.

Reuter's agent, telegraphing from Sophia, says that news has been received from the frontier that the Turkish authorities are concentrating masses of troops on the Bulgarian frontier.

The Turkish representative has refused during the past few days to *visé* the passports of Bulgarians going to Turkey.

KING EDWARD'S CLEMENCY.

London, January 26.

Colonel Lynch, the leader of the Irish brigade in the Boer Army, has been released from prison on license. The *Daily Telegraph* understands that the King intervened in Lynch's behalf in recognition of the demonstrations of loyalty received by His Majesty while visiting Ireland.

RUSSIA'S REPLY.

In St. Petersburg it is not expected that the reply will be presented to Japan's Note for some days.

THE NORWAY FIRE.

The town of Alesund, Norway, has been almost completely destroyed by fire. The population of 12,000 are homeless, and owing to the severity of the weather the conditions are terrible. Two German Atlantic liners have gone to afford relief and shelter.

ANOTHER CABINET COUNCIL.

Another Cabinet Council was held yesterday. It lasted nearly four hours,

THE RISING IN GERMAN AFRICA.

News from Damaraland continues to be very grave. Several attempts to relieve Okahaneja have been made, but they have been repulsed with heavy loss. Five of the settlers with their wives and children have been murdered.

BRITISH MINISTERIAL TROUBLES.

London, January 26.

The *Daily News* learns that as the result of the recent prolonged Cabinet meetings, the resignation of the Marquis of Lansdowne, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; the Marquis of Londonderry, President of the Board of Education; and the Rt. Hon. Gerald Balfour, President of the Board of Trade; is imminent, as a protest against Mr. Balfour's endorsing the Chamberlainite candidates and allowing Mr. Chamberlain's fiscal policy generally to displace his own.

DEATH OF WHITTAKER WRIGHT.

London, January 27.

Whittaker Wright, the promoter of the Globe Finance Corporation and other wild-cat speculations, was sentenced to seven years' penal servitude. After the sentence he collapsed and died in a few minutes.

CABINET CHANGES DENIED.

The statement of the *Daily News*, with regard to Ministerial resignations, is untrue.

THE QUESTION OF MEDIATION: A RUSSIAN MOVE.

London, January 28.

Reuter's Agent in Peking wires that China invited the support of the Powers to attempt to mediate between Russia and Japan.

The Times' Peking correspondent confirms the above.

France is reported as being willing to use her good offices in an endeavour to arrange a *modus vivendi* with the assistance of England and America.

In reply to Prince Ching's communication the British and American Ministers, acting in agreement, explained the difficulties of mediating at the present juncture.

Prince Ching admits that the suggestion to invite the mediation of the Powers emanated from the Russian Minister, the object of the move being evidently to impress the Chinese in favour of Russia.

WHITTAKER WRIGHT'S SUICIDE.

Later.

The post mortem examination of the body of the late Whittaker Wright showed that death was due to a dose of prussic acid.

OUTBREAK IN THE BALKANS.

A Bulgarian band, consisting of 1,000 men, crossed the frontier near Kalanka, exchanging shots with the Turkish outposts, which retired to a fort. The Army Corps at Erzeroum is hastily mobilizing.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

FIRE IN KOBE.

MR. BERIGNY'S HOUSE DESTROYED.

Kobe, January 28.

The residence of Mr. Th. de Berigny at Kitanocho-yama was destroyed by fire at eleven o'clock last night. The flames are supposed to have originated in a bathroom upstairs, and the house and its valuable contents are almost a complete loss, though some of the books were saved, thanks to the fact that several guests were in the house when the fire originated.

(FROM THE "DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST.")

THE REVOLT IN GERMAN SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

Berlin, January 22.

Owing to the insurrection in German Southwest Africa the whole country east of Karibib is unsafe. Many families are fleeing to Swakopmund. Assistance for the threatened stations is on the way.

KOREA'S NEUTRALITY.

Korea has declared in Europe that she will be strictly neutral.

THE SITUATION.

In London as well as in Paris it has been declared that a Franco-English intervention is only possible if the same is desired by Japan.

SOUTHWEST AFRICA.

Later.

The troops for Southwest Africa have departed from Wilhelmshafen. Colonel Duerr, commander of the marine infantry at Kiel, made a powerful valedictory harangue.

DEATH OF HERR MAYBACH.

The former Prussian Minister of Railways, Albert de Maybach, is dead, aged 81 years.

THE SITUATION.

Berlin, January 23.

The *Westminster Gazette* learns from a diplomatic source that Russia, instead of arranging a treaty with Japan, wishes to render a circular note to the Powers containing her declarations concerning Manchuria and the neutral zone in Korea. These ideas have up till now only been ventilated confidentially in London.

PRINCE ADALBERT.

It has been expressly stated in Berlin that Prince Adalbert's trip to China is not an act of diplomacy nor made at the instigation of the Kaiser, his father; the Prince is only following the ordinary course of military service.

RUSSIA'S REPLY.

Berlin, January 24.

Reports from St. Petersburg say that the Russian answer to Japan will be given in a few days. Here no sympathy exists for a congress nor any desire for intermediation whatever.

BIG FIRE IN NORWAY.

Berlin, January 25.

The city of Aalesund, situated on the coast of mid Norway, has been burnt down entirely. There is great distress. Thousands of people are without a home. The German Emperor immediately ordered the big armour-plated cruiser, *Prince Heinrich* to go to the place and to give every help. The North German Lloyd, and the Hamburg America Line also sent ships to render assistance.

RUSSIA'S REPLY.

Berlin, January 26.

The Russian answer to the Japanese note has not yet been given. In Berlin the confident hope is increasing that Japan will receive satisfaction from Russia and thereby be able to honourably avert war. Japan is acknowledged to have attached it future policy to Korea and Manchuria by the firmness of its attitude.

THE BALKANS.

The relations existing between Turkey and Bulgaria are again strained. The Bulgarians are making military preparations for the spring. Turkey has asked for support from Russia and Austria.

BELGIUM AND GERMANY.

King Leopold of Belgium has paid a visit to the German Emperor. It was only an act of courtesy. Germany does not intend to enter any anti-English agreement concerning the Congo State.

GERMAN AFRICAN TROUBLES.

Despatches from German Southwest Africa report heavy losses on the side of the German Colonial troops. The attempt to relieve the threatened stations proved unsuccessful. Several families of farmers have been murdered.

DEATH OF DUKE FREDERIC OF ANHALT.

Duke Frederic of Anhalt has died. He was born on April the 29th, 1831. His successor is his second son, the hereditary Prince Frederic, born August 19th, 1856.

GERMAN AFRICAN TROUBLES.

Berlin, January 28.

According to news from German Southwest Africa, the Hottentotts called Bastards have taken Otjimbingue. Sixteen Germans have been murdered, and seventy are missing.

NAVAL PROMOTIONS.

The Rear Admirals Fritze and von Prittwitz-Gaffron (the latter commander on the East-Asiatic station) have been promoted to Vice-Admirals.

THE CROWN PRINCE.

The German Crown Prince has accepted the honorary presidentship of the Prussian Military League.

RUMOURS.

Rumours that Dr. Stuebel, the director of the German colonial department, will resign, have probably been caused by the reports coming from Africa,. They seem to be premature.

NORWAY'S THANKS.

In the Norwegian parliament the president gave a speech expressing the thanks of the whole nation to Kaiser Wilhelm for his energetic help rendered to the city of Aalesund when on fire. Yesterday, in honour of the German Kaiser's birthday, all Norwegian cities were flagged. King Oscar of Sweden and Norway sent to the Kaiser the newly founded order of the Norwegian Lion. The Kaiser is the first knight of this order.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer	Date.
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Lyra 1	F. Jan. 29
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Tacoma 2	Su. Jan 31
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic 3	Tu Feb. 2
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Gera 4	Tu. Feb. 2
Europe	M. M. Co.	Yarra 5	Th. Feb. 4
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Athenian	F. Feb. 5
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Su Feb. 7
Canada	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. Feb 8
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	Th. Feb. 18
America	P. M. Co.	Korea	Sa. Feb. 20
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Siberia	M Feb [illegible]

1 Left Kobe on the 27th inst.
2 Left Tacoma on the 13th inst
3 Left San Francisco on the 15th inst
4 Left Shanghai on the 28th inst.
5 Left Hongkong on the 27th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer	Date
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Lyra	Sa. Jan 30
America	P. M. Co.	China	Sa. Jan. 30
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Tacoma	M Feb. 1
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	W. Feb. 3
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Yokohama Maru	Th Feb 4
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Gera	Sa. Feb. 6
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Athenian	Sa. Feb. 6
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. Feb. 8
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Tu. Feb. 9
Europe	M. M. Co.	Yarra	F. Feb. 12
Canada	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	F. Feb 19
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Korea	Su Feb. 21

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Missouri, British steamer, 1,827, Bruce, 22nd Jan.,—Portland, Oregon, via Tacoma, Wash., General—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,437, W. W. Greene, 23rd Jan.,—Kobe, Ballast.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Kosai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,419, F. E. Cope, 22nd Jan.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,526, G. Lapraik, 22nd Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nestor, British steamer, 2,386, W. L. Lycett, 22nd Jan.,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 21st Jan., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Glenlochy, British steamer, 2,997, E. J. Stallard, 23rd Jan.,—London via ports, and Kobe, 22nd Jan., General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Cyrus, British steamer, 2,174, F. T. W. Simmons, 23rd Jan.,—Barry, Nov. 22nd, Coal.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Hokuriku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,475, H. Shirakata, 23rd Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Jingu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,861, S. Nagata, 23rd Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 884, R. Iida, 23rd Jan.,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Siberia, American steamer, 5,655, J. T. Smith, 25th Jan.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 7th Jan., Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,169, Y. Tamuke, 25th Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Olympia, American steamer, 1,730, A. Dixon, 26th Jan.,—Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C., 3rd Jan., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, Y. Nomura, 26th Jan.,—Bonin Islands, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, C. A. Lee, 26th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Algoa, British steamer, 4,897, Albert Lockett, 27th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 25th Jan., General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Indrapura, British steamer, 3,152, J. T. Horne, 27th Jan.,—Portland, Oregon, 2nd Jan., Mails and General.—P. & A. S.S. Co.

Tjipanas, Dutch steamer, 2,475, P. Zwart, 27th Jan.,—Batavia via ports, and Kobe, 25th Jan., General.—Ed. L. van Nierop.

Charles Tiberghien, French steamer, 2,750, Le Ray 27th Jan.,—New York via ports, and Kobe, 25th Jan., General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Gisela, Austrian steamer, 2,640, G. Damianovich, 28th Jan.,—Trieste via ports, and Hongkong, 20th Jan., Mails and General.—Pollak Bros.

Shinano Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,835, W. Thompsen, 28th Jan.,—Seattle, Wash., via Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

China, American steamer, 2,422, D. E. Friele, 28th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 26th Jan., Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Yeijio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,538, K. Noda, 28th Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kai-sha.

Chiyoda Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,039, H. Tanaka, 28th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, 27th Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Pleiades, American steamer, 2,932, F. G. Purrington, 28th Jan.,—Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C., 2nd Jan., Mails & General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Kamakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,796, P. Peterson, 28th Jan.,—London via ports, and Kobe, 28th Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 22nd Jan.,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Missouri, British steamer, 1,827, Bruce, 22nd Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Sachsen, German steamer, 3,119, R. Pesch, 23rd Jan.,—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,437, W. W. Greene, 23rd Jan.,—Yokosuka, Ballast.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Carl, German steumer, 2,153, J. Jockimsen, 23rd Jan.,—Robe, White Sugar.—Otto Reimers & Co.

Palermo, British steamer, 4,909, E. G. Andrews, 23rd Jan.,—London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Cyrus, British steamer, 2,174, F. T. W. Simmons, 24th Jan.,—Yokosuka, Coal.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Nestor, British steamer, 2,386, W. C. Lycett, 24th Jan.,—London and Antwerp via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Siberia, American steamer, 5,655, J. T. Smith, 26th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Glenlochy, British steamer, 2,997, E. J. Stallard, 26th Jan.,—London via Hongkong and Rangoon, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Afridi, British steamer, 2,354, Thos. Golding, 26th Jan.,—Vladivostock, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,369, S. Yamamoto, 26th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rugby, British steamer, 2,100, W. Brown, 26th Jan.,—Kobe, Phosphate Rock.—Cornes & Co.

Chwnshan, British steamer, 1,282, J. Jenkins, 27th Jan.,—Moji, Ballast.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Kosai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,419, F. E. Cope, 28th Jan.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Olympia, American steamer, 1,730, A. Dixon, 28th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Tjipanas, Dutch steamer, 2,475, P. Zwart, 28th Jan., Batavia via ports, General.—Ed. L. van Nierop.

Indrapura, British steamer, 3,152, J. T. Horne, 28th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, General.—P. & A. S.S. Co.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Business is very quiet.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER YARD.
White Shirting—40 yds. 36 in. 50 yds. 36 in.	0.09 to 0.10
	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	Y. 2.85 to 3.60
Grey Shirting—9 lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.80 to 4.25
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	3.00 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton Italians and Satteens	0.20 to 0.40

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	Y. 0.35 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 32 in.	0.30 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.16 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.50 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 @ 65 inches	0.90 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5 lb per lb	0.60 to 0.66
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	9.50 to 12.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.90 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0 lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches	1.90 to 2.25
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 5 lb, 24-25 yards, 32 nches	2.50 to 3.65

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Y. 140.00 to 150.00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	—
Nos. 38/42, Singles	—
Nos. 32, Doubles	145.00 to 150.00
Nos. 42, Doubles	155.00 to 160.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/100, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	245.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	295.00 to 305.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	425.00 to 435.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling	Nominal.	33
Indian Broach		26
Chinese		23

METALS.

A small business but the market generally is dull.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ⅝ inch and upward	Y. 3.95 to 4.25
Iron Plates, assorted	4.25 to 4.45
Sheet Iron	4.45 to 6.70
Galvanised Iron sheets	10.10 to 11.10
Wire Nails, assorted	5.30 to 5.90
Tin Plates, per box	6.40 to 7.30
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.95
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1½ inch)	4.95 to 5.45

KEROSENE.

The market continues firm.

American	$3.37
Russian	3.10
Langkat	2.90

SUGAR.

Nothing new to report.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	Y. 6.00 to 6.30
Brown Manila	5.90 to 6.90
Brown Daitong	4.80 to 6.20
Brown Canton	5.50 to 7.60
White Java and Penang	7.10 to 7.90
White Refined	8.50 to 11.25

INDIGO.

Nothing to record.

	PICUL.
Java, Medium to best	270.00 to 320.00
Calcutta, Medium to best	180.00 to 290.00
Madras (*Kurpah*), Medium to best	140.00 to 170.00
Madras (Dry Leaf), Medium to best	100.00 to 140.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

A fair daily business and prices are strong. Rereels from Joshu are exhausted and no further supplies in sight. Filatures, good demand, especially for good quality. Kakeda, some business doing at quotations.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra Best, Coarse	Y. 1,090 to 1,095
Filatures—Extra, Fine	—
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	1,040 to 1,045
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	—
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	935 to 940
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	1,000 to 1,005
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	915 to 920
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	940 to 950
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	890 to 900
Common—Coarse	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1½	—
Re-reels—No. 2	—
Re-reels—No. 3	900 to 905
Kakedas—Extra	950 to 955
Kakedas—No. 1	925 to 930
Kakedas—No. 1½	910 to 915
Kakedas—No. 2	890 to 895

WASTE SILK.

No change. Small daily purchases of good Noshi and Kibiso. Market steady.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	180 to 185
Noshi—Filatures, Good	170 to 175
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	125 to 130
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	115 to 120
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Good	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Joshiu, Best	130 to 135
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	120 to 125
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	150 to 160
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	140 to 145
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	70 to 80
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	70 to 80

TEA.

Nothing to report.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	—
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common	—

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EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, January 28.

London silver ⅛ higher and China sterling quotations ⅛ higher have caused local rates on China to rule easier, other rates being steady.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 1/16
— — Bills on demand	2/0¼
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 5/16
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 9/16 @ ½
— — 6 months' sight	2/0 11/16 @ ⅝
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	251½
— Private 4 months' sight	257 @ ½
— — 6 months' sight	258 @ 9
Hongkong—Bank sight per $100.	91¼*
— Private 10 days' sight do.	88¾*
Shanghai—Bank sight	77*
— Private 10 days' sight	79¼*
India—Bank sight	149½
— Private 30 days' sight	152½
America—Bank sight	48⅞ @ ¾
— Private 30 days' sight	49¾ @ ½
— Private 4 months' sight	50½ @ ¼
Germany—Bank sight	205 @ 4½
— Private 4 months' sight	210 @ 9½
Bar Silver (London)	25⅞

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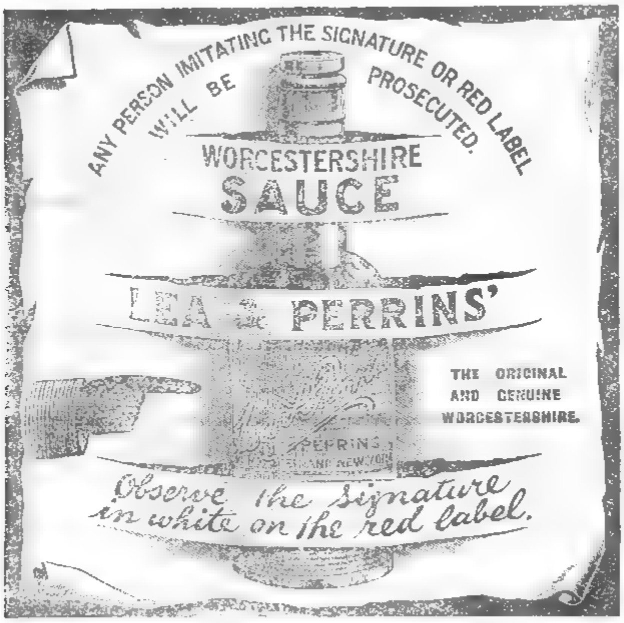

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH, 1904.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

OWING to damage caused to the reservoir, the water supply of Osaka has been temporarily suspended.

A NIKKO telegram under date of Jan. 30th states that Chuzenji lake is now completely frozen over, the first time in sixteen years.

THE Shimonoseki branch of the Bank of Japan received on Jan. 30th ninety-eight cases containing notes from its head office.

A WORKMAN employed by the Tokyo Electric Light Company was electrocuted on the evening of Feb, 2nd while repairing a pole.

THE report of the alleged resignation of Mr. Soma, President of the Yokohama Specie Bank, is contradicted by the *Nichi Nichi*.

OWING to a heavy fall of snow, some houses collapsed on Jan. 20th at the Arakawa Mina, Akita prefecture, and seven persons were killed.

A CASE of small-pox was found on Jan. 29th on the *Koyo Maru* at Shimonoseki. The patient is a fireman. The steamer underwent disinfection.

THE Chinese Government asked the Osaka Mint through the Masuda Company to cast three million pieces of one *sen* copper. The coins will be completed next month.

A TELEGRAM from Nagasaki states that the Yusen Kaisha intends to charter a British steamer (about 2,700 gross tons) which is lying at Saseho.

EIGHTEEN hundred tons of rails manufactured at the Imperial Iron Foundry have been shipped at Shimonoseki by the steamer *Fushiki Maru* for Yokohama.

MR. FURUICHI, President of the Seoul-Fusan Railway Company, has arrived in Korea accompanied by an engineer and other persons, numbering a hundred and thirty.

THE dead body of a man, about 23 years old, was found at a landing place at Shirobe-gashi Nihonbashi, Tokyo. The coroner ascribed death to be due to the cold.

MR. T. MATSUI, and other merchants of Tokyo, have applied to the Kanagawa Kencho for permission to construct an automatic tramway between Dzushi and Hayama.

IT is reported by telegram from Nagasaki that 1,200 tons of coal, 158,180 feet of telegraph wire and 750 feet of marine cable were shipped thence on Jan. 30th for Port Arthur.

JAPANESE gold coins amounting to *yen* 850,000 were exported to Shanghai on Jan. 29th. Another shipment amounting to *yen* 500,000 was made to San Francisco the following day.

A STEAM launch collided with a lighter on the night of Jan. 29th on the canal at Akashi-cho, near Shimbashi, Tokyo, with the result that the latter sank. The *sendo* were saved by the launch.

A WOMAN of about twenty-seven years of age was found on the night of Jan. 29th on the Nippon Railway. She was run down by a train at a point near Shitaya, Tokyo. She had an infant beside her.

LI AIKOW, a Formosan, of Ako district has been executed in jail, having been sentenced to death by the Tainan District Court on a charge of having attempted to cause disturbances and instigated rioters.

THE *Jiji* states that Mr. T. Okazaki, Osaka, has purchased a British steamer of 2,606 tons. He took delivery at Kobe. It is added that she was constructed in 1883 by Messrs. Armstrong and Company.

THE dead body of a woman of about tweny years old was found on Jan. 31st on the sea-shore near the Yokohama Dock Company. She had written a letter addressed to her parents. The cause is not known.

OWING to heavy gales a junk of 193 *koku* was wrecked on Jan. 29th off Omaesaki point, Idzu province. The crew, consisting of four men, were saved by the steamer *Uralo Maru*, which fortunately was passing the scene.

A FEMALE passenger on the steamer *Kwanon Maru* fell into the sea on Feb. 2nd at a point off Sugita while on her way from Tokyo. The steamer stopped and a boat was immediately lowered to save her, but she disappeared

THE *Jiji's* Osaka correspondent states that Mr. Ginsburg has chartered sixteen ships of 1,500 to 2,000 tons at Shanghai from Germans or Norwegians. These ships will be employed to carry coal from Moji or other ports to Port Arthur.

EIGHTY Japanese arrived on Jan. 29th at Nagasaki by a Russian steamer from Vladivostock. A telegram has been received at Nagasaki to the effect that over a hundred others left Vladivostock the following day by another Russian steamer.

THE nominal editor of the *Yokohama Shimpo* was punished on Jan. 29th in the District Court with a fine of *yen* 20 on a charge of having published the names of steamers which have been chartered by the Government.

DR. R. TAKAYAMA, vice-president of the Hamamatsu hospital, Shidzuoka prefecture, attempted to commit suicide on Jan. 30th by cutting his throat with a pair of surgical scissors. He was staying in a boarding house in Hongo, Tokyo.

A MAN employed by a rice dealer, T. Ono, living at Kakigaracho, Tokyo, committed suicide on Jan. 28th, hanging himself with a cord. It is said that he embezzled over *yen* 300 belonging to his employer and his offence was found out.

THE First Bank held a general meeting on Jan. 28th, when it was announced that the net income of the last half year amounted to *yen* 352,220. Out of this *yen* 225,000 was set aside as interim dividend at the rate of 4½ per cent.

DURING the month of January Japanese gold coins amounting to *yen* 6,722,200 were exported from Kobe. The *Kokumin* adds that in the same month last year the value of gold coins exported amounted to *yen* 65,300 only.

WITH regard to the steamer *Taikyo Maru*, which recently took fire on the Yangstze, the Osaka Shosen Kaisha received on Jan. 28th a telegram from the surveyor that there was no expectation of repairing the hull, and the company resolved to abandon the vessel.

TELEGRAMS report that heavy snow falls have prevailed during the past few days in Toyama prefecture. At Ohase, it drifted to a depth of about 20 feet and at Toyama city to over 6 feet. On the 22nd the snow at Hiromae, Hokkaido, was over 10 feet.

MAJOR IJUIN KENEO, an infantry officer, who was suffering from illness for some weeks, died on Jan. 29th. The *Jiji* states that the late officer was acquainted with the Russian, Chinese and Korean languages and that he had rendered distinguished services in China and Korea.

A GIRL of sixteen, living at Tobe, Yokohama, was arrested on Jan. 28th on a charge of incendiarism. She confessed at Tobe Station that she set fire to six houses in Tobe between Dec. 19th last and Jan. 26th and that she committed the crime for pleasure.

GOVERNOR SUFU issued a warning on Jan. 28th advising the enforcing of vaccination. He states that small-pox is very prevalent in Vladivostock and is extending to Korea. He ordered the sanitary officials to pay strict attention to crews of vessels arriving from these places.

AT a conference between the American ambassador, Mr. Choate, and the officials of the Home Office in London on Jan. 4th, final arrngements were made for the release of Mrs. Maybrick, who was convicted of poisoning her husband and sentenced to imprisonment for life. She will be liberated in April.

A YOUNG man living at Kita-Adachi, Saitama, murdered his mother-in-law, on Jan. 31st by beating her on the head with a log. He then set fire to their dwelling and subsequently attempted to commit suicide by jumping into a well. He was saved by a fireman. The cause is reported to have been a dispute.

THE SITUATION.

Saturday, January 30

Japan appears to have intimated that she finds the delay somewhat irksome. It is believed, however, that not many days will now elapse without a definite sign and that Monday or Tuesday next will see the arrival of the reply. Tuesday in each week is the day when the Cabinet holds its regular consultation in St. Petersburg, and there is just a possibility that the answer may be held back until its final form has been once more considered. There are conflicting rumours as to its nature. Some think that the Russian Government has decided to accept Japan's proposals, seeing in them the most acceptable exit from a troublesome situation and having no desire to provoke a war. Such a course would do great credit to Russia. But there are also forecasts that the old contention will be maintained with regard to Manchuria, namely, that it is, in effect, a territorial conquest of Russia's and that, consequently, she is neither bound by any treaties made or promises given before her occupation was effective nor does she be under any obligation to listen to the intervention of a third Power. Should the latter line be taken, war must follow, for the Japanese are absolutely determined not to abate anything of what they consider essential to the maintenance of peace. Easier terms of arrangement might certainly have been made last November. But Russia mistook the strength of Japan's purpose and perhaps under-estimated her capacity.

The telegraph repeats the recently denied story that Russia is pressing Turkey to allow the passage of the Dardanelles by war-ships, but that Turkey remains firm. Reuter told us some time ago that nothing whatever was known in Constantinople as to this particular form of Russian activity.

A rumour comes from Kinchow to the effect that the Russians are constructing some permanent buildings under pretext of requiring them for the purposes of a cemetery but in reality with the intention of applying them to military uses. What Russians are these, we wonder. The public has been informed within the past few days, first, that 70 Russian soldiers had reached Kinchow and secondly that they were only on their way thither. Now we have some band of Russians engaged building a mortuary chapel there.

Our readers doubtless remember that rumour spoke recently of a movement of Russian troops from Port Arthur in the direction of Wiju on the Yalu. It seemed a difficult task to march troops from Liaotung to the Yalu at this season of the year, though, for the rest, the operation would be easily explained by assuming that an advance from northern Korea into Manchuria would be part of Japan's military programme in the event of war. However, it now appears that there has been a confusion of place-names. The characters read "Wiju" should have been read "Ichow," which is a place lying westward of the Liao River. At present the story runs that 200 Cossacks arrived in Mukden on the 22nd instant, and having taken possession of an inn by the simple process of driving out the lodgers, spent the night there. Next morning they marched towards Ichow, whence three battalions of Chinese troops, constituting the garrison, retired at their approach. It is evident that Russia intends to have a clearly defined western frontier whether for the purposes of the maintenance of neutrality or for belligerent operations. There is not to be any area of uncertain tenure between the Liao River and the Great Wall.

The *Chuo Shimbun's* Seoul correspondent sends intelligence that Russia appears to be shifting the centre of her military gravity in Manchuria from Liaotung to Harbin. If she be, it must be confessed that the indications of such a movement are not perceptible to ordinary onlookers.

Monday, February 1.

We need scarcely say that no credence seems due to the *Daily Graphic's* positive assertion about Russia's answer having been communicated in gist to Mr. Kurino and by him forwarded to Tokyo on the 27th ultimo. Were it an answer of the nature alleged, the Russian Government would not have adopted that channel of conveyance. Probably the *Graphic's* statement had its origin in the fact that on the 27th ultimo Mr. Kurino is said to have visited Count Lamsdorff and intimated the Japanese Government's desire for a speedy reply.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* says that a long telegram reached the Russian Legation on the evening of the 29th ultimo. If that be so, the conference of statesmen on the 30th may, perhaps, be explicable. But the *Kokumin* says that the answer will probably be deferred for 4 and 5 days more and we are disposed to accept that estimate.

Prince Ching now denies emphatically that he endorsed M. Dubail's offer of mediation. He alleges that he merely conveyed to the French Representative a suitable acknowledgment of the latter's kind intention. How this is to be reconciled with the very circumstantial accounts previously received of the Prince's action, we can not explain.

On the 30th ultimo a meeting of statesmen took place at the Minister President's house. It seems to have lasted from half-past nine in the forenoon until six o'clock in the evening. Marquis Ito and Marquis Yamagata were present most of the time, as were also Admiral Yamamoto and Baron Komura.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* publishes a singular telegram from Peking. It says that the Representatives of the United States and of Japan, having addressed themselves to the Chinese Government with the object of getting preparations made for carrying out the treaties in the matter of opening Mukden, Tatung and Autung, have received answer that so long as Manchuria is in Russia's military occupation, China is powerless to give effect to that provisions of the treaties. That reply, if authentic, inaugurates a curious complication. Was China merely playing fast and loose with the Powers when she concluded a treaty which she knew herself to be incapable of carrying out? On the other hand, she may plead that the Powers were playing with her when they exacted promises which they knew her to be unable to fulfil. But the fact is that China is almost hopeless. If she foresaw that she could not give effect to these promises, why did she make them? And if she acknowledges her incompetence to discharge the most rudimentary functions of sovereignty in Manchuria, as well as her reluctance to make any effort for the re-assertion of her rights, why does she continue to claim the one and to deny the loss of the other? She is an invertebrate State, and the sole refuge she seems to discern from her own spiritlessness is to set the Powers fighting over the reversion to her property.

In this context we may note a telegram published by the *Kokumin Shimbun* from Peking. It says that the news of possible Russian concessions such as may avert war between Russia and Japan, has been received very strangely in the Chinese capital, and that should the present complication end without war, Japan's political position in Peking will be greatly compromised. We do not think that any credit attaches to such talk.

Tuesday, February 2.

The *Jiji Shimpo*, while denying the correctness of the *Daily Graphic's* very positive allegations about Russia's reply, and while predicting that the reply is not likely to be received before the 5th instant, re-expresses its often enunciated opinion that Russia is seeking not a peaceful settlement but leisure to make ready for war. It may be anticipated, therefore, that her next note will be couched in terms so guarded and so courteous as to compel a further interval of negotiation although conceding nothing of importance. The *Jiji* further thinks that in consequence of communications of a collateral nature which have already passed between St. Petersburg and Tokyo, Japan finds herself under inevitable restraint as to taking active measures. We can not agree with our contemporary's view that Russia does not desire peace. There may be, indeed we may certainly say that there are, many Russians anxious to put this matter to the test of war, but that the Tsar and his most trusted advisers truly wish for peace we can not doubt. It can not be ignored, however, that Russia is in a difficult position Her easiest exit would have been by the route of mediation, and she has attempted to take that route, unsuccessfully but not insincerely. A task of great perplexity devolves on her statesmen. They can not forget that they speak for a great empire, and that their country's prestige forbids too conspicuous sacrifices.

Wednesday, February 3.

The *Novoe Vremya*, according to a telegram in the *Jiji Shimpo* from London, has an article contending that Russia can not possibly come to an agreement with Japan about Manchuria. It is noteworthy that, whether or not the *Novoe Vremya* is entitled to the semi-official character usually assigned to it, its utterances throughout this complication have been, on the whole, of a very belligerent nature.

London sends news (*Jiji*) that in the event of war General Kuropatkin will be commander-in-chief of the Russian forces in the field.

The rumour continues to circulate that merchandise traffic on the Trans-Asian Railway was to be suspended from the 2nd instant. We can only repeat that no intimation of such a measure has reached the postal authorities in Japan, and nothing seems less probable than that the Railway Management would allow the transmission of mail matter to continue from this country *viâ* Siberia were the regular service of trains suspended. The usual mails were made up in Tokyo on the 31st ultimo and forwarded to Nagasaki that night. Should it prove that this routine has been suffered to proceed unchecked although an immediately impending interruption of the transport facilities was known at Dalny, a great responsibility will rest on the shoulders of Russian officials. We believe, however, that the statement is a canard.

From Vladivostock comes news that the Authorities, acting in obedience to suddenly received orders from St. Petersburg, are working day and night to complete their military and naval preparations, and that the crisis is expected to come within the next twenty days.

Peking also sends intelligence of a similar import. According to this source of authority, Russia has purchased and is purchasing large supplies of Kaiping coal, and is contracting with a British firm in Newchwang for a quantity of Japan coal. In Peking the view said to prevail is that every day's delay tells against Japan. That is true in a military and naval sense, but it was true six months ago also.

Another batch of Japanese fugitives left Dalny for Nagasaki on the 30th ultimo. On arrival at Nagasaki they stated that two regiments of Russian troops lately set out from Port Arthur for some unknown destination, and that four regiments were moving thence towards Liao-yang. Troops to replace these were coming daily to Port Arthur, and a regiment of Cossacks were also *en route*. In consequence of these various movements, traffic on the line was blocked for the general public.

These fugitives added that not more than 100 Japanese subjects remained at Dalny and that these, having completed their preparations for departure, would doubtless leave by the next steamer.

The Toyo Kisen Kaisha's steamships *Rohilla* and *Rosetta* have been recalled from their voyages to Manila and Hongkong.

Japanese journals allege that at the recent meetings of bankers and business men in the capital, Baron Komura deemed it expedient to offer some explanation of the situation, from a diplomatic point of view. Concerning what he said the *Chuo Shimbun* gives a circumstantial account. It is to the effect that Japan's proposals were, first that Russia should recognise China's sovereignty in Manchuria, should restore to her the administration of the three provinces, and should agree that all the Powers have equal commercial and industrial rights in Manchuria; secondly, that Russia should recognize Japan's political influence over the whole of Korea. To this Russia replied that she agreed to recognise all commercial privileges hitherto acquired by the Powers in Manchuria under treaty with China, and that, with regard to Korea, she would recognise Japan's influence in the regions southward of the 39th degree of latitude provided that all the district northward of that line were declared a neutral zone. The Japanese Government announced its inability to accept this programme, and thereupon Baron Rosen asked for a delay, on the ground that the question would be submitted for deliberation by a high council of state in St. Petersburg on the 28th of January. Japan now awaits the decision of that council which is expected by the 4th instant at latest.

Thursday, February 4.

On the eve of the arrival of Russia's reply it seems idle to speculate about its nature. We note, however, that some Tokyo journals, relying on information alleged to have been forwarded by Mr. Kurino from St. Petersburg, speak of the reply as unquestionably unfavourable and predict the immediate issue of a statement by Japan to the Powers, preluding independent action to secure her interests. Others, however, affirm that the complication will end in a virtual exchange between Manchuria and Korea. Meanwhile it is noteworthy that the *Tai-Ro Doshi-kai* deems itself called upon once more to take the field for the purpose of protesting against any patch-work peace. It held a meeting on the 2nd instant, and elaborated a programme of the precise policy that ought to be pursued, according to its opinion. It is also noteworthy that military preparations are more open than ever. The reticence imposed by the Press Regulations prevents us from being explicit, but it is permissible to say that no practical evidences of any belief in a pacific settlement are apparent.

On Wednesday the five Elder Statesmen—Marquises Ito, Yamagata and Oyama and Counts Inouye and Matsukata—met at half past nine a.m. in the residence of the Prime Minister, who also was present, as were Baron Komura, Baron Yamamoto, General Terauchi, Admiral Saito, Admiral Viscount Ito, General Baron Kodama, and Major-General Ishimoto. During the progress of the conference the Prime Minister and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs proceeded to the Palace and made a report to the Emperor, after which they returned to the Council, which was subsequently attended by several officers of the Head Quarter Staff and the Naval Department, who went to and fro. Various rumours are circulated with regard to the subjects discussed at the meeting. One confidently affirmed story is that Baron Rosen addressed a long confidential communication to Baron Komura on the evening of the 2nd instant; that it indicated clearly the nature of Russia's pending reply; that the reply is unsatisfactory; that Baron Komura passed the news to the Elder Statesmen and his colleagues, and that the conference was thus brought about. Another version connects the affair solely with the relations between the Cabinet and the Elder Statesmen. The plain fact is that the secret is well kept.

The Privy Council met on Wednesday to consider the draft of regulations for a postal service in time of war. The Minister of Communications attended and offered some explanations, after which the Council endorsed the draft.

It has been decided that all measures having reference to taxation for war purposes shall be deferred until the meeting of the Diet. We never had any doubt that such would be the decision. The taxation question does not in any way affect the immediate raising of money for pressing needs. What the revenue from increased taxes would be devoted to is the service of the debt now incurred, and that is not a matter of urgency. An extraordinary meeting of the Diet can be convened for the middle of March if necessary.

Friday, February 5.

In the sequel of the Council of Elder Statesmen and Cabinet Ministers held on the 3rd instant, it was expected that a conference in the presence of the Emperor would take place on the 4th, and the expectation proved correct. Rumours vary as to the matters discussed on the 3rd and in the Sovereign's presence. Some say that financial questions occupied attention; some allege that the situation was the topic. The latter view seems to us more probable than the former.

It is very confidently affirmed by the *Chuo* that although Russia's reply has not been officially received, its contents have been transmitted in gist by Mr. Kurino, and are found to be quite unsatisfactory. Our contemporary's version is that, with regard to Korea, St. Petersburg is willing to recognise Japan's commercial and industrial influence but will not recognise her political influence; and that with regard to Manchuria Russia will acknowledge any treaty privileges hitherto acquired by the Powers, but will discuss with China and with China alone the question of restoring the administration of the three provinces. Japan, on the other hand, asks for the recognition of her commercial and political influence throughout the whole of Korea, and asks also that the treaty privileges acquired by the Powers in Manchuria shall be acknowledged to acquire their validity from China's sovereignty. In the face of such an answer, the Japanese Government, according to the *Chuo*, sees plainly that a pacific settlement is quite hopeless, and is consequently preparing to address an ultimatum to Russia, and to resort to free action. We (*Japan Mail*) would point out, however, that the answer described by our Tokyo contemporary, so far from embodying even a shred of concession on Russia's part, evinces greater obduracy and less liberality than ever; a fact difficult to reconcile with the repeated declarations coming from St. Petersburg and Paris that the drafters of the reply have been really anxious to find a peaceful exit from the complication. If Russia had no intention of doing more than re-stating her old position in a more arbitrary form then ever, it is difficult to understand the rationale of her long delay. Japan's request for re-consideration was handed in on the 13th of January, a week after the receipt of Russia's second reply, and Russia's answer to it has not yet come though 23 days have elapsed and though the Japanese Representative in St. Petersburg has twice asked for expedition.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* translates from German papers of the 12th a summary of a statement, said to be official, of Russia's second reply. The points are:—(1) Russia recognises Japan's influence in all respects in Korea. (2) That recognition is unlimited in Southern Korea. (3) In Northern Korea and on the northern coasts, there must be a restriction that Japan shall not build any large town or undertake any defensive works. (4) There shall be a neutral zone along the Yalu and the Tumen, extending to a distance of 50 kilometres from either bank, and within that zone neither Russia nor Japan shall carry out any defensive works. (5) As to Manchuria, while desirous that all treaty privileges acquired by the Powers shall be duly recognised, Russia is unable to enter into any negotiations with a third party. From the same source it is stated that this fourth declaration was subsequently supplemented by an explanation that since neither Russia nor Japan possesses any proprietary rights in Manchuria, it is out of the question for them to enter into any agreement about the future of that region. They might as well discuss the disposition of territory in the Philippines or Australia.

This last declaration evidently amounts to an indirect but very unequivocal acknowledgement of China's suzeranity.

Lord Lansdowne referred to Japan, of course, when he informed the House of Peers that one of the Far-Eastern disputants does not want mediation. What Japan desires is that her case should stand on its own merits. She is prepared to defend its justice and she deprecates all interference on the part of outsiders. The King's speech is probably not altogether welcome in this country since it seems to suggest mediation, but we can not suppose that His Majesty had any such intention.

CHINA.

Monday, February 1.

There is talk of a change of Commissioner of Customs at Newchwang. The present holder of the office is a Russian subject. His appointment provoked some hostile criticism, but doubtless Sir Robert Hart took the common-sense view that so long as Russian influence remained paramount at the port, a Russian would be more likely than any other national to manage things smoothly. It is now stated, however, that owing to the interference of the Russian Authorities, which a Russian subject is naturally unable to resist successfully, the duties of the post can not be performed with integrity, and the Russian incumbent has asked to be relieved. He will probably be replaced by Mr. E. Gilchrist from Canton.

A disturbing rumour comes from Tientsin to the effect that Viceroy Yuan finds himself at variance with the Central Government on the question of the new training school as well as in relation to other matters that concern China's military preparations. So acute have these differences become that there is talk of the Viceroy's resignation. That would be calamitous for China at present, Viceroy Yuan being one of the few statesmen she possesses who have proved their ability to deal with an emergency.

As the same time news arrives that the Viceroy has ordered 20,000 Mauser rifles through a German firm in Tientsin.

Tuesday, February 2.

On the 30th ult., says an *Asahi* telegram from Peking, the Japanese Representative called on Prince Ching, and having communicated to him a statement as to the course of the negotiations with Russia, urged that no time should be lost in issuing a notification for the opening of Mukden, Antung and Tatung as provided by the new commercial treaties. The United States Minister has preferred a similar request. Prince Ching, it is alleged, replied that inquiries had been addressed to the Governor-General in Mukden, and that pending his reply no definite step could be taken. There can be little doubt that the Governor-General will avow himself incompetent to give effect to the proposed arrangement pending the withdrawal of Russia's troops. That is China's game; a sufficiently legitimate game after all, and we can not wonder if she plays it for all it is worth.

The report of the Directors of the National Bank of China, Ltd., which was presented to the thirteenth ordinary annual meeting of shareholders held in Hongkong on Saturday, shewed that the gross profits for the year ending December 31st, 1903, were, including $15,613.80 brought forward from last year, $291,885.87 which, after deducting all charges, allowing for bad and doubtful debts, and writing $5,000 off furniture account, leaves a net profit of $162,574.80. This the Directors proposed to deal with as follows:—To pay a dividend of $2.00 per share (in London 3/6) absorbing $80,906.00, to place $60,000.00 to reserve, and to carry forward $21,668.80.

The *Chefoo Express* has got into terrible hot water by writing a violent article against Russia; an article so immoderate that we refrain from giving even the gist. The article appeared on the 9th of January, and the publishers of the journal, Messrs. H. Sietas & Co., a German firm doing business in Dalny and Port Arthur as well as in Chefoo, are said to have announced that they would no longer print such a tempestuous sheet. Chefoo finds itself in the condition of the storm-beaten tea-pot, and a great many people are made merry.

Thursday, February 4.

The *Kokumin Shimbun* has a telegram from Peking to the effect that the Pro-Russian party in the Chinese capital includes some unexpected persons and that their activity has been great of late. Their object is to induce the Chinese Government to approach Russia with proposals for an independent settlement of the Manchurian problem. Such a settlement, if effected with China as an assenting party, would put an end to the Far-Eastern question for the moment, and it is shrewdly conjectured that the procrastination shown by Russia in dealing with Japan's proposals has been inspired, in part at all events, by the hope of breaking down China's obduracy in the interval.

In connexion with the above it is stated that Viceroy Yuan has been summoned to Peking, and that the postponement of Viceroy Chang's departure for the Yangtse Valley, which was to have taken place on the 26th ultimo, is attributable, not be illness as has been stated, but to the inexpediency of his absence just as the Russophil tendency is becoming pronounced.

It will be remembered that there was talk of Viceroy Yuan resigning his duties in connexion with the organization of the northern army, owing to dissatisfaction with the methods pursued in Peking. Apparently his Excellency actually tendered his resignation, for the telegraph now says that the Court has refused to accept it, and has ordered him to continue the work in conjunction with Viceroy Chang.

Friday, February 5.

It is reported that some additional guns have been placed in position by the Russians at Harbin. This news comes from fugitives who have arrived in Peking.

The defences of the rear face of Vladivostock are said to be now complete, the work having been pushed on rapidly. All fuel and all skins usable for clothing purposes have been bought up by the Russian authorities in Harbin. The degree of frost is said to be quite exceptional, and the river is thickly frozen.

An *Asahi* telegram says that all the Poles employed on the Trans-Asian Railway have been dismissed.

The mounted bandits in Manchuria are rumoured to be singularly active. In the neighbourhood of Harbin they are committing frequent depredations even in broad daylight. One band of them is said to be in possession of artillery.

The fugitives from Harbin report that forged rouble notes are largely in circulation there, and that no efforts are made by the Russian authorities to suppress them, or to prevent the sale of implements for forging. That is a courageous tale.

From the same source we learn that there are over a thousand Japanese residents in Harbin, and that they recently applied to the authorities for protection in the event of an outbreak of hostilities. The reply was that, should there be any danger, arrangements would be made for their retreat to Mukden. But as the latter city would scarcely be regarded as an asylum, these Japanese, together with those (300) in Tsitsihar and Hailar (200) are in a state of considerable apprehension.

It does not appear that the much-talked-of seventy Cossacks who recently left Ichow and were expected to enter Kinchow, have carried out the purpose assigned to them. Their movement is now said to have been simply in the nature of a reconnaissance.

We take the following item from the *Peking and Tientsin Times*:—

> There are in all 16 cars for the Court, 13 have arrived, 6 have gone to the Viceroy, seven are yet being put in order, the balance (3) are now at Hongkong, the steamer in which they were sent from Europe being in dock at that place, something having gone wrong with her machinery. The Engineer who came out in charge leaves in a few days for Europe. His assistant will remain and be in charge of the cars until such time as the Chinese understand how to run them. The doors of the Imperial cars are now being made larger to admit the august person of the Empress Dowager. Imperial flags of beautiful silk have been made for the three Imperial cars. We are informed that each car represents some Tls. 20,000. H.E. The Viceroy has two cars painted red, one complete and one is being put in order.

THE INSURANCE QUESTION.

From statements published in Tokyo it appears that up to the 1st instant, when the term expired for the payment of deposits by foreign insurance companies doing business in Japan, only one life company, 2 fire, 1 marine and one marine-fire paid in the required deposits. Four have announced the cessation of further business and out of the 44 remaining companies, two or three are believed to be awaiting the result of the negotiations while the rest have resolved to suspend operations. A rumour had prevailed that some exit from this most unfortunate impasse would have been devised before the close of January, but that hope has not yet been fulfilled.

The following has been placed at our disposal:—

> Memorandum of an arrangement as to deposits from foreign Life Insurance Companies, brought to Mr. Griscom by Mr. Ishii of the Foreign Office on February 2, 1904.
>
> (1) A petition should be presented by each of the companies concerned for exemption from the deposits equivalent to the legal reserve fund in consideration of a single deposit of *yen* 150,000.
>
> (2) It should be stated in the petition that of the above-mentioned sum, *yen* 100,000 shall be deposited within a week, *i.e.*, on or before the 9th February, 1904, while the balance, *i.e.*, *yen* 50,000, shall be deposited within six months.
>
> (3) Those who have not made deposits within the two periods fixed in the preceding paragraph shall not be allowed to make any new contracts.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST PNEUMONIA.

The Department of Home Affairs has issued a series of regulations to prevent the spread of pneumonia. One of the main points insisted on is the provision of a sufficiency of spittoons in all public places, which spittoons are to be duly disinfected, and no one will be allowed to spit except into a spittoon (*dako*). Explicit directions are given as to the manner of disinfecting these utensils. There are also explicit provision with reference to inns at hot springs and so forth, as well as to hospitals, jails, railway stations, etc. The regulations are evidently founded on the conviction that diseases of the lungs are contagious.

KOREA.

Saturday, January 30.

The Minister of Finance, Chhim Sang-hun, has resigned, and is succeeded by Li Yong-ik, who seems to be very powerful in Seoul at present.

Workmen for the Seoul-Fusan railway are beginning to arrive in large numbers from Japan. It is stated, however, that the programme of finishing the line during the course of the present year will prove scarcely feasible, a year and a half being the minimum period contemplated by the experts recently despatched from Tokyo,

It has been decided to add another line of telegraphs to those already existing in Korea. The line will be from Chemulpo to Fusan *via* Seoul. There is already a line on that route, but it is found insufficient to meet the exigencies of the moment.

Monday, February 1.

The wind of peace is said to have reached Seoul Within the past few days diplomatic circles there are reported to have exchanged their previously interested, if not excited, demeanour for one of nonchalance. It certainly does appear from the various rumours circulated that Russia's intentions are sincerely pacific. At the same time we can not but observe that the stories sent across the wires during the past few days about the nature of the St. Petersburg reply are effectually discredited by the latest news, namely, that the reply was to have been drafted after the council of ministers and high dignitaries on Thursday last. And then if the former very positive allegations prove to have been untrustworthy, who shall say that Reuter's latest about the special council is more worthy of credence? There is a story in circulation to the effect that King Edward has interested himself most actively in the cause of peace, and has addressed communications direct to the Tsar on the subject. The King's great hope is that there shall be no outbreak of war in Europe during his reign, and as he finds in the Emperor of Russia a man sincerely imbued with the same sentiment, these two monarchs ought to be able to accomplish much. We may add here that during the past week the feeling in certain circles in Tokyo has been distinctly more hopeful. At the same time the difficulty of Russia's position is fully appreciated. For some reason which we can not venture to analyse she appears to have under-estimated not only Japan's resolve but also Japanese belligerent capacity, and the Japanese, on their side, have been gradually driven to place their backs immovably against the wall. Thus concession on either side has become very difficult. We must frankly say that if the mental attitude of some European nationals in Tokyo may be taken as an index of Russia's mood hitherto, there is plenty of warrant for thinking that St. Petersburg's eyes have been closed to the truth. Supreme contempt for the Japanese army and navy when pitted against the forces of any European Power and indignant resentment against this empire's assurance in venturing to assert itself so resolutely —these are the sentiments most *en evidence*. Superadded is a conviction, alleged at all events, that in the event of a Japanese reverse foreign life and property would be threatened with the gravest dangers in Tokyo and in the settlements generally. Speaking plainly, it has all been a surprise to us: a surprise that intelligent Occidentals —not Anglo-Saxons; they are conspicuously different—that intelligent Occidentals should remain so strangely ignorant of the people among whom they reside, and we are inclined to think that not merely the Russians in Manchuria but also the Russians in St. Petersburg have been hitherto labouring under similar misapprehensions, and that, partly owing to that reason, the situation has thus drifted into its present perilous state. The Tsar and the leaders of the peace party in the Russian capital are, however, quite sufficiently magnanimous to prefer reasonable concessions to the horrors of war. That confidence has been gaining ground steadily of late.

Peking and New York both telegraph that a Russian force—estimated at six thousand men—has started from Dalny and Port Arthur for the banks of the Yalu. Our readers will recognise this rumour as an acquaintance of some days' standing. But it may be true, none the less. If Manchuria is to be held in a military sense against all invasion, the Yalu line is one of the most important defensive positions.

We used to hear a great deal about the Yalu Valley and the timber-felling operations there, but the subject has of late dropped out of the field of public observation. Attention is re-called to it by news that the three-cornered company of Koreans, Chinese and Japanese who have hitherto been struggling against the Russian monopoly, have now handed over their concession to a Japanese subject named Shiki Shintaro; and that a guild called the Shiki-gumi has been organized with a capital of 90,000 *yen*. What Mr. Shiki paid for the concession we are not informed. Active operations in the lumber business are to be commenced by the new guild next month.

The *Asahi Shimbun* publishes a telegram from Fusan to the effect that Mr. Furuichi and his colleagues have decided to carry the Seoul-Fusan railway along a line which will avert all necessity for tunnelling. This necessitates the surveying of a new route, and nine survey parties have been organized to carry on the work expeditiously.

It is reported that Korea has already wearied of her fleet; her solitary war-ship, a converted merchantman. An American citizen is negotiating for its purchase, and only the question of price now remains to be settled.

Tuesday, February 2.

Japanese newspapers state that the new Korean Minister to China, Min Yong-chol, and the Minister to Germany, Li Keun-thaik, both of whom are men of great political influence in Seoul, are hastening to leave their country and sequester themselves in foreign capitals since they foresee that the Government's declaration of strict neutrality will plunge Korea into serious difficulties and embarrassments.

It is stated that Li Yong-ik's appointment to his post of Minister of Finance is in connexion with a scheme for the issue of nickel notes. Correspondents of Tokyo journals, in sending this news, affirm that should such a scheme be carried out, its financial effects will be disastrous. It was bad enough to have the capital and the country flooded with spurious nickels, but when notes are added having these nickels for basis, the situation will be almost desperate. Was ever such financing heard of before? It is as though three-penny bank-notes were issued in England.

Rumour speaks of a visit paid by Li Yong-ik on the 30th ultimo to M. Pablov for the purpose of asking his opinion about the situation. The Russian Minister is represented as having replied that nothing was needed to secure peace except the withdrawal of all Japanese soldiers from Seoul. Another report alleges that M. Pavlow has privately intimated to the Emperor that in the event of Korea joining hands with Japan, of which result there seemed to be some prospect, he should not hesitate to "take the course indicated by his fixed policy." We can not attempt to expound the significance of this cryptic utterance. Perhaps the Emperor understood. Perhaps M. Pavlow never said anything of the kind.

Wednesday, February 3.

Seoul reports that Min Yon-Chol has left that city for Port Arthur, and that his mission is believed to have the purpose long spoken of, namely, to conclude arrangements with Viceroy Alexieff for the employment of Russian troops as protectors of Korea. Mr. Min is the official who recently returned from a trip to St. Petersburg where he is supposed to have submitted this protection programme for approval, and to have been advised to carry it to Viceroy Alexieff. Rumour has been very persistent in his case. Should he and his Imperial master be so foolish as this step would indicate, they are going out to meet national effacement, for by estranging Japan to cajole Russia they will ensure their country's loss of independence in all events.

Japanese journals state that Korea's announcement of strict neutrality was formally acknowledged by England, France, Germany, Italy and Sweden, but the acknowledgement did not embody any indication of assent or approval. Nevertheless the Korean Government, misconstruing this action on the part of the Powers, is thoroughly content with its own policy, and, expecting to be able to act the part of a mere onlooker whatever complications ensue, is giving itself no more concern about such troublesome questions as the opening of Yong Am-pho and Wiju. In fact the impression among newspaper correspondents appears to be that Korea has got out of hand altogether. We should hesitate to pronounce any opinion as to the sentiments with which Japan regards that state of affairs but no one can entertain much doubt as to the lesson it teaches.

It is stated that the Korean envoy who is *en route* for Japan carrying the Emperor's thanks for Japan's expressions of sympathy on the occasion of the Empress Dowager's death, is also entrusted with the mission of endeavouring to bring about the return of the refugees. As to this latter point we observe that the *Korea Review* continues to insist on the expediency of refusing asylum to these political plotters. Within limits, we can not but agree frankly with the Seoul periodical. The trouble is, how should the thing be accomplished. Would it be wise or right for Japan to signalize herself by disregarding an international principle to which the most civilized Powers of the West carefully adhere? In the interests of neighbourly friendship it would be an excellent thing were these mischief-brewing refugees packed off to their own country, but one wants to learn the process.

The *Chuo Shimbun's* Seoul correspondent says that Japan's inaction, especially in the matter of sending troops, is having an injurious effect upon the political situation in Seoul. He refers especially to the appointments of Min Yong-hwan and Li Keun-thaik to the Legations in Peking and Berlin, the departure of these men from the scene being, in the correspondent's opinion, a sign that Japanese influence is on the wane. But we have never heard it suggested that Li Keun-thaik was pro-Japanese. On the contrary he has always been held up as pro-Russian. Probably these reports from Seoul must be taken as largely tinged with the subjective element. It is not the Koreans that are injuriously influenced by Japan's military inaction; it is the Japanese residents that find their jingoism disappointed.

Thursday, February 4.

The proposed departure of Min Yong-hwan and Li Keun-thaik for Washington and Berlin respectively has been indefinitely deferred. In the case of Min Yong-hwan the reason assigned is his mother's illness, but Tokyo journals allege that the appointment of these men to foreign posts having been due to the decadence of the Russo-phil party which they represent, and having been, in effect, a measure for securing their personal safety in the event of war, so the cancelling of their appointments means that the pro-Russians have raised their heads again. In fact it is confidently alleged that Li Keun-thaik, with the assistance of Kil Yong-chu and Kang Sak-ho, has managed to retrieve the situation for his fellow-thinkers. Korean politics are a puzzle. Somebody, we presume, holds the thread of the labyrinth, but to the outside public it is all a tangled maze. However, there can not be any doubt about the belief that the pro-Russian party of Seoul politicians are recovering their influence.

Mr. Furuichi, Chief Engineer of the Seoul-Fusan Railway, arrived at Fusan on the 2nd instant.

In our last issue we epitomised telegrams showing that the Emperor and his *entourage* were congratulating themselves on the success of their neutrality scheme, and were looking forward to the pleasure of occupying a safe seat on the opposite bank of the river while the conflagration of war raged on the other side. To-day the telegraph says that the neutrality manœuvre having provoked ridicule only at the hands of the foreign Powers, the statesmen who advised that course are now in disgrace, and the Court has reverted to its habitual mood of trepidation.

A party of Korean rioters attacked the workshops of the Seoul-Fusan Railway at Chhon-an in Chung-chhong-do on the 1st instant, but were repulsed without any difficulty.

Friday, February 5.

Later news says that the band of rioters who attacked a workshop on the Seoul-Fusan Railway on the 1st instant, came into collision with a posse of Japanese police sent out from Fusan. Five out of the eight rioters effected their escape, two were arrested, and one, who resisted with violence, was killed.

The Seoul authorities are said to have received news that Russia has increased and is increasing her forces on the northern bank of the Yalu, and that there is much military activity in the neighbourhood of Musan on the Tumen. In brief these rumours point to an augmentation of Russian military strength along the Korean frontier, but that kind of story has done so much deceptive duty during the past six months that a great deal of confirmation is needed.

Another complication seems to have arisen in connexion with the timber-felling concession. The Russian Representative in Seoul is said to have officially complained that the people about Chasong are indiscriminately felling trees whereas the whole district is included in the Russian monopoly. The Korean Government's reply is not yet public property.

THE FINANCIAL QUESTION.

Saturday, January 30.

Japanese newspapers give the gist of statements made by the Premier, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Finance at a meeting of leading bankers held in the Premier's official residence on the 28th instant. It need scarcely be said that in their relation to the diplomatic situation the speeches were colourless, the only point of interest being Baron Komura's statement that the conditions proposed by Japan were in no sense extravagant, being directed merely to support the country's honour and secure peace. As yet, however, Russia had not given her assent.

Concerning the main purpose of the meeting, namely, the raising of funds to meet emergencies, the thirty-two bankers in attendance seem to have been unanimously willing to cōoperate to the utmost of their ability. The only point raised by them was that in undertaking a transaction of such importance as the floating of a large domestic loan, the utmost care should be taken to avoid any needless disturbance of market conditions, to which end the period, rate of issue, rate of interest, time of subscription and so forth should be fully discussed by those most interested. In view of these very natural observations a meeting of business men was arranged for the 29th. The universal belief is that the Treasury will experience no difficulty in getting all the money it wants. This method of taking every step in consultation and cōoperation with the leading bankers and business men is the best way to secure success.

The only question about which there seems to be some possible divergence of views is connected with taxation. In some quarters it is anticipated that the Government will have recourse to an Urgency Ordinance for sanctioning the measures it contemplates with regard to the land tax, the income tax, and the sugar tax. But against such a course considerable objection is advanced. It is contended that in such matters every possible effort should be made to seek the advice and consent of the people's representatives. The general elections are to take place on the 1st of March and it will therefore be within the Government's power to summon an extraordinary meeting of the Diet in April; that is to say, less than three months hence. A delay of three months in finally deciding the taxation programme can not cause any appreciable inconvenience, for the fiscal year does not commence until the 1st of April, and no noteworthy loss would be entailed for the Treasury by postponing recuperative operations until May. On the other hand, should the route of urgency ordinance be chosen, the Diet will inevitably complain that it has been needlessly slighted, and the world will have an opportunity of forming an erroneous judgment concerning the attitude of the people's representatives towards a war undertaken in the cause of justice. It is alleged that Marquis Ito endorses this view—as to the unwisdom and needlessness of an urgency ordinance,—and some journals, ever anxious to discredit Baron Sone, attribute to him an opposite opinion. We have little doubt that the advocates of awaiting the Diet's assent will win the day.

Since writing the above we learn that the meeting of business men took place yesterday afternoon at the Premier's official residence, but what transpired is not announced.

Monday, February 1.

On the evening of the 29th ultimo the bankers of Tokyo met at the Mitsui Club in response to the invitation of the President of the Bank of Japan. There were also present Counts Matsukata and Inouye. Both of these statesmen addressed the meeting. Count Inouye spoke twice. His words were most inspiriting and earnest, and he declared his intention of sparing no labour to assist in effecting satisfactory arrangements. Mr. Toyokawa, of the Mitsu Bishi Bank, said that he and his colleagues were only too ready to assist. All that they stipulated was that this important financial operation should be conducted in the manner best calculated to avert disturbance of the money market. The President of the Bank of Japan gave full assurances on that point, and after Mr. Sonoda Kokichi had addressed the meeting, calling for vigorous action, it was decided that the loan should be issued at 95; that the rate of interest should be 5 per cent.; that the period of re-payment should be 5 years, and that, so far as the situation permitted, the money should be called up in small installments. A committee of three was appointed to conduct negotiations with the various banks. The Committee consisted of Mr. Sonoda Kokichi, President of the Fifteenth Bank, representing Tokyo; Mr. Matsumoto Jutaro, representing Osaka; and Mr. Tanaka Gentaro, representing Kyoto.

Tokyo journals discuss the question of funds for war but their estimates vary so greatly that they are evidently without definite information. They agree as to one point, however; namely, that it would not be wise to change the system of taxation through the medium of an urgency ordinance. There is no pressing need for recourse to increased taxes. All the money required can be obtained without difficulty by recourse to the special capital funds, to the monies in the special accounts and to loans. In view of the possibility of summoning the Diet in less than two months, the Cabinet would be acting unwisely did it meddle with the taxes without awaiting parliamentary consent.

Perhaps it may be useful here to state a few figures about which some misapprehension seems to exist.

The amount of the land tax levied by the Central Government during the present year is 47 millions, in round numbers, and this will be reduced next year (April 1st 1904 to March 31st 1905) by 10 millions in consequence of the reversion of the rate to its original figure. The amount of the land rates—that is to say, the land taxes levied by the communes for local purposes—is over 31 million *yen*. Therefore, if the Central Treasury took one half of the local rates and also continued to impose the land tax as at present, an additional income of over 25 millions would result. The income tax represents 7½ million *yen* and the sugar tax 7 millions. Whether these could be raised so as to yield another 10 millions we do not know, but unquestionably the income tax is far below the figure it ought to yield if incomes were reported with even approximate accuracy.

Some journals laugh at this financing. They call it mere cheese-paring, and allege that were a really strong Cabinet in power, the country would be asked for 300 millions not 100, and would readily give them. Surely that is hysterical criticism? The

Treasury is under no necessity to ask for more than it immediately wants.

It is expected that the Government will greatly increase the selling rate of tobacco. Eighty or a hundred per cent. is spoken of as the increment. There are 5 million *kwan* of tobacco now lying in the Government godowns, and the proposed increase (80 per cent.) would mean a gain of 4 million *yen* on that amount. As to the annual consumption, it is about 12 million *yen* worth, and were 80 per cent. added to the selling price the gain would be 9½ million *yen*. Thus the total increase of revenue to the Treasury would be 13½ million *yen*.

There has been a rumour of late that the Bank of Japan was engaged in collecting fifty-*sen* pieces, foreseeing the need of silver for war purposes, and replacing them by one-*yen* notes. The Bank emphatically denies the story. Its officials explain that if any scarcity of 50-*sen* coins be observable in Tokyo, it is due to an exceptional demand for them in the provinces, and that, as to one-*yen* notes, any issues recently made have been devoted solely to replacing old notes, many of which had become unusable.

It appears that the loan of a hundred millions will be collected in seven monthly installments commencing in February and ending with August, the month of June, which is the time of semi-annual balance, being omitted The bonds will be of 4 dimensions, 5,000 *yen*, 1,000 *yen*, 100 *yen* and 50 *yen*, and the amount to be paid on application will be 2 per cent. It is expected that the Tokyo bankers will take 70 millions and the Osaka and Kyoto bankers 30 millions. Of course the Bank of Japan is included among the Tokyo institutions, but the present forecast is that in spite of the Mitsu Bishi's remarkable promise of 20 million *yen*, the Fifteenth, or Nobles, Bank, of which Mr. Sonoda Kokichi is President, will be found to be the largest subscriber in Tokyo.

Already the voluntary contributions to the war chest aggregate, it is said, from seven to eight hundred thousand *yen*. If hostilities actually commence the amount would soon be doubled or trebled. It is a drop in the ocean certainly, but it shows the colour of the water. For the nation knows that it will presently be required to pay all the taxes needed by the Treasury.

THE KOREAN ASSASSINS.

The appeal in the case of the Korean assassins of U Pom-son commenced in the Hiroshima Court on the 2nd instant. It will be remembered that of the two prisoners, one, Ko, was condemned to death by the Court of First Instance, the other, No, to imprisonment for life. In the Appeal Court the Public Procurator contended that both sentences should be reduced by one degree, and counsel for the prisoners insisted that Ko's offence would be fully met by imprisonment, and that No should be acquitted altogether. An interesting feature of the trial was that a speech in behalf of the accused was delivered in the Japanese language by Li Myon-wu, who had come from Korea to discharge the duties of advocate. Li was educated in Japan where he studied law. The date for delivery of the Appeal Court's judgment does not appear to be yet fixed.

KOREAN STUDENTS IN JAPAN AND NEUTRALITY.

We read in vernacular journals that the Korean military students in Japan addressed to the Government in Seoul a petition in the sense that at this critical moment their services ought to be directly available, and that, consequently, they desired to return home. It is alleged that this application has met with approval. It seems to us a very silly and precipitate application. Perhaps it should be associated with Korea's specious scheme of neutrality. As to this neutrality question, the story now current is that Korea's idea is likely to add another clause to international law. What she contemplates is not national neutrality but imperial neutrality. In short, the Sovereign, instead of seeking to place his country outside the pale of fighting, seeks merely to place his own palace and person in that desirable situation. Every one will hesitate to accept such a bizarre version of the little empire's latest departure. Side by side with these rumours comes á statement that a hankering after the presence and protection of Russian troops continues to occupy the breast of a certain section of Korean officialdom, and that the present programme is to send a party of the Peddlers' Guild to escort a Russian detachment from Antung across the Yalu and down to Seoul. One Kil Yong-chu is mentioned as the most prominent figure in this enterprise. What Korea may congratulate herself on having accomplished is that she has furnished fresh proofs of signal incompetence to manage her own affairs.

THE AFFAIR OF THE BANK OF JAPAN.

It will be remembered that on the 28th of December some sensation was caused by news that a sum of thirty thousand *yen* had disappeared in the operation of paying it over the counter of the Bank of Japan. Several officials of the Bank were immediately relieved of duty, among them being Mr. Totsuka Kei, Chief Secretary of the *Suito Kyoku* (cashier's bureau). On the 28th instant Mr. Totsuka was summoned to the office of a police magistrate and closely questioned. It appears that, being a very nervous man, he did not endure the ordeal successfully and some of his statements were found to be contradictory. His attempts to correct them did not obtain the magistrate's approval, and on returning home his mind was so much disturbed by the thought of being unjustly suspected that he cut his throat, dying immediately. He left a document declaring his innocence in most earnest terms, and indeed we fail to see why any serious suspicion should attach to him seeing that the actual perpetrators of the theft have been apprehended.

It appears, after all, that the secretary of the Bank of Japan who recently committed suicide, was the original plotter of the robbery of thirty thousand *yen*. His examination by the police had made it quite plain that his guilt could not be further concealed, and in despair he made away with himself. Public sympathy with the man seems to have been misplaced. Ono Shinji, who is now under arrest, was only an accomplice. Totsuka Kei, who killed himself, had a salary of only 60 *yen* a month, but his style of living could not have been maintained without a very much heavier expenditure.

RUSSIAN PREPARATIONS, ETC.

In spite of the peaceful announcements from St. Petersburg it is noticeable that Russia omits no precaution to increase her military strength in East Asia. Reuter has just told us of the probability that ordinary traffic will be temporarily suspended from the 2nd instant on the Trans-Siberian line in order to facilitate the transport of troops and stores. Supplementing this news comes intelligence from Chefoo that a full division of troops is being moved eastward from Russia and that the leading battalion has reached Lake Baikal. The telegram adds that a number of waggons and cars have been sent from Port Arthur to expedite the coming of these troops. Of course it does not follow that because Russia crowds re-inforcements to the front she means war. It would be her plain duty to take every possible measure for strengthening her position pending a settlement of the outstanding questions with Japan. Indeed her warlike preparations are in themselves an instrument for securing peace. But we must be prepared to find that these preparations, taken in conjunction with the delay she has always made and is still making, in formulating her answers to Japan's proposals, are viewed by this country in a sinister light. The Japanese naturally observe that Russia's reply is embodied not in the politely ambiguous words her statesmen utter but in the military and naval preparations that she perfects. We can only say that probably no Power circumstanced as Russia is would act differently so far as these preparations are concerned.

In this context we may quote another telegram (*Asahi*) to the effect that work is proceeding vigorously at Dalny on the construction of eighty new buildings to serve as barracks. All this, of course, renders the process of evacuation, if evacuation is ever to take place, a more and more improbable matter. Put in a nutshell Russia's action has been a flagrant violation of treaty engagements and of her own voluntary assurances, and, on being challenged to respect them, she has made a strenuous exhibition of preparations in the contrary sense. Thoughtful onlookers are not insensible to the great difficulties of the choice she has been required to make, but it must be confessed that the showing is very bad, and that if she attaches any value to that important asset, international credit, it is time for her to change her route.

A telegram to the *Asahi* says that three regiments of infantry set out three or four days ago from Nicholisk for the northern frontier of Korea. It must be an arduous undertaking the moving of troops over long distances at this season, especially in such exceptionally severe cold. And the puzzle is where they can find shelter on the northern frontier of Korea. The Chinese inhabitants probably suffer most, after all.

During the past four or five days the Manchurian railway has been carrying coal, it is said, to the exclusion of all other merchandise. This tallies with the recently received report that Dalny and Port Arthur were suffering from scarcity of fuel.

The exodus of Japanese subjects from Liaotung continues steadily. Wei-hai-wei seems to be receiving the worst class of these fugitives.

Three hundred Cossack troopers have arrived at Sim-min-chin on the west of the Liaotung peninsula.

It is stated that the Russians in Port Arthur regard a naval conflict as inevitable in the event of war. That is true, we imagine, unless indeed the Russian squadrons resign themselves to be blocked up in Port Arthur and Vladivostock, which would be almost as humiliating a state of affairs as actual defeat. Naval authorities allege that the Russian vessels are for the most part unfit for rapid manœuvres at sea, the want of docking facilities having reduced them to a disadvantageons condition. Some allege indeed that this defect is so serious as to preclude the possibility of an engagement in the open, at least without incurring heavy risks. Be that as it may the position of the Russian navy is not favourable at present. The fleet may be said to be divided into three parts, of which one, constituting the bulk, is at Port Arthur, a second is at Vladivostock and the third is *en route* from Europe. A declaration of war in the near future would give a marked advantage from that point of view to the swift, homogeneous and concentrated Japanese fleet.

The *Amur*, which left Dalny on the 30th ultimo, had on board 200 Japanese subjects retiring from that place.

The Chinese Northern Squadron, which consists now of four vessels, has been ordered to leave its berth under the guns of the Yangtse forts, and to proceed to Taku. If this squadron had anything like the strength or dimensions it possessed before the annihilating process off the Yalu and in Weihaiwei, it would be an important factor in the situation.

It is stated that in view of the protracted character of the Russo-Japanese negotiations and the improbability of any satisfactory settlement, influence is gradually accruing to the Chinese advocates of direct negotiation with Russia for a pacific settlement of the Manchurian problem. We have been favoured with that rumour frequently, and though it comes to-day through the *Kokumin*, we can not think that credence attaches to it considering that the crisis between Russia and Japan is now on the very eve of a rupture or an arrangement. Chinese statesmen are thoroughly conversant with the facts of the situation. It is improbable that they have lost patience at the eleventh hour, or are losing it.

The *Asahi Shimbun* has a brief telegram from St. Petersburg saying that Russia is about to make the needed concessions, and that shares and stocks have suddenly risen.

The following telegrams have been received officially in Tokyo and given out to the public :—

1. Houses for billeting Russian soldiers are being hastily prepared at Kaichow, Haicheng, Liaoyang, and other places. At Liaoyang over a thousand carts have already been requisitioned; and a hundred or two of them were daily despatched for the transportation of ammunition and provisions to Feng-huang-cheng.

2. The Russians have commenced the transportation of their troops to the Yalu; their movements had become very active at Liaoyang. It was reported that on the 1st and 2nd instant, two companies of the Fifteenth Regiment, which were stationed at Yinkow left Liaoyang as also four companies of the Ninth Regiment which had come from Port Arthur.

3. All the powerful Russian men-of-war at Port Arthur, with the exception of one which was under repair, left that port on the 3rd inst. Destination unknown.

4. The Japanese Commercial Agent at Vladivostock received the same day a notice from the Commander of the Garrison at that port to the effect that from the orders he had received he might have at any time to proclaim a state of siege at Vladivostock, and accordingly desired the Commercial Agent to make preparations for the eventual departure of his nationals from the port, adding at the same time that if any Japanese wished to remain, they would be ordered to repair to Habarovsk.

Read cursorily these telegrams seem significant, but analysed they amount to very little. The preparation of barracks at Kaichow, Haicheng and Liaoyang is merely a measure connected with the distribution of troops for protecting the railway and guarding the points where the main roads from eastern Manchuria emerge on the Mukden-Liaotung line. Activity of transport operations between Lioyang and Feng-huang-cheng—a town lying a little northward of the Yalu—is certainly significant as indicating a plan to occupy the Yalu district in force, but so long as only half a dozen companies of infantry are involved, the incident is trivial. As for the departure of the fleet from Port Arthur, it can mean nothing particular, since there is nothing particular for the fleet to do. On the whole we must not forget what has often been urged in these columns already, that in exceptional times ordinary events and acts are apt to incite extraordinary interpretations.

JAPAN'S NEW BATTLE-SHIPS.

Reuter informs us that orders for two new battle-ships have been placed by Japan with Messrs. Armstrong and Company and with Messrs. Vickers, Maxim and Company. It has been known for some time that the commission would probably go to these two firms, but for reasons not immediately explicable some delay took place. The lowest tender was that of Messrs. Vickers, Maxim and Company, but the Armstrong tender differed so little that when a slight additional displacement was taken into account, the two proposals may be said to have been identical. All the others were distanced. Originally the intention was, we believe, to order one vessel at once, and to invite fresh tenders for the second in March; but it may be presumed that the Naval Authorities thought they could not do better than by accepting the Armstrong and Vickers tenders forthwith and placing two orders without delay. An order for the armament of one ship had already been given to Messrs. Armstrong & Co. last autumn, and as uniformity of armament is a matter of prime importance, we presume that the same firm will be invited to arm the second ship also. Whether Reuter is quite correct in his details as to tonnage and speed we are not in a position to say. But it would seem that the Japanese Naval Authorities are following a principle the wisdom of which may fairly be doubted. They are having their new ships built down to the level of their old. It is a high level, assuredly, and, at the same time, there is no denying the fact that marked superiority on the part of two or three vessels in a squadron does not materially increase the efficiency of the whole as a fighting unit. But evidently if that doctrine be unreservedly followed, there would be no progress: a fleet would always remain at the same dead level. A truer principle would be to build constantly the best that can be built, thus securing a steadily progressive standard of excellence. By degrees the older ships must drop out of use, and it will then be distinctly disappointing to find that the standard they represented is the standard of their survivors, neither better nor worse. In short, this plan of procedure would be wise solely on the hypothesis that the *ne-plus-ultra* had already been reached, and that a ship like the *Mikasa* furnished a model for all time. The *Mikasa* is a fine vessel certainly. She and her three consorts represent a distinct advance on the *Fuji* and *Yashima* type. But they would not represent any such advance had the Department, when ordering the *Mikasa*, allowed itself to cling to the *Fuji* groove. It may turn out, however, that the new vessels possess some features constituting a signal advance, and that rumour is wrong in classing them with the *Mikasa*. There is talk now, we understand of ordering two more line-of-battle ships. Three was the original total of the third period programme.

Since the above was in type the naval authorities are understood to deny that any orders have yet been placed. But it is only a question of time, we imagine.

RETURNING PROSPERITY IN GERMANY.

At length, after two years of anxious waiting, the crisis in German industrial prices, which began in the Spring of 1901, is apparently past, and a general recovery, which bears all the outward indications of permanence, has set in. To what extent the prices of the prosperous period which preceded the collapse have been regained is best illustrated by stating that the average market price of twenty-two standard industrial stocks on April 17, 1900, when the general prosperity reached its height, was 276.74, while the average quotation for the same stocks on September 26, 1901, when the low point of depression had been touched, was 154.55, which contrasts with 176.81 on December 31, 1902, when recovery had definitely begun, and 208.91 on November 20, 1903, when the effects of returning activity had become manifest. According to the Hon. Frank H. Mason, the United States Consul-General at Berlin, "this recovery may be ascribed to two or three primary causes, the first being the fact that the negotiations between Germany and the several European governments over the commercial treaties based on the new German tariff are understood to be progressing favourably. Secondly, that several of the leading electrical manufacturing companies—which have recently combined to avoid competition—have secured some important contracts for lighting and power plants, street railway installations, etc., in foreign countries, notably Mexico and South America. Many of these orders have been taken at what would seem in America low prices, but the German electrical industry is enormously developed, is equipped with up-to-date machinery, has an abundant supply of cheap docile, skilled labour, and can turn out electrical machinery, cables and all that class of work at minimum cost. Finally, there is behind the present recovery the natural fact that the crisis of panic, doubt and suspicion has run its course. German exports in most lines are steadily increasing, and their far-reaching merchant marine, backed by the enterprise, the thorough, skilful methods of their merchants, salesmen and capitalists in remote countries, combine to secure for German manufacturing exporters a constantly widening market for their products. As a people they understand the ethics of foreign commerce; they educate their young men for it, and make a systematic study of the wants and tastes of alien people and the best methods of supplying them."

The officials of the Department of Finance have decided to present ten per cent. of their salaries towards the war funds. The officials of the Yokohama Customs have decided to follow suit.

MELBOURNE AMENITIES.

When the refined representatives of the Labour Party in Melbourne undertake to bait a gentleman, the scene is lively. Something of the kind occurred in the Town Hall of that city on the evening of the 10th of December when Sir Malcolm McEacharn attempted to address the electors of Australia's metropolis. Sir Malcolm is a gentleman if ever there was one, but that he can pay back a rough in kind was proved on that occasion. It appears that he was not allowed to speak two consecutive sentences without interruption of the most disorderly nature. Screams, incoherent yells, cat-calls, abusive epithets, ribald choruses, stamping and shuffling, every form of vulgar obstruction was essayed. When the stout-hearted Scot realized that nothing resembling fair play was intended by his audience he let them have it pretty plainly. "Larrikins" and "Curs" were the opening epithets he bestowed on them, and the retort coming "your're a smooder," Sir Malcolm remarked that all he wanted now was someone to call for three cheers for anarchy. Pandemonium let loose ensued, and in an interval of comparative calm the speaker expressed an abstract opinion that a lot of his hearers ought to be in the circus, which appreciation elicited the chorus of a music-hall ditty and three lusty cheers for socialism. Presently one of the audience, conceiving the notion that he was entitled to special attention from the platform, called out, "Why don't you, talk to me." Sir Malcolm had a good reason. "Because," he said, "you are more fit to be in a pigstye than anywhere else except jail," which explanation he subsequently supplemented by dubbing them "pale-face pettifogging little larrikins." Women were conspicuous among the howlers, and two of them, each carrying a baby, pressed to the front, shook their fists at Sir Malcolm and shrieked threats. In short, he had a veritable ovation, and a most honourable ovation too, for the worst disgrace an honest candidate could incur would be to receive the applause of the labour party in Australia; the party that is doing its level best to ruin the country.

WHISTLER AND JAPANESE ART.

In Mr. A. S. Eddy's work on Whistler there are some appreciations that have great interest for students of Japanese art. "Whistler," we read there, "opened the door of the East to the painters of the West and showed them how they might paint after the manner of the best there is in the Oriental world, and not only retain, but accentuate, their own individuality." That, of course, is a mere generalism. But Mr. Eddy becomes presently more explicit. "Whistler's art," he writes, "was as devoid of sentiment as that of a Japanese. To our Western notions the everlasting convention that serves for a face in Japanese art seems hopelessly monotonous. To them our painstaking characterization of the features and peculiarities of each person is no art at all, but grotesque caricature; it is the subordination of art, which is of universal interest, to the eccentricities of the individual, which are of local interest. In Whistler's art one must not look for any solution of the problems of life, for any sign of the emotions which control human conduct—for love and hate and fear, for hope and ambition, for the tortures of jealousy or the bitterness of despair—these are all absent; his art is pure and serene. His works are to painting what the 'Ode to a Grecian Urn' or 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' is to poetry, and hence in human interest they fall far short of the tragedies, the epics, the romances of literature and art, and they must not be judged by standards he did not seek to emulate. He could no more have painted a 'Crucifiction' or a 'Last Judgment' than he could have carved the 'Moses' or written 'Hamlet.' In every sense save that of abstract beauty of line and colour other painters have excelled Whistler; but as the master of pure line and colour-harmonies he is supreme." Side by side with this we may quote an extract from a recent essay on Japanese Pictorial Art:—"The Japanese artist, to whichever of the schools he belonged, sacrified truth of detail to truth of mass. His first aim was to obtain the appearance of life; accuracy of proportion seemed a secondary consideration. Each painter had his type which he idealized more or less, his idealism not being confined to the physique and even to the anatomy of his figures. If the details of the drawing violate accepted canons, complaint is silenced by the sense of life that pervades the whole; by the perfect naturalness of every attitude, every movement every feature; by the eloquence with which the character of the objects speaks from the picture. In short, accuracy is sacrificed to the individuality that everything in nature possesses,—the individuality which, in actual experience, impresses itself upon the attention of the observer and excludes all thought of linear exactness or anatomical truth. Kyosai used to say exactly what Véron has said, namely, that nothing in nature pauses to be portrayed; that there is motion everywhere,—if not actual motion in the object itself then motion of the light falling on it or of the atmosphere surrounding it; that without elasticity of line the sense of life can not be obtained and that elasticity of line is incompatible with what the classicists call strict accuracy."

AMERICAN RAILROAD WRECKS.

The last week of 1903 will be "a black week" in the calendar of American railroads and theatres by reason of the great loss of life which occurred. Putting aside the Chicago horror, we find that three railway disasters alone involved the loss of one hundred lives. On December 21st ten persons were killed and thirty injured in a disaster in Kansas caused by an open switch; on the 23rd sixty-five were killed and many injured in the wreck at Connellsville, Pa, where a fast express ran into some timbers dropped on the track from a freight-train; and on the 26th twenty-two persons were killed and thirty injured, some fatally, in a collision near Grand Rapids, Mich., a blizzard extinguishing the red light intended to warn one of the trains. Nor do these disasters stand alone. The report of the Interstate Commerce Commission, just made public, shows that in the year ending June 30, 1903, there were 5,219 railway collisions of all kinds (about 14 a day) in the United States, in which 321 passengers and 3,233 employees were killed, and nearly 46,000 (mostly employees) injured. The Commission remarks that this record is a disgrace to the American people. The general public, too, are demanding that American railroads should be run with more regard for the lives of passengers and employees, and the press takes up the cry most strenuously. The *Washington Times*, for instance, says:—

> "Railway collisions are preventable, as every railroad manager well knows. There are no railway collisions in England, because the law compels the use of an efficient block system. It is as practicable to enforce such a law in the United States as in Great Britain, but it is not easy to pass such a law while the railroad corporations are permitted by the people to fill the Senate, the House, and the lobby at Washington with their attorneys and agents.
>
> "The disgrace to the American people lies in their careless toleration of the political activity of corporations deriving the right to exist from the public and enjoying special privileges, presumed to be granted in consideration of service rendered to the public. It is a reproach to the nation that, instead of governing its corporate creatures, it tolerates their meddling with government in any particular."

THE YELLOW PRESS OF SAN FRANCISCO.

San Francisco must be feeling rather aggrieved at the continuance of the Japan-Russian negotiations. On January 8, *The Call*, by the aid of inch long black letters, announced:—

WAR BEGINS WITH MOVEMENT OF RUSSIAN CRUISERS TO INTERCEPT A JAPANESE SQUADRON OFF KOREA.

Then followed this telegram:—

Port Arthur, Jan. 8 (via Chefu).

"Several warships left at midnight to reinforce cruisers sent out for the purpose of intercepting a Japanese squadron of four ironclads, which, it is said, is now approaching Korea to stop six Japanese coal-laden ships from Japan, destined for Port Arthur, and to cancel their charter to a Russian firm."

In the same issue the heading of another column ran:—

FIRST BATTLE MAY OCCUR WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

WASHINGTON OFFICIALS EXPECT NEWS OF A CONFLICT.

These head-lines were followed by much matter of a most thrilling description, while extra large type, double-leaded, was used in describing how Mr. Oscar K. Davis, the special correspondent of the *New York Herald* and *The Call* caught the *Siberia*, which steamer, contrary to all precedent, had been held back in order that he should reach the Orient. As the *Call* modestly put it:—

> Although it is the rule of the Pacific Mail Company never to hold any of its steamers on any account, Mr. Harriman, realizing the great necessity of Mr. Davis getting to the Orient as soon as possible, gave *The Call* the assurance that the *Siberia* would not sail from this port without its correspondent.
>
> In the meantime Harriman wired all of the train dispatchers along the route taken by the overland to give her a clear track over everything. It was just 8.35 when the huge locomotive drawing the train bearing the special correspondent drew up at the Oakland pier, panting, seemingly from sheer exhaustion, from its rapid run down from Sacramento. Special agents of the Southern Pacific and Pacific Mail companies met Mr. Davis at Port Costa and arranged to get his baggage off in a rush and convey it to the waiting tug.

Mr. Davis we learn, after wading through two columns of letterpress, had travelled right across the American continent from Binghampton, N.Y., and he should have been in plenty of time for the regular departure of the *Siberia*. Repeated breakdowns and heavy snow-storms in the East put the train back twelve hours. Much of this time was made up after leaving Chicago, but at Carlin, Nev., a drawhead pulled out of the dining-car and the train was delayed another four hours.

The next day, Jan. 9, the enterprising writers of the *Call* had other things to occupy their attention and so the "dogs of war" were temporarily withdrawn from the trail and the imminent breaking out of war was dismissed for the moment from their minds.

BRITISH SENTIMENT TOWARDS JAPAN.

The *Jiji Shimpo* has a telegram from London to the effect that in England a feeling of dissatisfaction is created by Japan's inaction. People begin to think that she is stout in appearance and weak in fact. Our contemporary is evidently disturbed by this news. It attaches to it importance which is scarcely deserved, we think. The disquieting inference is that the Englishmen may come to credit Japan with solicitude for Korea's fate only, and seeing that Manchuria does not bulk largely on her political horizon, may begin to ask themselves what advantage they derive from the alliance. But the *Jiji* must remember that England has not the least idea of expecting to reap from the covenant advantages to the sowing of which she has contributed no aid. So long as Great Britain does not range herself definitely on Japan's side in the quarrel, the British Government and the British nation will not expect Japan to be guided by any considerations except those relating to her own interests. They will not expect her to fight single-handed for the rendition of Manchuria and for the conservation of China's integrity if she can find in another direction compensation such that, when supplemented by the profits of peace, it would fully balance the potential gains of war. As in Japan so also in England, and, for the matter of that in the Occident generally, there must be many people who think that Japan would have done better for herself had she drawn the sword three months ago. But that is only a material view. It takes no account of the immensely valuable moral asset that Japan has gained by patience, the asset of the world's endorsement. To have fought three months ago might have been to find a line of less resistance in the fighting, but Englishmen, or at least the thinking section of them, are not so unreasonable as to deny Japan's right to choose her own times and seasons for operations which concern Japan alone. It is not in the disposition of Britons to expect gains which they have not helped to acquire. Whatever comes out of the situation in the way of the preservation of commercial freedom, will be so much clear profit to England, and if she can acquire material profit by payment of moral coin only, she will be doing very well.

WAR EDITORS CLUB.

Without attracting any special attention, there has been organized in Tokyo an association calling itself the "War Editors Club." We do not know who may be its leaders or what numbers are borne on its roll. On the 28th instant the Club held a meeting and unanimously passed a resolution to the effect that the time to fight was fully ripe and that the hesitation of the Government to appeal to the sword was a blunder injurious to the interests of the nation. Apparently the Club intends to send a deputation for the purpose of waiting on the Ministers of War and of the Navy, and presenting this resolution, which will also be communicated to the public at large by means of a circular. The Gunji Kisha Club would appear to be a small and comparatively insignificant coterie, but the view embodied in its resolution is certainly endorsed by many Japanese and has been openly stated by not a few foreign publicists. Nevertheless there is good reason to believe that patience and moderation will be rewarded.

COMPRADORE YUAN.

News from Shanghai says that a warrant has been issued by the Chinese authorities at that port for the arrest of Mr. Yuan, formerly compradore of the Russo-Chinese Bank in Japan. Mr. Yuan recently started for Shanghai by the *Hakuai Maru*, his intention being to institute proceedings against the Bank. In view of the warrant for his arrest he remains on board the *Hakuai* under the protection of the Japanese Consul. We can not discover any indication of the nature of the charge on which the warrant is based, and this mystery furnishes food for the usual rumours about Russian intrigue.

The Japanese Consul-General at Shanghai, Mr. Odagiri, having refused to back the warrant for the arrest of Mr. Yuan, formerly compradore of the Russo-Chinese Bank, and Yuan, having prudently refrained from quitting the shelter of the Japanese flag flying on the *Hakuai Maru*, is said to be on the eve of setting out again for Japan.

VLADIVOSTOCK.

Eighty Japanese who reached Nagasaki on the 29th ultimo by one of the East-Asian Railway Company's steamers were fugitives from Vladivostock. They included 30 women and 15 children. According to their report the vessel was nearly two days getting through the ice, which now extends to a distance of some 14 miles from the mouth of the harbour, and has to be twice attacked by the ice-crusher before a temporary passage can be effected. They say that four Russian men-of-war are ice-bound in the port, and that their officers spend their time sleighing and otherwise amusing themselves, without any indication of getting ready for war. The town seems to be in a somewhat disorderly condition. Burglaries are frequent, and since the Japanese residents are regarded as a legitimate prey, many of them have received injuries. There are about 3,000 Japanese subjects in Vladivostock, and it would be impossible for them to get away at a moment's notice in existing circumstances and with such scanty steamship accommodation as that now offering. They are nevertheless holding themselves in readiness to depart by the first opportunity should hostilities break out. In Kirin also preparations for flight have been made. A few days ago the Nippon Yusen Kaisha sent up a steamer (chartered) to bring off its staff, as the Company's services are temporarily suspended, and it is understood that all possible facilities were to be given by this vessel for the purposes of the withdrawal of Japanese residents.

Some time ago Vladivostock sent news to Europe that peace was certain. Now it announces that war can not possibly be avoided. The world is waiting to hear particulars of the behaviour of Vladivostock towards its Japanese residents. If the savagery already reported in outline be confirmed by detailed accounts, the place will have earned an unenviable reputation.

It is stated that the harbour at Vladivostock is now completely frozen and that the docks are unusuable.

From Dalny and Port Arthur comes news that there is great scarcity of coal for fuel and that a sharp rise of price has taken place.

KISHINEFF AND THE YANGTSE VALLEY.

It is a common charge against Chinese high officials that they fail to employ the forces at their disposal for the protection of foreign life and property. Scarcely an anti-foreign riot has ever occurred in the Middle Kingdom without provoking that criticism. But if the fault could on any occasion be justly laid at the door of the Chinese, it seems to be attributable even more unequivocally to the Russian authorities in connexion with the Kishineff trial. From a summary of the recently concluded trial we take the following.—

> M. Schmidt, the former mayor of the town, and Mr. Kush, an engineer, both declared that any tendency the lower classes of Christians might have had to regard the Jews as Pariahs was due to the special legislation to which the latter were subjected. M. Schmidt also stated that throughout the course of the riots the police and the officers in charge of military patrols refused to intervene on behalf of the Jews on the ground that they had received no orders to that effect, and the administrator of the properties of monasteries in Bessarabia testified that his reiterated appeals to the police to protect the Jews had been in vain. A Jew named Baranovitch, whose son had been brutally murdered before his eyes, said he had fallen in tears at the feet of a police officer named Solovkin, and, having led him to the place where the bodies of his son and another man were lying in pools of blood, had besought him to protect the survivors. Solvokin did not raise a finger to help the Jews. Baranovitch's description of the murder of his son produced such a profound impression on the Court that it had to adjourn for an hour.
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> Several police officers gave evidence. One, Vitkovsky, testified that, in answer to his question as to what he was to do, Colonel Khanghenkoff, of the *gendarmerie*, said, "Let the Jews help themselves; we cannot help them." A police officer named Blagoy declared that he had seen a company of 200 soldiers assisting the rioters and carrying off their share of booty.
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> As to the part played by the Governor two witnesses, a staff surgeon named Dr. Muller and a well-known Kishineff advocate named Königschatz, both testified that they had appealed to General von Rasben to intervene but without result. General Beckmann said that when the riots broke out he had at his disposal 5,000 men, quite sufficient to have put an end to the disturbances, but he received no orders to act. It was only, he said, when the Governor grew alarmed for the safety of the Christian population that he took measures to allay the fury of the mob.

FACTORY GIRLS FUND.

The following subscriptions have been received in response to an appeal published in the *Japan Mail* on January 22nd, in aid of the work among Factory Girls in Japan, and are hereby acknowledged with thanks. The funds will be administered by Miss Holland and others and due announcement of work accomplished made later on. Subscriptions may be sent to Mrs. MacArthur, 211 Bluff or 10 Bund, to Mrs. Townend, Negishi, and Miss Kirby, 8, Tsukiji, Tokyo.

	Yen
"Gratitude"	20.00
F. Schroeder	5.00
"Gift"	6.56
M. Russell	10.00
E. W. Frazar	5.00
E. W. Townend	10.00
Mrs. Townend	10.00
"Anonymous"	2.00
Capt. Brinkley	10.00

A BUDDHIST PRELATE AND THE WAR.

Mr. Ota, of the Shin sect, who stands at the head of the Buddhist priests in Vladivostock and Siberia, has addressed to Viceroy Alexieff a letter with reference to the protection of the six thousand Japanese subjects now residing in Siberia. The letter expresses full confidence that the Emperors of Russia and Japan will do everything in their power to avert war, but should recourse to arms become unfortunately inevitable, Mr. Ota recalls the Christian precept "love your enemies," and trusts that the Viceroy, who is a Christian, and the Russian officers and officials, under his command, who are Christians, will practise this fine rule in their demeanour towards the Japanese who are now peacefully pursuing, and would fain continue to pursue, their avocations in Siberia. He conjures the Viceroy to authorize them to convey explict assurances on this point to the followers of Buddha in Russia's East-Asian dominions.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

The office of the *Niroku Shimpo* was the object of a fierce attack on the night of the 27th instant. Some forty men surrounded the place, smashing everything they could lay hands on. One of the men in the office was slightly hurt, but fortunately the raid took place after office hours so that the staff were absent. Some arrests have been made, but they have not helped to elucidate the motive of the trouble. The *Niroku* itself thinks that the matter was connected with the pending general elections, and that the men who did the wrecking were merely hired for the purpose. Our contemporary complains that the police showed themselves very perfunctory. No instance of such violence has ever failed to elicit a smilar accusation.

A correspondent signing himself a "Constant Reader" of the *Japan Mail*, writes us asking whether we have any knowledge of the clause in the Franco-Russian Convention referred to in the following extract from the *Echo de Chine* of 23rd instant:—

> "There is one clause in the Franco-Russian treaty of alliance * * * This clause is little known to the general public. It is textually couched in these terms: 'If one of the two Powers is attacked the other contracting party is bound to assist the Power attacked The contracting party is in no way bound to assist the Power if the latter is the aggressive party'" (Art. 3, Paris A & E).
>
> The journal adds: "This is clear, and explains the attitude taken by Russia. Bound by the Franco-Russian treaty, France, if she wishes to keep her engagements, which no one doubts, must move with Russia in the case of Japan declaring war against Russia, but she may remain neutral if Russia is the first to declare war against Japan."

The Japanese inhabitants of Korchakoff have applied to be placed under the protection of the Russian military bureau in the event of war. To this application the local authorities responded at once, and the bureau in question undertook the duty with the utmost willingness. This comes from the acting Japanese Consul at Korchakoff.

What the *Hongkong Daily Press* has to say about the present crisis is this:—

> The Russian Press has, of course, done its best to represent the Japanese nation as one of Jingoes and fire-brands. But where has been the justification? No Western Power could have conducted the negotiations with more dignity and moderation. If what is meant is that Japan did not "climb down" and accept whatever Russia was kind enough to concede, then words have acquired a new signification. Japan has certainly not acted the despicable part of prostration before Russia for a small bribe. She has not been terrified by tall talk about vast numerical superiority and hopelessness of resistance. And yet she is not fighting her own cause alone, even though in Corea she is chiefly concerned. Therefore when the time comes we cannot believe that she will be found alone or that in isolation she will be allowed to sink from the ranks of Great Powers, to become a helpless spectator of Russia's predominance throughout Northern Asia.

Count So, the former feudal chief of Tsushima, has addressed a circular to his sometime vassals in connexion with the present crisis. He reminds them of the strategical importance of Tsushima, and of the fact that the islanders have often had to suffer on account of that position. To-day they are comparatively well protected by ships and fortresses, but it can not be denied that in the event of hostilities between Japan and Russia Tsushima would probably be in the very centre of the field of operations. The Count therefore exhorts his sometime vassals to do their duty with manly patriotism. That is in brief the gist of the document.

An English provincial newspaper recently published the following advertisement:—

> Wanted, a really Plain, but Experienced and Efficient Governess for three girls, eldest sixteen; Music, French, and German required; brilliancy of conversation, fascination of manners and symmetry of form objected to, as the father is much at home, and there are grown-up sons.—Address, "Mater," &c.

The *Westminster Gazette* wonders how the much-at-home father will like this "really plain" statement of a want of confidence in him. But is it not going a little too far to say "symmetry of form objected to"? Why not advertise for a deformity at once? Besides, who would answer such an advertisement? Perhaps the whole thing is only satire—at "Mater's" expense—on the part of one of the grown-up sons.

Marquis Tokudaiji has been laid up for some time, a severe cold having developed symptoms of inflammation of the lungs which threatened to prove dangerous. Under the able care of Dr. Baelz the Marquis is now convalescent.

The *Kumano Maru*, which arrived at Nagasaki on the 30th ultimo, reports that sympathy with Japan is extraordinarily keen in Australia. In Sydney, Melbourne and other chief cities, hundreds of men have offered their services as volunteers. The Japanese Consul in Melbourne finally found it necessary to advertise the fact that volunteers could not be accepted. At Manila also the *Kumano* found that sentiment ran no less high in Japan's favour.

The Minister of State for Communications has decided that, as a temporary measure, all the ports in the empire shall be open to foreign-owned vessels chartered by Japanese subjects or by those possessing the qualification of Japanese legal persons. Application must be made through the local authorities of the place where the charterer is domiciled. The object of this permission is to relieve the inconvenience caused by the withdrawal of many steamers from the regular cabotage.

Chefoo correspondents persist in stating that many desertions are taking place from Port Arthur owing to apprehensions of war. They now add that the Viceroy has appointed two officers to deliver lectures to the men on the necessity of fighting Japan.

The latest development of the spy game is said to be a Russian Lieut.-Colonel called Kotsebu (?), who has been arrested in Chita on a charge of giving information to the Japanese. He has gone home to Russia in handcuffs.

Many of our readers who have read with melancholy interest the accounts of the Chicago fire will learn with satisfaction that the charges made against the police in connection with that dreadful occurrence as to ill-treatment of the bodies of those who perished, are scouted by competent observers. We have before us a copy of the *Northwestern Christian Advocate* published on Jan. 6th—the fire took place on Dec. 30th—in which special reference is made to those officers who were called to the scene and there is not in it the slightest suggestion that bodies were despoiled while under the protection of the police. It is not for one moment to be supposed that if anything of the kind had been detected or even suspected such a journal would have winked at it. Not a few of our readers will learn with some sense of pleasure that the reports sent over the telegraph were greatly exaggerated.

The present severe weather is driving many of the lower classes to desperate deeds in order to obtain food, and the burglar class particularly are having their ranks considerably enlarged. It therefore behoves residents to be careful of their doors and windows, especially those living in outlying districts. On Monday night the house of Mr. C. B. Bernard at Negishi was entered by some of the enterprising fraternity and a quantity of clothes were stolen.

At last an arrangement has been effected for a parcels' post between the United States and Japan. The want of this facility has long been felt by the public, but there has been reluctance on America's side, it is said, owing to the fact that the carriage of all parcels in the States is undertaken solely by private companies. That difficulty has how been overcome, and we presume that the opening of the post will soon be officially announced.

Japanese 4-per-cents have fallen to £74.10s. in London, being a decline of £3.15s. as compared with the quotation a week ago. The 5-per-cents are quoted at £85.7s.6d., being a fall of £2.12s.6d. during the week. On the contrary, the Tokyo stock market shows a slightly firmer tone.

One of the notable effects of the work in South Africa of the late Mr. Cecil Rhodes has been the practical doubling of the price of diamonds in the past twenty years. The diamond mines of Kimberley, which began operations in 1871, were at first owned and worked by a number of different companies. In 1883 the production of diamonds in the Kimberley district amounted to 2,413,953 carats, yielding £1 2s. 8d. per carat. It was about this time that Mr. Cecil Rhodes conceived the idea of consolidating the various diamond mines in the Kimberley district. In 1888 the amalgamation was practically completed, and since that year the De Beers Consolidated Mines have controlled the diamond output of the world. The most striking result of this amalgamation has been the practical doubling of the price of diamonds. The output of diamonds has shown practically no increase during the last twenty years. The output in 1883 was 2,413,953 carats, while the production in 1903 was only 2,400,000 carats. By restricting the production the De Beers syndicate has succeeded in greatly increasing the price of the gems. The average price per carat received by the company last year was £2 4s, against £1 2s in 1883.

Sir John Anderson, K.C.M.G., who has just been appointed Governor of the Straits Settlements, replacing Sir Frank Swettenham, is an official who has spent the whole of his service years in the Colonial Office. Born at Gartly, Aberdeenshire, in 1858, he was educated in the famous university of the granite city of the north, where he took first class honours in mathematics and gained the gold medal as the most distinguished graduate of his year. Entering the Colonial

Office as a second class clerk in 1879 he served in various departments, rising at length to the post of Secretary. Meantime, in 1887, he became a Bacon Scholar of Gray's Inn and a year later won the Inns of Court studentship. A few years of comparative obscurity passed and then in 1891 he was appointed Joint Commissioner with the late Sir J. F. Dickson to enquire into certain matters connected with the Supreme Court of Gibraltar. Next year he was appointed private secretary to Sir Robert Meade, and was attached to the staff for the Behring Sea Arbitration in London and Paris, which took place in the years 1892-93. In 1896 he was promoted 1st class clerk in the Colonial Office, and in 1897, principal clerk, which year also saw him made secretary to the conference between Mr. Chamberlain and the Colonial premiers. When the Duke and Duchess of York paid their visits to the Colonies in 1901, Mr. Anderson, who had already received the C.M.G., was appointed the representatives of the Colonial Office on their Royal Highnesses' staff, and on his return to England he received the K.C.M.G.

We have received a small pamphlet entitled "An Appeal to all who have a heart for their fellow-brings. Factory Girls' Life in Japan." At the bottom of the pamphlet appear the words, "Printed and presented to the ladies engaged in this noble work by F. Schroeder, Editor *Eastern World*." The pamphlet is simply a verbatim reprint of an article published in these columns on January 22nd. It has been taken from the *Mail* by Mr. Schroeder without any reference whatever to its source. If the re-printing of the article and its circulation as a pamphlet promote the cause of charity in any way we have no manner of objection to Mr. Schroeder's process, but it is an amusingly impudent process, for all that.

Presumably the censorate of the press has been relaxed, if not wholly abandoned, for in the editorial columns of a Kobe journal there has appeared an article—subsequently copied by a Yokohama contemporary—which violates the regulations in the most flagrant manner, and yet does not appear to have evoked any censure.

Mr. Jack London, the well-known novelist, now turned war-correspondent, got into trouble at Moji by taking a photograph of coaling operations. A fine of 5 *yen* was the ultimate punishment, but we fear that Mr. London suffered much inconvenience on account of his inadvertent breach of regulations.

Inquiries having been addressed to us concerning the security that trans-Siberian mail-matter enjoys against invasion by the Russian censorate, we have sought information from the postal authorities. Their statement is that absolute security should be obtained by the methods in vogue. All mail matters are sifted before leaving Nagasaki, and are divided according to the countries of their addresses, so that Germany's mail, France's mail, and the United Kingdom's mail each has its own special bag in which it is sealed, and the bag is supposed to be left unopened prior to arrival at the capital to which it is addressed. Besides, a further precaution is adopted. To the post-office authorities in each capital a list is sent of all the matters in its bag, and the possibility of anything being abstracted *en route* is thus guarded against. Saying all this we seem to reflect by implication on the *bona fides* of the Russian carriers. That is not our intention. The simple fact is that Russia's censorate of mail matters is proverbially severe, and that its severity is likely to be increased at this juncture.

Dr. Albert Ernest Jenks, chief of the Ethnological Survey, has just returned to Manila after a highly successful trip through and across Mindanao, on which Mrs. Jenks accompanied him, being the first white woman ever to cross the little known and much feared Lanao lake region. Dr. Jenks made four contracts, to have as many distinct groups of Mindanao peoples taken to the big Exposition in St. Louis this spring, and gathered much information which he says will be very useful to him in the work of directing the operations of the survey among the wild and savage tribes which inhabit the great island. He also collected a number of fine weapons, principally bolos, krises, barongs, a kampilan, and a queer head-knife or sword "used generally only when the Moro who wields it wants a head in a hurry and at one stroke." In speaking of the "white tribes" of Mindanao, Dr. Jenks said to a *Cablenews* reporter that he believed the mystery was solved by the old and perfectly well known scientific theory of the albino freak. He saw a white Moro who had almost white hair, doll-baby blue eyes and almost no eyebrows. It was merely an ordinary Moro, born of an aldine Moro mother and a brown father, and the Professor scouts the theory that there is or was any verisimilitude in the theory that the white children of whom there are three so far as can be learned, are descendants of captured white women from the old days of the Moro pirates.

The *Nisshin* and the *Kasuga* arrived at Singapore on the 2nd. They are expected to come thence direct to Japan without calling anywhere, so that they ought to reach Yokosuka about the 16th. It has been almost decided that the entertainment given in welcome of the officers and crews shall be under the auspices of the Tokyo Municipality.

From the San Francisco *Chronicle's* record of California for 1903 it appears that $18,000,000 in gold and $860,000 in silver were produced by her mines. The orange crop reached a total of 32,000 cars of 360 boxes each, against 24,000 cars last year. Two thousand cars of last year's orange shipment went from northern California. Lemon shipments reached 3,850 cars of 312 boxes each. Other products were as follows: Wine, 32,000,000 gallons; brandy, 5,700,343 gallons; walnuts, 11,500,000 pounds; almonds, 6,000,000 pounds; beans, 117,500,000 pounds; salmon, 3,420,000 cases; wheat, 9,517,000 centals; barley, 9,850,000 centals; fuel oil, 23,000,000 barrels, worth 75 cents a barrel at tide-water; prunes, 115,000,000 pounds; peaches, 30,000,000 pounds; apricots, 19,000,000 pounds; raisins, 112,000,000 pounds; canned fruit 2,600,000 cases; wool 22,500,000 pounds, and beet sugar, 15,400,000 pounds.

"For a considerable time," says the *Revue Scientifique*, "the military authorities of different countries have been seeking all means of concealing their troops and material as long as possible from the enemy. Hence the eternal question of the colour of uniforms, cannon, guns, etc. They have come to an agreement in so far as the shining of steel is concerned; and cannon and bayonets are now universally made with dull finish. But it is not the same with the colours used to make carriages, caissons, and other war material invisible at a distance. And if we are to credit an interesting item of news that comes from England, we have been making a mistake in chosing for this purpose neutral tints, such as grays and browns. Starting with the fact that in nature great masses of uniform colour are much more conspicuous than a mixture of different tints, an English officer conceived the idea of painting the mounts and caissons of certain pieces of field artillery with stripes of red, blue, yellow, etc. The experiment succeeded perfectly. The troops sent to look for this multi-coloured battery did not begin to distinguish it until they were within 1,000 yards of it. On the other hand pieces painted a uniform neutral tint formed a large dark spot, visible from a distance and the more easily when the ground was clear. What shall we think now of the discredit showered on the vari-coloured uniforms of the Scottish troops and in general of the use of bright colours for military uniforms?"

THE BOOKSHELF.

A History of Japan during the Century of Early Foreign Intercourse, by JAMES MURDOCH in collaboration with ISO YAMAGATA.

PRIOR to the Meiji Era the most interesting period of Japanese history was that between the middle of the sixteenth and the middle of the seventeenth centuries. For it was then that there appeared on the national stage a host of never-to-be-forgotten men from Hideyoshi and Iyeyasu to Konishi and Ishida, and it was then that foreign creeds and foreign commerce, working hand in hand, attempted to establish themselves in the Far-Eastern islands. With this period Messrs. Murdoch and Yamagata deal, and we may say at once that no section of Japan's annals has ever been presented to the outer world with so much accuracy and in such detail. What the authors planned as their scheme of procedure was to sketch two great contemporaneous movements, displaying their connexions and interactions; namely, the movement towards national centralization under military sway, which was consummated; and the movement towards foreign intercourse under religious impulse, which was defeated. It is difficult to tell two stories simultaneously. Even in novel-writing such a task is seldom successfully accomplished, though the author has the great advantage of unchanging characters and generally unvarying scenes. In history where new actors constantly appear upon the stage and new routes have to be constantly taken, the dual narrative can scarcely fail to be confusing, occasionally at all events. We can not say that Mr. Murdoch has been conspicuously happy in holding the threads of his two tales always free from entanglement. There are times, also, when one would gladly exchange his analytical narrowness for a little synthetic breadth. But these defects are noticeable chiefly in the earlier sections of his work. Later on when great events make lucid land-marks, he carries the reader smoothly along and produces impressions worthy of the subject. In a certain sense such a book is a labour of love. It will live. Of that there can be no doubt. For until some heroic scholar undertakes to reduce to practical dimensions the vast pile of materials now in process of collection at the Imperial University, no one, we can be quite sure, will venture to retread the ground explored by Messrs. Murdoch and Yamagata. But it will be a life of comparative solitude, for the audience to whom such a volume appeals may be numbered by a few hundreds—a book of 750 ample pages treating of history pure and simple, and that too the history of mediæval Japan. Therefore Messrs. Murdoch and Yamagata can not look for any reward beyond the sense of having bestowed an incalculable benefit on all earnest students, whose gratitude they will have to the full.

Commencing their story proper with the year 1542, the authors are obliged to convey some idea of what had gone before. They do so in an introductory chapter which, to our thinking, is one of the best in the book. For it embodies in comparatively brief compass a most compendious and clarified account of the essentials of Japanese history from the time when Kyoto became the capital to the birth of Iyeyasu. Thus equipped, the reader finds no difficulty in following the subsequent chapters and in understanding the nature of the task of military centralization achieved by the partly successive, partly cooperative, efforts of that immortal triumvirate, Nobunaga, Hideyoshi and Iyeyasu. Mr. Murdoch is a man of frank bias. He makes not the slightest attempt to conceal or cloak his anti-Christian convictions, and if any reader expects to find in this history carefully reasoned justifications of the Christian propagandists' work or forcible condemnations of the sufferings to which they were subjected, he will be disappointed. The narrative of Murdoch and Yamagata is constructed and directed to prove that Christianity, dressed in the garb of iconoclasm, intolerance and savage zeal which it wore when presented for the first time to the Japanese, could not have failed to shock and deter them and even to react upon foreign intercourse generally. We believe that judgment to be in the main correct. Indeed, we have never been able to see that any other inference could be drawn from the facts of Japanese history. But we confess that Mr. Murdoch's presentation of the picture is so strenuous as to provoke a sense of opposition. Nor is his style always free from extravagances which not only verge on vulgarity but also insult the gravity of his subject. He tells us, for example, that a certain part of one of Froez' annual letters is "a mild example of priestly assurance and ecclesiastical cocksuredness"; that "Sumitada, in making the best of both worlds, with the worthy missionaries as henchmen, attained a larger measure of success than has fallen to the majority of the sinful sons of men who have essayed the practice of the art"; that "Matsukura was brought up in the piping times of peace when the mere fact of being one's father's son was itself a high claim to the pestiferous incense of intriguing sycophants," that a certain statement by Almeyda "sounds suspiciously like a sample of the nauseous conventional trash which constitutes a portion of the stock-in-trade of that toadyism and flunkeyism ever ready to discover bib-and-porringer prodigies in the families of the great or the wealthy from whom favours might be expected," and so on. It is a pity that the reader's attention should be jarred from time to time by these disorders of style, or that his assent to propositions showing elaborate marshalling of evidence should be deterred by outcroppings of prejudice on the part of the narrator. But hostile criticism is exhausted there. These minor defects can not greatly diminish our admiration for a work every page of which evinces excellent industry of research and reference, and adds largely to the world's knowledge of mediæval Japan. Very often, too, Mr. Murdoch's descriptions are vivid and realistic. His accounts of the battle of Sekigahara and the siege and capture of Osaka Castle bring those epoch-making events before our eyes with fine realism, and are of a nature to attract the least enthusiastic reader of Japanese history. Summing up the lessons of Sekigahara, where Iyeyasu deliberately ran a tremendous risk, Mr. Murdoch says:—"Knowing what we know, Iyeyasu's resolution and procedure clearly vindicate (indicate?) that his head was set upon the shoulders of a genius. It must not be forgotten that Iyeyasu was no mere medley of isolated capacities, but a definite, a distinct, a far-reaching and a versatile idiosyncrasy. The art of war is only one among the arts that contribute to empire, and while in that he was proficient, he was by no means so unintelligent as to fancy that that alone was the only factor of importance in the struggle for place and power. * * * At this supreme crisis of his life Tokugawa Iyeyasu did indeed venture on a bold risk; but the result amply testified to his ability not merely as a soldier but as a master of men."

Several fallacies hitherto accepted as truth by casual readers of Japanese history are exposed in this accurate work, and upon several characters—as upon those of Ishida Mitsunari and Yodogimi—new lights and shadows are cast. Incidentally some very interesting appreciations of the Japanese are found. For example, Cabral, the Vice-Provincial, after ten years' experience in Japan of the sixteenth century, is quoted as saying that "the Japanese, being naturally haughty and of an overweening spirit, and of an excellent wit, would, if cultivated by the study of all sciences human and divine, quickly abuse them and come to despise Europeans"; and Froez, in one of his remarkable letters, writes:—"In truth these people both in goodness of nature and excellence of wit, surpass many nations of our Europe (be it said without offence to them). And if the Portuguese merchants entertain a less exalted opinion, or express themselves less enthusiastically about the Japanese, it is merely because their intercourse is confined to the people of the ports, who are so far removed from the culture and refined manners of those of the interior that they seem little short of rustics to the latter. Accordingly the people of Kyoto generally term them savages in contempt, although, indeed, the people of the sea coast are very far from being destitute of courtesy and good-breeding." It seems not improbable that were these observers alive now they might be indisposed to modify their verdicts.

These references, brief as they are, will serve to convey some idea of the scope and quality of Messrs. Murdoch and Yamagata's "History of Japan." They promise to continue the work, and we trust that they will be as good as their word, for if they give us another volume of such quality as the one now completed, the foreign public's knowledge of Japan's story will be vastly improved. The book, we may add, has been printed at the office of the *Kobe Chronicle*, and this part of the undertaking is thoroughly good. Many well designed maps help to elucidate the text, and there is an index which leaves something to be desired. The history is sold by Messrs. Kelly and Walsh of Yokohama.

Sixteen Years in Siberia, some experiences of a Russian revolutionist, by LEO DEUTSCH, translated by Helen Chisholm; London, John Murray: Yokohama, Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, Ltd.

THERE must be a very considerable degree of truth in the recent remark of a European diplomatist—"Russia is the biggest anomaly of the nineteenth century: to all intents and purposes in intellectual development she belongs to the fourteenth and acts as such." Time and again in reading the sad record of Leo Deutsch's experiences in the prisons and courts of Germany, Russia, and Siberia, one is forced to the conclusion that fact is, more often than not, stranger than fiction. It seems scarcely possible in these days that a man can be arrested at Baden, upon mere police suspicion, kept in goal many months without being brought to trial, extradited to Russia on one specific charge but tried and condemned on quite another, and then packed off to a Siberian prison to eat out his heart and use up the best years of his manhood for what in an Englishman or American would not even be a misdemeanour—active participation in a reform movement. Of course we freely acknowledge that in Russia things are totally different to what they are in any other part of the world, still there must be something radically wrong in the Russian state system which condemns the flower of its thinking man-and-womanhood to take up a propaganda which inevitably leads to prison and exile. Granted that the Russian autocracy knows what is best for their country, and knows it better than do people who have never been within its borders, still for all that, they seem to go about the business of government in a way that breeds nothing but seething discontent and political unrest among the very classes that are the mainstays of the governments of all other portions of Europe.

Mr. Deutsch tells his story very quietly, very simply, but the entire absence of sensationalism wins over the reader to his side. What a pity that such a man was driven to such a fate. Perhaps he may have been too headstrong in his early youth and found himself committed to participate in deeds which the maturer judgment of advancing years would condemn, but for all that it would be a happy day for Russia could she change the tenour of her ways so as to bring these "politicals" into line with her as loyal supporters and contented members of the body politic. Mr. Deutsch and his fellows, men and women, are the intellectual flower of the diversified Russian races, and one day the great blind governmental machine will recognise it. Will it awake to the fact in time: or will it allow things to go on till we shall see in Russia a counterpart of the French Revolution? If the deep-seated discontent, now kept down with an iron grip, ever reach that point we shall witness, we fear, such an upheaval and such a catacylsm as never the world has yet gazed upon.

We commend Mr. Deutsch's book to the attention of our readers, and cannot help extending to him our congratulations that he is now, after all those bitter years, in the safe asylum of Switzerland. His account of the Blagovestchensk Massacre, of which he was an eye-witness, is very impressive in its simplicity. After reading it one wonders on what the Russians base their belief that they are better liked in China than any other western race? Their record in northern Manchuria is written in blood and fire; blood wantonly spilled, fire ruthlessly applied, and if the Manchurians have a spark of feeling left within their breasts the memory of what Russia has done to them will assuredly be cast-up against her on that great settling-day which seems to be rapidly drawing near.

NIGHT.

Come, greet with me the arriving stars of night—
Pale, lucent pilgrims, threading silently
The boundless environs of space. The sea,
Far-casting, lies bedimmed with their faint light,
All tossed and broken, ere to regal height
They rise! O speak, supernal melody
Of motions! Leadest thou on to destiny
The man, the state, the star, the infinite?
The East fulfills the promise of the West;
Deep-hooded spirits at the pyre of day
Invoke the morrow, and the interway
Is Night, phantasmal Night, whose rich bequest
Of immemorial pasts—wan-winged array—
Sweeps ever mutely onward without rest.

H. W. WOOD.

"THE UNION JACK CLUB" FUND.

The full amount required for the proposed subscription to the Union Jack Club having now been obtained, we are asked to say that the list is closed, and to express to the contributors the thanks of those by whom this matter was brought to their attention. From the Club itself acknowledgments will be published in due time.

The following subscriptions have been received at the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank towards the above fund:—

	Yen.
Already acknowledged	996
Tom Thomas	10
Bob Jones	1
Pupils, Yokohama Modern School	20
Fofof and Zanga	10
A. F. White	10
Mr. Hohler	10
E. W. Townend	10
Capt. Troubridge, R.N.	10
Thos. S. Baker	10
Capt. F. Brinkley	10
A. J. Easton	10
Received to date	1,016

FIRES.

On the 1st instant at 7 a.m. a fire broke out in the residence of the Rev. Mr. Wood in Tsukiji. The origin of the trouble was a defective stove-pipe in the third storey. Ample assistance was forthcoming, but nothing could be done to save the house. The building was insured, but not so the contents, and Mr. Wood suffers heavy loss.

Details of the fire that destroyed Mr. Th. de Berigny's house on the Hill at Kobe on Wednesday night show that the outbreak occurred in the bathroom where a fire had been prepared to heat the morning's bath. So quickly did the flames spread that though there were several guests in the house practically nothing could be saved. One or two items of furniture were carried out of the house but the loss may be described as complete. Mr. H. C. K. Newman, who resided with Mr. Berigny, lost all his property, which, unfortunately, was not insured. The servants also lost their effects. The house, which belonged to Mr. Berigny, was insured with the National Assurance Company of Ireland for *yen* 10,000, but it is stated that this sum does not cover Mr. Berigny's loss.

A fatal fire occurred on the night of Jan. 28th in a farmhouse at Esumi, Chiba prefecture. The farmer was killed while struggling to save his property.

The Hiroshima Academy was destroyed by fire, which occurred early on the morning of Jan. 31st.

A fatal fire broke out early on the morning of Feb 2nd at Kitamaki-cho, Kyobashi, Tokyo, destroying two houses and damaging three. A female servant of the house was killed. The cause seems to be due to incendiarism. On the same day at 10.40 a.m., another outbreak occurred at Toyama-cho, Kanda, burning down three houses.

Early on the morning of Feb. 1st, an outbreak of fire occurred at Asakusa, Tokyo, destroying fifteen houses. Another fire broke out about the same time at Fukagawa, burning down nine buildings and four telegraph wire poles.

THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

A general meeting of the Asiatic Society of Japan was held at the Parish Building, No. 54 Tsukiji, on Wednesday, January 27th, at half past three o'clock. The previous announcement that a lecture would be given by Rev. Ekai Kawaguchi on his "Personal Experiences among the Tibetans" had attracted a large audience. The President of the Society, Professor A. Lloyd, occupied the Chair. He announced that the minutes of the last meeting had already been published, and would therefore be allowed to stand without reading. He said that it gave him very much pleasure to introduce to the audience Mr. Kawaguchi of Tibetan fame. Tibet is a country in which none of us would like to live, yet it is a country of great interest. It is much before the world to-day. Mr. Kawaguchi is so well known as an entertaining lecturer and Mr. Guy also an able interpreter, that he might be excused for not taking any time and for introducing Mr. Kawaguchi at once.

Mr. Kawaguchi expressed great pleasure in addressing the audience. He begged to thank Mr. Gardiner, Chairman of Committee, for inviting him, and the auditors for their presence. He then delivered his lecture in Japanese, stopping at intervals for Mr. Guy to interpret it in English. From notes made on the English interpretation, the following summary has been prepared.

Mr. Kawaguchi had in mind to go to Tibet in 1893, but actually left Japan in 1897. The country which we call Tibet is not so designated by its inhabitants. In their language, the land is called *Po-i Poi*. If asked about his nationality, a Tibetan would reply that he is *Poi*. Two explanations are offered for this term. (1) The inhabitants of India say that it is the region whence their three of four great rivers flow down into India, giving life and prosperity. These rivers are gods, and their source must be where the gods dwell, their most sacred home—*Boda*, which is corrupted into *Poi*. (2) The Tibetans assert that their ancestors were divine people who called spirits from six different sources: from fierce beasts, beasts which eat no food, ordinary brutes, men, heaven and hell. They were the *Poi*. The word "Tibet" is of Persian origin, meaning high land. In Japanese writing, the character means (1) West, (2) godown, (3) earth. The term Tibet or Tobet used by Japanese is an imitation of the foreign word. The name of the country known to its inhabitants is *Poi*, and concerning that country the lecture treats.

Mr. Kawaguchi left Japan in June, 1896, and went to Darjeeling, India. He had selected that place to study the Tibetan language, on account of recommendations from Indian students in Japan. At Darjeeling, he passed one and one-half years studying the language. In 1899, he left Darjeeling and went to Nepaul. It would have been an easy journey to go direct to Lhassa. But, in order to avoid suspicion and discovery, he chose a circuitous route. He sought his information concerning roads from beggars. Beggars do not usually follow direct routes, and so their knowledge best served his purpose. He went first to Buddhagaya, thence to Khatmantu, where he spent some time studying routes. He proceeded north-west around Manasaruwane Lake. With guides and porters, he rounded this lake in fifty days and came to Rho Esalon within fifty miles of Lhasa. Having mét soldiers here, he stopped at Rho Tsalon for one year and studied the routes. It is a roadless country. The people direct the inquirer, not by pointing out a roadway, but by saying that at a certain place a hermitage would be found. He dared not make direct inquiries, but had to proceed cautiously and piece together his information, so as not to cause suspicion and discovery. The way lay through the Himalayas. Finally he set out from Rho Tsalon, and pursuing a circuitous route, arrived after fifty days at the City of Lhassa. His servants had been troublesome, and so he sent them back. Thus, carrying his 60 to 80 pounds of baggage and traversing mountains covered with snow, he entered the City of Lhassa alone.

In looking over Tibet from the mountains, Mr. Kawaguchi was much surprised by the view. He had expected to see a great plain; there stretched away a broken series of mountains and valleys. This part of the trip was made in the months of June and July—a season when the weather here is balmy or hot. Yet there snow frequently fell during the night. This enables us to imagine the rigours of winter. There were many streams and rivers to cross. In the absence of bridges or ferries, the traveller could only remove his clothes and wade through the icy waters. He had many mishaps. On one occasion, he was borne away by the torrent and lodged in banks of snow and ice. His benumbed body was restored by being placed between two sheep and subjected to the influence of their warmth.

Lake Manas Narako, as is well known, is the highest in the world. In India, it is believed to be the source of four great rivers, among them being the Ganges and the Bramaputra. But, in circumventing this lake, Mr. Kawaguchi discovered that it is not the source of any river. Near by is a second lake around which Mr. Kawaguchi passed, in order to reach the public road. This is in fact no road, no labour having ever been spent either to make or to repair it. It is merely a sort of trail from which yaks and travellers have worn the grass. At intervals of about fifty miles on this path, there are villages. Here there are houses, although ordinarily the Tibetans live in tents made of yak cloth. In this region, the air is extremely rarefied. The traveller suffers, has difficulty to breathe and even spits blood. While rounding the mountains, a great misfortune overtook Mr. Kawaguchi. Two robbers—little robbers, as big robbers would not waste time on a poor priest—set upon him and robbed him. They took his baggage, took everything, save his books and some money which was concealed inside of his clothes. Alone in the mountains, with only snow for food, drink and bed, he wandered for three days. On the third day, hungry, faint, almost blinded by the bright glare of the snow, he was found by a large Tibetan and taken to the Tibetan's tent. While resting and recuperating there, he was bitten by a dog. This new misfortune obliged him to remain there a long time to recover. Leaving this place, he was taken into the caravan of a large merchant and by an easy journey came to the village of Haruzei, thence Lhassa was easily reached. It was now July 21st, 1901. (Through error, the date is stated as March, 1900, in an article written by the lecturer for the *Century Magazine*). The climate is comparatively mild in central Tibet. In summer the thermometer rarely registers more than 80 degrees. There are no cold winds, such as blow in Tokyo. On arrival in the City of Lhassa, Mr. Kawaguchi took lodging in the Sera School. Although many things might be said concerning his trip, it is most interesting to speak of Lhassa.

The architecture of Lhassa is typical of that in all Thibet. The temples are built of stone. Their roofs are flat and covered with a cement-like substance. The general form is castle-like. The houses are mostly constructed of a sort of adobe sun-dried bricks. They are lighted from above, by means of a kind of sky-light without glass. In the better homes, the ceiling is covered with a white cloth. They have no floors, natural earth serving instead. But in the corner of the room there is a carpet, where they sleep, sometimes also sit, and whither they always show guests. In material and finish, the houses are rough. Timbers and boards are not planed or polished.

The name of Lhassa signifies "Country of God.' Looked at from a distance, it also may give tha. impression. But a single close view shows thaf it is a misnomer. It is in fact a very dirty place' The streets are narrow and filthy. The shops ot the city are of two sorts. One kind is similar to those of Japan—a room with the side open and the wares exposed to view from the outside. The other variety is simply stands or places in the street, where the goods are spread out to view. The usual size of a shop is about twelve feet—twenty or twenty-five feet would be very large. In them, are sold cloth, butter, tea, flour, Chinese breads and native products generally, also some foreign things (not specified). Some foreign foodstuffs are imported from India; but they are very dear and only the rich can afford to buy them. Restaurants exist and in them noodles chiefly are sold. Noodles with a little meat added would be a Tibetan feast.

Most of the people in Lhassa are of course Tibetans. But there are also Nepaulese to the number of four or five hundred, about two hundred Cashmerians and many Chinese. Tibetans in many respects resemble Japanese, but in some respects they differ from Japanese. In strong contrast with Japanese are their great stature and their filthy habits. Their indifference to dirt may be indicated by saying that a Tibetan's ideals of cleanliness are the Chinese! Tibetans represent themselves as being very religious. They pretend to be devout Buddhists. If asked about their purposes or desires in life, they would reply that their one ideal and their one desire is Buddha or to realize Buddhism. For this, they work, live, steal. But this is mostly pretence. Outwardly they appear calm, mild and simple; but inside they are harsh and cruel.

Tibetan customs are many and curious. Among the most interesting of them is the marriage ceremony. In Tibet, the rule is polyandry, but polygamy is occasionally met with. For example, if there be a family of five sons, all together take one wife. The eldest is then called "father," and each of the others is called "uncle." On the other hand, if there be a family of three daughters and no sons, all three sisters take one husband. In the latter case, polygamy arises; but this is not so frequent. Marriages are arranged by an intermediary or "go-between" with the parents of the bride or brides and groom or grooms. The girl is not consulted in the matter, although she is to become the head of the new house. When the arrangements have been completed, the parents give the girl oil and hair ornaments and let her wash her hair. At other times, the hair is not washed. In fact, there is very little washing done in Tibet. There it is considered an honour never to have washed. The parents tell the girl that she is to go to a certain place as bride. Her wishes are not consulted and she has no say in the matter. Finally, the friends of the bride and of the groom come to the bride's home and stay all night. The members of each group banter those of the other and urge them to drink, Should one drink too much and fall asleep, custom allows the other group to take from him some article to be next day ransomed by the owner. On the following day the bride bids farewell to the family gods—"the gods of happiness." She must persuade them to stay there and not to follow her. In order to convince them, she calls on them to witness the feast prepared for them. She tells them that they are surrounded with abundance and care, whereas the place to which she goes is poor and miserable. Then the bride, with the two groups of attendants, sets out for her new home – the home of the groom. If she pass through a village on the way, it is permissible for the villagers to steal the bride and require a ransom for her. This is justified on the ground that she is without gods and accompanied by demons. Her passage thus through the village will bring it ill-luck. The ransom money is required to appease the gods. When the bride arrives at her future home, the gate is closed against her. The groomsmen are now before the gate. Thus accompanied by demons, the bride cannot enter. The groomsmen are provided with a pyramid of flour encased in dough. This is thrown by one of them at the bride, and the breaking of it drives away the demons. If the bride's attendants catch the one who throws the magic pyramid, he is obliged to pay a penalty. The bride now asks for the gate to be opened. The request is refused until she pronounce a blessing on the gate. Then the gate is opened, all enter and the ceremony is ended. Among the Tibetans, there are four different forms of funeral ceremony. They arise from the Indian proverb that man comes from four elements; viz., earth, water, fire, wind. According to the first ceremony, the bones are crushed, the flesh is cut in pieces, the body cooked and fed to dogs, birds and eagles. According to the second ceremony, the body is burned, consumed by fire. This is not common, but is sometimes practised. In the third ceremony, the corpse is thrown into one of the great rivers, after having been decapitated and dismembered. According to the fourth form, the body is buried in the earth. This method is rarely employed—only when the other ceremonies are inconvenient. Music and literature among Tibetans are at a very low stage. They have but a single musical instrument. It is similar to the *samisen*. Tibetans sing and dance. Dancing is done with the feet not with the whole body. Some strike with the right, some with the left foot, and, what is peculiar, all do it precisely alike. Their songs are of two kinds. Common songs deal with love, bravery, unusual exploits. Priestly or religious songs are prayers to Buddha. Mr. Kawaguchi chanted a sample of each, and they were respectively rendered into English thus: (1) "Yara, yara," (this; is only a prelude) "As the azalea blooms all over Tibet, but the red, beautiful and sweet-scented ones bloom only up on the hills, so perhaps my lover's face is beautiful." (2) "In my heart is prepared the lotus seat. O Buddha, the real source of Buddhahood, give me thy protection; and make me that my body, heart and month may perfectly perform their duties!"

Many persons ask how Mr. Kawaguchi's identity was discovered in Lhasa. It happened thus. Mr. Kawaguchi went to a certain shop to buy soap—the only shop in Lhasa where good soap could be obtained. The soap merchant looked him closely in the eye. Mr. Kawaguchi had know this man at Darjeeling. He himself had been closely shaven at Darjeeling, while at Lhassa he wore a heavy beard. But he perceived that he was probably discovered and went quickly away. Being later obliged to have more soap, he returned to the same shop. The merchant would not sell him soap, but fixed him in the eye and asked "Do you know me?" Mr. Kawaguchi could not lie, and so he replied "Yes." Thereupon, the merchant took him into the merchant's house, placed him on the highest seat, then asked his (the merchant's) wife, "Do you know this man?" After closely regarding him, the wife replied "No." This shows how perfect was the disguise penetrated by the merchant. The merchant said "This is the Japan Lama." Mr. Kawaguchi knew that it was dangerous to remain in Lhassa, if his presence was known. But the merchant promised before the gods that he would not tell that Mr. Kawaguchi was a "Japan Lama." However, this merchant was sent to India to buy iron, and there heard that the Japanese were good and had the same religion as the Tibetans. On his return to Lhassa, this merchant, without evil intentions, told the head merchant that a "Japan Lama" was in Lhassa. Later, the head merchant, in an interview with Mr. Kawaguchi, said: "You are not Tibetan, Chinaman, Indian or European; what land do you come from?" Mr. Kawaguchi had in mind to say that he was a Chinaman. But the soap merchant, who was present, forestalled him by saying that this was the "Japan Lama" The head merchant reported the fact to the brother of the Great Lama. The head merchant also wished to protect Mr. Kawaguchi. But the Dalai Lama learned that the "Japan Lama" was the learned doctor at the Sera College of Priests, who was about to receive favours and important promotions. The facts became generally known and created an uproar in the city. Mr. Kawaguchi knew that it was dangerous to remain, and so he fled the city, May 19th, 1902. Fortunately there was then a great religious festival at Lhassa,—a fact which facilitated his escape. On leaving Lhassa, Mr. Kawaguchi took the most direct route to Darjeeling, and, having passed through seven perilous places arrived in July safely at Darjeeling. While there, he sent back to the Dalai Lama a petition in behalf of the friends who had been kind to him at Lhassa. But news of the recent expedition to Tibet cause him to fear that he may be suspected to have been a spy and that therefore his benefactors may be questioned with exceptional severity. From the King of Nepaul, Mr. Kawaguchi received as a present forty-one bibles or sacred books. These he has lent to a school. But the many other curious objects there on view to illustrate the lecture he had brought with him from Tibet to Japan, arriving here last May.

The President of the Society said it only remained to thank Mr. Kawaguchi in behalf of all who were present for his interesting lecture, and also Mr. Guy for his efficient interpretation. As it was very late, no time remained for formal questions, but Mr. Kawaguchi would be glad to answer privately after the meeting any questions that might be asked. The meeting was declared adjourned.

EDUCATION IN THE PHILIPPINES.

In the whole course of American occupation of the Philippine Islands there is nothing more interesting or gratifying to all persons concerned than the educational movement organized there. This movement ought to be studied by all classes of Japanese officials, for the very beginning of this movement shows how the American idea of individuality and necessity can over-ride red-tape and prove that "where there's a will there's a way." During the period of Military Government, General Otis, realizing the importance of establishing public schools as soon as possible, and having no other resources at hand, detailed army officers for this work. After these officers had opened and equipped 120 schools they wanted good English teachers but could not get them so they in turn detailed regular U.S. soldiers for the time being to teach English. These facts are unique and interesting and show commendable resourcefulness. An extract from the report of Captain Echols gives us a point about teaching English:

"To teach English to the natives a knowledge of Spanish or Tagalog is not necessary. I at one time had charge of 4,000 American Indians with six Government boarding schools. Not a child could speak a word of English on entering the schools, and in three months from entrance these children could speak it fairly well and this was accomplished by teachers utterly unfamiliar with any one of the numerous Indian dialects."

To read such a statement must make many a Japanese high school boy green with envy, for after years of poring over conversation-books and pocket dictionaries under Japanese teachers he is compelled to turn his head to one side thoughtfully and say "once more please," whenever he is spoken to in ordinary English by an American or Englishman. In the Philippines now they have a public school system that is reaching out into every part of the islands. They have one General-Superintendent with a salary of $6,000, a number of division superintendents paid from $2,000 to $2,500, and over 1,200 American licensed English teachers drawing salaries from $75 to $125 per month, all in U. S. money. For English instruction these teachers take the children in hand as soon as they enter school, and they also form the Filipino teachers into classes for English instruction. Here are two vital points for Japanese educationalists to consider well. Suppose Japan would employ one or two competent American or English teachers for each of her large primary schools throughout the Empire and let these teachers have charge of the pupils when they first enter school, and at the same time let them form English classes among the teachers for one hour a day. Who would be able to predict the result in ten years? It is confidently predicted that in five years from now there will be five times as many people in the Philippines speaking English as Spanish after three hundred years of Spanish rule. And if things go on well we will find in another generation an English-speaking nation right here in the Far East.

There is another fact that will prove to be one of the most important and far reaching undertakings yet inaugurated. This is summed up in the policy of the educational department and stated by the General Superintendent thus: "Wherever a school for boys is established it will be the policy of this department to establish one for girls, either in a building near the boys' or under the same roof as the boys' school, but completely separate, with its own entrance and playgrounds. Indian education in the United States was not successful until just as good arrangements were made for the girls, the mothers of the coming generation." So the Philippine Islands will be the only place in all Asia and one of the few places in all the world where the girls will have just as good educational advantages as the boys. We will wait to see what effect this will have. No doctrine or sectarian criticism or teaching will be allowed in any public school by any employed public school teacher, but at the same time nothing will be done to forbid, obstruct, or impede the establishment and maintainance of private schools.

Here is another lesson in liberality for Japan. Money is going to be liberally expended, the best teachers, text books, and materials are going to be used, the system is going to be extended throughout the islands and made compulsory as far as possible and as soon as expedient. With such an educational policy laid out for them by a responsible and competent Government the Filipinos ought to count themselves a happy and a fortunate people. There may be just a little too much Yankee push and perfection in it all for the average Filipino, but it will give him a fine chance to show what is in him and what can be made of him.

WILL PATTILLO.

"AN EVENING WITH SULLIVAN."

Last Friday the Yokohama Literary Society scored another decided success at the Van Schaick Hall with "An Evening with Sullivan," arranged by Mr. W. Karl E. Vincent. There was a very large attendance. In opening the proceedings the President expressed the regret of the Committee that severe colds, due to the present very bitter weather, prevented Mrs. E. C. Irwine, Miss H. Lloyd Thomas—whom, he said, many were eager to welcome back to the local concert platform after her well-merited successes at home—and Mr. B. C. Foster from being present and fulfilling their promises as set out in the programme. He hoped they would all have a speedy recovery and that later in the season the Society would have the pleasure of hearing them. Meanwhile volunteers had come forward at the last moment and thus some of the blanks would be filled. The Society were lucky in having such loyal friends and their hearty thanks would be due to Mr. Somerton ere the evening closed for the large share of the programme that he had voluntarily undertaken.

Part I. began with the Overture from the "Tempest" music, which was among the first productions that came from Sullivan's prolific pen. It was brilliantly played by Mrs. Arthur Bellamy Brown and Mr. W. Karl Vincent, and the audience warmly returned their thanks. Mr. S. H. Somerton, who, though suffering from a heavy cold, has seldom been heard to better effect, followed with "The Sailor's Grave," and gave place to a quartette—"Hush Thee, my Baby"—sung by Miss Vincent, Mrs. W. Kirkland Wilson, Messrs. H. E. Hayward and W. Kirkland Wilson. This was given very effectively and was greeted with loud applause.

A sketch, or rather short biography, of Arthur Seymour Sullivan, by Mr. Vincent brought the first part to a close. The speaker told of Sullivan's birth in London, of Irish and Italian parents; of his early passion for music and his precocious mastery of all the instruments in a military band, of which his father was the conductor; of his education as a Child of the Chapel Royal; of his winning the Mendelssohn scholarship, which enabled the budding genius to finish his musical education at Leipsic; of his return to England and his almost sudden coming to the front as a composer; then of his meeting with Mr. W. S. Gilbert and the outcome of that acquaintance—the long series of Gilbert and Sullivan operas; finally of the other classes of composition upon which Sullivan's fame will equally rest, his sacred music, the cantatas, "The Golden Legend," "The Light of the World," etc. Mr. Vincent then entered into a short exposition of the reasons for Sullivan's popularity, and concluded with references to the last days of the composer's life and his funeral in St. Paul's Cathedral—an honour that had been nobly won.

The President, at the conclusion of the address, moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Vincent, which was very heartily accorded.

The second part of the programme, following the overture—"In Memoriam," most sympathically rendered by Miss Moulton and Miss Griffin—was devoted to vocal selections from the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, as set forth below. We might mention that Mr. Windett was recalled and had to sing over again the last verse of his song; like honours being accorded Mr. Mann for "Take a pair of Sparkling Eyes," and Mr. Brady for his selection from "The Cheiftain;" while Miss Leach and Mr. Somerton's duet from "Ruddigore" was set down by many as one of the daintiest things in the whole programme. Mr. Somerton's rendering of "Ho, jolly Jenkin!" was a capital performance.

PART II.

Overture (Piano Duet)..."In Memoriam"........
Miss Moulton and Miss Griffin.

The Sorcerer (Song)......"When Love and I were acquainted"......Mr. S. H. Somerton.

H.M.S. Pinafore (Song)..."Fair Moon" ....
Mr. J. Mann.

Ruddigore (Duet)..."There grew a Little Flower"
Miss Burdett Leach and Mr. S. H. Somerton.

Princess Ida (Song)...."If you give me your attention"...Mr. A. H. Windett.

Mikado (Quartette)....."Brightly dawns our Wedding Morn."
Miss Vincent, Mrs. Kirkland Wilson, Messrs. H. E. Hayward and S. H. Somerton.

Gondoliers (Song)......."Take a Pair of Sparkling Eyes"......Mr. J. Mann.

Ivanhoe (Song)..."Ho! Jolly Jenkin"............
Mr. S. H. Somerton.

Chieftain (Song)..."From Rock to Rock"........
Mr. G. G. Brady.

At the next meeting of the Society Mrs. W. Kirkland Wilson will give a lecture on "North Wales" which will be illustrated by lantern views, while the music will partake of a strongly Welsh character.

VAUDEVILLE.

There was again a large audience at the U.S. Naval Hospital on Thursday evening, when the vaudeville entertainment given so successfully last week was repeated. Many changes had been made in the programme, every item of which went well, encores being the order of the evening. The full programme was as follows:—

PART I.

Overture ....Mr. B. R. Berrick.
1.—Song..."The King's Champion".
Mr. S. H. Somerton.
2.—Banjo Duett..."To the Front".
Messrs. Aslet & Bernard.
3.—Comic Song...."It's a funny feeling, isn't it?".
Mr. A. H. Windett.
4.—Madame Nokorah in Second Sight, etc.
Messrs. Thorn & Bridenstine.
5.—Comic Song..."When I was a Boy at School".
Mr. G. G. Brady.

PART II.

Overture...............................Mr. B. R. Berrick.
1.—Song....."Tell her I love her so"...Mr. J. Mann.
2.—Musical Monologue..."Our Bazaar".
Mr. G. G. Brady.
3.—Comic Song..."That happy Land".
Mr. A. H. Windett.
4.—Ten Minutes of 20th Century Perplexities.
Mr. C. H. Thorn.
1.—The Incorrigible Handkerchief.
2.—The Washerwoman's Bottle.
3.—The Magic Tambourine.
4.—Magnetic Influence.
5.—Cards Extraordinary.
6.—The Wizard's Omelet.
5.—Burlesque French Chanson..."Tink-a tin"
Mr. G. G. Brady.

FOOTBALL.

On Saturday afternoon a football match under Association rules was played by the boys attending St. Joseph's Institute and the Modern School, resulting in a win for the former by 4 goals to 1. The game was well contested and was watched with much interest by many spectators, although the ground was slippery on account of the drizzling rain. The following were the respective teams:—

St. Joseph's Institute:—R. Brinkmeir, Goal, Ch. Oberlein (capt), D Curtius, Full Backs; H. Jubin, Ch. Hornstein, W. Watt, ½ Backs; E. Andreis, Wm da Costa, J. Botelho, Geo. Walker, M. Luther, Forwards. (Subs.) P. Holm and J. da Costa, Jr.

Modern School:—P. Gorman, Goal; A. Bishop, A. Worden, Full Backs: C. Bagnall, G. Upton, W. Stone, ½ Backs; S. Vincent, A. Scott, M. Worden, A. Gorman, W. Gray, Forwards. (Sub.) L. Booth.

YOKOHAMA AMATEUR ROWING CLUB.

The annual general meeting of members of the Yokohama Amateur Rowing Club was held on Monday evening at the Masonic Building, No. 78, Yokohama. Mr. H. C. Litchfield, President, occupied the chair and there was a large attendance.

The CHAIRMAN, having announced the objects of the meeting, read the report and concluded by moving the adoption of the report and the passing of the accounts. He was informed that some remarks had been made as to the holding of the meeting. The Committee knew very well that there was a rule to the effect that the meeting should be held in January. But the last week in January was rather crowded. The financial year did not end until Dec. 31st and there was always great difficulty in getting the accounts wound up and finding an auditor who had some time at his disposal to examine them; then when they were made up and audited and the report was prepared the Committee had to select a suitable evening for the holding of the meeting, for it could only be held in the afternoon or evening. So they found in the last week of January that there were engagements for Wednesday of another club, for Thursday of another club; Friday was a mail day, and Saturday was a half holiday, of the pleasures of which they did not wish to deprive the young members of the Club at this time of the year. So that left them the last day of the month, the 31st, a Sunday. He would not say anything about Sunday because he might be treading on somebody's toes—but Sunday was the only available day, and to use the language of charter parties and bills of lading they had to get as near January as they conveniently could, and they therefore selected the 1st of February, and this was their meeting for the year.

Mr. H. Y. IRWINE, referring to a statement in the report that no extraordinary outlay for boats was anticipated and that a few sets of oars and sculls had been ordered from England, asked for what boats were these intended.

Mr. M. SCHELLENBERG said they were for the four oars and for the double sculls, the latter of which used the same oars as the skiffs.

Mr. IRWINE said there was only one set of oars for the single scull boat used in all interport races, and those oars were in a very poor state. He proposed that to stimulate racing in that branch another single scull boat should be imported so that it be used in races here and if occasion arose be lent to Kobe, who always complained and with justice that their boat was inferior. This year he thought the state of the accounts would justify the outlay.

In reply to a question the Captain, Mr. F. J. HALL, said the cost of a new single scull would be four to five hundred dollars.

Mr. IRWINE said there had been no single scull racing since Mr. Mottu stopped five years ago. He did not propose of course that the boat should be got solely on Kobe's account.

Mr. SCHELLENBERG said these boats were costly and suffered greatly out here.

Mr. IRWINE said the present one had been four years in use.

Mr. SCHELLENBERG pointed out that it had practically only been used by Mr. Irwine, others not being allowed.

Mr. IRWINE remarked that of course it was right that none but members accustomed to them should be allowed to take out such boats. His proposal finding no seconder, however,

The CHAIRMAN put the report and accounts to the meeting and they were passed.

Certain amendments brought forward by the Committee with reference to the proposing and seconding of candidates were then adopted.

The ballot for officers resulted as follows: President, H. C. Litchfield; Captain, F. J. Hall; Secretary, O. Strome; Treasurer, F. H. Abbey.

The announcement of these names was received with applause.

The Committee, in addition to the above, were elected as follows: Messrs. H. E. Hayward, W. Goddard, M. Schellenberg, and Rev. W. Weston.

This result was also greeted with applause.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the members for their attendance and the proceedings terminated.

The Committee have pleasure in presenting to the Members the Thirty-Second Annual Report of the Club.

ACCOUNTS:—These show a Credit balance of *yen* 1,064.25 which, it may be stated, is the most successful showing for the past six years. Out of the Balance the Committee recommend that the sum of *yen* 500 be devoted to the paying off of Bathing Barge Debentures.

ROWING:—The rowing season of 1903 has in some respects been disappointing and in others very satisfactory. Rowing in the Seniors has been a great disappointment, both in the Spring and Autumn Regattas, the entries for the Senior events showing lack of interest amongst Senior oarsmen. In the Autumn Regatta two only turned out in each of the two events for Senior Fours, and entries for the other Senior events showing the same slackness. The Club, however, is to be congratulated on the healthy state of Junior Rowing, large entries for all events being the rule; the races were well contested and the best sport of the season was furnished by the Junior crews. The Committee trust that this augurs well for Senior racing of the future.

The Annual Interport Regatta was held at Kobe on June 6th, and the Club is to be congratulated on their representative crews winning the Interport Fours, Paris and Double-Sculls, there being no event for the Single Sculls on account of Kobe not having a representative to meet Yokohama. Yokohama thus won every Interport event at the Regatta, a record in Interport Regattas on an opponent's course.

BOATS:—No extraordinary outlay under this heading is anticipated for 1904. All the boats are in good serviceable condition, they have been thoroughly overhauled, and with the exception of the new Double-Sculls have all been repainted; the Double-Sculls are still in excellent condition and require no attention. Your Committee are pleased to be able to report that two of the old Fours were disposed of during the year for *yen* 90 each. A new stock of Oars and Sculls is required and an order for three sets of oars for the fours and three pairs of sculls has been sent to Messrs. E. Ayliing & Sons, of Putney; this will mean an outlay of about *yen* 180.

SWIMMING:—The Aquatic Sports were held as usual, and provided a most interesting afternoon's amusement.

BATHING BARGE AND LANDING STAGE:—The new Bathing Barge is in good condition and beyond a new coat of paint for next season no expenditure will be necessary. The Landing Stage will require a small expenditure for repairs to prevent leakage. Both Barge and Stage have been hauled up at Cook's Yard, Honmoku, for the winter.

HOUSE AND PROPERTY:—During the early part of the year it was found that the roof was leaking and badly in need of repair. Tenders were invited, contracted for and the work completed; this necessitated an extraordinary expenditure for this account for the year, but the property is now in good condition, and no further expenditure is anticipated during 1904.

During the season the Committee lost the services of Mr. F. Lammert, owing to this gentleman leaving Yokohama. The Rev. W. W. Weston was induced to accept a position on the Committee, and his advice was invaluable in the selection and training of the Interport crews.

THE COMMITTEE.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1903.

DR.	Yen.	Yen.
To Wages		651.60
" Boats, etc.—Carpenter	414.11	
Sundries	18.80	
		432.91
" Extra Coolies		95.01
" Water, Gas, Coal		217.35
" Furniture and Utensils		30.50
" Subscriptions to Periodicals		107.15
" Working Account		61.66
" House Sundries		69.24
" Taxes, including Ground rent		79.37
" Fire Insurance Premiums		202.50
" Bathing Barge		207.28
" Landing Stage		122.30
" Printing and Stationery		88.00
" Prizes Account		641.25
" Interest Account, including interest on Debentures		183.55
" Regatta Account — Interport Regatta	226.57	
" Regatta Account—Spring Regatta	184.59	
" Regatta Account — Aquatic Sports	134.84	
" Regatta Account — Autumn Regatta	173.71	
		719.71
" Repairs—Roof	402.57	
Sundries	28.95	
		431.52
" Punching Bag outfit		30.00
" Balance—Cash in Bank	758.57	
Bar Chits uncollected	241.68	
Subscriptions uncollected	64.00	
		1,064.25
		5,435.15

Examined and found correct.

H. S. GODDARD, Auditor.

CR.	Yen.	Yen.
By Balance 1902—Boats Rent Account	60.00	
" Balance 1902—Cash on hand	93.40	
Due from Bar Account	174.03	
		327.43
" Subscription—Hon. 39 at ¥10	390.00	
Boys 8 at ¥5	40.00	
Tokyo 6 at ¥5.	30.00	
Abtive.—1st half 1903, 231 at ¥6	1,386.00	
Active. — 2nd half 1903, 248 at ¥6	1,488.00	
Active. — Subscriptions uncollected	64.00	
		3,398.00
" Prizes Account—Entrance fee at Regattas and Sports	157.50	
" Prizes Account—"Gate" at Regatta	5.00	
		162.50
" Boats Rent Account		75.00
" Sale 2 "Fours"		180.00
" Credits Interest from Bank		3.04
" Bar Account Profit—Paid Hon. Treasurer	441.50	
" Bar Account Profit—Chits uncollected	241.68	
		683.18
" Subscriptions for 2nd half 1902		6.00
" Entrance Fees, 60 at 10		600.00
		5,435.15

J. S. CARTWRIGHT, Hon. Treasurer.

JAPAN BREWERY COMPANY, LIMITED.

The sixth ordinary general meeting of shareholders of the Japan Brewery Co., Ltd., was held on Monday afternoon at the offices of the company, No 123, Bluff, Mr. Jas. Dodds presiding. There were also present Messrs. W. R. Bennett, H. J. Snow, L. J. Healing, M. Russell, T. B. Glover, O. Haynemann, C. B. Bernard and J. H. Dinsdale (Secrefary).

The Secretary having read the notice calling the meeting, the minutes of the last general meeting were taken as read, on the motion of Mr. HEALING, seconded by Mr. SNOW.

The CHAIRMAN said—This is the sixth general meeting of the Company and the first one at which a statement of accounts from 1st January to 31st December has been presented. It is a source of pleasure to the directors that the year has been such a successful one and they congratulate the shareholders on the favourable result. The gaining of the only Honorary Medal for Beer awarded at the Osaka Exhibition has been a great help to the Company, and has enabled our selling agents to increase their sales. The export business has largely developed at all China ports and Manila, and as the beer continues in favour, there is no reason why this trade should not continue to increase, unless interfered with by the outbreak of hostilities. The Government tax is a heavy charge on the profits, amounting to a larger sum than the net result, but notwithstanding this, a fair return is shown on the paid-up capital which, I hope, may be at least maintained. Owing to severe competition, it has been impossible to raise the price of beer and for some time to come, there does not appear to be much chance of accomplishing this. Last August we paid an interim dividend of *yen* 2.50 per share, and we now recommend *yen* 6.00 per share as a final dividend for the year. The net profit amounts to *yen* 101,793.10, and these two dividends will absorb *yen* 76,500,00, or 17 per cent. per annum on the paid up capital. You will see from the accounts that it would have been possible for us to have divided a larger sum amongst the shareholders, but we thought it desirable to build up the reserve fund as much as possible, and we have therefore proposed that *yen* 25,000 be carried to that account, bringing it up to *yen* 110,000. In our opinion the reserve fund is a very important account, more especially in view of the fact that we are working on a very small capital. Last summer the demand for "Kirin" was so great that it was with great difficulty we filled orders, and it may become a question, later on, whether an extension will not be necessary. Nothing will be done in this direction without careful consideration, but should it be decided to enlarge the capacity of the Brewery, it will become imperative to issue either more debentures or raise fresh capital. The Managing Director has left for England on a short leave of absence, but expects to return to Yokohama by the middle of May next. For the present I am, as Chairman, taking over his duties. With these few remarks I propose the adoption of the report and accounts for the year.

Mr. SNOW seconded and the motion was carried.

On the motion of Mr. Healing, seconded by Mr. Bennett, Messrs. Jas. Dodds and O. Haynemann were re-elected directors.

Messrs. F. J. HALL and J. F. Cox Edwards were re-elected auditors, on the motion of Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Healing.

Mr. HEALING said he thought the general meeting would be more largely attended if it were held in the Settlement.

The CHAIRMAN replied that that question had been considered by the Directors, and they thought it was better to have the meeting at the brewery, so that shareholders might see their property. Mr. Healing's suggestion, however would be borne in mind by the directors.

The CHAIRMAN announced that the dividend warrants would be issued the following day, and the meeting dispersed.

Your Directors have now the pleasure of presenting herewith, the audited Accounts for the Year ended 31st December, 1903.

Deliveries for the period under review have been the largest since the Company started, both in home consumption and export.

It will be a satisfaction for Shareholders to know that:—

At the Osaka Exhibition, "Kirin" was the only beer awarded an honorary medal.

The profit on Working Account for the Year after providing for all liabilities, ample depreciation to Machinery, Buildings, and Plant, and carrying over all Stocks and Stores at actual cost, amounts to *yen* 101,793.10.

Your Directors consider this a fairly good result, considering that the sum of *yen* 113,959.28 was paid to the Government for Beer Tax during the twelve months.

Competition has been very keen, but your Directors are glad to say that "Kirin" continues to grow in favour.

An Interim Dividend of *yen* 2.50 per share was paid last August, which absorbed *yen* 22,500, and after deducting this sum, there remains to the Credit of Profit and Loss Account for distribution, *yen* 83,670.73, which your Directors propose to divide as follows:—

	Yen.
To Final Dividend for the year ended 31st December, 1903, *yen* 6 per share on 9,000 shares (Free of Income Tax)	54,000.00
" Reserve Fund	25,000.00
" Carry forward	4,670.73
	83,670.73

The Reserve Fund with this addition will amount to *yen* 110,000.

The present Directors of the Company are: Messrs. Jas. Dodds (Chairman), T. B. Glover, O. Haynemann, C. B. Bernard, W. R. Bennett and F. S. James (Managing Director).

Under the Articles of Association two of these gentlemen, viz:—Messrs. Jas. Dodds and O. Haynemann, retire, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The Auditors of the Company are Messrs. F. J. Hall and J. F. Cox-Edwards, who resign in accordance with the Articles of Association, but offer themselves for re-election at the recommendation of the Directors.

JAS. DODDS, Chairman.
F. S. JAMES, Managing Director.
J. H. DINSDALE, Secretary.

Yokohama, January 19th, 1904.

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1903.

LIABILITIES.

DR.

	Yen.
To 9,000 Shares at ¥50 each: fully paid up	450,000.00
To 2,000 Debentures at ¥100 each	200,000.00
To Reserve Fund	85,000.00
To Bills Payable	30,319.05
To Guarantee Funds	27,322.27
To Sundry Creditors	53,862.93
To Profit and Loss Account	83,670.73
	930,174.98

ASSETS.

CR.

By Land and Buildings	295,706.86
By Machinery in operation	207,482.24
By Casks, Vats, &c., and Stable Plant	116,994.88
By Stock of Beer, Malt, Hops, Bottles, Coal and Working Stores	145,839.26
By Office and other Furniture	1,567.60
By Fire Insurance current	1,142.52
By Hongkong and Shanghai Bank	28,533.13
By Cash in hand	81.19
By Sundry Debtors	132,827.30
	930,174.98

WORKING ACCOUNT.

DR.

To Interest	19,052.04
To Coal and Working Stores	25,572.15
To Ground Rent and Taxes	6,592.57
To Beer Tax	113,959.28
To Fire Insurance	4,667.97
To Salaries and Wages	61,512.00
To Wear and Tear	9,219.45
To Charges and Advertising	42,506.64
To Depreciation of Machinery, Buildings, &c.	26,688.52
To Directors and Auditor's Fees	3,100.00
To Balance to Profit and Loss Account	101,793.10
	414,663.72

CR.

By Gross Profit on Beer Sales	414,623.72
By Share Transfer Fees	40.00
	414,663.72

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

DR.

1903.		
Feb. 3.	To Dividend of ¥5 per Share for the Nine Months ended 31st December, 1902	45,000.00
Feb. 3.	To Amount transferred to Reserve Fund	25,000.00
Aug. 7.	To Interim Dividend of ¥2.50 per Share	22,500,00
Dec. 31.	To Balance	83,670.73
		176,170.73

CR.

1902.		
Dec. 31.	By Balance	74,377.63
1903. Dec. 31.	By Profit on Working Account for the Year	101,793.10
		176,170.73

RESERVE FUND.

DR.

1903.		
Dec. 31.	To Balance	85,000.00
		85,000.00

CR.

1902.		
Dec. 31.	By Balance	60,000.00
1903. Feb. 3.	By Amount transferred from Profit and Loss Account	25,000.00
		85,000.00

JAS. DODDS, Chairman.
F. S. JAMES, Managing Director.
J. H. DINSDALE, Secretary.

We have examined the foregoing Accounts and compared them with the Books, Vouchers and Securities in the possession of the Company and find them to be in accordance therewith.

F. J. HALL, } Auditors.
J. F. COX-EDWARDS. }

YOKOHAMA MEN'S READING ROOM ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the above association took place on Tuesday evening in the Rooms, No. 82 Main Street. Rev. Dr. Dearing occupied the chair and there was a large attendance of members.

The CHAIRMAN having in introductory remarks congratulated the members on the healthy and natural growth of the institution, the various reports were adopted—that of the Hon. Secretary on the motion of Rev. E. S. Booth seconded by Mr. Russell; and that of the Hon. Treasurer on the motion of Mr. Frank Booth seconded by Mr. Villondaki.

The Board of Direction was elected to consist of Messrs. Macbeth, Wallace, Villondaki and Devin.

Rev. E. S. Booth was elected Honorary Chairman, Mr. Jas. Macbeth, Hon. Treasurer; Mr. R. Wallace, Hon. Secretary; and Mr. W. R. Devin, Hon. Librarian.

The meeting adjourned with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT.

The Members of the Board of Direction of the Yokohama Men's Reading Room Association have much pleasure in presenting their second annual report.

The past year has been one of increased success, and sustained interest, which has amply justified the expectations of the promoters.

The Board of Direction has had 11 meetings for transacting the business of the Association, and considering matters of interest to the members. The work has been carried on as formerly by several standing committees.

The new "Rooms" have been found very convenient, and have answered all the requirements of the Association. The furnishings, however, still leave much to be desired. The funds of the Association have not yet warranted the Board of Direction going to the expense of having a lavatory fitted up, but this and other much needed furnishings and improvements should be instituted as early as the Association has sufficient means in hand.

The quality and quantity of reading matter supplied in the Reading Room has been much appreciated. The Honorary Librarian has made arrangements by which members may take home for perusal, magazines, &c., which have been on the table for a certain period. This privilege has been much appreciated, and taken advantage of by the members.

The list of periodicals has been revised for the coming year, embodying recommendations of the Hon. Librarian which are the results of his observations of the tastes and desires of the members.

The volumes in the library now number 64, 29 having been contributed during the year, for which the thanks of the Association are due to several donors.

The roll of actual members now contains names 94.

There has been an attendance at the rooms during the past year of 5,400, an average of 450 per month. This compares very favourably with last year, the average then being 275 per month. One member of the reception committee has been on duty each evening to look after the interests of those present. While the rooms are used by members before office hours in the morning and after dinner in the evening, as well as occasionally during the day, yet the rooms are most popular from the time of office closing in the afternoon till dinner, and the largest attendance is usually at this time.

One social afternoon was held during the year with an attendance of 50.

One fireside lecture was given with an attendance of 12.

Two Ping-pong tournaments have taken place with 16 and 21 entries respectively.

A new feature in the life of the Association has been the debates which have been arranged by the Literary Committee. These debates are likely to become, in the future, quite a feature of the Association. Altogether 5 have been held during the past year and the meetings have been well attended and most enjoyable.

Another new departure has been the supplying of light refreshments in the rooms. These refreshments have been supplied to members at little more than cost; nevertheless this has become a slight source of revenue, and it is hoped that this department will be further developed and extended in the future.

On reviewing the work of the past year it is gratifying to note the interest which has been displayed by the younger members. Still as an association of this kind depends entirely for its success on individual efforts, it is hoped that each member will feel the responsibility which rests on him and do his utmost to promote the wellfare of the Association.

For the Board of Direction,

R. WALLACE, Honorary Secretary.

According to Tokyo papers, the Russian Legation in Tokyo has received several lengthy telegrams from home since Jan. 29th. M. Harmand, the French Minister, paid a visit on the 30th at 2 p.m. to Baron Rosen.

ENTRANCE TO KOTO GAKKO GRANTED.

On several occasions during the past four years efforts have been made to obtain for the graduates of Christian schools of a certain grade the privilege of entrance to Koto Gakko: *i.e.* schools preparatory to the University. Those interested in these efforts will learn with pleasure that the privilege has now been granted by the Department of Education. To many this is of sufficient importance to warrant a brief statement of the essential facts in the history of the case.

In 1899 what is known as Instruction No. 12 was issued under the sanction of the Minister of Education. Prior to that time Meiji Gakuin, Aoyama Gakuin, Doshisha, and perhaps other schools, had been granted Chu Gakko (Middle School) licenses; but as Instruction No. 12 forbade all religious instruction and services, "even outside the regular course of instruction," those who hold to the principle that schools carried on by Christian missions should be avowedly Christian institutions were forced to surrender the licenses along with their attendant privileges.

In the hope of obtaining relief, a petition was presented to the Minister of Education requesting that the Instruction might be restricted in its application to such Chu Gakko as were supported by public funds. That petition the Minister felt himself unable to grant; but some time afterwards regulations were issued by which the graduates of such schools as Meiji Gakuin were allowed the privileges of those of Chu Gakko regarding admission to Koto Gakko though the schools were not allowed the name Chu Gakko.

This concession on the part of the Department of Education was understood to be and was accepted as a final settlement of the question; but during the spring of 1902 new regulations were issued requiring the graduates of all schools excepting Chu Gakko to pass a special examination, in addition to the examination required of graduates of Chu Gakko, in order to enter Koto Gakkō. Also a fee of five *yen* was to be paid for this special and preliminary examination.

This was a manifest injury to Meiji Gakuin and similar schools; and accordingly shortly after the new regulations were issued, Dr. Ibuka, Mr. Honda and Mr. Kataoka laid the case before the authorities and endeavoured to obtain relief. In addition to this a letter was addressed to the Minister of Education, signed by representatives of Meiji Gakuin, Aoyama Gakuin, Tohoku Gakuin, and Doshisha, and designed to bring the matter to his attention from the point of view of foreigners deeply interested in the welfare of the institutions affected by the regulat tions. This request was received with great courtesy and with something of encouragement for the future; but for the time being the Department was unable to comply with it. Dr. Ibuka and Mr. Honda therefore decided to make an attempt in another direction; and in this they were successful.

Included in the Government system of education are a number of Semmon Gakko: *i.e.* schools which prepare students for a profession without the necessity of their passing through tht University. Among these are the Commercial College, the Foreign Languages School, the Agricultural College at Sapporo, one or more Polytechnic Schools, and a number of Medical Schools. In fact, these are the schools which a considerable number of the graduates of Meiji Gakuin and similar institutions prefer to enter; but until recently they were open only to the graduates of certain Government schools and to students passing special examinations. After a painstaking presentation of the case by Dr. Ibuka and Mr. Honda, the regulations for entrance were changed so as to include "graduates of schools recognized by the Minister of Education as equal or superior to Chu Gakko." The first Christian schools to obtain such recognition were Meiji Gakuin and Aoyama Gakuin. Subsequently it was obtained by Doshisha, Toboku Gakuin, and perhaps others. It has also been granted to the Chuto Kwa (Middle Department) of Gakushin (Nobles School), and to several Buddhist institutions.

But the privilege of admission to Semmon

Gakko was not only valuable in itself. As Semmon Gakko no less than Koto Gakko belong to the Government system of education, and as the grade of scholarship for entrance is the same for both, the privilege of admission to one was logically a promise of the privilege of admission to the other. Accordingly towards the close of last year Dr. Ibuka and Mr. Honda called upon Mr. Kubota, the present Minister of Education, who promised to inquire into the matter. Subsequently they called upon Mr. Koba, the present Vice Minister, and also upon Mr. Matsui, the Director of the Semmon Gakko. These gentlemen told them that the request would be favourably considered; and on January 25th of this year there appeared in the *Official Gazette* a regulation extending the privilege of entrance to Koto Gakko to "graduates of schools recognized by the Minister of Education as set forth in Article VIII, No. 1, of the regulations for entrance to Semmon Gakko."

This gives to such schools as Meiji Gakuin, Aoyama Gakuin, Tohoku Gakuin and Doshisha, all the privileges of Chu Gakko. They have besides, within certain limits, greater freedom than Chu Gakko in determining their curriculum. Such action on the part of the Department of Education is also evidence that it is coming to set a higher estimate than formerly upon the value of private schools, and that it consents to recognize their right to freedom in the teaching of religion. Looking to the future of Japan the importance of the adoption of these principles by the Department can hardly be over-estimated. On the other hand the right of Christian schools to do their work without restriction puts upon them a new responsibility to do it well.

WILLIAM IMBRIE.

AN HOUR'S HAPPENINGS.

There is in the *Fukuin Shimpo* a charmingly suggestive description of a street crowd in Tokyo. To most foreigners the clamour of such a scene is like that of Babel, but in this description the writer makes us see what he saw and hear what he heard. We hear the common speech of the people and—like that which we hear in some parts of London—it is not easy to understand. The scene is described somewhat as follows:—

It was on Saturday, the 21st of November, at twenty minutes past three in the afternoon. As we were turning a corner of Enoki Cho in Ushigome, all of a sudden we were startled by a great noise. Looking to see what the matter was, behold a huge pine tree some forty feet high and so large that three men could scarcely encircle its trunk. The tree was on wheels drawn by some score of men crying *Eiya*! *Eiya*! as they pulled in unison.

But one of the branches reached so high skywards that the tree could not pass under the telephone wires. Then there began a great bustle and a clamour for ladders or poles or something to get the wires out of the way. While this was going on business men and jinrikisha men, and cart-pullers, and apprentices, and students—people of all kinds and sorts—stayed their steps there. They were struck with wonder at the grandeur of the tree, the vigour of the work-men, and the greatness of the undertaking. All were waiting open mouthed to see how this great tree, with branches spreading out like the tentacles of a huge cuttle-fish, could be made to pass under the wires.

"What a great pine! Where are they taking it?"

"Don't you know? Worse luck for you."

"Do you know, then?"

"I should say I did. It's for Tanaka, the Minister of the Imperial Household. But it's curious to be taking a big fellow like this to a country place like Mejiro."

"So it is, indeed. It's different enough from a ten *sen** pine that you got for two *sen* on a festival night."

"Don't talk nonsense. Look at them now! There are five men on the cart to lead the others and there must be forty or fifty besides. How much do you suppose it costs? Not less than 20 or 30 *yen* a day."

"H'm! and besides the pine is not to be had for nothing."

"For nothing! Of course not. What do you think of giving 5,000 *yen* for it? A foolish thing to do isn't it?"

A young fellow with a towel over his shoulder was talking thus with a man who seemed to be a jinrikisha puller. Suddenly there pushed in between them without any ceremony, or by your leave, a being who, but for her hair, would have been taken for a man. Her face was like leather and her overhanging forehead some five inches wide. Licking her upper lip and turning up her nose she said:

"I don't know whether he's a Minister, or who he is, but I know that my children got into trouble with the policeman just because their kite string got tangled in the wires. And now they won't fly their kite that they like so much."

We were struck with a deep feeling and turned away without a word. When a Minister's concerned no one is censured for putting up ladders and poles. It is the children of poor parents who are scolded for tangling their kites in the wires.

F. M.

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* In speaking of money the people use the old terms,—*ryo* for *yen*, *ikkwan* for *ten sen*, *nihyaku* (*mon*) for *two sen*, etc. In like manner not many years ago in the United States people still spoke of *sixpence*, and *ninepence*, to designate 12½ cents and 16⅔ cents.

FUNERAL OF MR. C. S. MOSS.

The funeral of the late Mr. C. S. Moss took place in Shanghai on January 28. The deceased was a son of the late Mr. C. D. Moss of Yokohama and was a member of Victoria Co., No. 7, S.F.B. and A. Co. S.V.C. The funeral cortege started from the Nursing Home at 3.15 p.m. in charge of the Chief Engineer, being preceded by an escort of Sikh troopers, Volunteers, the Torrent and Deluge Fire Companies, and the Town Band, followed by the Mih Ho-loong truck draped in black, on which rested the coffin, and over which the deceased fireman's helmet was displayed. There was a large number of wreaths. The truck was drawn by members of Victoria Co., then came the chief mourner, Sir Hiram Shaw Wilkinson. There were also present Mr. W. Harris, H.B.M.'s Board of Works; Mr. J. Stern and members of the staff of Messrs. Reiss & Co.; Messrs. E. J. Cooper, W. E. Keay, C. M. D. Davidson, Rose, J. Groundwater, J. Smedley, and other friends of deceased's family. The different fire companies in numerical order followed by a large number of residents in carriages brought up the rear; the procession passed through Range, Szechuen and Nanking Roads to the Bubbling Well cemetery, where a number of people were waiting. The Rev. C. J. F. S. Symons, B.A., delivered a touching address at the chapel, the service at the grave being very impressive.—*Shanghai Mercury*.

FEBRUARY MONEY MARKET.

On the authority of the Bank of Japan, Tokyo papers print tables showing the amount of money required during the month of February to meet various calls:—

	Yen.
TO BE PAID OUT.	
Land tax, 4th payment	8,208,732
Hokkaido Land tax, 3rd payment	11,618
Saké tax, 3rd payment	15,716,401
Tax on convertible notes, for last half-year	572,708
Shares of Seoul-Fusan Railway Co., *yen* 5 per share	2,500,000
New shares of Nippon Railway Co., *yen* 3 per share	1,560,000
New shares of Tokyo Gas Co., *yen* 5 per share	210,000
TO BE PAID IN.	
Redemption of loans	10,000,000
Interest on Kyoto City loan	18,000
Dividend of Bank of Japan	1,800,000
Dividend of Nippon Railway Co.	2,557,000
Dividend of Hokkaido Colliery and Railway Co.	867,000
Interest on Nippon Industries Encouragement Bank	105,375
Refund of debentures, Nippon Industries Encouragement Bank	50,000

THE GERMAN EMPEROR'S SPEECH.

The remarks made by *The Times* on the Kaiser's Waterloo speech are to be commended to the perusal of those that condemned the comments recently published in our own columns. An indiscretion on the part of the Emperor is not so extraordinary as to be altogether unexpected, but that it should find defenders surprises us. *The Times*, we think, says what there is to be said and says it with moderation and good temper:—

> On Saturday the German Emperor made his first public speech since he underwent an operation for an affection of the throat on November 7. The re-appearance of so notable a character on the world's stage was awaited in this country with sympathetic interest; and even those who are least inclined to approve the policy of William II. would in ordinary circumstances have greeted with genuine pleasure the first sign that his manifold energies had only received a temporary check. The hundredth anniversary of three Hanoverian regiments was a natural occasion on which to refer to the former connexion between the British and Hanoverian Armies and to the good service done by the German Legion, recruited largely from Hanoverians, in the Peninsular War. The army order read by the Chief of the Emperor's Military Cabinet, Count von Hulsen-Haseler, to the regiments on parade referred to the battle honours of the German Legion in terms to which Englishmen, when due allowance is made for the difference between English and German idiom, would be ready to subscribe. The defence of La Haye Sainte by 400 men of the German Legion under Baring was an exploit which ranks among the proudest feats of arms, and its tactical importance in the great battle of Waterloo has certainly not been overlooked in this country. We are not disposed to belittle the part played in the Napoleonic wars by the Hanoverian subjects of George III. and other non-British elements in the British Army, and the Emperor's army order would, if it stood alone, have commanded general assent. But the Emperor's speech at the banquet which followed the parade contained a sentence which, whatever the intention of the illustrious speaker, can only be described as unfortunate. His Majesty drank to the health of the German Legion "in remembrance "of its incomparable deeds, which, in conjunction with "Blucher and the Prussians at Waterloo, saved the "British Army from destruction." If we are not disposed to undervalue services of Germans in British pay, we are still less inclined to forget what we owed to the support of our allies in the three days' struggle which finally freed Europe from the terror inspired by the name of Napoleon. The debt has been acknowledged from the first. The Duke of Wellington, in his official despatch from the field of Waterloo, wrote, "I should not do justice to my own feelings or to Marshal Blucher and the Prussian army if I did not attribute the successful result of this arduous day to the cordial and timely assistance I received from them." No foreign soldier was ever honoured in this country as Prince Blucher was honoured, and all responsible British historians have done full justice to the decisive action of his army. But, with all respect, we venture to maintain that to speak of saving the British Army from destruction is an absurd over-statement. At the lowest computation the honours were easy when the Prussians first came into action, and though without Blucher's support Wellington could not have turned a stubborn defence into an irresistible advance, yet destruction cannot be said to have been impending at half-past 4 o'clock on June 18. William II. has, no doubt, only given the weight of his authority to a theory which is current in his Empire, but the word "destruction" sounds strange in the mouth of the grandson of a British Queen, of a British Field-Marshal, a chivalrous soldier, and a close student of military history. In reviving the memory of a former brotherhood in arms, it may have been His Majesty's intention to efface the recollection of the language used throughout the Boer war by his subjects when speaking of British officers and soldiers—language which was so feebly repudiated on one occasion by his present Chancellor. If this be the case, it can only be matter of regret that His Majesty has chosen words which cannot but grate on English ears, and that he has added one more to the list of speeches the memory of which will live chiefly because they were better forgotten. It was not for the common herd alone that Bacon wrote:—"A friend that is wholly 'acquainted with a man's estate will beware, by furthering any present business, how he dasheth upon other inconvenience."

The Emperor Menelik has sent President Roosevelt two lions and a pair of elephant tusks.

THE LAW COURTS.

LIBEL CASE.

Mr. Geo. Syme Thomson, representative in Yokohama of Messrs. Dodwell and Company, L'td., has filed a libel case in the criminal section of the Yokohama District Court against Mr. K. Maejima, editor, and Mr. T. Wada, publisher of the *Yokohama Shimpo*. The trial of the accused was to have commenced on Jan. 29th, but was postponed at the request of counsel—Messrs. Yamada, Koide and Inouye—who were not prepared to go on with the case.

According to the complaint, which was presented on Dec. 7th last by Mr. R. Masujima representing the plaintiff, the journal published on Dec. 4th a statement which reported that a foreign firm employing six steamers carried to America Japanese girls of ill-fame without passports.

CLAIM FOR SNAKE-GOURDS.

The hearing of this case, instituted by F. Shimidzu against Messrs. Winckler and Company, claiming *yen* 195.50, was resumed in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Yasuda on Feb. 1st.

Plaintiff's Counsel applied to the Court for permission to make a correction regarding the number of snake-gourds set out in the complaint. The Court granted permission.

Defendants' Counsel extended the statement which he presented to the Court at the previous hearing, with regard to the man who supplied the gourds to the defendant firm, stating that the firm purchased gourds from a dealer named M. Katayama, and not from plaintiff.

Having presented a pass-book, plaintiff's Counsel held that plaintiff supplied the merchandise to Messrs. Winckler and Company on July 31st last when the foreign firm confirmed their receipt with an office stamp.

Two Japanese M. Tanaka and K. Sato were examined as witnesses.

M. Tanaka deponed that on behalf of plaintiff, Z. Shimidzu, a *banto* in the employ of Messrs. Bethell Bros. No. 70, Yokohama, witness enquired of Messrs. Winckler and Co. on July 30th last whether they would purchase snake-gourds at *sen* .009 per piece for 3rd class, 714 pieces in all; *sen* .019 2nd class, 1,774; *sen* .09 1st class, 2,940; and *sen* .039 choicest, 7,220—making 395.50 in all. The offer was accepted and the whole of the gourds were delivered at the godown of Messrs. Winckler and Company. The gourds were inspected on Aug. 3rd when the business was settled. He received, also, on behalf of plaintiff, *yen* 200 on account from K. Shiojima, chief *banto* of the firm. The witness remembered that the payment was made by cheque drawn by Messrs. Winckler and Company. The balance, *yen* 195.50, was still unpaid.

Cross-examined by defendant's counsel, witness stated that he did not know whether plaintiff sold similar merchandise to the same firm on other occasions. Witness did not know the broker, M. Kataoka, and did not receive *yen* 200 from this broker. Plaintiff was a *banto* in the employ of Messrs. Bethell Bros., No. 70.

K. Sato, another witness, stated that he carried a letter from plaintiff to Mr. K. Shiojima, which note asked for payment of merchandise furnished to the foreign firm. The date was about Aug. 3rd or 4th, but witness did not exactly remember. The following day he again carried a similar letter to Shiojima for a similar purpose. The *banto* of the firm did not give a decisive reply. Of the 31 bales of snake-gourds, five bales were removed from the compound of Messrs. Bethell Bros. to defendants' godown. The five bales were carried by a coolie, Kyugoro.

This coolie was examined as a witness. He stated that he removed five bales of an article on July 31st last from the compound of Messrs. Bethell Bros to Messrs. Wincker and Company, He did not know what was in the package.

Defendant's counsel introduced in Court a Produce Purchase Book and a Cash Book which showed that the foreign firm purchased the goods in dispute from M. Katayama and paid him in full for them. Counsel asked the Court for leave to examine M. Katayama and K. Shiojima as witnesses. The Court gave consent to examine Katayama only.

The case was adjourned till February 15th at 10 a.m.

P. SARDA v. M. A. RAGH.

The hearing of this appeal case, in which appellant petitions for the quashing of the judgement given in the Local Court ordering him to pay respondent *yen* 51.54, came up again in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Kato on Feb. 2nd when judgement was delivered rejecting the appeal and ordering appellant to bear costs.

K. SHIMODA v. F. RETZ.

The hearing of this case, in which plaintiff petitions for the return of various gold coins, valued at *yen* 305, deposited with defendant, began in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Kato on February 4th.

Mr. Ideura was present for plaintiff and Mr. Nagashima for defendant.

Plaintiff's Counsel stated that plaintiff borrowed *yen* 300 from defendant, offering various gold coins—1 piece of old Japanese 20 *yen* gold, 1 new Japanese coin of 10 *yen*; 3 U.S. $20; one U.S. $10; one U.S. $5, and one each of Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia and Spain—as guarantee. The borrowed money was paid back on December 12th last but defendant had not returned the guarantee.

The Court required plaintiff's counsel to certify the value of some of the foreign coins which were omitted in the complaint. The Court also reminded plaintiff's representative that the coins were the object of dispute and as he was unable to state their value, the case must be adjourned. Counsel promised the Court to insert the proper values in the complaint before the next hearing.

NIPPON RACE CLUB.

Following is the result of the drawing of the Subscription China Ponies which arrived by the S.S. *Palma*:—

Colour.	Drawn By.
1.—Blue Dun	E. C. Davis.
2.—Skewbald	R. Schmidt-Scharff.
3.—Cream Dun	K. Mori.
4.—Chestnut	M. Pors.
5.—Bay	R. Loonen.
6.—Chesnut	E. Hiranuma.
7.—Light Dun	Capt. Jardine.
8.—Bay	G. von Hessenthal.
9.—Chestnut	A. J. McClure.
10.—Bay	G. Werckmeister.
11.—Chestnut	Capt. Vincent.
12.—Cream Dun	K. Ikeda.
13.—Chestnut	Capt. Jardine.

MR. DAVIDSON ON MANCHURIA.

Mr. J. W. Davidson, the well-known author who has for some half score years been United States Consul of the whole of Formosa, and who is now officially nominated to the newly established Consulate-General at Antung has been interviewed in England. We extract the following from an exchange:—

Mr. J. W. Davidson, United States Consul at Formosa. has just arrived in England, after a four months' tour in Manchuria and Korea. Every assistance was given to Mr. Davidson, who had a special saloon car, which was stopped wherever he pleased. The Consul did not confine himself to the railway route in Manchuria, but visited every city and village of importance in the whole country. From Formosa Mr. Davidson went first to Japan, thence to Korea and to Peking, and afterwards to Port Arthur.

There are, he said, in reply to questions put by a Reuter representative, many misconceptions about Manchuria. Within a very short time the country will be independent of all outside sources for both flour and beef. Another misstatement is that the Russians are erecting permanent buildings in places away from the railway. In all my travel I found but one building, viz., the Russo-Chinese Bank at Tsitsikar, which could at all be regarded as a permanent structure. It is stated that the Manchurian and Siberian lines have been so badly built that there are constant derailments, numerous accidents, and endless delays. This was the condition two years ago, but not to-day.

I must keep away from politics, but the general impression I gethered was that Russia would give Japan a free hand in Korea in return for similar privileges in Manchuria. There is an idea that the natural outlet for Japanese surplus population is Formosa, but this can never be. Formosa is a tropical country, and the large Chinese population is supported entirely by agriculture. Japanese are unable to work in the fields exposed to the tropical sun. On the other had, Korea is the natural outlet for Japan's surplus population for two reasons. The climate is more like that of Japan, and the dulness and comparative stupidity of the average Korean enable the Japanese to compete more favourably with him than with the keen and industrious Chinaman of Formosa. Regarding Russia's strength in Manchuria, every place of importance on and off the railroad is kept by troops, whose number, inclusive of the garrison of Vladivostok, is not less than 200,000. It is a fact that the Russians are occupying every city of even the most trifling importance in Manchuria, but except for a few immigrants who have commenced farming on a very small scale near Hailar, the old Mongolian capital in Northern Manchuria, there is no evidence of any attempt to bring immigrants into Manchuria for the purpose of the occupation of agricultural lands. There is a spirit of commercial unrest as to the future of the country. I found in the remoter cities that the Russian shopkeepers were very doubtful as to the duration of the occupation, so much so that they refused to invest heavily in commercial enterprises. The Russian position along the line of railway is, however, quite another matter, and splendid cities are springing up along the track. From a commercial standpoint Harbin is the foremost. But three years old, this place has a Russian population exceeding 40,000, and in its rapid growth and general social condition resembles very closely a "boom" mining town in America.

The new town of Port Arthur is being constructed on lines which will make it the most attractive residential city in China. The Government Board requires that every building erected shall have architectual beauty, and the Chinese are not permitted to live or build in the new town. The result is that the city, which already has a population of 20,000, is one of exceptional beauty. The Russian Viceroy told me that he had encouraged the construction of retail shops in Port Arthur so that the soldiers might be able to buy in a cheap market. It was, however, his intention that Dalny should be the great commercial and manufacturing city, and and all applicants who wished to erect factories in Port Arthur were always told that they must be built in Dalny. One point that will favour the eventual success and prosperity of Dalny is that the Custom House well be established there, or close by, and that while the Government can at any time close Port Arthur to all foreign shipping, the assurance has been given that Dalny will always remain open. One small steam tug could easily keep the harbour free of all ice.

Turning to the outlook for British and American trade in Manchuria, the Consul said:—The occupation of Manchuria by Russia will not so seriously affect British trade as American trade, for the reason that the products at present shipped into Manchuria from England are not largely produced in Russia, whereas, in the case of American goods, the four principal items are those of which Russia is a natural and large producer. These items are kerosene oil, cotton goods, flour, and lumber. The production of wheat in Manchuria is increasing to a phenomenal degree. Consequently flour mills are springing up everywhere, and the city of Harbin alone will from the beginning of 1904 produce 800,000 lbs. of flour daily. Regarding the lumber trade, it has been stated that the Yalu timber concession was arranged by Russia for political purposes only. While there may be some suggestion of truth in this it is an interesting fact that the Yalu Lumber Company is so large and successful a producer of lumber that the demand in Manchuria formerly filled from America is now being met entirely by this company. The commercial operations of this so-called political concern are very real, for, unaided, it has practically destroyed the American trade. At present a saw mill is in course of erection which will be the third largest in the world.

On the authority of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce, Tokyo papers print a table showing the fluctuation in the prices of various articles in January compared with previous months and the corresponding month last year:

	Jan.	Dec.	Jan. 1903.
Products of domestic consumption	111.68	108.29	103.35
Products exported	92.78	93.56	95.56
Imported goods	102.00	98.00	97.38
Average	105.88	102.98	100.07

The index figure (100) is that for October, 1900.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Marquis Yamagata left Tokyo on Jan. 31st for his villa at Oiso by the 1.50 p.m. train.

The late Mr. I. W. Cudworth, of Leeds, bequeathed £70,000 to the Pusey Library at Oxford.

A Japanese who attempted to sell a plan of the Kure Naval Station to a Russian was arrested on Jan 29th at Hiroshima.

The Osaka-Kobe Electric Railway Company has decided to issue debentures amounting to *yen* 475,000 in April this year.

The Kyushu Railway Company has decided to construct a branch line between Isahaya and Shimahara, twenty-three miles in length.

The Central Tea Guild is expected to abolish its branch in Paris this year, and to enlarge business in the United States, and at Port Arthur.

M. Kakehi, an assistant engineer of the Tochigi Kencho, was arrested on the evening of Jan. 30th on a charge of having forged official documents.

The offices of the *Toto Nippo* were searched on Feb. 2nd by the officials of the Tokyo District Court accompanied by police. The charge is not known.

It is reported by telegram from Gifu that the bankers in that city have decided to endorse the Government's proposal with regard to the raising of a loan.

A man armed with a revolver early on the morning of Jan. 31st entered a house at Shintani-cho, Asakusa, Tokyo. Having menaced the family, he robbed them of *yen* 16.90.

It is reported by telegram, dated Jan. 30th from the Japanese Consul at Lyons, that raw silk still remains inactive. Prices for the Japanese filature No. 1½, 9 to 11 deniers were 46.50 to 47 francs.

A *plébiscite* has been taken in Hongkong with regard to Mr. Chamberlain's fiscal policy, with the following result:—

For Mr. Chamberlain's policy	392
Against	20
Majority for	372

Mr. C. H. Lightfoot has been re-elected President of the K.R. and A.C. He will have as Committee:—Messrs. F. J. Bardens, E. T. Bethell, W. W. Campbell, R. H. Clark, A. H. Gillingham, E. J. Marshall, E. H. Moss, and P. L. Spence. The Club have wiped out its debit balance of last year and carries forward *yen* 132.25.

The net profit for last half year of the Hokkaido Colliery and Railway Company is reported to have been *yen* 864,682. Probably the interim dividend will be at the rate of 6 per cent. The general meeting will be held on Feb. 7th when an intention to remove the principal office from Sapporo to Iwamisawa will be submitted to the shareholders.

We are glad to hear that on the occasion of the production of "The New Boy" by the Yokohama A.D.C. on February 15th, the music will be supplied by an amateur string orchestra. This charge will be greatly appreciated by theatregoers we have no doubt. Possibly, too, public appreciation of this effort will lead to the formation of a still larger orchestra, for which there is plenty of room and opportunity.

Count Katsura, Premier, proceeded to the Palace on Feb. 1st at 11 a.m. and had audience of the Emperor. Marquis Ito left the capital on the same day for Oiso by the evening train. Baron Rosen, the Russian Minister, paid a visit on the afternoon of the same day to the Premier and the Minister of Finance, accompanied by the new Manager of the Yokohama branch of the Russo-Chinese Bank.

An official telegram states that sixteen cars of a goods train from Shizuoka were derailed about 11.30 a.m. on Feb. 2nd at a point between Ashigara and Oyama, with the result that a kerosene tank car caught fire and three cars were burned, thirteen being overturned. The railway sustained serious damage and traffic was interrupted till 6 a.m. the following day.

We are requested to state that the following members of the Committee of the Nippon Race Club have been chosen as the Executive Officers for the current year: V. Blad, Chairman; A. J. Easton, Clerk of the Course; and C. de C. Hughes. Hon. Treasurer. Geo. Hood has been appointed Secretary.

Mr. Uchida, Japanese Consul-General at New York telegraphed on Jan. 30th that raw silk which was in a dull state had revived slightly. Filature No. 1 was quoted at $3.77 to $3.82 Cotton is active as pressing demands have appeared, so that prices for future deliveries advanced. The stock was calculated at 1,150,084 bales.

The Tokyo candidates in the coming general election are reported by the *Kokumin* to be as follows: *Seiyu-kai*, Messrs. S. Ehara, S. Isobe, and S. Kuridzuka; Progressists, Messrs. K. Hatoyama, S. Tsunoda, N. Seki, S. Hoshimatsu, and K. Oishi; Liberals. Mr. S. Nishiyama; and non-party, Messrs. G. Fukuchi, U. Taguchi, T. Takanashi, S. Miwa, T. Akiyama, and K. Hayashi.

To make preparations for welcoming the foreign officers who are on the new warships *Nisshin* and *Kasuga*, over a hundred gentlemen, including Governor Sufu and Mayor Ichihara, held a conference on Jan. 29th in the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce, the Mayor presiding. Governor Sufu, Mayor Ichihara and Messrs. K. Otani, S. Hiranuma, J. Kimura, S. Kurusu, and F. Watanabe were elected an executive committee, and the promoters decided to spend *yen* 7,000 as expenses. The place and date for welcoming the guests will be fixed by the executive committee.

The Rev. Arthur H. Smith, D.D., the well-known missionary and writer, who is a keen observer of Chinese matters, says, in a recent issue of the *Congregationalist*, that it is difficult to discover that the Chinese have learnt anything during the last eight years; "nearly all her strong men have disappeared, and in the supreme crisis of her fate she is left without a corporal's guard of statesmen." One of the principal features in the situation is the utter insincerity of most of the Imperial edicts dealing with educational and social reforms. Innumerable intermediary officials stand in the way of all reform, and the result (as the Empress-Dowager well knew would be the case) is that nothing gets done.

New Guinea is going through troublous times just now. An Adelaide despatch of the 5th Jan. gives the following two items of news:—News has been received from New Guinea of the disastrous ending of the Anglo-Australian Exploring party. The leader of the expedition, Miller, is dead, and several others of the party are missing. A portion of the party has arrived at Mount Leonora.—New Guinea natives have attacked and massacred two Europeans, two Chinese, and 11 friendly natives at Petershavn Station, belonging to the New Guinea Company. On the same day an attack and attempted massacre was made at another station. A punitive expedition subsequently shot down 25 of the hostile natives.

AMERICAN TOPICS.

According to all accounts, the Argentine Republic is now harvesting a record-breaking wheat crop. It is estimated at 85,000,000 centals, 62,400,000 centals of which will be available for export. The largest wheat crop previously harvested was in 1900, when it reached 60,000,000 centals.

Chicago has planned 848.05 miles of elevated railway tracks and 537 miles of subways within its boundaries. During 1903, 500.68 miles of elevated track and 351 miles of subway were constructed, leaving 347.19 miles of elevated track and 186 miles of subway yet to be constructed before grade tracks are totally abolished.

Miss Ruth Cleveland, the eldest child of Mr. Grover Cleveland, died at the Cleveland home in Bayard Lane, Princeton, N.J., on January 7th. The cause of her death was heart failure brought on by a mild attack of diphtheria. She had been ill only four days. Ruth Cleveland was born at No. 961 Madison Avenue, New York, then Mr. Cleveland's home, on Oct. 3rd, 1891.

The Historical Society of Massachusetts has appealed to Congress to save the hulk of the old frigate *Constitution*—"Old Ironsides"—from destruction. She is now lying in the White Star line dock at Charlestown, Mass. The petitioners ask Congress to put her in repair and in commission as a training ship, so that she may be stationed at suitable times at various points along the Atlantic seaboard as a reminder of what the Navy formerly achieved through her for the country.

According to a recent report of the Surgeon-General of the United States, there were a greater number of cases of smallpox and a heavier mortality among the patients in Philadelphia during the week ending December 19th than in any other city in the world except Rio Janeiro, during a corresponding period either in November or December. Ninety cases and twenty-two deaths were reported in Philadelphia during the week named, and there were ninety-nine cases and fifty-nine deaths in Rio during the week during November 29th.

Wall-street practically has lost one of its most interesting characters. Mr. Russell Sage, although still insisting upon visiting his office once or twice a week, has departed from his lifelong habit of arriving there daily with clock-like regularity, regardless of weather conditions, and, in fact, is now seen in Wall-street at infrequent intervals. He has gradually withdrawn from participation in great financial affairs, only at the earnest solictation of his friends and Mrs. Sage, but the trusted employes who have served him many years still handle the loan business on the Stock Exchange. Mr. Sage, who is 87 years old, spends most of his time in his new Fifth-avenue home, and is said to be in his usual state of health.

During the year just closed 37,000 emigrants left Germany for the United States. Since 1900, when the number was 20,000, it has steadily risen. Only German subjects are included. Emigration agents expect that during 1904 the stream of emigrants from Germany will exceed that of all former years, it being estimated that more than 40,000 will emigrate. In Galicia or Moravia the number applying for passes to leave the country is extraordinary. Among the Slovacks of the Western Carpathians entire districts are being depopulated. The German Government is building still more extensive barracks for the thousands who pour through Berlin to Hamburg and Bremen, while the great steamship companies are doing the same thing at these ports. The North German Lloyd and Hamburg-American lines expect to ship nearly one quarter of a million emigrants during March, April and May.

Mr. Marshall Field has put the quietus upon the effort to create a boom in his behalf for the Democratic nomination for President. South Bend, Ind., furnished the starting point of the boom, which had its birth in an editorial in the *South Bend Times*, saying: "A movement is on foot among Western Democrats to start a Presidential boom for Marshall Field. The claim is made that Marshall Field could carry Chicago by a majority of 50,000, and that this would assure him the State of Illinois in the electoral college. There is every reason to believe that his nomination would prove satisfactory to the business interests of the East, and that he could count on carrying New York and Jersey. A Democrat by nature, choice and education, he would, as President of the United States, give the country an administration such as Samuel J. Tilden would have given it, had the will of the people prevailed in 1876." "It is useless to discuss the subject," said Field. "I could not consider such a thing."

CORRESPONDENCE.

LORD KELVIN'S BELIEF.

(To the Editor of the "Japan Mail.")

Sir,—Because the great majority of the readers of your journal are interested in the thoughts of thinkers, may I trouble you to insert the following short extract from the columns of an English paper? Lord Kelvin had received a letter asking his opinion on some questions as to the authority of the Bible. His reply is published in a recent issue of the *Guardian.* He says: "I have never read theological books myself, being wholly occupied with science, which I find full of the evidence of God. And I find no reading of theological books needed to keep me contented with the religion of my childhood. There is, I know, the 'Life of George J. Romanes,' who had great intellectual difficulties, but became a believer in Christ, during the last years of the his life."

To well-informed foreigners living in Japan there is nothing new in the fact that Romanes and other persistent seekers after truth became believers in Christ, even though through "great intellectual difficulties"; nor in the fact that Lord Kelvin and many other living scholars are satisfied with the faith of their childhood. But since some Japanese, influenced over-much by the reaction from superstition toward materialism in this land are in danger of being led to believe that men of intellect in the West have given up their early faith, it is well to keep the facts before them.

Yours, with sincere thanks,

ONE WHO WANTS TO KNOW.

January 27th, 1904.

MISCHIEVOUS SCHOOLBOYS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—A letter appeared in the columns of your Wednesday's issue complaining of the conduct of certain boys attending my school, whom the complainant somewhat offensively describes as my "gang." Your correspondent is presumably an unattached member of the police force who has made a special study of schoolboy criminology for some time past, or he may be some self-appointed mentor of youthful morality who has more than a nodding acquaintance with every "harmless dog" that has been stoned and all the "innocent birds" that have been slain in this neighbourhood during the last few years of grace. Be that as it may, he has in this instance at least allowed his zeal to over-step his discretion, for his letter contains so much exaggeration and misrepresentation, and the insinuation, left to be instilled into the public mind that an awful state of brutal villainy exists among the boys of this school, is so essentially false, that I must perforce put the sober light of day and common-sense on the products of his imagination—heated doubtless by the excitement attendant on the detection and pursuit in the hours of darkness of these brutal malefactors, whose names only his consideration for their mothers and sisters makes him forbear from revealing to an outraged public.

I will not, sir, attempt to justify such a villainous proceeding as the laying of a pole across a lane after nightfall. It is an improper and foolish thing for even high-spirited boys to do, and the offenders have suffered due punishment for their heedless and discreditable conduct. I will, however, show that your correspondent has the failing of the proverbial "bobby," for he does not scruple to stretch a point or two to make out the blackest case he can against the victims of his zeal.

In the first place, sir, the number of the malefactors is stated by your correspondent to be 12 or 15. It was, in fact, 7—and they did not all have the privilege of belonging to my "gang." But in the excitement of the chase such a slight miscalculation is intelligible. But what is not intelligible is that your correspondent should declare—and "X" no doubt is an honourable man—that the said pole was laid across the darkest part of the road, when it was under the full blaze of an electric light. There happens to be one at the corner. This is unfortunate for the veracity of your correspondent, but it really is the case. Under the circumstances the worst that could have happened would be that the bettoes of some approaching carriage would have had to descend and remove the offending log before being able to proceed. This would no doubt have led to some dreadful language on the part of the bettoes and some righteous indignation on the part of the occupants of the carriage, and would surely have afforded some wicked amusement to the lurking vagabonds, but I ask you, sir, is it in the least degree probable that there would have been broken legs of horses, mangled human beings and a sudden demand on the medical resources of the community? All these horrible "might have beens" would suggest themselves only to one who has allowed himself to the carried away by his official, or officious, zeal, or who has some other motive for his letter than his anxiety for the legs of local horses. Thirdly, sir, your correspondent, after prefacing his remarks with a distinct though uncivil reference to the school over which I have the honour to preside, proceeds to enumerate specific acts of misdemeanour connected with the use of the catapult and the tripping up of an elderly gentleman. It is unfortunate for the credit which he doubtless wishes to be attached to his letter that the incidents referred to occurred some two and some three years ago. It is palpably absurd, as it is grossly unjust, to catalogue all the offences which youthful exuberances have committed in this place during the past three years and, by insinuation, lay them at the door of a school which has existed but a single year. It is against this wholesale misrepresentation of facts on the part of your correspondent, this tarring of a particular school with his malicious and defaming brush, that I wish emphatically to protest.

I am, Sir, faithfully yours,

CHAS. E. BRUCE-MITFORD.

January 28th, 1904.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—"X.'s" letter (in your correspondence of the 27th inst.) has amused me because I am a father of one of the so-called "Mitford's Gang." It is headed "A Warning" but surely there is nothing of such a serious nature as to warrant this rushing into print about the pranks of a few boys.

Perhaps "X" when he was a boy never had a catapult and never did anything that he writes about; if so, I can quite understand his "lying low" to watch the boys. This "lying low" does not appeal to me, for his plain duty as a "Man" was to stop them from doing wrong.

I am writing simply as a lover of boys and a believer in their inherent good qualities. I know they are full of wickedness but they do not deliberately desire to bring grief to any one.

In my opinion "X" should have taken stronger private steps to mitigate what he considers an evil. Let me recommend him that on any future occasion when he sees boys pursuing a wrong course not to "lie low" but jump out like a man and stop them. It would do the boys more good and save himself a lot of time in composing letters to the Press.

Yours faithfully,

T.

(To the Editor of the "Japan Mail.")

Sir,—May I express my appreciation of Mr. Mitford's letter, which, however, would have been more acceptable and convincing had he taken his own advice, and adhered more closely to the path of veracity. There is no need to quibble over trifles,—but I cannot modify any of my previous statements, with the exception of the number of lads. They certainly did not manifest any anxiety to be correctly counted, and it is more than likely that I over-estimated.

From Mr. Mitford's solemn declaration that the pole in question lay in the full blaze of the electric-light at the corner, I am led to infer that he was present on the occasion,—of which point I was not previously aware. Had he then exercised his pedagogic precision he would have been forced to admit that it was sufficiently far down the lane to be in the shadow of the corner house. However, I have no desire to turn him or his statements to ridicule, as I by no means harbour the malice towards his scholastic institution that his letter implies. On the contrary, I have a full appreciation of the excellent educational work he is doing, while his apparent disciplinary power (both in and out of school) is decidedly commendatory.

The paternal "T" also reads what is not written, if he construes my letter into praise for the milk-sop youths who lack both energy and "spunk." But

Evil is wrought by want of thought
As well as want of heart,

and the high-spirited lads of whose inconsiderate pranks I complained, will not make any the worse men if they are restrained from indulging in such "larks" as those referred to by

Yours faithfully,

"X."

Yokohama, January 30th, 1904.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In your issue of the 1st inst., "X" disclaims any desire to quibble over "trifles," but false insinuation and misrepresentation of facts, where the reputation of a more or less public institution like a school is concerned, do not fall into this category. They are the stuff of which libel is made.

The relative position of the electric light and the corner of the lane, I beg to point out to "X," can be ascertained by anyone with ordinary powers of observation in the space of a few minutes, and is such that a pole placed anywhere near the entrance to the lane (and I happen to know where it was placed) could not fail to be under the light from the corner lamp and in no shadow whatever. If "X" cannot see this, I recommend him to go to school again. I have a vacancy in my "gang," and we shall be pleased to do our best to get some more "precision," pedagogic or otherwise, into his cranium. He would, moreover, thus be in a position to give full scope to the new and approved policy of "lying low" and watching school boys from behind hedges, and so contribute materially towards safety of life and limb in the persons of those who traverse the Bluff road after dark.

"X" denies his motive to be one of malice towards this institution. Why then his offensive references to it? The boys of my school no more rejoice in the name of a "gang" than he does in that of a canting humbug. Such an epithet, indeed, suggests itself for one who, under the cloak of zeal for the public welfare, deliberately tacks on to a recently opened school all the youthful misdeeds of the past three years. I speak with authority when I say that the parents of the pupils, as well as the gentlemen referentially connected with the school, take the strongest exception to his insulting language.

"X's" rushing into print, however, may have been the outcome of indignation at an unfortunate catastrophe which, it is said, befel him in the fulfilment of his arduous and self-appointed task. Rumour has it that, in the hot pursuit of the malefactors—"tell it not in Gath"—his nether garments came to grief over that invention of the evil one, barbed wire. In the name of my "gang," I extend to him our heartfelt sympathy.

It is now fairly obvious that the real explanation of the whole matter is that "X" has for some years past been collecting in his slop-pail of youthful criminality all the misdeeds of young Yokohama. He looked round for some one at whom to throw the contents, and took it that a newly started school with an untarnished reputation would do very well for a target. "Slight" discrepancies of time and circumstance did not trouble him. These were mere "trifles" as long as the contents were got rid of. Meanwhile, there is some consolation in the probability that we shall be spared for a season, while his slop-pail is refilling.

I am, Sir, faithfully yours,

CHAS. E. BRUCE-MITFORD.

(To the Editor of the "Japan Mail.")

Sir,—The repulsive vituperation by which Mr. Mitford attempts to support his *quasi* dignity, prompts me to trouble you once more,—not with a view of defending my position in any way, or of prolonging the arguments (which are certainly getting too high-toned and personal to interest your readers further), but to bring this correspondence to a conclusion.

So far I have purposely refrained from "showing him up" as fully as his extraordinary attitude deserved, for it is decidedly a mischievous act to bring a schoolmaster into ridicule. He has discipline to maintain in his establishment, and to ridicule him and his statements *coram populo* would at once impair the respect and obedience due to him from his pupils. Even now, although he no longer deserves such consideration, I refrain from further exposures.

I recognise that my object has been fully achieved. I desired to call attention to the menace to public life and safety arising from the cowardly, if not criminal, pranks of a certain *coterie* of boyhood rejoicing in the name of "Mitford's gang." I am not to be blamed if they have already earned that sobriquet, neither am I responsible to the Principal of the school to which they belong for any opinion I may form of their behaviour. Moreover the Master of a day school is not to be held accountable for the pranks of his pupils out of school hours. The Principal in question, however, assumes an absolutely uncalled-for *role* as defender of the lads in question, and after unreasonably accusing me of defaming his scholastic institution, gives expression to his feelings in a series of disgustingly vulgar misrepresentations,—which are too pregnantly eloquent of the nature of the tuition disseminated at his academy to call for any effort on my part, even were I actuated by the malice so falsely attributed to me.

His kindly (?) suggestion that I might attain to a higher level of rectitude by applying for the vacancy in his "gang" merits the retort, that the lowest forms of ignorance would be preferable to the style of education exemplified by his recent exhibitions of scholastic courtesy.

The last-but-one paragraph in to-day's effusion of our local exponent of pedagogic dignity is too disgusting to merit more than a denunciatory reference. If the "young gentlemen" attending his institution are trained to follow such argumentative tactics, they will soon merit a second epithet in addition to that which they long since have borne.

Mr. Mitford's sensible advice to his "gang" to "get even with" me, meets with my hearty appreciation. They have already shown their "manly" qualities in this direction,—but I by no means quail. I am ready for the entire "gang" at any time,—even though their ranks be marshalled by the "mighty Mitford leading on."

Doubtless Mr. Mitford has long since exercised his pedagogic perspicacity sufficiently to discover my identity, as I am well-known to the young miscreants whom I chased on the night referred to,—but to obviate any indecision he may have on the point, I have much pleasure in appending my name to this letter,—so that the matter can be thrashed out more effectually and satisfactorily than through the columns of the Press. For, far from having exhausted my ammunition, I have so extensive a supply of facts that I could maintain a fusilade for an indefinite period, my "magazine" being well replenished by numerous letters from parents, etc., who favour me with their views on the matter. In this connection the paternal "T" may rejoice to know that his young "hopeful" is steadily developing in those "manly" forms of recreation which his fond father desires to encourage, for, one of his latest devices is to deliberately spray peas into the faces of passing ladies, in which form of gentlemanly "sport" he is apparently defended by the Principal of the scholastic institution he attends. He will receive very different treatment at my hands the next time I catch him.

Therefore,—with a poorly suppressed smile at the attitude of the heroic pedagogue screening himself behind the formidable array of scandalised dignitaries "referentially connected with the school,"—and with the expression of the wish that their names might have been appended to this last effusion of their *protege* (in order to show their full endorsement thereof) I again thank you for allowing the ventilation of the matter and beg to subscribe myself.

Yours gratefully, CLARENCE GRIFFIN,
(alias "X.")

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I observe with satisfaction that my last letter has had the effect of "drawing" your worthy correspondent "X." I congratulate him on having at length summoned up the moral courage to append his name to his contemptible attacks on this school. This serves my purpose better than any words of mine, for the public will now know exactly how much value to attach to his effusions. They will be able to put their finger on the weak point of an eccentric but well-meaning nature and to recognize in his hysterical declamations the much-to-be-pitied outpourings of a monomaniac. The only matter for regret is that such people should be allowed to roam about at large, flinging their irresponsible vilifications at all and sundry. They ought to be put under some form of restraint.

My sole object in writing in the beginning was to show up the misrepresentations and falsehoods X's original letter contained. But it is really unnecessary that I should say more, the revelation of X's identity does the rest for me. His affected "zeal" for the public safety so little harmonized with his methods of slandering a school, whose successful rise he has been viewing with a greenly jealous eye, that I was not far out in suggesting that he might be aptly described as a canting humbug; now that he has come out from beneath the veil of anonymity under which he was hiding, I will take a more charitable view and include him in that class of people whose mental balance is upset in one particular direction.

He gives harmless exercise to this little weakness in the keeping of a "gang" of his own—of a sabbatarian character—the ludicrous parodying of Sunday School hymns coming readily to his piously indignant lips. We can leave him to this innocent pursuit—always hoping that he will teach his pupils, on Sundays at least, not to bear false witness against their neighbours—and he on his part might leave the conduct of educational institutions to those who know something about the business, and the well-being of school-boys, in their leisure hours, to the really responsible people, their parents.

Further ink I will not waste over him and his streak of insanity.

I am Sir, faithfully yours,
CHAS. E. BRUCE MITFORD.

Yokohama, February, 4th 1904.

"AN APPEAL."

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Referring to the above subject I have to apologise to you for omitting to state that the article in question was taken from the *Mail*, in which it appeared as "Communicated." Whether the words "Reprinted from the *Japan Mail*" were added to the original copy or not, I do not now remember. At all events they were intended to be inserted, so that the omission was an oversight due to the fact that I am always overburdened with work.

I am happy to say at the same time that in at least one instance the pamphlet has been successful. Yesterday, the 3rd inst., a Christian gentleman (foreigner), came to me and asked whether I had any copies left. I said I had not, I had printed 190 copies which I had sent to Mrs. MacArthur with my compliments. He then said he wanted a copy to give to a Japanese Christian worker who would probably contribute. In reply to my question how much he himself had given, he said he could not afford to give anything, he, etc., etc. Well, we have all heard the story at some time or the other, and yet he is a man of property that would be unlimited wealth to my modest desires. Thus you see we all have our own ways to work in the vineyard, and, with the object in view, I trust you will pardon me for taking a seedling from yours without the intended and due acknowledgment.

I am Sir, yours truly, F. SCHROEDER.
Ed. *Eastern World.*

Yokohama, February 4th, 1904.

"ROOSEVELTIAN PRONUNCIATION."

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Your recent statement in your American Notes that "Rooseveltian pronunciation is rapidly becoming a fad in Washington" brings up the question of the pronunciation of the name of "the strenuous-President." But few persons, even Americans, get it right.

Several years ago, just after Mr Roosevelt's election as Governor, Dr. J. M. Buckley, Editor of the *Christian Advocate*, in view of the different pronunciations of the name of the new Governor, wrote to him asking how he pronounced it. The reply was published and it was to the effect that he pronounced it in *three syllables*,—giving the first syllable the sound of the *flower*, rose.

AN AMERICAN READER.

Yokohama, February 4th 1904.

THE LATE ADMIRAL KEPPEL.

Those who read only the other day of the death of Admiral Sir Henry Keppel will be interested by the following:—"The *Court Circular* of 14th Dec. almost as it were affectionately records that "The Venerable Admiral of the Fleet the Hon. Sir Henry Keppel had the honour of being received by His Majesty to-day, and remained to luncheon." "Venerable," with a capital V, is a title which has hitherto been reserved for archdeacons, and in bestowing it upon the oldest officer who serves His Majesty, the *Court Circular* which, as everyone knows, is issued under the supervision of the highest authority, has transferred to the Navy a dignity hitherto only known in the Church."

The following is taken from the *Singapore Free Press*:—A certain energetic and greatly respected old Singaporean who recently returned from England tells a good story, even though it be a little bit against himself. He had managed to bring about a meeting between those two old Singapore friends, Admiral Sir Harry Keppel and Mr. W. H. Read, C.M.G. Now, as a result of the natural efflux of time and the growing infirmity of over ninety-four years, the old Admiral is not so quick at comprehending conversation as he used to be, while for a similar reason, Mr. W. H. Read's hearing is nothing like so good as it was. Our friend sat on a sofa between the old veterans and did all his best to act as intermediary and interpreter, and to keep the conversational ball rolling. This process, however, did not always meet with the success it deserved, and there ensued a good deal of "cross questions and crooked answers." Sir Henry Keppel puzzled his old head over it a bit, and then broke out into laughter, saying "I tell you what it is, B., it is time for all three of us to be put into a lunatic asylum!" The story is too good to lose.

A telegram from Hiroshima—published in the *Jiji* and *Asahi*—states that N. Yamamoto (37) living at Sendagaya, Tokyo, was arrested on Feb. 2nd at the Kure Naval Station on suspicion of being a spy in the service of the Russian Government. He was seized while attempting to photograph views of the bay where warships were laying. On trial, he stated that he had been asked by Lieut.-Commander Marsh, the naval attaché of the U. S. Legation at Tokyo, to take the photographs.

THE STRANDING OF THE "AUSTRALIEN."

The text of the judgment of the Marine Court of Enquiry, Osaka, concerning the stranding of the M.M. steamer *Australien* has now been made public. We append a translation taken from the *Kobe Herald*:—

Accused.—Henry David James, British subject, No. 26, Yamoto-dori, Nichome, Kobe. The Osaka Marine Court of Enquiry has investigated the accusation against the above mentioned person with regard to the grounding of the steamer *Australien*.

The accused (H. D. James) is in possession of a pilot license for Tokio Bay, Nagasaki, and the Inland Sea, and he boarded the M. M. Company's steamer *Australien* (2,900 tons), which is registered at Marseilles, France, and left Kobe for the south on the 26th September, 1903. The ship was piloted through the Inland Sea with the intention of proceeding to the Mutsure Islands, Nagato province. On the 28th of the same month, at 3.47 a.m., the ship was headed for Sazai Cape, Mumajima, in order to pass through the middle channel of Kurushima Strait, Iyo province, by sailing parallel to the south-eastern end of Oshima, at a distance of about three-quarters of a knot. The night was clear and the wind was from the South at the time. The tide had just begun to ebb, and the ship was steaming at the rate of 15.5 knots per hour. At 3.55 a.m., the ship was within three-quarters of a knot from Sazai Cape, and the helm was ported in order to enter the channel. The helm was turned at 4.05; but the ship did not obey the gear, and, it having been noticed that the vessel was turning in the other direction, an order was given for the helm to be fully ported. As the danger was imminent, the engine was stopped and immediately put right astern; but to no effect. The momentum of the ship and the tide carried the vessel ashore to the west of Sazai Cape at 3.57, and the keel was considerably damaged. The ship sprang a leek, but was refloated at 11.12 a.m. on the 8th October, 1903, and taken to Nagasaki for docking. The foregoing facts are proved by the copy of the report submitted by the Yehime Kencho, the report of the Commander of the *Australien*, the enquiry made by the Kobe Marine Affairs Office, a plan of the damaged hull submitted by the Mitsu Bishi Dockyard Co. Nagasaki, and the statements made by the accused in this Court.

The Court finds that the accused was in fault in the time and manner of his attempt to pass a narrow channel and that he should incur a penalty for neglect of his duty. The Court holds that the accused is accountable under Art. 19—1st clause—of the Law regarding pilots, and that he is punishable under Art. 2, 2nd clause, of the Law regarding the Punishment of Seamen, as provided in Art. 21, of the former law. The Court has thereupon found the accused to be in fault and sentenced him to have his certificate suspended for two months. Costs of the Court, amounting to *yen* 7.50, are given against the accused.

The foregoing sentence was delivered at the Osaka Marine Court of Enquiry on the 25th January, 1904.

Riji-kan Nonomura Wakakato conducted the enquiry.

S. Oshima, Chief Judge.
K. Fujioka. } Judges.
R. Hidaka. }

THE NAGASAKI HOTEL COMPANY.

The fifteenth half-yearly general meeting of the Nagasaki Hotel Company was held on Friday at 4 p.m. at the Nagasaki Hotel. Mr. E. Ringer, Chairman of the Company, presided and there were also present Dr. R. I. Bowie and Messrs. T. A. Glover, Dow, Smart, Carnduff, Mansbridge, Inman, Buckland, and Measor.

The notice calling the meeting and the minutes of the last general meeting having been read and passed, the chairman, after asking the shareholders present to take the Report and Accounts as read, stated that as he had been away for a considerable portion of the past six months he would, with their consent, ask Dr. Bowie to explain matters to the meeting.

Dr. Bowie then spoke as follows:—In accordance with Mr. Ringer's wishes I will endeavour in a few words to explain to you the present position of the Company. We are all aware that the condition of affairs in the hotel, as well in all business, has been very bad during the last six months, not only has there been a decrease in the receipts but there has been an increase in the expenditure as compared with the half year ending 30th June. We had hoped that the late manager, Mr. Bay, would bring the expenses well within the receipts but unfortunately that did not prove to be the case and the result is that there is a difference of *yen* 8,000 in the working accounts of the present and last balance sheets. Your Directors have frequently discussed the present state of affairs and the best plan to be adopted to remedy them. As you are aware we were unable to pay the interest on Debentures due on 1st January and under clause 10 we are allowed six months in which to do this. We have taken legal advice on the subject and the lawyer is of opinion that we should carry on business for this period and if there is no improvement then the Debenture Holders will have to be consulted. We have made a change in the management of the hotel and have appointed Mr. Smith, from the United States, who has had considerable experience in taking charge of hotels in a similar position to ours and has been successful in putting them on a paying basis. He has already made considerable reductions in expenditure and we hope, though a similar remark has been made before, that in this case we shall be successful. Should any gentleman wish to ask any questions I shall be pleased to answer them.

A general discussion then took place regarding the financial position of the hotel. Dr. Bowie then moved that the accounts be passed, this was seconded by Mr. T. A. Glover and carried unanimously. The chairman stated that the next business was the election of a Director as, according to the Articles of Association, he was due to retire. Mr. Dow proposed that Mr. Ringer be re-elected; this was seconded by Mr. Buckland and agreed to.

Dr. Bowie moved that Mr. W. M. Wood be appointed Auditor for the ensuing year; this was seconded by Mr. Buckland and carried.

A vote of thanks to the Directors, proposed by Mr. Mansbridge and seconded by Mr. Dow, was passed unanimously and the proceedings terminated at 5 p.m.—*Nagasaki Press.*

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Special Service.)

BRITAIN AND THE SITUATION.

London, January 29.

Mr. Akers-Douglas, Home Secretary, speaking at Swansea, said the Government would continue to do all it legitimately could towards promoting a pacific settlement, but if its hopes were disappointed it would fulfil to the letter its treaty obligations to its allies.

RUSSIAN COUNCIL MEETS.

Later.

The Grand Duke Alexandrovitch presided yesterday at a special Council at St. Petersburg, which was attended by Count Lamsdorff, the Minister for War, the Minister for Marine and others. It is officially announced that the object of the Council was to find means of peacefully settling the dispute with Japan. It is expected that the Grand Duke will frame a report to be submitted to the Tzar and that the reply to Japan will be despatched on Saturday.

ALLEGED INCREASING GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION.

London, January 30.

The *Daily Graphic* says that despite the previous evening's telegrams from St. Petersburg, it is able positively to affirm that Russia's reply was completed on Wednesday and approved by the Czar. It has not yet been despatched, but its substance was communicated to Mr. Kurino, the Japanese Minister, who telegraphed it to his Government, by whom it was conveyed to the friendly Powers yesterday.

The reply is courteously worded but absolutely refuses to reinsert the word "China," previously struck out in the clause of the draft treaty whereby Russia and Japan agree to respect the integrity of China and Korea.

It is anticipated that the official presentation of the reply will be followed by the withdrawal of M. Kurino and a notification by Japan that she has no alternative but to take up arms in defence of her interests.

Later.

It is announced in St. Petersburg that the reply will not be transmitted until next week, owing to the great care necessary for completion (? compilation).

That both Russia and Japan within a fortnight officially communicated to the Powers a statement of their positions regarding some points at issue, is known.

THE "GRAPHIC'S" STATEMENTS.

London, January 31.

The *Daily Graphic* adheres to its statements despite numerous assertions emanating from St. Petersburg to the effect that an early settlement is expected.

[We believe the *Graphic's* statements to be quite baseless—Ed. *J.M.*]

ANOTHER BYE ELECTION.

A Liberal has been elected for Aylesbury.

ACTIVITY AT SIMONSTOWN.

There is unusual activity at Simonstown. A British warship is taking in large quantities of coal and ammunition.

THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY.

It is stated in St. Petersburg that traffic in merchandise over the Trans-Siberian Railway will be provisionally suspended on Feb. 2nd in order to leave the line free for the conveyance of troops and stores.

NEW JAPANESE WARSHIPS.

London, February 1.

Vickers, Sons, and Maxim, and Messrs. Armstrongs and Company received orders on Saturday to proceed with the construction and complete equipment of two new Japanese warships with the greatest possible speed. Each ship is to be of 16,400 tons and have a speed of 19 knots, while they will be more heavily armed than the best British warships.

BRITISH ARMY REFORM.

On the recommendation of the British War Office Committee, the Government, with the King's approval, has decided to appoint an Army Council framed on the model of the British Board of Admiralty. The office of Commander-in-Chief ceases to exist. The new post of Inspector General is to be created, whereof the principal duty will be to inspect and report upon the efficiency of the military forces. This officer will be under the control of the Home Government.

MACEDONIA.

London, February 2.

The Macedonian situation appears to be entering upon an acuter phase. It is reported that the relations between Hilmi Pasha and the European assessors are the reverse of cordial.

KUROPATKIN.

It is reported that in the event of a Russo-Japanese war the command of the Russian land forces will be entrusted to General Kuropatkin.

BRITAIN AND ITALY.

The Anglo-Italian arbitration convention has been signed.

JAPAN DETERMINED.

A Japanese official in London, who is acquainted with all details of the negotiations between Russia and Japan, has stated in an interview with Reuter that Japan is determined to insist upon binding written guarantees with reference to Chinese sovereignty in Manchuria. She might, he said, agree to modifications on other points, but without this, no matter what other concessessions may be made, Japan will break the negotiations and peace will become impossible.

THE KING'S SPEECH.

His Majesty's Deep Concern for Peace.

London, Feb. 2nd, 2.50 p.m.

The King's Speech, delivered at the opening of the British Parliament to-day, said that His Majesty watched with deep concern the course of the Russo-Japanese negotiations. "The disturbance of peace," the King continued, "could not but have deplorable consequences. Any assistance my Government can give to promote a pacific solution will be gladly afforded."

RUSSIAN MILITARY MEASURES.

London, February 3.

A Russian army order of January 21st increases the strength of the infantry reserves. It is stated in St. Petersburg that 5,000 troops are expected shorly at Vladivostock to strengthen the garrison there. All reserves in the Far East will probably be mobilised soon.

OPENING PARLIAMENT.

The King, accompanied by the Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales and the Duke of Connaught has opened Parliament in full state. Mr. Balfour was absent owing to influenza.

THE TZAR'S ANSWER.

It is stated in St. Petersburg that Russia's reply to Japan will not be sent for several days and that there are still points which remain to be settled.

BRITAIN AND JAPAN.

London, February 4.

The House of Lords has voted the Address in reply to the speech from the Throne. Lord Lansdowne, being asked whether Britain offered some offices in relation to the situation in the Far East said it was undesirable to offer offices unless it was known that they were desired. It was an open secret that one of the disputant does not want mediation.

THE THIBET AFFAIR.

In reply to Lord Spencer Lord Lansdowne promised to lay on the table papers relating to Thibet and said the noble lord would then learn the true origin of the mission, which was political not military.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S ASPIRATIONS.

Lord Lansdowne did not conceal his sympathy with Mr. Chamberlain's aspirations to draw the parts of the Empire closer, but said the Government recognised the difficulties and only showed common prudence in declining to be rushed.

GRAVE NEWS.

It is announced in St. Petersburg that Russia's reply will be delivered on the 6th.. News from St. Petersburg says that the General Staff has authorised Viceroy Alexieff to declare war and to open hostilities, if circumstances indicate the necessity. An Imperial manifesto declaring war is expected to follow sharply, if Japan rejects the arrangement proposed in Russia's reply.

(Received at the Legation of France.)

FRENCH CRUISER FOR THE FAR EAST.

Saigon, January 31.

The armoured cruiser *Sully* is starting from Toulon to join the Far Eastern Squadron.

TRAFFIC ON THE SIBERIAN RAILWAY.

Saigon, February 1.

It is denied at St. Petersburg that mobilization measures have been ordered. Nevertheless commercial traffic on the Trans-Siberian Railway will cease from to-morrow.

[With regard to this it is to be observed that no intimation of any such stoppage has been received by the Japanese postal authorities.—Ed. *J.M.*]

RUSSIA'S REPLY.

Saigon, February 2.

The reply of Russia will be transmitted to Japan towards the middle of this week.

RUSSIA'S REPLY.

Saigon, February 3rd.

It is stated that Russia's reply to Japan contains concessions of a nature to satisfy Japan. It has been communicated to several Chancelleries and creates the impression that war will be avoided. The reply will be handed to the Government of Japan on Saturday next.

THE ANGLO-ITALIAN CONVENTION.

The arbitration treaty between Great Britain and Italy has been signed.

MAGAZINE EXPLOSION.

A dynamite magazine has exploded at Lahore in India, killing forty people.

KING EDWARD'S SPEECH.

Saigon, February 4.

The speech from the Throne at the opening of the British Parliament declares that the Government will do everything in its power to aid a pacific solution of the crisis in the Far-East.

(From the "Deutsche Japan-Post.")

ALLEGED PACIFIC INTENTIONS.

Berlin, January 29.

A meeting of ministers is to be held to-day in St. Petersburg under the presidency of the Tsar, when the Russian answer to Japan will be formulated. All previous reports concerning the same are therefore apocryphal. The views of the Tsar and of Count Lambsdorff are of a most peaceful kind. Russia prefers an understanding with Japan to any other policy in Eastern Asia.

THE KAISER'S BIRTHDAY BANQUET.

At the usual banquet held by members of the German Reichstag on the occasion of the Kaiser's birthday, the president, Count Ballestrem, gave a speech giving some very interesting data concerning the last illness of the Kaiser. When receiving the President and the two Vice-Presidents of the German Reichstag, the Kaiser mentioned that he himself for two months was unaware of the nature of his disease, and he put off the operation until he had seen the Tsar, as, supposing his case might turn out fatally, he would have had the consolation of leaving to his son most amicable relations with his neighbours. Later on it was ascertained that his illness was of a harmless nature.

DR. STUEBEL.

Berlin, January 30.

The resignation of the German colonial director, Dr. Stuebel, is neither desired by himself nor by his chiefs The rumours are only printed at the instigation of the colonial press.

MACEDONIA.

The assistant for the Macedonia gendarmerie has been nominated, according to the wishes of the reform Powers, by Germany. He is Major von Alten, Prussian artillery.

GERMAN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

Berlin, January 2.

The German gunboat *Habicht* has sent the following report from Swakopmund, German South-west Africa:—At Okobond, fell fighting the Railway Secretary Rock and the farmers Kur and Spockkamp. Omaruru was attacked on the 27th of January by a strong force of negroes, but they were repulsed. From Otjimbingue no news, probably the place is besieged The rebuilding of the railway at Karibib has begun and is progressing, as the rain is diminishing.

GERMANY'S NEUTRALITY.

The news printed in the London *Daily Mail* that according to American papers Germany is delivering war materials to the Russians at Port Arthur, has been officially declared untrue. The neutrality of Germany is as much in favour of Japan as of Russia. The visit of the German cruiser *Hansa* to Port Arthur has no political signification.

RUSSIA AND THE SHIP BUILDERS.

The Russian Government has rejected several offers from shipbuilders of various countries. The report that Russia has made an offer to buy some Portuguese warships is wrong.

KING LEOPOLD'S VISIT.

King Leopold of Belgium left Berlin well satisfied with his reception. Political arrangements were not made between the two monarchs.

THE BONDELZWARTS SURRENDER.

Berlin, February 3.

From Swakossmund, German Southwest Africa, it is reported:—The negroes called Bondelzwarts have surrendered themselves to the German colonial troops.

GERMANY AND NEUTRALITY.

Berlin, February 3.

The German authorities have most emphatically protested against the nonsencical Anglo-American reports that Germany is sending war materials or even soldiers to Port Arthur to help Russia. The German cruiser *Hansa* was at Port Arthur from the 20th to the 23rd of January on its usual service trip, without any order for Russia.

GERMANY AND THE FAR EAST.

Berlin, February 4.

Germany did not receive the information reported by the "Agence Havas" as having been sent to France, England and America concerning Russian concessions. Germany has therefore nothing to do with any influence exercised by other Powers over Japan.

THE BONDELZWARTS SURRENDER.

Colonel Leutwein, the Governor of the German South-west African colony, reports that the Bondelzwarts on the Southern boundary have surrendered, handed over their rifles, delivered up the guilty parties, and transferred the crownland to Germany. Colonel Leutwein is marching via Nolloth to Swakopmund, where he is expected to arrive on the 5th of February. He will then restore the northern parts of the colony. In Germany it is not intended to send out more reinforcements to Africa. The enemy has retired from Otjimbingue.

THE CONGO.

The Kiwu Lake boundary question (between The Congo State and German East Africa) was not settled at King Leopold's visit to Berlin, the scientific researches concerning the exact boundary being incomplete.

PRINCE BORIS.

The Bulgarian Crown Prince Boris reached, on the 31st of January (18th of January as per old calendar) his tenth year. He was heartily complimented and decorated on that day by the Tsar and the German Kaiser.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Athenian	F. Feb. 5
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Su. Feb. 7
Canada	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan [1]	M. Feb. 8
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Hyades [2]	M. Feb. 8
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Seydlitz	Sa. Feb. 13
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	Th. Feb. 18
Europe	M. M. Co.	Australien	Th. Feb. 18
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Tremont [3]	F. Feb. 19
America	P. M. Co.	Korea [4]	Sa. Feb. 20
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Siberia	M. Feb. 22
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Su. Feb. 28

[1] Left Vancouver on the 25th ult.

[2] Left Moji on the 31st ult.

[3] Left Seattle on the 1st inst.

[4] Left San Francisco on the 2nd inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Gera	Sa. Feb. 6
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Athenian	Sa. Feb. 6
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. Feb. 8
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Tu. Feb. 9
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Hyades	Tu. Feb. 9
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Iyo Maru	W. Feb 10
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Hakuai Maru	Th. Feb. 11
Europe	M. M. Co.	Yarra	F. Feb 12
Canada	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	F. Feb 19
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Tremont	Sa. Feb. 20
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Korea	Su. Feb 21
America	P. M. Co.	Siberia	W. Feb. 24
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	M. Feb. 29

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Lugano, German steamer, 2,963, J. Brockholt, 29th Jan.,—New York via ports, and Shanghai, 23rd Jan., General.—C. Illies & Co.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,526, G. Lapraik, 29th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,429, S. Kawamuro, 29th Jan.,—Shanghai via ports, 23rd Jan., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Lyra, American steamer, 3,516, G. V. Williams, 30th Jan.,—Manila and Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 29th Jan., Mails & General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Fusan Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,557, R. Yano, 31st Jan., Takao via ports, General.—O.S.K.

Chiyoda Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,039, H. Tanaka, 31st Jan.,—Yokkaichi, 30th Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, Y. Nomura, 31st Jan.,—Kobe, 29th Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,716, F. W. Horton, 31st Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Keemun, British steamer, 4,879, D. Davis, 1st Feb.,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 31st Jan., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Palma, British steamer, 4,913, G. W. Cockman, 2nd Feb.,—London via ports, and Kobe, 1st Feb, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Gera, German steamer, 3,166, R. Dahl, 2nd Feb.,—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, and Kobe, 1st Feb., Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Idsumi Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,307, ——, 2nd Feb.,—Bombay via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bombay Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,830, T. Murai, 2nd Feb.,—Bombay via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,065, T. Tibballs, 2nd Feb.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,369, S. Yamamoto, 2nd Feb.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, F. H. Armstrong, 2nd Feb.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 15th Jan., Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Daylight, British Bark, 3599, H. A. Nickerson, 2nd Feb.,—New York, 31st Jan., Kerosene Oil—Standard Oil Co.

C. Ferd. Laeisz, German steamer, 3,799, Sachs, 3rd Feb.,—Hamburg via ports, and Hongkong, 27th Jan., General.—C. Illies & Co.

Ovid, British steamer, 2,686, Cubitt, 3rd Feb.,—Batoum via Kobe, 1st Feb., Kerosene Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Tacoma, American steamer, 1,689, M. Ridley, 3rd Feb.,—Tacoma, Wash., via Victoria B.C., 13th Jan., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Yeijo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,538, K. Noda, 4th Feb.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kumano Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,881, C. H. Butler, 4th Feb.,—Melbourne and Sydney via ports, and Kobe, 2nd Feb., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Totomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,396, H. Sakimoto, 4th Feb.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Ernest Simons, French steamer, 2,162, Charbonnel, 29th Jan.,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Chiyoda Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,049, H. Tanaka, 29th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Pleiades, American steamer, 2,932, F. G. Purrington, 29th Jan.,—Port Arthur via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Yeijio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,538, K. Noda, 29th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Algoa, British steamer, 4,897, Albert Lockett, 29th Jan.,—San Francisco, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

China, American steamer, 3,186, D. E. Friele, 30th Jan.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Charles Tiberghien, French steamer, 2,750, Le Roy, 30th Jan.,—Kobe and Moji, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Gisela, Austrian steamer, 2,640, G. Damianovich, 30th Jan.,—Trieste via ports, General.—Pollak Bros.

Behring, Russian barkentine, 377, Spade, 30th Jan.,—San Francisco, Ballast.—Smith Baker & Co.

Shinano Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,835, W. Thompson, 31st Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,526, G. Lapraik

31st Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,169, Y. Tamuke, 31st Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Lyra, American steamer, 3,516, G. V. Williams, 1st Feb.,—Tacoma, Wash., via Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Chiyoda Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,039, H. Tanaka, 1st Feb.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,716, F. W. Horton, 1st Feb.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Lugano, German steamer, 2,963, J. Brockholt, 2nd Feb.,—Kobe and Moji, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,369, S. Yamamoto, 3rd Feb.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, F. H. Armstrong, 4th Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,429, T. L. Harrison, 4th Feb.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,065, T. Tibballs, 4th Feb.,—Kobe via Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tacoma, American steamer, 1,689, W. Ridley, 4th Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, H. Abe, 4th Feb.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mrs. Summers, in cabin; Mrs. M. Ozawa, Mr. Benton, and Mr. Daley, in second class; 39 Chinese, and 19 Japanese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Coptic*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. H. H. D. Ashton, Mr. F. H. Bugbird, Maj. I. Furumi, Dr. K. Hagihara, Mr. Mr. T. Hamaguchi, Mr. H. J. Middleton, Col. I Oka, Mr. F. H. Jermyn and Mr. Claude Smith in cabin. For Kobe:—Mr. Richard Blamey, Miss M. L. Becker and Mr. C. E. Steel in cabin. For Shanghai:—Rev. H. W. Frost, Mr. Wong Kai Kah and servant and Dr. F. Howard Taylor in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. C. M. Allison, Mr. F. J. Baum, Mr. Fay C. Beal, Mr. J. W. Boyce, Miss K. Burnham, Mr. E. G. Curran, Miss T. Ericksen, Mr. B. W. Fields, Mr. A. J. Finlay, Mr. D. Fitzgerald, Mr. A. J. Jordan, Mr. D. A. Menocal, Mr. Geo. Nattinger, Mrs. Geo. Nattinger, Mr. J. S. Potter, Mr. C. F. Raver, Dr. H. M. Sheppard, Mrs. H. M. Sheppard, Miss Giadys Sheppard, Mr. A. R. Tippitt, Mrs. A. R. Tippitt, Mr. W. T. Vaugham, Mr. T. C. Welch, Mr. W. A. V. Wiren, Mr. F. Wakefield, Mrs. P. W. Wakefield, in cabin.

Per German steamer *Gera*, from Hamburg and Bremen via ports:—Mr. C. Allen, Mr. J. C. Stafford, Mr. Jacquimin, Mr. C. Behn, Mr. Eckhardt, Mrs. Marshall, Miss Mary Helm, Mr. J. Putz, Miss M. Winstanley, Mr. and Mrs. Desai and Mr. J. Helm in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kumano Maru*, from Australia via ports:—Captain and Mrs. R. Kilbee Stuart, Mr. A. Philip, Miss M. Philip, Mrs. Garlick, Mr. F. L. Meyer, Mr. T. O. Richardson, Mr. S. Otsuka and Mr. C. Glahn in cabin: 25 in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Ernest Simons*, from Marseilles via ports:—Mrs. Tuska, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Tracey and infant, Mr. Swami P. H. Giri and boy, Lieut. H. G. Leopold, Mr. Takagi, Mr. Fukui, Mr. Ito, Master Gindote, Mr. Chan Poo Chew, Mr. Ho Kai Chue, Mr. Loo Soo Ki and infant, Mr. Wong Ying, Mr. Tam Chen Ko, and Mr. K. Nakagawa, in cabin.

Per American steamer *China*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Miss Maud Ahern, Mr. F. A. Blake, Mrs. F. A. Blake, Mr. C. M. Bles, Mr. W. D. Burnham, Mr. Chang Chee, Capt. S. S. Connauton, Mrs. M. H. Conn ll, Dr. N. P. Crooks, Mr. Chun Quai Dun, Lieut. W. A. Edgar, U.S.N., Major E. d'Erdman, Mr. C. R. Estler, Mr. Robert Fulton, Mr. W. Gilbert, Mrs. Geo. Gleason, Mr. T. Gomi, Mr. H. Graystone and valet, Mr. G. de Guia, Mr. G. Gurgenian, Miss J. Hartwell, Rev. M. W. Hayes, Mrs. M. W. Hayes, Mr. J. A. Hayes, Master F. Hayes, Mr. Edmund Heinsted, Mr. Wong Hue, Mr. F. S. James, Mrs. F. S. James, Mr. O. D. Jerauld, Mrs. O. D. Jerauld, Miss O. Jerauld, Miss H. Jerauld, Miss D. Jerauld, Capt. A. F. Jonas, U.S.M.C., Miss E. D. Kellar, Mrs. A. F. Kennedy, Mr. T. Kobayashi and servant, Mr. E. Kojima, Mr. B. Kubota, Mr. Jay Kue, Mr. Louis Temp, Mr. E. H. Low, Miss F. Mathe, Mr. Geo. D. Morgan, Mrs. Geo. D. Morgan, Dr. Iga Mori, Mrs. Iga Mori, Mr. J. Mur, Mrs. E. Musgrave, Mr. R. Navarro, Miss M. T. Nichols, Mr. N. P. Paney, Mr. H. C. Pearson, Mr. H. O. Pixley, Paymaster F. G. Pyne, U.S.N., Mr. Geo. Reffinger, Mr. J. J. Richards, Mr. G. G. Rundle, Mr. John Ryan, Mr. N. Sato, Mr. Otto Schinne, Miss Nobu Shimura, Mr. T. Shinohara, Mr. E. Smith, Mr. K. Van R. Smith, Mrs. N. F. Smith, Mr. E. W. Sterling, Mrs. E. W. Sterling, Mr. H. H. Stratton, Mr. K. Suzuki and servant, Mr. S. Suzuki, Paymaster G. R. Venables, U.S.N., Mr. F. W. Weber, Mr. M. Yabu and servant, and Mr. Chung Sow Yue, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Coptic*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. G. M. Allison, Mr. F. J. Baum, Mr. Fay C. Beal, Miss M. L. Becker, Mr. Richard Blamery, Mrs. Tom. Brown, Mr. J. W. Boyce, Mrs. W. C. Brown, Miss K. Burnham, Mr. B. C. Curran, Miss T. Ericksen, Mr. B. W. Fields, Mr. A. J. Finlay, Mr. D. Fitzgerald, Rev. H. W. Frost, Mr. A. J. Jordan, Mr. Wong Kai Kah and servant, Mr. J. Lambooy, Mrs. T. H. Lovejoy, Mr. D. A. Menocal, Mr. Geo. Mattinger, Mrs. Geo. Mattinger, Mr. H. A. Poole, Mr. J. S. Potter, Mr. F. Ramaley, Mr. C. F. Raver, Dr. H. M. Sheppard, Mrs. H. M. Sheppard, Miss Gladys Sheppard, Mr. H. H. Stanley, Mr. C. E. Steel, Dr. F. Howard Taylor, Mr. Jos. Thebaud, Mr. A. R. Tippitt, Mrs. A. R. Tippitt, Mr. W. T. Vaughan, Mr. T. C. Welch, Mr. F. W. Wenyon, Mrs. F. W. Wenyon, Mr. W. A. V. Wiren, and Mr. J. W. Withington, in cabin.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw and Waste silk shipped per steamer *Ernest Simons*:—

	Raw.				Waste.			
	Marseilles.	Lyon.	Milan.		Marseilles.	Bale.	Russia.	
H. Bernardin & Co.	—	33	—	—	—	—	—	—
Longin & Co.	—	61	—	—	—	—	—	—
P. Dourille	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jewett & Bent	—	51	—	—	—	—	—	—
Otto Streuli & Co.	—	36	15	—	—	—	—	—
Robison & Co.	—	30	—	—	20	—	—	—
Sulzer Rudolph & Co.	41	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cl. Eymard	—	—	—	—	62	—	—	—
Dell'Oro & Co.	—	—	—	—	22	—	—	—
Bavier & Co.	—	—	—	—	139	—	—	—
Jardine, Matheson & Co.	—	—	—	—	68	16	—	—
Herbert Dent & Co.	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Total	41	218	15	—	313	16	—	—

CARGO.

Per American steamer *Lyra*, for Tacoma:—

TEA.

	Canada.	Chicago & West.	New York & East.	Pacific Coast.	Other Cities.	Total Packages.
Hongkong	—	—	—	432	—	432
Shanghai	—	651	—	41	—	692
Kobe	—	535	—	—	—	535
Yokohama	400	847	300	5	—	1,552
Total	400	2,033	300	478	—	3,211

SILK.

	New York.	Other Cities.	Total Bales.
Hongkong	—	—	—
Shanghai	—	—	—
Yokohama	106	2	108
Total	106	2	108

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

No change in Yarns. Some sales of Grey Shirtings at improved rates but the demand is small. A better enquiry has developed in Fancy Cottons and Woollens.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER YARD.
White Shirting—{ 40 yds. 36 in. } { 50 yds. 36 in. }	0.09 to 0.10
	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	Y. 2.85 to 3.60
Grey Shirting—9lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.80 to 4.25
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	3.00 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton Italians and Satteens	0.20 to 0.40

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	Y. 0.35 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 32 in.	0.30 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.16 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.50 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 to 65 inches	0.90 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0.60 to 0.66
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	9.50 to 12.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.90 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches	1.90 to 2.25
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 5lb, 24-25 yards, 32 nches	2.50 to 3.65

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Y. 140.00 to 150.00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	—
Nos. 38/42, Singles	—
Nos. 32, Doubles	145.00 to 150.00
Nos. 42, Doubles	155.00 to 160.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/100, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	245.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	295.00 to 305.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	425.00 to 435.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling	Nominal.	33
Indian Broach		26
Chinese		23

METALS.

The market is fairly active and a good "forward" business has been done.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward	Y. 3.95 to 4.25
Iron Plates, assorted	4.25 to 4.45
Sheet Iron	4.45 to 6.70
Galvanised Iron sheets	10.10 to 11.10
Wire Nails, assorted	5.30 to 5.90
Tin Plates, per box	6.40 to 7.30
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.95
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1½ inch)	4.95 to 5.45

KEROSENE.

Kerosene continues to advance.

American	$3.52
Russian	3.35
Langkat	3.25

SUGAR.

There has been a fair business at advancing rates in Hongkong Refined owing to a reported increase in the Consumption Tax in April next.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	Y. 6.25 to 6.60
Brown Manila	6.25 to 7.25
Brown Daitong	4.80 to 6.20
Brown Canton	5.50 to 7.60
White Java and Penang	7.20 to 8.00
White Refined	8.50 to 11.25

INDIGO.

The market is still dull.

	PICUL.
Java, Medium to best	270.00 to 320.00
Calcutta, Medium to best	180.00 to 290.00
Madras (*Kurpah*), Medium to best	140.00 to 170.00
Madras (Dry Leaf), Medium to best	100.00 to 140.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Less doing this weak, but quotations unaltered. Good quality is scarce and worth the money while medium and inferior grades are plentiful and should weaken in price.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra Best, Coarse	Y. 1,090 to 1,095
Filatures—Extra, Fine	—
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	1,040 to 1,045
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	—
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	935 to 940
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	1,000 to 1,005
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	915 to 920
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	940 to 950
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	890 to 900
Common—Coarse	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1½	—
Re-reels—No. 2	—
Re-reels—No. 3	900 to 905
Kakedas—Extra	950 to 955
Kakedas—No. 1	925 to 930
Kakedas—No. 1½	910 to 915
Kakedas—No. 2	890 to 895

WASTE SILK.

Market as last advised. Buyers go slow and complain of the poor assortment now on offer.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	180 to 185
Noshi—Filatures, Good	170 to 175
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	125 to 130
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	115 to 120
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Good	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Joshiu, Best	130 to 135
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	120 to 125
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	150 to 16
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	140 to 14
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	70 to
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	70 to

TEA.

Nothing to report.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	—
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common	—

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EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, February 4.

London silver 1/16 lower and China sterling quotations ⅛ to ¼ lower have caused local rates on China to rule firmer, other rates being irregular both for Bank and Private paper.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0⅜ @ 7/16
— — Bills on demand	2/0 13/32 @ ¼
— — 4 months' sight	2/0⅝ @ 11/16
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0⅝ @ ½
— — 6 months' sight	2/0¾ @ ⅝
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	253½
— Private 4 months' sight	258 @ 7
— — 6 months' sight	259½ @ 8
Hongkong—Bank sight per $100	91*
— Private 10 days' sight do.	89*
Shanghai—Bank sight	77½*
— Private 10 days' sight	79½*
India—Bank sight	149
— Private 30 days' sight	152⅛
America—Bank sight	48⅞ @ 9
— Private 30 days' sight	49¾ @ ⅞
— Private 4 months' sight	50¾ @ ¼
Germany Bank sight	206
— Private 4 months' sight	210½ @ 9⅝
Bar Silver (London)	25⅝

* Nominal.

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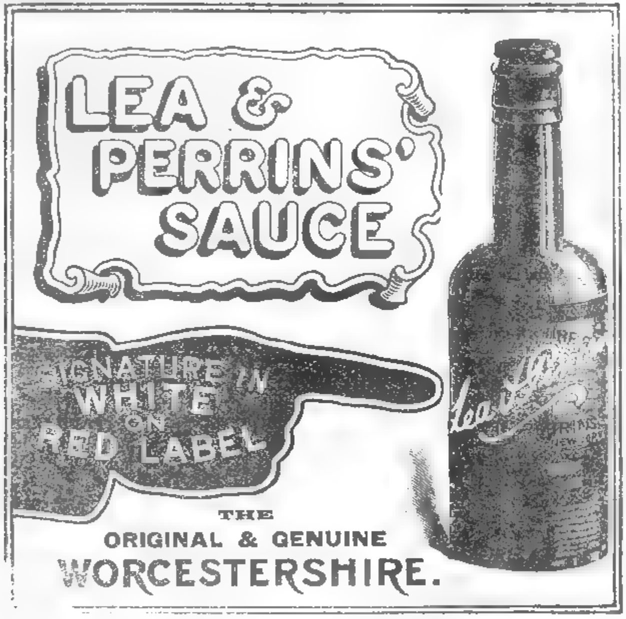

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每土曜日 A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART. 一回刊行

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH, 1904.

BIRTHS.

On the 9th instant, at No. 7 Bluff, Yokohama, Mrs. H. C. GULLAND, of a Son.

At No. 127-D Bluff, Yokohama, on the 10th Feb., the wife of L. E. McCHESNEY, of a Son.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

A CASE of dysentery was reported on Feb. 7th at Kanazawa. This is its first appearance this year.

THE station master of Kawasaki was run over and killed on the morning of Feb. 8th by a train from Shimbashi.

JAPANESE gold coins amounting to *yen* 200,000 were exported on Feb. 6th for Hamburg by the German mail.

A LONDON telegram to the *Hongkong Daily Press* says that Mrs. Maybrick was released on the last day of January.

ACCORDING to latest investigations, Japanese at Vladivostock number 2,996 persons. Out of them, 1,410 are females.

IT is reported by telegram from Nagasaki that Japanese servants employed by the East China Railway have all been discharged.

IT is semi-officially reported that the Russian warship *Oslabya*, which was undergoing repairs at Suez, left there on Feb. 4th for the Far East.

WAR began between Russia and Japan on the 9th with the destruction of two Russian ships at Chemulpo, which was followed by a torpedo attack on the Russian fleet at Port Arthur and a general engagement. The Russians retired heavy losers.

BARON MITSUI on Feb. 3rd donated 75,000 francs to the Paris University which has opened a lecture course with regard to Japanese Civilization.

CAPTAIN AKAKURA of the Thirty-first Regiment, Aomori, committed suicide on Feb. 6th at his dwelling. The cause is reported to be temporary insanity.

THE Russian Consulate at Yokohama on Feb. 9th did not hoist the national flag and removed the heraldic arms from the building. The Consul has left Japan.

THE Bank of Japan, states the *Asahi*, sent on Feb. 7th eighty cases containing notes to Shimonoseki and some twelve tons of silver bullion to the Osaka Mint.

THE death occurred in Kobe on Saturday of Mr. Robert Hughes. He came to Japan in 1859, joining the firm of Glover & Co., later starting business in Kobe.

AN official telegram from Formosa states that two cases of plague appeared in Taipeh, and one each in Kagi and Tainan on Feb 4th. Two of them proved fatal.

THE Central Tea Guild has received a telegram from its branch at New York to the effect that the tea market is very dull, and the retail price has a downward tendency.

A TELEGRAM from Sapporo states that the convicts in the Tokatsu jail broke out on Feb. 5th. Some of them were killed by the jailers, and three of the latter were injured.

DURING the month of January, the exports of specie from Yokohama amounted, in gold coin and bullion, to *yen* 7,206,330; and in silver coin and bullion to *yen* 13,729.

THE Italian Government has informed Japan that it intends to open an International Industrial Exhibition at Milan next year and has requested the latter to send exhibits.

YUAN, the former compradore of the Russo-Chinese Bank, who escaped arrest at Shanghai and returned to Kobe by the steamer *Hakuai Maru*, arrived at Tokyo on Feb. 8th.

A LANDSLIP occurred on the night of Feb. 8th at the Anahara hot spring, Fukushima Prefecture, the result being that two houses were destroyed and five persons were killed or injured.

A QUANTITY of Chinese silver coin valued at *yen* 129,507 was brought by the steamer *Iyo Maru* to Kobe. It will be removed to the Osaka Mint for conversion into Japanese coin.

WITH regard to the accident on the railway on Feb. 2nd at a point between Oyama and Ashjgara, Tokaido, it is reported by Tokyo papers that the damage is estimated at about *yen* 130,000.

ALMOST all Japanese at Vladivostock left there on Feb. 13th or 14th accompanied by Mr. Kawakami, the Commercial Agent. The few remaining will be placed under the protection of a neutral Power.

H. MATSUI, the manager of the Toyohashi Bank, who embezzled *yen* 4,500 belonging to the bank and absconded, was arrested on Feb. 4th at Yokosuka. It is added that the bank has closed business and is now in liquidation.

THREE German sailors were arrested on Feb. 6th at Uchida-cho, Yokohama, where, it is said, they assaulted three jinrikisha coolies, inflicting injuries with the knives. The coolies carried the sailors from Chitose-cho to the Yokohama Dock Company where both parties entered upon a dispute as to the fares.

SOME Tokyo papers announce that an extraordinary session of the Imperial Diet will be probably convened not later than the end of March. The general election is fixed to take place on the 1st of the same month.

THE automatic telephone apparatus at Nigiwai-cho, Yokohama, was stolen on the morning of Feb. 4th and was later found along the canal at Sueyoshi-cho. The police believe that a thief took away the telephone with intent to steal the money in the box.

THE construction work on the bronze statue of Marquis Ito, being completed, it will shortly be established at Oiso. It is a statue attired in a frock-coat, and the height in sixty-five inches. It was presented by Count Katsura, and Messrs. Okura, Yokoyama and other business-men in Tokyo.

THE Russian Minister and Baroness Rosen paid a farewell visit on Feb. 9th to the Foreign Office, the Department of the Imperial Household, and other offices. They left Shimbashi on Feb. 12th by the 8.30 a.m. train for Yokohama, whence they proceed by the French mail steamer *Yarra* for home.

M. ISHIKE AND S. ASANO were arrested on Feb. 6th in Tokyo on a charge of fraud. It is reported by Tokyo papers that they established in August, 1902, a firm under the name of the Nippon Products Company with a capital of *yen* 10,000 at Kanda, Tokyo, and that they were carrying on an illegal business.

AT Bunder Abbas, Persia, the Russians are not making much headway with their efforts at competition. The *Bombay Gazette's* correspondent reports imports mainly British. The customs are collected now by Belgians, instead of Persians. An effort is to be made to establish connection wtth the Indo-European telegraph system.

BY the *Empress of Japan* on Tuesday arrived Professor Frederick Starr, of the University of Chicago, who has come to Japan to arrange an Ainu Exhibit at the World's Fair at St. Louis. He leaves Yokohama almost immediately for Hakodate, where he hopes to be able to obtain a small party of Ainu to exhibit in a native village at The Pike on the big Fair.

THE shareholders of the Hokkaido Colliery and Railway Company held a general meeting on Feb. 7th at the branch office in Tokyp and received the accounts of the last half year. The net profit was *yen* 864,681.82 to which a balance brought from the previous accounts *yen* 76,123.40 was added, making a total of *yen* 940,805.22. Of this *yen* 47,000 was set apart as reserve; *yen* 867,560 as interim dividend; and the remainder as a balance to be carried forward to the next account.

A DREADFUL tragedy took place on the night of Feb. 5th at the dwelling of S. Kobayashi, an assistant engineer of the Oji Paper Mill, Tokyo. The following morning when Mr. Kobayashi who had been absent returned, he found that his wife, daughter, a female servant, and an old woman, one of his relatives, who was staying in the house had been murdered, and that the son of the old woman had committed suicide by cutting himself in the throat with a short swoad. He left a letter in which he described his purpose in committing the crime. It is reported by Tokyo papers that the murderer, who is thirty-one years old, has led a profligate life, as to which the unfortunate family always admonished him when he asked for money. This seems at length to have exasperated him.

THE SITUATION.

Saturday, February 6.

The King's speech at the opening of Parliament seems to have been received with anything but unalloyed satisfaction in Japan. His Majesty's words appear to invite mediation, and mediation could scarcely lead to anything but a compromise. Japan is quite as desirous of peace as any Power can be, and would make all legitimate sacrifices to secure it. But she does not want peace which could be only temporary and which would entail protracted efforts more costly than war. Mediation would probably preclude such a peace. For the compromise suggested by the mediators—and accepted by the principals almost as a matter of necessity—would doubtless be on the basis of Korea for Japan, Manchuria for Russia, and if Russia were seated permanently in Manchuria, with plenty of leisure to develop its resources, organize its fighting material and prepare her own reserves of strength, a veritable sword of Damocles would be suspended over the head of Japan in Korea. Russia in Manchuria as sovereign means Russia in all northern China ultimately. If other Western Powers think that such a result has no concern for them, Japan does not share their *insouciance*. It is a bitter thing for her, a very bitter thing, that she must step aside from her peaceful progress to engage in a life-and-death struggle with a nation having nothing at stake save its own territorial aggrandisement. Still the Japanese are far-sighted enough to see that painful as war is, to shrink from it merely because it hurts may be to prepare an issue much more calamitous. Mediation, therefore, sounds unpleasant in their ears, and as they detect a tone of mediation in King Edward's words, the Royal Speech distresses them. We are quite confident, however, that His Majesty had no such meaning. If his good offices are to be employed where his sympathies are already enlisted, it will be on the basis of justice, not merely of a division of the spoils. No arrangement suggested by him will be injurious to Japan's best interests. Intervention's uses at this stage would be limited, so far as we can see, to facilitating concessions which, however reasonable in themselves, are difficult for either of the two Powers concerned to make to the other direct.

Nothing is definitely known about the result of the Council held in the Palace on the 4th instant, but the Tokyo press is persuaded that a decision was adopted with regard to steps which will be taken in a few days to bring to a final issue the present period of tension and uncertainty. In other words, a concise programme has been drawn of the course to be taken should Russia's answer prove unsatisfactory, and it must be added that not many hopes are now entertained of any other conjuncture. But the various measures contemplated in that event were long ago considered and determined, we believe, so that such a debate can scarcely have occupied the sole attention of the Council on the 3rd in the Premier's residence and that on the 4th in the Palace.

The High Martial Council met in the Palace on Friday. Various other meetings and exchanges of visits between leading statesmen, and various audiences are reported. Everything indicates that the long period of waiting is on the verge of conclusion. We may add that all hopes of a peaceful issue seem to have been now abandoned.

Monday, February 8.

The Russians in Manchuria are evidently making every preparation for war. There appears to be no doubt that the railway is fully occupied with the transport of military stores and troops and that the difficulties of Japanese residents desiring to withdraw from the interior are thus greatly accentuated.

Telegrams to the *Jiji Shimpo* indicate that the movement of Russian forces in the direction of the Yalu is an affair of some magnitude. The Russians themselves are represented as saying that ten thousand men have left Liaoyang for the northern frontier of Korea, and it is reported that a reinforcement of three thousand has already reached Feng-hwang-teng, while various bodies are arriving at Haicheng, which may be called the western terminus of the road from the Yalu to the Mukden-Liaotung line.

The Russian squadron did not proceed farther than Dalny. It returned to Port Arthur on the 4th instant, as already reported in these columns. Evidently its short excursion was merely for the purpose of exercise.

A telegram to the *Asahi Shimbun* from Peking says that the Russians in Manchuria have issued five regulations. The first is that the administrative duties shall be performed by Russian and Chinese officials in conjunction; the second, that in the event of disturbances by bandits, Russian and Chinese troops shall coöperate to restore order; the third, that all appointments or removals of Chinese officials shall have the prior consent of Russia; the fourth, that the salaries of Russian officials shall be paid by the Russian Government; and the fifth that the Chinese Commander-in-chief shall be responsible for the safety of Russian subjects within his jurisdiction. It would seem that these regulations have been somewhat mixed in transmission. The fourth—as to the payment of salaries—is evidently superfluous to the point of absurdity, and the fifth is inconsistent with the first three. At any rate, if the regulations be at all correctly stated, they show that the Russians are assuming an unequivocal position in Manchuria. It must be confessed, however, that they did so long ago, and that, on the eve of almost certain war having for its issue the retention or abandoment of this very region, no administrative programme could be called too drastic.

From Shanghai it is reported that the Chinese are beginning to look askance at the Russo-Chinese Bank's paper and that transactions with the Bank are avoided. Also that owing to large purchases of provisions by the Russians for despatch northwards, prices have risen appreciably.

The *Nichi Nichi's* Peking correspondent wires that the carriage of foreign subjects or citizêns by the Manchurian railway has been suspended, the line being required solely for military uses. It will be observed, however, that the carriage of mails for Europe has not yet been interrupted, inasmuch as the post-office notifications appear as usual.

The Emperor of China has issued instructions to the various provincial authorities on the subject of preserving strict neutrality.

Intimation was to have been given by the Japanese consular authorities in the sense that Japanese subjects in Song-chin should retire to Yuen-san, and that these in Wiju and Autung should withdraw to Pyong-yang. But it would appear that the telegraph from Seoul to Song-chin is not in working order, so that the forwarding of this intimation has been delayed. The number of Japanese subjects at Wiju is said to be about 66.

Nagasaki announces that nearly all the Japanese residents of Vladivostock have taken ship and are about to return to Japan.

The *Chuo Shimbun* has had its joke at the expense of the public. It issued on the evening of the 5th instant an extra on which were blazoned in large type the characters *Dai-ni doin-rei*; that is to say, "the second calling out of the reserves." But the buyers of the leaflet discovered, on perusing it, that the "reserves" related to the staff of the *Chuo* itself, numbers of which were about to be dismissed to various points in anticipation of war.

It is nevertheless certain that there has been a great access of activity in military quarters during the past three days. We may say now, and most reluctantly do we say it, that all hope of a pacific issue has been abandoned by the Japanese and that they are girding up their loins vigorously for the struggle. War-songs are among the sounds that most frequently greet the ears of dwellers in the suburbs.

It is stated (*Jiji Shimpo's* telegrams) that the Russians have ordered the local officials to undertake the repair of the road from Liaoyang to Feng-hwang-teng, and that the work is being carried on by forced labour. The Chinese in Manchuria will probably henceforth have to contribute an unwilling share to the assistance of their country's invaders.

Viceroy Yuan has issued the necessary instructions relating to the maintenance of strict neutrality by China

The *Jiji Shimpo's* Peking correspondent says that owing to an acute difference of opinion between M. Lessar and the Secretary of the Russian Legation in that city, the Secretary has taken his departure without saying farewell to his chief.

It is stated that the Russians have expelled from Newchwang the Chinese subject who was acting as commissioner of customs pending the arrival of Sir Robert Hart's new nominee. This is doubtless the incident concerning which an inquiry is said to have been addressed to Russia by the British Government.

The Russians are reported to have applied to the Chinese Government for the removal of the Vice-Governor of Tsitsihar, but the reply, given at the instance of Wu Ting-fang, was that China does not recognise the right of any foreign Power to interfere in matters relating to the appointment or removal of her officials.

Mr. Conger is said to be showing much activity in pressing for the operation of the new commercial treaty so far as concerns the opening of Manchuria. He has announced that whatever difficulties may be urged he intends to instruct the United States consuls to proceed to their posts.

A Russian steamer has reached Nagasaki carrying over a hundred Japanese fugitives from Vladivostock. She reports that an American steamer had left previously (15th instant) with three thousand Japanese and should have arrived at Tsuruga in Echizen on the 6th. There remain about a thousand Japanese subjects in Vladivostock and some two thousand more in the adjacent districts. The American vessel intends to return from Tsuruga for the purpose of carrying away these people, but as a state of siege has been proclaimed at Vladivostock it is doubtful whether even a vessel of a neutral Power will be allowed to enter the port.

A Russian ship is reported to be loading twenty thousand tons of Kaiping coal at Ching-wan-tao. She must be a big ship.

The Japanese residents of Harbin and Teh-ling, or at any rate a part of them, have reached Dalny en route for their native country.

The *Asahi Shimbun* publishes a report compiled by its own special correspondent who seems to have been making a tour throughout Manchuria to investigate the number of Russian troops stationed at the various places. His figures, omitting details, are as follow :—

Port Arthur	20,350
Dalny	2,000
Talien	4,400
Pitsewo	400
Antung	550
Feng-hwang-teng	750
Kinchow	750
Yinkow	1,200
Haicheng	1,150
Liaoyang	1,900
Mukden	550
Kirin	2,750
Ningtau	1,250
Harbin	4,550
Tsitsihar	1,990
Hailar	1,000

In addition to the above there are the Railway Guards, 55 companies, totalling 24,000; and there is also a Railway Corps consisting of 4 battalions, the strength of which this correspondent has not ascertained. He thus makes the grand total 69,500 of all arms, together with 4 battalions of the Railway Corps, or, say, 73,000 in all. It is difficult to believe that these figures are correct. They would mean that Russia is not in a position to put more than 30,000 men into the fighting line at any given point.

The *Official Gazette* announces that, in accordance with Art. VIII. of the International Postal and Telegraph Regulations, telegrams to and from Korea must not be written in cipher on and after the date (5th instant) of the announcement, but must be in either the English, the French or the Japanese language. Cipher telegrams will still be allowed from Yokohama, Tokyo and Kobe, to foreign countries (except Korea) but they must be accompanied by translations in one of the above languages and by a copy of the key. The prohibition applies to cipher telegrams handed in at an office under Korean control in Korea and thence conveyed to a Japanese office for transmission. Further, the Japanese Telegraph Authorities henceforth disavow all responsibility for errors or delays in the transmission of telegrams to and from Korea.

Detailed regulations have been published for the organization of military posts. It need scarcely be said that the regulations provide for the free carriage of letters sent by military or naval men from or to the front, but of course letters posted at this end by civilians must pay postage though addressed to persons on service. These regulations do not apply to letters transmitted to foreign countries under the provisions of treaties or conventions. The regulations went into force from the 5th instant.

Tuesday, February 9.

Mr. Segawa, the Japanese Consul in Newchwang, is said to have received instructions to withdraw.

The *Afridi* left Vladivostock on the 6th instant carrying three thousand Japanese fugitives. There is some confusion about this vessel. On the 6th it was announced that she had reached Tsuruga in Echizen, and that, having disembarked her passengers there, she would turn back at once to Vladivostock to give transport to the Japanese still remaining at that port and in its vicinity. Probably the latest intelligence is the more correct, namely, that she left Vladivostock on the 6th.

The *Nichi Nichi* has a report that 200 Russian soldiers are expected to enter Peking immediately. This sounds rather incredible, seeing that Russia has of late been withdrawing all her garrison troops from Chili.

All the Tokyo newspapers publish a statement that a hundred Russian soldiers from Liaoyang reached Feng-hwang-teng on the 4th instant, Presumably this company is the van of the division said to have been put in motion for the Korean borders.

It is believed that the purpose of the Russian Squadron in emerging from Port Arthur on the 3rd instant was to escort two boats to Talien with the object of laying torpedoes. Doubtless the harbours of the Liaotung peninsula are pretty well furnished with that kind of defence by this time.

One trouble is that pending the removal of the press censorate in Japan, Shanghai will get an innings. The great factory of bunders does not appear to have yet realized its opportunity, or, at any rate, has not yet begun to utilize it. But there is manifest danger that the world will presently be flooded with stories of wonderful patterns. Possibly the control of Korean telegraphs may pass into strong hands before the flight of canards get on the wing, but that is rather too much to hope for.

Another rumour from Seoul says that there is talk of the Emperor escaping to Pyong-yong and ultimately to Chhan-chhon in Kang-wŏn-do. His Majesty has always had a penchant for Pyong-yang. It was with the object of establishing for himself there a retreat secure from the political gales raging in Seoul that he proposed, some time ago, to open Yong-Am-pho and Wiju provided Pyong-yang were closed.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha and the Osaka Shosen Kaisha have discontinued their service of steamers to all Korean ports except Fusan.

It would seem that the Eastern Railway Company's steamers *Manchuria* and *Shilka* were temporarily detained in Nagasaki by the Japanese authorities owing to some suspicion as to their doings. Subsequently, however, they were released. On the other hand a Saseho telegram dated the 7th instant alleges that two other Russian vessels, the *Noni* (?) and the *Mukden*, have been seized by Japanese men-of-war in the seas between Quelpart and Masampo. The idea is that these vessels were acting as spies on the movements of Japanese war-ships. All the Tokyo newspapers publish the story, and it was widely circulated in Yokohama on Sunday night, but a great deal of confirmation is needed.

The *Jiji* has news from Nagasaki that Port Arthur harbour is frozen over to a depth of two feet and that torpedo craft can not move.

In the same message it is stated that the total force of Russian troops in Manchuria does not exceed 180,000, of whom 35,000 are cavalry. That, it will be observed, is more than twice the aggregate computed by the *Asahi's* special agent and published in our columns on the 8th.

Wednesday, February 10.

On the 7th Mr. Uchida officially reported to the Wai-wu-pu in Peking the rupture of diplomatic relations between Japan and Russia.

The Great Northern Railway Company has announced that it can not be responsible for delays in the delivery of telegrams, inasmuch as the Japanese censorship is very severe.

On the evening of the 7th instant 50 Russian soldiers entered Peking from Newchwang.

An American military attaché who has just returned to Peking from a tour in Manchuria, reports that he did not observe any indications of special activity among the Russian troops, except that the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th regiments of the East-Siberia Rifle Brigade had moved to Liaoyang, whence they were expected to proceed to Feng-hwang-teng and the banks of the Yalu.

The Russians are reported to be hiring coolies and buying oxen and pigs in the neighbourhood of Shanhaikwan. As this is an obvious breach of China's neutrality—assuming the coolies and animals to be for military use, which they obviously are—Viceroy Yuan has notified the local officials that such transactions must be strictly interdicted. It is plain that incidents of this nature are not unlikely to produce many complications.

It is reported that the Japanese residents of Port Arthur, to the number of 400, and those of Dalny, to the number of 150, have retired to Chefoo by the steamer *Foochow*. The arrangements for this retreat seem to have been made by Mr. Consul Mizuno.

The *Asahi Shimbun* has a telegram from Tientsin saying that some eighteen thousand Russian troops have left Port Arthur and Dalny, heading for Antung. Their ultimate destination is supposed to be the Yalu, and they may even cross into Korea.

A vague report from Mukden says that the Japanese subjects employed there are receiving very harsh treatment at the hands of the Russians.

We hear, and have been hearing, a great deal about the withdrawal of Japanese subjects from Manchuria and Siberia, nor does it seem that their retreat is unjustified. But we hear nothing of any Russians leaving Japan, with the exception of the diplomatic and consular officials whose withdrawal is a matter of form.

A telegram from Shanghai, dated the 8th, says that Russia had it in contemplation to seize the Shan-hai-kwan railway and the port at Chin-wan-tao, since it is only *viâ* the littoral of the Gulf of Pechili that she can establish maritime communications with her troops in Manchuria. In order to effect that object she would fain have provoked China to some display of hostility. But China, acting at Japan's suggestion and with the endorsement of the British Minister in Peking, is observing strict neutrality, and England is sending a detachment of 70 men to take their station at Chin-wan-tao. Seventy men are only a handful, but their presence will have an unequivocal meaning. What England can do with absolute propriety is to assist the Chinese in maintaining their neutrality. She used her fleet to constitute the Yangtse Valley a neutral zone at the time of the China-Japan war, and as Japan is now her ally, she may at least put forth the same strength in the same cause to-day.

It is stated in Tientsin that on the 8th, the mounted bandits in Manchuria broke the Russian lines of telegraph from Haicheng to Kaipin (or Gaipin, in the Liaotung Peninsula), and from Inkow to Tashik'ao. The destruction was particularly effective in the case of the former line.

Chefoo telegraphs that only 15 torpedo-boats are in Port Arthur, the remainder being at Vladivostock. From the same source the *Jiji Shimpo* learns that no attempt has been made to lay torpedoes in the harbour and that the Russian squadron has been outside since the 3rd instant.

The four Russian steamers temporarily detained in Nagasaki have been released, but it is stated that two others have been brought into Saselio by Japanese cruisers from the neighbourhood of Füsan. One is a vessel of the Volunteer Fleet, 6,000 tons, the other a ship of the East Asian Railway Company, 5,000 tons.

The *Afridi* left Vladivostock on the 6th and reached Tsuruga on the 8th having on board about 2,500 Japanese fugitives; namely 1,800 from Vladivostock and 700 from Habarovsk and Nikolisk. There were 88 children. These people say that General Kuropatkin has arrived at Harbin. If so, Russia must have decided upon war long before Japan broke off the negotiations. That will be an interesting test.

These fugitives from Habarovsk and Nikolisk seem to have suffered greatly. They were obliged to sell off their possessions for a mere song, and many of their things were taken from them violently by Russian roughs. We shall have the whole story by and by no doubt. The *Afridi's* people say that every possible obstacle was placed in the way of the ship's departure, especially in the matter of the ice-crusher, which at first was withheld when the presence of Japanese fugitives became known. It appears that there were 500 women of ill-fame among the refugees, and that the Russian military authorities showed much anxiety to keep them. There were also a number of children's nurses, and their departure caused great grief to parents and children and to the nurses themselves. The *Jiji's* reporter states that all the washing, smith's work, carpentry, painting and wall-papering in Vladivostock were done by Japanese, and that their retreat will cause much inconvenience.

There are said to be signs that Russia is contemplating the seizure of the railway from Yingkow (Newchwang) to Shanhaikwan. That would make a complication with England.

THE RUSSIAN FLEET.

Saturday, February 6.

Japanese journals conjecture that the object of the Russian fleet which left Port Arthur on the 3rd instant is to convoy transports carrying troops to Chemulpo. These troops are supposed to number from two thousand to three thousand, and to be the result of Korea's alleged application to Russia for military protection. But there has not been any intelligence of Russian troops embarking at Port Arthur, and it is plain that conjecture figures largely in this construction of the fleet's purpose. Some commentators opine that the six companies of infantry which are reported to have left Liao-yang represent part of the force destined ultimately to enter Seoul at Korea's request, but we need scarcely point out that the distance from Liaoyang to Seoul *viâ* the Yalu is many hundreds of miles, and that such a march at this season would be a stupendous undertaking. If the six companies are destined for Feng-hwang-cheng, that is about the limit of their movement, we imagine. It is quite plain that any enterprise on the part of the Russian squadron in the direction of Korea would amount at this juncture to a declaration of war, and we do not for one moment imagine that Russia has any intention of that kind while negotiations are pending. Neither can it be rationally supposed that her officers seriously entertain the idea of engaging their squadron in operations on the Korean coast, since they would thereby expose themselves to the immense strategical disadvantage of having to fight with the enemy between them and their one base, Liaotung. That is a weak point in Russia's armour, and she will always have to treat it carefully—the vital necessity of keeping an open route for her crippled ships to leave the field of action. There is news from Seoul that great activity of communication between the Russian Legation and the Palace has been noticeable during the past few days, and the fact is not unnaturally associated with the sudden emergence of the Russian squadron from its head-quarters and with the project of borrowing Russian troops said to have been entrusted for consummation to Hyon Sang-kon. This theory appears to us to be pure sensation. No doubt the war party in Russia—every country has its Jingoes—would be glad to see the Korean peninsula occupied by Russian troops in advance of Japanese, and in the eyes of the general public there is something very picturesque and attractive in the programme of a rush for the first footing in the peninsula between Japan and Russia. But if Russia has any grain of prudence in her composition she will carefully eschew any enterprise of that kind. She has already to contend with quite sufficiently big difficulties in being condemned to fight at an enormous distance from her base of supplies, and she will not seek a suicidal addition to that difficulty by going still farther afield, and attempting to maintain an army on Korean territory and a fleet on Korean shores. If she ever essay a military enterprise against Korea, before she has secured complete command of the sea, her line of march must perforce be from Feng-hwang-cheng *via* Wiju. So far as we can see, the emergence of the squadron from Port Arthur has very little significance. No one imagined that the Russian ships were going to lie at rest under the guns of the forts until the Japanese came to seek them. Three weeks ago the seaward movement of the squadron would not have possessed any special significance. Why should it create so much comment to-day? If it move southward, and if war be declared before the *Nisshin* and the *Kasuga* are safe at Yokosuka, there may be some qualms of apprehension on account of the two cruisers. But does any one seriously imagine that for the sake of intercepting the *Kasuga* and the *Nisshin* the Russian fleet would take the risk of having to fight its way back to Port Arthur?

There is just one conjecture which appears not altogether incredible. It is that Russia deems it advisable to accompany her third answer with some show of menace. She intends to intimate, perhaps, not by words but by demonstrations, that the rejection of her third programme will have war for its sequel. That hypothesis tallies well with the extraordinary metamorphosis displayed by St. Petersburg, which city, after sending out the most pacific messages and claiming for itself the most amiable motives, has now suddenly turned round, and is said to be vociferating that if Japan does not agree at once, Russia will proceed to extremities. It is a rather curious departure from the proprieties that one Power having asked another to do a certain thing, the latter Power should reply, "Yes, I'll do it in part at any rate, but if you don't agree to my manner of doing it I'll smash you." However, it would be quite within the bounds of legitimate international practice that Russia should sound a fanfare at this juncture, and truly the movements of the fleet and the clamour from St. Petersburg invite that interpretation.

Since the above was in type a statement is published that the Russian squadron has returned to Port Arthur.

WOMEN'S VOTE FOR FEDERAL MEMBERS IN MELBOURNE.

A lady correspondent residing in Melbourne sends us the following account of the first election of federal members in that city since the franchise was granted to women:—

The last excitement has been the recording of the women's vote for the Federal elections. I recorded mine, and quite enjoyed the experience of going to the polling booth. It was amusing to watch the women-folk, some some anxious and nervous, others perplexed, others again very decided and almost aggressive as if they expected to have to fight for their rights. The little boxes which one is supposed to enter alone for the purpose of signing one's ballot paper were constantly occupied by two or three women, who were excitedly whispering together over their papers, until they were hauled out almost by their necks by the unfortunate men whose duty it was to receive their votes. The womenfolk exerted themselves enough and they must have been tired by the end of the day. The papers commented favourably on the decisiveness of the women voters, most of whom were able to give what seemed to them a good reason for taking one side rather than another. Many of them quoted the opinions of their fathers or brothers or those of their sweethearts. Well, the result has been rather disastrous Four rank labour members are in. You se anyway the labour party is in the ascendant and to be backed up by their women who vote to a woman simply meant certain victory fo them, as had been predicted. The women folk of the so-called upper ten thousan were in a great many cases quite indifferent Many of them would not take the troubl to go and vote in a nasty dirty pollin booth. Anyway the labour party wer thousands ahead of their opponents, an business men are looking sad, and tell ou that the Colony will go to the dogs. On of the first lady candidates in Australia g 14,000 votes. She is a Miss Viola Goldstei a great upholder of the woman's franchis but in spite of that, is a very charming a womanly woman of 30. I say in spite that advisedly, as the appearance and ma ners of the typical woman's rights woman a anything but attractive. Of course to *Pun* and all the comic papers the election h been a perfect God-send. I myself ca quite see what good the women's voting w do, except in doubling the votes. It wo help to govern the country any better, seems to me; for so few women take politics seriously. Then they usually quite unable to look at both siders and g advice worth having. Most of them lea it to their men-folks while they mind house and babies; quite right too, I thi though of course it is old-fashioned and hind the times to say so.

THE FIRST ACTS OF WAR.

Thursday, February 11.

The first act of war took place on the 9th instant at Chemulpo. It appears that on the 8th instant a Japanese squadron under Rear-Admiral Uryu reached that place escorting a number of transports with troops for Seoul. The troops were all put ashore safely in spite of the fact that two Russian vessels, the *Varyag*, a protected cruiser of 6,500 tons displacement and 23 knots speed, and the *Koreetz*, a gunboat of 1,213 tons, were in the harbour where they had been lying for some time. There were also four other foreign war-vessels in the harbour, namely the British ship *Talbot*, the American *Vicksburg*, the French *Pascal* and the Italian *Elba*. Nothing further happened during that day, but on the 9th instant at 9,30 a.m. some signals were exchanged by the Russian vessels and the warship of "a certain Power" whereupon the former at once made for the open sea. As they emerged from port they were attacked by the Japanese. Naturally the battle was never in any doubt. The *Koreetz*, riddled with shot, fled back into the harbour and was there scuttled by her crew. The dead and wounded seem to have gone down with the ship and the survivors took refuge at the Russian Consulate, some making their way to the *Pascal*. The former batch were taken prisoners by the Japanese, but the exact number is not yet known, further than that the crew of the gunboat originally numbered 100 including 12 officers. It would seem that the *Varyag* did not emerge from the harbour simultaneously with the *Koreetz*; her exit was a little later, but her fate was the same. After sustaining a heavy fire she took fire, or was set on fire, and went down. Her complement numbered 450, including 21 officers, and how they fared we do not yet know, but it is to be feared that there was very heavy loss of life. The Japanese ships are said to have suffered no injury of any consequence. It is evident, of course, that the Russian vessels were hopelessly over-powered, and that they fought bravely. The *Varyag*, however, should have effected something against her enemies, for she could fire a heavy broadside. The two ships were fairly caught in a trap. Possibly Viceroy Alexieff imagined that in the absence of a declaration of war he could send ships to any part of the Korean coast. If he did, it was a singular hallucination, for Japan's announcement of resolve to adopt independent action should not have left any room for doubt. The scene of the fight was the vicinity of Phalmi island, some four miles from Chemulpo.

The *Kokumin Shimbun's* Seoul correspondent wires that a report is current in that city to the effect that three Russian steamers of the Volunteer Fleet, with two thousand men on board, were captured by Japanese war-ships in Yashan (Asan) Bay. These troops are believed to have been those sent by the Viceroy in response to an application by the Korean Government. But our readers will observe that this is only a rumour, and that it needs much confirmation. We can scarcely suppose that Viceroy Alexieff adopted such a course, for the troops, in order to reach Yashan Bay on the 8th instant, must have embarked at Port Arthur on the 6th, and by the latter date Viceroy Alexieff ought to have known well that the situation had become hazardous and that the commencement of war was a question of hours only. It does not follow that the presence of the *Varyag* and the *Koreetz* in Chemulpo had anything to do with the despatch of Russian troops to Seoul: the ships had been lying there for some time. Further particulars will throw light on these points.

Just as we write news arrives *via* the *Jiji Shimpo* that a battle has taken place at Port Arthur. There had been vague intimations of the heading of a Japanese squadron in that direction immediately after the official declaration on the 6th instant, and it would have been a natural act of strategy to send the main body of the fleet in search of the Russian squadron simultaneously with the despatch of transports carrying troops to Chemulpo. This theory would explain the facts now reported, namely that at 11 p.m. on the 8th instant, that is to say, on the evening of the day when the transports reached Chemulpo, a Japanese squadron, doubtless under Vice-Admiral Togo who commands the Standing Squadron, arrived off Port Arthur and at once commenced an attack on the Russian ships which appear to have been lying outside ready for action, as had been previously reported. Details are still wanting, but after some hours' fighting two Russian battle-ships, attempting to escape into the harbour, were torpedoed and sunk by the Japanese. A cruiser—some authorities say an armoured cruiser, others speak simply of a cruiser—shared the same fate. Trying to make the harbour she was torpedoed, and run aground by her crew. The battle was resumed at daybreak on the 9th but the result is not yet reported. No Japanese casualties have been announced up to the present, but of course that does not prove that none has taken place. At any rate it would seem that a very marked initial advantage rested with the Japanese, for the loss of two line-of-battle ships and one cruiser at the first shock very seriously weakens Russia's fighting force.

News coming *via* Chefoo says that the Russian Squadron which left Port Arthur on the 3rd and remained outside the harbour until attacked by the Japanese on the night of the 8th consisted of 11 vessels; namely 6 battle-ships, the *Poltava*, the *Petropavlovsk*, the *Peresviet*, the *Pobieda*, the *Retvisan* (flag-ship) and the *Cesarevitch*; one armoured cruiser, the *Bayan*; and four protected cruisers, the *Askold*, the *Diana*, the *Pallada* and the *Novik*, together with torpedo craft. This number tallies with intelligence received two days previously as to 11 Russian ships being outside the port. It is as yet uncertain whether the Japanese attack on the night of the 8th was delivered by torpedo craft or by the war-ships of the squadron, which was under Admiral Togo. At all events the two best batttle-ships and the *Pallada* were put *hors de combat*, so that in the battle on the ensuing day the Russians had only 4 battle-ships, one armoured cruiser and three protected cruisers. What the Japanese force consisted of we can not say accurately, but it may be assumed that Admiral Togo's squadron was re-inforced by the ships of Rear-Admiral Uryu from Chemulpo.

There is much talk of the capture of Russian merchant steamers. Apparently five, in addition to those detained at Nagasaki, have met with that fate.

Bluejackets from the Japanese gunboat *Amagi* have gone on board the Russian steamer *Kotik* of 299 tons, (whose Yokohama agents are Messrs. Smith Baker and Company) which is lying at Yokohama, having arrived from Hakodate carrying furs and seal skins.

The Russian ensign on the *Kotik* was hauled down on Wednesday at 3.30 p.m. There seems to be some question of the vessel's status.

Meantime residents of Yokohama see prominent Russians going about under official protection. Bishop Nicolai, for one instance, is accompanied closely by a police constable.

THE OFFICIAL ACCOUNTS.

The official accounts of the Chemulpo and Port Arthur affairs have been published. With regard to Chemulpo, the two Russian ships are said to have steamed out of harbour at noon on the 9th instant heading for the Japanese Squadron under the command of Rear-Admiral Uryu. The Japanese opened fire and after a cannonade of 35 minutes the Russian vessels re-entered the harbour. At half-past four in the afternoon the *Koreetz* blew up and went down, and the *Varyag*, together with a transport called the *Sungari*, were also sunk, but by what process the message does not state. The Japanese Squadron escaped absolutely without injury and without one killed or wounded. It seems strange that the Russian ships accomplished nothing, for the *Varyag* had a large battery of 6-pr. quick-firers and the *Koreetz*, though only a gun-boat, carried an 8-inch gun. It will be observed that there is a discrepancy of dates. The above telegram indicates the 9th as the day of the occurrence, but our previous news, now confirmed by a telegram from the Japanese Consul at Chemulpo, gave the 8th. We believe the latter to be the true date.

A telegram from the Japanese Consul at Chemulpo, dated 4.30 a.m. on the 10th, says that Captain Moriyama had just landed, and that no casualties whatever were suffered by the Japanese ships.

It is alleged that the officers and crews of the Russian vessels took refuge on board the French frigate *Pascal*.

Mr. Mizuno, Japanese Consul at Chefoo, telegraphs intelligence, conveyed by the Chief Engineer of the British ship *Colombia*. Leaving Port Arthur at noon on the 9th the *Colombia* observed a squadron of the Japanese men-of-war engaging the Russian fleet. The position was about 6 miles outside Port Arthur, and the *Colombia's* people observed that the Japanese vessels were in well-ordered array, and that they did not appear to have suffered any injury. The Chief Engineer reported further that during the night of the 8th the Japanese had torpedoed two Russian battle-ships and one cruiser.

Mr. Kurino telegraphs from Paris under date of the 9th instant, that according to an official report from Viceroy Alexieff, Japanese torpedo-craft attacked the Russian squadron lying outside Port Arthur during the night of the 8th instant, and injured the *Cesarevitch*, the *Retvisan* and the *Pallada*. The Viceroy adds that steps are being taken to ascertain the amount of the injury.

The *Cesarevitch* and the *Retvisan* are the two finest ships in the Russian Squadron. The former has a displacement of 13,000 tons, a speed of 18 knots, 11½ inches of gun-protection and a broadside discharge of 3,516lbs. The *Retvisan* is 12,700 tons, has a speed of 18 knots, 10½ inches of gun-protection, and fires a broadside of 3,434lbs. The *Pallada* is a protected cruiser of 6,630 tons with aspeed of 20 knots and 4½ inches of protection.

What happened is now pretty plain. During the night of the 8th the Japanese torpedo-boats made a rush for the Russian squadron, which was lying some miles outside Port Arthur with steam up. The officers of the torpedo craft probably aimed at the destruction of several ships, but their efforts seem to have been chiefly directed towards the two biggest iron-clads, and they sunk them both. Meanwhile the Japanese squadron under Admiral Togo got between the Russians and the entrance to Port Arthur, and in that position a general action commenced on the morning of the 9th. The result is not known yet (10 p.m. 10th instant), but it would appear from the statement of the chief engineer of the *Colombia* that up to noon on the 9th the Japanese had not suffered any serious damage and their sixteen ship were fighting in good order.

The above facts were reported to the Emperor by Admiral Viscount Ito and Rear-Admiral Saito on the morning of the 10th instant.

Since writing the above, further details have come to hand and are published by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*. We learn from them that the Squadrou under Admiral Togo included three divisions. The first, under Rear-Admiral Nashiba, consisted of the six battleships, *Hatsuse*, *Asahi*, *Shikishima*, *Mikasa*, *Yashima*, and *Fuji*. The second, under Rear-Admiral Nasu, consisted of six first-class armoured cruisers, *Tokiwa*, *Asama*, *Yakumo*, *Azuma*, *Iwate* and *Izumo*. The third, under Rear-Admiral Dewa, consisted of four protected cruisers, *Takasago*, *Kasagi*, *Chitose* and *Yoshino*. Leaving Saseho on the 7th this squadron convoyed a fleet of transports to Chemulpo, and there Admiral Togo detached a few ships—how many we do not know—to deal with the *Varyag* and the *Koreetz*, which were known to be lying in that harbour. The incidents which occurred in connexion with this detachment need not be repeated. Admiral Togo himself pushed on for Port Arthur. In advance of his squadron were 4 torpedo-destroyers and a number of torpedo craft. All 11 p.m. the scouts came into touch with the Russian squadron. It consisted of eleven vessels, namely, six battle-ships, the *Poltava*, *Petropavlovsk*, *Peresviet*, *Pobieda*, *Retvisan* and *Cesarevitch*; one armoured cruiser, the *Bayan*, and four protected cruisers. the *Askold*, the *Diana*, the *Pallada* and the *Novik*. These vessels were lying outside Port Arthur, and in advance of them, at a distance of 5 miles, was a squadron of torpedo craft. The Japanese resolved to come into action at once, and they did so at a range of 6 miles. After about three hours cannonading, it was observed that the Russian line showed signs of breaking. Already the Japanese torpedo craft had dashed in through the zone of fire, and reached a position in rear of the Russian fighting line and at the base of the celebrated hill called Kin-shan. Whether the presence of them caused a panic in the enemy's squadron, or whether some of the ships had suffered serious injury, the *Retvisan*, and *Cesarevitch* were seen to make for the harbour. The Japanese torpedo-boats immediately attacked them and sank them both. The same fate overtook the *Pallada* almost immediately afterwards, and the account from which we quote alleges that the three vessels went down in the narrow fair-way at the entrance of the harbour, thus blocking all ingress or egress. On the following morning the fight was resumed, but there the record ceases.

Friday, February 11.

THE BATTLE OF PORT ARTHUR.

Up till the evening on the 11th no intelligence had been officially received as to the issue of the naval fighting on the 9th inst. off the Liaotung Peninsula. On the morning of the eleventh there were persistent rumours in Tokyo to the effect that Admiral Togo had won a signal victory, six of the Russian vessels having been set on fire and disabled and one of them sunk. It was said that the Japanese squadron was on its way back to Sasebo.

A Japanese naval expert, speaking through the columns of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, conjectures the disposition of the two fleets at the time of the encounter. The Russian ships—which he puts at 13, not 11 as previously stated—were lying, he thinks, so as to cover the entrance to Port Arthur, that is to say, in a line stretching east and west, covered by a line of torpedo craft at a distance of five miles. Whether the Russians were within such a distance from the forts on Hwan-kin-shan and Man-tau-shan as to be able to receive assistance from the shore batteries, remains to be ascertained. The Japanese squadron approaching from the south-east, steamed in single column line in front, and on arriving within a mile of the Russian torpedo-screen, veered slightly to the east, still preserving the column formation, and opened fire, using luminous night-sights. One result of this disposition would have been that the Japanese fire fell heaviest on the centre of the Russian line where the *Cesarevitch* and the *Retvisan* presumably were stationed. Finding themselves disadvantageously placed as they were unable to deliver any broadside fire, the Russians abandoned their line formation, and forming single column from the right—that is to say, from the western flank—steered southward (away from Port Arthur). Thus the two squadrons came to be broad-side on to each other, the Japanese steaming in the direction of the Hwan-kin-shan promotory and the Russians heading towards Shantung. Meanwhile the concentrated fire of the Japanese had told on the ships at the centre of the Russian line, and the two iron-clads, *Cesarevitch* and *Retvisan*, followed soon afterwards by the cruiser *Pallada*, left the column and steered for the mouth of the harbour. Of course at present it is mere matter of conjecture whether injuries received by the two battleships dictated this departure, or whether—which is not improbable—the flag-ship, having signalled for resuming position near the shore-batteries, proceeded to carry out the manœuvre, but was not followed by the whole squadron. The sea seems to have been rough at the time, and at any rate the difficulties of preserving organization and touch during a night battle are very great. Be that as it may, the reader will perceive that, assuming the Japanese torpedo-craft to have been ahead of the column, the gradual approach of the latter to the Hwan-kin-shan promotory which forms the eastern shore of the harbour, would have brought the torpedo-craft within a few miles of the entrance of the port, and they would thus have been been in an advantageous position for striking at any vessels that attempted to leave the Russian column and seek refuge inside the harbour. This theory fits well with the facts, but does not extend to the operations on the following day. What seems pretty certain, however, is that the Japanese succeeded in manœuvring so as to deprive the Russians of the assistance of the shore batteries during the fight on the 9th.

As we write rumours continue to reach Tokyo but no official report has yet come to hand, though we shall doubtless have one before going to press. The gist of all the stories is that the Russian squadron is practically disabled and will not be able to take part again in the war now commenced. But how many ships were burned, how many—if any—captured, how many sunk and how many run ashore, there is as yet no certainty. All the accounts agree, however, in stating that serious casualties on the Japanese side were limited to two ships, There is also divergence in the estimates of the Russian force, some speaking of 11 vessels, some of 13 and some of 15.

The master of the British steamer *Columbia*, which seems to have steamed across from Port Arthur to Chefoo on the morning of the 9th, not without peril to herself, speaks of the torpedoing of the Russian ships having preceded the action, and says that when he last saw the squadrons, the 16 Japanese vessels seemed uninjured, whereas two of the Russians appeared to have been more or less crippled.

OFFICIAL ACCOUNT.

There was some little delay in the receipt of definite official news as to the result of the battle of Port Arthur, and for a while a little uneasiness was caused. But an explanation, more or less satisfactory, was found in the facts that the telegraph from Chefoo has been interrupted and that a fog of exceptional density prevails in the Yellow Sea, rendering it dangerous for the Japanese squadron to make the shore anywhere. Late on Thursday evening the official account reached Tokyo. It shows that the attack on the 8th inst. was conducted by destroyers and torpedo-boats only and resulted as already known in the torpedoing of two ironclads and one cruiser. Admiral Togo says that no damage was done to his ships in this action and no casualties occurred. On the 9th inst., at noon, a general action commenced against the Russian squadron and the cannonading lasted for one hour. It is believed that four more ships were put out of action, and the affair ended in the Russians returning into harbour. The Japanese squadron sustained very little injury and the fighting power of the ships was not in any way impaired at the close of the action. The *Iwate's* top hamper suffered somewhat during the battle, but otherwise she has no casualty to report. The *Yakumo* was struck once, but with slight results. All the rest of the squadron came out of the fight intact, The total losses on the Japanese side were 4 killed and 54 wounded.

A TELEGRAM FROM ADMIRAL ALEXIEFF.

Admiral Alexieff has telegraphed to St. Petersburg that the three ships torpedoed by the Japanese are still afloat. He says that the *Csarevitch* was struck on the side; that the *Retvisan* was hit near her pump under the water line; and that the *Pallada's* injury was amidships near the machinery. There were few lost or injured, the list being 2 killed, 5 drowned, and 8 wounded. Two of the Japanese torpedoes did not explode.

A later telegram from the Admiral says that the Japanese Squadron attacked Port Arthur during the space of about an hour, and then ceased firing and drew off to the south. The Russians had 2 officers and 51 men wounded, and 9 killed. In the forts on shore 1 man was killed and 3 wounded. During the fight the battle-ship *Poltava* (10,960 tons), the cruiser *Diana* (6,730 tons), the cruiser *Askold* (6,500 tons) and the cruiser *Novik* (3,180 tons) were injured at the water line.

These telegrams were sent from Paris on the 10th instant, and presumably Viceroy Alexieff despatched them on the 9th from Port Arthur. If his report be correct, it appears that the net result of the Japanese attack was to injure 3 line-of-battle ships and 4 cruisers. The Admiral says nothing at all about any losses on the Japanese side. From his account it would seem that the Russian ships lay under the protection of the forts all the while. It is evident that further particulars are needed.

There is a rumour that the Russian Admiral and several of the Captains of ships were witnessing theatricals on shore in Port Arthur on the night when the torpedo attack was made on the squadron.

THE CHEMULPO AFFAIR.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* has a telegram from Saseho which throws new light on the fight at Chemulpo. According to this account Rear-Admiral Uryu's squadron anchored outside the port after escorting the transports thither. During the night of the 8th the *Koreetz* attempted to put out of the port and was followed by a Japanese torpedo-boat, upon which she opened fire. Apparently, however, she abandoned the idea of escaping. Admiral Uryu then sent word to the commanders of the French, British, Italian and American ships in the harbour that as his vessels had been fired on by the *Koreets* he purposed making reprisals, and he warned them of the danger. A similar message was sent to the Russian Consul, and the commander of the *Varyag* was informed that the Japanese squadron would wait for him outside the harbour. The Russians accepted the challenge with the results already known.

As to the composition of Admiral Uryu's squadron, accounts differ, but the balance of testimony goes to show that it included the first-class cruiser *Asama*, and that she had four consorts, the *Niitaka*, the *Naniwa*, the *Chiyoda* and the *Suma*. Of course the Russians were hopelessly out-numbered, but the brief duration of the combat and the fact that neither the 8-inch guns of the *Koreets* nor the 6-inch quick-firers of the *Varyag* inflicted any injury whatever on the Japanese, remain difficult to be understood.

The strangest point of all is that two Russian warships should have been found lying nonchalantly in a Korean port two days subsequently to the rupture of diplomatic relations. Viceroy Alexieff must have known on the evening of the 6th at latest that a state of war had practically been declared. Had he then communicated with the commander of the *Varyag* or the Consul at Chemulpo, the two war-ships might have steamed leisurely across to Port Arthur on the 7th or even on the forenoon of the 8th. We are almost driven to conclude that the Viceroy was taken by surprise, though such a hypothesis involves the idea that he must have watched the course of diplomatic events very superficially. At all events his naval dispositions indicated either complete confidence in his own ability to crush the Japanese at any moment, or total oblivion to the perils of the situation. His fleet was weakened by quite useless division. Four out of his eighteen strongest units were segregated: the *Varyag* (6,500 tons) at Chemulpo; the *Gromoboi* (12,338) at Vladivostock; the *Rossia* (12,200 tons) at Vladivostock; the *Rurik* (10,940 tons) at Vladivostock. Further, the *Koreets* (gunboat) was at Chemulpo, the *Mandjur* (gunboat) in Shanghai, and there was another cruiser or gunboat at Vladivostock. Such a dissipation of force on the very eve of a naval struggle is unaccountable. The ships at Vladivostock were as useless for the purposes of the vital combat that impended as were the ships at Chemulpo. We can only suppose that the Viceroy expected the Japanese to fritter away a further interval of valuable time in receiving and exchanging notes which had ceased to be of the smallest practical value. It may reasonably be suspected, too, that he doubted Japan's resolution, and imagined that rather than cross swords with such a mighty Power as Russia, she would accept any, or almost any, compromise at the last moment. Neither is it unlikely that he counted on the efficiency of intervention even after diplomacy had failed. At all events he was caught unprepared so far as concerned the vital element of concentration. Military strategy has changed wonderfully little since the days of the phalanx and the pavise. Tactics are different now from what they were before the days of the breechloader but in strategy Napoleon's maxim holds absolutely good, "never separate your forces on the eve of combat." Of course to the Japanese belongs the credit of having struck at the right moment, and of having struck quickly and strongly. The troops for Chemulpo—we are not at liberty to mention the exact number but it was certainly several thousands—were all embarked and ready to set out within 30 hours of the time when the rupture of negotiations was announced in Tokyo and St. Petersburg, and the whole of Japan's naval forces entered the field at the same time. Thereafter there was not a moment's hesitation. The main squadron under Admiral Togo steamed right across to Port Arthur and 30 hours later the two fleets were engaged.

A military attaché of one of the Peking Legations, who has just returned from a visit to Manchuria, says that Viceroy Alexieff has over-worked himself and is now laid up.

Mr. Kato, Japanese Consul at Chemulpo, telegraphs that the Russian killed and wounded were altogether about 100; that about 28 of the wounded are on board the *Pascal*, 30 are on the *Talbot*, and others the *Elba*. Mr. Kato received this information from an officer of the *Pascal*. The corpses of 6 were landed on the night of the ninth. Two officers are among the wounded. The commander of the *Varyag* seems to have been wounded but not seriously.

The ships engaged at Chemulpho on the Japanese side were the *Tachachiho*, the *Nauiwa*, the *Suma*, and the *Akashi*.

Viscount Hayashi telegraphs from London that large sums are being subscribed by English sympathisers on behalf of Japanese soldiers wounded in action, and for the families of the killed.

A high prize court has been organized in Tokyo under the presidency of Viscount Tanaka.

The line of telegraphs from Nagasaki to Vladivostock has been severed. According to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* the Russian Authorities at Vladivostock refused to send Japanese messages after the 6th.

The *Jiji* has a telegram from Vladivostock saying that the ice is still 2 feet thick and that the four Russian men-of-war lying in the harbour are practically useless for offensive purposes. Moreover, the dock is quite unserviceable.

It is stated that some 300 Japanese subjects remain in Port Arthur and that the Viceroy has issued strict orders for their protection.

The protection of Russian subjects in Japan has been entrusted by Baron Rosen to the Legation of France.

The foreign residents of Kobe are raising funds for the Japanese Red Cross Society.

All accounts agree that five Russian steamers have been temporarily seized by Japanese men-of-war. These are steamers belonging to the Volunteer Fleet and the East Chinese Railway Company: that is say, ships presumably used for the transport of troops and munitions of war. They will not be permanently held, but are detained merely to check their operations in the fighting arena.

The *Sungari* (or *Soongari*), which is reported to have been scuttled and sunk in Chemulpo harbour by the Russians, belonged to the Chinese Eastern Railway Company. She was advertised to leave Shanghai on Saturday, 6th, at such time as the state of the tide might permit, and her destination was Port Arthur and Dalny. We fail to see how this vessel can have reached Chemulpo by the 9th instant. There appears to be no doubt that a steamer was sunk, and the official report calls her the *Sungari*, but there must be some error of name.

The Russian gun-boat *Manjour*, which has been for sometime at Shanghai and which was yesterday reported to have left that place, is now stated to be still lying there, and to have abandoned all intention of going out of the river. It will be remembered that the *Manjour* was lately spoken of as in dock at Nagasaki. Apparently this was a mistake, the vessel at Nagasaki being the Russian steamer *Manchuria*.

The *Mongolia*, which should have reached Dalny on the 9th, had not made that port on the 10th, and there were many conjectures about her. The *Mongolia* belongs to the Chinese Eastern Railway Company. She left Shanghai on Sunday the 7th inst., at 2 p.m., carrying mails and passengers.

A news agency reports that two of the Russian ships got aground on the occasion of their visit to Dalny on the 3rd instant, and that several of them are in need of repairs to their machinery which can not be accomplished without access to Vladivostock dock. Such items are not particularly interesting at present.

The Emperor has conveyed to Rear-Admiral Uryu His Majesty's appreciation of the able manner in which that officer discharged his duties in safely conveying the Japanese transports to Chemulpo and in destroying the Russian war-vessels which he found at the place.

The Government announces that the *Saikyo Maru*, the *Kobe Maru*, the *Hakuai Maru* and the *Kosai Maru* are to used for the transport of sick and wounded and will rank as neutral vessels.

Shanghai wires that in view of extensive preparations for defence at Port Arthur, there will probably be a large clearance of private houses, and that the inhabitants are getting ready for that eventuality.

KOREA.

Saturday, February 6.

The *Kokumin* has a telegram from Seoul saying that the number of Russian troops assembled on the northern bank of the Yalu aggregates twenty thousand and that some five thousand have already crossed the river. This striking piece of news has the corollary that details are wanting. Something more is wanting, we suspect, namely, the troops. We are reminded of the *Daily Mail's* correspondent who saw no difficulty in collecting and quartering a hundred thousand Japanese soldiers in Hakodate. When twenty thousand Russian troops congregate on the northern bank of the Yalu and when five thousand cross the river, the event will not be announced in hole-and-corner whispers.

The insurgents or bandits in Chhollado are again giving trouble. Such disturbers of the peace generally show special activity in particularly cold winters like the present. That is doubtless why the mounted robbers in Manchuria have been much heard of recently as well as those in Korea.

Monday, February 8.

It continues to be reported that much coming and going is taking place between Korean officials and the Russian Legation in Seoul, and that many of the former are watching every movement or indication on Russia's part with respectful solicitude.

The Tong-haks are said to be active among the mountains in the south of the Korean peninsula, and there is even talk of their attacking Seoul. These Tong-haks partake of the nature of stormy petrels. They always appear on the eve of international trouble. It was they that caused in 1894 sufficient disturbance to induce the Korean monarch to summon military aid from China. Perhaps they will induce him to take a similar step now with regard to Russia. But the potentialities of the Tong-haks, like those of the Peddlers Guild, are greatly exaggerated. The Tai-won-kun knew how to utilize these factors in his day. Since his death they are insignificant. What a blessing it would nevertheless be to the Far East were Korean affairs efficiently administered!

The *Jiji Shimpo* reports that the Emperor of Korea has lodged a sum of 600,000 *yen* with the First Bank and is taking measures for his own escape. Our contemporary says nothing about the monarch's intended refuge. The Russian Legation is not likely to tempt him again, we imagine. In the *Chuo* it is alleged that on the night of the 5th His Majesty's trepidation was so great that he obtained permission to have the Palace guarded by foreign troops.

The Japanese residents of Wiju have withdrawn to Seoul.

Tuesday, February 9.

A news agency reports that two Russian war-ships are lying in Chemulpo, and surmises that they are prepared to land marines at any moment.

The *Nichi Nichi* says that Mr. Hyon's device for borrowing Russian troops to protect Korea has proved a failure and has been definitely abandoned. It never had any chance of success, we imagine. And one may be permitted to hope that in the sequel of the present complications such measures will be taken as shall ensure the peace of the East against perpetual disturbance from Korean intrigues and machinations.

Messrs. Chun Song-hun and Min Pyong-hyok have been advocating a triple alliance between Korea, China and Japan, but their project has not been taken seriously.

In spite of the above statement as to the abandonment of Hyon's Russo-phil scheme, rumours come that a certain Mr. Kwak, formerly serving in the Russian Legation, has paid a visit to Port Arthur, and received from Viceroy Alexieff a message which greatly strengthens the back of the Korean monarch. But if the sovereign's back has been strengthened, he is said to be still in a state of great and not unnatural trepidation. All available guards are reported to have been marshalled for the protection of the Palace, and guns are in position at the gates. On the other hand, a majority of the leading statesmen are alleged to be convinced that there is nothing for their country except to rely on Japan.

Meanwhile mysterious rumours circulate to the effect that something Japanese has arrived in Seoul and that the city's spirits are raised. What the something is no journal is permitted to declare explicitly.

Wednesday, February 10.

Our readers are probably tired of hearing about the perturbation of the Korean Court. The latest news on this subject is more emphatic than ever. His Majesty is said to incline to the French Legation as a place of refuge. It does not seem to have occurred to him that the best plan of all would be to place himself and his belongings under Japanese protection. Japan is the one Power that sets store by the independence of Korea. Nothing human is more certain than that if Russia over-run Korea and drive out the Japanese, the Emperor's functions as a monarch will at once become things of the past.

Mr. Kwaku is said to have successfully completed his mission at Port Arthur and to have telegraphed to the Emperor the results of his reception by Viceroy Alexieff. The mission is understood to have been to obtain Russian troops. But the question of time is now embarrassing His Majesty. The Russians are not on the spot and the Japanese are. Unhappy monarch, he seems likely to fall between the two stools.

The immediate arrival of 20 Chinese soldiers to guard the Chinese Legation in Seoul is expected.

The latest news from Seoul is that the Emperor has made all preparations to fly to the French Legation, but that the newly made Empress does not want to move.

With regard to telegraphs, news has also been received that the Korean Government's lines between Seoul and Fusan as well as in other parts of the country, have been broken.

Thursday, February 11.

Mr. Hayashi, Japanese Minister in Seoul, waited on the Korean Emperor on the morning of the 9th instant, and reported that as Korea seemed unable of her own strength to resist the aggression of Russia, Japan had resolved to help her, and that such and such steps had been taken, or were about to be taken, for the purpose. The Emperor is said to have plainly showed his disposition to rely on the Japanese.

It need scarcely be said that the Japanese residents of Seoul are vastly pleased at the entrance of their country's troops. They are reported to have hung out flags and made many demonstrations of delight.

It is stated that the Kaiping mine has refused a Russian order of 3 million tons!! of coal, and that the quantity hitherto supplied by the mine has been only 40,000 tons.

A telegram from Seoul says that on the 9th instant Mr. Hayashi, Japanese Representative in Seoul, intimated to M. Pavlow, through the Legation of a neutral Power, that he was expected to withdraw from the Korean capital as expeditiously as possible. It was expected that M. Pavlow would leave on the 11th instant accompanied by the Legation staff and the guards, and that the party would embark on the French frigate *Pascal*.

Mr. Consul Ijuin telegraphs from Tientsin that he has ascertained that orders have been received by the officer commanding the French troops in Tientsin to make arrangements for the despatch of 200 men as a Legation guard for Seoul. The detachment will embark at Chin-wan-tao.

A telegram to the *Asahi* from Tientsin says that the Russian troops now on the Yalu are five regiments of infantry, six batteries of artillery and five or six thousand cavalry. The force moving towards the Yalu from Liaoyang is put by this authority at 40,000 men.

We note that the *Manila Cablenews'* Seoul correspondent sends his journal the following items of news:—

Seoul, January 23.

A new and what is practically a war ministry and cabinet has been formed.

The first act of the body was to authorize the purchase of ten thousand rifles with which to arm possible levies for the Korean army if it becomes necessary to increase its strength for purposes of defence.

Seoul, January 25.

A bitter race war between the Koreans and the Japanese is raging throughout the country.

On all sides the Koreans have attacked the Japanese. The troops are out in the field and the prospects for bloodshed on a grand scale are favourable. No Japanese is safe unless escorted by armed guards in considerable numbers, and the cities are in a tumult.

Grave fears are felt for the safety of the foreign legations, the guards of which have all been strengthened to a war footing within the past week or so, and the attitude of the people is so strongly anti-Japanese as to give rise to the gravest doubts as to the outcome of the present situation.

CHINA.

Some time ago the Chinese Court addressed to the Viceroy and Governors a series of questions bearing upon the situation. What these satraps were invited to decide was whether, in their opinion, the Chinese empire should draw the sword in the event of war between Russia and Japan, or whether it should remain neutral. It is stated that answers have now been received and that the great majority are in favour of fighting but a few give their votes in the opposite sense. We do not doubt that the latter have good reasons for their view. Indeed, it is very easy to conjecture their reasons. Since, however, some onlookers are pretty sure to adduce this as another illustration of China's pussillanimity, it is well to say that, according to information received from good sources, China was not only prepared to enter the struggle on Japan's side, but also set on foot preparations to do so. It was by Japan's advice and at Japan's request that she finally decided to adopt the policy of strict neutrality. Certainly there can be nothing stranger than the spectacle of a great empire sitting quiet throughout a war which involves the fate of an extensive part of its territory, but since China would not have prepared this anomalous display of her own free choice she should not be held accountable for it.

There seems to have been a journalistic storm of a small kind in Peking. Last month the publication commenced there of a French newspaper calling itself *L'Echo de Peking*. It appears to have been a hysterical sheet, some of its articles being devoted to denouncing the Manchu dynasty and inciting the people to its overthrow, others to calling Viceroy Yuan an assassin, and yet others to dubbing the Empress Dowager a harlot. Complaint was made by the Chinese Authorities to the French Legation, and as M. Dubail is the last man in the world to countenance excesses of any kind, he summoned to his presence the editor, M. Damorin (?), and warned him that such a journal could not be tolerated. The editor is said to have behaved with defiant insolence, and to have subsequently circulated very garbled accounts of his interview with the Minister. The final upshot was his deportation from China, a well deserved fate, if the published accounts be correct. We commiserate with M. Dubail in having been obliged to meddle with such canaille, but his firmness is to be applauded.

A telegram to the *Nichi Nichi* from Peking says that the news of the doings of the Japanese squadron at Port Arthur has produced a great effect on the Chinese Court, and that the inclination is now very strong to abandon a vacillating attitude and strike in with Japan, at least to the extent of enforcing struct neutrality in the district between the Great Wall and the Liao.

It is rumoured that since the rupture of relations between Japan and Russia the mounted bandits in Manchuria have been making themselves very busy, and that the Russians find greatly augmented difficulty in guarding the railway.

The detachment of 70 men that Great Britain is sending from Hongkong to Chia-wan-tao, arrived in Shanghai on the 10th.

CONSTITUTION DAY.

It need scarcely be said that Tokyo journals welcomed the dawn of the 11th instant as a great day for Japan. They declared it to be a day ever memorable in the history of their country, inasmuch as it saw Japan mistress of the neighbouring seas and virtually secure as to the results of the war upon which she has entered. For although she should be beaten by her enemy on shore—a result of which she has not the smallest apprehension—she is now absolutely safe against attempted invasion, and she can devote her whole energies to the land combat.

The usual celebration took place at the Palace on Constitution Day. About 300 persons had the honour of lunching with His Majesty. The Emperor's ordinarily brief speech was lengthened on this occasion by an allusion to the unfortunate rupture of relations with Japan's neighbour, Russia, an event for which His Majesty expressed profound regret. The Prime Minister, speaking on behalf of the whole body of officials, echoed the same regret; and His Excellency Baron d'Anethan, Doyen of the Corps Diplomatic, supplemented his congratulations by declaring that he and his colleagues sincerely lamented the unhappy necessity.

THE RUPTURE OF NEGOTIATIONS.

Monday, February 8.

It is confidently asserted that the Japanese Government has notified Russia of its intention to assume complete liberty of action. On the 6th instant Barons Komura and Rosen exchanged farewell visits. Baron Rosen is understood to have received instructions to make all preparations for departure at a moment's notice and Mr. Kurino in St. Petersburg has been similarly instructed. The care of such Russian subjects as may remain in Japan and of Russian affairs has been entrusted to His Excellency the Austro-Hungarian Minister.

Nevertheless Russia's answer had not arrived up to last evening. It is said to have been forwarded from St. Petersburg to Viceroy Alexieff on the 5th instant, but the Viceroy is believed to have been empowered to make such changes as the exigencies of the situation might seem in his judgment to demand.

There is no prospect, however, of any reply such as can save the situation. Whatever concessions were at one time contemplated—and some were certainly contemplated—the War Party gained the ascendancy at the last moment and the reply is expected to reflect the fact. There are good reasons far believing that the Russian Government has earnestly sought an exit by the route of intervention, but no Powers have been found willing to intervene. In that respect the conditions have undergone a complete metamorphosis. After the war of 1894-5 the St. Petersburg statesmen found no difficulty in inducing France and Germany to join them in ousting Japan from the territory she had won by force of arms. They have now failed to obtain any assistance in maintaining their own most unjust tenure of that territory.

Baron Rosen's meeting with Baron Komura on the 6th instant, was at the request of the latter. Baron Komura is said to have then informed the Russian Representative that as further diplomatic negotiation seemed useless, Japan purposed now taking whatever action seemed necessary for the preservation of her interests.

A letter from a Japanese resident of Vladivostock dated the 4th of January says that the prospect of disturbed relations between Japan and Russia had thrown the town into a ferment; that no Japanese subject dared to venture into the streets by day or night, and that none of them could foresee when he would be able to return to his country.

Tuesday, February 9.

It was on the 5th instant that orders were issued from the Throne to terminate the negotiations and assume a free hand. Telegrams were at once sent to Mr. Kurino in St. Petersburg explaining what had occurred, and desiring him to prepare to apply for his passports and to convey to the Russian Government a statement of Japan's resolution. This intimation was not to be given, however, pending the issue of further instructions, and these were sent over the wires on the 6th. That day, also, Baron Komura conveyed a formal intimation to Baron Rosen in the sense that whereas the Japanese Government had made every effort to arrive at an amicable settlement of the Manchurian question with Russia, the latter had not evinced any disposition to reciprocate this peaceful purpose. Therefore Japan could not continue the diplomatic conferences. She was regretfully compelled to take independent action for the protection of her rights and interests, and she must decline to accept the responsibility of any incidents that might occur in consequence.

It was expected that the above facts would be speedily made public from official sources.

Mr. Kurino is to leave St. Petersburg on the 10th and repair to Berlin.

There are conflicting rumours as to the probable date of issue of a declaration of war. Some predict its immediate issue; some speak of the 11th, that is to say, the anniversary of the promulgation of the Constitution. But doubtless the Emperor will be guided by considerations which are not superficially apparent. Then, too, there is the alternative that no such declaration may be made.

On Monday the Privy Council considered the draft of a Law of Siege and adopted it. The Law is expected to receive the immediate sanction of the Emperor, and will probably appear in the *Official Gazette* to-day. Perhaps it may be well to explain that such a law fixes the limits of the regions regarded as lying within the zone of belligerent operations.

Wednesday, February 10.

Mr. Kurino is to leave St. Petersburg to-day for Berlin where he will remain for a short time before starting for Japan.

Unexpectedly the rupture of diplomatic relations with Russia has been followed by a marked rise in stock-market quotations. The explanation given is that the public think these securities have reached their lowest point and are consequently beginning to buy.

London, however, is of a different mind. Japanese four-per-cents have fallen to £72-10s. and five-per-cents to £82-10s. No such figures have been recorded previously.

A news agency states that the Japanese Consul at Korsakoff can not withdraw until the ice breaks up. He will therefore close the consulate and become a private person pending the arrival of spring.

The Japanese Consul at Odessa is to leave his post to-day.

JAPANESE SECURITIES.

Japanese securities and English Consols have both felt the effect of the naval operations at Port Arthur. They are reported to have risen appreciably, the Japanese four-per-cents by £2.10s., and the English Consols by £1.8s.9d.

Stocks in Tokyo have made a great leap. On the 10th instant transactions were very larger, much larger than the circumstances warranted. The Exchange shares leaped up 37 *yen*; the Densha, 12.80 *yen*; the Shigai, 9.20 *yen*, and so on.

BARON AND BARONESS ROSEN.

The Emperor and Empress despatched Baron Sannomiya, Grand Master of Ceremonies, and Miss Kagawa, Lady in Waiting, to the Russian Legation, carrying warm messages of farewell and conveying a silver vase, and a pair of lacquer boxes, various rolls of silks and other articles. The Japanese press is singularly unanimous in its expressions of sympathy with Baron Rosen.

PRESS CORRESPONDENT REGULATIONS.

These long-expected regulations appeared in the *Official Gazette* on the 10th instant, The gist of them, so far as foreign correspondents are concerned, is as follows:—(1) Applications must come through a Consul or a Minister and the name of the paper must be stated. (2) Persons applying to accompany the troops must have been at least one year engaged in journalistic work. (3) Correspondents that can not speak Japanese may take an interpreter, but must send in his name accompanied by a guarantee bearing the signature of his employer, such guarantee to state the main facts relating to him. (4) Foreign correspondents may take a servant, but must observe the same preliminary routine as in the case of an interpreter. (5) Several newspapers may be required to have combined representation. (6) Each correspondent must carry a permit which will be furnished by the authorities. (7) Correspondents will be attached to the staffs of the Divisions. (8) Correspondents should wear foreign costume and should carry on the left shoulder a white badge with the name of their newspaper in red. (9) Correspondents should carry their permits and be prepared to show them whenever required. (10) Correspondents must observe all directions issued for their guidance by the staff to which they are attached. Any disobedience of such directions will expose a correspondent to be sent back. (11) All correspondence, epistolary or telegraphic, must be submitted for examination by the staff before being sent. All use of cipher will be unlawful. (12) All possible facilities will be afforded to correspondents, and provisions will be supplied it necessary in the field; also they will be allowed, on application, to share in the use of vehicles and vessels engaged for the public service. (13) Correspondsnts violating the military criminal code or the military intelligence regulations will be liable to be punished by court martial. (14) The above provisions from (6) to (13) inclusive shall be applicable to interpreters and servants of correspondents.

THE SPECTATOR.

Dr. J. N. Seymour, who is now in England, has written the following excellent letter to the *Spectator*:—

Sir,—Mr. Norman's views about Japan's ideals (*Spectator*, December 12th) are in contradiction to my own experience, an experience including a residence of seventeen years in Japan, where I not only lived on terms of intimacy with the Japanese, but had also exceptionally close intercourse with foreigners who made it their business to study Japanese politics and the trend of modern thought. It is merely spreading "fancy and myth" to say that Japan has other than peaceful designs upon the integrity of Occidental influence throughout the whole continent of Asia, that all sorts of associations and societies have been formed with the avowed purpose of sweeping the people of the West from out of all countries and lands Asiatic, and that such are very favourite topics among influential classes. It must be borne in mind that Japan is a country in which long-established notions and customs have been recently uprooted, and the people feel that they must not be hasty in rejecting new ideas. It is inevitable that even silly suggestions should be sometimes gravely listened to, and even accepted, by some few. But the mass of intelligent people are not good soil for such seed; it may spring up, but it withers away. It is not difficult to cull from newspapers in Japan reports of sayings and doings which reflect little credit on the participators. The same thing might be done in any country. But to consider these as typical of the state of public opinion, as an indication of the policy which the Government may be expected to follow is to fall into a grievous error. While denying the correctness of Mr. Norman's views, many of your readers will doubtless think that the continent of Asia would be much benefited by the extension of Japanese influence. By the way, was it not Mr. Norman himself who introduced into India the Japanese system of boring artesian wells? As for the attack made on the Japanese character, and on the supposed relative frequency of murder and intrigue, notwithstanding the odiousness of comparison, the only answer is: "Read again European history, including that of the British Isles." And finally, if the Japanese have some bitter feelings when they contemplate the occupation by Russia of Port Arthur, and of Wei-hai-wei by the British—against whom they certainly have no illwill—places which the Japanese themselves conquered and held, if some have indulged in vapouring after the war, if they form societies for the reform of language (societies of little influence, but to which sinister objects are attributed), if they talk much of the blessings of peace, is not all this a proof that they are men of like passions with us, and is it not unfair to speak of it as if revealing the "cloven hoof" and as "pratings about a desire for peace"?—I am, Sir, &c.,

J. N. Seymour.

With Mr. Norman's allegations—not, of course, Mr. Henry Norman whose knowledge of Japan is far too intimate to allow him to perpetrate such errors—with Mr. Norman's allegations about the Japanese army we have already dealt in these columns, because his explicit statements admitted of effective refutation by the aid of statistics. But it has not seemed worth while to discuss his opinions about Japanese ideals. He evidently thinks that the Japanese may be damned for all time if it can be proved that they entertain the ambition of becoming paramount throughout Asia. We fail to appreciate the criminal element of such an aspiration, even supposing it to exist, and when we observe that Mr. Norman adduces among evidences of its existence, such things as the visits of a Persian ex-Minister to Tokyo and the organization of an imaginary Pan-Asiatic Association in the Japanese capital, it appears to us that he may be left in undisputed possession of his theories.

THE CREWS OF THE "NISSHIN" AND THE "KASUGA."

A correspondent writes asking us to publish a word of warning with respect to any members of the crews of the *Nisshin* and the *Kasuga* who may be induced to remain in Japan with the hope of obtaining lucrative employment. When Japan bought the *Esmeralda* several of her people were so ill advised that they stayed in the country, with the result that they became objects of charity and some of them had eventually to find their way home as stowaways. The sumptuous welcome that is to be given to the officers and men of the two cruisers now on the way from Singapore, may prove misleading as to the opportunities of employment offering to foreigners in this country. There are practically no such opportunities, and, as our correspondent shrewdly remarks, the most charitable method would be to send the men's money to London or Genoa, according to the terms of the British Board of Trade Regulations, and let them follow it as speedily as possible. If they fall among the "sharks and pilot fish" in Yokohama, they are likely to fare ill.

It is stated that the crews of the *Nisshin* and *Kasuga*, for whom a welcome is being prepared, number 27 officers and 400 men.

Tokyo city has has decided to spend twenty thousand *yen* for the purpose of welcoming the officers and crews of the *Nisshin* and the *Kasuga*. A committee has been appointed and the preparations are proceeding apace. Of the total sum five thousand will be obtained by subscription among the projectors, seven thousand five hundred will be put up by ordinary members; and the remainder by special subscription.

THEN AND NOW.

An anonymous correspondent sends us a quotation from a translation of the *Kinse Shiryaku* (Abbreviated History of Recent Times) which appeared in the *Japan Mail* in the year 1873, the translator being Mr. E. Satow (now Sir Ernest Satow). The extract is as follows:—

Sagalien and Manchouria, 1867-1903.

1867.—In the autumn Enomoto Kamajiro and his companions came back to Japan from Holland on board the *Kaiyo Maru*.

About the same time the Bakufu despatched envoys to Russia to treat about the boundary in Sagalien. In 1862 Take-no-Uchi Shimotsuke-no-kami and Matsudaira Iwami-no-kami had been previously sent thither to discuss the same question. They proposed on that occasion to fix on the 50th parallel of latitude as the boundary, because it marked the division between the tribes called Aino and Smelenkur (?) Our officers were to proceed thither to govern the natives—and a map was prepared in which the respective territories were coloured Red and Green, the fiftieth parallel of latitude lying between the two. The Russians replied: "On what grounds do you call this your territory? If we were to consult an impartial person he would decide that the island belonged to Manchuria. Besides, no Ainos are to be found north of the fortieth parallel, and you have quite disregarded the position of the tribes, in your unjustifiable desire to take the 50th parallel as a boundary. How is it possible for us to accept it? There is nothing in this island by which a boundary can be properly laid down, and under these circumstances if you insist upon laying one down, it will give rise to complications between the two Powers. We are naturally averse to having our frontier undefined, we are equally averse to defining it on insufficient grounds, or on such as do not suit our convenience. Let us therefore, leave the matter as it is for the present, permitting our respective subjects to occupy the island in common, as was provisionally determined by the treaty concluded with Japan at Shimoda. At some future day, when we have examined the localities we can confer again. But if you still find it absolutely necessary to settle something, we will take Aniwa Bay (at the extreme South of Sagalien) as our boundary. Although Take-no-Uchi and his colleagues perceived from the evasive nature of their arguments that their design was to seize the whole island, they were unable to refute the reasoning of the Russians because they were insufficiently acquainted with the nature of the locality.

An engagement having been entered into in writing to the effect that the discussion should be renewed on the basis of an examination of the localities, the envoys returned to Japan, reported "the evident desire of the Russians to make themselves possessors of the whole island and requested that some person who was well acquainted with the geography of the island should be sent to negotiate. The Bakufu although desirous of despatching a second mission—had so much on its hands during the five years which followed that it was unable to carry out its intention, and the Russians took advantage of this long interval to form extensive settlements in Sagalien. When the Bakufu became aware of their proceedings, it was highly alarmed, and forthwith despatched Koide Yamato-no-Kami (Governor of Hakodate) and Ishikawa-no Kami (a commissioner for foreign affairs). On arriving at St. Petersburg, Koide produced the agreement made by Take-no-Uchi and his colleagues in 1862, and proposed to discuss the question on the basis of the nature of the localities. The Russians feigned never to have heard of the arrangement and offered in exchange for Sagalien certain of the Kurile Islands, which belong to them, but Koide and his colleagues denied their jurisdiction over the Kuriles, and upbraided them for their disingenuousness. The argument became warm, and the Russians at last said: "It is not a matter about which we ought to wrangle; let us both colonise and occupy it."

Koide and his colleagues consulted together (*à la manière Japonaise* of those epochs) saying:

Though we have exhausted all possible arguments (except the only good ones?) the facts remains that their colonies extend south of the 50th parallel. It is our fault for putting the negotiation off so long." Eventually they made a convention by which the island was to be occupies jointly by Russians and Japanese subjects and returned home in the following spring to report the result of their mission.

From "Kinse Shiryaku" published by the *Japan Mail* in 1873. Translated from the Japanese by (at the time) E. M. Satow, Japanese Secretary of H.B.M. Legation.

It will be observed that the Japanese

negotiators, sent in 1862 to discuss the question of Saghalien, proposed the fiftieth parallel of latitude as a boundary between Russian and Japanese dominions, and it will also be observed that the Russians rejected the proposal, asking how it was possible to accept it, declaring that there was nothing in the island by which a boundary could properly be laid down, and predicting that to insist upon laying one down would surely give rise subsequently to complications between the two Powers. Now it happens that to-day Russia proposes to divide Korea by an imaginary line coinciding with the thirty-ninth parallel of latitude, all the district northward of that line to be neutral territory and all the district southward of it to be under Japan's political influence. Japan might recall the Saghalien record and ask Russia, in her own words of 42 years ago, how it is possible to lay down such a boundary when there is nothing in the peninsula to indicate it, and might similarly remind Russia of her own prediction that to insist on laying down an unnatural boundary would surely give rise to subsequent complications. It will also be observed that Russia disputed Japan's claims to Saghalien on the ground that the island evidently belonged to Manchuria—a contention which cuts both ways, it may be noted in parenthesis—, and it will occur to any observer of recent events that Russia is only too likely to come to this same conclusion about Korea by and by. Finally the Japanese lost Saghalien altogether by "putting off the negotiations too long" and they are in danger of losing Korea by protracting the negotiations too long. The whole story of Saghalien's alienation deserves re-perusal at this time, and we have to thank our anonymous correspondent for calling our attention to the fact.

A YEAR'S LYNCHING RECORD.

According to the Chicago *Tribune's* annual summary, the number of lynchings that occurred in the United States during 1903 aggregated 104, which was next to the smallest number for any year covered by the record, beginning with 1885, the one exception being 1902, during which eight less lynchings were counted than last year. The year having the next best record was 1899, when 107 mob executions took place, and the second best was 1900, when 115 occurred. Mississippi had more lynchings last year than any other state or territory, the number standing against it being 18. Louisiana was next with 14, Arkansas third with 13, and Georgia fourth with 12. Florida and South Carolina each had eight lynchings; Texas had seven; Tennessee, five; Illinois, Missouri, Montana, and Wyoming, three each; Alabama and Kentucky, two each, and Delaware and Nevada one each. Ninety-two of the 104 lynchings occurred in the south. All the persons lynched were men, except in one instance in Mississippi and one in Louisiana. One Chinaman and seventeen white men were among the lynched. The crimes for which lynching was resorted to were: Murder, 47; criminal assault, 11; attempted criminal assault, 10; murderous assault, 7; unknown offenses, 5; race prejudice, 5; complicity in murder, 5; arson, 4; suspicion of murder, 3; mistaken identity, 3; insults to whites, 2; making threats, 1; refusing to give information, 1. The months of June and July were the worst months for lynching, there being twenty such executions during the former and nineteen during the latter month. Twelve lynchings were listed in May.

MR. JACK LONDON.

We entirely agree with the *Jiji Shimpo* that Mr. Jack London's punishment in the form of a fine of 5 *yen* and confiscation of his photographic apparatus, were examples of thoroughly misplaced official zeal. That he was guilty of a technical breach of the regulations which forbid the taking of photographs within the limits of zones of defence, is true, and the police did not exceed their duty in arresting him, for it is plainly impossible to estimate the degree of such an offence without examining the evidence, namely, the photograph itself, and that can not be done without some delay. But when the police magistrate discovered that the picture was simply one of coolies coaling a steamer, that Mr. London, being a total stranger to Japan, could not possibly have been familiar with the special regulations in force here, and that the error commited was not only quite harmless but quite inadvertent, the infliction of a fine and the confiscation of the apparatus assume the character of an injustice. We sincerely sympathise with Mr. London, and we trust that his estimate of the Japanese police will not be based on his most unfortunate experience at Bakan.

THE MOTHER OF WASHINGTON.

On Monday February 22nd the American community in Yokohama will celebrate the birthday of George Washington, their first President, with a grand ball at the Grand Hotel. In view of this social function we think the following *Academy* review of a book just brought out by the MacMillan Company for Mrs. Roger A. Pryor, entitled "The Mother of Washington and Her Times," will possess more than ordinary interest:—

The author has brought a thorough knowledge of the time and much enthusiasm for her subject to this study of Washington's mother. But the material is scant for evolving a full biography of this colonial matron She is portrayed less as an individual than as a type of the capable, housewifely women of the ante-Revolution period in Virginia, ruling wisely the complex household of those days She is exceptional, however, in that much-marrying community, in having remained a widow, and managing alone her estate in behalf of her family of young children. In balance of character and serenity of nature we feel her spirit-motherhood to "the Father of his Country," nor was she less staunch in purpose nor less heroic in sacrifice than her patriot son in the time "which tried men's souls" and women's souls as well, though in ways less recognized in the records of history. The strongest interest of the book is in its graphic portrayal of colonial life in the Old Dominion. We have its features of likeness to the country life of England, for Virginia was, as is its boast, settled by English gentlemen, who brought across seas devotion to the soil, to out-of-door sports, to the Mother Country's traditions of hospitality, and loyalty to King and Church. With these inherited qualities we have the changes brought by new environment, the virgin country, the vast forests, the pioneer conditions, and the possession of slaves. Very pleasant was life in these old plantation homes, set in wide and fruitful acres, flanked by stables with goodly number of noble horses and ringed by the rows of negro "quarters." Slavery in Old Virginia was a survival of the patriarchal system, with most human relationship between the master and mistress and slaves born on the estate. With great houses far apart, rough roads and rivers to ford, travel by saddle-horses made visiting a pilgrimage, and justified the lavish hospitality of those broad-porticoed, many-chambered colonial mansions. The book traces with care the political relations of the colonies to the Mother Country, the cause of the revolt which became revolution, the campaigns of Washington, and the independence and unification of the nation. But the charm of the study is in the social sketches of Virginia, with her gallant gentlemen and stately dames.

K. Sawa and seventeen others who are suspected of being spies in the service of Russia were ordered on Feb. 9th to leave Hakodate.

DECLARATION OF WAR.

OFFICIAL TRANSLATION.

The following is an official translation of an Imperial Proclamation issued late on Wednesday:—

We, by the Grace of Heaven, Emperor of Japan, seated on the Throne occupied by the same Dynasty from time immemorial, do hereby make Proclamation to all Our loyal and brave subjects as follows:—

We hereby declare war against Russia and We command Our Army and Navy to carry on hostilities against that Empire with all their strength, and We also command all Our competent authorities to make every effort, in pursuance of their duties and in accordance with their powers, to attain the national aim with all the means within the limits of the law of nations.

We have always deemed it essential to international relations and made it Our constant aim to promote the pacific progress of Our Empire in civilization, to strengthen Our friendly ties with other States, and to establish a state of things which would maintain enduring peace in the Extreme East and assure the future security of Our Dominion without injury to the rights and interests of other Powers. Our Competent Authorities have also performed their duties in obedience to Our will, so that Our relations with the Powers have been steadily growing in cordiality. It was thus entirely against Our expectation that We have unhappily come to open hostilities against Russia.

The integrity of Korea is a matter of constant concern to this Empire, not only because of Our traditional relations with that country, but because the separate existence of Korea is essential to the safety of Our Realm. Nevertheless Russia, in disregard of her solemn treaty pledges to China and her repeated assurances to other Powers, is still in occupation of Manchuria and has consolidated and strengthened her hold upon those provinces and is bent upon their final annexation. And since the absorption of Manchuria by Russia would render it impossible to maintain the integrity of Korea and would in addition compel the abandonment of all hope for peace in the Extreme East, We determined in those circumstances to settle the question by negotiation and to secure thereby permanent peace. With that object in view, Our Competent Authorities, by Our order, made proposals to Russia, and frequent conferences were held during the course of six months. Russia, however, never met such proposals in a spirit of conciliation, but by her wanton delays put off the settlement of the question, and by ostensibly advocating peace on the one hand while she was on the other extending her naval and military preparations, sought to accomplish her own selfish designs.

We can not in the least admit that Russia had from the first any serious or genuine desire for peace. She has rejected the proposals of Our Government; the safety of Korea is in danger; the vital interests of Our Empire are menaced. The guarantees for the future which We have failed to secure by peaceful negotiations, We can now only seek by an appeal to arms.

It is Our earnest wish that by the loyalty and valour of Our faithful subjects, peace may soon be permanently restored and the glory of Our Empire preserved.

FOREIGN SYMPATHY AND THE WAR.

There can be no mistaking the feeling of satisfaction which pervades the foreign residents of Japan at the news of the Japanese victories at Chemulpho and Port Arthur: it is deep and sincere and finds expression in many ways. In Yokohama on Tuesday a huge display of national flags was hung out, the streets being a blaze of colour. In Kobe the foreigners are raising subscriptions for the Red Cross Society, as the following letter printed in the *Kobe Herald* shows:—

> Sir,—Hostilities having broken out, we are of opinion that foreigners desiring to show their sympathy with Japan at this, the greatest crisis in her modern history, cannot do so in a more practical manner than by subscribing to the Funds of her Red Cross Society, which must appeal to all nationalities, of whatsoever creed they may be.
>
> We would therefore beg to suggest that you undertake the raising of a Fund for this purpose, towards the commencement of which we shall be pleased to subscribe Five hundred *yen*, to be equally divided between your own and your morning contemporary's List, should you respectively consent to adopt our suggestion.
>
> Yours faithfully, DODWELL & Co., Ltd.,
> GEO. J. MELHUISH,
> Manager.
>
> Kobe, Feb. 9, 1904.

Mr. Oyama, Japanese Representative in Rome, telegraphs that the news of the successful Japanese attack at Port Arthur on the night of the 8th, having reached Italy *via* St. Petersburg on the following day, influenced public opinion greatly in Japan's favour. The *Tribuna* writes that Japan's procedure throughout has been altogether in accordance with right.

The Japanese Consul at Chemulpo telegraphs that the Rev. Mr. Turner, a British missionary, has offered the use of a hospital erected by his mission in Seoul, should any wounded Japanese or Russians need such accommodation. The Consul has replied in the sense that the offer would be gladly accepted should circumstances indicate the necessity.

The leading Chinese in Chefoo are subscribing largely, it is said, to a war fund for Japan.

We have received the following from Mr. J. E. de Becker with a request that it should receive the hospitality of our columns;—

> A few days ago a time arrived in the history of this Island Empire when the country, as the result of profound conviction, was compelled to choose, most reluctantly although deliberately, either to bravely stake its all to preserve its honourable position among the nations and maintain itself as an enlightening and civilising factor in Asia, or to shirk a plain duty, destroy its own destiny, and to sink into a position of miserable dependence and political insignificance.
>
> The Japanese Government having published an official statement defining with admirable perspicuity the position of affairs, to recite in detail the numerous cogent reasons which have caused the unfortunate rupture of peaceful relations with Russia and a resort to the ordeal of battle would be mere verbiage: but all who have carefully followed the course of events during the past few months must admit and admire the great moderation, patience, and courtesy, manifested by the Japanese negotiators throughout, and regret that a corresponding attitude has been conspicuously lacking on the part of Russia.
>
> Whatever may be the outcome of that tremendous struggle which must necessarily ensue (and which I believe has merely begun), the entire heart of the nation is emphatically with their Government, and in order to achieve their purposes the [Japanese people are determined to submit to any sacrifice either of blood or treasure, in their armed struggle with the government of the country whose very name is a synonymn for mediæval depotism, detestable tyranny, and barbarous oppression—a government which has flouted nation after nation which studied insolence, broken its solemn treaties and obligations, and proved itself absolutely devoid of political morality and honour in its dealings with the World at large. I employ the word "government" in speaking of the Russians, because the quarrel is not with the Russian people but with that wretched creation of paint, tinsel and the knout which has the audacity to pretend to represent them under that misnomer! In making this statement relative to the attitude and resolution of the Japanese people I do so deliberately and advisedly knowing it to be an absolute fact because, as a naturalized subject of this Empire, I have been brought into close touch with the bulk and file of the populace and both know and feel the prevailing sentiment which thrills the nation, and the intense patriotism which animates and nerves the country in this hour of darkness and danger.
>
> The struggle which is now taking place is one between darkness and light, civilization and barbarism, selfish shackling monopoly, isolation and land-grabbing, and the generous policy of securing a fair field and no favour for the commerce of all nations. Wherever the Japanese go they will be found ranged on the side of constitutionalism, freedom of speech and action, and acting as the vanguard of civilization and humanity; and for that reason alone this Empire deserves the utmost sympathy of all right-thinking persons in her brave efforts at this critical juncture.
>
> While the sentiment and sympathy of the World should be, and is, strongly in favour of Japan, how much more keen should be the natural sympathy of the foreign residents in this country for the people among whom their lot is cast and with whom they are brought into personal and daily contact; and it appears desirable that some active steps should be taken to give practical expression of the genuine fellow-feeling which, without doubt, animates them almost to a man. The most vital interests of the majority of foreigners living in Japan are closely bound up with and concentrated in this country and even from a materialistic point of view quite apart from sentiment, it should not be lost sight of that in protecting their own interests the Japanese Army and Navy are equally assisting to protect the interests of all foreigners domiciled in the Empire.
>
> So far for facts:—the question arises as to what can and should be done to assist, in an acceptable and agreeable manner, our Japanese friends at this juncture; and I think it is best answered by pointing out that behind the "glory" of the war will naturally follow incalculable suffering. There will be numbers of aged and helpless persons, widows and young children, reduced to a state of misery and desolation, and perhaps starvation, owing to the deaths of their natural protectors and bread-winners; moreover the military and naval hospitals will be filled with soldiers who, after having fought bravely for their Emperor, will be lying tossing in agony on their beds of sickness. The Red Cross Society will be in need of funds to carry on its work of charity and mercy and the soldiers and sailors at the front will be only too thankful for many little luxuries which in ordinary times would be acceptable, but without which, under such circumstances as the present, life becemes actually miserable.
>
> Now here is something which we can do and a work which lies at our very doors, and I venture to suggest that it is our duty as good neighbours and friends to do it.
>
> I therefore propose:—
>
> (1). That an independent foreign Association be formed forthwith to be called the *Gwai-yu Juppei-Kwai* (Soldiers' Benevolent Society of Foreign Friends);
>
> (2). That the Society make arrangements to open *cosmopolitan* subscription lists in all the foreign Newspapers, Banks, and Stores throughout Japan; and for this purpose to found branches in Tokyo, Kobe, Osaka, Nagasaki, and elsewere;
>
> (3). That the monies so collected be paid into a common fund and handed to an elective and representative Committee and be devoted to the purposes of the following charities:—
>
> (*a*) One-third to the *Red Cross Society*:
> (*b*) One-third to the Bureau which will be established in the War Department for receiving subscriptions for the amelioration of soldiers:
> (*c*) One-third to a similar Bureau in the Department of the Navy for the benefit of the sailors.
>
> The above is only an outline of what might be done, and can of course be modified to suit the wishes of subscribers expressed in public meeting: but at any rate it is a suggestion given for what it is worth.
>
> I put forward this appeal wiih the utmost confidence that it will meet with a liberal and ready response from members of all nationalities, and especially from British and American residents. Let us all remember that our Japanese friends are straining every nerve in this momentous struggle, and that they are begrudging neither their treasure nor their very life-blood to decide the fate of Asia for many a long year to come. It is not a time to stand by and look on either coldly or indifferently, and we should ever bear in mind that *a friend is one who aids with deeds at a critical time when deeds are called for.*
>
> Personally (although very busy) I am willing to help in this matter in any way I can, and upon the formation of such a Society as I propose shall take the greatest pleasure in placing my name down for the largest subscription within my means.
>
> I solicit suggestions and correspondence.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

The Hiroshima Court of Appeal has admitted the justice of the Public Procurator's argument in the case of the Korean assassins. Ko Yong-Keun's death sentence has been commuted to imprisonment for life, and No Yun-myong's life sentence is changed to twelve years' imprisonment. Probably this action of the Appeal Court will provoke a great deal of criticism, for from one point of view it may be regarded as encouraging political assassinations. The general verdict, however, will be that these men scarcely deserved to rank with common criminals.

On the evening of the 4th instant the Prime Minister entertained at a banquet in his official residence the leaders of the six sections into which the House of Peers is politically divided. Baron Komura also was present, and it is believed that the guests were furnished with a tolerably clear insight into the diplomatic situation.

We note that Mr. Alfred Stead and Dr. J. N. Seymour have letters in the *Spectator* refuting Mr. F. J. Norman's recent remarks on Japanese ideals, etc. Mr. Seymour speaks as one having authority, having lived in Japan over seventeen years.

The death is announced of Dr. Taguchi, one of the most renowned surgeons in Japan. He has published several works on anatomy, especially with regard to the brain.

It will be remembered that a pest-infected rat was found last December in one of the Nippon Yusen Kwaisha's warehouses at Kayaba-cho in Tokyo. Another has now been found, although most drastic measures of disinfection had been resorted to. Out of 180 rats killed on the Company's warehouses, six have showed pest bacilli. It is believed that the rat last found must have been newly imported from India.

It is announced that all time-expired men in the Navy must remain at their posts and not be released from service as usual. A similar announcement has been made with regard to the Army, the local militia alone being excepted.

A very interesting series of articles upon the Mosely Education Commission, which was sent from England to the United States at private expense, has been appearing in *The Times*. In the concluding article the writer, dealing chiefly with the American Universities, inclines to the view that the English may learn a good deal from the leading American foundations in regard to post-graduate study and research, but quotes with approval the remark of "a very up-to-date American educationist" *à propos* of Oxford and Cambridge:—"Do not alter them, or you will spoil them." This he interprets to mean, "Do not try to Germanise or Americanise them," adding:—"An English University is one thing; a German or an American University is another. Each suits its own environment, and cannot be transplanted elsewhere." In the same issue of *The Times* appears a *resumé* of an instructive address delivered by the Rev. T. L. Papillon at Writtle, near Chelmsford, on the 18th December. Mr. Papillon, who had served on the Mosely Commission, while holding that education was only a contributory cause, and not the sole cause, of American prosperity, was much impressed by three facts. One was the readiness with which Americans consented to spare no expense on education. Another was the way in which their schools were used as a great engine for fusing the children of immigrants into the body politic of the United States. Thirdly, he noted the curious fact that in that home of democracy the system tended in the direction of the one-man management rather than of a School Board as a public institution. The *Spectator* commenting on this address, makes an interesting point. It says that Mr. Papillon fails to make reference to one of the finest of American products,— the "school marm," who serves, says our contemporary, as a standing rebuke to the popular misconception of the American woman as a selfish bird-of-paradise whose one aim is to have a "good time."

"Pavel Petrowich" sends us the following:—"Some of the leading members of the Nippon Seikiokwai (Greek Church) in Tokyo held a meeting on the 7th inst. and discussed whether Bishop Nicolai should remain in Japan or not in case of a Russo-Japanese war. The meeting unanimously decided to request Bishop Nicolai not to return to Russia, in the event of war, for the reason that although a Russian he had no relation with the war and his only mission is to propagate the Master's Gospel. Bishop Nicolai afterwards received the meeting and agreed to the petition. He said he would remain in Japan and labour for his mission; as for his personal safety he was not at all anxious for the Japanese Government would protect him; moreover all thinking Japanese would not fail to recognize the singleness of his aim in this country as missionary of the Gospel of Life. It might be mentioned in this connection that recently an English gentleman sent a letter of sympathy to the mission with regard to the strained relations between Russia and Japan, in which occurred the following sentence:—"...... if war should break out between the two countries, which if not in the same sense yet in a very real sense are both alike *your own* and both alike deeply loved by you, the sadness of it is emphasized."

The rumour that Baron Suyematsu is about to receive the portfolio of Home Affairs which Baron Kodama now holds in conjunction with the direction of the Head Quarter Staff, has been contradicted. What is now said is that Baron Kaneko and Baron Suyematsu are about to proceed abroad, the former to the United States and the latter to England.

There are signs that France is growing a little weary of the alliance with Russia and many French journals of recent date contain articles drawing attention to what they consider the one-sidedness of the arrangement. *The Times* translates the following article from the *Petit Parisien*, in which questions of tariff and trade are discussed in relation to this subject:—

> It is known that the trade between France and Russia does not quite correspond with the cordiality that characterises the relations of the two countries in the field of diplomacy. The exchange of produce scarcely exceeds 250,000,000f., whereas that between Germany and Russia amounts to one milliard, and that of England and Russia to 600,000,000f., and yet we only sell to our ally a quarter of the amount we buy from her. The convention of 1893 stimulated those relations, but they are far from realising the total that could be desired. Our exports to Russia in particular might under a more favourable *régime* progress in considerable proportion. It is not a matter of distance that keeps them at such a low figure. It is particularly the crushing Customs dues that affect them. . . . It will be understood that this system makes it difficult for the Russians to purchase from us. It was aggravated after the campaign in China, which made it necessary to find new Budget resources. . . . Our wine trade has, indeed, been badly treated. The present moment is, perhaps, well suited to obtain a less rigorous tariff from Russia. The protectionist duties adopted in Germany, the pretensions of the Agrarians across the Rhine to prevent the negotiation of treaties of commerce, cannot fail to induce the Government of St. Petersburg to favour other countries. Our Minister for Foreign Affairs is endeavouring to secure for our wine and in general for our agricultural and industrial produce a more extensive market in the Russian Empire. Russia would give the Dual Alliance a very substantial consecration if she reduced the barriers which exclude our produce."

It is rather surprising to find a London journal of the standing of the *Academy* printing such a paragraph as this:—"One of the most recent statements concerning Mascagni was to the effect that he accepted an offer to take the directorship of a Conservatoire in San Francisco in connection with a model university which a very wealthy American lady, Mrs. Febea Hearst, is founding at a cost, so it has been said, of £8,000,000." The University of California with which Mrs. Phoebe Hearst's name will be ever associated is now thoroughly well-established.

The Canadian Pacific mail steamer *Empress of Japan*, which arrived at Yokohama on Tuesday, brought another batch of war correspondents, who, doubtless, congratulate themselves upon arriving in the very nick of time. Probably the name best known to our readers will be that of Mr. Melton Prior, the veteran artist of the *Illustrated London News*. Mr. Prior has a right to be heard about wars and war topics but, unless misreported, he seems to have been speaking a little at random when he told a Canadian interviewer that "When war does begin, the United States will be the first to step in, Great Britain will follow, and then hostilities will be waged on a large scale, the equal of which the world has never seen." Messrs. T. F. Bass and R. H. Little of the *Chicago News*, Mr. W. Maxwell and Mr. C. J. Brownell of the *Standard*, and Mr. R. T. MacHugh of the *Daily Telegraph* were also among the liner's passengers.

The Trans-Siberian railway, which still lacks the *circum* Baikal loop and the Khingan tunnel, has cost 99½ millions of pounds sterling. In that total are included special outlays on account of the Manchurian section—outlays caused by Boxer outrages—and expenses of protection, which figures aggregate 4¾ millions. Hence the actual cost of construction has been 94¾ millions, and as the total mileage is 5,992, this works out at £16,812 per mile. Considering that the land and the timber were given, that convict labour was largely available, and that there were no engineering difficulties, this outlay baffles comprehension.

Mr. J. Scott Harston, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Bank of China, Ltd., speaking at the annual meeting of shareholders, alluded to the danger which threatened Hongkong as a commercial centre through the opening of the Canton-Hankow railway. He said:—

> As you all know it is common talk that Hongkong possesses, and will continue to possess, natural geographical advantages, and that it cannot have any rival in its own sphere, That is all very well, but it not an absolutely determining factor. Hongkong must remain a free port. It is a barter-market or pawnshop for trade; it has few local industries, and it is not a producing centre. It is a junction for the re-distribution of trade and cargo traffic in general and its stability entirely depends upon its ability to attract commerce. In that respect it has a very favourable handicap in that it possesses a fine harbour and has developed during the last fifty years a large storage capacity in a money centre for the Eastern market. But now its position is threatened by the development of Canton—I mean substantial development—real development on a substantial basis. Now, gentlemen, if Canton is properly developed, as it may be by the advantages of the Canton-Hankow railway, which will place it in rapid communication with the northern trade and traffic, it will make a very bold bid indeed, and I think it may succeed in wresting from Hongkong the supremacy which it now enjoys. Canton has advantages over Hongkong in several respects, the labour there is cheap, and the Chinese are free from Sanitary Boards and their restrictions, and this may lead to a departure of trade from Hongkong, to its detriment, to Canton. It behoves the leaders of affairs in Hongkong to consider this, and after due consideration to take such steps as shall place Hongkong in such a position as to be free from any attack in this direction. Especially is this important when we take into account what will undoubtedly be the fact, that, in fifty years time China will be the best market outlet for Great Britain's trade and commerce. It may seem to you that in making these remarks I am going a little out of the way but I have made these remarks because I think they should be made and ought to receive careful consideration, and be dealt with.

We hear from authoritative sources, that the Russo-Chinese Bank has decided to cease doing business in Japan, and consequently the Bank has already sold the land and buildings in Yokohama, and paid most of its deposits. The Bank is proceeding with the liquidation, in Yokohama, Kobe and Nagasaki, of outstanding business.

Count Inouye, who is nothing if not practical, observes that it is easy to come to a decision but difficult to put it into practice. Thus the Government have decided to enter upon a contest costing hundreds of millions, and have resolved to raise the necessary funds by means of loans and taxes, but the actual operation of floating bonds or augmenting imposts, is not an easy matter. What must be done, in the Count's opinion, is to take such preliminary steps as shall ensure an abundance of available money for the purpose. The best plan that suggests itself is that every member of a household should set aside ten, fifteen or twenty per cent, of his or her income, and every tradesman dealing with the house should do the same. and that the funds thus accumulated should be applied to the purchase of war-bonds. Count Inouye has inaugurated that plan in his own household, and the Mitsui Family have agreed to adopt his method throughout all the establishments controlled by them. It is expected that the Mitsu Bishi will follow, and that the device will become generally popular.

The school of the Greek Church is showing its patriotism—a quality sometimes regarded as doubtful—by compiling and publishing a manual of Russo-Japanese conversation, fifty thousand copies of which will be distributed gratis among the soldiers of the Japanese army. It is fashionable in some quarters to say that adherence to the tenets of the Greek Church involves weakening of home ties, and the students and faculty of the school think the present a good opportunity to refute that calumny.

At a recent meeting of the City Council of Bath, England, Mr. T. Sturge Cotterell made a communication of some scientific importance connected with the mineral springs of Bath. For some considerable time Professor Dewar has at the expense of the Royal Society collected the gases that rise in the largest and best known of the Bath springs—the King's bath—and the result of his analysis revealed the fact that the rare element helium existed in the Bath waters. The existence of helium led to the belief that something more of scientific interest might be found in the deposits which collect in the tanks and pipes at the three springs, and of which no knowledge exists. A quantity of deposit from the new royal spring was obtained, and was sent to the Hon. R. J. Strutt, son of Lord Rayleigh, who commenced a careful investigation, with the results which he had just communicated. The Hon. R. J. Strutt in his letter said he had found the deposits left by the water of the hot springs contained radium in appreciable quantities, though he was sorry to say not enough to pay for extraction. It would be remembered that the gas which bubbled up from the springs contained a small proportion of helium. Sir Wm. Ramsay had recently made the most important discovery that radium slowly evolved helium by a spontaneous change. He thought there could be little doubt that the helium of Bath owed its origin to large quantities of radium at a great depth below the earth's surface. A little of this radium was carried up by the rush of hot water, and was found in the deposit.

We take the following from an exchange:

> A remarkably rare postage stamp, one specimen in a small collection belonging to a British Government officer, will early this month be offered for sale by auction in London. It consists of a very scarce twopenny blue Mauritius stamp, devised in 1847 by the Post Office authorities, but the mistake of printing "Post Office" on one side instead of "Postage stamp" ensured its withdrwal, This stamp is one of a very few specimens made for issue and was never circulated for use. It is a good stamp, with a mistake which rendered it not appropriate for ordinary use. This stamp has never been used on account of the mistake on it, but it is certain that it will be greatly sought after by some of the best collectors of very rare unissued stamps. An offer of £1,000 for it has already been mentioned, probably on behalf of one of the most noted of princely collectors.

Could a craze be carried to wilder extremes? A thousand pounds, ten thousand *yen*, a small fortune, for a postage stamp which has no "feature," except that owing to an erroneous superscription it could never be used! There is no room to boast of Occidental sanity after that.

The *Official Gazette* of the 11th instant contains various instructions relating to coast defence. Maps are given of the places concerned, namely, Tokyo, Hakodate, Otaru, Saseho, Takeshiki, and Maizuru. The maps show the limits of the zones of defence, and the regulations direct that ships entering these limits must seek directions from the naval authorities.

Mr. Kawakami, Japanese Commercial Agent at Vladivostock, is to leave that place on the 15th instant, by the German steamer *Batavia*. The remaining Japanese population, numbering some 1,500, are expected to accompany him.

The Foreign Office in Tokyo publishes a telegram from the Japanese Representative in Paris saying that the Russian Government is reported to be about to place a loan of 750 millions of francs through a syndicate headed by the Credit Lyonnais. The bonds will be issued in two weeks.

When Mr. Mizuno, Japanese Consul at Chefoo, went to Port Arthur and Dalny to arrange for the withdrawal of his nationals, he met with the greatest civility and assistance from the Russian Authorities. About 30 Japanese subjects decided to remain, relying fully on the efficiency of Russian protection.

In the light of the recent telegram sent across the wires by Reuter, the following cablegram which appears in American papers is of interest:—

> Sa. Petersburg, January 12.
>
> That the Czar will abdicate next June, should the next child in the Russian family prove to be a son, is rumoured in St. Petersburg. The general impression is that he will leave the throne in favour of his brother, who will become regent until his nephew reaches his majority.
>
> While it is not definitely known, except perhaps in the highest official circles, that the Russian ruler has actually declared his intention to lay down the burden of government, there is no doubt that he has long been weary of the intrigues and bickerings of the court.
>
> The troubles arising recently in connection with the Far Eastern complications have added to his distaste for his present life His health is said to be exceedingly poor, and the alleged attempt to poison himself, the Czarina, and other members of the royal family, in which the little Princess Elizabeth of Hesse-Darmstadt lost her life, did much to add to his melancholy.
>
> Since the little Princess expired in his arms His Majesty has devoted himself more than ever to his religious duties. He has always been deeply religious, but now he spends hours at his devotions and in writing prayers in Russian for the imperial family.

The Mitsui Family have presented seventy-five thousand francs to the Paris University in connexion with the class established in the University for the study of Japanese civilization.

Four more steamers of the Russian Volunteer Fleet are said to have been captured by Japanese cruisers, two at the Goto Islands off Hizen, and two in Omura Bay near Nagasaki. Of these vessels one is said to be a ship of ten thousand tons, the others are small vessels of a few hundred tons each.

The Russian Consul at Nagasaki and 18 of his nationals, are to leave Nagasaki on the 15th instant.

THE MAN WHO HAD FAITH.

I knew a man, he wore a beard,
  At least he'd like to if he could,
His forehead was so high, I heard,
  The top of it was made of wood!

His cheek was of the hue of brass,
  When it was molten red, and so
His jaw was of the same. Alas!
  That bears could never bear it. No!

Well, as I said, this man had found
  A fearful power in the word:
You'd never guess, I will be bound,
  He'd imitate the song of bird!

He'd many tricks that I could tell,
  And often off his head would go
With ecstacies of sight or smell,
  As well as sound, both high and low.

His power over word was such
  He'd try the very war to stop;
And sometimes he would prompt the Dutch,
  And sometimes Jo himself make hop.

'Tis said indeed he stopped the war
  At last, by very force of wit,
Because he told them all, before,
  To shout together—think of it!

But no one would believe that he
  Had done all that he said he did.
He never minded this, you see,
  Because he'd done as he was bid.

The Muse came to him night and morn,
  And told him what to do and how;
And thus he never felt forlorn,
  But worked like farmer with his plough,—

He eared the earth and sowed the grain,
  And saw it die and rotten grow;
And yet he knew, would rise again
  Because the life was in it—lo!

Now once again this man of faith
  Goes forth (together with his wife)
Into the very land of death,
  To finish off the earthly strife.

The war that threatened he could stay
  By just one word applied aright,
And this he did; until one day
  They found they could no longer fight!

How this same came I'll tell you now,
  (If you believe you shall be saved),
And there are many scribes who'd vow
  He is a poet, of him raved.

It isn't poetry, but faith,
  That makes his words so welcome to
The world of letters. Every breath
  Might say the same of me or you.

One day he saw, upon his bed;
  A wondrous sight, of human form,
And found that Sōul (as poets said)
  Itself was pivot of the storm.

With words he got from human frame
  He wrote a line or two with wit.
And sent the editor. His name
  He signed, but never printed it.

In this he spoke of telegrams
  And messages sent on by code
And how to make the most of shams
  Until the real episode

Could be arranged and made to come
  True as the writer's wit had thought;
Just as the rolling of the drum
  Bursts on the ear when drummer's caught.

The sign from master hand to give
  The first grand crash before the charge;
But he, he wrought that man should live!
  His sign, he wrote it fine and large.

Others may sing the songs of war,
  Others may chant the joy of fight,
But he, he does as one before
  Told how men should do. He was right!

Just as he said, the action came.
  Just as he said, the nations felt,
And so we praise his sounding name
  And worship love when we have knelt.

Love's face is golden, golden too
  The poetry that he can make:
I hope Love pleases yours and you;
  And that you're happy—for Love's sake!

And thus I end as I began
  Love is an image in the heart,
Of old of wood; but now each man
  Vows 'tis an editor's best art.

So if you'll try you'll find it true
  We *can* escape from war and death
If each will do what he can do,
  And, like that other, act with faith!

H.S.

RUSSIAN MERCHANT VESSELS.

According to an extra of the *Official Gazette*, an Imperial Ordinance with regard to the capture of Russian merchant vessels in Japanese waters was promulgated on Feb. 9th, to be enforced from the date of issue. The edict provides that Russian ships lying in ports in the Japanese Empire shall be allowed to leave after discharging or shipping their cargo not later than Feb. 16th. Such Russian vessels as may have left foreign ports before Feb. 16th and arrived at any ports of Japan after the foregoing date will be permitted to leave that port after discharging or shipping cargo; and Russian vessels which can show documents issued by Japanese local authorities certifying that they are on their way from Japan which they had left within the proper time shall not be captured. Russian ships carrying contraband goods or persons shall not enjoy the benefits of this ordinance.

Hackenschmidt, the German, has defeated Madrasi, the Turk, in the Græco-Roman wrestling championship of the world in London, winning £1,100.

RUSSIA'S EXPLANATION.

THE Russian Government, as stated by Reuter's telegram of this morning, has availed itself of the sole pretext that offers for placing some part of the responsibility on Japan. It claims that this Empire broke off diplomatic relations without even awaiting the arrival of Russia's third reply. But the fact is that Japan waited from the 13th of January until the 5th of February. She waited 23 days, and during that long interval she again and again instructed her Minister in St. Petersburg to press the Russian Government for a reply, on the ground that delay tended to greatly accentuate the situation. To these representations Russia paid no practical attention. Her answer was uniformly unchanged:—"The matter is under consideration." If, now, she wishes to justify herself on this ground, if she sincerely intends to claim that the non-delivered reply would have averted a rupture of friendly relations, her plain path is to publish this reply and to let the world judge the reality of her pacific purpose. From first to last throughout the negotiations she never gave the faintest indication of any disposition to entertain Japan's just proposals. The answer she handed in on the 6th of January was even less conciliatory than her previous reply, for so far from guaranteeing the sovereignty of China in Manchuria and equality of commercial privileges for all the Powers, it actually arrogated to Russia the right to deprive Japan of a part of the privileges actually acquired by her in her latest treaty with China. In a word, what Russia has done throughout has been, not to listen to Japan's remonstrances, not to show any intention of loosening her grip upon Manchuria, but to utilize Japanese intervention as a means of legalizing her own usurpations. With regard to the pretense that the Tokyo Government did not await the receipt of Russia's last reply, while it is technically true so far as the document itself is concerned, it is false in the matter of the document's contents, for the nature of the reply was well known, and it was well understood to be nothing more than an attempt, not even a specious attempt, to gain time for further warlike preparations. Moreover history will never agree that Japan was not in receipt of Russia's reply. She was in receipt of it from the moment that the great Northern Power began to utilize all its vast resources by way of getting ready to fight. Had Japan's proposals been in any way unreasonable, Russia might have been justified in distrusting her ultimate intention, and therefore in making preparations for the worst. But Japan's proposals, now before the world, did not contain one word inconsistent with or in excess of the pledges openly and solemnly made by Russia herself within the past two years. If Russia's attitude towards those pledges had any shadow of sincerity, she would not have hesitated to explain the postponement of their fulfillment and to renew them in the interests of peace and of her own reputation. Instead of doing so she immediately began, and she never ceased, to prepare for perpetuating by force of arms her gross breach of faith. It is a wretched record, and when she attempts to convict Japan of want of patience, she ignores the fact that the world has already pronounced Japan's patience to have been exemplary and even excessive. Nothing but an extraordinary plenitude of faith in the ultimately pacific potentiality of the TSAR and his best advisers justified the Japanese in hesitating while Russia strengthened her destructive capacities, and it needed only this paltry excuse on the part of St. Petersburg to complete one of the most discreditable chapters in the history of civilized intercourse.

JAPAN'S STATEMENT OF HER CASE.

ON the evening of the 8th instant the Imperial Foreign Office in Tokyo published the following statement of Japan's case:—

It being indispensable for the welfare and safety of Japan to maintain the independence and territorial integrity of Korea and to safeguard her paramount interests therein, the Japanese Government find it impossible to view with indifference any action endangering the position of Korea; whereas Russia, notwithstanding her solemn treaty with China and her repeated assurances to the Powers, not only continues in occupation of Manchuria but has even taken aggressive measures on Korean territory. Should Manchuria be annexed to Russia, the independence of Korea would naturally be impossible.

The Japanese Government, therefore, being desirous of securing permanent peace for East Asia by means of direct negotiations with Russia with a view to arriving at a friendly adjustment of mutual interests in both Manchuria and Korea, where their interests meet, communicated towards the end of July last such desire to the Russian Government and invited their adherence. To this the Russian Government expressed willing assent. Accordingly, on the 12th of August last, the Japanese Government proposed to the Government of Russia, through their Representative in St. Petersburg, a basis of agreement which was substantially as follows:—

1.—Mutual engagement to respect the independence and territorial integrity of the Chinese and Korean Empires.

2.—Mutual engagement to maintain the principle of equal opportunity for the commerce and industry of all nations in those countries.

3.—Reciprocal recognition of Japan's preponderating interests in Korea and Russia's special interests in railway enterprises in Manchuria, and mutual recognition of the respective rights of Japan and Russia to take measures necessary for the protection of the above mentioned interests in so far as the principles of Article I. are not infringed.

4.—Recognition by Russia of the exclusive right of Japan to give advice and assistance to Korea in the interest of reform and good government.

5.—Engagement on the part of Russia not to impede the eventual extension of the Korean railway into southern Manchuria so as to connect with the East China and the Shanhaikwan-Niuchwang lines.

It was the intention of the Japanese Government originally that the conference should take place directly between their representative and the Russian authorities at St. Petersburg so as to facilitate the progress of the negotiations and expedite as much as possible the solution of the situation. But as the Russian Government absolutely refused to do so on the plea of the Czar's trip abroad and for several other reasons, it was unavoidably decided to conduct the negotiations in Tokyo. And it was not until the 3rd October last that the Russian Government presented their counterproposals; and in them they declined to engage to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China and to stipulate for the maintenance of the principle of equal opportunities for the commerce and industry of all nations in China, and requested Japan to declare Manchuria and its littoral as being entirely outside her sphere of interest. They further put several restrictions upon Japan's freedom of action in Korea; for instance, while recognizing Japan's right to despatch troops, when necessary, for the protection of her interests in Korea, Russia refused to allow her to use any portion of Korean territory for strategical purposes. In fact, Russia went so far as to propose to establish a neutral zone in Korean territory north of the 39th parallel.

The Japanese Government utterly failed to see why Russia, who professed to have no intention of absorbing Manchuria, should be disinclined to insert in the Convention a clause in complete harmony with her own repeatedly declared principle of respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China. Furthermore, this refusal of the Russian Government has impressed the Japanese Government all the more with the necessity of the insertion of that clause. Japan has important commercial interests in Manchuria and entertains no small hopes of their further development, and politically she has even greater interests there by reason of its relations with Korea, so that she could not possibly recognize Manchuria as being entirely outside her sphere of interest.

These reasons decided Japan to absolutely reject the Russian proposal in this respect. Accordingly the Japanese Government explained the above views to the Russian Government and at the same time introduced other necessary amendments in the Russian counter-proposals.

They further proposed, with regard to a neutral zone, that if one was to be created, it should be established on both sides of the boundary line between Manchuria and Korea with an equal width, say, of fifty kilometres. After repeated discussions at Tokyo the Japanese Government finally presented to the Russian Government their definitive amendments on the 30th Oct. last. The Japanese Government then frequently urged the Russian Government for a reply, which was again delayed and was only delivered on the 11th December. In that reply, Russia suppressed the clauses relating to Manchuria so as to make the proposed convention entirely Korean; and maintained her original demand in regard to the non-employment of Korean territory for strategical purposes as well as in regard to the neutral zone. But the exclusion of Manchuria from the proposed convention being contrary to the original object of these negotiations, which was to remove the causes of conflict between the two countries by a friendly arrangement of their interests in both Manchuria and Korea, the Japanese Government asked the Russian Government to reconsider the question and again proposed the removal of restrictions as to the use of Korean territory and the entire suppression of the neutral zone on the ground that if Russia was opposed to have it established in Manchuria, it should no more be established in Korea.

The last reply of Russia was received in Tokyo on the 6th January. In this reply, it is true, Russia proposed to agree to insert the following clause in the projected agreements:—

> Recognition by Japan of Manchuria and its littoral as being outside her sphere of interest whilst Russia, within the limits of that province, will not impede Japan or other Powers in the enjoyment of rights and privileges acquired by them under existing treaties with China, exclusive of the establishment of settlements.

But this was proposed to be agreed to only upon the conditions of maintaining the clauses regarding a neutral zone in Korean territory and non-employment of Korean territory for strategical purposes; conditions which Japan's impossibility of accepting had already been fully explained to Russia.

It should further be observed that no mention was made at all of the territorial integrity of China in Manchuria, and it must be self-evident to everybody that the engagement as now proposed by Russia would be of no practical value so long as it is not accompanied by a definite stipulation regarding the territorial integrity of China in Manchuria, since treaty rights being only co-existent with sovereignty, the eventual absorption of Manchuria by Russia would annul at once all rights and privileges acquired by the Powers in Manchuria by virtue of treaties with China.

Therefore the Japanese Government deemed it indispensable to obtain Russia's agreement to the territorial integrity of China in Manchuria; and decided upon suppression of the restriction as to the establishment of settlements, which restriction conflicts with a supplementary treaty of Commerce and Navigation between Japan and China. They further decided with regard to Korea to adhere to their amendments as there was absolutely no room for concessions.

On these lines they, on the 13th January last, renewed their request to the Russian Government to reconsider the question and have since frequently urged them for a reply. But the Russian Government, so far from forwarding it, did not even indicate any date for it.

The Japanese Government have throughout been actuated by principles of moderation and impartiality and have demanded from the Russian Government no more than the recognition of a principle which has been repeatedly and voluntarily announced by Russia herself, whereas the Russian Government have persistently refused to accede thereto and, while unduly delaying on the one hand their replies whenever they had to make one, have on the other hand augmented their military and naval preparations. In fact a large Russian force is already on the Korean frontier.

The Japanese Government animated by a sincere desire for peace, have exercised the utmost degree of patience, but now they are reluctantly compelled by the action of Russia to give up all hopes of reconciliation and break off the negotiations.

It appears to us that comment could not strengthen this presentment. We doubt whether the history of civilized intercourse contains any plainer instance of violated engagements than that exhibited by Russia's conduct. Had she persistently denied Japan's right to interfere in the fate of the three provinces there would at least have been no palpable evidence of breach of faith, though such a denial could not possibly have been reconciled with the reasons she herself alleged for driving Japan from Liaotung in 1895. Those reasons were that the tenure of Liaotung by a foreign Power would menace the Chinese capital, would render the independence of Korea illusory and would constitute an obstacle to the preservation of peace in the Far East. Obviously the same arguments apply with redoubled force to the tenure of the whole of Manchuria by Russia in 1904. If the security of the Chinese capital, the independence of Korea and the preservation of peace in the Far East have any concern for Japan, the validity of her title to object to the absorption of all Manchuria into Russia's dominions is quite beyond dispute. In denying that title, then, Russia committed an act of most flagrant injustice. But she did not constructively admit the total worthlessness of her own pledges about the ultimate restoration of Manchuria to China. That admission came when she endeavoured to impose restrictions on the privileges acquired by Japan and other Powers in Manchuria under existing treaties with China; when she essayed to elide one clause of the treaties, namely, the clause providing for the establishment of settlements at the newly opened marts of Mukden, Ta-tung and An-tung. By that attempt the St. Petersburg Government unequivocally betrayed their determination to ignore the convention of 1899 and to violate all the assurances solemnly given by themselves as to the recognition of China's sovereignty in Manchuria. They appear to have no respect for the opinion of the nations, or else they have allowed themselves to be momentarily carried away by a party which values international obligations only so long as they do not impede aggressive ambition. It is hard to believe that Russia intended this to be the end of the negotiations. She must have imagined that the bargaining could be carried on until, while retaining something solid, she could retain also her honour. But she would never have treated a Western Power as she has treated Japan, for she knows that no Western Power would have shown the patience Japan has shown. It has been a thoroughly bad business from first to last so far as Russia is concerned, and its evil consequences will not be limited to the terrible conflict now in sight: they will extend to Russia's relations with the East for many generations to come.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE MR. ROBERT HUGHES.

The funeral of the late Mr. Robert Hughes took place in Kobe on Monday afternoon, says the *Kobe Herald*, under circumstances which showed far more plainly than words the general sense of mourning awakened by the removal of one of the oldest and most esteemed residents. A Lodge of Sorrow was opened at the Masonic Hall by the Rose Croix, and subsequently the Freemasons in a body repaired to the residence, attending the removal of the remains to All Saints' Church. The body was met at the Church door by the Chaplain, the Rev. G. H. Davies, M.A., who was assisted in the service at the Church by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Foss. There was a full choir, and the rendering of the hymn, the Christian's Good Night, was most impressive. At the graveside the Chaplain officiated. The members of the choir of All Saints' Church also attended at the graveside, and there sang Charlotte Elliott's beautiful hymn, "Thy Will be done." Mr. Trotzig and Mr. D. B. Taylor, as two of the oldest friends, followed as Chief Mourners, and the Past Masters of the Masonic Lodges also followed as Mourners. The pall bearers were Messrs. C. E. Stephens, C. H. Lighthoot, G. H. Whymark, G. C. Pakenham, W. F. K. Fearon, H. Lucas, A. J. McGlew, A. N. Hansell, E. T. Bethell and D. B. Taylor. The floral tributes were very numerous, testifying to the general respect in which the deceased gentleman was held. Wreaths were sent by various public bodies, amongst others the Kobe Club, the Masonic Club, the Kobe Brokers, the Choir of All Saints' Church, the Kobe Regatta and Athletic Club; and the Consistory, Chapters and Lodges Masonic also sent a wreath each. A great number of wreaths were sent by private friends. During the progress of the cortege to the Cemetery the flags of the Kobe Club, Kobe Cricket Club and Kobe Regatta and Athletic Club, of which the deceased had been a member since their formation, were placed at half-mast.

YOKOHAMA UNION CHURCH.

The annual general meeting of the Union Church congregation was held in Van Schaick Hall on February 5th at 8 o'clock, the Rev. E. S. Booth occupying the chair. The meeting was largely attended. After prayer the minutes of the previous meeting were read and passed, after which the following reports were read and adopted:—

The Ladies' Auxiliary, Treasurer's report for Ladies Auxiliary, Trustees report, and Treasurer's report for Trustees, Report of Elders, and Report of Superintendent of Sabbath School.

Special mention may be made of the report of the Superintendent of Sabbath School, Mr. C. Griffin. He reported an increase in attendance of about 50 per cent. during the year; a keener interest had been maintained by the children than ever before, which had been marked by a large spiritual growth on the part of the little folks. The music was bright and the finances in a favourable condition, while the teaching staff were in a marked state of efficiency. A warm tribute was accorded Mr. Griffin and his staff of teachers for their untiring efforts in connection with the Sabbath School and the good work they are doing for the young people of Yokohama.

The Rev. E. S. BOOTH, Hon. Pastor, reported that he could not continue his relations with the Church as pastor. He said: "It is with mingled emotion that I offer this last message. It is already known to some of you that my acceptance, a year ago, of your unanimous invitation to be your pastor for another year was not acceptable to the committee of the board of foreign missions in New York. I received definite instructions from the Secretary directing me not to enter into a similar relationship for another period without first obtaining the consent of the committee in New York. I have not felt I could ask for such permission, even when I felt sure that the Church at its meeting might desire to continue the relationship, because the reasons given for the committee's action were undeniably well taken; and I would be made to urge the needs of the Union Church at the cost of the claim upon me and my time of my mission." After speaking of the needs of the Church, financially and spiritually, and the probable future policy of the Church, Mr. Booth said: "I cannot close this report without referring in the most appreciative terms to the very pleasant and sympathetic relations that have existed between us, during the five years I have had the honour and the privilege of being your Pastor. Accept therefore the labours of the past in the spirit in which they have been rendered, and do not place me in a position which will hinder the reaping by one who [illegible] able to put the sickle into the harvest that is ready to be garnered. I do thank God for the privilege of being instrumental in the formation of some organizations in connection with the Church which, if they are properly directed, will inevitably produce fruit for God and the Church."

The Rev. J. L. DEARING and Mr. C. GRIFFIN spoke in appreciative terms of the good work done by the retiring pastor during his pastorate of five years. The meeting was asked to pass a vote of thanks to him for the diligence and faithfulness with which he had discharged his duties, which was done by rising vote.

Mr. G. BOOTH in the name of the consistory thanked the retiring pastor and expressed his appreciation of the good relations that had always existed between them.

An animated discussion took place regarding a suitable pastor for the coming year. It was eventually decided to leave the matter for the present in the hands of the consistory with the recommendation that they secure the temporary services of a suitable person to conduct Divine Service for the period of a few months.

The following officers for the ensuing year were elected: Elders: Rev. E. S. Booth, Mr. I. Bunting, Rev. H. Loomis, Mr. G. Booth, Rev. J. W. Frank and Mr. L. Pollard. Deacons: Mr. Wallace, Mr. J. Macbeth and Mr. E. I. Bunting. Trustees: Mr. G. Booth, Rev. J. L. Dearing, Mr. N. A. Vilondaki, Mr. C. Griffin, Mr. W. Harris, Mr. J. Macbeth and Mr. E. I. Bunting. Sabbath

School Superintendent: Mr. C. Griffin. Ushers: Mr. J. E. Gray, Mr. F. Bunting, Mr. F. S. Booth and Mr. A. Nicolle.

The office of organist was left open for the present.

Mr. J. Macbeth was reappointed Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. W. K. E. Vincent for his services as organist on several occasions during the past year, notably at Christmas time.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the proceedings,

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING JANUARY 31ST, 1904.

RECEIPTS.

	Yen.
To Balance brought forward from previous year	232.02
„ Donations and Pew Rents	935.00
„ Offertories	1,448.10
„ Rebate on Wine	12.67
„ Interest on Current Account	15.44
	2,643.23

EXPENDITURE.

	Yen.
By Rent Union Church	450.00
„ Rent of Van Schaick Hall	150.00
„ Rev. E. S. Booth, Honorarium	800.00
„ Pulpit Supplies	234.48
„ Grant to Sunday School	150.00
„ Offertory to Sunday School Christmas Entertainment	87.28
„ Offertory to Aomori Famine Fund	75.00
„ Organ Tuning	75.00
„ Offertory to "Brotherhood of Andrew and Philip"	60.00
„ Printing, Stationery, Advertising and Postages	39.19
„ Momban's Salary	36.00
„ Donation to Workman injured while Repairing Church	20.00
„ Insurance Premium on Church property	19.25
„ Expenses Connected with Dr. Pentecost's Visit	13.90
„ Collector's fees	5.95
„ Christmas present to Momban	5.00
„ Wine	5.00
„ Re-Binding Hymn Books	4.32
„ Re-Varnishing Organ	2.50
„ Balance in Hand	410.36
	2,643.23

JAMES MACBETH,
Hon. Treasurer.

Examined and found correct,
I. BUNTING.

Treasurer's report:—The receipts of the Church for the past year compare favourably with those of the preceding year, the figures being *yen* 2,643.23 and *yen* 2,385.85.

In the Offertories there has been an increase of *yen* 349.32 compared with that of the previous year, the figures being *yen* 1,448.10 and *yen* 1,098.78. On the other hand the Donations and Subscriptions show a decrease of *yen* 78.20, the figures being *yen* 1,013.20 and *yen* 935.00.

The year closed with a balance in hand of *yen* 410.36, against *yen* 232.02 of the preceding year, so that the receipts are *yen* 178.34 in excess of expenditures.

Yokohama, February 1st, 1904.

HELM BROS. LIMITED.

The annual general meeting of shareholders of Helm Bros. & Co., Ld., was held on Monday in the Masonic rooms, No. 78. Mr. E. W. Frazar presided and there was a very small attendance of shareholders.

The notice calling the meeting having been read, the minutes of last meeting were taken as read.

The CHAIRMAN then said: They had received copies and had no doubt familiarized themselves with the various items of the report and accounts, and he would content himself with calling attention to what the Board of Directors considered a very satisfactory showing, taking into consideration the rather trying business conditions of 1903. They would notice from the statement of accounts that the item of goodwill had been completely written off and the fleet account reduced by a considerable amount. Besides those they had deemed it wise to write off fair-sized amounts from the landing gear, horses, drays etc., the book values of which were now well on the safe side. In addition to writing off *yen* 5,000 from the fleet a sum of more than 10 per cent. of its value had been expended in up-keep, it being the policy of the company to maintain all its lighters and launches in thorough repair. The year's working had resulted in a net profit of *yen* 21,957.83 which, with the balance brought forward from last year's account, made a total balance of *yen* 25,033.89 and the directors had pleasure in recommending a final dividend of 10 per cent. to be declared at that meeting. That would absorb *yen* 18,600 and leave *yen* 6,433.89 to be carried forward to next year's account. A large measure of the success was due to the untiring zeal and careful attention of Mr. Julius Helm and his son Charles, under whose management the office staff and routine work had been placed on a very business-like basis.

The CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts with the declaration of a dividend.

Mr. DODDS said he thought the statement of accounts placed before the shareholders and introduced by the Chairman was a very statisfactory one. There was a very substantial writing-off, although he thought he should have liked to see a little more, notwithstanding the item as to upkeep and repairs. He should have liked to see something more taken off the boats, which were getting old and must be deteriorating, and writing-off from which would not have affected the dividend. He thought the most satisfactory writing-off had been the goodwill, which had been a very bad asset for some years past.

The CHAIRMAN said, that matter was taken into consideration by the directors, but as the sum of over *yen* 10,000 had been expended upon the boats, that should be taken as the equivalent of writing-off.

Mr. DODDS said he had not lost sight of that.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that plant and stock was also put below its valuation and more over it was well to carry over a large amount to the next year.

Mr. DODDS asked, as to the item "house property," whether it included land or only house property? He thought that land and buildings should be distinguished.

The CHAIRMAN expressed the opinion that in future that might be done.

After some discussion as to the nature of the property owned by the company,

Mr. DODDS seconded the motion for the adoption of the report and accounts, and this was carried.

The Directors were re-elected, the nomination of Messrs. Harmssen and Schimdt-Scharff, being approved of.

Messrs. W. Y. Showler and F. J. Hall, were elected auditors at a remuneration of *yen* 600.

Mr. DODDS directed attention to the necessity of revising the Articles of Association.

The CHAIRMAN said the suggestion would be acted upon by the now board.

On the motion of Mr. Dodds a vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman and the board of directors, the former of whom in replying said they seemed to have a prosperous season before them in consequence of the war, but what shonld take place afterwards they did not know. Their bank balance was *yen* 33,537, of which the dividend would absorb about one-half.

This was all the business and the proceedings closed.

The Directors have the pleasure to submit to the Shareholders the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss account for the year ended 31st December, 1903.

The net profit for the year (including the sum of *yen* 3,076.06 brought forward from 1902) after payment of a 5 per cent. Interim Dividend of *yen* 9,300. in July last and writing *yen* 4,000 off Balance of Goodwill account; *yen* 8,517 off Fleet and Plant account, and providing for Directors' and Auditor's fees, also a bonus to the foreign staff, amounts to *yen* 25,033.89 out of which the Directors recommend that a Final Dividend of 10 per cent. be declared, which will absorb *yen* 18,600, leaving a balance of *yen* 6,433.89 to be carried forward to New Account.

Board of Directors.—The former chairman, Mr. James Johnstone, being compelled on account of illness to return to England, resigned on October 21st, and Mr. E. W. Frazar was elected to serve in his stead. Mr. Harmssen also being absent on leave and the Board thus reduced to two members, which is not in accordance with the Articles of Association, it was decided to invite Mr. Schmidt-Scharff to join. It is hoped the shareholders will confirm his appointment. Mr. Harmssen retires from the Board but offers himself for re-election.

Auditors.—Mr. N. B. Morton having resigned in May on account of leaving Japan, Mr. W. Y. Showler was appointed to take his place. The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Hall and Showler, and their re-election is recommended.

HELM BROTHERS, LIMITED.

Balance Sheet for Year Ending 31st Dec., 1903.

Liabilities.		Yen.
To Capital Paid up		186,000.00
To Sundry Creditors		2,147.74
To Balance Profit and Loss Account		25,033.89
		213,181.63
Assets.		**Yen.**
By Sundry Debtors	18,283.08	
By Government Bonds deposited with Customs as Customs Brokers Surety	5,540.05	23,823.13
By Stocks.		
Horse-food and Stores	1,237.37	
Coal	2,441.25	3,678.62
By Property Account.		
Fleet	93,000,00	
Landing Gear, Working Plant and Material	3,000.00	
Drays and Horses	7,500.00	
Office Furniture	1,500.00	
House Property	48,500.00	153,500.00
By Hongkong and Shanghai Bank	27,755.70	
By 2nd National Bank	2,467,65	
By Cash on hand	2,056,53	32,179.88
		213,181.63

Profit and Loss Account for Year Ending 31st December, 1903.

Dr.		Yen.
To Horse-food and Stores	5,584.21	
To Fire Insurance	300.65	
To Rent	2,983.65	
To Client adjustment account	1,119.89	
To Legal Fees and Taxes	1,640.70	
To Directors and Auditors Fees	1,500.00	
To Upkeep and Repairs	10,406.74	
To Expenses	5,245.01	
To Claims	1,655.55	
To Salaries and Wages	18,450.29	
To Fuel	3,781.08	52,667.77
To Amount written off, Fleet a/c.	5,000.00	
Goodwill a/c.	4,000.00	
Landing Gear &c., a/c.	1,000.00	
Drays and Horses a/c.	1,117.00	
House Property a/c.	1,100.00	
Office Furniture a/c.	200.00	12,517.00
To Interim Dividend, 5 per cent paid 30th July		9,300.00
To Balance		25,033.89
		99,518.66
Cr.		**Yen.**
By Balance of Profit from 1902		3,076.06
By Gross Profit for Year		96,442.60
		99,518.66
1904. Jan. 1 By Balance Brought down		25,033.89

E. W. FRAZAR,
Chairman of Board of Directors.

We have examined the foregoing Accounts and compared them with the Books and Vouchers of the Company, and certify them to be correct.

F. J. HALL,
W. Y. SHOWLER, } Auditors.

Yokohama, January, 1904.

FACTORY GIRLS' FUND.

We are asked to state that the following donations to the Factory Girls Fund have been received:—

	Yen.
Already acknowledged	78.56
W. M. Strachan & Co., Ld.	10.00
J. F. Cox Edwards	10.00
Misses Lloyd Thomas	10.00
J. C. da Costa	10.00

Japanese gold coins amounting to *yen* 482,900 and U. S. gold valued at *yen* 5,315.90 were exported on Feb. 9th by the American mail steamer.

YOKOHAMA YACHT CLUB.

The annual general meeting of members of the Yokohama Yacht Club was held on Wednesday at No. 78, Mr. G. H. Scidmore, Commodore of the Club, in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN laid the report and accounts before the meeting and invited discussion.

The Hon. Treasurer explained that the small balance in hand was largely due to the amount expended on record flags.

The CHAIRMAN called attention to the services of the outgoing Committee, and especially to those of Mr. F. T. Leak, the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. He also referred to the loss the Club had sustained in the wreck of the *Golden Hind*, and to the long connection Mr. A. Owston, her owner, had had with the Club. He trusted that they would again see Mr. Owston's flag displayed in the harbour and on a craft which would make Mr. Laffin and the other owners sit up.

Mr. OLDIS (on half of *Surprise*) called attention to events that took place in connexion with a race during the last season. He moved that the report and accounts be adopted except with reference to the race of July 25th, as to which the error then made by the Chinaman acting as officer of the day should, he thought, be rectified by the incoming Committee.

This motion was not seconded.

On the motion of Mr. Tucker seconded by Mr. Catto the report and accounts were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN spoke of the loss about to be sustained by the departure of Mr. Leak. He remarked regretfully upon the lack of interest shown by the Japanese in the sport of yachting and referred also to the challenge brought from Hawaii and to Mr. Laffin's readiness to meet it. The "Lark" class he spoke of as a distinct acquisition to the Club.

Messrs. G. H. Scidmore (Commodore), Alan Owston (Vice-Commodore) and G. W. Brockhurst (Hon. Secretary) were then elected. The ballot for the election of members of the General Committee was announced to have resulted as follows: Messrs. T. M. Laffin, and F. J. Hall.

The Racing Committee was elected to consist of A. R. Catto, R. Boyes and C. S. Averill.

On the motion of Mr. Leak a hearty vote of thanks was passed by the Commodore, who in return expressed the thanks of the Club to Mr. Leak.

This was all the business.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The Committee beg to submit their report for the season of 1903, the seventeenth year of the Club's existence.

The great feature of the past season has been the racing of the new 12 foot "Lark" class. 15 of this unique craft were built at an expense of not quite *yen* 100 each. They have proved to be very able in all kinds of weather, both in and outside the breakwater, and afforded good sport not only to their enthusiastic crews, but to the retired navigators of the verandah; every inducement should be offered to keep up the interest in this class in the future. 62 races have been sailed during the season; of this number 24 go to the credit of the "Larks."

39 Raters.—The result of the racing in this class shows *Mary* to be in first place for nearly every race sailed. The owners of *Haidee* and *Maid Marion* are to be commended for entering their yachts and thus making races possible.

Cruising Class.—Enthusiasm in this class does not die out, on the contrary the addition of *Spray* and *Wanderer* adds new interest. *Asagao* has this year carried off the record prize from the larger boats, although *Daimyo* under new ownership has given her a hard chase.

21 Raters.—*Vixen* has taken her old place at the head of the class in the record, her victories early in the season giving her a lead that the newer boats were never able to overcome. *Pele* and *Winsome* are tied for second place in the record. *Sunbeam*, a new Starling Burgess model, has shown great speed at times and will no doubt be a dangerous competitor in the racing next year.

The Y. Y. C. has suffered a severe loss to its fleet of 39 raters. The *Golden Hind* was most unfortunately wrecked on No. 2 fort on a stormy night in October.

The Club also regrets the departure of Mr. Keswick and his fine yacht for Hongkong. Mr. Keswick has acted on our Committee for the past two years and we are sorry to lose his valuable services.

Several changes of ownership of yachts have taken place, and we are pleased to see the interest taken by new owners in the racing.

The additions to the fleet during the past season have been 15 "Larks" one 21 Rater owned by Mr. F. J. Hall and Mr. E. R. Thompson and built from designs of Mr. Starling Burgess, and the fine auxiliary schooner *Tommy Atkins*.

A new boat is in course of construction for the 21 Raters and there are rumours of still another boat for this popular class.

A report of the season's racing would be incomplete without mention of the historic contest between the *Tommy Atkins* and our flagship the *Yamato Damashi*. Several of Yokohama's deep-sea sailors took part in this race and we are assured that the fastest boat won.

The Club is indebted to the donors of many handsome prizes during the season, and also wishes to express its thanks to the local press for many favours.

G. H. SCIDMORE.
ALAN OWSTON.
T. M. LAFFIN.
F. T. LEAK, HON. SEC.
R. BOYES }
C. S. AVERILL } RACING COMMITTEE.
T. ABBEY }

BALANCE SHEET, 1903.

RECEIPTS.	*yen.*
To Balance 1902	22.31
To Annual Subscriptions	426.00
To Registration Fees	160.00
To Entry Fees	477.00
To Sale of Flags	4.00
To Prizes Presented	760.00
	1,849.31

DISBURSEMENTS.	*yen.*
By Prizes	1,519.00
By Special Prizes for "Larks"	23.85
By Printing and Advertising	154.00
By Stationery	2.25
By Hire of Room	5.00
By Picture Frames	4.50
By Pennants and Red Flags	16.00
By Subscription to Lloyd's Register	10.40
By Expenses incurred in connection with Cruising Permits	10.00
By Cartridges	9.00
By Chinese Assistant to the Officer of the Day	50.00
By Collector's Commission	15.00
By Hire of Flagboats	26.10
By Balance in hand	4.21
	1,849.31

F. T. LEAK, *Hon. Treasurer.*

Compared with the vouchers and found correct.
G. W. BROCKHURST.

SUMMARY OF RACES.

39 Raters sailed	9 Races.
Cruising Class sailed	13 "
21 Raters sailed	13 "
Larks sailed	24 "
Cruising Races	3 "
Total	62 Races.

RECORD PRIZE WINNERS.

Mary	16 Points.
Asagao	14 "
Vixen	11 "
Lark No. 10	26 "

T. ABBEY, }
C. S. AVERILL, } *Racing Committee.*
RICHARD BOYES, }

THE LAW COURTS.

CLAIM ON AN ACCIDENT.

The hearing of a case filed by K. Kiyofuji, on behalf of an old woman, Masa Makino, against Marchioness Oyama, claiming *yen* 156.40 began in the Tokyo District Court before Judge Yokota, on Feb. 6th.

According to the complaint, states the *Asahi*, the carriage of defendant ran over the old woman on November 8th last inflicting severe injuries, for which she was removed to the Red Cross Society's hospital, the expenses incurred amounting to the sum claimed.

After discussion, the Court rejected the claim and ordered plaintiff to bear costs, on the ground that plaintiff's representative was not properly authorized to appear in Court.

SENTENCE ON A MURDERER.

S. Sakurai, who murdered on Nov. 14th last Nobu, the wife of S. Watanabe, living at Reiganjima, Tokyo, was sentenced in the Tokyo District Court on Feb. 5th, to 13 years' penal servitude. It may be remembered that the murderer in committing this crime attacked a person other than the individual whom he intended to murder.

CLAIM AGAINST A SURETY.

Judgment was given in the Kobe Chiho Saibansho before Judge Tanaka and two Associates on Feb. 4th in an action brought by Mr. Adolf Gysin, of the firm of Gysin and Schoeninger, 81, Kobe, against Matsuki Bunkyo, a merchant of Kano-cho, Kobe. The claim in the case was for the recovery of *yen* 260.44, which sum the plaintiff alleged was lost through the action of a banto in his employ, for whom the defendant became surety when the banto, was engaged by Messrs. Gysin and Schoeninger. The plaintiff did not appear, nor was he represented, and the case was dismissed with costs against him.

THE GOLD MINE CASE.

The hearing of this case, instituted by Mr. J. Helm against J. Fujita, claiming *yen* 3,955.74 with interest, for loss in mining work, began on Feb. 8th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Hasegawa.

Mr S. Sawada was present for plaintiff and Mr. H. Sato for defendant.

Plaintiff's counsel stated that plaintiff made a contract in 1901 with his predecessor to jointly undertake work in the Maruo gold mine, Kaga province. The principal point of the contract stipulated that if the analysis of minerals showed little prospect of good results, plaintiff would cancel the contract; that plaintiff, however, would invest the money necessary for the trial excavations. Subsequently plaintiff furnished money for the purchase of an engine boiler, etc., amounting in all to the sum claimed. Although the defendant had reported in favourable terms upon the mine, the analysis proved very bad. Plaintiff consequently sent a notice in March 1902 cancelling the contract and a formal notice in July in the same month, with the same object.

Defendant's Counsel contended that Mr. T. Sato, a civil engineer, attended to the mining work, and his analysis showed good prospects.

As evidence, plaintiff's Counsel put before the Court the contract, six receipts, estimates of engine boiler, machines, &c.

The case was adjourned till Feb. 22nd at 1 p.m.

BATCHELOR v. THWAITES.

On Feb. 6th, the Yokohama District Court delivered a formal judgment in this case, verbal judgment having been given on Jan. 22nd.

The important points are summarized as follows:—

THE GIST OF JUDGMENT.—Defendant is ordered to pay plaintiff *yen* 2,500 and interest from September 18th, 1902, to the execution of this judgment, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, and defendant was also ordered to bear three-fifths of costs; plaintiff to bear two-fifths.

FACT.—Plaintiff claimed *yen* 2,500 which he invested in an exhibition of illusions and *yen* 2,400 estimated loss caused by the failure of the performance. Plaintiff stated that on September 18th, 1901, he made a contract with defendant, who invited him to invest money for the purpose of giving performances at the Fifth Domestic Industrial Exhibition at Osaka. Plaintiff promised to invest *yen* 3,000, for which he was to get one-third of the profits, and he further agreed to forego his share upon payment of *yen* 4,500 nine months after the performance was commenced. The illusion performance commenced at first in Tokyo, but with bad result, and subsequently it was removed to Shanghai, on October 17th or 18th, 1902. Plaintiff thus lost the profit anticipated to be made at Osaka. Plaintiff then cancelled, on Oct. 24th, the contract and asked defendant to pay back the invested money with interest, and also *yen* 2,400, which he estimated as one-third of profit which might have been made during the period of the Osaka Exhibition from April 1st to June 30th.

Defendant contended that a third person was to perform the illusion, in which defendant simply held a share. Plaintiff invested *yen* 2,500 under a promise to have one-third of the profits. The performer of the illusion commenced the exhibition in October but proved to be unsuccessful, incurring much loss, and he was compelled to remove the exhibition to China.

Reason—Under the statements of both parties, it is well understood that defendant misled plaintiff about the profit to be made by performing at Osaka during the period of the Domestic Industrial Exhibition, and that plaintiff was led to invest *yen* 2,500. The claim of defendant for the estimated profit of *yen* 2,400 was rejected on the ground that in the event of loss, plaintiff agreed to have no claim against defendant with regerd to interest on the invested money.

CLAIM ON BREACH OF CONTRACT.

The Tokyo Appeal Court, gave formal judgment on Feb. 3rd in the case appealed by K. Yamada, sugar dealer, against Messrs. Simon, Evers and Company, the verbal judgment having been delivered on Jan. 21st.

It may be remembered that on June 15th, 1903, judgment was given in the Yokohama District Court ordering the appellant to pay *yen* 1,597.17 for loss caused by breach of contract and interest till the execution of judgment. The Tokyo Appeal Court now quashed this judgment, disallowing the claim of the foreign firm.

The principal reason for the judgment given at the Tokyo Appeal Court is as follows:

According to the 3rd item of the contract (Exhibit No. A-1) concluded by both parties, it is stipulated that in case of dispute as to the quality of goods, the purchaser could not refuse to take delivery of merchandise.

THE NAIGAI BOYEKI KAISHA v. J. L. O. EYTON.

This case, in which the plaintiff firm claims *yen* 523, loss arising out of a transaction in percussion cups, came up again in the Yokohama District Court on Feb. 9th.

The statement of plaintiffs' counsel showed that plaintiffs purchased on May 15th, 1902, from defendant at auction 100,000 No. 320 brass percussion caps and 33,500 No. 380 caps for *yen* 52 in all but the anctioneer did not deliver the goods. Plaintiffs it is alleged thus sustained damage in the business.

Defendant's counsel held that plaintiffs did not make a promise with defendant to purchase the goods, though a representative of plaintiff's firm was present in the auction room when the sale of the goods took place. Counsel asked the Court for leave to examine K. Mitamura as a witness. The Court granted leave to do so.

The witness was then examined. He stated that Ikeda, a merchant, purchased on May 15th 1902 the percussion caps from defendant at auction for *yen* 52 and then sold the goods to Kanemaru, an ammunition dealer, for *yen* 79 gaining a profit of *yen* 27. Ikeda distributed the profit among those who assisted him at the auction.

Having introduced two of the percussion caps, defendant's counsel asked the Court to ascertain whether those were the goods in dispute. The witness replied that they were the same.

The case was adjourned till Feb. 18th at 10 a.m.

CROSS COUNTRY RACE.

This event took place on Saturday afternoon in weather which left nothing to be desired. It was one of those rare mid-winter afternoons when the air is perfectly still and the sun shines out from a deep blue sky speckled with a few fleecy clouds of white; when the eye can travel over immense distances and the sea looks as tranquil as a mountain lake in summer. A considerable number of spectators, including many ladies, were gathered at the Grand Stand on the Race Course and evinced much interest in the race, the greater part of which could be witnessed from the first floor. Eight competitors faced the starter: H. E. Hayward, H. Y. Irwine, S. R. Ford, H. W. Kilby, W. B. Mason, W. Graham, R. C. Bowden and J. L. Graham: a smaller number than we expected. Surely such an event should have attracted a score of runners. The course first lay along the Race Course to the bungalows at the far end and when the runners turned off to the right, Irwine was seen to be in front of the bunch. A few hundred yards sufficed to change the bunch into a string and passing the second flag the order was Kilby, followed by Irwine, while the rest came along each separated by 2 or 3 yards. The third mark, half a mile further on, saw Mason, Irwine and Kilby leading by 30 yards. This order was maintained, although each of the three leaders went to the front in turn all the way back to the Race Course, the others gradually falling more and more to the rear. Mason made use of a short cut unknown to the others which brought him first on to the Race Course. From here the runners were well in view of the spectators as they crossed the fields inside the Race Course and slowly climbed the further side. The run was next to the old fort overlooking Honmoku, half way to which Irwine fell out. From there to the Snake Lake, Kilby and Mason were well in front, the former leading, passing the flag about two yards apart; Bowden 500 yards behind—300 in front of J. L. Graham, who was followed by Hayward. Mason's knowledge of the ground gained him some 30 yards near the new Cemetery and he reached the flag on the Race Course well ahead, the order of the others remaining the same. The winners were thus: 1st, W. B. Mason, Jr.; 2nd H. W. Kilby; while Bowden, J. L. Graham, Hayward and W. Graham finished in the order named—Irwine and Ford being the only two starters to drop out. The course was between seven and eight miles and the winner covered the distance in 42 minutes.

The thanks of the Club are due to Mr. Blad' who gave the prizes, and to Mrs. Blad, who gracefully presented them to the winners, and also to those gentlemen who acted as stewards of the course.

WRECKED IN SIGHT OF HOME.

The circumstances of the loss of the White Star sailer *Orontes* are peculiar in several respects, remarks the *S.-C. Morning Post.* The *Orontes* had arrived in the Channel from Caleta Colosa, with a cargo of nitrate, and engaged the twin-screw tug *Oceana* to tow her to Dunkirk. Whilst endeavouring to get fast to her prospective tow, the *Oceana* struck the *Orontes* with her port propeller and knocked a hole in her side, stripping all the blades of the propeller. Unfortunately neither the tug nor the sailing ship crew knew that the latter had received a mortal blow, as the absorbent nature of the cargo prevented the inflow of water being noticed until the ship began to settle down. At the Marine Court of Inquiry the Judge experienced some difficulty in arriving at a just decision as to whom was to blame for the disaster. An unpleasant feature of the case was that allegations were made, and found by the learned judge to have been substantiated, that the captain of the *Orontes* had celebrated his homecoming by an undue indulgence in intoxicating liquors. In the opinion of the Judge, this circumstance was not the cause of the disaster, and that too much importance should not be attached to it, as the captain had just come from a long voyage and bore an excellent reputation for nearly forty years under the same ownership. It was also said that the *Orontes* was unseaworthy because hes pumps were out of order. The judge, however, found the disaster was caused by the bungling of those in command of the tug.

We (*Japan Mail*) might add that a son of Capt. W. Townsend, late of the N.Y.K. steamer *Sanuki Maru*, and now in command of the *Ceylon Maru*, building at Nagasaki, was on the *Orontes* at the time she sank. He reached Dunkirk with only the clothes he stood in.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

The Queen of Roumania has just given another to the many proofs already known of her goodness of heart and sympathy for the afflicted. Her Majesty is having fitted up, at her own expense, in Bucharest, a printing establishment especially for the production of books in raised type for the blind. The books are to be distributed to institutions throughout Roumania, where there are blind persons.

Professor Skeat is attempting the task of modernising Chaucer for the benefit of those students who find the Old English too difficult. "The Knight's Tale; or the story of Palamon and Arcite" will be published in a few days as a volume of the "King's Classics," by Alexander Moring (Limited.) Among other volumes in the series the first of the "King's Letters," edited by Mr. Robert Steele, will also be published shortly.

Mr. John Bach McMaster, professor of American history at the University of Pennsylvania, is reading the proofs for the sixth volume of his "History of the People of the United States," which, beginning publication in 1883, reached its fifth volume three years ago. The forthcoming volume deals with the period between 1822 and 1845, and is said to be particularly rich in contemporaneous material, including long-forgotten pamphlets, campaign documents, and private letters.

Mrs. Katherine Cecil Thurston, author of "The Circle," whose new novel, "The Masquerader," began its first installment in the January number of *Harper's Bazar*, was born in Cork, in the south of Ireland. She was an only child, educated at home and much given to reading. Strangely enough, in view of the success of her first novel, Mrs. Thurston avers that the thought of writing never came to her until it was suggested by her husband, who is himself an author.

Mr. Henry Haynie, author of "Paris, Past and Present," has completed a volume of reminiscences which he calls, "Celebrities in Slippers." Among the personages that figure in this volume are Frederick III., Edward VII., Francis Joseph, Dom Pedro, the Orleans princes and the ex-Khedive of Egypt, Gladstone, Jules Ferry, Alexander Ribot, Lord Randolph Churchill, Bismarck, Pasteur, Renan, Sardou, Daudet, Verdi, Gounod, Massenet, Liszt, Leo XIII., Pius IX., Bougereau and Meissonier.

The production of "Parsifal" in New York has led to a Wagner craze in that city and it is therefore not strange to hear that Mr. Henry Krehbiel's volume, "Studies in the Wagnerian Drama," is in great demand at present because of its scholarly account of "Parsifal." Mr. Krehbiel inquires into the origin of the opera, and shows that it was an offspring of two previous dramas by Wagner, one of which was entitled "Jesus of Nazareth," the other "The Victors." In his analysis of the latter and greater opera Mr. Krehbiel says: "The fundamental elements of the music of 'Parsifal' are suffering and aspiration. When they are apprehended the ethical purpose of the drama becomes plain, but not till then."

By the death of Mr. Clifford Harrison the English public loses one of its most gifted entertainers, although failing health had compelled his retirement some time ago. Author, actor, musician, reciter, artist—for during a long period of ill-health Mr. Harrison developed a remarkable talent for sketching in black and white—Mr. Harrison was one of the most versatile men of of his time, while his gifts as an elocutionist were of the highest order. It was Mr. Harrison's brother—the late Rev. William Harrison—who married Charles Kingsley's daughter "Lucas Malet." Among Mr. Clifford Harrison's own writings were many charming poems, such as "The Bells of Is," "The Song that Hath No Sound," and "Carcassonne," all of which he was accustomed to recite. He also published "Stray Records," a collection of amusing and interesting reminiscences, among various other works.

The poems in Rudyard Kipling's "Just So Stories," already so popular with children, have now an added charm in the delightful music to which they have been set by Edward German. These songs possess decided originality, and are extremely varied in style. Several of them, notably "The Camel's Hump," "I Keep Six Honest Serving Men," and "The First Friend," have simple tuneful airs, easily learned by a child. Others, again, have cleverly written accompaniments of a descriptive character, particularly attractive to young folk, such as "Kangaroo and Dingo," and "When the Cabin Portholes"; though possibly the difficulty of some of the music may detract slightly from the general usefulness of the volume. "Merrow Down," and "Of All the Tribe of Tegumai," are dainty melodies such as may well appeal to older vocalists, and can not fail to charm, the last-named being particularly pleasing. All the music is well adapted to the words, and the two combined form a delightful little volume which will be much appreciated by young and old.

Professor Masson, whom *The Times* has been consigning prematurely to another world, is happily still in the land of living. It is now eight years since the genial and learned professor, whose outward resemblance to Thomas Carlyle grows more and more remarkable with the flight of time, retired from the Chair in the University of Edinburgh of which Hugh Blair was the first occupant. During the thirty years in which Professor Masson taught English literature and rhetoric at Edinburgh thousands of pupils now scattered throughout the world sat under him, while among the Edinburgh men who have since obtained distinction in literature may be included Stevenson, Conan Doyle, Barrie, and Watson. But it would take much space to enumerate all Professor Masson's claims to distinction. Lord Rosebery called him not many years ago the "Grand Old Man of Edinburgh," and certainly since Professor Blackie ceased to walk in Princes-street, Dr. Masson has been the most picturesque and characteristic figure in the streets of the Northern capital.

Dr. F. J. Furnivall, who has a breezy letter in *The Times* on the subject of the Milton MSS., which he calls a mere scrivener's copy of no value whatever as a curiosity, is an old controversialist in matters of this sort. It was only the other day that he was conducting a lively discussion in the same organ respecting the copyright claimed by Judge Parry in his edition of the "Love Letters of Dorothy Osborne." Dr. Furnivall, who never calls a spade an agricultural implement, has no words strong enough to express his contempt for the Baconians. "If you study Shakespeare chronologically," he observed not long since, "all the Bacon rot and stuff of that sort drops off your back like water." Another of Dr. Furnivall's hobbies besides old English texts and MSS. is sculling—a branch of oarsmanship to which he was devoted so long ago as 1845, when, with John Beesley, he built the first two narrow rowing-boats in England. Later he introduced the first sculling-four and sculling-eight races, while a big three-sculling boat was one of the gifts presented to him by his many friends in celebration of his seventy-fifth birthday three years since.

In the Life of Commissioner Kerr, the famous Judge of the city of London Court, who passed away a year ago, is told a good story of Lord Brampton, which though often related has probably not before been in print. The story is told *à propos* of the Commissioner's advice to counsel to let evidence of prejudice be put in without objection, as it generally injures the person who imports it. Mr. Henry Hawkins is said to have described how,—"When still a young man at Sessions, with a serious case to defend, yet having no defence, he once, on a purely technical ground, while ever on the lookout for a 'break down,' forced a Magistrate's clerk to be put into the witness-box by the prosecution, to prove a purely formal matter; how, having got him there, he cross-examined him, and made him practically admit that he 'led his Magistrates by the nose'; to also admit that they had refused bail by his advice, and that a Judge at Chambers had afterwards granted it, although the witness had come up all the way to London from the country to oppose it. Then, asked the bold cross-examiner, 'you were in the room, Sir, and didn't you hear the learned Judge say there was not a rag of a case against my unhappy client?' The prosecuting counsel objected to this question, and the collective wisdom of Quarter Sessions ruled it could not be put. But the jury had heard it, and they had heard the answer stopped. The dissatisfaction this induced in their minds made them acquit the prisoner. Leaving the Court that day, the prisoner's Counsel asked his opponent, 'Why did you object to that question?' The latter indignantly protested that his adversary, when he asked it, must have known that it could not be put. 'Yes, I did,' was the answer; 'but I knew you, too, and felt sure you would object at the right time. But you should have waited for the answer, as it would have been "No!"'"

NIPPON RACE CLUB.

The following is the result of the drawing at noon on Friday at Durand's Stables of the Australian subscription horses (which arrived by rail from Kobe the same morning):—

1.—	Chestnut Mare	4	years	Mr. Loonen.
2.—	Bay Mare	5	„	Mr. Tegner.
3.—	Bay Mare	5	„	Mr. Betts.
4.—	Bay Mare	5	„	Mr. Ikeda.
5.—	Bay Mare	4	„	Mr. Runge.
6.—	Bay Mare	5	„	Mr. Suzuki.
7.—	Chestnut Mare	4	„	Mr. Mottet.
8.—	Bay Mare	4	„	Mr. Numajie.
9.—	Brown Mare	6	„	Mr. Davis.
10.—	Bay Mare	4	„	Mr. Pors.
11.—		–	„	Dead.
12.—	Grey Mare	6	„	Mr. Runge.
13.—	Dark Chestnut Mare	4	„	Mr. Sato.
14.—	Bay Mare	5	„	Mr. Hamilton.
15.—	Bay Mare	6	„	Mr. Pors.
16.—	Bay Mare	5	„	Mr. Yezoe.
17.—	Chestnut Mare	4	„	Mr. Ward.
18.—	Bay Mare	4	„	Mr. Hiranuma.
19.—	Bay Mare	5	„	Mr. Ikeda.
20.—	Bay Mare	5	„	Mr. Barclay.
21.—	Bay Mare	6	„	Mr. Hiranuma.
22.—	Chestnut Mare	5	„	Mr. Davis.
23.—	Chestnut Mare	4	„	Mr. Deidrich.
24.—	Bay Mare	5	„	Mr. Robison.
25.—	Bay Mare	5	„	Mr. Dayet.
26.—	Bay Mare	6	„	Mr. Loonen.
27.—			„	Dead.
28.—	Dark Bay Mare	6	„	Mr. Mori.
29.—	Bay Mare	6	„	Mr. Kawakita.
30.—	Black Mare	6	„	Mr. Loonen.

FUNCTIONS AT THE SECOND HIGH SCHOOL.

The Second High School during the past few weeks have held meetings of various kinds in its capacious Lecture Hall. Some of these have been thrown open to the outside public; others have been held for the sake of the students and teachers of the school only. It is customary with such schools to take a very formal leave of teachers who are going away. On these occasions farewell addresses are delivered by the Director, and a number of other office-bearers in the school, and the gentlemen leaving are expected to reply. Usually such functions descend to the level of tedious conventional formality, but when a teacher of some standing and character happens to be bidding farewell to the institution he not infrequently utilizes the occasion for ventilating his opinions on things in general and on education in particular in a very unreserved manner. It is a subject for gratification that even in Government schools freedom of speech on almost every subject is now allowed to an extent undreamt of ten years ago. The old notion was that the students should only be allowed to listen to the propounding of carefully selected theories and doctrines and the subjects marked "Dangerous!" in the minds of school officials were very numerous. It was supposed that the students did not possess sufficient knowledge, insight and common sense to prove all things and to hold fast that which is good. Though most of them are grown-up, they were treated like children and had administered to them intellectual food of a very mild sort. They were forbidden to attend political meetings for fear their innocent minds should be poisoned by the speeches heard there. But to-day it is realized that when a young man reaches the age of 20 or thereabouts it is high time that he began to form opinions for himself, and that he began to develop his individuality along his own special lines, and so it has come about that students are to-day allowed to listen to speeches of a most radical type—even to speeches that condemn altogether the methods of teaching followed in most Government schools. Such was the speech made by Mr. Mukō Gunji, a very talented and popular teacher of German on the 23rd ult, when he and Mr. Sugimura, a highly respected teacher of science, were taking leave of the school. Mr. Mukō has considerable linguistic ability. He studied under Mr. Spinner, a eminent German missionary, many years ago, an he speaks both German and English with more than ordinary facility. But being entirely ou of sympathy with the whole of the Mombushō system of education and being very sick of the narrow minded, unpractical, idle-theory-spinning typ of school teacher and all his ways, and seeing n future career worth waiting for in the Japanes educational world, some months ago he re solved that he would plunge into busines and endeavour to confer some lasting benefi on his fellow-countrymen by striking ou in a new line. In his opinion the rice-growin industry in Texas is going, if properly utilized, t open up a new era to Japanese rice-grower The seed cultivated in Texas is Japanese see and many Japanese are engaged in farming there Mr. Mukō's idea is to go at once to Texas, stud the methods followed there with such wonderf success and then come back to Japan and set th Texas, or similar, machinery in motion here. M Mukō says that if once America begins to expo Japanese rice by the million *koku*, as within th next 10 years she is likely to do, the rice industr in this country, dependent as it is solely on han labour, will be irretrievably ruined. Japan only hold her own in the markets of the worl by the use of labour-saving appliances of vario kinds. The cost of these appliances is no long beyond the purchasing ability of Japan's larg farmers. But these men need guidance a stimulation. This guidance and stimulation M Mukō hopes to furnish. In his speech at t school he confessed that the scheme might pro too great to be put into operation at once within his lifetime, but he added that it was object worth working for and helping forwar What he had to say about the inefficiency the teaching in all Government schools has be said many times before. For the past 10 yea the Japanese press, as may be seen by t translations which have appeared in the columns, has perpetually dwelt on this su ject. What is wanted by the Education D partment is a new set of teachers in the Eleme ary and Middle Schools. Mr. Mukō righ observed that there is no subject that c be named on which the instruction giv in the Middle Schools is either thorou or satisfactory. "I have asked" "teachers mathematics, teachers of chemistry, teachers foreign languages whether the students w have entered the High Schools have been p perly taught in the lower schools said Mr. Mu and the answer is invariably a decided, 'n 'We would rather,' say all the teach 'have students who know nothing of a subj than those who have been misguided the Chūgakkō.' The English teachers in school spend most of their time in untea ing, in correcting the mispronunciation and ot mistakes for which the Chugakkō are responsib Our education is all wrong, contended Mukō. Neither our High Schools nor Universities are on the right track. It is new rules as much as men of real teaching abil men with ideas, men of character, men who qualified to lead their fellow-men that are n ed. Mr. Mukō then went on in the most p mistic style to dwell on the corruption that e in all classes of Japanese society. Accordin him, to use a familiar phrase, the country going to the dogs." Japanese students the through hear so much said in praise of their country and the progress it has made that it may be a wholesome corrective for them occasionally to listen to the speech of an extremely earnest and patriotic gentleman like Mr. Mukō, on whose mind Japan's defects and failings have made a far deeper impression than all her past achievements. As an antidote to national variety Mr. Mukō's speech, though condemned by many who listened to it, has its uses. Our greatest friends are often those who do not shrink from telling us of our faults. The Japanese, as a people, it has always seemed to us, turn aside with disgust from fulsome flattery while they listen with wonderful equanimity to a perfect diatribe against existing modes of thought, policies, and institutions. But the educational world has unmistakably gone ahead. Fifteen years ago no body of students would have listened quietly to such an exposure of weaknesses as that to which Mr. Mukō treated the students of the Second High School last month. It goes without saying that in some parts of his speech Mr. Mukō indulged in hyperbole, making things out to be far worse than they are and there was no attempt throughout to balance the account for and against modern Japan by placing on one side of the ledger her moral assets and on the other her moral defects. That was a weak point connected with the speech, which detracted much from its value in the minds of discerning students and in those of the teachers. But a speech like that will not easily be forgotten and Mr. Mukō's future career will be watched with keen interest not only by all the students of the Second High School, but by the whole of the Senda community, Japanese and foreign, among whom Mr. Mukō enjoyed quite exceptional popularity on account of his being a living embodiment of the motto, *Suaviter in modo fortiter in re.* A man of broad views, of charming manners, warm-hearted, thoroughly sincere, energetic even beyond his physical strength, of which he has a very limited stock, and blessed with a rare openness and receptivity of mind which made him ready to learn something from everybody he met, Mr. Mukō will be missed in Sendai by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

On the 29th ult. at 5.30 p.m. the Literary Department of the Shōshikai held a Mock Parliament in the School Hall, which was very largely attended by students and their friends. It was not such a success as was achieved some five or six years ago in the same hall. On that occasion the teachers took part in the proceedings, forming a Cabinet and replying to questions put by the members. That entertainment, for such it was regarded, was described fully in these columns at the time. The description was subsequently translated into French and published in the Paris *Matin.* The subject discussed then was "The advisability of abolishing examinations," a subject which naturally awakened tremendous interest among the students and called forth all their argumentative capabilities, and a subject on which the school authorities felt it to be their duty to take a very decided line. Many of the speeches made on that occasion were brilliant orations for young hands at public speaking. This year there were two bills brought forward. One on religion, introduced by the Government, and the other a private bill in favour of amending the law relating to active military service. The wording of the Government Bill, which was presented by the Minister-President, the Home Minister, and the Minister of Education, became the text for a whole volley of questions and objections. As for the main principle of the bill, it met with a storm of well sustained opposition. Its principal object was the curtailment of religious liberty by bringing all priests and pastors under the control of the Education Department. The Bill was rightly pronounced to be contrary to the spirit and to the letter of the clause in the Constitution which gives to all Japanese subjects liberty to choose what religion they please. The notion of the competency of the Home Minister or the Minister of Education to administer religion was ridiculed as unsupported by facts. Most of the Ministers of State were found to be ignorant of all religions alike, said one speaker. The Bill provided for a Divinity School to be conducted by the Mombushō—a project which the members found it hard to take seriously. The second Bill was introduced by one of the German students, Mr. Takahashi Yōkichi, who made an excellent speech, full of facts which he had carefully collated, to show that the two years of active service advocated, instead of the three now enforced, would prove adequate for the training of soldiers and would save the country a large amount of money annually. The Bill proposed that to make up for the year taken off the time of active service a year should be added to the time spent in the reserve force, that being increased to 5 years and 5 months, instead of 4 years 5 months as at present. The Government of course opposed this Bill, maintaining that efficient troops could not be turned out in the time proposed, and the like. But the Bill was carried in the teeth of the Government, and after an appeal to the Throne had been made, an Imperial order suspending the sitting was solemnly read and the members dispersed. The contest was a somewhat unequal one; for the Government delegates and the Ministers of State were no match for the members who attacked them and with one exception the support they received in the Diet was lacking in ability. The interruptions, urgency motions, and repeated attempts to apply the closure when the debate was still at its height, and the witty comments shouted out by certain members, each contributed its quota of amusement and so the three hours which the sitting lasted passed off merrily, as it was intended that they should.

On Jan. 30th, in the forenoon, and on Jan. 31st, in the afternoon, a recently formed society called the Chogyūkai held meetings at the school, which were larged attended by Sendai residents. The Chogyūkai is a society founded by Dr. Anezaki Seiji, Messrs. Tobari Shinichirō, Fujii Kenjirō, Kuroyanagi Kunitarō and two other gentlemen in honour of the late Dr. Takayama, whose posthumous name is Chogyū. The Society is supported by many of the leading professors of the Imperial University. It proposes the holding of memorial meetings in various parts of the country periodically and hopes to be able to erect a building at Kamakura or elsewhere in honour of the deceased scholar in addition to putting up a lecture hall and library &c. in Tōkyō, which the Society will make its headquarters. Speeches on literature, ethics and religion were delivered in Sendai on the two successive days mentioned above by Dr. Anezaki, Mr. Tobari and Mr. Kuroyanagi; and the teachers of the Second High School have since all been asked to become members of the Society. The Society aims at encouraging the free discussion of those subjects which were so dear to the heart the late Doctor—literature, ethics and religion—and it will endeavour to deepenand extend the impression made by Dr. Takayama's writings throughout the country. Both the Doctors Inoue, Messrs. Ueda Bin, Ueda Mannen and Dr. Tsubouchi Yuzō are among the supporters of the movement.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

Dr. Katō Hiroyuki has just published a third edition of his well known work *Dōtoku, Hōritsu Shinkwa no Ri* and has favoured us with a copy of the book. The first edition of this work was reviewed by us at considerable length in these columns three and a half years ago (*vide Weekly Mail,* Aug. 25th, 1900). In reference to the veteran philosopher, who at the age of seventy years or thereabouts displays no signs of intellectual decrepitude, we may perhaps be allowed to repeat what we said then: "Among Japanese writers on Philosophy Dr. Katō Hiroyuki has no equal. He is the only Japanese whose system of philosophy has been seriously discussed by the Germans. Though for over thirty years he has been an earnest student of the views advocated by various German Schools, he cannot be said to have adopted any one set of opinions. He has played the part of an eclectic. His views have been moulded as much by his Oriental surroundings and studies as by his investigation of Occidental thought. The result is that Dr. Katō is a new and original type of philosopher, and as such forms an interesting subject of study." To [illegible] large extent Dr. Katō has followed in the wake of our English Utilitarians whose contributions to the repertory of philosophic thought were a few years ago stated in lucid detail by Sir Leslie Stephen. ("The English Utilitarians," 1900). Dr. Katō has steered clear of abstruse German metaphysics and mysticism. And, thanks to a clear arrangement of ideas and to a facile pen, his system of philosophy and ethics may be comprehended by any educated reader. In the preface to the new edition Dr. Katō informs us that he is a Utilitarian, an Evolutionist, a Monist and that his system of philosophy rests on a variety of other principles, materialistic, egoistic causative and empirical. The present work is nearly double the size of the first edition. Some passages have been altered or rewritten in a fuller manner, and in the last chapter about 50 pages are devoted to answering the adverse criticism aroused by the original work. The arguments of Doctors Inoue Tetsujirō, Motora Yūjirō and Messrs. Nakajima Tokuzō and Kumagaye Gorō are fully stated and discussed. Dr. Inoue and Dr. Katō are at variance all along the line, Dr. Inoue being an intuitionalist and Dr. Katō an empiricist. Dr. Katō maintains that Dr. Inoue has entirely misunderstood and misinterpreted the central principle of Utilitarianism. But the subject is too big to be dealt with here. Dr. Katō's work covers 399 large-sized pages. It is undoubtedly the most learned and the completest of his books. His other works are:—*Kyōsha no Kenri no Kyōsō* (The Contest for Supremacy among the Strong); *Tensoku Hyaku-wa* (A Hundred Short Essays on Nature's Laws and Principles) and A Volume of Lectures and Speeches entitled *Katō Hiroyuki Kōyen Zenshū.* Dr. Katō is at present engaged in writing a work entitled 自然造化の三大矛盾と進化, *Shizen zōkwa no san dai-mujun to shinkwa* (Three Great Contradictions in Nature and Evolution).

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In the *Seikyō Shimpō* (Greek Church) under the title of "Current Abuses in the World of Thought," Mr. Ishikawa Kisaburō contends that one of the greatest defects of modern Japanese scholars is a certain readiness to study subjects negatively, instead of positively, to pay especial attention only to points in which one system of thought differs from another. Too many Japanese, says Mr. Kisaburō, when they have finished the consideration of the negative side of a subject are apt to fancy that they know it thoroughly. People, to quote one instance, rave about the advantages of representative government and the possession of a constitution, but when asked to specify in what respects these are advantageous begin to talk about the terrors of despotism, and so on. In religion it is the same, says Mr. Kisaburō. Most of the scholars who object to Christianity and to Theistic teaching are profoundly ignorant of what the actual doctrines objected to are. Destructive criticism is all the rage in this country to-day. To pull down, to deny, to object—these mental occupations find far more favour than the more laborious process of constructing a system of thought and belief in which a man can trust. There are not a few scholars in this country who think that they know all that is necessary about Christianity when they have read what certain great Western thinkers like Bentham, Mill, Spencer, Max Müller and Herbart have said about it. There are not a few educated Japanese who know no more about Christianity than what Tolstoi has told them when writing of it under the title of "My Religion." Well may he describe Christianity thus, for the views that he champions are mostly entirely lacking in authority and consist of his personal antipathies to certain existing institutions and doctrines. But his many negations render him attractive to many of my fellow-countrymen, to whom he becomes an authority on the creed of Christendom. There is no getting at the real doctrines of Christianity without going back to the early centuries of the Christian era and studying what was written then. Many of the modern as well as the mediæval accretions to Christianity are not really Christian at all. Persons who really wish to find out what Christianity teaches will do to well to turn aside from the negative criticism of such writers as Harnack and consult those positive sources of information which the Church of Christ possesses.

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The *Seikyō Shimpō* has much to say on the Okuda case and the scurrilous comments and unworthy slanders which several of the second rate papers published in connection with it. Mr. Ishikawa says that 20 or 30 years ago nothing was more common than for Greek Christians to find themselves regarded as Russian spies and their beloved pastor as a Russian political agent, but that they had supposed that they had outlived such slanders and that in the minds of all sensible people their loyalty and patriotism were never questioned for a moment. When the case of Okuda Kumatarō first came up no care was taken by the newspapers to get hold of the facts and the attempt of this fanatic to compass his ends by means of Greek Church Christians—an attempt which received not the slightest encouragement from the first—was twisted into a story that went to prove the Greek Church to be a harbourer of traitors. It is true, says Mr. Ishikawa, that Okuda Kumatarō did send no less than three letters to our office in Surugadai, dated Nov. 24th, Nov. 27th and Nov. 30th. These letters were opened and perused by one of our business agents and they appeared to him so wildly fanatical that he concluded that the writer must be a lunatic or bordering thereon. He thought the letters quite unworthy of any notice. It goes without saying that Bishop Nicolai was unaware of their arrival, for not one of the staff of this magazine even knew of it. The Police, however, having heard of the arrival of the letters, came to inquire into the facts of the case. It was then that we found out what had happened. The letters were handed over to the police and the case was then reported for the first time to Bishop Nicolai. The fact that he was not made acquainted with the matter earlier is easily explained. We Japanese loyal subjects were naturally very much ashamed to find that a man who had acted as a Local Government School inspector should have developed into a Russian spy, and no right-thinking person is anxious to make known to foreigners conduct which he blushes to think of. The incident, concludes Mr. Ishikawa, is instructive, in that it shows us into what these religionless, professedly loyal educationists may develop. The secularists have repeatedly accused us of harbouring traitors in our camp, and now out of their own midst has emerged a man who is prepared to sell his country for a few thousand *yen*.

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How is it, asks the *Rikugō Zasshi*, that the whole of our Japanese religious world is in favour of war? Taken in the abstract religion is the enemy of war and yet here we see a whole nation, Buddhists, Christians, Shintoists, all alike advocating war. No newspaper, no magazine, not even a woman's organ like the *Fujo Shimbun*, ventures to utter any but war notes. What is the explanation of this phenomenon? Is it not this, that we Japanese have not sufficient faith in religion and sufficient moral courage to isolate ourselves on such occasions as the present? And are we not as a nation extremely fond of war? But, continues the *Rikugō*, while the whole religious world may be said to be drunk with the war subject, there are, we are glad to observe, socialists who are bold enough to champion an unpopular cause—the cause of peace. Last October they held two meetings, one on the 8th and the other on the 20th in the Kanda Young Men's Society Hall and in the Hongō Central Tabernacle. Both these meetings were packed with eager listeners and, although all the speeches were anti-war orations. there was no serious interruption and no violence of any kind was attempted. This shows how much more liberal-minded the Japanese public has become since the China-Japan war nine years ago. At that time no anti-war meeting could have been held in Tōkyō without risk to life and limb. But, continues the *Rikugō*, it is not only that we have become more tolerant, the China-Japan war taught us much about the evils of war which was quite new to us.

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The *Koye* (Roman Catholic) has an editorial entitled "Our Views on Japanese Socialism," which is permeated with common-sense and shows much insight into the real character of a movement that seems to be making a great stir throughout the country. In the West, says the *Koye*, socialism may be said to have had a natural origin. It grew out of a state of excessive competition among various classes of society. It is an attempt to alleviate the distress caused by conditions which do not exist in this country and which may not exist here for many years to come. It is the lack of the *raison d'être* that makes Japanese Socialism look somewhat ridiculous, says the *Koye*. To attempt to apply a remedy before a disease has made its appearance is surely very foolish. In the organ of the Socialists, the *Heimin Shimbun*, the following enunciation of principles will be found. (1) Liberty, equality and love are the three great principles which give to human life special significance. (2) In order to insure full liberty for mankind we are advocates of plebeianism, (*Heimin Shugi*). Hence we aim at removing entirely all inequalities, namely, class inequalities, inequalities in the owning of property, and inequalities between the sexes; and further we aim at freeing mankind from oppression and thraldom of every kind. (3) For the sake of enabling men to receive an equal amount of happiness and profit we champion Socialistic principles. We advocate the partition of property, the granting of equal rights to all in the matter of facilities for communication and travel; which facilities should be devised and maintained for the sake of society as a whole. (4) Believing that love for each other is what all human beings should cultivate and desire, we are opposed to war, and we aim at the abolition of armaments in every country, among all races of men and under every form of Government. (5) Already the number of persons who make perfect liberty, equality and love their ideal is very large. In order that this ideal may be put into practice it is desirable that as far as the law of the land allows those whose views agree on this question should work unitedly. We denounce unequivocally all appeals to physical force, despite the temporary gratification that the adoption of such a course may give. It is quite plain to us that the Japanese nation as a whole will pay no heed to such doctrines, says the *Koye*. Even though the promoters of this movement were men of far greater calibre than they are, the whole scheme would be rightly regarded as wildly utopian. Japanese socialists would do far better to be preachers and practisers of morality instead of spending their time in sowing the seeds of discontent and trying to abolish distinctions which have their sources in the very constitution of human society.

In another article appearing in No. 300 of the *Koye*, signed Mōan Sanshi (an assumed name) complaint is made that a number of University professors in this country are in the habit of sneering at natural law as being subjective only in character and as not possessing any real authority. It only exists, say they, in the imaginations of certain persons. These professors, in assuming this attitude, fancy that they are displaying great enlightenment, says the *Koye*, but in reality, they only reveal their ignorance of the relation of natural law to all national law. Some of these professors seem not to recognize the fact that the rights and privileges, the duties and the obligations protected or enforced by national law are not created by this law. They exist subject to a higher law, namely natural law. Take the chief things which the Law protects, a man's life, property and reputation. Whence comes the obligation to protect these, if not from man's place in the world of nature? Ordinary animals receive no such protection. National law simply recognizes and defends rights and privileges secured by natural law. Natural law then has an objective existence of a most pronounced kind. But our opponents will say, "In different countries notions on natural law are widely divergent. Among the old Romans it was considered the natural right of a father to kill his own children if he were so inclined, and the Roman slave was no better than a horse or an ox. So what reliance can be placed on human conceptions of what is natural?" In reply to this we say, observes the *Koye*, that the fact that in certain countries and certain ages there have been grave misconceptions on the subject of natural law does not prove that it possesses no authority. In moral conceptions as in other lines of thought the world progresses, and in these modern times the inherent rights of human beings as human beings are in all the most advanced countries clearly recognized. Because the Romans extended the rights of fathers even to the right to murder, we cannot argue that fathers have no natural rights and no natural duties in relation to their offspring. If the authority of natural law be denied, then national law is robbed of half of its authority. All national law assumes that there is a standard of right and wrong, that some conduct is just and some most unjust, and on examination it is found that in a very large number of cases the criterion by which actions are judged is no more than an appeal to what is called natural law.

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The *Shinjin* (*New Man*), No. 12, contains an article entitled *Shimpo-teki Shin-fukuin-shugi no kwakuchō wo nozomu* (We look for the development of the advanced New Gospel Principles). Protestantism, says the writer, Mr. Ebina Danjō, is founded on the principle of individual liberty of thought and the deference paid to the reasoning faculties. So that continual progress of thought on religious subjects in this body may be reasonably looked for. Since the days of Lessing, Herder and Schleiermacher the Protestant Church may be said to have split up into two great sections, consisting of men of the old school and men of the new. The Gospel is explained in a different manner by members of these two bodies of Protestant Christians. But though they differ on many points, the particulars in which they agree are by no means few, and mutual recrimination is in all cases to be condemned. The members of the party known as evangelicals are not means invariably ultra-conservative and narrow-minded. They approve of the development of reason and recognize that even in religion evolution is always going on. We recommend any one who wishes to see how thought has progressed in the ranks of the evangelicals to turn their attention to the revision of the articles of belief professed by members of the Evangelical Alliance during the past fifty years. When the Alliance was formed in 1848 there were 9 articles of faith. But it cannot be said that even then they were accepted in their entirety by all the members. In Art. 5 belief in the fall of man and in the doctrine of original sin was declared. This doctrine of original sin is one of the essential doctrines of the old school of Protestants; to whom man's nature on this account appears to be necessarily evil. But the new school of Protestants object to the tracing of such evil as there is in man to Adam's fall, to which they attribute no such dire consequences as are perpetually dwelt on by the orthodox section of the church. Article 8 of the confession of faith drawn up by the Alliance asserted the resurrection of the body and everlasting punishment. Now there are not many theologians of the new school of Protestant thought who accept either of these doctrines. This is not surprising, as we find a great theologian like Schleiermacher rejected them. Art. 5 decided that there are three distinct persons in one God. Now, since those days the meaning attached to the term person has undergone any number of changes, and we find such a genius as Horace Bushnell (1802–1876) refusing to accept the doctrine of the three persons in one God. To show the progress of thought in Protestant ranks we may call attention to the fact that about 16 years ago Art 9 of the creed professed by the Alliance was almost universally assented to but to-day there is hardly anybody to be found who remembers what it was about. In the Creed of the Japanese Evangelical Alliance there having been articles of faith which had fallen into disuse, the year before last it was decided to draw up a fresh confession of faith. From this confession the doctrines of the resurrection of the body, the eternal punishment of the wicked, original sin and the Trinity were omitted. (*Shikamo sono Shinjō* (信 條) *chū ni wa, nikutai no fukkwatsu mo, akunin no eibatsu mo, genzaisetsu mo, san person setsu mo miezaru nari*). But a majority voted in favour of retaining the doctrine of the Divinity of Christ. We doubt whether this doctrine is capable of being developed from the fundamental principles of the new school of evangelicals. The Nihon Seinen Dōmei (Japanese Young Men's Alliance) in explaining the Christian belief of the alliance says: "The Evangelical Church recognized by this alliance make belief in the Bible and good conduct their standard and they believe in the Divine Christ as their Saviour." There is considerable difference between this confession of faith and that of the Evangelical Alliance. The latter body asserts the Divinity of Christ in a clear manner, while the Young Men's Alliance does so only in an obscure manner. In the latter part of his article Mr. Ebina affirms that among the young men who belong to the above-named alliance there are those who believe in the Divinity of Christ and those who reject the doctrine, and he thinks that it is impossible for them to work harmoniously together. Some he says are for passing over this discrepancy as a matter of no importance, but to him the attitude taken to such a cardinal doctrine as the Divinity of Christ is very important. He believes in no vague Gospel. The new Protestants had better separate themselves from those who hold narrow, traditional views and stand before the world as preachers of a Gospel which rests on an indestructible, rational basis.

The *Shinjin* publishes a long unsigned article written by a Christian pastor entitled "Japanese Mission Work and American Mission Boards." The article opens with an account of how mission funds are collected in most of the American churches. It says that in America the Methodists and the Baptists are the most prosperous Protestant churches, and that next stand the Presbyterians and the Congregationalists. It states that it is customary among some of the churches for Mission Boards to make estimates of the sums required for the carrying on of foreign mission work and to inform the various congregations belonging to their denomination as to what proportion of the required sum they are expected to provide. The writer then passes on to discuss the methods of spending the money collected. The gist of his remarks on this subject is that the Mission Boards exercise too exclusive and too direct a control over the funds they distribute, often objecting on insufficient grounds to recommendations made by the missionaries in the field. The persons who constitute the Managing Committees of these Boards are, says this writer, often lamentably ignorant of the real situation in remote parts of the globe and hence they are not qualified to control the administration of the funds entrusted to them. It is customary with these Boards, continues the article we are quoting, to expect the missionaries employed by them to carefully refrain from entrusting the administration of mission funds to native workers. Financial power in the churches is kept in the hands of foreigners. This is one of the universally observed principles among the missionaries. It is this fact that makes it so desirable that our Japanese Churches shall be financially independent of foreign mission boards. The general estimate of Japanese character and capabilities in the United States is quite a mistaken one, says the *Shinjin*. The article then goes on to show how in this country bit by bit power has been passing over from the foreign missionary to the native churches. So much so that in many places the services of missionaries for preaching purposes are no longer required and the missionaries are beginning to complain that they have no chance of gaining proficiency as speakers for want of practice, in some few cases not being required to preach more than about twice a year. (*Mō tadaima de wa Nihon no dendōsha ga ōku natta kara, shiite wakaranu Seiyōjin no hanashi wo kiku hitsuyō mo nai, karera no uchi de hanahadashii no wa nen ni nikwai kurai shika sekkyō wo shinai mono aru sō da.*) The writer adds the remark that the complaint of the foreign missionary that he can't get sufficient practice in the language is a testimony to the success of Japanese evangelists. (*Gwaikoku senkyōshi no Nihongo gakushū no konnan to iu koye sono mono ga, Nihon dendō no seikō to iu koto wo shō shite oru de wa nai ka?*) The article next takes up the subject of the salaries and general expenses of misssonariës as compared with those of Japanese evangelists. It argues that, even allowing for the different rate of living in the East and the West, the discrepancy is greater than ought to exist in the case of fellow-workers in the same cause. There is no denying, says the anonymous writer we are quoting, that the chief part of the work in each mission is done by native evangelists, yet in the annual reports sent home and published, the missionary in charge is credited with the success achieved. It would be within the mark to say that each Japanese evangelist employed costs only one hundreth of the annual amount paid to a foreign missionary in the form of salary, house rent, travelling and other allowances, and yet the native evangelist does more work than the foreign missionary. The article continues thus:—Some of my friends say to me, "If you attack the foreign missionaries so persistently, you may drive them out of the country and then the money that we receive from them would be withdrawn." I reply that there is no fear of my doing that, since as long as there are large sums of money collected in America for foreign missions, missionaries will continue to flock to these shores. It is the state of things over there rather than our situation here that leads to the constant increase in the import of missionaries (*Gwaikoku senkyōshi ga Nihon ye kitaru no wa kono hō de nyuyō* (入 用) *na wake de naku, mushiro kano hō* (方) *de hitsuyō jō dete-kitaru no da to itte mo ii*). The Protestant bodies in Japan which are independent are the Nihon Kirisutokyōkai (Presbyterian) and the Kumiai Kyōkai (Congregational). With the Methodists and the Episcopalians, the source of authority is the Episcopate, which is foreign. As long as this lasts thorough independence is out of the question, says the *Shingin*. In order to strengthen the basis of our independence we should like to see the union of the Presbyterian and the Congregational churches. There seems to us to be no serious obstacle to that union. The liberty allowed to separate churches by the Congregationalists would, within certain reasonable limits, be allowed by the Presbyterians. Many of the ministers of the latter Church hold precisely the same views as the majority of the Congregational ministers. Were the two Churches to combine their funds and all their evangelistic and other agencies, they would form a very powerful body and would be in a position to undertake a great deal more work than they are now doing and, what is more, then they could be independent not in name only but in reality. As things are to-day there is no Japanese denomination which receives no money whatever in any form from foreigners. Grants-in-aid, subscriptions, or what not, are received either towards the support of theological colleges, or towards the support of evangelists and teachers.

In a note to this article the editor of the magazine, Mr. Ebina, states that the writer is mistaken in asserting that all Japanese Missionary Societies are dependent to a certain extent on foreign subscriptions; for two such Societies, the Nihon Kirisutokyō Dendō Kaisha and the Kumiai Kyōkai Dendō-Kaisha are now financially and in every other respect absolutely independent.

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The *Keisei*, of which Mr. Matsumura Kaiseki is the editor, like the *Shinjin* is a most earnest advocate of making all Christian churches entirely self-supporting and of severing their connection with foreign missionary societies altogether. The *Keisei*, which came into existence just three years ago, has perpetually criticised the methods of foreign churches and held up to view the many inconsistencies of Western Christian nations. In a recent issue it says that except in barbarian countries, where the teaching of the missionaries has a civilizing influence, missionary work has been unsuccessful in recent years and it calls on its readers not to mourn over the failure of mission work in this country when carried on by means of foreign money, as this failure is itself a good omen. (*Gwaikoku dendō kaisha no hogo ni yoru dendō no furuwazaru wo tanzuru nakare; sono furuwazaru wa Nihon ni seimei aru shōko to shite mushiro ōi ni yorokobubeshi.*) The *Keisei* then proceeds to argue that fine types of character are not to be formed by the methods now pursued in most of the Christian missions in this country. It urges young men to give up receiving money from foreign missionaries and so selling their independence.

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To the January number of the *Taiyō* Dr. Anezaki Seiji contributes a very long article entitled *Tatakae, Oini tatakae* (Fight a big fight); which is extremely pessimistic throughout. There are few subjects connected with politics, literature, philosophy, religion and ethics not touched on in this essay, but the tone throughout is one of deep dissatisfaction with the existing state of things. Dr. Anezaki's visit to Europe has been a disappointment to him. He thought to have found things different there—the birthplace of the civilisation which Japan has been so eagerly adopting. He went as a student of religion, and it is on this subject that he gives expression to the bitterness of his soul. His remarks on Protestant Christianity in Europe begin on p. 80 of the magazine with the words *Kirisutokyō, koto ni Shinkyō ni ittate wa, mata hotondo iu ni shinobinai* "In reference to Christianity, and specially to Protestantism, its state is such that one can scarcely bear to speak of it." He then goes on to say that while professing belief in the Divine nature of Christ and of the power of his religion, the nations of Europe are each pursuing selfish interests and are all intensely materialistic. Professing Christians have neither the courage to battle against the foes of their creed nor to relinquish it and join hands with the ordinary worldling. Religion may be said to be dead in the hearts of the great majority of European Protestants. Where now is the Church militant? Where the sword of which Christ spoke when he said, "Think not that I am come to send peace on the earth: I came not to send peace but a sword." The gist of Dr. Anezaki's long essay is that the majority of Europeans and Americans, like the majority of Japanese, are entirely without high ideals; are grovelling along in the low-class world of material interests and self-gratification of one kind or another. Dr. Anezaki is an idealist and longs to see his fellow-countrymen adopting some kind of an ideal. But he despairs of Japanese Buddhists and Christians alike. His strictures on the Buddhists are very severe. Religious faith is dead among them, according to Dr. Anezaki. The old school of Buddhists has no influence whatever. The so-called new Buddhists are not Buddhists at all, but mere trimmers to the times without any deep convictions of their own. What is true of the professors of religion in this country is true to a still great extent of the nation as a whole. It is without high ideals. It is indifferent to the great issues of human life. In order to effect great things in the world men must have deep-seated faith in principles of some kind or other. To blindly follow custom, to bend to every passing emotional breeze and never to look beyond their own insignificant affairs or conceive of a higher state of existence than they are passing, this is the kind of life passed by the great mass of human beings in the West and the East. Dr. Anezaki went westward with the hopes of finding Europeans living on a higher plane than that reached by his fellow-countrymen here. He has returned a wiser, but a sadder, man.

An Osaka telegram to the *Asahi* reports that telegraphic communication between Seoul, Yuensan and Masampho, and over the marine cable between Korea and Vladivostock is still interrupted owing to damage.

FIRES.

Early on the morning of Feb. 7th, fire broke out in the dwelling of R. Kuroda living at Sanno-machi, Yokosuka. A northerly wind prevailed and the flames spread, the result being that two hundred and three buildings were destroyed. Kuroda's mother, wife and three children and a female servant were killed.

A telegram from Wakayama reports that an outbreak of fire occurred on the night of Feb. 6th at the village of Miwasaki, burning down sixty-six buildings.

On Dec. 10th fire broke out in a large school in Thomson-street, Glasgow. The school contained a thousand children. The first intimation they got was smoke coming in at the windows. The male and female teachers behaved with great coolness. The older children were commanded to get out smartly, the teachers standing at the doors to prevent a rush. In the infant department, where 350 very young children were, the lady teachers marched them out to a tune on the piano. All the youngsters, although much alarmed, were got out safely. The damage is estimated at several thousands of pounds.

The Tarukawa School, Sapporo, was destroyed by fire which occurred on the night of Feb. 4th. Mr. Morita, principal of the institution, was killed.

Fire broke out on the night of Feb. 9th at Omori destroying six houses, the cause being a paper lantern in which a burning candle had been left. A shed in the compound of the Railway Industry Bureau, Shimbashi, was burned down by fire which occurred on the following day at 1 p.m. The cause is not yet known.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Mr. Iijima, Japanese Consul at Odessa, was expected to leave there on Feb. 10th.

Mr. Shimoyama, police-inspector, and forty-nine police, left Tokyo on Feb. 8th for Korea.

A telegram from London was received on Feb. 8th in Tokyo to the effect that 4 per cent Japanese loan bands went down again, the quotation being £67.

Count Katsura, the Premier, was to entertain on Feb. 16th at his official residence the local governors who have arrived at Tokyo in response to his summons.

A farmer and his wife living at the village of Suma near Oiso committed suicide the other day by jumping into the Banyu river. The cause is reported to have been poverty.

The net profit of the Nippon Life Insurance Company, Osaka, for the last half-year is reported to have been *yen* 552,740. The interim dividend will be at the rate of 6 per cent.

Some Japanese belonging to the Russian Mission in Tokyo asked the authorities of the Department of Home Affairs on Feb. 8th for protection after the breaking out of war.

M. J. Harmand, the French Minister, paid a visit on Feb. 9th at 10 a.m. to Baron Komura, Minister for Foreign Affairs. The *Nichi Nichi* reports that they conversed for over an hour.

The death took place on Saturday afternoon of Mr. H. Collins who many years ago was employed on this paper and later as foreman of the *Japan Herald*. Mr. Collins is survived by two sons.

Rear-Admiral Saito, Vice Minister for the Navy, proceeded to the Palace on Feb. 9th at 2 p.m. and explained to the Emperor the circumstances of the Naval engagement at Chemulpo.

Baron Nishi, a member of the Privy Council, and formerly Minister at St. Petersburg, paid a farewell visit on Feb. 9th to Baron Rosen, the Russian Minister who is about to leave Tokyo.

Baron Kiyoura, Minister for Agriculture and Commerce, left Tokyo on Feb. 9th by the evening train for Osaka, accompanied by Mr. Morita, Director of the Bureau of Commerce and Industry.

Mr. T. Noro, a member of the Miye Prefectural Assembly, and several merchants were arrested on Feb. 10th on a charge of gambling.

The trial of the libel case filed by Mr. A. Hofmann against the *Yorodzu* and two other Tokyo papers will be resumed on Feb. 18th in the Tokyo District Court.

Mr. S. Inada, former member of the Ibaraki Prefectural Assembly, who was undergoing trial in connexion with a bribery charge, escaped on Feb. 10th from the jurisdiction of the District Court.

A book-binder, H. Yamaguchi (24) committed suicide by drinking a quantity of sulphuric acid and by cutting his own throat on the night of Feb. 8th at the Yoshiwara in Tokyo. The cause is reported to be monetary difficulty.

Major-General Fukushima, Director of the Second Section of the General Staff Office; who had been staying at his country villa for the sake of his health is reported to have resumed his duties.

Mr. R. Okabe, a member of the Mito Prefectural Assembly, and two others were arrested on Feb. 8th. The charge is reported to be connected with the bribery case now undergoing preliminary trial.

According to the *Official Gazette*, the Minister of State for Home Affairs issued on Feb. 9th a warning to local Governors and to the Governor-General of Formosa as to the protection of Russian subjects residing in the Empire.

It is stated by the *Nichi Nichi* that the committee of the *Tairo Doshi-kai* met on Feb. 4th, when they compiled a manifesto with regard to the situation. At the same time, they elected an executive committee of six members.

The *Niroku* and *Chuo* have been prosecuted on a charge of having published reports with regard to military movements without the sanction of the authorities. The nominal editors were tried on Feb. 8th in the Tokyo District Court.

Mr. S. Fujita, President of the Kyoto Silk Yarn Company, lodged on Feb. 8th an action against the Councillors' Assembly of Kyoto in the Administrative Litigation Court petitioning for the cancellation of an improper imposition of tax.

A well-dressed man was arrested on Feb. 6th by the Kanda police, Tokyo. The charge is reported to be that he sold forged ten *yen* notes in Gumma, Saitama and other prefectures. He was in possession of sheets of counterfeited notes when arrested.

Lieutenant T. Hirano, of the Imperial Body Guard infantry, is reported to have committed suicide on Feb. 10th in the dwelling of Prince Shimadzu, by cutting himself in the throat with a sword. Temporary insanity is said to have been the cause.

A telegram from London has been received in Tokyo to the effect that the *Times*, *Standard*, *Daily Telegraph* and *Morning Post* agree in stating that the responsibility for the present situation rests upon Russia alone, and are unanimous in extending sympathy towards Japan.

The troubles in Mindanao do not appear to be nearing a cessation. The latest news is that Lieut. Campbell W. Flake has been killed, and Lieut. William E. Roberts and private Foy seriously wounded, in a conflict with the Moros. They all belong to the 22nd U.S. Infantry.

Two men armed with swords and revolvers entered on the night of Feb. 5th the dwelling of a wealthy farmer, R. Kaneko, living at the village of Fuchu, Minami-adachi, near Tokyo. Having inflicted injuries on the farmer and his mother, the men stole *yen* 70. Early on the morning of the following day, another man with a cooking knife broke into a house at Asakusa, Tokyo, and took away a small amount of money,

The game of football played in Yokohama on Thursday (Bank Holiday) under Association rules, was between Whites and Colours, and resulted in favour of the latter by three goals to two.

Herrmann, the notorious pirate of Manila, who escaped from the gaol at Cebu, has been re-captured, and is now awaiting trial on the extra charge of gaol-breaking. His sentence on the other charge already amounted to 13 years' imprisonment and a large fine.

From the *Bombay Gazette* we learn that there was an unprecedented import of gold into India last year, and that the gold currency reserve of the Government is now nearly ten millions sterling, exclusive of £300,000 in the Presidency banks, and the four millions in Consols.

Vice-Admiral Sir Gerard Noel has just resigned his seat on the Food Commission, in view of his departure for the Far East, where he is to relieve Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge, who will be compulsorily retired on March 15 next, on attaining his sixty-fifth year. Sir Gerard Noel is fifty-nine years of age.

Y. Takakawa, a director of the Nippon Tobacco Company, and former manager of the Noge Savings Bank, Yokohama, has been arrested on a charge of having stolen *yen* 100 from the bank. It is said that he broke into the bank office on the night of Feb. 4th, and took the money from an iron safe.

The committee of a Japanese club that it is proposed to found in London, consisting of Captain T. Matsuo, I.J.N., Messrs. S. Komuro (Mitsui and Co.) and T. Yoshii, have issued an appeal to Japanese residents for contributions to a special fund. It is hoped to raise at least £600, when the club would be founded.

The following Russian steamers have been captured by the Japanese up to the present:—The Volunteer ship *Ekaterinoslav* (5,627 tons) East-China Railway's steamers *Mukden* (881 tons) and *Aigun* (1,397 tons), Russian Trade Navigation Co.'s steamer *Rossia* (3,952 tons), the whaling ship *Alexander*.

A squad of bluejackets from the Japanese gunboat *Amagi* has gone on board the German steamer *Emma* (the Yokohama Agents of which are Messrs. Grosser and Company), which arrived in Yokohama on Feb. 7th from Hamburg having on board, it is alleged, military stores for Port Arthur. It is not yet officially reported what further steps it is intended to take.

According to latest official investigations, Russian residents in the Empire number: Tokyo 6 (excluding members of Legation); Kanagawa prefecture, 19; Hyogo prefecture, 4; Nagasaki prefecture, 141; Aomori prefecture, 1; and Hokkaido, 4. These total 176, males nuembering 104 and females 72.

A proposal is on foot to establish a Japanese Club in London. The committee, consisting of Captain T. Matsuo, I. J. N., Messrs. S. Komuro (Mitsui and Co.), and T. Yoshii, have issued an appeal to Japanese residents for contributions to a special fund. It is hoped to raise at least £600, when the club will be founded.

Lieutenant Charles Henry Bowden-Smith, who has just been killed in Somaliland, was the younger son of Mr. Wm. Bowden-Smith, the well-known Ceylon planter, visiting agent, merchant, and M. L. C., who died in October, 1898. Lieut. Bowden-Smith's elder brother was on the China station as flag-lieutenant to Admiral Fitzgerald.

According to information from Port Arthur, states the *Jiji's* Nagasaki correspondent, Russia intends to despatch troops from Liao-yang to the frontier of Korea in order to deal with the enemy who is expected to advance on Yin-kow by land from the Yalu, and Russia also plans the sending of fifty thousand soldiers from Possiet Bay in order to attack the frontier of Korea and to advance to Fen-Huan-Cheng and intercept the Japanese. It is rumoured that Viceroy Alexieff may remove to Harbin from Port Arthur.

The lantern procession organised by the Yokohama Commercial School, the Young Men's Association of the Yokohama Import Merchants Guild, and the Gunyu Kai (Soldiers' Friends Association) came off on Thursday evening in Yokohama with great success. Hundreds of lanterns were displayed, and the order maintained by the long procession was splendid.

Preparations are being already begun for the commemoration by the Shanghai Volunteers of the jubilee of the Battle of Muddyflat, which took place on the 4th of April, 1854. It is proposed to organise a Great Military Tournament at the Town Hall, on the 4th of April next, as a part of the commemoration, in aid of the Navy League Sailors' Recreation Ground, for which funds are still required.

Great difficulties are being encountered in the boring of the Simplon tunnel on the northern side. The work has been interrupted by floods for four weeks. If the spring whence the water emanates cannot be discovered, or if water from fresh springs appear (which seems probable from the disposition of the geological strata), the boring works will have to be completely suspended on the northern side, and the tunnel cannot be finished before next August at the earliest.

Four "hospital cars," specially built by a firm at Reval, were sent out recently for use on the Manchurian Railway. Six more cars are in readiness, and the Russian Government has ordered 50 more to be built. These "ambulance cars" consist of two cars with first and second-class compartments, one luggage-van, and a "hospital car" with the usual surgical fittings, and eight beds and a disinfecting apparatus. The new cars are also to be sent out to the Far East.

Capt. P. Molloy, Royal Marine Light Infantry, who recently completed his term of service on the *Glory*, flagship of Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge, Commander-in-Chief on the China station, has been granted permission to remain in Japan to study the Japanese language. He will be granted six months' full pay if he intends only to obtain a colloquial knowledge of the language, or twelve months for a higher standard, including some knowledge of writing.

Viscountess N. Matsudaira and Mrs. Hamao left Tokyo on Feb. 4th by the 6 p.m. train for Saseho, to convey on behalf of Princess Kan-in, President of *Aikoku Fujinkai* (Patriotic Ladies Society), the comforting courtesy of the Society to the Naval officers and bluejackets at the naval station. The ladies will pay visits to the warships on the 7th. Mrs. Arakawa (wife of the governor of Nagasaki) and Mrs. Midzukami (wife of the Public Procurator-in-Chief of the Nagasaki Appeal Court) will proceed to Saseho to welcome the representatives of the Society.

An English paper reports that a fatal accident occurred on Dec. 26th on Scawfell, but, unlike the party of four who were killed on the mountain last September, the victim of this mishap, Mr. A. Goodall, of Keswick, was not at the time engaged in a difficult climb. Mr. Goodall was attempting to glissade down Deep Ghyll, which was filled with snow. On the sight of difficulties in front he stopped himself dead with his ice-axe, but lost hold of the handle and slid several hundred feet further, until he struck some rocks with his head and was instantly killed.

Active preparations are in progress for the tenancy of 11, Downing-street, by Mr. Austen Chamberlain, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer. When the work has been completed the right hon. gentleman will go into residence, and will, it is stated, have his sister to keep house for him. The position of having a bachelor for Chancellor of the Exchequer has no recent precedent, while it is absolutely unique to find the First Lord and the Chancellor living in bachelorhood in the adjoining residences—10 and 11, Downing-street—each with a sister presiding over the domestic part of the establishment.

The Nippon Railway Company held a general meeting on Feb. 8th at the Young Men's Club, Tokyo, when the accounts for the last half-year were submitted. The net profit was *yen* 3,122,725.51, to which the Government subsidy of *yen* 247,242.96, and the balance *yen* 169,388.32 brought from the previous account, were added, making a total of *yen* 5,529,356.80. Of that sum, several amounts were set off as legal and special reserves, fund to redeem debentures, bonus to employees, etc., and *yen* 2,557,500 as a dividend to the shareholders. The remainder, *yen* 384,765.45, was carried forward to the next account.

Shanghai papers note with regret the death of Mr. H. F. Limby at the age of 63. He died of pneumonia after a short illness. Coming to the East originally at the end of the fifties, he has been a resident of Shanghai for some forty-two years. A man who worked hard from the first, he was, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, a cultured man of very artistic tastes, a good husband and father, and a good friend, and in his earlier years a lover of sport, while he always took the keenest interest in the fortunes of his adopted home. The sympathy felt for his widow, whom he married in Shanghai, and for his children, is very deep and wide-spread.

Denmark suffers from a quite mediæval paucity of surnames, and so inconvenient is this fact becoming that the Government has announced its intention of presenting a Bill to the Legislature sanctioning and encouraging the adoption of new surnames. Such names as Hansen, Petersen, and Sverensen are overwhelmingly frequent. It is even said that there are towns of 30,000 inhabitants among whom there will not be more than twenty different surnames as many as a thousand people have the same surname. In these days of records and various registrations, to say nothing of business relations, the comedies of error arising from such a state of things must be numerous.

A Johannesburg correspondent, reviewing the situation in the Transvaal, says that not only has the revenue received a great set-back, so that there will probably be a serious deficit at the end of the financial year, but as regards labour the country has failed to reach a return to the condition of things existing in 1898. The opinion is growing that the Transvaal will be unable to take up its share of the war debt, 10,000,000, due next February. The stagnation of the mining industry, in fact, entails a loss to the country which cannot be disregarded. Nobody denies that the root of the evil is the scarcity of labour, and a large part of the population have pinned their faith to the importation of Chinese labour.

The death is announced of Madame Antoinette Sterling. The deceased was one of the finest of ballad singers. In the opinion of the British public, Madame Sterling's singing of "The Lost Chord," "The Better Land," "Love's Old Sweet Song" or "Caller Herrin" was second only to Madame Patti's interpretation of "Coming through the Rye" and "Home, Sweet Home." Madame Sterling was an American, having been born in Sterlingville, Jefferson County, N.Y. fifty-three years ago. The merits of her beautiful contralto voice were soon discovered, and she studied under Marchesi, Viadot, Garcia, and others of worldwide renown. She married in 1875, Mr. J. Mackinlay, who died in 1893 when in Australia with his accomplished wife.

A report has reached Calcutta of a murderous assault made upon Bishop Whitley by some Kumhars in the village of Bamnia, Chota Nagpur, to whom he had gone out on his bicycle with four Indian Christians to preach. The Kumhars objected to the Bishop coming, and showed a threatening attitude. The Bishop thereupon turned round, and started to wheel his bicycle out of the village. The people followed him, and beat him to his kness with laths. He struggled again to his feet, and the villagers then desisted, and he managed to get on to the next dak bungalow where he lay for some hours exhausted, but is now recovering. He is sixty-seven years of age and his escape is remarkable. He has a nasty scalp wound which bled profusely and a score of contusions on his arms which he raised to save his head.

The many gentlemen and the few ladies who have reached that certain age which tends to baldness may be interested to know that the chemical nostrums of our own day had their forerunners even in the remote days of the Pharaohs. A French Egyptologist has recently unearthed a papyrus giving a recipe for what must in those times have been a Royal remedy against baldness, since it was concocted for no less a personage than King Chata, the second Sovereign of the First Dynasty, about B.C. 4,000. The remedy was employed by the King's mother. It consisted of a salve of dog's paws, dates, and asses' hoofs, pounded up and then boiled in oil. With this salve the Royal head was anointed. As to the result, the papyrus is regrettably silent.

The funeral of the late Mr. T. Kondo, chancellor of the Japanese Consulate at Shanghai, took place on January 29th, reports the *Shanghai Mercury*. The deceased was only 27 years of age, and was a very promising member of the Consular Service; he was a Lieutenant in the Japanese Co., S. V. C. and was very popular in the Corps. The funeral cortege started from the Japanese Consulate at 10 p.m., being preceded by a section of the Japanese Co. S. V. C. followed by the hearse over which were a large number of floral offerings and wreaths from numerous friends; then came the chief mourner Mr. Odagiri, Consul-General, and Mr. Yoshizawa, Vice-Consul, followed by a large number of Japanese residents in carriages, the second section of the Japanese company bringing up the rear. The procession passed along the Bund and out on the Nanking Road to the Bubbling Well cemetery. A very touching address was delivered at the Chapel after which the body was cremated. The firing party then formed outside the Crematorium and fired three volleys. During the day the flags at the Consulate and principal Japanese firms were half masted as a token of respect.

CHRIST CHURCH, YOKOHAMA.

Annual Report and Accounts, 1903.

The Accounts for the past year, which are submitted herewith, make a satisfactory showing, the debit balance having been decreased from *yen* 2,408.16 to *yen* 1,397.16. This is chiefly due to the fact that only a small amount of special expenditure was incurred during the year under review. From the result attained it may be said that the Church has now become self-supporting. Pew rents have been practically maintained, and so have the Offertories for General Purposes, while those for Special purposes have markedly increased. The Special Offertories are detailed in the accounts.

The Special Offertories have included *yen* 119.39 for the Building Fund, *yen* 183.49 for St. Andrew's Mission, and *yen* 192.91 as the Easter offertory, which, as customary, was given to the Chaplain.

The Rebuilding Fund accounts, which are also attached to this Report, are equally gratifying, the debt having been reduced from *yen* 2,708.30 to *yen* 1,584.86. The Committee appeal strongly to Seatholders, Subscribers and others interested in the Church to clear off this small remaining portion of the debt.

The Church property has during the year been much improved by the erection of a wall and iron railing around the Church, the cost of which has been practically defrayed by the proceeds of a bazaar organized by Mrs. Field to whom the thanks of the congregation are due as well as to those ladies who so kindly assisted her.

The interior of the Church has been embellished during the year by the erection of the reredos presented by Mrs. Till in memory of her late husband and by the memorial window to the late Mr. J. F. Lowder, while the thanks of the Committee are also due to Mrs. N. F. Smith for the gift of a handsome Alms Dish.

The Committee regret to have to report the resignation by Mr. W. Karl Vincent of his position as Organist towards the end of the year, and desire to express their appreciation of his past services. The duties have since been kindly and successfully undertaken by Mrs. Field to whom the cordial thanks of the congregation are due.

At the General Meeting it will be necessary to elect a new Committee. Two vacancies on the old Committee—those of the late Mr. Kilby and of Mr. C. V. Sale who is absent from Japan, have not yet been filled and Messrs. Dodds and Stuart being about to leave Yokohama, will no longer be able to serve on the Committee.

The Accounts have been audited by Mr. S. E. Unite and the Committee tender their best thanks to him for his services.

The Committee cannot close this report without recording their sorrow at the death of the late Mr. E. Flint Kilby, their appreciation of his services as a member of the Committee and their sympathy with his family in their bereavement. They particularly wish to record their gratitude in name of the church-going community for his special exertions in connection with the Building Fund.

Counsel's opinion has been obtained as the scope of the Trust Deed and a Digest of same has been already circulated. In accordance with the recommendation therein contained the Committee will submit the following Resolution at the General Meeting on 15th February.

"The the general management of affairs be vested in a Committee of seven, of whom the permanent Trustees shall *ex officio* form part and the three members be elected annually."

If this is passed it will then be for the meeting to elect a Trustee in place of Mr. Dodds and 3 members of Committee to make up the number to 7.

THE HONORARY TREASURER IN ACCOUNT WITH CHRIST CHURCH, YOKOHAMA, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1903.

RECEIPTS.			Yen.
To Pew Rents received			4,640.00
To Offertories		3,101.32	
Including Special Offertories as under:			
Building Fund	119.39		
St. Andrew's Mission, Yokohama	183.46		
Easter Offertories to Chaplain	192.91		
Dr. Barnado's Homes	10.00		
Children's Offertories (*yen* 70.66, *less* given to St. Andrew's Mission, *yen* 5.98 and included above) divided amongst Dr. Barnado's Homes and the Church of England Incorporated Society for providing Homes for Waifs and Strays	64.68		
		570.44	
			2,530.88
To Subscriptions received towards General Church Expenses			80,00
To Balance at Debit			1,397.16
			8,648.04

PAYMENTS.		Yen.
By Balance from last account		2,408.16
By Chaplain's Stipend and Income Tax		3,437.45
By Organist's Honorarium		500.00
By Choristers' Fees		16.35
By Sacramental Wine		22.20
By Repairs to Church, Parsonage, &c., including new drains and laying out of Church Compound, also cost of new altar and steps in connection with erection of Reredos		778.30
By Cost of Iron Railing and Wall around Church Compound	1,620.00	
Less.—Receipts from Bazaar &c., against same	1,565.81	
		54.19
By Ground Rent		73.20
By Fire Insurance		396.00
By Fuel, Light and Cleaning		224.13
By Printing, Advertising and Stationery		95.85
By Flowers and Decorations		85.38
By Momban's Wages and Sundry labour including pension to late Momban		325.70
By Interest on Bank Overdraft		100.79
By Organ Tuning for year		75.00
By Sundries		55.34
		8,648.04

Yokohama, 6th January, 1904.

FRANK O. STUART,
Hon. Treasurer.

Examined and Compared with the Books and Vouchers, and hereby certified correct.

STAN E. UNITE.

12th January, 1904.

THE HONORARY TREASURER IN ACCOUNT WITH CHRIST CHURCH REBUILDING FUND FOR THE YEAR TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1293.

RECEIPTS.	Yen.
To Subscription received as p. List	1,025.02
,, Church Offertories	119.39
,, *Debt* as at 31st December, 1903	1,584.86
	2,729.27

PAYMENTS.	Yen.
By Debt as at 1st January, 1903	2,708.30
,, Cost of Special Appeal	20.97
	2,729.27

Yokohama, 6th January, 1904.

FRANK O. STUART,
Hon. Treasurer.

Compared and checked with the Books and Vouchers, and hereby certified to be correct.

STAN E. UNITE.

THE MILITARY SITUATION IN THE FAR EAST

THE SEA FORCES.

In view of the position in the Far East, a tabulation and description of the respective naval strength of Japan and Russia is given below. Apart from other considerations, it is obvious that we could not fail to be deeply stirred by the submission of modern naval material to the test of actual warfare. Both nation possess in Far Eastern water squadrons of modern vessels supplied with the latest appliances which science and ingenuity have devised. To the people of this Empire, whose security rests mainly on its Fleet, anything which can add to our knowledge in this connexion is of the greatest moment. The only three great sea-fights of latter days—Lissa, the Ya-lu, and Santiago—were full of lessons to naval officers and naval architects. And it cannot be doubted that a naval action fought under such conditions as might arise in the Far East might well add to our knowledge and modify our views on many points at present more or less undefined. In the tables which follow some of the elements and attributes we find in the ships on either side are grouped together as a basis for forming an estimate of their comparative strength. But such an estimate must be incomplete; for, and naval students are aware, there are factors which must come into play of which we can at present form no definite estimate.

The following is a tabular statement of the principal vessels in the Japanese Navy:—

BATTLESHIPS.

Name.	Displacement. Tons.	I.H.P.	Nominal Speed. Knots.	Gun Protection In.	Weight of Broad side Fire. Lb.
Hatsuse Asahi Shikishima	15,000	15,000	18·0	14–6	4,240
Mikasa	15,200	16,000	18·0	14–6	4,225
Yashima Fuji	12,300	13,000	18·0	14–6	4,000
ARMOURED CRUISERS.					
Tokiwa Asama	9,750	18,000	21·5	6–6	3,568
Yakumo	9,850	16,000	20·0	6–6	3,368
Azuma	9,436	17,000	21·0	6–6	3,368
Idzumo Iwate	9,800	15,000	24·7	6–6	3,568
PROTECTED CRUISERS.					
Takasago	4,300	15,500	24·0	4½–2	800
Kasagi Chitose	4,784	15,500	22·5	4½	800
Itsukushima Hashidate Matsushima	4,277	5,400	16·7	11–4	1,260
Yoshino	4,180	15,750	23·0	—	780
Naniwa Takachiho	3,727	7,120	17·8	—	1,196
Akitsushima	3,150	8,400	19·0	—	780
Niitaka Tsushima	3,420	9,500	20·0	—	920
Suma Akashi	2,700	8,500	20·0	—	335

Of the six principal armoured ships of the Japanese Navy—the battleships named in the table—four may for all practical purposes be treated as exactly alike. The difference between these four ships and the two next named is not so great that the six vessels should not be treated as an homogeneous squadron having the important capacity of being able to manœuvre and fight together without loss of power. The larger four closely follow in design ships of our Navy; they were built in this country and completed less than two years ago. There are individual differences between them, and also between them and the vessels of our own *Implacable* class, but they may be considered the equals of the latter in battleworthiness—a useful and compendious term, including all the essential qualities required of a vessel intended to fight in line. The other pair are of less displacement, not quite so well armed or so well protected, but the speed is similar to that of the heavier ships, and the heavy guns are of the same calibre. There are some older battleships, still useful, but to place them in line with the other six vessels would be opposed to all ideas of modern tactics. The six armoured cruisers built between 1899 and 1901 also form together a fine squadron. Four were built in this country, one in Germany, and one in France, the Armstrong firm supplying all the armament and gun-mountings. Although of three classes, these vessels are practically of the same type, their guns are disposed in the same manner, the armour protection is good, they have large bunker capacity, and the speed of all is practically the same. These two squadrons of battleships and cruisers will compare favourably with any equal number of ships of similar date in any Navy. Supplementing the armoured vessels there are four protected cruisers with high speed, well armed, and ten others of earlier date, all admirably adapted for scouting purposes.

These include the vessels which fought the battle of the Ya-lu against ships protected by vertical armour, and, by virtue of higher speed, more modern guns, and superior tactical ability on the part of the Japanese commanders, came off victorious. The still smaller vessels do not call for special mention, but Japan has a torpedo flotilla which may be expected to emulate the conspicuous part which the vessels of this class played in the war with China. There are sixteen 30-knot destroyers built in this country, and four have been constructed in Japan. The more modern torpedo-boats number at least a score.

Japan has the great advantage of being able to use her own fortified ports as naval bases. There are four dockyards well equipped with modern plant and quite capable both of constructing and of repairing vessels of any class. At present Japan has not her own armour-plate factories or steel works, but it is intended to provide these, so that she may be able to undertake the construction and entire equipment of her vessels of war. In the mercantile marine, which has increased enormously of recent years, she will find all she may require for the purposes of transport and auxiliaries to the war fleet.

To turn to the *personnel*, the judgment which the Japanese officers displayed in the conduct of the war with China won the admiration of all seamen. It was marked by courage, capacity, and admirable resourcefulness. The standard of discipline on board the ships is that of the British Navy; their officers have received their training on board our ships and British naval officers have acted as their instructors. They have a naval college which is a model of everything such an institution should be. The ships are constantly exercised, and their crews are inspired by the keenest spirit of zeal and patriotism; moreover, they possess that mutual confidence which is bred of successful experience under the stern test of battle. As Sir William White recently said:—"They have shown themselves fully equal to the great responsibilities involved in using during war as well as peace a fleet replete with every modern improvement in machinery, guns, and equipment."

The following are the principal Russian ships at present in the Far East, or on their way there:—

BATTLESHIPS.

Name.	Displacement. Tons.	I.H.P.	Nominal Speed. Knots.	Gun Protection. In.	Weight of Broad side Fire. Lb.
Poltava Petropavlovsk Sevastopol	10,950	11,200	17.0	10–5	3,367
Peresviet Pobieda Osliabia*	12,674	14,500	19.0	10–5	2.672
Retvisan	12,700	16,000	18.0	10–5	3.434
Cesarevitch	13,100	16,300	18.0	11–6¾	3,516
ARMOURED CRUISERS.					
Gromoboi	12,336	18,000	20.0	6–4¾	1,197
Bayan	7,800	17,000	22.0	7–3	952
Rossia	12,200	18,000	20.0	2	1,348
Rurik	10,940	13,500	18.0	2	1,345
DmitriDonskoi*	5,893	7,000	15.0	12–2	444
PROTECTED CRUISERS.					
Bogatyr	6,750	19,500	23.0	5–4	872
Askold	6,500	19,500	23.0	–	772
Varyag	6,500	20,000	23.0	5	510
Diana Pallada Aurora*	6,630	11,600	20.0	4½	632
Boyarin	3,200	11,500	22.0	–	180
Novik	3,000	18,000	25.0	–	180

* These vessels are on their way out, but have not yet arrived.

At the present time only seven Russian battleships are in the Far East, although an eighth would have joined them had she not been compelled to pause in the Mediterranean to make good some defects which developed after she left Kronstadt. The seven vessels are of four different classes; the heaviest is the *Cesarevitch*, built at La

Seyne. She has just arrived at Port Arthur. The *Cesarevitch* is very French in appearance, with "tumble home" sides and heavy topworks. She carries her four 12in. guns in turrets, one pair forward and one pair aft, and her 6in. guns also in turrets, three pairs on each broadside. But neither in weight of broadside nor in gun protection does she come up to the standard of the Japanese vessels. The *Retvisan*, the second battleship in point of size, was built in Philadelphia. She carries the same armament as the *Cesarevitch*, but the guns are disposed and protected in a different manner. The next class consists of the *Peresviet* and *Pobieda*, and would have included the *Osliabia* had she already arrived. Their principal armament consists of four 10in., 12 6in., and 20 3in. guns. This armament, again, is placed in a different way from that of the other ships, and the vessels have a very large expanse of unprotected side. Lastly, there are three of the *Poltava* class—the *Poltava*, *Petropavlovsk*, and *Sevastopol*. These vessels are of about 11,000 tons, and their principal armament consists of four 12in. and 12 6in. guns. As regards protection and speed these vessels compare unfavourably with the Japanese battleships, and in manœuvring the speed of the slowest must be the speed of the squadron.

To turn to the cruisers, although for many years the Russians have given their vessels of this type belts of vertical armour at the water-line, they cannot be said to have more than three ships which should be classed as modern armoured cruisers. The latest and best, although not the heaviest, is the *Bayan*, built at La Seyne and having a speed of from 21 to 22 knots. She has an 8in, belt at the water-line, and her heaviest guns, of 8in. calibre, are protected by seven inches of armour. Her secondary battery, too, is in a casemate and well placed. But, good as the *Bayan* is, taken altogether she is inferior to the Japanese armoured cruisers in every respect, with the possible exception of speed. The *Gromoboi*, the heaviest Russian cruiser, and the *Rossia*, a similar vessel, although they carry guns almost as heavy as those in the Japansse cruisers, yet, owing to faulty disposition, have a weight of broadside fire which is very much less. Moreover, the Elswick 8in. gun throws a heavier projectile than the Russian piece of similar calibre. The *Rossia*, also, has very inferior protection. In many tables the *Rurik* and *Dmitri Donskoi* are classed as armoured cruisers, but they do not really deserve this distinction. Russia has some quite new and useful protected cruisers in the Far East, as will be seen by the tabular statement above, and these should be useful as scouts. Of the smaller classes of vessels, gunboats, &c., it is unnecessary to take special notice, as their value is chiefly for harbour defence. There is, however, a strong torpedo flotilla, including from 18 to 20 destroyers and a number of torpedo-boats, some of which are being convoyed to the station by the *Dmitri Donskoi*. The principal contrast which the Russian squadron presents to the Japanese is in lack of homogeneity, in weight of metal, and in protection. The Japanese, indeed, have provided their fleet on a well considered programme, while the Russians have not until recently attempted to build in classes, although, if they have time to put their later vessels in the field of action, they will certainly alter and improve their relative position.

In another respect the Russians are faced by a serious difficulty. The plant, machinery, and docking facilities are entirely inadequate for the ordinary repair and maintenance of their fleet, and there are altogether insufficient resources for making good damages that would certainly occur in action with an enemy. The docks at Port Arthur are not yet fully complete, and those at Vladivostock will be shut in by ice during the winter. In their well-equipped naval bases the Japanese possess a factor which must be of great importance in a naval war.

Of the *personnel* of the Russian fleet it can only be said for certain that it is entirely lacking in experience of war, and that, its training having being been mainly carried out in the Baltic, the conditions cannot have been entirely favourable. The discipline on board Russian ships is reported to be good and the men are said to be tolerable marksmen. The officers are very keen about their work, but the sentiments they inspire in their men are not entirely conducive to that mutual confidence which should exist between the forecastle and the quarter deck. Altogether, while it may be said that the stuff of which the Russian sailor is made is excellent, it must lack both training and experience. It is unwise to prophesy before the event, but it wouldnot come as a great surprise to students of naval affairs if the Russians were to withdraw their ships into the Gulf of Pe-chi-li, rather than force a fleet action. For in the latter event, even if they were partially successful, they would be unable to replace the damaged ships or adequately repair and make good their losses. With a hostile fleet behind the guns at Port Arthur the Japanese could hardly venture to sends troops into the Yellow Sea, and would be obliged to land on the eastern coast of Korea with long land communications to maintain before they could strike and endeavour to inflict a crushing blow upon the enemy.

THE LAND FORCES.

It may be definitely understood that, in the event of a rupture between Russia and Japan, no military operations will be undertaken by either Power until the naval situation has been sufficiently cleared, either by a decisive naval engagement, or by the refusal of one Power to risk the issue of a naval conflict and the withdrawal of its vessels from beyond the sphere of probable contact. Whatever the immediate naval programme may be, it is unlikely that the final settlement of the present difficulties, if it should come to the arbitrament of war, will be found upon the sea; therefore it will be interesting to study the military strength in the Far East of the two rival Powers.

We will take Japan first, as there is less ambiguity with regard to land forces of this Power than exists in respect to Russia. In Japan military service is obligatory, and the male population is liable for service between the ages of 17 and 40. It would be difficult to pin down the Japanese military system to any one European model. It has been evolved after most careful study from the best of the various systems existing in Europe, and adapted to the requirements of the country and constitution. In the matter of military instruction Germany would appear to be the model of which the Japanese have made most use. The army is divided in three groupings, viz.—The permanent establishment, the reserve, and the territorial army. The period of service is just over 12 years, of which period three years are passed in the Regular Army, four years and four months in the Reserve, and five years in the territorial army. This gives the little Asiatic State the following national strength available upon an emergency:—Permanent Army, 7,500, officers and 190,000 men. The detail of this force is 52 three battalion regiments of infantry, 55 squadrons of cavalry, 19 regiments of six-gun batteries of field artillery, 20 battalions of fortress artillery, 13 battalions of engineers, a railway battalion, and 13 transport battalions.

The Reserve furnishes 35,000 officers and men of all arms, with over 100 guns, while the territorial army would bring another 200,000 men of all arms with 312 guns into line with the first and second lines. Thus, with the militia, the land strength of the Japanese nation may be reckoned in round numbers as consisting of over 430,000 officers and men, 1,200 guns, and 90,000 horses. The infantry is armed with the Midji magazine rifle throughout. The armament of the other two groups is not quite so satisfactory, as it is believed to be made up of three less serviceable patterns of rifle, of which only one pattern, a third of the total, has magazine attachment. The cavalry, which carry a sword but no lance, are armed with the Midji carbine. The field artillery is armed with the Arisaka 75mm. q.f. gun, 1898 model. The fighting quality of the Japanese army is not altogether an unknown quantity, since it was tested recently in their own campaign in Korea and in conjunction with the allies in the advance to Peking and subsequent operations. In the latter campaign the opinion formed by both the American and our own experts was that the discipline and equipment of the Japanese troops was everything that could be desired. But, of course, it should be remembered that up to date the Japanese have not met a European enemy. Opinions differ as to the discount, if any, which should be allowed on this head. Exception, however, has been taken by European experts as to the formation used in the infantry attack. This, however, if a defect, will doubtless be remedied by a little experience. To taken an independent view, we may quote from the American official report on the Japanese troops during the Peking operations. "If Japan can keep the armament and equipment on a par with her soldiers, she is a most valuable ally and a mos formidable enemy."

The estimate of the Japanese land forces is comparatively plain sailing, as that country's resources are not dispersed and are within easy distance of the sphere in which any military operations are likely to take place. But with regard to the Russian forces available for the same sphere considerable ambiguity exists. Owing to the exclusive policy which Russia enforces throughout her territories it is practically impossible, at this distance, to form any but an approximate estimate of the military strength of her land forces in Far Eastern Asia and Manchuria. But we do know that before the Chinese trouble in 1900 the Russian force in Eastern Siberia was about 35,000 men. During the campaign this was increased threefold, and at the close of the principal military operations which followed upon the Boxer outbreak the distribution of the two Siberian army corps was as follows:—

	Battalions.	Squadrons.	Guns.
1ST SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS.			
In Southern Manchuria, including troops at Kuan Fung	21	[illegible]	34
Fortress battalions	2	—	—
In Pe-chi-li	12	5	44
Frontier guards in the Amur and Siberian districts..................	26	25	28
Fortress battalions	2	—	—
In the Semirechensk district, near Kuldja	8	22	28
Detachments at Urza and Kudja.	—	4	4
2ND SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS.			
In Province of Tsitsihar............	12	24	22
3rd European Rifle Brigade	8	—	—
In Province of Kirin	26	29	102
5th European and 6th East Siberian Rifle Brigades...............	13	—	24
Total..........................	130	118	286

There is no evidence to show that this force (which includes the troops brought from Europe) of nearly 160,000 men and 286 guns has been materially reduced. We are led to believe that it has been, if anything, augmented, though there are doubts whether the country is able to support much in excess of these numbers. Reports have, however, reached this country that reinforcements have for weeks been pushed into Manchuria. These reports may or may not have been exaggerated, but, striking a mean, we may conclude that there are probably about 150,000 men in the Far East, and it is probable that the Russian troops which would be available for service in Manchuria when either Russia or Japan has proved its naval domination in the China seas, will not much exceed 200,000 men.

How far these troops are prepared to take the field it is difficult to say. In the best of circumstances their treatment is of the poorest; consequently they are inured to hardship, and possibly would not feel the change to rough campaigning, as do other troops, when the change from peace surroundings is more severe. Any way, the Americans, who made a careful study of all troops engaged in the Boxer operations, formed a very low estimate of both Russian officers and men. In short, the best they could say for them was that they were "industrious foragers" and possessed an asset in the Russian "kitchen wagon."

Professional opinion at the present moment anticipates that Japan would be able to dominate the sea, if war should result before Russia can bring further naval reinforcements into Chinese waters. In this case it is generally surmised that Japan would throw a land force into Manchuria. When once the sea is clear, she has exceptional facilities by which she can rapidly embark a large expeditionary force. She has three harbours well connected with the interior by railway; and, if she has selected harbours for disembarcation in either the Yellow or Japan Seas, and can maintain her sea communication, she should be able to land an expeditionary force superior to any force that Russia by means of her land communications can concentrate against her in four months. It must be remembered that not only will Russia be operating in a country the friendliness of which is doubtful and will have to be maintained by the presence of garrison troops, but her land communication, upon study, does not seem to be the same military asset that so many would have us believe. It can in no wise compare with the short sea transport of the Japanese, provided the latter can keep the sea way open. The Trans-Siberian Railway is but a single line, and the best single line, with enlarged and constant sidings, under the most skilful manipulation, would not serve for the maintenance of more than 100,000 men. The Siberian Railway has stations and sidings about 25 miles apart, is very flimsy in structure, and Russian railway management is notoriously inefficient. Over and above this, the railway is extremely vulnerable. To protect it adequately would eat up almost as many men as it could at a European computation, in the present circumstance, supply. It cannot be supposed that this has escaped the perspicacity of the Japanese, and their agents may be expected to find ample means of constantly wrecking the most vulnerable portions of the railway. But, even if it were to remain intact, the question of transport after rail head is reached is one which will prevent the Russians from pouring vast forces into Manchuria. This transport difficulty is possibly the greatest with which the Russian army in these regions has to contend. At the present moment, however, it would be inopportune to discuss, except in the above general terms, any possible plans of campaign, as the whole of the land operations must depend in the first instance upon the success of naval strategy in establishing sea domination for the Power desirous of taking an aggresive military initiative.—*The Times.*

A resolution declaring "the consolidation of friendship between the United States and Great Britain and Ireland" a necessity for commercial prosperity, and favouring a permanent treaty of arbitration between the countries, was adopted at the annual meeting of the Massachusetts State Board of Trade on Jan. 20th.

THE STOCK MARKET.

Having been affected by the news of naval victories, the stock market in Tokyo showed special activity in closing on Feb. 9th. Quotations for the principal shares on two days are as follows:—

	8th. *yen*	9th. *yen*
Nippon Railway	66.00	68.90
Kwansei Railway	33.10	37.00
Kyushu Railway	49.60	52.65
Hokkaido Colliery and Railway	62.00	68.50
Electric Tramway	66.30	77.80
Street Electric Tramway	63.50	68.10
Nippon Yusen Kaisha	63.20	70.90
Toyo Kisen Kaisha	25.70	27.40
Kanegafuchi Cotton Spinning	29.95	32.80
Tokyo Exchange	136.60	147.40

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

DESTRUCTIVE TIDAL WAVE.

London, February 5.

A tidal wave accompanied by a gale has swept both coasts of the English Channel, causing enormous damage at Plymouth, Portsmouth, and Hastings. Quarters of London adjacent to the Thames were flooded.

EARTHQUAKE IN JERSEY.

An earthquake has taken place in Jersey.

GREAT FLOODING IN ENGLAND.

In consequence of the incessant rains, large tracts of England have been submerged especially in the Thames valley.

THE RUSSIAN WARSHIPS.

London, February 5.

The Russian battleship *Osliabya*, the Volunteer steamer *Saratoff*, and three destroyers have left Suez on their way to the Far East.

THE EVACUATION OF MANCHURIA.

In the House of Commons, Earl Percy, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, stated that frequent representations had been made to Russia regarding the delay in the evacuation of Manchuria, and also regarding the substitution of a Russian nominee for a member of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs at Newchwang.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN GOING TO EGYPT.

London, Feb. 6.

Mr. Chamberlain is going away for two months. It is believed that he is going to Egypt.

RUSSIA MAKES NO CONCESSIONS.

Later.

Russia's reply was forwarded yesterday to Viceroy Alexieff, and if he approves, it will be despatched to Tokyo, where it will arrive on Monday at latest. The belief prevails in St. Petersburg that Russia will not consider Japan's demand regarding Manchuria.

The *Times'* St. Petersburg correspondent reports that the Tsar's hesitation has been overcome, and Russia makes no concessions.

RUSSIA MAKES NO CHANGES.

London, February 7.

The *Daily Graphic* says that no essential change has been made in the tenour of Russia's Note since that of the 29th of January. Though conciliatory in tone, it firmly declines to accede to the wishes of Japan regarding the integrity of China. It makes concessions on other points but this vital issue, and Japan's resolution to reject the terms is unaltered.

RUSSIA'S REPLY REACHES TOKYO.

Later.

A semi-official statement published in St. Petersburg says that Baron Rosen has handed Russia's reply to the authorities in Tokyo.

It is authoritatively asserted in St. Petersburg that the Russian Government has gone as far as it possibly can go to meet Japan's wishes. If Japan is animated with the same peaceful sentiments as Russia it will receive the fresh proposals in a manner paving the way for eventual accord.

Baron Rosen has been furnished with full instructions for the fresh phase of the negotiations.

THE BRITISH CHINA SQUADRON.

The P. & O. steamer *Palawan* has sailed from London with a large quantity of ammunition for China; 110 naval ratings for the British China squadron, and a few infantry.

RUSSIA THROWS RESPONSIBILITY ON JAPAN.

London, February 8.

A Russian circular, dated the 6th inst., states that the recall of the Japanese Minister and the whole of the Legation staff at St. Petersburg, led to the recall of the Russian Minister at Tokyo. It adds that such procedure on the part of the Tokyo Government, which did not even await the arrival of the Russian reply, throws on Japan the whole responsibility which can arise from the rupture of diplomatic relations.

RAILS TO BE LAID ACROSS LAKE BAIKAL.

Orders have been issued at St. Petersburg to lay rails immediately over the ice at Lake Baikal in order to save the present delays.

THE TSAR APPEALS TO HEAVEN.

The Tsar is about to proceed to Moscow to submit his case and the Empire's fate to the Almighty before the altar of the Troitzko monastery, as his forefathers have done before drawing the sword.

UNREST IN THE BALKANS.

London, February 9.

The unrest in the Balkans is markedly increasing. The Turkish Government is commandeering all rolling stock, as it did before the Greek War.

JAPANESE IN RUSSIA.

The British Embassy in St. Petersburg takes charge of Japan's interests.

FALL OF STOCKS

London, February 10.

Russian stocks have fallen four points and Japanese 4½ per cent. Consols a half.

TERRIBLE FIRE IN BALTIMORE.

An appalling fire is raging in Baltimore. It began at eleven o'clock on Sunday morning and is still burning fiercely. Fire brigades in New York, Philadelphia and other cities sent contingents, but they are all powerless to stay the progress of the flames. The losses hitherto are roughly estimated at ten million pounds sterling.

TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT.

Later.

The Duke of Devonshire, speaking at a fiscal meeting in the Guildhall, said that whatever were their political differences all must unite in an endeavour to prevent embarrassment to the Government in their anxious task of safeguarding the empire's interests in the Far East.

(RECEIVED AT THE LEGATION OF FRANCE.)

PUBLIC OPINION IN ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

Saigon, February 10.

In England it is the unanimous desire of all classes of the population, particularly in the world of affairs and in the city, that the Russo-Japanese conflict should be localised and limited to the two adversaries.

It is affirmed from authoritative sources, that the same desire exists without any divergence in political circles.

French journals express sympathy at the same time for both Russia and Japan. They express a belief that the war will be localized.

English journals express much sympathy for Japan and throw the responsibility upon Russia.

DECLARATION OF WAR.

It is telegraphed from Tokyo that the declaration of war will be issued immediately.

ADMIRAL ALEXIEFF'S REPORT.

Saigon, February 10.

The *Messager du Gouvernement* publishes the following despatch from Admiral Alexieff to the Emperor of Russia:—"I have the honour to respectfully inform Your Majesty that towards midnight eight or nine Japanese torpedo-boats attempted suddenly to blow up with mines (?) the ships of the Russian Squadron which were in the out roadstead at Port Arthur. The iron-clads *Retvisan* and *Czarewitch* and the cruiser *Pallada* were injured. These ships are about to be examined in order to ascertain the amount of the injury."

(FROM THE "DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST.")

GERMAN SOUTHWEST AFRICA.

Berlin, February 5.

The reports coming from German Southwest Africa are favourable. Windhuk and Okahandja have been relieved. The Hereros are fleeing. The English neighbours have behaved very obligingly during all the troubles.

THE KAISER.

Kaiser Wilhelm intends to made a sea trip through the Mediterranean during March or April next.

THE FAR EAST.

The Washington despatch of the Agence Havas reporting a moral isolation of Japan is apocryphal. Even in Paris people are afraid that the Russian concessions already known in Paris may be insufficient to satisfy Japan. America and Germany declined in Eastern Asia every cooperation with any Power for or against Japan or Russia.

THE REICHSTAG'S VETO.

Berlin, February, 6.

The budget committee of the German Reichstag has declined to increase the number of corporals in the German army as proposed by the Government.

GERMAN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

From German South-west Africa the following reports come:—On January the 14th at Waterburg Mr. Hoepner, an official of the Berlin colonial office, and the colonial expert Watermeyer were murdered by the Hereros. Windhuk was not attacked by the negroes. The railway and telegraph were rebuilt. Otjimbingwe and Gobabis are still besieged. All cattle in the environs were stolen. To-day a reinforcement of troops will leave Germany for Africa. The Kaiser will bid them farewell himself.

THE SITUATION.

Berlin, February 7.

The Russian commercial telegraphic office reports from St. Petersburg: To-day Baron Rosen in Tokyo received from Admiral Alexieff the Russian note, in order to deliver it to the Japanese Government, and all instructions. The note is very peaceful. It is expected that Baron Rosen will hand it over to-day, and it is hoped in St. Petersburg that Japan will accept it without conditions.

GERMAN AFRICA.

The Hereros in German Africa have murdered the colonial officials Ganshorn and Loutsch.

COUNT LAMSDORFF'S NOTE.

Berlin, February 8.

From St. Petersburg it is reported: Count Lamsdorff, Minister of Foreign Affairs, sent a circular note to the Powers by which he communicated that Japan had broken off diplomatic relations with Russia.

A SURPRISE TO BERLIN.

Berlin, February 9.

The rupture of the Russo-Japanese relations has come as a surprise to Berlin. Nevertheless the patience shown by Japan is universally acknowledged. By Germany strict neutrality is proclaimed according to the good mutual relations existing. In military and other circles every sympathy is felt for Japan. A declaration of war is not absolutely necessary. It is mentioned that the Tsar will to-morrow address from Moscow a manifesto to the Russian people. Up till now nothing is known about England's alleged attempts to intermediate; France will do nothing without England.

GERMAN COLONIAL AFFAIRS.

In German Southwest Africa heavy fighting has taken place. Lieutenant Franke, of the colonial troops, entered Omaruru with a company of soldiers and inflicted severe losses on the enemy. Most likely the Herero chief, named Michael, was killed. The enemy still surrounds Omaruru. A landing party from the German cruiser *Habicht*, under command of Lieutenant von Winkler, of the colonial troops was ordered to proceed from Haribib to Omaruru. The losses show to-day 137 persons, of which 32 fell in action and 47 were murdered.

(From the "Jiji Shimpo.")

NAVAL ENGAGEMENT.

Chemulpo, Feb. 9, 4.30 p.m.

A Japanese squadron, under the command of Admiral Uryu, consisting of a certain number of warships and torpedo destroyers, arrived yesterday at 9 a.m. in Chemulpo, where the British cruiser *Talbot*, the U. S. gunboat *Vicksburg*, the French cruiser *Pascal*, the Italian cruiser *Elba*, and the Russian cruiser *Varyag* and gunboat *Koreetz* were lying. Salutes were exchanged between the Japanese flag-ship and the foreign ships. The Russian warships were in a confused state and attempted to get away from the port, but could not (owing to the presence of the Japanese ships). The night passed without incident.

This morning at 9 o'clock, firing began between the *Koreets* and the Japanese squadron outside the port. In a short time the *Koreets* was badly damaged. The *Varyag* then appeared on the scene and engaged the Japanese warships. In a very short time one of her masts was shot away with the result that many of her crew were killed or injured.

The *Koreetz* was in such a state that she could hardly float and it is understood that many on board were killed or wounded. Many others who got to land were captured by the Japanese troops.

The *Varyag* continued firing for many hours, in the course of which she sustained great damage to her hull. She then ran on the point near Yuen Island, where she took fire and was soon in a very serious state.

This engagement commenced about 9 a.m. and ended about 2 p.m The Japanese warships sustained no damage but inflicted on their foes dreadful injuries.

It is semi-officially reported in Tokyo that the Russian transports *Rossia* and *Orelihe* (? *Orel*) have been captured by Japanese warships. The former was convoyed by the Osaka Shosen Kaisha's *Taichu Maru* and *Tainan Maru* to Saseho.

THE FIGHT OFF CHEMULPO.

Chemulpo, Feb. 9, 6 p.m

It is presumed that the *Koreetz* sank after the engagement, in which she sustained severe damage.

The *Varyag* took fire and destroyed a great part of her hull.

TWO RUSSIANS SUNK.

Chefoo, Feb. 9, 11.23 p.m.

Fighting between Japanese and Russian warships took place on the 8th at 11 p.m. at Port Arthur. The Japanese attacked the Russians lying outside the port. Two of the latter (battleships) were sunk by torpedoes while trying to enter the port. One Russian cruiser was also attacked by torpedoes and went ashore while endeavouring to avoid sinking.

All the Russian warships are outside the port and in such a position as not to be able to get inside.

A general attack against the Russian squadron commenced this morning at 9 o'clock, the result being not yet ascertained.

THE "MANDJUR."

Shanghai, Feb. 8, 3.50 p.m.

The Russian gun-boat *Mandjur* (1,224 tons displacement and 13 knots,) left here to-day having taken in 80 tons of Cardiff coal.

(From the "Chuo Shimbun.")

THE ACTION OFF PORT ARTHUR.

Chefoo, February 9.

A rumour was received here at 11 p.m. to the effect that a second engagement took place at Port Arthur on the 9th commencing at one in the morning and concluding in the evening. Many Russian warships were sunk or damaged. The Japanese fleet sustained more or less damage of which the details are yet unknown.

CAPTURED RUSSIAN SHIPS.

Saseho, February 9.

The Russian Volunteer ships and whaling steamers which have been captured by the Japanese off Takeshiki and in Korean waters number six in all. They are expected to be brought here.

PUBLIC OPINION IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The papers throughout Great Britain generally approve the action of Japan. The *Times* and the *Morning Post* controvert the arguments of Russian papers which condemn Japan.

[The Russian cruiser *Varyag* which is referred to in the above telegrams, is a fine ship of 6,500 tons, built at Philadelphia four years ago, and now on her first commission in the Far East. Like the *Rossia* she has four funnels but has only two masts. Her main battery consists of twelve 6-in. guns and her speed is put at 23 knots. Her complement of men would be about 450. As for the *Koreets*, she is an obsolete gunboat built in Stockholm, and carried as her chief weapons two 8-in. and one 6-in. guns, her speed being about 13 knots. She would carry about 180 men.—Ed. *J. M.*]

(From the "Manila Cablenews.")

AMERICAN POLITICS.

Washington, January 19.

The Republican National Committee has announced that all State delegates to the presidential nomination convention who hold government offices will not be seated. This stand has created an immense sensation in political circles and it is said by the newspapers that President Roosevelt is the originator of the plan.

The Socialist Party has decided to hold its regular convention to nominate a candidate for the presidency in Chicago on the first of May next.

(From the "Hongkong Telegraph.")

BRITISH INFLUENCE PREDOMINANT AT PEKING.

London, January 27.

The *Birmingham Post* has excellent authority for stating that Sir Sir Ernest Salow. the British Minister at the Chinese capital, has forwarded to the Foreign Office the text of an agreement concluded with China which is to be given publicity in the event of war.

The conclusion of the new compact with China shows that, whereas public opinion had regarded British influence with the Court at Peking as on the wane, in reality it has never been more dominant.

(From the "Hongkong Daily Press.")

GREAT COTTON CONSIGNMENT FOR JAPAN

London, January 29.

3,600 bales of cotton left Houston, Texas, yesterday for Japan. This is the record consignment for the Far East.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Seydlitz	Tu. Feb. 16
Hongkong............	C. P. R. Co	Em. of India 1	Th. Feb 18
Europe	M. M. Co.	Australien 2	Th. Feb. 18
Tacoma...............	N. P. Co.	Tremont 3	F. Feb. 19
America	P. M. Co.	Korea 4	Sa. Feb. 20
Hongkong............	P. M. Co.	Siberia	M. Feb. 22
Hongkong............	N. P. Co.	Olympia	M. Feb. 22
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Su. Feb. 28
Hongkong............	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Th. Mar. 3
Hongkong............	C. P. R. Co.	Tartar	F. Mar. 4
Canada	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. Mar. 7

1 Left Hongkong on the 10th inst.
2 Left Hongkong on the 10th inst.
3 Left Seattle on the 1st ins:
4 Left San Francisco on the 2nd inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Canada	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	F. Feb. 19
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Seydlitz	Sa. Feb. 20
Hongkong............	N. P. Co.	Tremont	Sa. Feb. 20
Hongkong............	P. M. Co.	Korea	Su Feb. 21
Tacoma...............	N. P. Co.	Olympia	Tu. Feb. 23
America..............	P. M. Co.	Siberia	W. Feb. 24
Europe	M. M. Co.	Australien	F. Feb 26
Hongkong............	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	M. Feb. 29
America..............	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Sa. Mar 5
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Tartar	Sa. Mar. 5
Hongkong............	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. Mar. 7

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Yarra, French steamer, 2,115, Sellier, 4th Feb.,—Marseilles via ports, and Kobe, 3rd Feb., Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Chiyoda Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,039, H. Tanaka 4th Feb.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kintuck, British steamer, 2,881, D. Robinson, 5th Feb.,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 4th Feb., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Oanfa, British steamer, 4,867, Thos. Bartlett, 5th Feb.,—Puget Sound ports, 16th Jan., Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Hakuai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,419, C. Y[illegible]ng, 5th Feb.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and [illegible]eneral.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Jingu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,861, S. Nagata, 5th Feb.,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hidaka Maru, Japanese steamer, 735, T. Arakawa, 6th Feb.,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Athenian, British steamer, 2,428, S. Robinson, 6th Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, 6th Feb., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Macduff, British steamer, 1,882, R. Glegg, 6th Feb.,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 4th Feb., General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Arura, British steamer, 2,481, Jas. M. Williamson, 6th Feb.,—New York via ports, and Kobe, 4th Feb., General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,716, F. W. Horton, 7th Feb.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sithonia, German steamer, 4,239, Hildebrandt, 7th Feb.,—Hamburg via Hongkong, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Emma, German steamer, 1,681, W. Ziengemeister, 7th Feb.,—Hamburg via ports, General.—Grosser & Co.

Doric, British steamer, 2,936, Harry Smith, 7th Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 6th Feb., Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Iyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,918, M. J. Curnow, 7th Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Katsuno Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,400, T. Hayashi, 8th Feb.,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, E. Beetham, 9th Feb.,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Hyades, American steamer, 2,932, G. Wright, 9th Feb.,—Port Arthur via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Mikawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,203, Kuwahara, 9th Feb.,—Kobe, 8th Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,526, G. Lapraik, 9th Feb.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Chiyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,082, J. Komatsu, 10th Feb.,—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Indravelli, British steamer, 3,152, R. J. Craven, 17th Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, General.—P. & A. S.S. Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per French steamer *Yarra*, from Marseilles via ports:—Mr. E. P. Knight, Capt. Carroll, Mr. A. J. Neucumen and servant, Mr. Muller, Mr. Ladesma, Mr. Labaton, and Mr. Dick, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Hakuai Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Miss Lawrence, Miss Forrest, Mr. Schofield, Mr. Talbot, Miss Talbot, Miss A. Talbot, and Mrs. Soga, in cabin; Mr. C. A. Peterson, Mr. Yamamoto, and 1 Chinese, in second class; 13 Japanese, and 13 Chinese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Athenian*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. R. P. Sharp, Mr. F. D. Brown, Mr. R. Dessmaret, Miss J. N. Stevens, Capt. Crocker, R.M.C.I., and Mr. J. Collins, in cabin; Mr. E. Middleton, Mr. Wm. Grundy, and Mr. F. Moeller, in second class; 10 Chinese, 4 Indians, 63 Japanese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Doric*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. A. S. Murray-Stavert, Mr. E. M. Seligman, Mr. B. E. Strauss, Mrs. B. E. Strauss, Mr. E. H. Himrod and native servant, Mrs. Moss, Miss Moss, Mr. E. H. Moss, Mr. L. G. Boyd, Mr. E. Rogers, Mr. H. A. Poole, Mr. Heneage, Mr. F. dos Remedios, Mr. R. Lenzmann, Mr. C. G. Henshell, Mr. J. W. Withington, and Mr. J. E. Gray, in cabin. For Honolulu:—Mr. L. K. Kentwell, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Miss E. M. Ward, Miss E. Dalglish, Mr. L. Brignaudy, Mrs. L. Brignaudy, Mr. R. Greig, Mr. A. Marques Oliveira, Mrs. J. H. Pike, Mr. G. H. Shute, Mr. G. W. Jones, Mr. L. Y. Fong, Mrs. E. P. Wolf, Mr. D. Percebois, Mr. F. A. Carl, Mrs. F. A. Carl, Mr. A. Berthet, Mr. P. A. Crosthwaite, Mr. A. Young, Mrs. A. Young, Mrs. E. H. Himrod and infant, Mr. R. L. Fearon, Mr. S. Fukazawa, Mr. Carl Behn, Mrs. C. G. Henshell, (overland from Kobe, joining at Yokohama) Mr. N. S. Clark, Mr. Lejeune, Mrs. A. D. Gordon, Miss M. Gordon, and Mr. T. Kodoya, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. J. F. Bash, Mrs. J. F. Bash, Master J. F. Bash, Mr. C. J. Brownell, Mrs. Fiske, Mr. Manuel Gonzales, Mr. C. Jackson, Mr. Richard Little, Mr. W. Maxwell, Mrs. Maxwell, Mr. R. J. Ma[illegible]Hugh, Capt. H. G. Pringle, Mr. Melton Prior, Mr. Fred. Ringer, Mr. J. R. Shaw, Mr. Frederick Star[illegible] Mr. S. Tamura, Major E. C. Townsend, Mr. G. I. Tremblay, and Senator S. Washburn, in cabin; Mr. Wm. Urquhart, Mr. Quong Cui Yu, Rev. W. A. McRoberts, Mr. H. E. Athearn, Mr. H. J. Brown, Mr. John B. Horton, Mrs. Kwai Chow, Mr. Chan Chee Tai, Mr. Wong Min, and Mr. H. K. Hitchcock, in intermediate.

DEPARTED.

Per German steamer *Gera*, for Europe via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Sharp, Mr. Kannhauser, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. T. Tanaka and 2 servants, Mr. P. Schmidt, Mr. and Mrs. Whalley and baby, Mrs. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. M. Funakoshi and servant, Mrs. Taka Ochiai, Mr. Carl Theodor Boehmer, Mr. Paul Grammel, Mr. Sun Tse Cheong, Mr. Ding Chong Tong, Miss Francis Phelps, Miss Payne, Mr. M. Ogawa, Mr. C. Bell, Mr. M. Chang Hing, Mr. Julien Capitant, and Mr. M· Nanma, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Palma*, for London via ports:—Mr. M. Brotherton, R.N., in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, for Hongkong via ports.—Mr. D. W. Strachan, Mrs. H. Keswick, child, infant, native servant and nurse, Mrs. W. S. Whitted, Lieut. R. E. Beebe, U.S.A., Miss Ozaki, Mr. E. H. Clough, Mr. E. H. Clough, Mr. C. S. Dixwell, Mrs. C. S. Dixwell, Mr. H. S. Wheeler, Mr. A. F. White, Rev. C. G. Hounshell, and Mr. R. Schmid, in cabin; Mr. Chin Tz Pun, Mr. K. Mueller, and Mr. T. Tomeda, in intermediate; 3 Japanese, and 1 Chinese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Doric*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. O. J. Bainbridge, Mr. Carl Behn, Mr. A. Berthet, Mr. A. Bianchi, Mr. L. G. Boyd, Mr. L. Brignaudy, Mrs. L. Brignaudy, Mr. F. A. Carl, Mrs. F. A. Carl, Mr. H. S. Clark, Rev. Robert Coles, Mr. P. A. Crosthwaite, Miss E. Dalgleish, Mr. E. Eddison, Mr. R. J. Fearon, Mr. R. Ferrant, Mrs. R. Ferrant, Mr. E. Friegel, Mr. L. Y. Fong, Mr. S. Fukazawa, Mrs. A. D. Gordon, Miss M. Gordon, Mr. E. Greig, Major Alfred R. Heanage, Mrs. E M. Himrod and child, Mr. E. Hioki, Mrs. C. G. Honshall, Mr. G. W. Jones, Mr. L. K. Kentwell, Mr. T. Kodoya, Mr. N. Lejeune, Mr. J. T. Marriner, Mr. S. Minekishi and servant, Mr. A. Marques Oliveira, Mr. D. Percebois, Mr. A. L. Ficcardo, Mrs. J. H. Pike, Mr. W. H. Pitts, Mr. T. Sakurai, Mr. H. Shugio, Mr. G. H. Shute, Miss E. M. Ward, Mrs. E. P. Wolf, Mr. A. Young, and Mrs. A. Young, in cabin.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw and Waste Silk shipped per steamer *Gera*:—

	Raw.				Waste.			
Sulzer Rudolph & Co.	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nabholz & Co.	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jewett and Bent	54	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
H. Hernardin & Co.	43	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Otto Streulli	39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Longin & Co.	31	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Varenne & Co.	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cornes & Co.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Siber, Wolff & Co.	—	—	—	—	35	—	—	—
Dell'Oro & Co.	—	—	—	—	72	—	—	—
Cl. Eymard	—	—	—	—	73	—	—	—
Pollak Bros.	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
	204	—	—	—	184	—	—	—

Per British steamer *Palma*, for London via ports:—Raw Silk for Europe, 5 bales; Waste Silk for Europe, 302 bales.

CARGO.

Per British steamer *Athenian*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—

TEA.

From.	Canada.	Chicago & West.	New York & East.	Pacific Coast.	Other Cities.	Total Packages.
Hongkong	738	—	—	10	—	748
Shanghai	904	—	344	—	—	1,248
Kobe	50	—	—	60	—	110
Yokohama	—	—	—	28	—	28
Total	1,692	—	344	98	—	2,134

SILK.

From.	New York.	San F'cisco.	Easton.	South Man'ster.	Total. Bales.
Hongkong & Canton	130	—	—	—	130
Shanghai	434	—	—	—	434
Yokohama	1,070	—	—	17	1,087
Total	1,634	—	—	17	1,651

Per American steamer *Hyades*, for Tacoma, Wash.:—Tea, from Yokohama to Canada 305, to Chicago and West 297, and to Pacific Coast 365 packages.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Nothing special to report.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER YARD.
White Shirting—{40 yds. 36 in. 50 yds. 36 in.}	0.09 to 0.10
	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	Y.2.85 to 3.60
Grey Shirting—9lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.80 to 4.25
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	3.00 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton Italians and Satteens	0.20 to 0.40

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	Y.0.35 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 32 in.	0.30 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.16 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.50 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 to 65 inches	0.90 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0.60 to 0.66
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	9.50 to 12.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.90 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches	1.90 to 2.25
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 5lb, 24-25 yards, 32 nches	2.50 to 3.65

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Y. 140.00 to 150.00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	—
Nos. 38/42, Singles	—
Nos. 32, Doubles	145.00 to 150.00
Nos. 42, Doubles	155.00 to 160.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/100, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	245.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	295.00 to 305.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	425.00 to 435.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling	Nominal.	33
Indian Broach		26
Chinese		23

METALS.

A fair business has been doing.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward	Y.3.95 to 4.25
Iron Plates, assorted	4.25 to 4.45
Sheet Iron	4.45 to 6.70
Galvanised Iron sheets	10.10 to 11.10
Wire Nails, assorted	5.30 to 5.90
Tin Plates, per box	6.40 to 7.30
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.95
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1½ inch)	4.95 to 5.45

KEROSENE.

No special change in Kerosene.

American	$3.52
Russian	3.35
Langkat	3.25

SUGAR.

A moderate volume of business.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	Y.6.25 to 6.
Brown Manila	6.25 to 7.
Brown Daitong	4.80 to 6.
Brown Canton	5.50 to 7.
White Java and Penang	7.20 to 8.
White Refined	8.50 to 11.

INDIGO.

The market continues dull.

	PICUL
Java, Medium to best	270.00 to 320
Calcutta, Medium to best	180.00 to 290
Madras (*Kurpah*), Medium to best	140.00 to 170
Madras (Dry Leaf), Medium to best	100.00 to 140

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The outbreak of hostilities has brought the mar
to a stand. Things are more or less in a state
suspense, Japanese holders not having decided w
course to follow. Some of them are inclined to
at quotations (which show a reduction of twent
thirty *yen* upon last week's prices), while others
off to see which way events go.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra Best, Coarse	Y.1,070 to
Filatures—Extra, Fine	—
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	1,030 to
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	—
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	900 to
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	980 to
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	890 to
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	920 to
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	—
Common—Coarse	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1½	—
Re-reels—No. 2	—
Re-reels—No. 3	900 to
Kakedas—Extra	920 to
Kakedas—No. 1	900 to
Kakedas—No. 1½	880 to
Kakedas—No. 2	860 to

WASTE SILK.

The market is steady and so far has not dec
in sympathy with the Raw market. There is a
daily business in Kibiso of good quality. B
complain that the assortment is poor, the bulk
stock being of inferior grades.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	180
Noshi—Filatures, Good	170
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	125
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	115
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Good	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Joshiu, Best	130
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	120
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	150
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	140
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	70
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	70

TEA.

Nothing to report.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	
Choice	
Finest	
Fine	
Good Medium	
Medium	
Good Common	
Common	

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, Februar

Kirin Breweries are obtainable at *yen* 110.
Hotels, sellers at *yen* 240 offers for shares are
Helms Bros., sales at *yen* 45. Langfeldts,
at *yen* 35 offers of shares are wanted. Nickels
at *yen* 37. Engine and Iron Works are ob
at *yen* 90.

	YEN.	
Yokohama E. & I. Works	90	Seller
Grand Hotel	240	Seller
Club Hotel	70	Buye
Oriental Hotel, Kobe	75	Nomi
Langfeldt & Co.	35	Buye
Japan Brewery Co.	109	Sales
C. Nickel & Co.	37	Sales.
Helm Bros.	45	Buye

Telephone No. 323.

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, February 11.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0
— — Bills on demand	2/0 1/16
— — 4 months' sight	2/0⅜
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0½
— — 6 months' sight	2/0⅝
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	252
— Private 4 months' sight	257
— — 6 months' sight	258
Hongkong—Bank sight per $100	92⅝*
— Private 10 days' sight do.	90*
Shanghai—Bank sight	76*
— Private 10 days' sight	78⅝*
India—Bank sight	149
— Private 30 days' sight	152⅜
America—Bank sight	48⅝
— Private 30 days' sight	49⅜
— Private 4 months' sight	50⅜
Germany—Bank sight	205
— Private 4 months' sight	209½
Bar Silver (London)	26 Nom.?

* Nominal.

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With Shampoos of Cuticura Soap
and Light Dressings
of Cuticura.

This treatment at once stops falling hair, removes crusts, scales, and dandruff, soothes irritated, itching surfaces, stimulates hair follicles, supplies the roots with energy and nourishment, and makes the hair grow upon a sweet, wholesome, healthy scalp when all else fails.

MILLIONS USE CUTICURA SOAP

Assisted by CUTICURA OINTMENT, for preserving, purifying, and beautifying the skin, for cleansing the scalp of crusts, scales, and dandruff, and the stopping of falling hair, for softening, whitening, and soothing red, rough, and sore hands, for baby rashes, itchings, and chafings, in the form of baths for annoying irritations and inflammations, or too free or offensive perspiration, and for all the purposes of the toilet, as well as by millions of women in the form of washes for ulcerative weaknesses, and many sanative, antiseptic purposes which readily suggest themselves to women and mothers.

COMPLETE TREATMENT FOR EVERY HUMOUR,

Consisting of CUTICURA SOAP, to cleanse the skin of crusts and scales, and soften the thickened cuticle; CUTICURA OINTMENT, to instantly allay itching, inflammation, and irritation, and soothe and heal; and CUTICURA RESOLVENT PILLS, to cool and cleanse the blood. A SINGLE SET is often sufficient to cure the most torturing, disfiguring, itching, burning, and scaly skin, scalp, and blood humours, with loss of hair, when all else fails. Sold throughout the world. Australian Depot: R. TOWNS & CO., Sydney. British Depot: 27-28, Charterhouse Sq., London. French Depot: 5 Rue de la Paix, Paris. POTTER DRUG AND CHEM. CORP., Sole Props., Boston, U. S. A.

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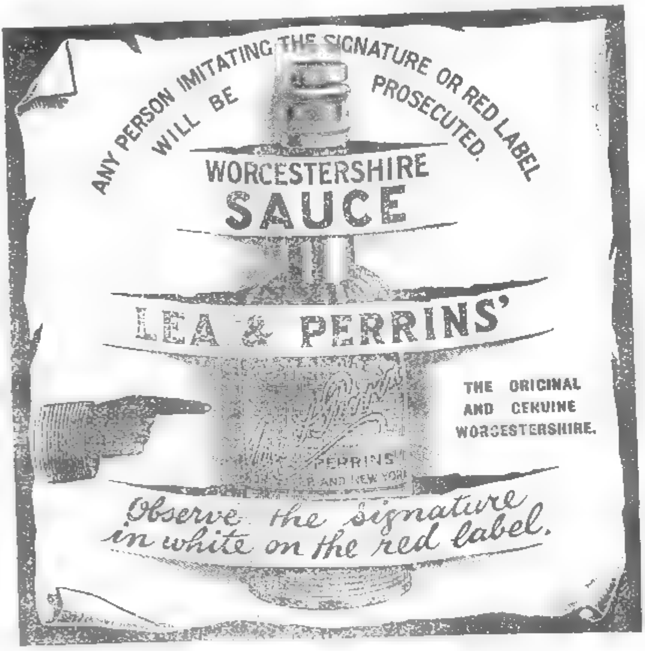

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, 1904.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE German cruiser *Tiger* arrived at Chemulpo on Feb. 13th.

TEN lighters carrying coal were sunk on the night of Feb. 10th in Moji Straits.

A TELEGRAM from Taipeh, Formosa, reports that the silver *yen* advanced on Feb. 15th from *sen* 93 to 95.

M. SANADA, a robber and murderer, was sentenced to death on Feb. 15th in the Tsu District Court.

THREE foreign steamers purchased by the Osaka Shosen Kaisha at Hongkong arrived at Osaka on Feb. 14th.

THE Governor of Hyogo reports that the Kobe branch of the Russo-Chinese Bank closed its office on Feb. 15th.

MR. KAWAKAMI, Japanese Commercial Agent, left Vladivostock on Feb. 13th by the German steamer *Batavia*.

ACCORDING to a telegram from Nagasaki, there are still eighty-five Russians there. They all keep low class restaurants.

MR. W. G. MACVICAR, the sub-agent of the Chartered Bank at Foochow, is about to take charge of the Hankow agency. Mr. W. G. Peter, brother of Mr. J. C. Peter, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, is said to be his probable successor at Foochow.

THE most sensational news of the week has been the plucky torpedo attack upon the Russian fleet at Port Arthur.

THE Seventeenth Bank, Fukuoka, was destroyed by fire on Feb. 11th. The cause of the accident is not reported.

THE Nippon Yusen Kaisha has chartered the British steamer *Lennox* (3,677 tons) and took delivery on Feb. 17th at Kobe.

A JUNK capsized on the night of Feb. 12th off the district of Miura, near Kamakura, with the result that two sendo were drowned.

A TELEGRAM dated Feb. 14th from Shanghai states that Mr. George MacBain, former owner of the MacBain Line of steamers, is dead.

THE Toyo Kisen Kaisha's steamer *Rosetta Maru* went ashore on Feb. 16th outside Shimonoseki Strait while on her way to Nagasaki.

A COOLIE employed by the Akibano-hara station, Tokyo, was crushed to death on Feb. 15th by two trains while working on the railway.

ACCORDING to a telegram from Fukuoka, an explosion occurred at the Kanaya Coal Mine, the result being that two men were killed.

OWING to damage, the telegraph cable between Fusan and Shimonoseki is interrupted. Communication is maintained by steamers.

THE Emperor has sent a telegram to the President of the United States conveying condolences with regard to the fire in Baltimore.

SOME Tokyo papers believe that an extraordinary session of the Imperial Diet will be convened on April 3rd at the Principal Headquarters.

T. TANAKA (57) an employee of the Mitsu-Bishi Bank, has been arrested on a charge of having embezzled *yen* 25,000 belonging to the bank.

MR. HAYASHI, Japanese Minister at Seoul, telegraphed on Feb. 13th that the Emperor of Korea had made to the Japanese troops gifts of cigarettes and provisions.

S. HORIUCHI, 21) was arrested on Feb. 4th by the Isezaki-cho police, Yokohama, on a charge of having attempted to steal *yen* 250 from the First Bank by means of a forged cheque.

OVER twenty British war correspondents, some fifteen Americans, and two Germans have applied to the Government, through the Legations concerned, for permission to go to the front.

THE trial of M. Takahashi, who was arrested at Yokosuka on suspicion of having been in the Russian service as a military spy, will be opened in the Yokohama District Court on Feb. 20th.

PEOPLE living at Itsugahara, Tsushima, have organized a society under the name of Choson Gidan. They aim to relieve the families of poor soldiers.

R. TAKAHASHI, a salt refiner living at Kanda, Tokyo, was arrested on the night of Feb. 10th at Tsukiji. He is charged with being in the service of Russia as a spy.

YUEN SIH SONG, former compradore of the Russo-Chinese Bank, who recently seized five iron safes of the Yokohama branch, in security for his counter-claim of *yen* 350,000, seized on Feb. 15th five iron safes in the Kobe branch of the bank.

THE two Korean assassins who were recently sentenced by the Hiroshima Court for the murder of a Korean refugee were removed on Feb. 13th to Miike jail.

OWING to a sudden gale, four fishing boats capsized on Feb. 16th off Ainoshima, Fukushima prefecture, with the result that fifteen fishermen were drowned.

THE German steamer *Emma*, which was temporarily seized at Yokohama on the ground that she had military stores for Port Arthur, was released on Feb. 13th on a pledge that she would change her destination.

A WORKMAN employed by the Nippon Railway Company was arrested on Feb. 15th. He had injured the railway between Furuma and Kojiri by throwing off the sleepers. The purpose of his offence is not yet known.

THE Yokohama Specie Bank will hold on March 10th an ordinary meeting of the shareholders, when the accounts for the last half year will be submitted. The interim dividend is believed to be at the rate of 6 per cent.

KIYO HOSOYA, the wife of a Russian living at Hakodate, was ordered on Feb. 8th by the police to leave within twenty-four hours. She is suspected of having been assisting Japanese who were in the service of Russia as military spies.

UNLESS the U.S. Congress enacts legislation removing the export duty on Manila hemp shipped from the Philippines to countries other than the United States, France threatens to impose a countervailing duty on hemp products imported from the United States.

THE *Nisshin* and *Kasuga* arrived at Yokosuka on Tuesday. On Thursday the commanding officers were received by the Emperor, while the crews were entertained at a garden party in Yokohama. Entertainments in Tokyo followed on Friday.

WE are informed by the Post Office authorities that a notification has been issued by the Department of Communications to the effect that for the present there is no means to forward postal parcels destined for North China, viz., Tientsin, Peking, Chefoo, Shanhaikwan and Newchwang, etc., unless they, with exception of parcels for Newchwang, are subject to the Universal Parcel Post Convention.

THE Danish engineering firm of Smidt and Company have received a large order for engines for cement manufactories, which are to be started by the Russian Government in the vicinity of Port Arthur. The *National Tidende* states that these cement factories will be exclusively for the purpose of supplying material for Russian Government projects and fortifications in Manchuria. The engines are to be delivered early next year.

THE will of the late Mr. J. J. Gurney, formerly of the engineering firm of Clark, Chapman, and Gurney, Gateshead, which has just been proved, contains the following bequests to charitable institutions:—£10,000 to the Baptist Missionary Society; £1000 each to the Baptist Zenana Mission, China Inland Mission, London City Mission, British and Foreign Bible Society, Church Missionary Society, London Missionary Society, and Newcastle Hospital for Sick Children; £500 to the Christian Police Association; and smaller sums, amounting to £2500, to other stipulated institutions.

THE FIGHT OFF PORT ARTHUR.

Monday, February 15.

Admiral Alexieff, telegraphing to St. Petersburg on the 11th instant, says that the *Cesarevitch* and the *Pallada* were brought into the harbour on the 9th instant, and that the hole in the hull of the *Retvisan* had been plugged. The repairs of the battleships, however, will be difficult, and it is impossible to tell when they will be completed. (We may remark in parenthesis that these are the ships which, according to His Excellency's previous report "took part" in the battle on the 9th instant!). The *Pallada* and the *Novik* will be docked one after the other and their repairs will occupy about 15 days. The ships injured in the battle on the 9th were all brought into harbour on the 10th. The repairs of these vessels will have "progressed" in the course of three days. (What this last phrase means, exactly, we can not tell from the Japanese translation). The wounded men of the *Pallada* will probably all die, having been seriously injured by the gas of the exploding torpedo. (That requires much explanation). A reconnaisance made of the neighbouring seas on the 10th did not disclose the presence of a single Japanese ship. More efficient measures of defense have been taken by means of torpedo-boats and gun-boats. The night of the 11th passed without incident.

The above report was telegraphed to Tokyo from the Japanese Legation in Paris. Its broad indication is that the Russian fleet has been effectually reduced to adopt a defensive attitude. The ships are shut up in Port Arthur; the two strongest iron-clads are *hors de combat* for an indefinite period; two cruisers are to enter the dock turn and turn, and may be ready for sea again in 15 days; the other wounded vessels are undergoing repairs, but since, according to a previous report of the Viceroy himself, they were all struck below the water-line, it is not easy to perceive how they can be restored to fighting trim without the use of a dock, and there is only one of these conveniences at Port Arthur.

The report of the Japanese casualties has not yet been officially published but a partial statement indicates that the *Fuji* suffered most. She had 2 (officers) killed, and 10 officers and men wounded. The *Mikasa*, the *Shikishima* and the *Hatsuse* had 4 casualties each and the *Iwate* 3. But this list is incomplete.

The wounded officers say that on the 6th instant, at 1 a.m., they received orders to prepare for commencing hostilities. All the commanders were at once assembled and ordered to take their ships to a *rendesvous* in Korean waters. At noon on the 7th this order had been obeyed, and over 50 vessels were found at the appointed place. The *Akashi* (gun-boat) reported that the greater part of the Russian squadron was outside Port Arthur, and that the *Koreetz* and the *Varyag* were in Chemulpo. The Fourth Division was then directed to make for Chemulpo, under the command of Rear-Admiral Uryu. It consisted of the *Naniwa*, the *Asama*, the *Takachiho*, the *Akashi*, the *Niitaka* and the *Chiyoda*, with 5 torpedo-boats. The First, Second and Third Divisions, under Vice-Admiral Togo, having their torpedo-craft disposed as scouts, moved in the direction of Port Arthur. They presently sighted a merchant-vessel, which they captured and found it to be the *Rossia*. Shortly afterwards they captured another, said to have been the *Manchuria*, but the name is uncertain. Just as the sun was setting on the 8th the squadron reached a point 60 miles eastward of Port Arthur. Thereupon the First, the Second and the Third Divisions of Destroyers were sent towards Port Arthur, and the Fourth and Fifth towards Talien. The flagship signalled success to the destroyers and the latter replied that they would sacrifice their lives or succeed. The crews of all the ships assembled on deck and silently waved farewell to the little vessels as they steamed off. It was because one or two Russian ships had been reported as being in Talien that the Fourth and Fifth Divisions were sent there. After the departure of the torpedo-craft the fleet steered slowly westward in the direction of Wei-hai-wei, and then, bearing up, headed for Port Arthur. The Third Division of war-ships was sent ahead to reconnoitre. At dawn it got within 8,000 metres of the fortress, and informed the Flagship by wireless telegraphy that one Russian ship seemed to be lying outside intact and that the others presented the appearance of having suffered greatly from the torpedo enterprise. A general attack was then decided on. The First and Second Divisions then advanced direct for the promontory followed by the Third Division, the whole in single column. When within a distance of about 8,000 metres, it was observed that some confusion still existed among the Russian vessels in consequence of the torpedo attack, and that about one half of the Squadron had their anchors up and had cleared for action. Two or three of the enemy's vessels were seen to be in a disabled condition at the entrance of the harbour, and the rest were scattered on either side, apparently not in any order of battle. It is not stated exactly at what hour these observations were completed, but the time seems to have been just before noon, as the men were ordered to eat their dinners before going into action. When the final advance was made, fire was opened from the enemy's side, seemingly from the ships in the centre of his line, that is to say, the vessels supposed to be disabled. This was followed immediately by the forts on Hwan-kin-shan and Lao-tieh-shan. The Japanese ships opened from the right of the line, that is to say, from the head of the column, and as each of their shells were seen to burst over the enemy's ships, the men cheered lustily. All fought as placidly as though they were at manœuvres. It was observed that the Russian torpedo squadron had taken up a position which suggested an intention of attacking at a favourable moment, but throughout the action it made no attempt to advance. The only one of the enemy's vessels that sought to shorten the range was the *Novik* (3,000 tons), or a ship like her, which steamed out to within 4,000 metres. Becoming immediately a target for several of the Japanese vessels, she quickly retired to her former position.

That appears to be the whole story of the fight so far as it has now been published. The range was 8,000 metres, with the one exception of the *Novik*. At such a range only guns of 8-inch calibre or upwards could be of any service, and as the greater part of the Japanese Squadron's armament consists of 6-inch quick-firers, the action can not be regarded as a conclusive test of the fighting force of the two fleets. A closer range was not taken for the obvious reason that the Russians lay under the shelter of their forts, and the Japanese vessels had consequently to avoid becoming easy targets for the heavily armed shore batteries. The Russians of course knew all about the armament of the Japanese and were therefore desirous of keeping them at a distance. That object was attained by keeping under the shelter of the forts, but it is stated that not one of the shells fired from the shore batteries struck the Japanese ships. It is alleged that the Russian vessels did not use the best modern explosives. In fact, one of the Japanese officers alleges that their explosives were of the ten-year-old type. The Japanese officers from whom the above particulars were obtained by the *Asahi Shimbun's* Saseho correspondent, allege that all the destroyers which had engaged in the night attack rejoined the fleet safely at the place appointed for ultimate rendezvous, none having received any serious injury.

There were three coal-carrying vessels in the eastern harbour at Port Arthur on the day of the attack. They left after the affair, and it appears that on two of them, a Norwegian and a British steamer, there were some casualties. They report—from Chefoo—that the *Cesarevitch* had a hole in her side big enough for four men to walk in abreast. That was above the water-line, however: her injuries below could not be distinguished. She had been brought into the harbour. A vessel like the *Retvisan* had also entered. Her crew were busily engaged pumping. A cruiser, the *Pallada* apparently, was aground on the Tiger's Tail Spit, but did not seem to be mortally hurt. There were apparently many casualties: men were being constantly carried away on stretchers. According to Russian statements, the Japanese destroyers fired four torpedoes, one of which missed.

A British subject, apparently a naval officer, who has returned to Japan having left Port Arthur on the 11th reports that two Russian iron-clads and a cruiser were so much injured in the torpedo-attack on the 8th as to be incapable of repair at Port Arthur. The dock would not take in the battle-ships. He further alleges that as all the hands working at the dock, except the overseers, are Chinese, many of whom made their escape when the fighting commenced, operations must be greatly disorganized.

It is wired from St. Petersburg that according to reports received from Manchuria, the two iron-clads torpedoed on the night of the 8th have been brought into the inner harbour, where they are hard aground; the *Poltava* is in the eastern harbour and the *Diana*, *Askold* and *Novik* are all in the western harbour. The impression conveyed by this news is that these 6 ships as well as the *Pallada* are quite unserviceable.

Tuesday, February 16.

The master of the British steamer *Fuhping*, which arrived at Shanghai on the 13th from Port Arthur, bears out the statement that the Russian ships wounded in the attack by the Japanese torpedo craft blocked the entrance to the harbour, but that, on the following day, they were towed into the harbour by seven steamers. This refers to the ironclads *Cesarevitch* and *Retvisan*. As for the *Pallada*, she had been run ashore on the west of the harbour to prevent her from sinking, and she was lying there at the time of the British ship's departure. Thus the passage to and from the harbour became unobstructed from the evening of the 9th. The master adds that the confusion and alarm caused in Port Arthur by the Japanese night attack were extraordinary. The citizens barricaded their doors, evidently believing that the Japanese had landed. One singular item of his statement is that the Japanese torpedo craft used Russian signals and obeyed the signals from the Russian ships, which completed the surprise. During the battle on the 9th great alarm prevailed in the town, several Japanese shells reached the streets, and one fell in the dock but did not explode. As to what the forts effected, this informant does not profess any knowledge, but he notes that the firing on the 9th was of short duration. As the *Fuhping* was leaving the harbour on the afternoon of the 10th she was fired at by a Russian guard-ship. The shell hit her on the port bow and made a hole 4 inches in diameter, passing thence through the Chinese passengers' saloon, where it wounded 5 passengers, 2 mortally. The bursting of the shell set the ship on fire but the flames were speedily extinguished. No explanation is forthcoming of this extraordinary act on the part of the Russians. The *Fuhping* was flying the British flag, and the outrage of firing on her without a summons of any kind is inexcusable. The only supposition possible is that the Russians were thoroughly demoralized. It appears that at the time of the *Fuhping's* departure defensive preparations were being vigorously pushed. Viceroy Alexieff himself handed 10 roubles each to the gunners in the forts who had distinguished themselves by the accuracy of their fire. The master says that in the forts and the town 13 persons were killed and 57 wounded by Japanese shells. The *Jiji Shimpo* publishes the above details.

The names of the Russian steamers captured by the Japanese *en route* for Port Arthur are the *Rossia* and the *Arjin*. The former was taken just as the squadron came abreast of the south-western promontory of Korea, the latter in the vicinity of Mokpo. During the night of the 7th great precautions were taken against a torpedo attack by the enemy, but the night passed quietly, the wind, however, being very high, the waves rough and the rain incessant. The 8th dawned fine. The Squadron advanced with the Third Division in front, next the Second and then the First, the torpedo-craft being on either flank. The Admiral's signal to the torpedo-craft when they separated from the squadron at 6 p.m. on the 8th was, *Kore yori teki no kwantai wo uchishizume yo ichido no seiko wo inoru* (Sink the enemy's squadron: success to you all!). The officer in command of the torpedo flotilla warned his men of the difficulties attending the attack of ships lying under the guns of forts, but he declared that if they were determined to succeed or perish, the result was certain. At midnight the enemy's squadron was discernible, but it was not until half an hour later that the final advance was made. No moon was visible. One Russian ship was met considerably in advance of the main body of the squadron and there was a disposition to torpedo her, but the officer in command of the flotilla restrained his men, and the Russians seems to have suspected nothing. Thus the little craft got to a distance of only 600 metres before they discharged their projectiles. The Russians were taken by surprise. They quickly turned on their electric lights but did not get the Japanese into their field of vision, and they fired wildly in various directions but never hit the mark once. The ten torpedo-craft discharged 18 torpedoes. Twelve shots were fired from the forts, but the Russian torpedo destroyers which were lying near the mouth of the harbour took no part whatever in the fight.

As the Third Division of the Squadron was steaming towards Port Arthur on the morning of the 9th, it met the *Foochow*, in which steamer Mr. Mizuno, Japanese Consul, at Chefoo, was returning from Port Arthur whither he had gone to arrange for the withdrawal of the Japanese. Mr. Mizuno gave information of the success of the torpedo attack. So, at least, the *Asahi Shimbun* says, but it seems strange that if Mr. Mizuno was at Port Arthur during the night of the 8th, some statement from him has not been officially published.

Of course the Japanese were under no illusion as to the difficulty of attacking a squadron lying under the protection of shore batteries, but Admiral Togo had made up his mind that the assault must be delivered. He is said to have signalled that the fate of the war virtually depended on the result of this attempt. Just as the crews were exchanging a cup of congratulation or farewell, the enemy's squadron was signalled as in sight. It proved to be one of his ships, apparently the *Bayan*, and after firing one or two shots she retired at full speed in the direction of Port Arthur At noon the Japanese came into full sight of Port Arthur. The officers from whom the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* received these details say that had the Russians fought stoutly and in intelligent cōoperation with the forts, they would probably have made things exceedingly difficult for the Japanese. But their ships showed a disposition rather to get under cover of the wounded iron-clads than to come out boldly and take part in the action. The *Mikasa* (flag-ship) commenced firing on the Japanese side, using her 12-inch guns. Apparently every shell took effect. The smoke of the explosions could be seen rising from the Russian vessels. Most of the Russian shot fell short with the exception of those from the forts. This last item of intelligence is not confirmed from other quarters, but it appears to be generally agreed that the Russian projectiles were bad, and that they broke up without penetrating. The *Iwate* was struck by several shells, but they did not injure her. In fact the explosives used by the Russians did not compare in efficiency with those of the Japanese, namely, the *Shimose Kwayaku*, which, as its name shows, is the invention of Mr. Shimose. The *Asahi*, the *Azuma* and the *Yashima* came out of the fight absolutely unscathed. Prince Yamashina was in charge of one of the 10-inch guns, and the Admiral thanked him subsequently for his good service. The *Mikasa* had her main-mast struck by a 12-inch shell—from the forts, it is said. Some of the ships had narrow escapes, the enemy's shells passing very close to them. It appears that the weather was beautiful throughout, whereas the day before the fight and the day after were very tempestuous.

It seems that Admiral Togo's great source of anxiety was lest the main body of the Russian Squadron should have started for Chemulpo before his ships reached Port Arthur, in which event Rear-Admiral Uryu's division would probably be annihilated. The first re-assuring indication was a wireless telegraphic message sent by the Russians and felt by the Japanese receivers. Only one word of it could be read, namely, *Askold*, but no doubt was felt that it had come from the Russian squadron and that the latter lay at Port Arthur. This incident must have preceded the meeting with the *Foochow*.

Mr. Odagiri, Japanese Consul-General in Shanghai, reports that according to the statement of the master of a steamer which left Port Arthur on the forenoon of the 10th, the *Retvisan* was then lying at the entrance to the port, with a heavy list and with her fore-part aground. The *Cesarevitch* and the *Pallada* had been towed into the inner harbour where they were both in a sunken condition. Several Japanese shells had fallen in the town during the fight on the 9th, but had not inflicted any special damage. Provisions were very scarce in Port Arthur, one egg costing 20 cents and one pound of beef a dollar. It was expected that from the afternoon of the 13th the authorities would assume control of all the provisions. Several thousands of the Chinese inhabitants had fled from the town during the bombardment. The Consul-General's informant declared it to be very doubtful whether mechanics to effect the repair of the damaged ships could be obtained.

Wednesday, February 17.

London telegraphs that according to Viceroy Alexieff's report the ship just blown up accidentally at Port Arthur was not a transport, as previously stated, by a torpedo depot-ship, the *Yenissei*. She passed by mistake within the zone where torpedoes are laid, and she seems to have been completely shattered. The London telegram puts her killed at 100. It is a shocking occurrence, the first of the kind on record.

Thursday, February 18.

A telegram from Chefoo to Chemulpo, dated the 16th instant and published by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, says that the *Retvisan*, the *Petropavlovsk*, the *Pallada* and the *Novik* are all lying aground still at the mouth of the harbour, and that the *Retvisan* is a partial obstruction to the fair way. Since the fight the Russian ships have all been in port, and they show no sign whatever of going out. Extreme vigilance has been exercised ever since the attack. No lights are allowed that can be seen from the sea except the search-lights constantly turned from the forts on every suspicious object, and every night several shots are discharged from the batteries. What may be the object of this last manœuvre we are not told, but presumably it is to maintain a state of alarm.

From an independent source, stated to be a ship which has just reached Takeshiki in Tsushima, we learn that the injuries suffered on the Russian squadron have not been exaggerated in Japanese accounts. The *Retvisan*, the *Cesarevitch*, the *Pallada*, the *Petropavlovsk*, the *Diana*, the *Askold*, and the *Novik* are all *hors de combat* and must remain so for a considerable time. Moreover, three torpedo-boats have disappeared and are supposed to have been accidentally sunk by shells from the batteries. This authority puts the Russian casualties at 30 killed and 120 wounded. The details of the damage done to the ships tally accurately with Viceroy Alexieff's report, but it is noticeable that the *Petropavlovsk* is substituted for the *Poltava* in the Chefoo account as well as in that from Takeshiki.

Friday, February 19.

The Saseho correspondent of the *Chuo Shimbun* says that the flotilla of destroyers which started for Port Arthur on the night of the 8th instant consisted of 18 vessels. They steamed in single file, preserving a distance of 200 metres, and extinguishing all lights except one carried by the last boat. On arriving in the vicinity of the Liaotung promontory two divisions, the Fourth and the Fifth, numbering 8 destroyers, bore northward for Talien, and the remaining 10 held on their course to Port Arthur. When they arrived within about 850 metres of the harbour's month, they sighted one of the enemy's guard ships, but they succeeded in passing it unobserved. The Russian vessels were all in lines, east and west, before the harbour, and every vessels had her lights out. At a distance of 500 metres the destroyers discharged their projectiles—18-inch fish torpedoes, 20 in all, namely, 2 per destroyer. The officers are said to report that the projectiles held their intended course, without deviation, and they declare that Viceroy Alexieff's statement of the injury suffered by the Russian squadron must be far below the truth. On their way back, they fell in with some Russian torpedo-craft, but the latter at once extinguished their lights and made no attempt to molest the Japanese.

The eight destroyers sent to Talien on the night of the 8th are said to have entered the harbour and spent no less than 2 hours searching for a Russian warship. They penetrated right up to the wharf, but saw nothing. A merchant steamer lay in the Bay, but of course they refrained from torpedoing her.

Russia had two torpedo transports a few days ago. Now she has only one, the *Yenisei* having been blown up at Port Arthur by accident. They were sister-ships, the *Amur* and the *Yenisei*, the former built in 1895, the latter in 1899; of steel; displacement 2,500 tons; speed 17½ knots, and armanent five 12-pr. quick-firers and six 3-pr. quick-firers. Such vessels have an overhanging counter in which ports are cut for lowering mines. We are not aware whther the *Amur* is in the Far East.

THE CHEMULPHO ENGAGEMENT.

The *Nichi Nichi's* Saseho correspondent wires that, according to the statements of the wounded, the Fourth Squadron under Rear-Admiral Uryu escorted 3 transports to Chemulpo. The *Chiyoda*, which was in advance, signalled that the *Koreetz* was about to leave the harbour, and two Japanese torpedo-boats, the *Kiji* and the *Hato*, steamed to the front, followed closely by the *Asama*, a first-class armoured cruiser It may be remarked in parenthesis that the Squadron was accompanied by two detachments of torpedo-boats. Observing the torpedo-craft, the *Koreetz* opened fire, and they replied by discharging two fish-head torpedoes which, however, failed to effect anything. The *Koreetz* then returned and occupied her former berth. Thereafter the *Chiyoda*, the *Takachiho* and the *Akashi* entered the harbour, escorting the transports and accompanied by the torpedo-boats, all anchoring in the vicinity of the Russian vessels. The landing of the troops—which belonged to the Kokura (12th) Division and seem to have numbered some 4,000—was effected without incident and the night passed tranquilly. The *Asama*, the *Naniwa* and the *Niitaka* lay outside. It was certainly an unprecedented situation—two of the enemy's war-ships peacefully anchored among four war-ships of neutral Powers and side by side with three Japanese war-ships and a number of Japanese torpedo-craft all waiting for daylight to see the work of destruction commence. A great part of the night was occupied landing the troops and their equipment, which operation had been entirely completed by 6 a.m. on the 8th. At 11 a.m. the *Koreetz* steamed out of the harbour, without apparently clearing for action. That mode of procedure, in fact, was her only hope of escape, a very faint hope. The *Asama*, however, received her with an 8-inch shell as she rounded Wolmi Island. There was a kind of retributive justice in this accident of locality, for Wolmi Island was once the object of a considerable dispute, its Japanese purchaser having been dispossessed by the Russians who had a coal depot there at the time of the events we are describing. The *Koreetz* immediately returned the fire, and the *Niitaka* now joined the firing. The range was from 6,000 to 7,000 metres. It was against the *Asama* that the *Koreetz* chiefly directed her fire, but her gunnery seems to have been of the worst, for she did not get one shell home. After an hour she retreated to the harbour and the *Varyag* came out to fight, only to retire after 40 minutes, the flames bursting from her bows. What tactics the Russians pursued it is hard to divine unless we suppose that they entertained an idea of being allowed to depart unmolested. Their best plan, in that case, was to steam out separately without clearing for action. But had they emerged together in fighting trim and made a rush for it, there is a possibility that the *Varyag*, with her fine speed —23 knots—might have escaped. Still the Russians were caught in a terrible trap, and it is almost cruel to talk now of what they might have done. The Japanese did not pursue the Russians into the port, being unwilling to violate its neutrality. They believe that the two ships were struck ten times, twice by 8-inch shells. The *Varyag*, as she steamed into harbour, had a list to port, was down by the head, and had lost a funnel. It had been the intention of the Japanese to complete the work with a torpedo attack that night, but at 4.30 p.m. smoke was seen rising from the *Koreetz*, and the *Asama* signalled that the Russian ship was sinking. After the *Koreetz* went down nothing of her remained above water except the top of her smoke-stack and part of a mast. The *Varyag* remained with such a heavy list to port that only a part of her deck was above water. Meanwhile the transport *Sungari* was set on fire by her crew, who proceeded to the French frigate *Pascal*. The *Varyag* had 40 killed and 64 wounded. Nothing is said as to the losses on board the *Koreetz*. On the morning of the 10th the squadron returned to its base.

THE RUSSIAN SQUADRON IN VLADIVOSTOCK.

Saturday, February 13.

The Russian Squadron at Vladivostock seems to have left that harbour. Its movements are not clearly defined, but it appears to have passed through the Tsugaru Straits on the 11th, and to have entered the Pacific, steering south. If its object is to make Port Arthur, Admiral Togo will endeavour to intercept it. But possibly the Russians have conceived the idea of a bold dash to intercept the *Nisshin* and *Kasuga*. On their way to the Tsugaru Straits, they appear to have perpetrated a brutal and utterly indefensible act namely, sunk a Japanese merchant steamer of 710 tons (*Nakoura Maru*) with all her crew. Another small vessel in her company, a steamer of 170 tons, was also fired on but escaped. It is stated that the Russian ships were accompanied by a transport. This Vladivostock squadron consists of the *Gromoboi*, (12,336 tons), the *Rossia* (12,200 tons), the *Rurik* (10,940 tons), all armoured cruisers, and the *Bogatyr*, a protected cruiser of 6,750 tons. As the squadron is accompanied by a transport, its intended destination seems to be Port Arthur.

Later news indicates that the Vladivostock squadron has not made its way through the Tsugaru Strait. It is still cruising, or was cruising on the 12th instant, of the south-western coast of Ezo. The name of the steamer sunk by this squadron is *Nago-no-ura Maru*. She and a smaller vessel called the *Zensho Maru*, were on their way from Sakata to Otaru when they fell in with the squadron. What then happened is not exactly clear. The official report says that the squadron surrounded the two little steamers and deliberately undertook to sink them. They succeeded with the *Nago-no-ura Maru* (710 tons), but the other vessel (170 tons) managed to escape. It need scarcely be said that this incident has caused profound indignation in Japan. The impression prevails that the war-ships never had any intention except to destroy the two vessels with all on board, and of course such treatment of private merchant ships is not merely contrary to international law but also opposed to the commonest principles of humanity. Before pronouncing the conduct of the Russians to be brutal, however, it becomes necessary to know certainly whether the two steamers resisted capture; that is to say, whether they refused to bring up when summoned. It is extremely improbable that they did anything of the kind, for petty little steamers scarcely able to steam 7 or 8 knots would not be likely to disobey the mandate of four men-of-war, three of which were huge cruisers of 20 knots speed. According to the present aspect of things it looks as though another crime of savagery must be laid to the charge of the Russians.

As for the Tsugaru Strait, it appears that the eastern exit is defended by torpedoes; that is to say, the portion of sea in the neighbourhood of Ominato. The *Takao*, a small cruiser of 1,778 tons is in that neighbourhood, and she seems to have sighted the Russians, who were last seen near the western entrance to the Strait. There are rumours that the squadron tried to get through eastward, and had three ships torpedoed in the attempt, but the story comes from a very questionable source.

Monday, February 15.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun's* correspondent at Takeshiki in Tsushima, reports that the Russian Vladivostock Squadron left Vladivostock on the 6th instant and made its appearance in the sea off Mutsu on the 11th. It consisted of the *Gromoboi* (12,336 tons), the *Rossia* (12,200 tons), the *Rurik* (10,940 tons) and the *Bogatyr* (6,750 tons). It was accompanied by several torpedo-craft. We suspect that the former date is incorrect, for it is scarcely conceivable that the squadron can have been nearly 5 days at sea before making its appearance in Japanese waters, unless, indeed, it set out from Vladivostock without any hostile intent. Besides, the 6th was the day when the Japanese Government announced the rupture of diplomatic relations and its resolve to take independent action for the preservation of its interests. If the Vladivostock squadron set out on the same day with a belligerent purpose, it showed signal smartness.

The *Shogyo Shimpo* says that the *Nagono-ura Maru*, which was surrounded and destroyed by the Russian Vladivostock squadron on the 11th instant, had left Sakata in Uzen that morning with 700 fishermen for Otaru. The whole of these men are supposed to

WAR NOTES.

Friday, February 12.

A telegram to the Foreign Office from Berlin says that Russian securities fell heavily on the 11th instant and are still falling.

Some Japanese in Chemulpo have offered to raise the *Korеets* and the *Varyag*, undertaking to do the work quickly, to hand over to the Government gratis any articles fit for the public service, and to contribute all profits to the war fund.

We are informed that Messrs. M. Pors and H. V. Gielen have each subscribed *yen* 1,000 toward the funds of the branch office of the Japan Red Cross Society at Yokohama.

It is stated in Chefoo that during the attack on Port Arthur five or six shells exploded in the streets of the town.

The Japanese Legation in Berlin telegraphs that German journals now compare the Japanese to the Boers and Japan to the Transvaal. They say that whereas Russia is fighting to swallow up Liaotung and Manchuria, Japan is struggling to maintain the independence and integrity of China and Korea. We are glad to see that the German papers think well, albeit tardily, of Japan's cause, and in consideration of the conversion they may be left in cheap possession of their anti-British inuendo. There is an old Japanese proverb *Kateba kwangun, makereba zoku.*

The Japanese residents of Newchwang have all arrived safely at Tientsin. Another party of over 200 have reached Shan-hai-kwan, but whence they came is not stated. It is further alleged that the Harbin Japanese have all retired *vâ* Vladivostock, and that with the exception of some thirty at Tieh-ling no more remain in Far Eastern Russia.

An official telegram from Paris dated Feb. 12th says that Viceroy Alexieff reported under date Feb. 9th to General Kuropatkin that he had issued orders for the mobilization of the Siberian army, the orders to go into force from the 19th.

Two hundred gendarmes are to be despatched from Hiroshima to Korea. The same number of gendarmes are already there.

A telegram from Saseho states that the captured Russian steamer *Nicolai* arrived there on Feb. 11th, and another, the *Michael*, was expected to be brought in on the following day. The *Jiji* reports that the Russian transport *Manchuria* was captured on the night of Feb. 9th by Japanese coast defenders, and brought to Nagasaki on the following day, when the Captain and a number of the crew escaped.

Saturday, February 13.

Chefoo sends news that, according to the statements of a German steamer's officers, which had left Port Arthur on the 11th, the two torpedoed Russian battle-ships and the injured cruisers were still afloat or had been floated.

From the same source it is rumoured that a Japanese military force which landed, or attempted to land, in a certain bay, has been driven off with heavy loss.

There is no Japanese force cruising about in space.

It may be wise to warn our readers against stories coming from Chefoo. Those that know China allege that as between Shanghai and Chefoo, the latter, though it has not attained to the former's pinnacle of notoriety, is a more active manufacturer of bunders.

A statement is published—on the authority apparently of the above German observers—that the railway from Newchwang to Shanhaikwan is threatened by a considerable force of Chinese.

Tientsin wires that Russian soldiers are posted at intervals of less than 400 yards all along the Manchurian Railway, but that in spite of this extraordinary precaution the menacing attitude of the mounted bandits is causing infinite trouble. The *Asahi Shimbun* has similar news. It says that the Russians have one man posted in every interval of 700 yards to watch the telegraphs, and 3 in every interval of 400 yards to watch the railway. These precautions are adopted in view of the fact that the mounted bandits have formed themselves into six companies, having their head quarters in the vicinity of Liaoyang, and that their object is the destruction of railways and telegraphs. There is a pretty general belief in Japan that several Japanese subjects are directing the operations of these bandits.

Telegrams from Peking say that a great sensation has been produced by the news of the affairs at Chemulpo and Port Arthur, and that the Russian Legation is taking all possible steps to minimize the disasters suffered by its country's fleet.

A German merchant who has just reached Peking from Irkutz reports that the students there have declared themselves under no obligation to fight for Russia and that the troops, not having received any pay for six months, are in a state of semi-mutiny. Such reports must be received with great reserve.

The Japanese Consul at Son-ching reports that the Russians beyond the Tumen are drilling the naturalized Koreans under their jurisdiction and that they have guards posted at Kyong-heun.

There is a report in Amoy that a battalion of French troops has sailed from Tonking for Chemulpo. They are horse marines, we imagine.

Mr. Kurino and his staff reached Berlin on the 12th instant.

The Russian Consul at Chefoo has notified that for the present and until further orders no merchant vessels will be allowed to enter either Port Arthur or Dalny.

Orders have been issued at Port Arthur that all persons under 16 years of age and all females must start at once for Russia. It is said that every youth over sixteen will be required to carry arms.

Seven foreign steamers have been allowed to leave Dalny with instructions not to return. They were escorted from the bay by a Russian man-of-war, presumably on account of the danger of mines.

Only two Russian subjects remain at Kanagawa, and the last twenty-three left Nagasaki on the 12th.

News just received says that the squadron consisting of the *Osliabia*, the *Dimitri Donskoi*, the *Aurora* and torpedo-craft are at the exit of the Red Sea and do not appear to be coming eastward.

Sunday, February 14.

The *Official Gazette* of the 14th instant published a decree issued by the Emperor of Japan on the 5th instant to the officers commanding the Army and Navy. His Majesty says that it has been his earnest desire throughout to maintain the peace of the East, but that the Emperor of Russia has shown no sincerity in that respect; that the preservation of the integrity of China and Korea is essential to the defence and safety of the Japanese empire; that as the negotiations give no promise whatever of attaining that end, His Majesty has ordered his statesmen to break them off, and that he now relies on the efforts of his Army and Navy to achieve his purpose.

The American citizens and British subjects at Chefoo are reported to be very indignant because a British steamer and two American steamers, carrying Japanese fugitives, are not allowed to leave Port Arthur, whereas a German vessel was permitted to put to sea.

Mr. Takahira reports from Washington that the successes of the Japanese at Port Arthur and Chemulpo have been greeted in America with as much joy as though they had been won by the United States Navy. Offers of subscriptions to Japan's war funds are pouring in, and have thus far totalled 7 million dollars (gold).

The British *Laspar* (?), which proceeded to Port Arthur some time ago at the request of the Japanese Consul at Chefoo, Mr. Mizuno, has returned to Chefoo without any passengers. She reports that the Japanese subjects whom she had embarked were forcibly removed on the 8th instant, just as she was about to leave the harbour, and that she was detained until the 11th, when she left, but not being able to obtain any coal she had to put back to Chefoo. It appears that an American steamer having Japanese refugees on board is also detained at Port Arthur. This arbitrary treatment of neutral ships, and the embargo put upon the movements of peaceful Japanese subjects are said to be causing much indignation in Chefoo.

Happily the German Admiral has employed the *Hansa* to carry away a few of the Japanese.

A telegram from Nagasaki says that the owners of the Russian steamer *Manchuria* have been endeavouring to change her flag, and that they found an American citizen willing to go through the form of purchasing. But the United States Consul has dissuaded his countrymen from engaging in such a transaction.

Forty-two Russian residents of Yokohama left at the same time as their Minister. Only two now remain.

It is stated that the Russian ships captured up to this time total ten. Three of them are whalers.

With reference to the fact that the Russian authorities at Port Arthur have placed obstructions in the way of Japanese endeavouring to withdraw by British and American steamers, the Japanese Government has formally requested the American Government to approach the Russian Government on the matter.

It is stated in Tokyo that a Russian steamer with 1300 soldiers left Hongkong on Jan. 28th and has not yet reached Port Arthur.

The *Jiji Shimpo* says that there are now in Tokyo 37 foreign war correspondents, namely, 20 British, 15 American and 2 Germans. It is a striking indication as to the degree of journalistic enterprise in the various countries. In America's case the habit of combination tends to reduce the total number of correspondents, but the broad fact is that Anglo-Saxondom sends 35, the rest of the world 2.

The Japanese subject recently arrested on a charge of acting as spy for a Russian Naval Attaché in Yokohama, has been remanded for trial, a *primâ facie* case having been made out against him. It appears that the information furnished by him related chiefly to Yokosuka and Maizuru.

It was recently rumoured that the Imperial Headquarters would be moved to Kyoto, but whatever may be the case by and bye, for the present Tokyo is to be the site.

Tuesday, February 16.

It is officially stated that according to information obtained from Korea several thousands of Russian troops reached Antung on the 14th bound for Feng-wang-teng.

Mr. Motono, Japanese representative in Paris, telegraphs under date Feb. 15th that in consequence of the receipt of news that three Russian men-of-war and a number of torpedo-boats had obtained a large quantity of coal at Jibutil, he addressed the French Government unofficially on the subject, and was answered that this coal had been supplied prior to the declaration of war.

A telegram has been received by the Naval Department in Tokyo from Berlin dated the 14th, stating that the *Alexander III.* and *Borodino* are being pushed forward towards completion with all celerity for the purpose of being sent to the Far East.

A telegram from Port Said says that 19 steamers laden with Cardiff coal are on the way for Port Arthur and Vladivostock. Some of them have passed the Canal already but one which has just reached Port Said was ordered by the British Government to return at once to Sevastopol.

It appears that the Russian fleet has not left Port Arthur.

Wednesday, February 17.

The s.s. *Batavia* arrived in Nagasaki on the 15th instant carrying some 1,500 Japanese fugitives from Vladivostock, Nikolaisk and Blagovetchensk. She left Vladivostock on the 9th instant and reports that the Russian Authorities gave every facility and treated the Japanese kindly, so that all escaped unscathed. Among her passengers were the staff of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. It was by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, indeed, that the steamer was chartered primarily for the purpose of carrying away the Company's staff, but with instructions at the same time to give passage to all fugitives. From intelligence carried by the *Batavia*, it appears that the Vladivostock Squadron left that place on the 8th. The fact is of some importance, for if the squadron left Vladivostock on the 8th, it had no news of the Port Arthur affair, which commenced with the torpedo attack on the night of the 8th, neither had it any news of the Chemulpo affair, which took place on the 9th.

It is stated that 200 Japanese fugitives from Mukden and other parts of Manchuria, who reached Tashikiao, were there arrested by the Russians and carried to Port Arthur where they are still detained. Some 40 or 50 others managed to elude arrest and effected their escape to Shanhaikwan. That is one story. On the other hand we have another account, sent by Mr. Mizuno, Japanese Consul in Chefoo, to the effect that a British steamer carrying about 340 Japanese fugitives from Port Arthur, reached Chefoo on the 15th instant. Among the fugitives were over a hundred females, who appear to have belonged to the Tashikiao company, for it is alleged that they were there separated from their male companions, the latter being allowed to proceed to Shanhaikwan and the former being sent to Port Arthur *viâ* Newchwang. Practically the whole of the Japanese have now been removed from Manchuria, the exceptions being two criminals undergoing sentence and certain females who enjoy special protection.

It is difficult to ascertain the truth about the treatment received by the fugitives, but all accounts agree that those carried to Port Arthur were used very cruelly. If even a small part of the stories told be trustworthy, it is evident either that the Russian soldiers are under no sort of control, or that their officers still obey the mediæval principle of allowing the men to compensate themselves for the hardships of campaigning by indulging their elementary passions to the full. But of course some allowance must be made for the exaggerations invariably indulged in by the victims of any hardship, and we should be disposed to make such allowances on a much larger scale were not Russian soldiers concerned. They, unfortunately, have an evil record already.

It is stated that a Russian war-ship in the Gulf of Pechili has fired upon two British steamers carrying coal from Kaiping to Shanghai. The British residents of Tientsin are presented to be very indigant and the Consul has made an official protest.

The American citizens at Nagasaki are said to be behaving with the greatest kindness in all matters relating to the situation. They are even placing buildings gratis at the disposal of the Japanese naval authorities.

Mr. Inouye, Japanese Representative in Berlin, reports officially that the Red Cross Society in Germany has offered to render every assistance to the Japanese Society, and that it is prepared to send surgeons, instruments and materials to any place indicated by Japan.

Fifty-eight Japanese from Sonchin arrived at Yuensan on the 15th instant.

The steamer *Manchuria*, which the Japanese squadron captured when *en route* for Port Arthur on the 8th, belonged to the East China Railway Company. She is a vessel of about 4,000 tons, and her cargo consisted chiefly of ammunition—866 boxes. A man-of-war towed her into Saseho on the morning of the 13th.

We learn from the *Asahi's* special issue of the 16th that the Japanese—numbering 250, inclusive of 6 children—who assembled at Port Arthur on the 8th instant when the intention of taking passage in the S.S. *Lasbera*(?), were prevented from embarking by the Russian Authorities and the greater part of them, having no houses to repair to, passed the night on the beach. On the 9th they ascertained that the vessel would not sail. About one half of the party then found shelter in a brothel and the remainder took refuge in the house of a Mr. Kawakami. In the afternoon they sent a deputation to the Authorities, but the latter declared that Japan having committed an act of war without declaring war, no Japanese subject would be allowed to leave. On the 9th in the afternoon a mounted orderly arrived bearing directions from Viceroy Alexieff that the fugitives might embark. They again repaired to the beach and found the steamer *Wanchow* waiting. Many of the Japanese had had no food since the 8th, and as the *Wanchow*, being a boat that plied merely between Chefoo, and Port Arthur, had no stock of provisions she was unable to help the famished people. They accordingly sent a petition to the police and the harbour master's office, whence six bags of rice and 50 lbs of biscuit were provided. The steamer, however, did not start, and on the 11th the Japanese found themselves short of water. With difficulty they obtained a supply. The Russian authorities told them daily that the vessel's departure would be sanctioned immediately, but it was not sanctioned, and after a time provisions again failed. The privations were such that several people fell ill and the babies, of whom there several, suffered pitiably. The 13th seems to have been the time of greatest distress. The *Wanchow* was lying near the entrance of the eastern harbour inside which were some of the Russian ships injured in the fight. It appeared to the Japanese that, judging from the position assigned to the *Wanchow* and from the unaccountable delay, they were being used as a shield to ward off a Japanese attack upon the crippled vessels. They became much excited at the notion of standing in the way of their country's efforts, and some of them proposed to take the weapons carried by their guards and make an onslaught on the Viceroy. But after considerable discussion they decided to address a letter to the Viceroy, reminding him of his promise to protect Japanese life and property, and begging him to come himself to see how they were suffering. On the morning of that day a hundred fugitives had arrived from Harbin and had been kept waiting for two hours on the shore in a snow storm. When these people came on board, six bags of rice and some tubs of water were sent down by the agents of the steamer. At last on the 14th the ship was allowed to leave. Her detention was subsequently explained to have been caused by the necessity of awaiting the arrival of various refugees who were expected from Harbin and elsewhere. The Japanese themselves believe, however, that the delay was due to the results of the fight on the 8th and the 9th, but the theory that they were kept in the harbour for the purpose of averting a repetition of the Japanese attack is, of course, untenable. The people say that on the night of the 10th three shots were fired from the forts, and twenty more between the hours of 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. on the 14th. They also allege that the injuries to the *Cesarevitch* were very extensive, one third of her bulwarks on one side seeming to be completely stove in. The *Retvisan's* chief hurt being below the water line, great labour was employed at first to pump her out, but it was subsequently abandoned, and she is now lying near the entrance of the port with a heavy list. The *Pallada* is in the harbour. The *Petropavlovsk* had a big hole near her prow, and one of her masts was broken. The whole squadron was at Port Arthur when the *Wanchow* sailed. From the same source we learn that three Russian torpedo-boats were sunk during the attack of the 8th, not by the Japanese but by firing into each other. Out of 14 vessels constituting the strength of the Port Arthur Squadron, a Russian is quoted as saying that only 10 are now afloat. How many casualties there were on the Russian side these refugees do not undertake to say, but they allege that the funeral of some evidently very high officer or officers took place on the 14th. They think that the *Petropavlovsk*, the *Askold* and the *Diana* suffered most in the fight on the 9th instant.

Thursday, February 18.

Mr. Kawakami, Japanese Commercial Agent at Vladivostock, who landed at Shimonoseki on the 15th instant, quotes the officer commanding at Vladivostock as saying that it might be difficult for the Russians to beat Japan at sea, and that the latter might have some successes on shore at first, but that in the end she would be crushed by Russia as Napoleon had been. And the end he put at a distance of six months. Mr. Kawakami confirms the previous statements that no submarine mines are laid at Vladivostock, and that the ten torpedo-boats in harbour there are drawn up on the beach and are unfit for service at present. The Russian commandant ordered the British residents of the place to clear out within three days, but in consequence of representations made to London by the English commercial agent the order was withdrawn. It served to show the feeling with which the Russians regard the British, a not altogether unnatural feeling, one must confess.

Among the Japanese refugees that reached Shimonoseki in the *Batavia*, there were over 800 women, and there were 5 men supposed to have acted as Russian spies. There is rather a mania for talking about Russian spies, now-a-days. A new word has been introduced into the language, *rotan*, an abbreviatien of *Rokoku no tantei*.

There were a good many Russians who desired to leave Vladivostock by the *Batavia*, but they were unable to do so, apparently, and she carried the Chinese and Korean fugitives.

Many rumours are in circulation about the bad treatment of Japanese fugitives from Harbin and Mukden. Some authorities allege that the men were most cruelly used and that the women were outraged in the most public manner. But on the whole the evidence seems to show that what these fugitives have chiefly to complain of was the loss of their belongings—such few things as they had been able to carry away from their homes—, and much hardship in being unable to procure provisions. There may have been, indeed there probably were, some isolated cases of brutality on the part of Russian soldiers, but on the whole privation and robbery seem to have been the chief sources of suffering. During 5 days of detention at Port Arthur, nothing like an adequate attempt was made by the Authorities to supply proper shelter and provisions, but, as to that, much allowance must be made for the fact that Port Arthur was perturbed by the Japanese attacks and by the losses thus entailed. The place seems to have been thrown into great confusion. Something like a reign of licence was established. Not only Chinese bandits but also Russian soldiers seized the occasion to thieve on a wholesale scale. The Japanese fugitives stored what baggage remained to them in the warehouse of Messrs. Clarkson & Co., but the whole were purloined. Of course the Viceroy should have been able to prevent or check these excesses, but that is an easy criticism.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* remarks that nearly all the officers commanding Japanese ships have the advantage of actual experience in sea-fighting. Vice-Admiral Togo commanded the *Naniwa* in the war of 1894-5; Vice-Admiral Murakami, who is second in command of the Standing Squadron, was captain of the *Akitsushima* in that war; Rear-Admiral Nashiba was commander of the *Akitsushima*; and, in a word, all those now holding the rank of commander or upwards were in positions of active responsibility at that time.

There is no definite news as to the rumour published on the 16th instant, that thirty thousand Russian troops had reached Anju. The *Niroku* cuts the number down to fifteen thousand, and treats the whole business in a light-hearted manner, observing that should these reports prove correct, an interesting drama is about to be acted. Even the *Kokumin* gives some currency to tales that a Russian advance guard has reached Anju. In the eyes of military men, however, such intelligence would have a very grave meaning. The northern half of Korea lends itself readily to defensive operations, and whichever side anticipates the other in getting possession of the Yalu Valley and Pyong-yang will secure a great initial advantage. It is scarcely credible that any considerable Russian force can have penetrated as far as Anju, however. Feng-hwang-ting or Antung would be the base of such a force, and at neither of these places has Russia hitherto had more than a few regiments, unprovided, so far as we know, with extensive transport facilities such as would be required for a march southward through Korea, the sea not being available for supply purposes. Assuming a Russian advance overland in any force, it is plain that the Japanese, with the command of the sea—partial at any rate—could quickly land a *corps d'armée* at the mouth of the Yalu, and the line of communications of the Russian column would thus be fatally severed. If, indeed, the Russians be following the programme assigned to them by these rumours, they are showing extraordinary activity and enterprise, but they are also courting disaster unless their forces available in the districts immediately beyond the Korean frontier are very much larger than the least circumspect rumour estimates

The *Niroku* says that General Kuropatkin has reached Port Arthur at the head of ten thousand picked troops. Some newspapers are quite delightful in their method of spiriting big bodies of troops about through space. The magician's magic carpet becomes a reality in their creed.

It is stated on good authority that orders for mobilization have been issued to the Siberian army, and that Lieut-General Stessel will command the third army corps.

The newly organized Russian Rifle Brigade consists of 35 or 36 regiments.

The news is confirmed that the rails will be laid on the ice across Lake Baikal by the 29th instant.

Hongkong states that the East-Chinese Railway has now been appropriated solely for military purposes.

The Russians are unquestionably moving forces from Liaoyang to Fen-hwan-ching.

The Russian man-of-war lying at Newchwang has made several attempts to break the ice and emerge from port, but she has not succeeded.

The Russian forts on the left bank of the Liao are said to be garrisoned with half a company of artillery.

The Russian troops from Tehling have been moved to the right bank of the Liao.

Japanese securities continue to rise ever since the news of the first naval successes. The four-per-cents, which stood at £67.10*s*, on the 8th, reached £69.10*s*. on the 12th; the five-per-cents. rose from £79.10*s*. to £82.3s. 6¼*d*. on the same dates and the endorsed war-bonds from £79 to £82.13*s*.9*d*. On the other hand, Russian securities (four-per-cents) fell from 97¼ on the 7th to 90 on the 11th. They had stood at 101.40 on the 17th of December. These figures would seem to show that European opinion has undergone, or is undergoing, a radical change. Should Russia suffer some reverses on land, the effect upon her financial credit will be signal.

It is alleged that the Chinese inhabitants of Vladivostock, to the number of over 30,000, are preparing to take their departure and have hired a steamer for the purpose. A great many steamers would be needed for such an exodus.

It is stated that all the Russian troops have moved from Mukden with the exception of a hundred who are engaged guarding the railway. Doubtless the idea is to replace the garrison with troops now *en route* from Russia.

The Japanese subjects who have made their way from various parts of Manchuria to Shanhaikwan, number 270, it is said. One of the steamers connected with the Kaiping mine is to carry them home to Japan.

It is reported from Tientsin that a detachment of French troops is to start thence for Chemulpo.

General Ma's soldiers, to the number of 25 battalions, were expected to reach Shanhaikwan on the 17th.

The intervention of the American Representative has been successful in effecting the release of about 100 Japanese subjects who were detained by the Russians at Mukden, Liaoyang, Tashikiao and Newchwang. Our readers will remember a recent statement attributed to Mr. Consul Segawa that after the departure of the Japanese fugitives from Port Arthur by the *Wan-chow*, one or two were left in Manchuria. Apparently that was an error.

The *Wanchow* seems to have gone round by Chemulpo, where she landed a number of her Japanese passengers.

CONFIRMATIONS AND ——

It is interesting to put the following items of intelligence side by side:—

> Official from St. Petersburg, Feb. 11th:—The *Cesarevitch*, the *Retvisan* and the *Pallada* continue afloat. Measures are being taken to get them into the inner roadstead.
>
> St. Petersburg Feb. 11th (later):—The injuries suffered by the *Cesarevitch* and the *Retvisan* are not grave. Both vessels took part in the defence of Port Arthur on the following day.

If the Viceroy's allegations in these two telegrams—supposing that he is in any way responsible for the second statement—be truthful, they are amazingly enigmatical. If they be untruthful, they are curiously clumsy.

The first message was despatched after the fight on the 9th; that is to say, on the afternoon of the day subsequent to the torpedoing of the two iron-clads. At that time according to the Viceroy's official report, the two ships were still afloat and measures were being taken to get them into the inner roadstead. In fact they were so disabled as to be incapable of moving without aid. But happily they had not sunk. They were still afloat.

The second message, despatched a few hours later, alleges that the iron-clads were so little injured as to be able to take part in a battle subsequent to receiving their injuries. They were torpedoed at about midnight on Monday. They took part in a battle at noon Tuesday. And immediately after the battle they were found to have suffered so much from the torpedoes on the previous night as to be unable to move though still, happily, afloat. In short, they made a miraculous recovery between midnight on Monday and mid-day on Tuesday; and then on Tuesday afternoon they had a dreadful relapse, becoming so sick that they could not move; and then suddenly on Tuesday evening they are almost quite well again. Evidently it was a gross misconception to predict that the Russians would be inconvenienced by the want of docks. Their ships are endowed with a *vis mediatrix naturæ* which enables them to dispense with all extraneous aid.

Governor Sufu decided on Feb. 10th to capture the Russian steamer *Kotik*, which has been lying at Yokohama for some months, on the ground that she is not employed in mercantile purposes. On Saturday afternoon, the *16th Kannon Maru* arrived in port and having got up steam the *Kotik* with a prize crew and under escort of the *Kannon Maru* left for Yokosuka.

THE WAR SPIRIT.

(CONTRIBUTED.)

On the afternoon of the 5th the big garrison town of——was thrown suddenly into a fever of excitement by the arrival of mobilisation orders. For 5 or 6 days subsequent to that the troops came pouring into the town from all quarters by every train. Hardly standing room was to be found in the carriages during those days. Freight cars were in many cases loaded with men. The enthusiasm was tremendous. The troops were greeted at every station with loud *banzais* and on their arrival at their destination received a perfect ovaion. The whole city has been a scene of busy activity ever since. Hundreds of temporary buildings have been run up; every available stopping-place has been requisitioned. All the school grounds in the large town have been made use of by the military for the collection of carts and other military equipments, the training of horses, or what not. Day and night the work of preparation has been going on. At the first station on the road a large number of extra rails have been laid, and to-morrow and next day (the 17th and 18th) will witness a great exit of men all equipped for war. On the afternoon of the 16th the citizens, including many foreign residents, invited the officers in command of the Division and certain officers belonging to the Reserve, numbering in all over 500 to a farewell entertainment. The grounds were prettily decorated with flags. Fireworks were let off and the departing soldiers were addressed in a calm, simple and most impressive manner by the Governor of the *Ken* and by one or two other representative men. The Commander of the Division, replied in a few well chosen words. There was no boasting and no clap-trap of any kind. The tone was one of quiet assurance. The citizens were told that they could entrust their interests to the Japanese army, which would not fail to defend them to the best. The quiet determination displayed by the officers was regarded by all present as one of the happiest of omens. "We shall come back conquerors or not at all," was what more than one friend of the present writer said on this memorable occasion. At the request of one of the leading citizens, a representive of the American and English citizens of Sendai wished the commander and his fellow-officers good luck in the coming struggle and expressed the hope that they might come back unscathed. The General replied that the large attendance of foreigners at the farewell entertainment was a source of great satisfaction to him as it showed that those who were present thoroughly sympathized with the Japanese nation in the great war on which they had now entered. The foreigners present then led hearty cheers for the three chief officers of the garrison. It was estimated that not less than 1,500 persons were present. After a standing meal the company dispersed at about half-past five. The same evening a huge lantern procession, consisting of students from all the principal schools, marched round the city, singing war songs. We read in the *Jiji Shimpo* that the Minister of Education has expressed his disapproval of these processions in Tokyo. The *Jiji* thinks that the Minister is wrong in taking this view; and that the display of feeling witnessed on such occasions as the present is quite natural and to be encouraged. We hear on good authority that the Minister has no objection to a lantern procession *per se*, as long as it leads to no violence. Were this not his view the School in question would hardly have sanctioned the procession of the 16th. Regarded from some points of view war may be a very terrible thing, but what moral force is there in the world that will awaken a whole nation into energy and enable it to make the most tremendous sacrifices with exultant hearts in the way that war does? At the present moment throughout the length and breadth of this country extending away to remote mountain hamlets a side of Japanese human nature is revealed whose presence most of us would hardly suspect in tranquil times. No nation has ever entered on a big struggle with more enthusiasm or greater confidence in the justice of its claims than is now felt by the whole of the Japanese people.

KOREA.

Friday, February 12.

We learn that M. Pavlov's departure from Seoul was by his own desire. He expressed a wish to take advantage of the presence of the French frigate *Pascal* at Chemulpo in order to leave Korea, and the Japanese Authorities agreed to facilitate his departure. M. Pavlov left Seoul on the morning of the 11th. Guards were supplied by the Japanese for his journeys to the station and to Chemulpo. It was arranged that the *Pascal* should also give passage to the wounded Russians, and that if any were thought incapable of supporting the voyage to Shanghai, they might be put ashore at Chefoo.

Saturday, February 13.

It is stated that at the request of the Emperor of Korea, who appears to have acquired some measure of freedom from alarm, Mr. Hayashi, Japanese Representative in Seoul, has informed the Korean Government that as Russia's procedure in Eastern Asia threatens to create disturbance and imperils the maintenance of peace, Japan proposes to take steps to restrain her.

The Emperor's idea of taking refuge in the French Legation or running away somewhere is said to have been abandoned. We believe that Seoul is now in virtual occupation by a Japanese military force, so His Majesty's mood has an element of inevitable resignation. Of course in saying that the city is militarily occupied we do not mean that the administration of the Korean authorities has been interfered with more than is inevitable in the circumstances. The London *Spectator* makes the allegation that if Russia is fighting to purloin Manchuria, Japan fights to appropriate Korea, both acts alike being morally wrong. Japan is not fighting to appropriate Korea. Even the *Spectator* can not pretend that she would have extended a hand towards it had not its independence been menaced by Russian aggression.

A telegram from Chin-nam-po says that since the departure of the Japanese from Wiju, the Russians have been behaving with great lawlessness in that town.

Chemulpo wires that the Japanese have taken possession of the Russian coal depot on Wolmi island. Eight hundred tons of coal were found there. The place has been converted into a Japanese depot.

There is a rumour that a collision occurred on the 12th instant between Russian and Japanese soldiers in Seoul, and that there was a heavy list of casualties on each side. We can not believe this, as M. Pavlow was attended by the Russian Legation guards when he left Seoul on the 12th. Besides there is no official report as yet.

Sunday, February 14.

Mr. Hayashi reports, under date of the 13th instant from Seoul, that the Emperor of Korea has sent a quantity of *sake* and tobacco for the Japanese troops.

Tuesday, February 16.

The *Official Gazette* of the 15th instant states that on the 10th instant M. Pavlow signified, through the French Representative in Seoul, his desire to leave the Korean capital, and his wish that the Japanese Minister should be consulted on the subject. The French Minister, in carrying this message to Mr. Hayashi, added that after M. Pavlow's departure, his Legation should be taken charge of by the French who would place a small guard there. Mr. Hayashi, on receiving this intimation, offered to entrust to Japanese troops the duty of escorting M. Pavlow safely to Chemulpo, where he might embark on the *Pascal*, and further undertook to provide every facility, subject to instructions from Tokyo. The Minister of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo, however, telegraphed that M. Pavlow should be escorted by his own Legation Guards, arms in hand. Ultimately the Japanese Authorities employed Japanese troops and gendarmes to ensure M. Pavlow's safety in Seoul and Chemulpo, for which office they were duly thanked by the departing Minister and by his French colleague.

It is officially announced that the Emperor of Korea sent his Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Japanese Legation on the 13th instant to offer congratulations on the Japanese naval victory. His Majesty added that in view of Korea's position her gratification at the success was equal to that of Japan. The Minister also said that he had received his Sovereign's orders to instruct the local authorities throughout the country to place at the disposal of the Japanese troops all inns in districts traversed by them, to supply all necessaries at far as possible, and to afford every facility.

Mr. Miyasu, Japanese Consul in Seoul, telegraphs that at 3 a.m. on the 15th instant fire broke out in the Japanese quarter of the city and destroyed some 200 houses. The troops rendered great assistance in subduing it.

Wednesday, February 17.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* has a telegram from Seoul, dated 2 p.m. on the 15th, to the effect that thirty thousand Russian troops reached Anju on the 14th instant. Anju is a place about 75 miles north of Seoul. We regard this rumour as altogether untrustworthy. Thirty thousand men are not moved about like a small pic-nic party, and even supposing that Russia's operations in the direction of the Yalu had all the alacrity attributed to them, it is virtually impossible that such a force could yet have penetrated into Korea. A rush for Pyong-yang would certainly be at once picturesque and daring. Could the Russian troops occupy that place in force before the Japanese were in a disposition to dispute their action, an exceedingly critical situation would be created, for Pyong-yang has great natural facilities for defence.

Thursday, February 18.

Messrs. Hyon Sang-kon and Li Yong-ik appear to still retain some hope of obtaining currency for their pro-Russian proclivities. They are said to have petitioned the Throne in the sense that it is the habit of the Japanese to trumpet abroad their successes and conceal their defeats. Hence the silence that has prevailed since the 9th instant may perhaps mean that the Russians have turned the tables. His Majesty is recommended, in short, to sit on the fence, if possible.

Meanwhile the poor Emperor is said to be anxious to manufacture a cabinet that shall consist of *personæ gratissimæ* in Japanese eyes, but being unable to obtain any clear indications as to Japan's likes and dislikes, His Majesty is in a quandary of the proverbial kind:—"If I stop I shall be frozen; if I go on, I shall fall."

The *Kokumin* says that Mr. Hyon Sang-ton's deprivation of office has been the outcome of his recommendation that Russian troops should be employed for the protection of Korea. On the whole we think that Mr. Hyon is to be pitied. A visit to Russia is enough to turn the head of any unsophisticated subject of the Hermit Kingdom.

Friday, February 19.

Our readers will not be surprised to learn that the alleged arrival of some twenty thousand Russian troops at Anju in Korea, is now regarded as an apocryphal event. But rumour persists that some Cossack cavalry, apparently the advance guard of a larger force, have penetrated from Wiju towards Seoul. It would be a bold enterprise for the Russians to invade Korea from the direction of the Yalu, but that they could preserve their communications with Manchuria having lost the command of the sea and being exposed to attack from the mouth of the Yalu is not credible.

It is stated on good authority that with the exception of a few scouts, no Russian soldiers are south of the Yalu.

CHINA.

Sunday, February 14.

On receipt of intelligence of the doings of the Japanese ships at Chemulpo and Port Arthur, the *Peking Times* published the news and called it a Japanese victory, to the great exultation of both Chinese and Japanese in that city. Thereupon—we are quoting from the *Jiji's* correspondence—the Russian Legation took steps to contradict the news, by declaring that, as a matter of fact, the Japanese navy had suffered a defeat. Naturally credit was placed in this official statement, but presently Reuter's telegrams arrived quoting the report of Viceroy Alexieff himself, and it became apparent that the original intelligence had been substantially correct. There resulted a strong revulsion of feeling. The Japanese residents assembled at their Legation and made the welkin ring with shouts of *banzai* and the Chinese were scarcely less enthusiastic. In fact the latter showed some symptoms of including the demolition of the Russian Legation in the incidents of their demonstration, and the authorities accordingly decided to suppress the *Peking Times*.

Tuesday, February 16.

Mr. Ijuin, Japanese Consul at Tientsin, reports the receipt of intelligence from Mr. Segawa, formerly Japanese Consul at Newchwang, that a party of 250 Japanese retiring from Harbin and other places in Manchuria, experienced very cruel treatment at the hands of the Russians in Mukden and Tashikiao, and were finally sent to Port Arthur. Mr. Segawa, who had reached Chefoo before this news came to him, applied to the United States Consul in Newchwang to make representations to the Russian authorities, but the latter replied that Russia would look after the Japanese subjects in Manchuria and that orders had been issued for them all to be sent to Port Arthur. The United States Consul had no recourse except to convey this information to his Government *viâ* the Legation in Peking.

Wednesday, February 17.

Tientsin reports that on the night of the 10th the Kaiping-Tashikiao and the Newchwang-Tashikiao lines of telegraph were again cut by mounted bandits. It is further stated that 800 bandits have made their appearance at Haicheng and killed or wounded some 50 of the Chinese regulars. On the other hand, the Chinese telegraph from Kanfongtsz to Newchwang is said to have been cut by Russians.

Thursday, February 18.

The *Asahi* has a telegram from Peking saying that the Court has abandoned its idea of returing to Hsian.

Rumours indicate that the Russians are not disposed to acknowledge China's ability or right to include in her sphere of strict neutrality the region westward of the Liao River. This region is certainly part of Manchuria, but it is the part supposed to have been handed back by Russia to China. The supposition is not satisfactory to Russia at the present moment, and she is inclined to dispute its validity. So rumour says, at any rate, but it seems to us that Russia can not be very desirous of having China on her shoulders as well as Japan. If she compel China to enter the field, can she reckon on French aid?

News from China says that 20 battalions (10,000) Chinese troops were to leave Paoting for Shanhaikwan on the 17th instant, and that the railway guards were to be reinforced by over a thousand men from Peking.

A telegram from Tientsin to the *Asahi Shimbun* says that the Russians made application to the Governor-General of Manchuria to have the East-Chinese Railway guarded by Chinese troops. The Governor-General replied that he had not troops enough. Have the Russians?

THE SULTAN OF JOHORE.

The Sultan of Johore arrived in Colombo on the M.M. steamer *Salazie* on the 8th January and continued his journey to Europe the same afternoon. The Sultan is accompanied by his mother-in-law and a large suite. He is taking all his furniture to Europe with him, and had on board a 38 horse-power French motor-car, on which he intended to travel through France from Marseilles. After a tour through that country, he will go straight to England and afterwards travel through Norway. The Sultan is about to sell a large number of his race-horses, preparatory, it is rumoured, to breaking up his establishment altogether. It is indeed stated, on what authority the *Hongkong Daily Press* is not certain, that the Sultan is in negotiation with the British Government with a view to placing his dominions under their control; receiving in their stead, a large annuity. He has sold his yacht and recently purchased a new thousand-tonner. The Sultan has a country seat in England, where he may settle down.

The International Banking Corporation have taken over the business of the Guaranty Trust Company of New York at Hongkong, Shanghai and Manila.

THE "MANJOUR."

The presence of the Russian gun-boat *Manjour* in Shanghai is evidently creating an interesting complication. According to international law a belligerent's public vessel can not remain in a neutral port for more than 24 hours during a state of war. On behalf of the *Manjour* it might perhaps be claimed that although hostilities between Japan and Russia actually commenced on the 8th instant, war was not openly declared until the 10th by Japan and until the 12th by Russia, and that, consequently, the vessel had a right to remain in Shanghai until the 11th at any rate. But after that her presence there became palpably illegal, and as Japanese merchantmen plying to Shanghai lie under a constant menace so long as a Russian gunboat is in the Yangtze, it becomes China's imperative duty to see that the *Manjour* leaves without an hour's delay. Mr. Odagiri, Consul General of Japan in Shanghai, has brought this matter to the notice of the Chinese Authorities. Meanwhile the *Manjour* is said to be loading munitions of war from the storehouse of the East Chinese Railway Company and to have taken on board a considerable quantity of coal over and above her bunker capacity. Where she is to go to, however, when she emerges from the Yangtze is a curious question. Port Arthur is her nearest place of refuge, but that would be a hazardous voyage. Her better chance would be to head southward in the hope of making Saigon, where she could get coal for the homeward voyage.

The *Chuo* has a somewhat incredible telegram from Shanghai saying that the captain of the *Manjour*, being pressed by the Chinese authorities to take the gun-boat out of the river, chose the alternative of depriving her of fighting capacity. He landed all her guns, allowed her crew to disperse, and took himself away to some quarter not yet discovered. That would be an amusing and clever incident. One almost hopes that it may prove true, but the source is apocryphal.

It has proved to be untrue that the Russian gunboat *Manjour* has landed her armament and dispersed her crew at Shanghai. She has been lying in the river apparently undecided which course to pursue.

Our readers may remember that the *Manjour* was spoken of as being in dock at Nagasaki. It turns out that the ship in dock there was the *Manchuria*.

BARON ROSEN.

Baron Rosen, Baroness Rosen, Prince and Princess Kudacheff and the staff of the Russian Legation, left Tokyo by 9.10 p.m. train on the 11th instant. The road from the Legation to Shimbashi station was lined with police, and at the station there was a large guard of gendarmes. A guard also accompanied the train. In the carriage were placed three large bouquets of flowers, souvenirs from the ladies of the Corps Diplomatique, all the members of which assembled at the station to say farewell, except the Chinese and Korean Ministers. The railway officials sent vehicles specially to the Legation to transport the baggage, and the Chief of the Railway Bureau himself attended on the platform to afford facilities. Those who attended to say good-bye numbered about a hundred and fifty, prominent among the Japanese being Viscount and

Viscountess Tanaka, Viscount Enomoto, Mr. Chinda, Marquis and Marchioness Nabeshima, Count and Countess Toda, almost all the high officials of the Household Department and the Foreign Office and many other notables. The Baron and his party embarked on the *Yarra* on the evening of the 11th.

The *Yarra*, which carried 28 Russian subjects from Yokohama, including Baron Rosen and the Tokyo Legation Staff, received another contingent of 97 at Nagasaki, 92 of whom were for Shanghai. Included in the Nagasaki contingent were the staff of the Russian hospital. There are still over 30 Russians who have decided to remain in Nagasaki, where they will doubtless live very placidly and happily.

It appears from a telegram sent by Mr. Hayashi, that the *Yarra*, having on board Baron Rosen and the Legation staff as well as the Russians leaving Nagasaki, called at Chemulpo *en route* for Shanghai.

RUSSIA'S DECLARATION OF WAR.

The text of the Emperor of Russia's declaration of war has been received in Tokyo and published in Japanese. It runs as follows:

I inform my loyal people that with the object of maintaining the peace which I always have at heart, I have done everything in my power to promote tranquillity in the Far East. In pursuance of that object I consented, at the request of the Government of Japan, to revise the conventions between the two Empires, but without awaiting the conclusion of the negotiations undertaken for that purpose, and without waiting to receive my answer to her last note, Japan informed me that she abandoned the negotiations and severed diplomatic relations with my Empire. Thereafter, without any warning that this severance of diplomatic relations meant war, the Japanese Government sent its torpedo vessels to attack my ships lying outside Port Arthur. Immediately on receiving this report from my General, I gave orders that arms should be taken up in answer to Japan's challenge.

In adopting this decision I pray for the aid of Providence, and I doubt not that my loyal subjects will all come forward for the defence of their ancestral country. I entreat Almighty God's protection for my illustrious Army and Navy.

ARRIVAL OF THE NEW CRUISERS.

The *Nisshin* reached Yokosuka yesterday (16th) at 8 a.m. and the *Kasuga* a few hours afterwards. A certain measure of anxiety has been felt about the ships during the latter part of their voyage. It seemed at one time as though they were to be unfortunate, for they arrived at Singapore just after a strike of coal-heavers had commenced, and a few days' delay might then (3rd February) have been fatal. However, to the great relief of the Japanese the two fine vessels are now safe, Their armament, however, is not yet in position, and it is probable that some three weeks must elapse before they are quite ready for sea.

The officers and crews of the *Nisshin* and the *Kasuga* had a great reception at Yokosuka on the 17th instant, and at Yokohama and Tokyo the experience is to be repeated on the 18th and 19th respectively. The ships left Singapore on the 6th instant, having spent 4 days there. They came on straight to Japan not calling anywhere *en route*. The *Nisshin* had 4 Japanese officers on board. The rest of her complement consisted of 113 British subjects, 30 Italians, 40 Arabs and 30 Chinese. The Arabs and the Chinese were employed *en route*. The details of the *Kasuga's* crew are not stated, but her total complement was 214, among them being 7 Japanese.

The *Nisshin* was commanded on her voyage out by Captain Lee and the *Kasuga* by Captain Poynter.

These officers, who commanded the *Nisshin* and the *Kasuga* on the voyage out, were yesterday received in audience by the Emperor.

A Garden party was held on the afternoon of Feb. 18th at the Recreation Grounds for welcoming the officers who brought out the warships *Nisshin* and *Kasuga*. Governor Sufu, Mayor Ichihara, and other prominent merchants in Yokohama were the committee for the purpose. At 2.20 p.m. the foreign crew of the warships arrived at the garden accompanied by the officials of the Kencho and the City office.

For the *Kasuga*: Lieut. Boyle, representative of Armstrong & Co., Commander H. H. Poynter, Mr. T. C. Nichols, Mr. D. E. Freemantle, Mr. J. White, Mr. W. G. Missen, Gunner C. H. Painter, Chief Engineer B. Guiseppe, 2nd Engineers R. Roberts, A. Oresti, and F. Michele, paymaster P. Moscatelli, and for the *Nisshin*, Capt. J. F. Lea, Mr. W. Hell, Mr, M. Shield, Mr. Arthur Mead, Mr. F. Eck, Dr. B. A. S. Aylward, Gunner F. H. Paster, Purser A Comilie, Chief Engineer E. D. Pecci, 2nd engineers A. Scoutarini, R. Pontremoli, and L. Vattino, and electric engineer M. Michili were present at the ceremony.

Mayor Ichihara delivered a brief address:—

GENTLEMEN,—We are assembled here to welcome you to the city of Yokohama and to tender you our hearty thanks for the gallant service you have just rendered our country in safely navigating to our shores the new cruisers, the *Nisshin* and the *Kasuga*. As our good friends who have arrived here from the distant shores of the West you would be our welcome guests even in ordinary times. But you have come at this critical period of our country's history some of you as citizens of Great Britain, our esteemed and faithful ally, and some of you as citizens of Italy, our honoured and sympathetic friend, in one of whose noted cities these cruisers were constructed. Late officers of the *Nisshin* and the *Kasuga*, in slight recognition of the mission you have so faithfully and promptly executed, I take great pleasure in extending to you in the name of my country, a most royal and hearty welcome to Japan. Is it not natural and appropriate that the whole nation should have been waiting for your arrival and preparing to welcome you to our shores? Gentlemen, as the foremost sea port of this country and at this front gate of our Imperial Capital, we have the honour and satisfaction at this early date to extend to you our most hearty greetings. It is with extreme sorrow that I must say to you that this country is now on the verge of what may become a most destructive and momentous war, and it is with an aching heart that Japan has been forced to arms in order to preserve her own integrity. It has been declared that the Japanese are warlike; this contention we emphatically deny, we do not like war. But when the independence of our nation [illegible] endangered and when for the sake of ultimate peace and progress of civilization it is necessary to take up arms, we shall fight and we shall fight hard. The causes which have impelled Japan to this conflict are known to the civilized world, and require no apology from me. To this world jury, whose verdict has already been foreshadowed by many expressions of sympathy and good will, we are content to submit the justice of our cause. Now at such a juncture as this, the timely arrival of the *Nisshin* and the *Kasuga* will certainly be a material addition to the naval power of this country. And now, Gentlemen, we owe it to your gallant assistance and skilful navigation that these two armoured cruisers are able to join our squadron so early in the contest. We therefore have the honour to tender you our profound thanks for the very timely service you have thus rendered to our country at this critical moment of its history.

We feel proud of being called the England of the East, not only because we resemble that country in our insular position. but because we are also said to resemble its free, independent and enterprising people in so many respects. We might also be called the Italy of the East, if the beauty of natural scenery in our country and the artistic taste of our people be worthy of comparison with those of far famed Italy. Is it not particularly significant, then, that we meet here face and hand in hand in such friendly relations and in the cause of peaceful progress and enlightenment of the world? Gentlemen, consider Japan as your country while in the East; the whole land with its variety of natural scenery and monuments of art as well as the hearts of the people are open to welcome and entertain you. May you feel perfectly at home and may your stay in this country be long and pleasant. I now have the honour to present you with a slight token of our regard and esteem, which I trust will be a pleasant souvenir reminded of this happy occasion.

Mr Saito, an interpreter of the Yokohama Municipal Office then presented to the foreigners a silk *Habutai Fukusa* of 2 feet square lined with silk *shiose* on which was embroidered a looking glass of the Japanese olden time with gold yard and displaying the words *Nisshin* and *Kasuga*.

Mr. Boyle, representing Messrs. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., who undertook to deliver the vessels to Japan, replied on behalf of the firm he represented and Captains Lea and Paynter, and the other officers. He thanked those assembled for the kind reception given them, and said they little expected such a function when they left Genoa. The arrival of cruisers of such power as the *Nisshin* and *Kasuga* was at the present juncture of great importance to Japan. The contract for the delivery of the vessels was signed on December 31st last, and on the 9th of January, at 4 o'clock in the morning, they started for Japan. As six days had been spent in harbour *en route* it would be seen they had not lost time in getting the vessels out. At Port Said they had come across the Russian fleet on the way out to the East, and it was an anxious moment for them to come in contact with possible enemies. He was glad to say they had left them far behind, and as far as he knew the Russian fleet was still where they left them. (Applause.) That was the most anxious moment, with the exception of the last few days between Singapore and Japan. They were hurried away from Singapore, and knew something had occurred as they neared the coast of Japan. He was glad to say, however, that they arrived in safety on the 16th, as they all knew. Japan was now passing through what was probably the most critical period in her history. War had been forced on Japan by the necessity of upholding her prestige, but there was no doubt that she would emerge from the struggle with added lustre to her name. That was the wish of the officers and crews of the *Nisshin* and *Kasuga*, and in their name he begged to present his thanks for the splendid welcome accorded them.

The entertainment was concluded about 5 o'clock. During the proceedings a hundred and two fireworks were displayed and the two bands of the navy, the masked dancers, acrobatic feats, spinning tops, pantomine dances, etc. were much applauded.

"THE DARLING OF THE GODS."

This, as our readers doubtless know, is the title of a play originally written by Mr. David Belasco and Mr. John Luther Long for production in a Washington theatre: it proved so popular in the U. S., that Mr. Beerbohm Tree took it across the water and has put it on at His Majesty's Theatre in London. It is described by the English papers as being beautifully, nay gorgeously, staged, but as one critic—writing in the *Academy*—says, the theme of the play is not essentially Japanese. It reminded him at times of such different works as "Romeo and Juliet" and "La Tosca.

Kara is an outlawed prince and the leader of the ten remaining *Samurai* who refuse to give up their swords in obedience to the edict of the emperor; the time chosen, therefore, is the parting of the ways between old and new Japan. The prince is beloved of the Princess Yo-San, who conceals him in her apartments when he is pursued by his arch-enemy, the minister Zakkuri. Complications naturally follow; Kara is captured by Zakkuri, and released, the price being Yo-San's betrayal of the hiding-place of the little band of *Samurai*. The outlaws are surrounded, and—Yo-San arriving too late to warn them—are slain in their endeavour to fight their way out, with the exception of Kara and two followers, who commit the "happy despatch," Yo-San also dying by her own hand. Then in a final tableau Yo-San aud Kara meet 1,000 years hence in the First Celestial Heaven.

A Mr. Yoshio Markino—so he spells his name in the *Academy*—seems to have been engaged in the production of the play, and we give below an extract from his critique:—

I gave a few hints to the chief artistes as to gestures and manner and these were enough, they have put them all through the play very naturully, although it must be very difficult when all comes only from memory. A Japanese who did not know English could follow the story. The gesture of Princess Yo San when she is bidden to kneel by her father is quite Japanese—so much so, that seeing it the old proverb came into my mind, "The grass is blue but this is bluer." Then when Prince Kara spills the hot tea on his hand Princess Yo San wipes his hand with her sleeve, this is very Japanese. And when she could not please the Prince with her song then she fetches his sword in silence and says, "Go to-night;" it is a very simple act, but very feeling.

It is not a Japanese play, but it has much like the play "Soga Brothers' Vengeance," in which Danjuro acted as "Kudo." Mr. Tree as "Zakkuri" is very much like Danjuro as "Kudo," and Mr. Gill's martyrdom is like "Kodanji's" in the same play; while Mr. Cookson resembles Yennosuke when he played in that play. Miss Ashwell's snakey movement, which is very Japanese, is like the movement of Kikugoro, a famous actor who played so well woman part, for in Japan we have not women actors, but men who are trained from five years old. In Japanese comedy people always find a character like Mr. Rose's "Tanda-Tanji."

One word of love-making: the English love-making on stage is to my mind like "toffy"—too sticky. In Japan it is more delicate, more like "whisky-and-soda," but the love scene in the third act of this play is now perfect. Japanese have a heart like Englishmen, but religion prohibited love and that made us hypocrites.

Another critic, a member of the staff of the London *Globe* says:—

"The Darling of Gods" furnishes opportunity for wonderful pictures and for superb acting, and is exactly the work to commend itself to a management so enterprising as that of Mr. Tree, one of whose characteristic and most assured triumphs it is. Quite impossible it is to convey in description an idea of the wonderful atmosphere that is obtained. It is, of course, as melodrama, lightened and enlivened with pictures of Japanese manners and customs that the whole is most noteworthy. It is, however, full of humour, the quaint spectale of Japanese courtesy and genuflection creates much amusement, and the stately politeness and formality with which the victims of Japanese injustice are invited to come and be killed is side-splitting. The dances and other entertainments are vastly pretty, the scenery is lovely, and the dramatic opportunities that are afforded are considerable. Nothing could be grimmer than the view of Zakkuri's swordroom, in which the weapons of deceased Samurai are offered at the shrine of the stern and many armed God of War, nothing lovelier than the views of the flowery land of the almond, nothing more wonderful than the sight of the chilly paradise we watch through the misty gloom of the nether world. The characters are finely conceived. Kara and Yo-San constitute a pair of deathless lovers. The former, in the hands of Mr. Basil Gill, is one of the most resolute and chivalrous heroes we can recall, while Miss Ashwell as the latter blends juvenile innocence and charm with tragic intensity and passion. In the hands of Mr. Tree, Zakkuri constitutes a marvellous creation. Bland and benign in exterior, he covers with a mask of courtesy Scarpia-like passions, and is perhaps the deadliest and most fateful being we can recall.

Finally we quote another observer. He writes:—The play does not grip hold of one's heart; there is a vague sense of evil fate hanging over the lovers; there is a thrilling murder of a spy; torture is talked of until it becomes commonplace. Yet the story is at bottom strong, the plot well put together, and the characters distinct. What then is lacking? Partly, I fancy, it was that the actors were over-anxious as to their behaviour in novel surroundings and under unusual conditions, which were overcome entirely only by Mr. Basil Gill who acted quite greatly as Kar, and Miss Lena Ashwell who was excellent as Juliet—I mean, Yo-San; partly, I believe, it was that Mr. Tree read his part wrongly. Granted that his conception of the character of the forbidding sensualist Zakkuri was right, he achieved all that an actor could hope to do, but surely his conception was wrong. Acted as Mr. Tree acted the part, Zakkuri had about him an air fatally reminiscent of the "Mikado."

JAPANESE ANIMALS.

An interesting small-type article on the fauna of Japan appears in the *Spectator*. After commenting on the wide difference to be noted between New Zealand and Japan in the matter of indigeneous animal and bird life, and the poorness of the domestic animals of Japan as compared with the wild species, the writer goes on to say:—

In Japan, equally with Northern China, the quadrumana are found further north than in other parts of the globe. The sight of humming-birds in the more or less temperate regions of the Pacific coast of North America is not so surprising as the presence of an active and prolific race of monkeys among the pine groves of Japan. They are rather large apes, with speckled red faces and a most unpleasant cast of countenance, and, to judge from the behaviour of those kept in captivity, have considerably more than the average degree of monkey intelligence. They seem quite indifferent to cold, though the forests which they inhabit are frequently visited by deep falls of snow. They are largely herbivorous creatures, devouring tree shoots, leaves, and other vegatables, and do not appear to invade the cultivated ground, as do the baboons of South Africa. They are adepts at throwing sticks and stones in self-defence, a trick which is well known to the natives in the forests which they frequent.

The red-deer and its varieties, such as the splendid stag known as the "maral" in Manchuria and Siberia, are not found beyond the limits of the continent. But in the Japanese or sika deer our Far Eastern allies possess an animal so handsome, hardy, and excellent as venison that its highly successful introduction into English parks is matter for congratulation. It is a short, sturdy, strong-looking deer, and the stags carry handsome horns, though by no means so large in proportion as are those of the Indian axis stag. In winter the fur is thick and of a dark brown, in summer it is of a bright fawn colour, dappled with white spots. The race is prolific, and the stags are so courageous that they have been known to fight and kill red-deer of far greater size when confined in the same park with our native stags. The fur seals still come to their old "rookeries" on one or more of the small islands belonging to Japan in the Behring Sea, but their number is rapidly dwindling there as elsewhere.

But it is in bird life that the natural history of the islands is most remarkable, and the list of interesting species is by no means confined to the wild ducks and cranes which are such a favourite subject in the national art. Among what may be called the "popular" birds of the country are the cuckoo and the "jenny wren," and it is somewhat curious that public fancy has always preferred to delineate the storks, cranes, ducks, and geese of the rice marshes and rivers rather than the birds of the garden and the field. If the cranes have a religious association, the same cannot be said of the other waterfowl. But every Japanese seems to be a florist and ornithologist by nature, and the case of observing the water birds, and the decorative character of their plumage, probably determined the popular preference for their presence, not only on their pools and ponds, but also in almost every form of picture and decorative design. Birds of prey are very numerous. Among these is a fine sea-eagle, not greatly differing from the splendid Korean sea-eagle, one of the largest of its race. The goshawk also breeds there in numbers, nesting chiefly in the pine trees. It was the favourite bird of the sporting daimios in the old days, and the young were regularly taken from the nests and brought up "at hack," much on the same principles as the goshawk is or was in Europe. They were flown at pheasants mainly, and also at cranes and geese, which were approached by the aid of a stalking-horse when feeding on the rice-fields and the stubbles in harvest-time. A very interesting bird, not exactly a "raptor," but allied in habits, is a large butcher bird. It preys on frogs, among other creatures, and lives mainly by the side of the reed-beds and water channels. The most striking of the Japanese game birds is one of the "copper pheasants," a brilliantly coloured but rather scarce creature. But the Japanese variety of the common pheasant [illegible] also a remarkable bird. In it the splendid green which decorates the neck only of the "English" pheasant, or the ring-necked Chinese species, is carried down over the whole breast. It is also larger than either the common or Chinese pheasant, and when crossed with these greatly improves the size of its progeny.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

The Railway Authorities announce that for the present there will be only 8 trains daily between Yokohama and Tokyo, the last train in the evening being at 7.40 o'clock. One effect of this is that we shall be unable to send the *Japan Mail* to Tokyo on the evening of its publication. It will have to leave Yokohama at 6.10 a.m. on the following morning, and its delivery to our Tokyo subscribers will consequently be later than has hitherto been the case.

Viscount Hayashi reports by telegraph that the British press and the British people have evinced the greatest enthusiasm over Japan's initial successes; that public opinion unanimously recognises the justice of her cause, and that demonstrations have occurred in her favour in London.

Russia, a Foreign Office telegram from Paris on Feb. 12th stated, is about to raise in Paris a loan of one thousand million francs at 5 per cent, the price of issue being 92.

Mr. Uchida, Japanese Consul in New York, telegraphs that his nationals have held a meeting, when they decided to subscribe as largely as possible for Japanese war bonds and for the Red Cross Society.

A state of siege has been proclaimed in the case of Nagasaki, Saseho, Tsushima and its neighbouring seas, and Hakodate.

Mr. Motono telegraphs from Paris that the Franco-Siamese treaty was signed there on the 13th instant.

The parliament of British Columbia has passed a law which went into operation on the 16th instant, requiring that every foreign immigrant must be able to read a sentence containing at least 50 English words, and that immigrants failing to satisfy that test must be carried back by the vessel in which they arrived.

The period of grace having expired on the 16th two Russian sailing rhips were seized on the 17th in Hakodate—the *Botik* and *Nazeshita*.

It is reported that Admiral Malaloff will replace the present officer in command of the Russian Far Eastern squadron.

It is announced that from to-day ordinary traffic on the Hiroshima-Ujina section of the Sanyo Railway will be suspended.

The German Minister of Marine, having obtained the Kaiser's sanction, has informed Mr. Inouye, Japan's Representative in Berlin, that the German Naval Hospital in Yokohama is placed at the disposal of the Japanese authorities for the use of the sick and wounded during the war.

The Red Cross Societies of Italy and Spain have signified their desire to contribute surgical instruments and articles for the assistance of the Red Cross Society of Japan.

It is stated on seemingly good authority that a defensive alliance has been concluded between Japan and Korea, and that the details will be published in a few days.

THE PORT ARTHUR FIGHT.

THE official account of the Port Arthur fight shows that all the stories previously received require to be greatly modified. Whence these stories emanated it is hard to say. Some of them lacked even the proverbial grain of truth, and others had an element of accuracy almost inexplicable when we consider that with the exception of Viceroy ALEXIEFF's telegrams and the vague reports carried by a passing merchant steamer, no communication took place between the scene of the attack and the outer world from the 8th until the afternoon of the 11th. The facts now seem pretty plain. Admiral TOGO commenced operations by an attack with destroyers. He does not himself say how many of these craft were sent in, but it is probable that Viceroy ALEXIEFF is pretty near the mark when he speaks of eight or nine. It is known that on the night of this attack the Admiral of the Russian Squadron and many of his officers were on shore, attending a theatrical performance—some accounts say a circus. Whether their absence impaired the vigilance of the fleet we can only conjecture, but at any rate the destroyers got within range and succeeded in torpedoing the two finest of the Russian iron-clads and a cruiser—namely the *Retvizan* (12,700 tons), the *Cesarevitch* (13,100 tons) and the *Pallada* (6,630 tons). Admiral TOGO, in his official account, which is studiously sober and carefully worded, does not undertake to indicate exactly the vessels hit by the torpedoes. He confines himself to saying that an ironclad like the *Poltava*, a cruiser which he took to be the *Askold*, and one or two other vessels were injured, but he describes the injury as "great." And in that he is certainly right, for although Viceroy ALEXIEFF's report, despite his general adherence to facts, seems disposed to minimize the hurt suffered by the three ships, and although the public are apt to be misled by such statements as that damage has been done to pumping apparatus and to steering gear, the Viceroy's official statement contains the all-significant admissions that the three ships are "still afloat" and that "measures are being taken to get them into the inner roadstead." In fact the ships are effectually crippled, and we venture to hold that opinion in spite of the latest news from St. Petersburg which speaks of the injuries as of little gravity. The vessels were not actually sunk, nor did they thus constitute an obstacle to ingress or egress, as rumour originally told us. But they were rendered incapable of motion without extraneous aid, and probably of resuming their place in the line of battle for many months. In fact, it is not apparent how they can be again made fit for service during the course of the war, unless they can be brought to Vladivostock, a feat which is scarcely within the range of presently apparent possibilities. The public are naturally anxious to know exactly how things fared with the Japanese destroyers and with the gallant men that took them into action. It is probable that the Japanese sailor is eminently qualified to use a torpedo effectively. When a certain line of duty has been indicated, either by his own convictions or by the obligations of his service, the average Japanese sets small store by his own life in comparison with the achievement of his purpose, and he is thus exceptionally competent to handle machines whose use involves heavy risks to the user. The performance at Wei-hai-wei nine years ago showed what may be expected from Japanese sailors and their torpedo-craft. As yet, however, there is no definite information about the fate of the boats that achieved the feat on the night of the 8th instant, a feat so valuable to their country. Admiral TOGO's report contains only a very brief allusion, namely, that the greater part had already rejoined the squadron at the time when he wrote his report on the 11th instant. From this it is to be inferred that some of the destroyers perished. From midnight on the 8th until the forenoon of the 11th, the interval was more than enough for them to get back to the squadron in all ordinary circumstances. There is a hope, however. Admiral TOGO says that owing to heavy weather it was not possible to communicate with each ship independently. Some of the destroyers may have taken shelter until the wind abated or may even have rejoined without their arrival being reported. But according to the present aspect of things, some perished in their brave essay. There had set out with the squadron nineteen torpedo-craft in all, but how many of them were destroyers, how many torpedo-boats, there is as yet no information.

On the forenoon of the 9th, Admiral Togo's squadron steamed for Port Arthur. It consisted of six line-of-battle ships, the *Asahi* (15,000 tons), the *Mikasa* (15,200 tons), the *Hatsuse* (15,000 tons), the *Shikishima* (15,200 tons), the *Fuji* (12,300 tons) and the *Yashima* (12,300); five first-class cruisers, the *Tokiwa* (9,750 tons), the *Azuma* (9.436 tons), the *Iwate* (9,800 tons), the *Yakumo* (9,850 tons) and the *Izumo* (9,800 tons); four second-class cruisers, the *Takasago* (4,300 tons), the *Chitose* (4,784 tons), the *Yoshino* (4,180 tons), the *Kasagi* (4,784 tons), and one gun-boat the *Tatsusa* (864) tons), sixteen ships in all, of which 15 alone can be regarded as fighting vessels. The whole were under the command of Vice-Admiral TOGO (H.), and there were also with the squadron Vice-Admiral KAMIMURA, Rear-Admirals MISU, TOGO (M.) and HOSOYA. Prince HIGASHI-FUSHIMI was on board the *Chitose*, Prince YAMASHINA on the *Yakumo* and Prince FUSHIMI on the *Mikasa*. The Russian Squadron's exact strength is not stated in any authentic report, but it may be taken to have been about 12 ships, of which 6 were line-of-battle ships the *Retvisan* (12,700 tons), the *Cesarevitch* (13,100 tons), the *Poltava* (10,950 tons), the *Petropavlovsk* (10,950 tons), the *Peresviet* (12,674 tons), and the *Pobieda* (12,674 tons); one was an armoured cruiser, the *Bayan* (7,800 tons), and two were protected cruisers, the *Askold* (6,500 tons), the *Diana* (6,630 tons), the *Pallada* (6,630 tons), the *Novik* (3,200 tons) and the *Boyarin* (3,200 tons). As to the last named vessel there is some uncertainty, and on the whole it will be safe to assume that the Russians had only eleven vessels, three of which had been put *hors de combat* during the night, so that 8 only were left to face the Japanese. A Norwegian steamer, which left Port Arthur on the evening of the 8th, reports that the garrison were then in the highest spirits and that they counted on completely destroying the Japanese fleet if it made its appearance. But it is plain that the tactics adopted were not calculated to destroy anything unless it came to be destroyed. The Russian squadron appeared to regard itself as part of the fortifications of Port Arthur. It lay under the shelter of the forts, and the officers in command never seemed to think of taking the initiative. Perhaps the circus was in some degree responsible. Perhaps the preliminary torpedoing of the two finest iron-clads had something to do with this passive line of procedure. Admiral TOGO tells us nothing of the range at which he opened fire. But inasmuch as he had to attack a fleet backed by heavy shore batteries, doubtless mounting guns of greater range than any on board his vessels, we may assume that he chose a long distance. The cannonade lasted about an hour. As to that, the accounts of the Japanese Admiral and of Viceroy ALEXIEFF tally. The Viceroy says that the Japanese squadron then drew off to the South—*se retirèrent* is the expression used in the French telegram. But if there were any question of retiring on the Japanese side, there certainly was no question of pursuing on the Russian, and we are inclined to think that the term employed by the Viceroy was "drew off." Admiral TOGO says that at 1 p.m., the attack having commenced at noon, the Russians steamed into the harbour, and he then abandoned the cannonade. We can well believe that the Russians passed into the harbour, for according to their own account four out of the remaining 8 ships had by that time been hit below the water line and therefore disabled. One of them was the line-of-battle ship *Poltava*, the others the cruisers *Diana*, *Askold* and *Novik*. On the Japanese side the damage suffered—apart from the still uncertain loss, if any, done to the destroyers—was that the *Iwate* had her top-hamper injured and the *Yakumo*, *Azuma* and *Izumo* were hit once each, but did not receive any material damage whatever. In fact, the fighting power of the Japanese squadron remained wholly unimpaired, whereas 8 Russian ships were disabled. That is a very remarkable record as illustrating the difference of gunnery on the part of the combatants. The Russians had both ships and forts, yet they accomplished virtually nothing—only three insignificatn hits on the Japanese hulls in an hour's cannonade. It is scarcely necessary to adduce the fact that the citadel was struck in proof that the Japanese squadron steamed within range of the forts.

The net result is that within 3 days of the rupture of diplomatic relations the Russian naval force has suffered the following reductions :—

	Tons.
Varyag	6,500
Koreetz	1,213
Retvizan	12,700
Cesarevitch	13,100
Poltava	10,950
Pallada	6,630
Diana	6,630
Askold	6,500
Novik	3,000
Totals 9 ships	67,223

RUSSIA'S DECLARATION OF WAR.

IT is a common saying that the Russians are clever diplomatists. If cleverness is to be judged by its fruits, that is a doubtful appreciation. What has Russian diplomacy accomplished in recent times? It has dragged the Empire's fair fame in the dust. That is its principal achievement. There is no country more thoroughly distrusted. Probably there never was a country more thoroughly distrusted. Wasteful promises wantonly broken have been the staple of Russia's State record all through the latest phase of her aggressions. She might have stood territorially just where she stands without having wrecked her moral reputation in getting there. If it be clever diplomacy to purchase small advantages at an immense price, then Russian diplomatists are clever. The TSAR's declaration of War is consistent with the doings that preceded it. HIS MAJESTY describes the negotiations which have ended in war as an attempt to revise the conventions between Russia and Japan with regard to Korea; an attempt made at Japan's request. The TSAR did not compose the Declaration. He has the reputation of being a sincere and upright man, and persons of that disposition do not behave with ridiculous insincerity. It is ridiculously insincere to say that Japan asked to have the conventions about Korea altered, that Russia consented, in the interests of peace, and that Japan, without awaiting the conclusion of the negotiations, appealed to the sword. That version ignores, and deliberately ignores, the whole origin and cause of the complication, namely, Russia's aggressions and flagrantly violated promises in Manchuria. But for those aggressions and those violated promises there had been no complication nor any rupture of good relations. Manchuria was the prime subject of discussion. If Russia had observed her written pledges to restore Manchuria to its rightful owner, the Korean problem might have remained as it was for a century. The TSAR's ministers labour under no delusion whatever as to that. They know, none better, that when they attribute the trouble to Japan's desire to revise the Korean conventions, they are deliberately throwing dust in the eyes of the nations. And such palpable dust too! It seems that Russia had not emerged from mediæval convictions. Mediæval methods she certainly has not dispensed with, and mediæval conceptions also appear to cling to her. She thinks that East and West are as far removed as they ever were; that they are still separated by an impenetrable cloud of mutual ignorance, and that Europe, being without means to decipher the truth about Asia, will swallow any falsehood. Hardly can one believe that they do imagine such things, and yet what other hypothesis will explain the glaring deception practised in this Declaration? Whatever be the explanation the thing is vastly clumsy. For every nation understands, and has shown plainly that it understands, the real source of the complication. A dignified declaration of war stating simply the inability of the two empires to arrive at an understanding with regard to questions of imperial importance, might have won some sympathy. But the poor trickery of the Declaration as it stands is contemptible and will be universally contemned outside Russia. The chicanery is thrown into stronger relief by comparison with Japan's Declaration, where the facts of the negotiations are plainly and simply stated and the judgment of the world is invited. However strongly Russian statesmen may have been tempted by habit to have recourse to guile in a diplomatic document, they might at least have remembered that public opinion had long suspected them of an intention to employ this very ruse—the ruse of baiting Japan beyond endurance and then laying on her the responsibility of the rupture—, and they might have understood that in comfirming the suspicion they would put illuminating touches to a poor, thoroughly paltry, record. Not the last touches, however. It was left to His Majesty the TSAR to complete the farce in his address to his officers, where he accused the Japanese of treachery because they attacked his fleet and his fortress in the night two and a half days after the officially announced rupture and two and a half days after Japan's officially announced resolve to take independently whatever measures her interests might seem to dictate. HIS MAJESTY's plaint irresistibly recalls the Chinese generals at the Tientsin forts when they appealed to Heaven to punish the French and British tricksters who had stormed the forts from behind, as they were never intended to be stormed.

THE RELIEF MEETING.

The meeting called by notice to consider the matter of contributing to the support of sufferers by the war was held on Tuesday in the Oriental-Palace Hotel. There was a large attendance.

Mr. N. F. SMITH said that as a preliminary step towards the formation of a proposed association he did not think he could offer a more popular or desirable name than that of Mr. J. P. Mollison, whom he moved to the chair.

Mr. WILLIAMSON JONES seconded and Mr. Mollison took the chair.

The CHAIRMAN asked the meeting in the first place to let him thank them for the honour done him in voting him to the chair on such an important occasion. Feeling as he did very strongly on this relief question he gladly accepted the office and could only hope that he would be able to fill it to their satisfaction (applause). He read the newspaper notice calling the meeting and went on to say :—

Gentlemen.—The newspaper notice seems to set forth very clearly the object of the Meeting, and very few words of mine are required to emphasize its importance. We all know what War means, and the incalculable amount of hardship and suffering that it brings in its train, and the object of our gathering is to try and alleviate that suffering so far as lies in our power. Most of us have lived some years in Japan, and some of us, like myself, have spent the best part of our lives here. We have got to love the country and to know its people; we have shared alike in their joys and their sorrows, and now that War with its dark shadows and impending suffering is upon them, it would ill become us sojourners in Japan, enjoying the hospitality of its government and earning our living most of us by means of trade with its people, to stand aloof and refrain from extending to them our sympathy and help, in their time of trouble. I am sure that everyone present has the same feeling of wishfulness to help, that I have myself and that one and all will give what they feel they can afford by way of furthering the object for which we are met here to-day. Naturally the first question to be considered is how best to deal with the funds that no doubt will be speedily forthcoming, and in this connection you will observe that the notice calling the meeting states that its object is purely humanitarian. I would strongly deprecate any political allusions or expressions of sympathetic bias one way or another on such an occasion. The relief of the suffering and the distressed must be our object and how best to attain that end the subject of our discussion.

Thousands of bread-winners are going out to fight their country's battles, leaving their families, I fear, in too many cases totally unprovided for; many wives and children to-day, will be widows and orphans to-morrow, and it is to these I think that we should endeavour to hold out a helping hand. Already it is known that families of reservists, called suddenly off to the War and compelled to abandon their employment, are in dire distress and these too should be the object of our assistance. How best to reach them is the question, and in order to get information on this vital point, I have in anticipation of this Meeting, been making enquiries at the Kencho here, and also in Tokyo. My friend Mr. N. F. Smith and I made a personal call on Governor Sufu, and were received as all foreigners are received by the Governor in the kindliest and most sympathetic manner. The various channels of relief were considered in turn and the following conclusion arrived at. That the Red Cross Society to which already considerable sums have been subscribed by foreigners is a large and wealthy body, never likely to be in want of funds, inasmuch as contributions will be forthcoming from all parts of the World in addition to those from Japanese sympathisers; and besides, if I understand the objects of the Red Cross Society rightly, they are to aid the wounded among the Military and Naval Men during the war, and them only. Governor Sufu strongly recommended to our consideration the Japan Ladies Patriotic Association, the object of which is to give assistance to the bereaved families of Military and Naval Men killed or who die of sickness, or of the Soldiers and Sailors who are crippled and unable to work for their wives and children. That, it seems to me, is an association eminently deserving of our support, in fact it just points to the cases that I said at the opening of my remarks it should be our object to assist. In support of this opinion, I may adduce one I have received from a well-informed source in Tokyo, which reads as follows :—

"Nothing better can be done than to hand all subscriptions to the Japan Ladies' Patriotic Association. These ladies reach the cases of really distressed and bereaved folks, who though deprived of their bread-winners, are not sufficiently relieved by the ordinary routine of official aid. I entirely agree with you that the Red Cross will be amply supplied with money."

The foregoing sets forth in a few words my own ideas exactly, except that I would not wish to see all the money subscribed handed over to any one Association. That would simply mean one subscription list, as meaning the beginning and end of our efforts. What I would rather see would be an Association formed with a permanent fund, always open, that could be drawn upon as required, to meet any cases of distress that came under its notice, and that it should be the special business of lhe Committee of such an Association to make the fullest enquiries with a view to affording help where most needed. We shall hope that the war just begun may be a short-lived one, but no one can tell, and if unfortunately it extends over a year or more the suffering will become wider and more accentuated, so much so that it might be necessary to repeat subscriptions to which end I think you will agree with me that a permanent fund in the hands of a permanent Association is absolutely necessary. This brings me up to the first resolution to be laid before this meeting, but before putting it forward I would like to add that another Society that Governor Sufu recommended to our consideration is one that was formed only a few years ago with the object of providing comfort and assistance to the families of the soldiers of the Kanagawa Prefecture during a time of war. Governor Sufu is President of the Association and naturally takes a keen interest in it. He would be pleased if we would take it into our consideration, and thankful for any contributions that might be made to it from our General Funds. There appears to be one admirable provision in connection with this Society and that is if funds contributed are in excess of these wants the surplus will be devoted to the relief of suffering families in other prefectures. Reverting to the Japan Ladies' Patriotic Association it will interest you to know that whilst His Imperial Highness Prince Kanin is Patron of the Red Cross Society, Her Imperial Highness Princess Kanin is Patron of the Japan Ladies' Patriotic Association. Count Masayoshi Matsukata is President of the Red Cross Society and Princess Hisako Iwakura, President of the Japan Ladies' Patriotic Association. Its Head Office is of course in Tokyo, but there are Branch Offices in many provinces, one at Yokohama under the able presidency of Madame Sadako Sufu, wife of our esteemed Governor.

In addition he read a copy of a letter from Bishop Awdry to whom he had written, being anxious to obtain the co-operation of Tokyo :—

> On Tuesday I have Committee meetings in Tokyo at 2 and 3 p.m. which I cannot miss. If they should be put off I would come to Yokohama but there is little chance of it. I hope, however, Mrs. Awdry will be at the meeting.
>
> Meanwhile I cannot help thinking that for most of the foreigners with whom I have most influence personal work in conjunction with Japanese committees for the wives and families of poor soldiers in the district where they live is likely to be the most fruitful thing. Of course such work must be coöperative with what others are doing, to prevent overlapping.
>
> This suggestion may perhaps be useful for your meeting, and in any case we should wish to know what other schemes are on foot and to work fully in harmony.
>
> We are already in communication with the "Aikoku Fujin Kwai" and some other organizations. Missionaries rarely have much money, but they know the Japanese poor better than other classes do and can give service and learn the detail and needs of those they serve.
>
> I certainly wish to be in your movement, but I cannot help thinking that when personal work is involved, and not merely subscription lists, Tokyo and Yokohama will have to be dealt with separately.

Mr. MOLLISON's speech was received with frequent bursts of applause. He closed by proposing: "That this meeting resolves itself into an association to be called the Yokohama and Tokyo Foreign Residents Association for the relief of sufferers by the War."

Mr. W. T. PAYNE seconded this and the motion was carried by acclamation.

THE CHAIRMAN said that in order to carry out the work of the Association it was necessary to have a strong and representative committee, probably about 15, representing all nationalities. Perhaps some gentleman might have thought of some names beforehand.

Mr. FRAZAR proposed a number of names, after which.

The CHAIRMAN invited nominations from Tokyo.

Mr. F. M. TEGNER proposed Mr. G. Barclay, Mr. Pors proposed Mr. Lehmann.

Mr. E. C. DAVIS thought the committee should be representative of all nationalities and in reply to Mr. A. G. M. Weale the Chairman said the preliminary committee had taken as their guide the subscribers to the International Association.

Mr. BARCLAY thought it was undesirable that only a British and a German subject should represent Tokyo. Messrs. R. S. Miller and Deguy were then proposed for Tokyo.

Considerable discussion then took place as to the constitution of the Committee, and eventually it was settled that a Committee consisting of Messrs. Mollison, Barclay, Pors, McIvor and Frazar should retire to reduce the list of names to workable proportions.

Various names were suggested in addition to those already mentioned and eventually the sub-Committee returned with the following list of names :—

British—Messrs. Hawkins, Mollison, Williamson Jones, James Walter, M. Russell, Rev Mr. Weston, Rev. Mr. Field. *American*—Messrs. Howard, Payne, Surth, N. F. Smith, E. Frazar, Rev. E. S. Booth, Mr. McIvor. *French*—Mottet. *German*—Pors and Holm. *Swiss*—Abegg. *Italian*—Casati. *Danish*—Tegner. *Indian*—Bhessania. *Chinese*—H. & S. Bank Compradore. *Dutch*—Klingen. *Portuguese*—da Silva. *Norwegian*—J. M. Jensen. *Austro-Hungarian*—J. Kuhn.

On the motion of Mr. E. Mendelson those names were put to the meeting.

Mr. HAMILTON seconded and the proposition was adopted, a further proposal by Mr. Mendelson that the Committee should have power to add to or otherwise modify their numbers being also adopted.

The CHAIRMAN stated that Mr. Barclay had kindly undertaken to get a Committee together in Tokyo and it was moved and seconded "that Mr. Barclay be empowered to get together a Tokyo Committee to be accepted by the Yokohama Committee as representative of Tokyo."

Mr. MENDELSON moved that the Committee be empowered to take such further steps as may seem necessary without reference to the meeting.

Messrs. MCIVOR and Thomas both seconded this and it was adopted.

A motion proposed by Mr. McIvor and seconded by Mr. A. Bellamy Brown that the foreign heads of missions in Tokyo and Bishops Awdry and McKim should be invited to serve as an advisory board was rejected.

This closed the proceedings.

CHRIST CHURCH.

The annual meeting of members and seatholders of Christ Church took place on Monday in the Masonic Hall, Mr. Jas. Dodds in the chair.

The notice calling the meeting was read by the Hon. Secretary and the Chairman then said he would take the minutes of last meeting as read.

The CHAIRMAN said as the report and accounts had been in the hands of seatholders they might be taken as read. They went so fully into the affairs of the church that he did not propose to amplify them by any lengthy remarks, and would leave any further information to be elicited by questions. The only thing calling for special remark was the resolution brought forward by the Committee as to the future management of the affairs of the church arising out of the legal opinion they had taken on the scope of the trust-deed, but with the meeting's permission he would allow this to stand over till the report and accounts were adopted—which of course would not involve the passing of the resolution.

Mr. E. W. KILBY, while thinking the report and accounts very satisfactory, called attention to the manner in which the offertories were given and pointed out that in reality there was an increase of 19 per cent.

The CHAIRMAN thought the accounts clearly showed that the offertories amounted to *yen* 3,101 that certain amounts were devoted to special purposes and there remained a balance of *yen* 2,530 available for the Church. He saw no reason why that should be misunderstood.

REV. W. P. G. FIELD thought the accounts should have been put in a different form, the offertories put down as so much and on the opposite side a detailed statement. He also pointed out that the offertories showed an increase of 19 per cent., and contended that the way adopted in these accounts was not the usual method of dealing with offertories.

MR. A. BELLAMY BROWN at this point seconded the Chairman's proposal as to the adoption of the report and accounts, and

THE CHAIRMAN having expressed the conviction that there was no desire to burk discussion and that the suggestions made would be considered by the new Committee, the report and accounts were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN then brought up the question of the Trust Deed. He said he might remark in that connexion that in view of questions so frequently arising as to the scope and bearing of the trust-deed on the general government and management of church affairs the Trustees deemed it desirable to take legal opinion in the matter and so put themselves in a position to answer all enquiries with due authority. With this view he formulated a number of enquiries for submission to counsel; these were supplemented by Mr. James and again by the late Mr. Kilby, and the reply was now before them in the form of an opinion from Mr. Litchfield who was placed in possession of all the church records and minute books and who had taken great pains in tracing back the history of the church from its first establishment. This opinion, together with a Supplement containing replies to points which were not quite clear he did not propose to read unless specially desired—they were there for reference in case of need, meanwhile he hoped the meeting might be satisfied with the digest, which had been circulated with the notice calling the meeting. It would be observed that it wound up with a practical suggestion as to the future government of the Church, which the Committee had adopted and now put before them in a special resolution. They did so in a formal way in order to bring on the question for discussion, but he might say that since the issue of the notice calling the meeting they had heard an expression of opinion that the appointment of four Trustees who were elected for life would give them too large a representation on the Committee and the present Committee would in no way feel hurt if their proposal were amended and the number of Committee be altered from 7 to 9. In bringing this proposal forward the Committee had behind them the opinion of Mr. Litchfield, who has seen the confusion that reigned in the past, and they supported it as being likely to promote smoother working in future, it being occasionally difficult to define where the duties of the trustees and those of the committee began. The question now before the meeting practically was whether they were in favour of a committee of 7, including the trustees, a committee of 9 including the trustees, or whether they preferred the old form of government, 4 trustees and a separate committee of 7.

The following was the digest of Mr. Litchfield's opinion :—

1.—That there has in the past been a general mix up of the functions and powers of the Trustees and Committee arising out of misunderstanding.

2.—That when Government aid was withdrawn a Trust Deed was executed vesting the property in four Trustees, who amongst other duties had to see that the services were conducted according to the Rites of the Church of England and as the trustees took up the functions formerly exercised by the British Consul, they also held the right of appointing the Chaplain.

3.—The Trustees are appointed for life subject to the conditions of residence in Japan and ability and willingness to act.

4.—The Trustees are not responsible to any but Seatholders or their representatives nominated in General Meeting to confer with Trustees.

5.—The Trust deed did not appear to contemplate a Committee other than the Trustees, and they were invested with full powers, but prior to the date of the Trust Deed, a Committee, whose term of office was annual, came into existence and has since continued to act as the body superintending the temporal affairs of the Church; so that the Trustees have exercised the powers formerly vested in the Consul and the Committee have attended to the temporal or financial affairs of the Church.

6.—The appointment of both Trustees and Committee lies with Seatholders duly qualified. Trustees for life. Committee annually.

7.—A general Meeting of Seatholders must be held in each year, early in the year, and at that meeting a Committee must be appointed to superintend the temporal affairs of the Church.

8.—Quorum at a General Meeting seven.

9.—The Chairman at all Meetings of Seatholders shall be the Chairman of Committee for the time being.

10.—*Qualifications to be present and vote.* Any person who has resided in Yokohama 6 months and has actually paid *yen* 20 Annual Subscription for one sitting *before* notice summoning meeting has been issued. No other is entitled to be present unless he has paid a contribution of *yen* 20 for the year in question, *i.e.* current year.

11.—No provision in Trust deed for Poxies, therefore not admissible.

12.—Banks and Firms holding more than one sitting have only one vote, which can be vested in one representative.

13.—Trustees have no right to refuse to let a seat to any person they may think undesirable.

14.—Seatholders can at any time call a general meeting under requisition signed by two Seatholders.

Recommendation by Mr. Litchfield. That new Rules and Regulations for government of church affairs should be drawn up and suggests that the general management of affairs be vested in a Committee of seven, of whom the permanent Trustees should *ex officio* form part and the other three members be elected annually.

Mr. E. W. Kilby said: I beg to propose an amendment to item No. 14 of the Digest of Mr. Litchfield's opinion on the Trust Deed, to read: "That the general management of affairs be vested in a Committee, consisting of the Incumbent 'ex officio,' the Trustees 'ex officio,' and certain other members to be elected annually." And I would suggest that, besides the Trustees and Incumbent, 2 or 4 other members be elected so as to make an odd number. I should like to say a few words in support of this amendment. Last year a proposition of a like kind was put forward after the Committee had been elected, and so ruled out of order. This proposition was discountenanced for three other reasons. 1st: That the Incumbent, though seats were held in the name of the Parsonage, had not paid for a sitting and, therefore, was not legally a seatholder, and therefore neither legally present, nor eligible as a member of the Committee. 2nd: That it would be injudicious and inconvenient to have the Incumbent on the Committee, lest questions of a personal character might have to be proposed or discussed in his presence. 3rdly: It was hinted that parsons were not as a rule what one could term "business men." To deal with the first point as to his eligibility to be present, and to stand for election on the committee. You must now all be aware that the Incumbent is present at this meeting by virtue of his own right, having himself subscribed to a sitting in Christ Church, and that, therefore, as a seatholder is eligible for election on the Committee. The incumbent, simply as the incumbent, would not be legally, by the ruling of the General Meeting held last year, either eligible for a place on the Committee or allowed to be present at this General Meeting. As to the inconvenience of the parson on the committee. Were a question put to the parson asking him to withdraw he would almost certainly do so. If, however, the parson declined to withdraw as he would have a right to do, (and this would be very improbable) what would there be to prevent any person, at all hazards, being perfectly outspoken about his opinion, even though they reflected discreditably upon the Incumbent. Provided his statements were just what would he have to be afraid of? It may interest you to know that at a Church Committee meeting in Australia (and things are much the same there as they are here) it was moved and seconded, the Incumbent being a member of the committee and himself present at the time, that the Incumbent's stipend should be lessened. This motion was, moreover, seconded, put to the meeting, and successfully carried. As to the third point, with regard to the parson, as a general rule, not being a business man. Take the report before you and look at the disbursements for the year. Who than the parson is more able to inform the Committee as to the value of an organist's services? or as to what should be paid the Choristers? or if the expenditure incurred by the use of Sacramental wine was justified? Who better than the dweller at the parsonage could state what improvement and repairs are required there? Who than the parson would have greater interest in the cost and erection of railings and walls round a church? Take any other items: Fuel, Light, Cleaning, Printing, Advertising, Stationery, Flowers, Decorations, Momban's expenses, &c., wherein would the parson be unable to give advice on these subjects, and whose advice would be more valuable than his? In every Church in England, the United States and Australia, the parson is always not only a member, but also the Chairman, of his Committee. The Pastor of the Union Church in this town is in a similar position. Why should we be in this respect different to every other parish. Do not all these points contradict the general opinion that the parson is not a business man? There is no doubt of it. You appreciate the incumbent. You have known him for two years. It is right for you to vote for him and I am sure you and your committee will find his advice and active interest in the affairs of the church of immense value.

Rev. Mr. Field, declaring that he had no share or part in bringing this matter forward, withdrew from the meeting while the discussion was going on.

The Chairman expressed himself as personally in favour of the chaplain being on the Committee.

Mr. P. E. F. Stone seconded Mr. Kilby's proposal.

After remarks from Messrs Bent, Stone and F. O. Stuart, Mr. Kilby said the incumbent should be on the Committee whether he was a seat-holder or not.

Mr. Bent at length moved that the Committee consist of four trustees *ex officio* and five members, to be elected at the annual meeting.

In reply to the Chairman,

Mr. H. C. Litchfield said that in considering the scheme under which the affairs of Christ Church had been managed hitherto he had to take for his guidance the old rules framed and founded first on an Act of Parliament and secondly on instructions from the British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. The trust-deed under which the trustees held office referred to those rules and that Act and in absence of any scheme adopted by a general meeting they must take it that the old rules were their constitution and government. Under them he found that any person paying pew rent was eligible to be present at a general meeting, but the question had now arisen as to the eligibility of the parson to be present at such a meeting and to be a member of Committee. Under the rules he could, it was evident, having paid pew rent be present and vote at this meeting. As to the second point the old rules said that the incumbent should have no part in the management of the temporal affairs of the church. He took it that the trustees and the committee were empowered to manage the temporal affairs—what powers they had as to the spiritual affairs was not now being mooted. The minister of the church he therefore thought was not eligible to be a member of the Committee. It was quite within the power of members of the church to frame a new scheme, but till they did so they must abide by the old rules.

Considerable discussion followed, in the course of which Mr. MacArthur asked what more the incumbent could do by being on the Committee.

In reply to the Chairman,

Mr. Litchfield said that even as a seat-holder the incumbent should not under the rules be a member of Committee.

The Chairman thought in view of the opinions they had received the matter should be deferred; to deal with it should be, he was going to suggest, the first duty of the new Committee.

Mr. Field had in the meantime been invited to re-enter the room (on the suggestion of Mr. Stone) and on his taking exception to the legal opinion, the Chairman, who had said he supposed the discussion was closed, remarked regretfully that it seemed he (Mr. Field) had been recalled too soon. This put everyone in a good humour and the meeting adopted Mr. Bent's amendment which had been seconded by Mr. H. J. Sharp.

Mr. L. J. Healing was then elected a Trustee of the Church in place of Mr. Dodds, retired, while the new committee elected were: Messrs. S. E. Unite (Hon. Treasurer and Secretary), P. E. Fred. Stone, P. S. Bent, W. F. Harley and C. V. Sale.

On the motion of Mr. A. Bellamy Brown, seconded by Dr. Tripler and Mr. Stone, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman particularly in his capacity as a retiring Trustee (in which post he had served the Church well and truly) and to the retiring members of the Committee.

This concluded the business.

In the course of the proceedings at the meeting of the seatholders of Christ Church on Monday the following communication was read:—

To the Congregation of Christ Church,
Yokohama.

Respectfully we venture to address you. Herewith we desire to offer you our grateful thanks for your kindness and sympathy towards us, and especially for your generous help towards our proposed new Church.

Signed, on behalf the Congregation of St. Andrew's Mission Church, Hinode-cho, Yokohama:
Sasaki Ryutaro.
Nishimura Tsunetaro.
Yoshida Hisatada.
Church Committee.

Yokohama, 8th Dec., 36th year of *Meiji.*

ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY.

The annual general meeting of the St. George's Society of Yokohama and Tokyo, was held at the Masonic rooms, Yokohama, on Tuesday afternoon, with Mr. James Walter, the President, in the chair. There were also present Messrs. L. J. Healing, A. G. Morey Weale, E. C. Davis, H. M. Arnould, H. W. Kilby, F. L. Elliott, F. T. Leak, A. C. Hutton Potts, W. H. Percival, S. E. Unite, J. Cole Hartland, E. J. Moss, jun., J. Hellendaal, F. J. Hall, V. R. Bowden, H. J. Sharp, R. Bowden, and A. Bellamy Brown, Honorary Secretary.

The notice convening the meeting having been read, and the minutes of the previons meeting taken as read,

The Chairman submitted the annual report and accounts. He said: It is satisfactory to be able to announce that we start the new year with a credit balance of *yen* 34.75. The anniversary of our Patron Saint was celebrated on April 23 last year with a Ball at the Public Hall which was most successful and very largely attended. The object of our Society is, as you know, mainly to bring Englishmen and Colonials of Yokohama and Tokyo together at least once a year to maintain our old traditions unimpaired and to get our friends together to rejoice with us on that occasion. Sad it is to have to record that we have lost by death here in Yokohama during the past year six of the oldest members of this Society, and we must took forward to our countrymen to fill the gaps. If there are any questions you may like to put upon the accounts I shall be happy to answer them to the best of my ability.

On the motion of Mr. H. J. Sharp, seconded by Mr. J. Cole Hartland, the report and accounts were unanimously passed.

The election of office bearers followed—Mr. Jas. Walter was reelected President by acclamation, on the motion of Mr. E. C. Davis seconded by Mr. J. C. Hartland; Mr. A. G. Morey Weale, in view of his approaching departure for England did not offer himself for re-election and Mr. L. J. Healing, on the motion of Mr. Sharp seconded by Mr. Hartland, was elected Vice-President; Mr. H. W. Kilby resigning the post of Treasurer, Mr. H. J. Sharp was elected to that position; Mr. A. Bellamy Brown being reelected Honorary Secretary. The Committee was then elected as follows:—Messrs. F. J. Hall, H. M. Arnould, C. Thwaites, A. J. Easton, and E. C. Davis.

The Chairman then said—Since our last committee meeting, held on the 2nd of February, gentlemen, we have drifted into very troublous times. This Empire of Japan, in which we live, and the Japanese, our Allies. are to-day engaged in a life and death struggle with one of the greatest of Occidental Powers, and we Englishmen realize unhappily only too deeply the awful sacrifices in life and suffering which this war must inevitably bring in its train, for have we not ourselves just emerged from a terrible conflict in which most of us have lost relatives, friends, or acquaintances. Under the circumstances I think it would be inappropriate to-day to take any measures for the celebration of St. George's Day, and I beg to suggest for your consideration that all discussion on this subject be postponed for one month when we may have a better idea how to act.—(Hear, hear.)

Mr. A. G. **Morey Weale** thought that it would be premature to say that day that a ball should, or should not, be held and he thought the Chairman's suggestion most advisable.

Mr. E. C. **Davis** concurred. To decide how St. George's Day should be celebrated could be brought up just as well a month hence. Had the Chairman heard if any Japanese entertainments had been given up?

The **Chairman** could not say with any certainty that he had.

After a short discussion an amendment that St. George's Day be celebrated with a Ball as usual, subject to abandonment if circumstances should so advise, was lost by a vote of 9 against to 4 in favour. The Chairman's suggestion was then carried, and the meeting stood adjourned for one month.

"*THE NEW BOY.*"

It is many years since the weary remnants of a travelling theatrical company, then touring the Far East, gave a colourless production of Mr. Arthur Law's farcical comedy "The New Boy" at the Yokohama Public Hall, so that, locally speaking, the play given here on Monday evening by the A.D.C. possessed all the elements of novelty. Originally produced at Terry's dainty little theatre in London, on February 21st, 1894, with Mr. Weedon Grossmith in the title *rôle*, "The New Boy" came into an immediate success and held the boards in London for a very long run indeed, the humour of its situations and the sparkle of its dialogue losing nothing in the competent hands that essayed it. The manner of its representation on Monday, too, left nothing to be desired, and a packed and enthusiastic house speedily testified to the successful weaving of one more wreath in the now heavy chaplet of laurels won by the Yokohama Amateur Dramatic Club.

The "inconvenience of having cousins" might be the sub-title of the play. Fifteen years before the curtain rises, *Mrs. Martha Rennick* (Mrs. E. C. Davis) is beloved by her cousin *Dr. Candy, LL.D.*, but before the pedagogue declares his passion another steps in and wins the charming girl. Fourteen years speed away and she is left a widow, with an only son, and then, unknown to *Dr. Candy*, she marries again: this time to *Archibald Rennick* (Mr. G. G. Brady), who is some ten years her junior. An unfortunate speculation in the shares of the Dry Champagne Company swallows up the whole fortune of the happy pair, and they are reduced to their last shilling when an invitation comes to *Martha* from *Dr. Candy* to spend a few days at his school. *Martha* accepts with alacrity, only to find on arrival that the worthy scholastic imagines her still to be a widow, and mistakes her youthful, rather weak-minded, husband for her little boy *Frederick*. Installed in *Dr. Candy's* house, too, she finds another cousin of her's and the doctor's, one *Felix Roach*, an unscrupulons rogue who lives upon his wits. He too has been mixed up in the affairs of the Dry Champagne Company, having been one of the directors, but his principal hope at present is the reversion of *Dr. Candy's* little fortune. To ingratiate himself in *Dr. Candy's* good graces he resorts to all kinds of fawning tricks and also enlists the services of his daughter *Nancy* in the same direction. Under the impression that *Martha* is still a widow, *Dr. Candy* offers her the vacant post of matron of his school and offers to educate her supposed son. The situation is perilous, but *Archibald Rennick* is persuaded by his wife to keep the doctor in the dark and agrees to assume the character of her son for awhile and enter the school as the new boy. Twenty-four hours of the acutest misery results for him, culminating in his being detected stealing a farmer's apples, to which act he is driven by the school bully, *Bullock Major*. Meanwhile *Felix Roach*, the only villain in the piece, tries first to oust Martha from the house; next tries to obtain her hand by a declaration of marriage, the Doctor having altered his will in her favour; then, owing to the Dry Champagne shares having had a miraculous recovery in the market, due to a boom in Central Africa, he schemes to practically rob his benefactor, *Dr. Candy*, by persuading him to part, at the price of an old song, with the shares which the schoolmaster holds in the concern; and failing him puts up a similar trick on *Martha*—but *Roach* finds all his schemes foiled, one way or another, by the irrepressible New Boy. The third act brings the inevitable explanations; *Archibald* Rennick is restored to the arms of his adoring wife; *Felix Roach* retires defeated; his daughter *Nancy*—a most outrageous flirt for one so young—is allowed to bestow her affections upon *Theodore de Brizac*, the French master; while dear old *Dr. Candy* resigns himself to ending his life, as he began, a bachelor. Such is the story in brief.

Place aux Dames! Mrs. E. C. Davis made a charming *Mrs. Rennick*, acting superbly even in the most trying situations. To great natural charm she adds the powerful influence of a captivating personality and when to these are united conscientious study and unflagging devotion to the calls of art, a picture is presented that compels admiration for its faithfulness and its fascination—the triumph of a consummate actress. As *Nancy Roach*, Miss Rogers was very bright, saucy, nay impudent. No wonder in the multiplicity of her love-affairs, and with such a disreputable pattern as her father to follow, poor *Nancy's* outlook on life is rather queerly distorted. But in the end she wins the love of a good man and so comes to the happiness that all good little girls desire when their flirting days are done. Miss Cameron as *Susan* the housemaid, was good—self-contained, natural, unobtrusive. There can be little doubt that all three ladies richly earned the bouquets that came down upon them in a shower at the close.

The male characters were also well-sustained, Mr. Brady had a part to his heart's content, and with hundreds of opportunities for "breaking away," never once committed the sin of over-emphasize. Besides, he for once divested himself of his very strenuous personality His scene with the school-bully was truly immense, while the pathos of his voice as he told his devoted wife of the horrors undergone in *Bullock Major's* dormitory would have turned a heart of stone. A fine character study was that of *Felix Roach*, by Mr. Aslet. He was the unscrupulous adventurer to the life. Suave, when it suited; an unblushing liar always; and a bully if he thought it paid, Mr. Aslet realized the part to a nicety. Hit after hit he made and the house freely acknowledged its satisfaction at the masterly pourtrayal of a vicious *fin de siecle* character. Mr. Aslet has made a decided advance in the craft of the wearers of the sock and buskin, and we look forward to seeing him again. The *Dr. Candy* of Mr. E. C. Davis would be difficult to improve upon. In get-up, slightly reminiscent of a late deeply lamented English historian, whose willowy form was the delight of the caricaturist, Mr. Davis carried the part through with a masterly finish of detail that secured instant recognition. A scholar to the finger-tips, more than half-in-the-clouds all the time, still with a loyal affection for his old love burning brightly in his heart, he yet never forgot that his mission in life was that of a teacher of unruly English boys. His love-making was altogether delightful, and his renunciation of his new formed hope a triumph of artistic repression. Another character that deserves a word of praise was that sustained by Mr. R. Jamin. He played it with a quiet humour that was irresistible and thoroughly deserved the recall accorded at the close. Mr. Jamin is a leading spirit in the Alliance Francaise, which gave us such a delicious taste of its quality earlier in the winter, and it is highly gratifying to find him now appearing under the ægis of the A. D. C. As we said on the occasion of his first appearance here, he is an actor to the manner born. Mr. Foster as the aggrieved farmer *Stubber* was good, and right excellent was Mr. F. W. R. Ward as the bully *Bullock Major*. Mr. Mollison's part of a policeman was not one calling for words—it was one of action, and he carried it through it with the activity required.

During the evening a very clever Bijou Amateur Orchestra contributed greatly to the enjoyment of the evening by playing the following selections:—

March—"Stars and Stripes For Ever"...*Sousa*.
Two Step—"Hiawatha" ....*Moret*.
Waltz—"Tres-Jolie" ....*Waldteufel*.
March—"Manhattan Beach" ....*Sousa*.

This orchestra is a great acquisition and we hope the A. D. C. will be able to always command its services. It was composed as follows: Mr. B. R. Berrick, piano: Mr. C. Bernard, banjo-mandoline; the Misses Page (3), Mr. H. Poole, Mr. C. H. Thorn, Mr. Herman, and Mr. M. Mendelson, violins.

A few words must be devoted to the lovely dresses worn by the ladies. In the first and second acts, Mrs. Davis wore a most becoming costume of grey crêpe and taffeta, trimmed with lace, and hat to match. But this creation was entirely eclipsed by the dress in the third act. This charming confection was a cream voile trimmed with broad bands of taffeta, and besides being particularly effective and charming, was in its fit most exquisite. Miss Zaidie Rogers wore in the first and second acts a simple white gown, which she changed in the third act for a dress of pale blue crêpe trimmed with cream guipure, having a hat to match. Miss Cameron, as *Susan*, appeared in a black gown, severely plain, with a dainty white apron and cap.

As usual the stage was most artistically set by Mr. C. F. McWilliams, while the management, in the capable hands of Mr. E. Beart left nothing to be desired. It was a thoughtful act to hang up the prominent placards "emergency exit" over the four side doors, though we trust they may never be called into use.

DEATH OF DR. F. W. HARRELL.

News reaches us of the death in the Waldorf Astoria, from double pneumonia on Jan. 19th of Dr. Francis W. Harrell, formerly a member of the Protestant Episcopal Mission, Tokyo, and afterwards a successful teacher in the Chû Gakko in Sendai. Returning to the States, he practised his profession at Tacoma, Seattle, and the Gilman Mines in Washington. About ten years ago, he became an inventor of the Victor light, and prospector of copper mines in North Carolina. Latterly he has resided with his family at Apualulco, Jalisco, Mexico, and was opening up several valuable mines in that neighbourhood. It was while negotiating the sale of properties in New York, he was taken sick from a severe cold and notwithstanding the utmost medical attention and that of nurses, passed away in the presence of his mother and sister, and wife and friends. He was still a young man, and possessed of great energy and financial ability. He leaves besides, his wife, the well-known Harold Ballagh, author of short stories based on Japanese, Chinese and Mexican tales, a son and daughter born in Sendai, now in boarding schools at Annapolies and in Baltimore, Maryland. The sympathies of the very many friends of the deceased, and of his accomplished wife, will be extended to her and her children in this supreme trial of their lives.

FOOTBALL.

A game of Association football was played in Yokohama on Saturday afternoon between Whites and Colours, the latter being composed mostly of Interport players. A fairly good and very even game resulted in a draw, two goals being scored by either side.

The *Kobe Herald* learns that the following will be the interport team this year:—Lightfoot (goal), Rankin, Allcock, Fradgeley, Jeffery, Weed, Crane, Clarke, Green, McDougall, and Guterres.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR STUDENTS.

The Call of the General Committee of the World's Student Christian Confederation for the observance of the 14th of February, 1904, was very generally observed by the native and some foreign churches and schools in the city. The services at the Yokohama Union Church were largely occupied by an address by Mr. Galen M. Fisher, Secretary of the Y.M.C.A., Tokyo, in which he gave a most interesting and encouraging account of the history and growth of the Christian Student Confederation as it was now found in all parts of the world, Russia and some Roman Catholic countries excepted. They numbered some 1,600 organizations in colleges, with 89,000 members, an increase 4,000 in the past year. The speaker gave some interesting statistics of the growth of Christian students in the colleges of the United States till the ratio in 27 years had risen from ⅓ to 52 per cent., Yale and Harvard universities being no exceptions. He alluded too to the numbers of Christian knights and statesmen and distinguished educators, and administrators, General Gordon, McKinley, Gladstone, John R. Mott, Robt. E Speer. He further thought no age ever saw a fuller, juster conception of the commanding character of Christ. The 1st age of the Christian Church might be called that of personal loyalty to Christ. The 2nd age that of the Church Fathers, or metaphysical views of Christ. The 3rd that of organization, or Christ the Head of the Church—finding a false expression in the Papacy. 4th, The Reformation—or Christ for the individual man. 5th, Humanitarianism. 6th, The Social Christ, the Practical Christ, the Christ of Evolution. The two apparently opposing streams of Socialism and Evolution had flown together and bore richer freight than ever before.

At the 6 p.m. meeting at Van Schaick Hall, the Rev. Dr. Dearing called on Mr. Frank Booth to give an account of the Toronto Convention of 1902. He said:—

I have been asked to present to you this evening some echoes from the fourth great quadrennial convention of the Student Volunteer Movement, which was held in the City of Toronto, Feb. 26th to March 2, 1902.

For all who attended that gathering it was a never to be forgotten experience, an inspiration which will go with them through life. From the moment that the delegate stepped into the vast auditorium of Massey Hall, filled to overflowing with five thousand earnest volunteers in the Master's service, and caught sight of the watch-word of the movement, written in great letters over the platform: "The Evangelization of the World in this Generation," a spell was over him; we were caught up into the mount of privilege, and for many life has had a very different meaning from that day forth.

"The Evangelization of the World in this Generation." For the centuries which have passed since Christ commissioned his disciples, other generations, not ours, have to answer, for the years which the future holds in store, another race may be called to give account; but for our day and generation, for the millions who are living and dying, without the knowledge that there is a balm in Gilead, without the blessed assurance of that so great salvation, which we might give to them, who else can be held responsible? And with that challenge before our eyes, you may be sure that there breathed through all the meetings such a sense of the gravity of the situation, and the personal responsibility of that army of students in carrying into effect that motto, that from day to day the spirit of the gathering grew more intense until it did not seem as if we could contain it. Students go wild over athletics and sports, and even many grow hysterical about them; but they do not do so with their religion, and under the sane guidance of those who had the convention in charge, the proceedings moved on to a climax that was almost terrible in its intensity, the only tokens of the feelings that were being aroused was in the kindling eye, the breathless attention with which the convention, as one man, hung on the lips of some of the world's greatest pulpit orators.

The plan of the convention comprised a morning session of about three hours, especially for the delegates, and a popular evening session, to which our hosts, the warm-hearted people of Toronto, were invited. The evening meetings over-flowed into one or two of the largest churches, the speakers going from Massey Hall to repeat their addresses to the other audiences; the addresses were from fifteen to twenty minutes long and the speakers kept rigorously to time; and the meeting both opened and closed exactly at the scheduled hour, which showed the wisdom of those who had the gathering in charge, though all would have gladly staid on indefinitely. In the afternoon, the churches of the city were utilized to present to those who cared to attend, the different phases of missionary work in different lands as well as for denominational rallies, and informal meetings of that character.

Each day had its topics, and the subject developed harmoniously and without a discordant note from the preparatory service, with a memorable address by Robert E. Speer on Surrender, Indwelling, Freedom to the last word, "Oneness with the Triune God" from the lips of the same stirring speaker.

Some of the topics which occupied the convention were why should the making of Christ Jesus known to all people be the commanding purpose in the life of every Christian?

The qualifications and preparation of the volunteer.

The unevangelized millions. The Mission education of the home church.

Financial aspects of the missionary enterprise; the wonderful challenge presented to this generation of Christians.

Prayer and the Missionary enterprise.

I wish I had the time to tell you how some of those addresses, each seemingly more convincing and helpful than the preceeding, affected us; but I cannot do much more than just mention a few names.

One of the most frequent speakers, and one whom we all came to love, was the Rev. Prebendary Fox, of the Church Missionary Society, London. I shall ever be grateful to him for his address on Scripture Principles of Giving Illustrated.

He asked why the financial question which should be the easiest was the most difficult. He said in part:—I believe that the answer will be found in the uneradicated selfishness of professing Christians. How many believers in the Lord Jesus Christ there are, who have joined the church and who are walking apparently fully with God, who have trusted him with the salvation of their immortal souls, who will not trust him with the key of their cash boxes or the button of their purse. We want reform in two respects, revolution if you will, in the matter of motive and in the matter of proportion. The present proportion is utterly wrong. Now the old Jew, to whom we profess to be superior, had a motive and a principle, and had a proportion upon which he acted. The Jew was placed in a land which belonged to God, and he was God's tenant; he paid the Almighty a kind of quit-rent and the remaining nine-tenths, I suppose, he retained for himself. Argued, Christians ought to give more. This is very true; but weak in that it overlooks the fact that the Jew was under the law while the Christians are under grace. The Jew paid what he was bound to pay to Jehovah. We are heirs of God, joint heirs with Christ, and all things are ours—but on condition that all ours are God's. Those are the terms; you can claim the privileges of Christian if you give Christ all that you are and have. How often in the most sacred moments of our lives we present our lives a living sacrifice, acknowledging that all we have belongs to God,—so that when we have spent upon ourselves and the maintenance of our families according to the will of God, what becomes of the rest? Why it is God's. We have no private purse apart from him. Until the Christian church realises that this is the measure of giving and this the principle upon which we give, I don't think we shall have got to the root of the financial problem.

The veteran Bishop Thoburn, of India, was another whom we listened to with the greatest interest, while I may say that it has been given to few women to hold in such breathless attention 5,000 listeners, as Mrs. F. Howard Taylor did the two times she addressed the Conventien.

For powers of oratory, there were none who excelled Janvier of India; Underwood of Korea; and Hotchkiss of Africa. The latter some of us dubbed the Abe Lincoln of the Convention, both for the plainness of his personal appearance, and the simple magnetism of his style. He likened the Dark Continent to a gigantic interrogation point which faces westward. "Africa is asking the American student body why she still remains the dark continent. Why indeed? when at one time the strongest churches were there." And again he called attention to the fact that Africa on the map was like a gigantic ear. "That continental ear has been lying there these centuries waiting for a message—the only message which can bring hope into her hopelessness, the only message which can lift her from the mire, the only message which can transform her desert wastes into a garden of the Lord."

But for us who were students there was nothing appealed quite so much as to look into the faces of the two young men who were the soul of the convention, and whose noble, Christ-like spirit shone through their strong earnest faces, who stood before us living exemplars of the Christ-filled life, and so exerted a more lasting uplift than any mere words could upon the spiritual life of the assembled multitude, I refer to the President of the Convention, John R. Mott, and to that captain of twentieth century militant Christianity, Robert E. Speer.

"How a thousand missionaries are supported" by L. D. Wishard, advocated the pretty thought of each church, having aside from its home pastor with his home parish, a foreign parish with its pastor, just as many churches support mission chapels in their own city.

In two different addresses a striking contrast was afforded, illustrative of the two extremes of spiritual condition in which a church may be. Rev. Millard, of Baltimore, spoke of a church in the South land whose annual report to its society has become a classic illustration. It reads like this

No. added to the church by baptism last year	None.
No. added to the church by letter	None.
No. dismissed to the church by letter	Five.
No. of members who have died	Three.
Amt. raised for state missions	Nothing.
Amt. raised for home missions	Nothing.
Amt. raised for foreign mission	Nothing.

And then the report closes each year with this line of writing "Pray for us brethren that we may continue faithful to the end." A very personal prayer, for the end of that church is not far off.

Next day Rev. Bradt, of Wichita, Kan., told the experience of one church. Six years ago the Presbyterian church in Wichita at a financial crisis in the community, was in a most precarious condition. It had a bonded debt of $18,000 beside a large floating debt for which it had no assets to show, while its supporters had personal obligations which taxed them almost beyond the powers of endurance. The pastor was led to preach that Christ had conditioned his presence and his Almighty Power, the Holy Ghost, upon the practical willingness of his people to obey the great commission, Matt. 28, 19-20. That their salvation as a church financially and otherwise depended upon their taking the little meal they had in the barrel and the little oil in their cruse and undertaking to feed the starving millions of heathen lands. A crazy idea, you say, and some of those who were praying most earnestly for the church doubtless thought the same; but see how it worked out. That morning the Lord stood with him, and revealed himself to the people; and they saw the Lord Jesus, and that day they took for support a foreign missionary. They closed that year with the floating debt removed, and the current expenses met in full—a condition which the church had not enjoyed in ten years previous. The next year they took two foreign missionaries and one domestic missionary, and removed the bonded debt, closing the year with money in the treasury, for the past five years the missionary programme of that church has averaged $4 per member. And this is not the most astonishing result of that church seeing Christ; in the past five years she had raised $40,000 out of her seeming poverty for the maintainance of the Gospel in the city of Wichita. "She is supporting now one of the largest plants doing business for God anywhere in the U. S., with a pastor an assistant pastor, two office assistants, a city missionary, 1200 members, a mission chapel, three Bible schools, four C. E. societies, four ladies societies, a men's department, two boys clubs, a girls industrial school, a Bible school, a printing department. All in six years, and all through a vision of Christ! Friends was there ever a fairy story more marvelous? "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, and prove me now herewith saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

One very telling illustration was made by one of the speakers, who said:—"Suppose a man owes a debt of £1,000, and after several years of close saving is able to pay back £5 of his indebtedness; he is not a subject for congratulation and his creditor would have a small idea of his ability to pay the balance, if he found him going round seeking congratulations from his friends over what great things he had done in the last several years. Christendom's debt to her great Lord and King, a century ago, was one thousand millions of immortal souls lost in the darkness, deadness of heathenism and sin. After 100 years of hard work we have paid to our King five millions of redeemed ones, leaving a debt of nine hundred and ninety five millions of immortal souls that we have not paid; and yet we seek to congratulate ourselves on what great things we have done in this last century."

A large and representative meeting of the Japanese Churches and Schools was held in the evening at the Shiloh Church. Hymns, prayers and stirring addresses characterized the exercises. It ought also to be mentioned that the Convention arranged to be held in the city of Tokyo in September of this present year has been abandoned owing to the outbreak of war. The collections taken were to go to the expenses of Japanese delegates abroad.

THE BURNING OF FUH-LEE, SHANGHAI.

As if the War were not enough to keep Shanghai in a ferment,—says the *N.-C. Daily News* of Friday, February 12th,—Fuh Lee must needs be burnt out again, and take with it the Russian Consulate and Hung Chong's the Nanking Road jeweller's, to say nothing of the damage inflicted on other property in the vicinity. The destruction was swift and complete. A few minutes after five o'clock yesterday afternoon the alarm rang out, two bells. Almost before it had ceased, the preliminary warning peal, the sky over the heart of the Settlement was lighted up with a great glare. The entire top story of the Fuh Lee building was seen to be flaming like a gigantic torch and already stray tongues were shooting out from the upper windows all round. So sudden was the outbreak that it appeared to be but a few seconds from the discovery till the top floor was burnt out. The rapidity with which the conflagration spread lent colour to a report that incendiaries had been at work. It was known that there had been some dispute with the Chinese staff but this was the only other foundation for the rumour. Last night the police had nothing to offer as to how the fire originated. It began in the millinery department where there was plenty of inflammable material to help it on its way of destruction.

The firemen were on the spot with customary alacrity but their task was hopeless, as far as the saving of the main block was concerned, from the beginning. At first a brave attempt was made by the Deluge and Mih-ho-loong Companies to play on the flames from the inside but the lift shaft acted as a flue and it was soon found impossible to remain in the building. The lift weights came down with a run after a few moments and then cartridges began to fall down the shaft, exploding as they reached the burning débris below, and scattering sparks and stars of fire as they fell. Employés were rushing about the ground floor trying to save what books they could, but soon the falling plaster drove everyone outside. The flames burnt with a fierce crackling sound, and ever and anon a loud report would be heard as some more cartridges took fire. The lift shaft looked like a veritable inferno. The flames caught the staircases and spread round the whole building.

One great difficulty at the outset was the getting of a sufficient pressure of water. The Fuh Lee lift was worked by hydraulic power and one of the first things that happened was the bursting of the ram. The whole pressure of a six-inch pipe was thus wasted while it flooded the lower centre of the building. The hose reels attached to the street hydrants would play no higher than the first floor windows and the fire was raging furiously and unchecked high above. In a quarter of an hour or so the engines began to arrive and at last it was possible to play actually on things burning. The Torrent engine was stationed in Szechuen Road just at the entrance from Kiukiang Road; the Hongkew was in Nanking Road; the Deluge also in Nanking Road but on Watson's side of the cross road; the Victoria engine in Szechuen Road beyond the Toilet Club. The fire float was also brought along to the bottom of Nanking Road and pumped from the river. The Deluge engine unfortunately broke down after a time and the Mih-ho-loong escape was also damaged through the unskilful handling of civilians whose zeal to help outran their knowledge of fire matters.

Detachments of sailors were landed from the British and French ships and later from the Italian man-of-war, and rendered welcome assistance with buckets.

The strong wind blowing first took the flames eastward toward the Bund, dooming Hung Chong & Co.'s jewellery stores, threatening Lane, Crawford's, and even causing some anxiety for Kelly & Walsh's godown on the other side of Nanking Road. Then changing somewhat, as darkness fell, the wind shifted the danger to Messrs. Watson & Co.'s corner. Szechuen Road having become too hot to be occupied, the Mih-ho-loong and Deluge companies turned their attention to drenching the chemist's premises and so keeping the walls as cool as possible. The water did a good deal of damage but it saved the building.

So intense was the heat that the electric light standards in the opposite corners of Nanking Road caught fire and the live wires from which the insulating material was quickly burnt off, hung within twelve feet of the road, just above the heads of those who were working to extinguish the flames. The current was cut off as soon as notice could be sent to the power station, and for a short time there was no electric light in the central district. But until the current had been cut the proximity of the deadly wires had a most demoralising effect on everyone.

The streets, it need not be said, were thronged with crowds, who were drawn off from reading news of Japanese victories, and were to be observed also dotted all about the roofs and parapets of adjoining buildings. In some of these latter every preparation had been made by the inmates to fight the fire should it advance to meet them. When the falling cartridges began to explode, the throngs in Nanking Road beat a hasty retreat to the Bund. There was said to be a lot of gunpowder stored on the Russian Consulate buildings and although unfounded the statement caused alarm.

Nothing remains of Messrs. Hall & Holtz premises or of the Consulate quarters, which were in the same building, except blackened walls and iron supports rising out of a mass of débris. One at least of the safes fell through when the floor on which it stood gave way. Mr. Kliemenow, the Consul-General for Russia, who has been ill for the past three weeks, was so pressed by the fire that he had to escape in his sleeping clothes. He is at present staying at the Astor House, where he is being attended by Dr. Krieg. All of Mr. Kliemenow's effects were destroyed but it was understood that the books and papers have been saved. Messrs. Hung Chong & Co.'s are equally burnt out as are also Messrs. Ellis Kadoories & Co.'s offices and a godown at the rear.

The following is a fairly correct estimate of the total loss by the fire:—

Hall & Holtz, building	150,000
" contents	260,000
Hung Chong, building	15,000
" contents	60,000
Russian Consulate-General contents	5,000
Damages to A. S. Watson & Co., Ld., Nabholz & Co., and Lane, Crawford & Co., Ld., by fire and water	15,000
Total, Tls.	535,000

The Fuhlee block and Hung Chong's premises were owned by Messrs. David Sassoon & Co. and the buildings were insured in the South British Fire Company. Messrs. Hall & Holtz were insured as to their stock with a number of companies.

THE LAW COURTS.

A SILK CAIM.

The hearing of this case, filed by Messrs. W. M. Strachan & Company against Sarasawa, a *habutae* silk trader, living at Fukui, Echizen, claiming *yen* 422.30, with interest at the rate of 6 per cent from Oct. 29th, 1903 till the execution of judgment, began on Feb. 12th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno.

Mr. R. Masujima was present for the foreign firm and Mr. Ohashi for defendant.

Plaintiffs' counsel stated that his clients on Aug. 11th last entered into a contract with defendant to purchase 1,110 pieces of habutae silk —220 pieces at *yen* 9.23 per 100 *me*; 100, *yen* 9.05; 80, *yen* 9.15; 280, *yen* 9; 130, *yen* 8.80; 150, *yen* 8.70; 100, *yen* 8.55; and 50, *yen* 8.75 —which were promised to be delivered not later than Sept. 20th, the same year. On the due date, defendant delivered plaintiffs 699 pieces only and was unable to supply the remainder so that plaintiffs were compelled to buy 411 pieces from another silk dealer whose price was higher than defendant's. The difference in price, was the amount set out in the present claim.

Defendant's counsel held that the silk dealer supplied a certain quantity of the habutae, but did not make such a contract with the foreign firm as they asserted. Counsel presented an objection as to limitation of jurisdiction on the ground that the case could not be defended in this Court as defendant was living in Fukui and he had no branch in Yokohama. Counsel further asked the Court for leave to adjourn further proceedings as he was not sufficiently prepared with the case.

The court examined the evidence introduced by plaintiffs.

Plaintiff's counsel asked the Court for leave to examine Y. Yoshikawa and K. Uyeno, silk traders living in Yokohama as witnesses.

After a few minutes consultation the request of plaintiffs was granted.

The case was adjourned *sine die*.

RUSSO-CHINESE BANK *v.* YUEN SIH-SONG.

This case, in which the plaintiff bank claims *yen* 171,000 and defendant, the former compradore of the Bank, counter-claims for *yen* 530,000, came up in the Tokyo District Court on Feb. 12th, when permission for temporarily seizing the property of plaintiffs was given to the Chinaman.

Mr. R. Imamura, a lawyer, representative of defendant, went to the Yokohama branch of the bank on the 13th accompanied by two bailiffs and seized five iron safes.

The *Asahi* adds that the bank closed on Feb. 10th in consequence of War and no cash was found in the safes.

JOVANSEN *v.* CLUB HOTEL.

The hearing of this case, in which plaintiff claims *yen* 90.48, was resumed on Feb. 16th in the Yokohama Local Court before Judge Yei-iri.

The hotel cash book was put in as evidence by counsel for plaintiff, and after argument the case was adjourned till the 20th inst., when judgment will be delivered.

SIG. ISAACS *v.* MAX ISAACS.

The hearing of this case, in which plaintiff claims *yen* 12,000 damages, caused by defamation on the part of the defendant, begun on Feb. 17th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Kanno.

Mr. R. Masujima was present for plaintiff and defendant was absent and not represented.

Plaintiff's counsel stated that Mr. S. Isaacs and R. Isaacs (now living in New York) established a firm on joint account, under the name of R. Isaacs and Bros. in which Mr. Marcus Isaacs was afterwards admitted a partner. The firm was wound up after several years' existence when the business books were retained by plaintiff, Mr. S. Isaacs. Last year, Mr. R. Isaacs instituted a case in New York against Mr. Marcus Isaacs and the parties were ordered by the Court to produce their business books as evidence. The parties separately asked Mr. S. Isaacs to deliver the books, Mr. Marcus Isaacs to deliver the books to him, but not to Mr. R. Isaacs and *vice versa*. As Mr. S. Isaacs did not deliver the books to Mr. Marcus Isaacs, the latter seized them through a bailiff belonging to the Yokohama Local Court and subsequently the former petitioned the District Court to cancel the seizure. The proceedings went on until Mr. Max Isaacs came from New York and entered the case as an intervenor, petitioning that the books in dispute should be delivered to him. Having been advised by the Court to settle the dispute out of Court, counsel for both parties agreed that the books should be removed to the U.S. Consulate, and that the parties should inspect them before the Consul. The Consul refused to enter the dispute and advised them to find a third person for this position but the parties declined to show their books to a third person. On Dec. 8th last, counsel reappeared in Court and stated that peace was not possible. During the proceedings Mr. Max Isaacs and his counsel, Mr. Sawada, stated that Mr. S. Isaacs, who held the books, made a false entry in them. This statement was very injurious to his reputation, causing his customers and bankers to entertain suspicions against plaintiff. Plaintiff thus claimed *yen* twelve thousand damages in accordance with Art. 710 of the Civil Code.

The Court retired for consultation when Mr. Max Isaacs appeared in the Court without summons. It appeared that the summons had not been delivered to Mr. Max Isaacs at his house, and the Court therefore decided to summon Mr. Max Isaacs another day, meanwhile adjourning the case.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

Of course Japanese journals ridicule the Tsar's complaints about a treacherous attack. They ask whether His Majesty expected the enemy to send word that they would strike at such and such an hour on such and such a day. The *Jiji* observes that His Majesty fails signally to offer any justification of his own acts. His mind appears to be overwhelmed with the thought that his sailors were caught napping.

Another topic of general journalistic comment is the good will of America in charging herself with the care of Japanese interest in Russia.

THE VOLUNTEER FLEET.

There are constant rumours of the seizure of Russian steamers Volunteer Fleet steamers and East Chinese Railway Company's steamers by Japanese cruisers The reports are very confusing, and it is to be hoped that some authoritative intelligence as to the actual number hitherto captured will soon be forthcoming.

YOKOHAMA LITERARY SOCIETY.

A tour in North Wales, as wittily described by Mrs. W. Kirkland Wilson, was the great drawing card at the usual fortnightly meeting of the Yokohama Literary Society, held in the Van Schaick Hall last evening. Mrs Wilson has a happy gift of expression combined with a subacid strain of humour that keeps her hearers ever on the alert, and so her paper held the house from start to finish. It was freely illustrated by some forty or more lantern slides showing many beautiful spots in North Wales, inland as well as along the coast; Carnarvon castle, some of the famous slate quarries and their surroundings; Bangor Cathedral, etc. Among the pictures was a striking photograph of Billy, the notorious goat of the Welsh Fusiliers, and this drew forth many cheers.

Mrs. Wilson having been warmly thanked, the musical portion of the programme was taken up. It was principally devoted to Welsh songs and melodies, and Mrs. Brockhurst, Mrs. Brewster, Mr. Foster and Mr. Fred. Pollard, as well as the ladies and gentlemen who formed the chorus, are to be heartily congratulated on their efforts. The recitation in character by "Miss Jenny Jones"—(her identity was soon discovered)—was very dainty and the little maiden's next appearance will be eagerly looked-forward-too. Mrs. Dearing's readings were most acceptable, while Mr. Brady's song "The Wicked Welcher" was one of the funniest things he has given here. The accompanists were Miss E. Burdett Leach and Miss Mendelson. Programme :—

PIANO SOLO......... Selected.........MRS. R. J. WARD.
CHORUS.
(*a*) "Welsh Carol" ....
(*b*) "March of the Men of Harlech." Harmonized by W. KARL E. VINCENT, Esq.)................. } ....CHORUS.
RECITATION... "The Death of Gelert" Miss JENNY JONES.
SONG..."Cambrian War-Cry." ...MRS. BROCKHURST.
SONG...... "All through the Night" ...... MR. FRED POLLARD.
READINGS.
(*a*) "Llandudno Bay."..........
(*b*) "The Orme;" a fragment.
(*c*) "Windmill.".................. } ....MRS. DEARING.
SONG.................. Selected ....MRS. BREWSTER.
SONG......"The Wicked Welcher."........MR. BRADY.
SONG WITH CHORUS.
"The Land of my Fathers."...MR. B. C. FOSTER.
(Welsh National Anthem.)

DISTRIBUTION OF RUSSIAN TROOPS IN MANCHURIA.

The following is the latest information regarding the distribution of Russian troops in Manchuria :—

AT PORT ARTHUR, 20,350 men, consisting of *Infantry*, Third Brigade, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th regiments East Siberian Sharpshooters, comprising 2,000 men in each regiment; Seventh Brigade (one half) or 25th and 26th regiments, East Siberian Sharpshooters, 2,000 men each. The other half of the Brigade being the 27th regiment at Haichêng, and the 28th regiment of the same Corps (East Siberian Sharpshooters) at Liaoyang. *Note* :—All of the third Brigade, except the 11th regiment, have since proceeded to the coast of the Liaotung Peninsula and the Yalu. *Cavalry*: one company Baikal Cossacks, 150 men. *Artillery*: two Companies East Siberian Battalion, 600 men; one regiment Port Arthur garrison artiilery, 2,400 men. *Pioneers*: two battalions East Siberian Pioneer Regiment, 1,000 men. *Torpedo Corps*: one company Torpedo Corps, 200 men.

AT DALNY, 2,000 men, consisting of the 14th Regiment East Siberian Sharpshooters.

AT TALIENWAN, 4,400 men. *Infantry*; 13th Regiment East Siberian Sharpshooters, 2,000 men; four Companies 15th Regiment, ditto, 1,000 men. *Cavalry*: four Companies Baikal Cossacks, 600 men. *Artillery*: one Co., East Siberian Battalion, 300 men, and one Co., Field Artillery Transbaikal regiment, 300 men. *Torpedo Corps*: one Co., Torpedo Corps, 200 men.

AT PITZEWO, 400 men, composed of one Co., 12th Fregiment East Siberian Sharpshooters, 250 men, and one Co., Baikal Cossacks, 150 men.

AT ANTUNG, 550 men, consisting of one Co., 15th Regiment E. S. Sharpshooters, 250 men; one Co., Baikal Cossacks, 150 men, and half Co., E. Siberian Battalion with four guns, 150 men.

AT FENGHUANGCHENG (Yalu), 750 men—three Cos., Baikal Cossacks, 450 men, and one Co., Transbaikal Field Artillery, with eight guns, 300 men.

AT CHINCHOW (near Port Arthur), 750 men—three Cos. E. S. Sharpshooters, 750 men.

AT YINKOW (Newchwang), 1,200 men—five Cos. E. S. Sharpshooters, 1,050 men, and half Co., East Siberian Battalion, with four guns, 150 men.

AT HAICHENG, 1,150 men—four Cos. 28th Regiment E. S. Sharpshooters, 1,000 men, and half Co., East Siberian Battalion, with four guns, 150 men.

AT LIAOYANG, 1,900 men—three Cos. 15th Regiment E. S. Sharpshooters 750 men; four Cos. 28th Regiment, ditto 1,000 men, and half Co. Transbaikal Field Artillery, with four guns, 150 men.

AT MOUKDEN, 550 men—One Co. 15th Regiment E. S. Sharpshooters, 250 men; half Co., Transbaikal field Artillery, 150 men, and one Co. Transbaikal Cossacks, 150 men.

AT TIEHLIN, 2,750 men—16th Regiment E. S. Sharpshooters 2,000 men; 7th Co., First Brigade east Siberian Artillery, with eight guns, 300 men, two Cos. Transbaikal field Artillery, with twelve guns, 300 men, and one Co., Amur Cossacks, 150 men.

AT NINGUTA, 1,250 men—two Cos. 18th Regiment E. S. Sharpshooters, 500 men; three Cos. Amur Cossacks 450 men, and one Co., east Siberian Artillery Battalion, 300 men.

AT HARBIN, 4,550 men—17th Regiment E. S. Sharpshooters, 2,000 men; six Cos. 18th Regiment ditto, 1,500 men; one Co. Amur Cossacks, 150 men, and one battalion east Siberian Artillery, with twenty-four guns, 900 men.

AT TSITSIHAR, 1,950 men—Six Cos. 20th Regiment E. S. Sharphooters 1,500 men, second Co., of the Second Brigade of the east Siberian Artillery, with eight guns, 300 men, and one Co., Amur Cossacks, 150 men.

AT HAILAR, 1,000 men, belonging to the Third Battalion Nelchinsk Reserves.

In addition to the above there are fifty-five Companies Railway Guards consisting of 24,000 men, mostly quartered at Harbin, Liaoyang, Kungchulin, Héngtaohotze and Tashihchiao. There is also another Railway Corps consisting of some four battalions stationed at Harbin, Hèngtaohotze, Kungchulin, and Liaoyang.—*N.-C. Daily News*.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

The "Recollections" of Mr. H. Treffery Dunn, just published, give some fascinating glimpse's of Dante Gabriel Rossetti. Rossetti, it seems, was quite insensible to the charms of music. "He was very much of the opinion of Dr. Johnson, who, when once asked if he liked music, replied that 'perhaps of all noises it was the most bearable.'" Of a performance of the "Messiah" at the Crystal Palace, Rossetti said that it seemed to him that "everybody got up and shouted at him as loudly as possible."

In the year 1902 Germany published of books and pamphlets nearly 27,000, and the United States only about a third as many. On the other hand, the United States published 21,000 newspapers and periodicals, and Germany only a little more than a third as many. In creative works, novels, romances and works of pure imagination, England leads the world; Germany is ahead in educational and theological works and books for the young. France runs copiously to history, and Italy to religion. Fiction mainly rules in the United States.

Mrs. Isa Craig Knox, who died at Brockley the other day in her seventy-third year, first published verse in the *Scotsman* in 1851. Some years thereafter she was for a period on the literary staff of that journal, and in the late sixties and seventies she was a considerable contributor in prose and verse to *Fraser's Magazine*, *Good Words*, and other periodicals. In 1859 Miss Isa Craig, as she then was, won distinction by her "Ode on the Centenary of Burns," which gained a prize of £50 over nearly 700 competitors, included among whom were Robert Buchanan, F. W. H. Myers, and Mr. Gerald Massey.

The Goncourt Academy, which has just awarded its first prize to M. John-Antoine Nau, was formed under the terms of the will of Edmond de Goncourt, quite a number of years ago. There had to be litigation before the funds could be applied, in the face of the opposition of relatives, to the purpose specified by the testator, and this litigation took six years. The Academy consists of ten members, who are to draw incomes of £250 a year each, but are to combine in offering every year a prize of £200 to some book adjudged to be of real literary merit. Among the members of the Academy originally contemplated by De Goncourt were Flaubert, Maupassant, Zola, and Daudet. He outlived the two first named, however, and Zola, by apostatising and seeking admission to the other Academy, became ineligible.

There has just died at Berne, at the age of 65, one of the last descendants of Haller, the great Swiss linguist and botanist. His was himself an historian of mark in the Republic, and his history of Berne one of the most authoritative works dealing with the city. His name was Berchtold Haller, and besides being a life-long bachelor, he was unusually short of stature. For all that he possessed real originality of mind, and an old-world charm and dignity of manner that are becoming rare in all countries. His diminutive height once placed him at an amusing disadvantage in a passage of arms with a Frenchman with whom discussion was becoming warm. "I am a descendant of the great Haller," said the Swiss. "Ah, a case of really long, long descent," sneered the adversary, eyeing down the little man, who quite collapsed.

The London papers are full of appreciative notices of the late Mr. Gissing. They one and all agree that he was an instance of a man doing splendid work in an essentially uncongenial field. No man was less inclined by nature to deal with the sorrows of mean streets and the tragedies of London lodging-houses, yet his fame rests on his delineation of this sordid side of life. By nature he was essentially a scholar and a recluse, whose whole soul revolted against the squalor, the vulgarity, and the suffering which he depicted with such masterly power. One may recall in this connexion a passage from that exquisite book of travel which he wrote, "By the Ionian Sea." "Every man," Mr. Gissing here told his readers, "has his intellectual desire; mine is to escape life as I know it and dream myself into that old world which was the imaginative delight of my boyhood. The names of Greece and Italy draw me as no others; they make me young again, and restore the keen impressions of that time when every new page of Greek of Latin was a new perception of things beautiful." And many similar passages from his novels might be cited.

Mr. Gissing has himself told of some of his early struggles. When he was at work at his "New Grub Street" his finances became exhausted. He finished the book, however, in six weeks, working ten hours a day, speaking to no one, and keeping himself alive by selling books off his shelves to second-hand dealers. "I sold the copyright for £150 and ate once more," he afterwards wrote.

Last Christmas Eve was the fortieth anniversary of the death of W. M. Thackeray, whose grave at Kensal Green Cemetery attracts comparatively few pilgrims, but to whose memory a touching tribute—the encircling of the great novelist's bust in Westminster Abbey with a floral wreath—has on each succeeding Christmas Eve for the last six years been paid by some unknown admirer. The following lines by the late American poet R. H. Stoddard have an appropriate interest, and may not be familiar to all our readers. The poem is entitled "Adsum—December 23-24, 1863":

The Angel came by night
  (Such angels still come down),
And like a winter cloud
  Passed over London town;
Along its lonesome streets,
  Where Want had ceased to weep,
Until it reached a house
  Where a great man lay asleep;

The man of all his time
  Who knew the most of men,
The soundest head and heart,
  The sharpest, kindest pen.
It paused beside his bed,
  And whispered in his ear;
He never turned his head,
  But answered, "I am here."

Speaking before the Positivist Society on "the day of all the dead—December 31st—Mr. Frederic Harrison said that the year then closing had been marked by a somewhat unusual list of noteworthy deaths, including that of the most eminent philosopher in Europe. They as Positivists had never failed to express their admiration of Herbert Spencer and of the courage which had marked his whole life. In a beautiful letter to himself the eminent philosopher had expressed his hearty sympathy with their earnest efforts towards international justice and peace. They as Positivists had differed from Herbert Spencer at times, and they had not forborne to express those differences, but they honoured him as a synthetic philosopher, and as one who abstained from crowding his mind and his pages with the mere details of science and the unprovable problems of metaphysics. Comte and Spencer devoted their lives to the supreme task of synthetic philosophy, and they alone of modern thinkers had produced the philosophy of life. It was with joy and hope that they had seen men of all views unite in one chorus of admiration for the philosophic recluse, and for the courage and patience which distinguished his life. The death of Herbert Spencer might serve to remind them of the reverence which was due to those who had passed away. This reverence had grown dim. The dead were dead indeed. They were in their unvisited graves, and were forgotten as soon as the mourning robes were cast aside. The religion of humanity would amend all this. The dead lay forgotten in their graves. It was for the future to revive them, and restore them in this world to us who they had made, and to whom they had left their uncompleted task.

THE FACTORY GIRLS' FUND.

We are asked to acknowledge receipt of the following further amounts subscribed towards the Factory Girls' Fund:—

Already acknowledged	118.56
F. L. Elliott	5.00
P.W.F.	2.00
E.J.M.	3.00
A. W. Read	5.00
J. B. Coulson	5.00
R. B. McKinnell	5.00
A.E.P.	2.00
F.A.O.	1.74

TRADE-MARK REGISTRY CASE.

In the Patent Bureau of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, a decision was given on Dec. 26th last, according to the *Official Gazette* of Feb. 15th, on a protest presented by Mr. Frederic Cornes, No. 50, Yokohama. Mr. Cornes applied to the Bureau to register his trade-mark, which displayed a *sambaso*, dancing girl. The examiners of the Bureau rejected the application in accordance with the 2nd clause of Art. II of the law on the ground that the mark was similar to that of No. 11,432, which shows the *Chitose*, a dance in the same performance. The applicant contended that these dances come under the same name, *sambaso*, but their nature is different, and that no misunderstanding would be caused to the public. The protest was sustained.

AMERICAN TOPICS.

It is now proposed to create a Greater Philadelphia by annexing to the present city outlying cities and villages sufficient to give the enlarged city an area nearly twice as great as that of New York city and about half as great as that of the State ot Rhode Island.

It is now announced that King Leopold will be unable to visit the St. Louis Exposition this year, as the royal yacht is not sufficiently strong for the trans-Atlantic voyage and his Majesty objects to making the trip on a regular liner. The King will send his nephew, Prince Albert, and the latter's wife, the Princess Elizabeth, to represent him.

A well-known boot and shoe dealer in Scotland is credited with saying that out of $6,000,000 worth of footwear exported from the United States in 1902, $2,000,000 worth came to the United Kingdom, $1,000,000 worth went to Australasia, and $500,000 worth to Canada. Ten years ago Great Britain took only $2,169 worth of boots and shoes from the United States; last year she took $2,013,890 worth.

Since the decision in the Alaskan boundary case was announced there has sprung up in British Columbia an energetic movement for the construction of a railway into the Yukon Territory from that province. In Vancouver the desire is to have the railway built directly from there to Dawson, in the Yukon Territory. There are other propositions spoken of, especially by the inhabitants of the northern portion of the province for a railway from Kittimat Arm to Dawson.

According to the Agricultural Department's figures, New York had a greater acreage used for producing hay, and cut a greater amount of hay, than any other State in the Union. The value of her hay product was also greater than that of any other State, and almost $13,000,000 greater than the value of the hay crop of the entire New England States. Second to New York, measured by the value of the hay crop, stands Pennsylvania, and then come Ohio, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Indiana, this exhausting the list of States where the hay crop of 1903 was valued in excess of $20,000,000.

It is natural, says *Public Opinion*, that the deaths of the last of the great leaders on the confederate side during the civil war, General Longstreet and General Gordon, should have revived in some quarters discussion of the disputed questions with which their names are connected. But with a large number of editorial comments from southern papers before us, we can confidently say that there is no disposition to become excited over those questions at this late day. The criticisms visited upon Longstreet because he accepted too quickly the results of the war, and the dispute between Gordon and Longstreet as to the latter's responsibility for the confederate defeat at Gettysburg; all this is forgotten, and in place of recrimination there is praise for their valour and forgetfulness of their faults.

According to the New York *Daily Stockholder*, January payments by corporations for interest and dividends exceed all previous totals except those of 1902. Interest was payable on January 2 on bonds having a par value of $3,868,399,963 and amounted to $75.491,056, as compared with $72,448,694 last year, $69,523,480 in 1902, $66,008,086 in 1901, and $63,989,076 in 1900. Dividends are payable during the month on stocks having a par value of $1,536,733,969 and aggregate $40,074,258, as against $37,156,025 last year, $48,675,614 in 1902, $34.747,995 in 1901 and $33,546,887 in 1900. Combined interest and dividend payments $115,565,314, as compared with $106,605,619 last year, $118,199,094 in 1902, $100,756,081 in 1901 and $97,535,963 in 1900.

In his annual report, Mr. Secretary Wilson advocated the granting by Congress of an appropriation of $500,000 for the purpose of exterminating the cotton boll weevil, whose depredations have wrought such havoc in parts of the south. The House of Representatives has acted promptly upon this suggestion of the Secretary of Agriculture, and has voted an appropriation of $250,000 for the purpose of protecting cotton against the boll weevil. This is only half the amount asked by the Secretary, but it is, nevertheless, a considerable sum, and its employment should bring about some results of consequence. Of course the question how to deal with the pest is still largely an experimental one, but it will at least be approached under favourable conditions as far as the matter of ways and means is concerned, that is, assuming, as is not unlikely, that the Senate will follow the lead of the House.

While complete statistics of the production of the precious metals for the calendar year 1903 have not yet been collected, enough information is accessible to enable those specially familiar with the subject to make a fairly close estimate as to the total. Director of the Mint Roberts estimated the production of gold in the United States at $74,425,340. This estimate is adopted by Mr. T. A. Rickard in an article in the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, in which he estimates the total production of gold in the world at large at $327,000,000. This is about $28,100,000 in excess of the estimate of the previous year's production made by that writer, and about $31,000,0000 in excess of the estimate for the same period made by Director Roberts in November last. According to the figures before us, Australasia led with a production valued at $88,170,000, the United States coming second with $74,425,340, the Transvaal third with $61,527,231, Russia fourth with $24,000,000 and Canada fifth with $19,500,000.

Last September the *Dry Goods Economist* gathered the opinions of some 2,000 retailers of dry goods in every section of the Union as to the prospects for business during the autumn and winter. These views were optimistic. Now the *Economist* has asked the same persons for their experiences, and, furthermore, sounded the trade on the outlook for the coming spring. The replies show that the forecasts of last September, with few exceptions, were accurate. Retailers in several instances have increased their business from 10 to 50 per cent., and in some cases have doubled their sales, as compared with the autumn and winter season immediately preceding. As to the outlook, in the east everything is regarded as fair and in the west the feeling is generally optimistic. Farmers are rich and manufacturing and commercial business is not behind a year ago. In the far northwest the general outlook is bright and is regarded as encouraging. A new era has dawned in the south, the debts of years are being paid off, and a clean slate for 1904 appears probable for many. Retail stocks are generally well in hand, and merchants are in good shape to handle large quantities of merchandise. The tendency is to buy in smaller quantities than in former years, but this will be offset by more frequent purchases. Indeed, the volume of merchandise passed into consumption will fully equal, if not exceed, that distributed in any previous spring season.

The annual report of the United States Postmaster-General for the last fiscal year shows that ordinary postal revenue amounted in $131,984,535 and the receipts from money order business to $2,239,908, making a total revenue of $134,224,443, as compared with $121,848,047 in 1902. The expenditures were $138,784,487, against $124,785,697 in the preceding fiscal year. The excess of expenditures over receipts was, therefore, $4,560,044, as compared with $2,937,649 the preceding year. The estimated revenue for 1904 is $146,304,642, which, with an appropriation of $153,511,549, would leave a deficit for 1904 in the postal revenues of $7,206,906. The sales of stamps, postal cards, etc., amounted to $123,511,549. That was the principal item of revenue. The cost of transportation of mails on railroads was $36,195,116. The Postmaster General says that the postal service is growing with great strides. The money order business increases at a rapid rate. The number of domestic money orders issued in 1903 was 45,941,681, as against 40,474,327 in 1902. The amount of domestic orders issued was $353,627,648. The international money order business shows a still greater increase, the number of orders issued being 603,038. There are 2,935 railroad routes, the total length of which is 192,852 miles, with an annual travel of 333,491,684 miles. During the fiscal year 25,951,178 letters and parcels were registered, an increase of 2,761,210 in paid registrations as compared with the preceeding year.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The German cruiser *Hansa* arrived on Feb. 11th at Chemulpo.

Four cases of dysentery were reported since Feb. 14th in Tokyo.

The Kajiki Academy, Kagoshima, was destroyed by fire on the night of Feb. 17th.

Four Russians at Nagasaki were ordered by the Japanese authorities on the night of Feb. 16th to leave that place.

On the 4th inst., the Civil Commission in Manila passed a vote of one million pesos for harbour improvements in Manila.

The *Jiji* reports that over thirty thousand Chinese living at Vladivostock are making preparations to leave by a German steamer.

The Bank of Japan sent on Feb. 11th three hundred and forty cases containing notes and silver coins to its Osaka branch.

The French warship *Guichen* left Nagasaki on Feb. 16th for Chemulpo. She is expected to carry wounded Russians to Shanghai.

Fire broke out on the night of Feb. 16th in the House of Correction, Tokyo, the result being that five buildings were burned down. Negligence seems to have been the cause.

Some ten Russian sailors belonging to the ships recently captured, were released at Saseho after examination, and arrived on Feb. 17th at Nagasaki. They will leave for Shanghai by the first steamer.

It is reported that the White Star Line has ordered a steamer 755 feet in length, or thirty feet longer than the *Baltic*, the largest ship in the world. The construction of the vessel, it is said, will begin immediately at Belfast, Ireland.

A telegram from Montevideo, dated January 23rd, says that the losses sustained by the insurgents since their recent defeat at Manzavillagra, Uruguay, are estimated at 500. The insurgent forces numbered more than 6000. These troubles have not been made public hitherto.

The purchase by the British Government of the hill above Kinghorn Ness Battery, which commands a view of the entrance of the Firth of Forth and is intended for use as an observation station solely has now been practically completed.

On Wednesday evening, between eight and nine o'clock, a summer-house in the garden of the residence of Mr. Popp on the Hill at Kobe was destroyed by fire. The damage done is sligh[t] and will not reach a hundred *yen*, but there it ground for suspecting that the fire was the work of an incendiary.

The *Nichi Nichi* has a Nagasaki telegram which states that the Russian steamer *Tulia* (?) which was lying at that port was captured on Feb. 17th by the Japanese authorities. It was consigned to Mr. Ginsburg and was chartered by the Russian Navy.

According to information from Berlin, General Kuropatkin has been appointed to command the Russian Army and Admiral Alexieff the Russian Navy in the Far East. Vice Admiral Skrydoloff, commander of the Black Sea Squadron (formerly commander on the Pacific Squadron) will serve under Admiral Alexieff.

The Ministers of State held a conference on Feb. 17th at 1 p.m. at the official residence of the Premier. They left before 4 o'clock. Count Arco Valley, German Minister, paid a visit the same day at 4 p.m. to Baron Komura, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Sir William Ramsay, lecturing in London on "Stars and Atoms," has made the startling statement that a leading firm of platinum manufacturers had unconsciously been throwing radium into the streets for more than 20 years, and that the precious substance is now lying somewhere in the dustheaps of London.

The first-class cruiser *Argonaut*, Capt. G. H. Cherry, arrived at Plymouth on Jan. 3rd, having completed her commission on the China Station. She left in the evening to pay off at Chatham, where she was commissioned on April 19, 1903. She underwent a paying-off steam trial in the North Sea on 7th inst., and afterwards steamed into Sheerness Harbour to prepare for paying off at Chatham.

A coolie was arrested on Feb. 16th by the Kaga-cho police, Yokohama, and charged with entering on Feb. 12th a godown of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company. He got in through a window which had been left open and stole two hundred pounds of waste silk. This he sold to T. Kato, a silk and cocoon dealer in Kanagawa.

King Peter of Servia, according to a report from Cetinje, Montenegro, published by the *Neues Wiener Journal*, is prepared voluntarily to renounce the throne and allow the powers to nominate his successor. The Prince of Montenegro is said to have received a mandate from Russia to clear up the precarious situation in Servia, and King Peter is alleged to have recognized the untenability of his position.

The sixty-fifth report and balance sheet of the New Zealand Insurance Company shows that there was an available balance at profit and loss account on Nov. 30th, 1903, of £83,748, of which there were allotted to payment of a dividend at the rate of 4s. per share £20,000, to reserve fund £25,000, to re-insurance fund £10,000, to investment fluctuation account £4,300, a balance being carried forward to new account of £24,448.13.9.

A singular discovery has been made during the overhaul which the *Victory* has received since she has been in dock at Portsmouth. It is that the spot in the cockpit hitherto pointed out as the place where the hero of Trafalgar breathed his last is the wrong one. It was close against one of the huge ribs of the ship, a little further forward, where Lord Nelson really expired. This place is now to be railed round, and it will be lighted with electric light, for which a store battery is to be placed on board. The old ship is undergoing a thorough refit, which will not be completed for several weeks.

At Elswick shipyard, on Dec. 30th., the steam yacht *Erthogrool* was launched for the Sultan of Turkey. The vessel was named by the wife of the Turkish Ambassador in the presence of a large company, including the Turkish Ambassador, Lord and Lady Armstrong, Sir Andrew Noble, and Admiral Hickmet Pasha. The yacht is 260 ft. long, and is luxuriously fitted. (Some of our readers may recollect the loss of the Turkish corvette *Ertogroul* on the Japan coast.)

Some remarkable discoveries have, according to the *Standard's* Athens correspondent, just been made by Austrian explorers among the ruins of Ephesus. Near the theatre they have found a building which, according to an inscription, was a library built by a man named Celsus. Even more important is the discovery of ten sculptures in high relief, forming a balustrade, and representing an historic subject of the time of the Romans, somewhat similar to the frieze of the altar from Perganum, now in the Museum at Berlin.

Dissatisfaction with the management of the Exchange at Cardiff Docks culminated on Dec. 31st in a revolt of over 1,000 merchants, shipowners, and stockbrokers against the proposal of the directors to raise the annual subscription from one guinea to two guineas. The members met hurriedly, and resolved to boycott the floor. The Exchange was the scene of tumultuous excitement during the day. In noise it would have eclipsed recent exhibitions on the New York cotton market. Time after time members broke into singing popular songs. After all the subscription will be allowed to remain at a guinea.

A telegram to the *Manila Cablenews* reads as follows:—Chicago, Jan. 27.—Mayor Carter H. Harrison and other municipal officials, besides other persons, among them those connected with the theatre and the production of the comic opera, *Mr. Bluebeard*, have been arrested in connection with the Iroquois Theatre disaster. They have been indicted for manslaughter and criminal negligence in failing to enforce the requirements of the city ordinances with reference to theatres. Building Commissioner George Williams and Deputy Commissioner L. E. Stanhope are among the indicted officials. Mayor Harrison has been released from custody under bond of $15,000.

The *Bangkok Times* of the 21st January says:—Mr. C. Rivett-Carnac leaves for Europe tomorrow by the *Deli*, having resigned the position of Financial Adviser which he has occupied for the last five years, and last evening he was received in farewell audience of His Majesty the King. In future, we understand, Mr. Rivett-Carnac's headquarters will be in London, where he will act as Financial Agent to the Siamese Government. Mr. Rivett-Carnac's name will be chiefly remembered here in connection with the establishment of the gold standard in Siam, and a general reform of the currency, which has proved of great benefit to the country and materially advanced its finances.

The Times Berlin Correspondent telegraphs that at the close of the year a statement is published in which the systematic increase in the numerical and material strength of the German Navy during 1903 is reviewed. Ten new vessels have been launched during the course of the last twelve months, including three battleships, one large cruisers, three small cruisers, one gunboat, and two river gunboats. The construction of those vessels has been accomplished in the three Imperial naval yards at Dantzic, Kiel, and Wilhelmshaven and in the shipbuilding yards of seven private firms. The orders for the Imperial Navy which have been placed with these private firms have given a welcome impulse to the shipbuilding industry, since the large steamship lines have recently shown little inclination to make additions to their fleets. During 1903 the Imperial naval authorities have taken over from the constructors one battleship, one large cruiser, four small cruisers, one gunboat, and one river gunboat. Of these, one small cruiser, the one gunboat, and the one river gunboat are among the vessels already enumerated as having been launched earlier in the year. The construction of five new vessels, the first instalments of votes for which have been passed in the naval estimates, was begun. There are at present on the stocks seven battleships, three large cruisers, four small cruisers, and one river gunboat.

NEW STANDARD HUNDRED FOOT RULE.

The new "Hundred Foot Rule," which has been laid down by the Standards Department of the Board of Trade on the west side of Westminster Hall, London, possesses, says the *Globe*, many advantages over that which has been in existence since 1876 on the north side of Trafalgar-square. As long ago as 1869, the Warden of the Standards began searching for a site suitable for the exhibition of a standard measure of 100 feet, and a standard chain of 66 feet, with subdivisions. It was decided that the site must be easily accessible to the public who may wish to compare their measures; and that the place must be such where comparisons may be made without being disturbed by idlers; and where sufficient protection from wilful damage may at all times be secured; and where there is a long and level plot of ground, upon which the longer standard measures may be laid down, with an adjacent wall for the mural standards.

Many sites were tried, namely, the south side of the Victoria Tower, Somerset House, Downing-street, New Palace-yard, and the Embankment, but either they proved unsuitable, or permission could not be obtained from the Office of Works. Finally, the Trafalgar-square site was obtained through the intervention of the Astronomer Royal, where all the blocks for defining the several measures are of bronze, those inlaid in the granite steps being slightly conical and secured by cement, while the mural standard measures are screwed into the granite wall. However, it was soon discovered that the site had its disadvantages, namely, insufficient security from damage and disturbance, and slight inaccuracy due to exposure to the atmosphere. Accordingly, the Department have been long trying to find a covered site for a new set of standards; and with this obiect in view the possibilities of the Guildhall were originally considered, but the idea abandoned owing to the constant traffic to and fro in that building. Westminster Hall fulfils all requirements but the Department experienced great difficulty in obtaining the permission of the authorities. The new measurement, here set up, is, of course, accessible to all bona-fide seekers after accuracy, and as it is impervious to atmospheric fluctuations, it renders it possible for the particular survey for which it is intended to be carried out to the 1-1,000th part of an inch. Already, it has been copied in steel by the United States Government for the Capital at Washington, and, doubtless, other copies will soon be dispatched all over the world.

Our standard units of measures of length, capacity, and weight—the yard, bushel, and pound—have come down to us from the Saxons, who derived their origin from a corn of weight. No change was made by the Normans in the Saxon system, but William the Conqueror ordered the custody of the standards to be transferred from the City of Winchester to the Exchequer at Westminster. The King's standards were deposited by the King's orders in a consecrated building, the Pyx Chapel, just as those of ancient countries were placed in their temples. The chapel became vested in the Sovereign, and has ever since been held by the officer who has had charge of the standards. In 1866, when the Exchequer ceased to be a separate office of the Government, and was amalgamated with the audit, the Standards Department of the Board of Trade, with offices in Old Palaceyard, Westminster, was created, and all the standards passed to the custody of the Warden, when they were deposited in fire-proof safes. In 1870, increased accommodation was given to the Standards Department by the addition of several new rooms to the office, which now includes all the three floors of the old Norman Jewel Tower at Westminister, in which until comparatively recently the original Acts of Parliament were deposited. From the great thickness of the stone walls of the tower, the rooms in this building are very favourable for standard operations, being free from vibration, and not liable to sudden fluctuations of temperature. There are rooms devoted to weighing, rooms devoted to glass fluid measures, and rooms devoted to microscopical comparing apparatus. The most delicate weighings are all performed in a vacuum case with glass sides, which is so constructed that the weight can be exchanged from one arm to the other without opening the case, so as to obtain double weighings. Other rooms contain a large collection of older standards of an antiquarian or historical character. The whole of the building has been made to correspond with its appearance when originally completed in the reign of Richard II.

The oldest measure of capacity extant is the Winchester Corn bushel of Henry VII.'s reign, and with it are preserved the standard quart, added by Elizabeth, and the standard wine-gallon of good Queen Anne. All three were abolished in 1824, when the new imperial gallon was made the standard of capacity for measuring grain and dry commodities. All measures of capacity, both liquid and dry, were at first taken from troy weight, and several laws were passed in the reign of Henry III., enacting that eight pounds of Troy, taken from the middle of the ear of corn and well dried, should make one gallon of wine measure.

Another interesting relic is furnished by the standard avoirdupois weights, constructed in the reign of Elizabeth, by which all the commercial weights of this country were regulated up to the reign of George IV. These are still in good condition. New imperial standard weights, constructed under Captain Kater's direction, were substituted for them in 1825. The oldest English standard of length now existing consists of the exchequer yard of Henry VII. alone, while there is also extant the standard yard of Elizabeth's time, which has the cloth ell of 45 inches marked on the same bronze bar. A royal Commission on Weights and Measures, which sat in 1758, ordered a new standard yard and a new standard troy pound to be constituted the legal standards of length and weight in this country. The troy pound of brass was made at once, and in 1760 came the new yard measure found in the Tower of London. These were left in the custody of the House of Commons, but it was not until 1824 that the new system was legalised. Still, they were not removed from the House of Commons, and so perished in the holocaust of 1834. According to the Act of 1824, it was directed that, in the event of its being lost, the standard yard was to be recovered by making the length of a mean-time seconds pendulum in the latitude of London, in a vacum at sea level equal to 39.1393 inches. However, the Royal Committee, appointed to restore the perished standards, reported against the accuracy of the pendulum method, so they restored it, between 1843 and 1854, by taking the best secondary evidence, and produced a standard bar of gun metal. The Commission replaced troy weight by avoirdupois, and the standard pound is a mass of platinum, weighing 7,000 grains in vacuo.

In pursuance of the Standards Act of 1855, the standards of the British yard measure and of the British pound weight are immured in the wall of the staircase leading to the Upper Waiting Hall of the House of Commons, and Parliamentary copies are deposited at the Royal Mint, Greenwich Observatory, and with the Royal Society of London. The immured standards are tested every twenty years, in the presence of the Speaker, the President of the Board of Trade, and the Secretary to the Lord Great Chamberlain. The last test took place on April 2, 1892, when it was found that, compared with the test of 1872, the yard differed 0.0000152in., and the pound 0.00064 grain. It is, however, believed that the differences arose from errors of observation in 1872. After the test, a declaration is made that the immured imperial standards are not in any manner destroyed, defaced, or otherwise injured, when they are replaced as follows: The platinum pound is wrapped in Swedish filtering paper, then placed in its silver-gilt case, which is packed in a square, solid, bronze case, which is deposited in a mahogany box, and screwed down and sealed. The gun-metal yard is placed on its eight rollers within a mahogany box, and both mahogany boxes are placed within a lead case, which is soldered down. Lastly, the lead receptacle is confined in an oak box, which is deposited within the cavity in the stone wall, and the aperture cemented up.

CORRESPONDENCE.

EARLY RECOLLECTIONS OF YOKOHAMA 1859-1864.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I was extremely pleased to see in your issue of the *Japan Weekly Mail* of 5th Dec. to hand here today, the interesting paper on the above subject by Mr. G. W. Rogers, read at the Yokohama Literary Society, and if, as he says, it was written almost entirely from memory, he deserves the greatest credit for its compilation. I gladly add it to my collection of reminiscences of the old days, which now comprises papers written by Mr. Wilkin in 1893 ("Yokohama in the Sixties") and added to by myself, an account I wrote for your paper early in 1902, and Mr. Mollison's description in May last year, which with Mr. Rogers' paper just received, all written from different standpoints, give an interesting and pretty accurate idea of things as they were, say from 1859 to about 1874, and which should be of greater value as time goes on, showing as they do a state of affairs hardly conceivable without such descriptions to comparatively newcomers.

I would point out a slight slip in Mr. Rogers' paper, and which you also make on the first page of the above *Weekly Mail*. Referring to the Mrs. Borradaile who died at Surbiton on 17th Oct., she was Mr. Borradaile's second wife and was not the lady of that name who was with Mr. Richardson's disastrous party in 1862. That lady died many years ago. She was the sister of Mrs. Wm. Marshall, whose husband was also of the party, and got I believe £5000 compensation for the wounds he received in the attack. I think the error as to the identity was first made by the *London and China Express* and it is quite understandable how it arose, both ladies having been the wives of Mr. Borradaile.

Your obedient Servant, ARTHUR BRENT.

44 Great Tower Street, London, E. C.
8 January, 1904.

INJURED MAIL MATTER.

(To the Editor of the "Japan Mail.")

Sir,—Would you kindly spare me space in your paper to acquaint the public of the following accident.

According to a statement from the Post Office, Tacoma, several mail bags conveyed by the *Tacoma*, which left Yokohama on the 18th Dec. last, were somewhat disfigured by rats aboard the ship. The damaged bags are as follows:—

2 bags containing prints, samples etc, for Tacoma, slightly rat eaten; 1 bag containing letters for Tacoma, badly rat eaten; 1 bag prints, samples, etc., for New York, slightly rat eaten; 1 bag containing registered articles, for London, slightly rat eaten; 1 bag containing prints, samples etc., for Paris, slightly rat eaten; 1 bag containing letters, samples etc., for Belfort and Bale, Switz., badly rat eaten.

In consequence, it is possibly believed that some of the mail matters which were collected at this office and forwarded for the above destinations might have been damaged, slightly or badly.

Yours faithfully, T. AONUMA.
Supt. of Foreign mails.

Yokohama, February 12.

GERMANY AND THE WAR.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—The *Japan Mail* of February 13th has a paragraph on German Sentiment, which speaks of Germany's tardy "conversion" to Japan's cause, and which ends with the Japanese proverb, *Kateba Kangun makereba zoku* (if you win you are called a loyal soldier, if you lose you are a rebel). I can quite understand that an Englishman might be a little too ready to quote against another nation a saying which the Japanese applied to his own country (English), when during the China-Japan war England's sympathies for Japan became more and more strong along with the latter's victories. I can understand it, because it is always a consolation, to have *socios malorum*.

But there ought to be some cause for such an assertion, and there is none in the present case of Germany. For German sentiment was not anti-Japanese, but it was pro-Japanese even before the outbreak of hostilities. This is proved by no less an authority than the *Japan Mail* itself, which on February 10th published a telegram sent from Berlin on the 9th, *before anything was known of the beginning of war*, saying: "In military and other circles every sympathy is felt for Japan." The *Japan Mail* stands therefore self-convicted of an absolutely unprovoked sneer at Germany, which in fact, is equivalent to an attempt to lower her in the opinion of the Japanese.

I am, dear Sir, Yours very truly,

NEUTER.

[Our correspondent appears to labour under the same inability as the German journals to which we referred in our note of the 13th inst. (not 12th) an inability to keep King Charles' head out of the memorial. England must always be dragged in: every stick is good for beating England. However, we would ask "Neuter" to distinguish between sympathy and judgment. That the German people, or at any rate such part of them as have any knowledge of the Far East, sympathise with Japan, may be taken for granted. But the view they take of her cause is another matter, and we are not aware that their journals had expressed any favourable judgment in that sense prior to the successes on the 8th and 9th. As to the suggestion that we are "attempting to lower Germany in the opinion of the Japanese," it is scarcely worth considering. It is our habit to say what we think without any sinister purpose. So far as our knowledge of the Japanese goes, their opinion of the German nation is not assailable. But their opinion of German policy might be a great deal higher than it is.—ED. *J. M.*]

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

The following is the seventy-seventh report of the court of directors to the ordinary half-yearly general meeting of Shareholders to be held at the City Hall, Hongkong, on Saturday, the 20th February, at noon.

Gentlemen,—The directors have now to submit to you a general statement of the affairs of the Bank, and balance sheet for the half-year ending 31st December, 1903.

The net profits for that period, including $1,435,638.17, balance brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, deducting interest paid and due, and making provision for bad and doubtful accounts, amount to $3,771,886.08.

The directors recommend the transfer of $500,000 from the profit and loss account to credit of the silver reserve fund, which fund will then stand at $6,500,000.

After making this transfer and deducting remuneration to directors there remains for appropriation $3,256,886.08, out of which the directors recommend the payment of a dividend of one pound and ten shillings sterling per share, which at 4/6 will absorb $533,333.33, and a bonus of ten shillings sterling per share, which at 4/6 will absorb $17,777.78.

The difference in exchange between 4/6, the rate at which the dividend and bonus are declared, and 1/8¼, the rate of the day, amounts to $1,128,408.89.

The balance $1,417,366.08 to be carried to new profit and loss account.

Mr. A. J. Raymond has been elected chairman for the year 1904 and Mr. H. E. Tomkins Deputy Chairman.

The Honourable R. Shewan having resigned his seat on leaving the Colony, Mr. C. A. Tomes has been invited to fill the vacancy; the appointment requires confirmation at this Meeting.

Mr. E. Goetz and the Honourable C. W. Dickson retire in rotation, but being eligible for re-election offer themselves accordingly.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. W. Hutton Potts and Mr. A. G. Wood, the latter acting for Honourable C. S. Sharp who is absent from the Colony.

Honourable C. S. Sharp, who is shortly returning to the Colony, and Mr. W. Hutton Potts offer themselves for re-election.

ABSTRACT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES 31ST DECEMBER, 1903.

	$	$
Paid-up capital		10,000,000.00
Sterling reserve fund		10,000,000.00
Silver reserve fund		6,000,000.00
Marine Insurance account		250,000.00
Authorised issue against securities deposited with the crown agents for the colonies	10,000,000.00	
Additional issue authorised by Hongkong Ordinance No. 19 of 1900, against coin lodged with the Hongkong Government.	6,259,244.00	
		16,259,244.00
Current accounts:—		
Silver	74,787,644.85	
Gold, £1,945,897.5s. 3d.	=22,331,487.89	
		97,119,132.74
Fixed deposits		
Silver	46,121,565.85	
Gold, £4,991,925.5s. 7d.	=37,387,016.14	
		103,508,581.99
Bills payable (including drafts on London bankers, call loans and short sight drawings on London office against bills receivable and bullion shipments)		20,882,914.55
Profit and loss account		3,771,886.08
Liability on bills of exchange rediscounted, £6,619,859. 7s. 4d. of which up to this date £4,328,093 have run off.		
		267,791,759.36

	£	
Cash		38,366,269.91
Coin lodged with the Hongkong Government against note circulation in excess of 10,000,000		8,500,000.00
Bullion in hand and in transit		7,824,187.16
Indian Government rupee paper		1,917,919.13
Consols, colonial and other securities		8,784,467.89
Sterling reserve fund investments, viz.:—		
£570,000 2½ per cent. Consols at 85 (of which £250,000 lodged with the Bank of England as a Special London reserve.)	484,500	
£255,000 2¾ per cent. National War Loan at 90.	229,500	
£325,000 other sterling securities written down to	286,000	
	£1,000,000	10,000,000.00
Bills discounted, loans and credits		89,900,177.72
Bills receivable		101,142,859.03
Bank premises		1,355,878.53
		267,791,759.36

GENERAL PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT 31ST DECEMBER, 1903.

Dr.		$ c.
To amount written off:—		
Remuneration to Directors		15,000.00
To dividend account:—		
£1 10s. per share on 80,000 shares=£120,000 at 4s. 6d.	533,333.33	
Bonus of 10s. per share on 80,000 shares=£40,000 at 4s. 6d.	177,777.78	711,111.11
To dividend adjustment account:—		
Difference in exchange between 4s. 6d., the rate at which the dividend and bonus are declared, and 1s. 8¼d. the rate of the day		1,128,408.89
To transfer to silver reserve fund		500,000.00
To balance forward to next half year		1,417,366.08
		3,771,886.08

Cr.		$. c.
By balance of undivided profits, 30th June, 1903	1,435,683.17	
By amount of net profits for the six months ending 31st December, 1903, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, deducting all expenses and interest paid and due	2,336,202.91	
		3,771,886.08
		$3,771,886.08

STERLING RESERVE FUND.

To balance	$10,000,000.00
By balance 30th June 1903 (invested in sterling securities.)	10,000,900.00

SILVER RESERVE FUND.

To balance	$6,500,000.00
By balance 30th June, 1903	6,000,000.00
By transfer from profit and loss account	500,000.00

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

THE U.S. AND CHINA'S INTEGRITY.

London, February 12.

A telegram from Washington states that on February 10th Mr. Hay, Secretary of State, addressed a communication to the Powers asking whether they would be willing to join in giving notice to Russia and Japan that during as well as after hostilities the neutrality and integrity of China must be recognized.

ST. PETERSBURG AMAZED.

Patriotic demonstrations took place in St. Petersburg and elsewhere in Russia on Tuesday, but the news as to Port Arthur caused an immense sensation, the populace being amazed at Japan attacking before declaring war. The streets of St. Petersburg were thronged by excited crowds and the Court Ball has been abandoned.

RUSSIA'S LACK OF NAVAL OFFICERS.

London, February 11.

Owing to the lack of Naval officers, all ensigns in the Russian Navy were yesterday granted commissions.

THE CZAR TO HIS OFFICERS.

The Czar, addressing his officers, said that "a treacherous foe in the darkness of night, without provocation, attacked our fortress and fleet."

MR. KURINO.

Mr. Kurino, Japanese Minister, has left St. Petersburg.

BRITISH NEUTRALITY.

The British proclamation of neutrality appears to-morrow.

THE STOCK MARKET.

London, February 12.

Russian stocks to-day gained (? declined) another 1½ and Japanese stock rose ¾ reflecting fairly the feeling in London.

CONGRATULATING JAPAN.

All the papers in Great Britain unite in congratulating Japan upon the brilliant opening of the campaign.

Even the German papers ridicule the Russian talk of treachery because Japan attacked without a formal declaration of war.

THE CZAR'S MANIFESTO.

The Czar has issued a manifesto which virtually amounts to a declaration of war.

AMERICA'S NEUTRALITY.

The Washington Cabinet has decided to maintain absolute neutrality.

Mr. Hay's proposals contemplate the restriction of hostilities within the smallest possible area, and are regarded as implying that neither Russia or Japan will be allowed to invade China proper.

WAR NEWS.

London, February 14.

Sir William Nicholson and Col. James Haldane, British Attachés to the Japanese army, have started. The contractors have undertaken to complete the line across (? around) Lake Baikal by Feb. 28th or earlier. A circular has been issued by the Russian Minister of Finance, warning the public against sacrificing Russian securities owing to heavy falls. He exhorts them to adopt a calmer attitude, though temporary difficulties are possible. He declares that Russia's economic force is unshaken. The circular is a significant indication of the sensation created throughout Russia. Several cruisers and destroyers are being prepared at Brest and Toulon to proceed to the Far East; 60,000 tons of coal briquets have been hastily despatched to Saigon. In yesterday's telegrams the word "gained" with reference to Russian securities should have been "fell."

PANIC IN ST. PETERSBURG.

London, February 15.

The Japanese successes have caused such a panic in St. Petersburg and on the Bourse that the financial situation there has become critical. Holders of Government stocks are losing enormously. Several banks are tottering.

RUSSIAN NAVAL MOVEMENTS.

The *Dimitri Donskoi* and the *Aurora*, with six destroyers proceeded from Suez to Jibutil where they have coaled and are awaiting the arrival of the *Oslabia*, the transport *Saratoff* and three destroyers which have already left Suez. Several transports and torpedo boats are now in the Canal.

EGYPT'S NEUTRALITY.

London, February 13.

A Russian destroyer has been ordered to leave Port Said after the Government had received an application from Russia for permission to dock the destroyer at Suez.

The Austrian collier *Java*, chartered for Port Arthur, has been treated as a belligerent and ordered to leave Port Said immediately. She is now discharging.

RUSSIA'S INTERNAL TROUBLES.

The revolutionary propaganda in southern Russia is increasing. Many provincial governors have been summoned to St. Petersburg to confer with the Government.

NEUTRALITY.

Germany and China have proclaimed neutrality.

CHINA'S NEUTRALITY.

London, February 15.

France has accepted Mr. Hay's note regarding China's neutrality. Great Britain has agreed in principle. It is expected also that Russia will concur.

An official Japanese note published in Paris says that Japan advised China to remain neutral with the view of reducing the evils of war to a minimum, although she was well aware of the advantages she would herself derive from an alliance with China. She had urged China to take effectual measures to protect her strategic points and prevent the belligerents from violating her (China's) neutrality, by making Chinese ports their basis of operations or using them as harbours of refuge.

THE BLACK SEA FLEET.

London, February 17.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Mr. Akers Douglas (who is leading the House temporarily owing to the illness of Mr. A. J. Balfour) said that Great Britain had not been approached regarding the passage of the Dardanelles, by the Black Sea Fleet. There was no reason to suppose that Russia contemplates such a violation of the treaties.

UNREST IN RUSSIA.

Government circles in St. Petersburg are uneasy, especially as seditious proclamations are again circulating among the students.

RUSSIA'S MOVEMENTS.

London, February 18.

The Russian Government has issued fifty million roubles worth of credit notes.

The *Oslabiya*, *Dimitri Donskoi*, and a number of torpedo destroyers are ordered to remain at Jubutil till further orders.

It was stated in St. Petersburg on Feb. 18th that General Nanoff, Governor of Turkistan, has been instructed to prepare for possible military action in the direction of India in the event of Britain adopting an attitude openly hostile to Russia or attempting upon any enterprise in Persia or Thibet prejudicial to Russian interests.

(RECEIVED AT THE LEGATION OF FRANCE.)

THE BATTLE OF PORT ARTHUR.

(OFFICIAL FROM ST. PETERSBURG.)

Saigon, February 11.

In the night attack against Port Arthur the iron-clad *Cesarewitch* had an injury to her rudder; the *Retvisan* in her pumping machinery, and the *Pallada* in the middle of her hull. These vessels continue afloat. Measures are being taken to get them into the inner roadstead.

On the following day, the 9th February, at 11 a.m., a squadron of 15 Japanese iron-clads and cruisers bombarded Port Arthur. The citadel and the Russian squadron replied. After an hour of bombardment the Japanese withdrew to the south. During the combat the iron-clad *Poltava*, and the cruisers *Diana*, *Askold* and *Novik* received injuries below the water-line.

The damage done to the citadel is insignificant. Two officers and 41 sailors were wounded; 9 killed.

ADDITIONAL FRENCH NEWS.

Saigon, February 11.

General Davoust d'Auerstadt, Grand Chancellor of the Legion of Honour, is dead.

St. Petersburg—The injuries suffered by the *Cesarevitch* and the *Retvisan* are not grave. Both ships took part in the defence of Port Arthur on the following day. The *Pallada* will soon put to sea again. The injuries to the squadron and the forts during the attack on Port Arthur were of little gravity.

FRENCH TORPEDO BOAT MOVEMENTS.

Saigon, February 13.

The French torpedo boat destroyers *Mousquet*, *Fronde* and *Pistolet* (all 300 tons) have received orders to proceed to the Far East.

LOCALIZING THE WAR.

The European press expects that the war will be localized between Russia and Japan.

NEUTRALITY PROCLAMATIONS.

Proclamations of neutrality by Great Britain and the United States are expected momentarily.

THE "CEZAREWITCH."

The *Cezarewitch* will soon be ready for sea.

FRANCE AND SIAM.

M. Delcassé commenced on Tuesday to lay before the Council of Ministers the state of the negotiations with Siam. It is probable that the arrangement will be concluded.

FRENCH NEWS.

Saigon, February 14.

Admiral Maréchal, former Commander-in-chief of the French Squadron in the Far East, is dead.

The Council of Ministers has settled the conditions of the Convention with Siam. M. Etienne, Vice-President of the Chamber and President of the Colonial Group in the Chamber, M. Deloucle, Deputy for Cochin China, M. Doumer, Deputy, former Minister and formerly Governor General of Indo-China, opposed the immediate evacuation of Chantaboun.

At Port Arthur, the transport *Yenissei*, when laying mines, was accidentally blown up. There were 95 killed.

FRANCE AND SIAM.

Saigon, February 15.

In the Convention with Siam it is agreed that Siam renounces all pretension to the Kingdom of Luang-Prebang; that she cedes 8 points on the right bank of the Mekong; that Frenchmen shall command the Cambodgian troops in the provinces of Battambong, Augkor, and Sisuphon; that France will maintain her *protegés*; that France shall evacuate Chantaboun, but only after the delimitation of the Cambodgian frontier shall have been effected and after the occupation of the Bay of Krat and the neighbouring territory shall have been accomplished.

The Parliamentary Commission will have to clear up numerous points before the Convention is ratified.

The treaty was to be signed at Paris on the evening of the 13th.

(RECEIVED AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE.)

OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.

The Japanese Consul at Chefoo reports that according to a statement by the master of an American steamer which had just arrived from Port Arthur, the cruiser *Askold*, which was one of the ships injured in the fight on the 9th and was subsequently removed into the inner harbour, sank at her moorings on the 13th.

He also states that 29 were killed and sixty wounded on board the ships and that in Hwantan Fort two were killed and a great number were wounded.

Mr. Motono, Japanese Minister in Paris, telegraphs that on the 12th he transmitted to M. Delcassé, French Foreign Minister, Japan's statement of her case, and that he received a reply immediately saying that France would observe neutrality.

THE "HANSA."

The following has been kindly placed at our disposal by the Imperial German Legation:—

Telegram dated Tsingtau, Feb. 13, 1904.
Received at the German Legation, Tokyo,
February 13th. 1904, 8.30 p.m.

H.G.M.S. *Hansa*, after having stopped at Port Arthur for five hours during the daytime, took away from thence 16 women (2 German, 3 Japanese, 5 English, 2 American, 3 Russian, 1 Chinese) 5 children and 6 men (4 German, 1 Australian, 1 French). Retreat over land was impossible.

(FROM THE "JIJI SHIMPO.")

RUSSIA'S DECLARATION OF WAR.

London, February 11.

The Tzar to-day declared war against Japan.

JAPANESE STEAMERS.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha's steamer *Wakasa Maru* (Capt. J. B. Macmillan) has arrived safely at Colombo.

The steamer *Bingo Maru* (Capt. Davies) took fire in the Thames. It was immediately extinguished, but her midships hold was damaged.

THE BRITISH PRESS.

All the papers in London commend the merits of Japan and say that the prestige of Russia is injured to such an extent that it can not be recovered. The *Times* declares that the results secured by Japan are great in importance and in moral effect.

DISASTROUS FIRE AT SHANGHAI.

Shanghai, February 11, 8.40 p.m.

A disastrous fire has occurred in the Nankin Road destroying several foreign buildings, including the Russian Consulate, the general stores of Messrs. Lane Crawford & Co., and Hall & Holtz, Ltd., and Hanchow.

THE U. S. PROPOSAL.

London, February 12.

The U. S. Government has received from Great Britain and Germany their consent to its proposal which aims at confining the war between Japan and Russia to a certain limited zone in the Far East.

The *Times* discusses the proposal of the United States and points out that France hesitates [illegible] consent to the proposal. This paper believes that the war zone will not apply to China proper.

NEUTRALITY.

Great Britain and the United States have declared neutrality.

VICEROY ALEXIEFF.

Viceroy Alexieff has been given supreme powers [illegible] command the military forces.

FRANCE.

France strongly desires to avert further extensions of the war.

have perished. This happens to be the herring-fishery season and thus the *Shogyo's* statement acquires melancholy probability. It is remarked by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* that no value can attach to the only shadow of excuse which the Russians may offer, namely, that the two little steamers—their net tonnages are now ascertained to have been 665 and 144 respectively—refused to bring to and attempted to escape, can not hold valid for an instant. The Russian vessels could steam nearly 3 knots for every knot steamed by the Japanese steamers, and there should not have been the least difficulty in arresting them. Probably, indeed almost certainly, the *Zensho Maru*, which escaped, did not come within range and got into shallow water under shelter before the cruisers could open upon her, but even supposing that the first shot fired at the *Nagonoura* resulted in sinking her, the Russians ought to have saved her unfortunate passengers and crew. It is not unreasonable to suppose that they were not out for capturing merchant vessels or taking prisoners, that they destroyed life and property indiscriminately and that they will destroy it wherever they find it.

The Japanese press, we need scarcely say, is full of indignation, but it counsels its countrymen not to be betrayed into perpetrating any retaliatory excesses.

The master and crew of the *Zensho Maru*, which escaped, affirm that no signal or summons of any kind was made by the Russian cruisers. They opened fire at once.

Japanese destroyers have been trying to discover the whereabouts of the Vladivostock squadron but unsuccessfully. It disappeared after its splended exploit of murder. Hakodate was for a moment perturbed in expectation of an attack but equanimity has been restored, and news comes that a squadron of Japanese ships was to reach that port on the evening of the 12th.

As for the alleged bombardment of Fukuyama, it proves to be a groundless story.

Otaru also has been considerably disturbed by the apparition of the Vladivostock squadron in neighbouring seas. Old people, women and children made preparations to escape and there was a momentary run on the local banks.

The Governor of Hokkaido wires that up to the evening of the 12th the Russians had not been seen again nor had they made any attempt to pass the Tsugaru Strait. Throughout that day the cruiser *Takao* (1,778 tons) and four destroyers patrolled the strait in the neighbourhood of Hakodate.

There was considerable anxiety for a moment about the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's s. s. *Owari Maru*. She left Niigata at 10 a.m. on the 11th for Hakodate, and she must have been in the zone of danger at a very critical time. News has been received, however, of her safe arrival at Hakodate on the 12th at 4 p.m.

Later news says that the *Nagonoura Maru* had a cargo of rice and that she carried only four passengers. It is to be hoped that this may prove correct.

It is reported that the British Squadron has left Hongkong for the Sea of Japan. Tokyo papers mention this with great satisfaction, as the presence of the British fleet will probably prevent the perpetration of further brutalities like the sinking of the *Nagononra Maru.*

Reports reach Tokyo of the apparition of Russian vessels here and there, but the stories are vague and uncertain. What they suggest is that the Vladivostock squadron has steamed down to the vicinity of Tsushima.

It is conjectured in Japan that the movements of the Vladivostock Squadron are of the nature of a diversion. The idea is that the Russians had planned an offensive movement on the 10th instant, their programme being that the Vladivostock Squadron, which consists of swift, strong cruisers, should make its appearance in the Sea of Japan, and cause an alarm which would draw off a large part of the Japanese fleet. In the meanwhile the bulk of the Russian Squadron would emerge from Port Arthur and steam to the neighbourhood of Sasebo, challenging the weakened Japanese, and delivering battle before the vessels sent northward could rejoin. The entertainment in Port Arthur on the night of the 8th was part of that programme, but the whole scheme failed owing to the promptitude of the Japanese. Those holding this view believe the Vladivostock Squadron to have put to sea before receiving news of the affair at Port Arthur. There are rumours, indeed, that the ships left Vladivostock on the 7th. They appeared off the Tsugaru Strait on the 11th. If they had started on the evening of the 7th they should have been off the Straits on the 10th, but it is conceivable that they were accompanied by colliers which hampered their movements. At any rate their procedure seems to be mainly of a minatory nature. They have accomplished nothing except the sinking of a small steamer, and it is conceivable that they allowed her consort to escape because they desired to promote wide dissemination of the news of their presence.

Tuesday, February 16.

The Vladivostock Squadron seems to have retired again into that port. The sum of its achievements thus far is the barbarous destruction of a little merchant steamer.

Wednesday, Februamy 17.

A later account says that the Vladivostock squadron left that Port on the afternoon of the 9th, and that news had already been received of the Port Arthur affair. The officer in command of the Squadron had been removed on the day before its departure but the cause is not known. Mr. Kawakami, who arrived at Nagasaki by the *Batavia*, says that no torpedoes are laid at Vladivostock, which is likely enough, seeing that the harbour is frozen.

The official report of this cruel incident is that at 10 a.m. on the 11th instant the *Zensho Maru* sighted four Russian cruisers on her port how. The *Nagonoura Maru* was then some distance ahead of the *Zensho Maru* and had ceased moving. At about 11 o'clock the men-of-war fired at the *Zensho*, but the shot fell short by about 80 yards. Then a shot was fired at the *Nagonoura*. It struck her stern and she went down in ten minutes. Thereafter the Russians discharged three shell at the *Zensho*, but probably owing to the high sea, they missed her, and taking advantage of a squall of wind and rain she managed to escape, though at one time her passengers and crew had given themselves up for lost. The report does not say how many persons were on board the *Nagonoura* .

Friday, February 19.

There are again rumours that the Vladivostock Squadron has put to sea and has been sighted on the coast of south-western Yezo. But the Authorities are understood to deny the truth of the statement.

THIRD ATTACK UPON PORT ARTHUR.

Vice-Admiral Togo reports as follows, under date of the 16th instant at 10.10 p.m. :—

On the 13th instant a division of destroyers set out for Port Arthur during a heavy snow-storm. On the way thither the boats lost sight of each other and were separated. Only the commanding section which consisted of the *Hayatori* and the *Asagiri* reached their destination. At 3 a.m. on the 14th the *Asagiri* sighted the harbour's mouth, and was heavily fired on by the batteries on shore and by the torpedo-boats on scouting duty. She held on, however, and discharged a torpedo at a war-ship from the funnel of which smoke was ascending. Returning the fire of the enemy's torpedo-boats she made her way back safely. On the same morning at 5 o'clock the *Hayatori* approached Port Arthur. Sighting two of the enemy's ships through the darkness, she received their fire, but immediately discharged a torpedo at one of them. The projectile was distinctly seen to burst and the *Hayatori* escaped safely. It is not possible to speak definitely as to the results of this brave attack by the *Hayatori* and the *Asagiri* as the darkness rendered things indistinct, but there can be no doubt that, at the least, the moral effect upon the enemy was great.

The officer in command of the squadron that made the above attack was Captain Nagai Gunkichi; the *Hayatori* was commanded by Commander Takenouchi Jiro and the *Asagiri* by Commander Ishikawa Jujiro.

The *Jiji Shimpo's* Chefoo correspondent wires news of the attack but adds little to Admiral Togo's report, which is nevertheless characterized by that officer's usual brevity and freedom from adjectives. The correspondent says, however, that after the fight on the 9th the remnant of the Russian Squadron retired temporarily to Talien Bay, whence they subsequently returned to Port Arthur and took shelter under the forts. He adds that the Russians must have suffered more or less loss in this last essay by the Japanese, a fact not likely to be disputed. It appears to us that the story is sufficiently eloquent without any comment. We do not know whence the destroyers set out, but it is plain that they had to steam during a whole night through a violent snow storm. After they became separated and after the power of concerted action was thus lost, the natural course would have been for them to turn about and regain the fleet. They went on, however, singly. The Russians were not taken by surprise. They brought their search-lights to bear quickly and opened a heavy fire on the *Asagiri*, which little craft finding herself alone under the heavy batteries on the two promontories and under the guns of a hostile squadron, nevertheless dashed into the harbour, discharged her torpedo and emerged unscathed. Her commander can not say definitely what material damage he inflicted, as the darkness was too intense for clear observation, but whatever injury he did to the enemy's ships, there can be no second opinion about the brilliancy of his exploit and about the siugular inefficiency of the Russians, who, although they picked up the little craft almost immediately with their search-lights, and although they had her practically at their mercy, failed to sink or cripple her. Two hours later the *Hayatori*. knowing nothing of her consort's doings neared the harbour. Had it been agreed that the two boats should follow each other at such a brief interval, the plan would have commanded admiration, for though the Russians were prepared for the first attack, they could scarcely have expected a second two hours later. They were not caught napping, however. They had their search-lights in full action and they "let off" their guns successfully. But their defensive efforts proved as futile as before, and on this occasion there does not seem to be much doubt about the destruction wrought by the Japanese torpedo. It can scarcely be said that these incidents will teach the world a new lesson about torpedo possibilities, because an enemy so helpless at sea as the Russians have shown themselves constitutes an altogether abnormal element in any calculation. May we not add, also, that assailants so intrepid as the Japnnese are not found everywhere? They literally take their lives in their hands when duty is in question. Such men deserve success, and will command it.

It has been suggested that the blowing up of the *Yenisei* at Port Arthur was the work of the Japanese destroyers in their last attack. There is just a bare possibility that the hypothesis is correct. The torpedo discharged by the *Hayatori* at 5 a.m. on the 14th instant was seen to explode against a Russian vessel, and in view of the coolness and accuracy of Japanese naval officers' observation, there can be little doubt that the ship was disabled. Five in the morning at Port Arthur on the 14th was equivalent to 9 p.m. on the 13th in Europe, and it is therefore quite possible that St. Petersburg received the news at midnight on the latter day. If then it was at once telegraphed to Paris, it might have been re-wired to the East on the morning of the 14th, which is the date of the Saigon telegram received in Tokyo on the 15th. The thing is just within the range of possibilities, but it is not probable. For if we examine the dates of previous intelligence, it is found that Admiral Alexieff's report of the attack at midnight on the 8th instant, was circulated in Paris on the 10th and reached Tokyo on the night of the 11th. Thus there was an interval of two days between the time of the attack and the publication in Paris of Alexieff's report, whereas if the *Yenisei* incident is to be regarded as the result of the exploit on the 14th, we must assume that the news went round the world in one day. Moreover, it can scarcely be imagined that the Viceroy would telegraph such a clumsily false statement. His Excellency showed no disposition at the outset to conceal anything. His first report was remarkable for outspoken frankness. It is true that he subsequently displayed a marked desire to minimize the injuries suffered by his fleet, and one can easily understand his mood when one takes note of the panic caused in Russian financial circles by the event. In view of the Russian empire's peculiarly delicate circumstances, it becomes a serious question whether frank lying would not be more meritorious on the part of her officials in certain crises than reckless truthfulness. Alexieff may have changed his view of a Viceroy's duties in the days immediately succeeding the attack of the Japanese squadrons. On the other hand, Alexieff may have telegraphed the naked truth to St. Petersburg on the 14th, and St. Petersburg may have published a version of its own. In that case there would have been feverish haste to get the misleading statement into early circulation. But we here lose ourselves in a maze of conjectures. The safest plan is to hold to simple probabilities, namely, that the *Yenisei's* unhappy fate was quite independent of the torpedo attack on the 14th, and that it probably took place on the 13th, or perhaps on the night of the 12th.

It is to be observed that when the *Asagiri* and the *Hayatori* reached Port Arthur, they received the fire of the forts and of the enemy's torpedo-boats, and it is further to be observed that the commanders of the destroyers do not speak of having actually entered the port. The inference is that they found the Russians lying outside protected by a screen of torpedo boats. What vessels then were likely to be in that situation? If we subtract those believed to have been previously disabled, or at any rate badly injured, by the Japanese assaults, there remain only the battle-ships *Peresviet* and *Pobieda* and the armoured cruiser *Bayan*—assuming that the *Sevastopol* is still undergoing repairs. The *Jiji Shimpo* also arrives at this conclusion and conjectures that the *Hayatori's* torpedo struck the *Bayan*.

We learn that there were four destroyers engaged in the gallant exploit—the *Murasame*, the *Harusame*, the *Asagiri* and the *Hayatori*. The two first have rejoined the fleet in safety. This is believed to be part of the division that was directed against Talien on the night of the 8th and that found no Russian vessels there.

The Japanese fugitives who left Port Arthur on the morning of the 14th in the steamer *Wen-chow*, reported, it will be remembered, that they observed the flagship *Petropavlovsk* to have a large hole in her bow near the anchor-chain hole. There are conjectures that this is the ship hit by the *Hayatori's* projectile.

Again we hear statements as to the inferiority of the Russian explosives. This is inferred from the large size of the fragments into which their shells burst.

An officer of the torpedo squadron that made the attack on the 8th is quoted by the *Asahi* as saying that as the squadron approached they counted distinctly the lights of sixteen Russian ships all ranged in order before the entrance to the harbour, and all having their prows pointing westward. The Japanese fired 20 torpedoes, and this officer declares that in every case the projectiles were seen to explode. He therefore reckons that the strength of the Russian fleet must have been reduced by at least one-third in this fight, and that Admiral Alexieff's reports are altogether misleading. When the destroyers were approaching the harbour's mouth they encountered a Russian destroyer which seemed to be on the lookout, but it took no notice of them, and as they were retiring they saw another destroyer which extinguished its light as they approached.

NEUTRALITY.

Monday, February 15.

The German Government has informed Mr. Inouye, Japan's Representative in Berlin, that although no proclamation of neutrality will be published, it not being Germany's habit to take such a step, an announcement will be made in the Reichstag, and neutrality will be strictly observed.

China, in her declaration of neutrality, proclaimed on the 12th instant, recognises that Russia being in actual military possession of Manchuria, the principle of neutrality can not be enforced in that region. Therefore the Peking Government confines its announcement to China proper.

The Spanish Government and the Government of the Straits Settlements issued proclamations of neutrality on the 11th instant.

In connexion with neutrality the next interesting question will be the coaling of the Russian men-of-war now on their way eastward from Europe. The *Nisshin* and the *Kasuga* were just in time to get their last supply at Singapore, whence they are coming direct to Japan without touching at any point *en route*. But the *Aurora*, the *Dimitri Donskoi* and the *Osliabia* must either change their route or turn homewards. They will probably steer for the Straits of Sunda, where coal can be obtained, it is said, and will thence make for Saigon, but of course there would be a breach of neutrality in such procedure also.

Later news from Berlin says that Germany has decided to depart from her usual custom, and that in this instance she will duly proclaim neutrality.

Great Britain's declaration of neutrality received the King's signature on the 11th instant.

There was a disposition at first on the part of the press of Vienna to condemn the Japanese for engaging in belligerent operations immediately after the announcement of breaking-off relations and without giving any formal notice of warlike intention. But they have changed their tone entirely since receiving news of Japan's naval successes. They now laud her promptitude and efficiency. As for the Hungarian journals, they were always with Japan, and they are now quite remarkably outspoken. We take these facts from intelligence published in Tokyo.

In England, Korea and China many applications are being made for permission to serve on Japan's side.

Viceroy Yuan is said to have intimated to the Taotai of Kinchow that the troops of Ma Yuh-kon are to move immediately to that town, and that steps must accordingly be taken to provision them. Kinchow is beyond the Great Wall on the Tientsin-Kaiping Railway.

Telegrams received in Yokohama on Sunday show that New Zealand is tremendously interested in the war. Her sympathies too, are all for the island Empire.

A friend writing to us in the first week of January from one of the big provincial towns of England, says:—

> I have just returned from a week in London and have been doing the pantomimes and music-halls with the youngsters. The "patter" in the pantomimes, as usual, was full of topical and political up-to-date allusions, but none went down better than the references to the Japanese, the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, and the prospective clash in the Far East. Every time that a Japanese quip was made, the audiences cheered, while the allusions in the songs were caught up just as readily. There can be no doubt about where the sympathies of the English people lie in this matter, and should the diplomats fail to find a "middle way" and our allies be forced to draw the sword, then the British nation will demand that the Government carry out its pledges to gallant little Japan to the very letter. Not but what the Government also are heart and soul with the Japanese but they have naturally to be more reticent in giving vent to their feelings. The cheers of a theatre or a music-hall are, of course, small things, but they are suggestive. How very different is the feeling they display in the temper of the nation to that which prevailed at the time of the Japan-China War in the 90's. Then there was a certain undefined feeling of hostility towards Japan; the great mass of the English people thought Japan was too "cocky," had no business to fight China, and they resented it. Of this there can be no doubt. But now all is changed and Japan has no warmer friends and sincere well-wishers than the great bulk of the people of the British Isles.

For they clearly perceive that she has right on her side, while that big bully, Russia, has none whatever. Of course, I do not forget that the English working man looks upon a Russian as his hereditary enemy. But for all that, the Japanese alliance is more popular than ever nowadays.

Tuesday, February 16.

By the courtesy of His Excellency the German Minister we are enabled to publish the following:—

> According to official declarations made here by the Imperial Governments of Russia and Japan is war at the time being between Russia and Japan. This is hereby brought to public knowledge and it is added that as a result of this state of things all persons resident in the German territories and in the German protectorates as well as the Germans residing in foreign countries are under the obligation to refrain from all acts which might conflict with Germany's neutrality.
>
> Berlin, February 13th, 1904.
>
> The Chancelor of the Empire.
>
> (Signed) COUNT VON BUELOW.

The above has appeared in the German *Official Gazette* and has been duly notified to the Japanese Government.

There is telegraphic news from China that she has announced her intention of enforcing strict neutrality in the region westward of the Liao River up to the Great Wall, as well as in the Eighteen Provinces. That region was indicated in the agreement of 1902 as the first part of Manchuria to be evacuated by Russia, and the Peking Government assumes that it has been evacuated. We do not know whether this news is trustworthy.

Miss Howard, an English lady who has lived for the past three years in the household of Prince Shimazu as teacher of his sons, and whose success in that capacity has been very remarkable. is stated by a news agency to have just contributed her salary for six months to the Red Cross Society of Japan.

Wednesday, February 17.

Reuter's telegrams indicate plainly that the British Government intend to be very strict in their application of international law with regard to coal. The law is that a belligerent vessel is not entitled to obtain in a neutral port any larger supply of coal than would enable her to reach the nearest port of her home country. Even that explicit rule, if benevolently applied, might enable a Russian ship to get all the coal she wanted at British ports on her way out to the Far East. The suppliers of the coal need only refrain from asking whether it is to be burned going east or going west. On the other hand, neutrality would become a farce were such essential assistance rendered to the war-ships of a belligerent *en route* for the scene of action. The occasion to give a definite decision in the case of war-ships has not yet presented itself to the British Authorities, but when it does present itself their line of action may be inferred from the incident now telegraphically reported, namely, that a steamer carrying coal for Port Arthur was turned back at Port Said. If coal destined for the uses of a belligerent may not be carried in neutral bottoms, or, to speak more correctly, if ships carrying it are not allowed to make use of neutral ports, still less may coal be supplied at a neutral port to the fighting ships of a belligerent. And the same view is evidently taken by France, for when questioned by the Japanese Representative in Paris about the coaling of the *Dimitri Donskoi* and her consorts at Jibutil, the French Government are said to have explained that the incident had occurred prior to the declaration of war, thus constructively admitting that a repetition of the action would be illegal now that war has been declared. It is not easy to foresee, in these circumstances, what will be the ultimate course of the Russian squadron now *en route* eastward. The *Dimitri Donskoi*, the *Aurora* and the six destroyers accompanying them were apparently at Jibutil on the 11th and the telegraph said that they would there await the arrival of the line-of-battle ship *Osliabia*, which with the transport *Saratoff* and three destroyers had already left Suez. But according to an indisputable rule of international law a war-ship of a belligerent is not entitled to remain more than 24 hours in a neutral port. Between Suez and Jibutil the whole length of the Red Sea has to be traversed, and it is scarcely likely that the battle-ship and her consorts will find the two cruisers and the torpedo-craft at Jibutil. Arriving at Jibutil, too, they will not be allowed to coal, and thenceforth all the way eastward they will not be able to get a pound of fuel, unless the Dutch disregard international obligations in the Strait of Sunda. It is a very interesting question. To us it seems that there will be only one course for the little squadron, namely, home again.

The Russian Consuls in Fusan and Gensan have asked the French Representative in Seoul to make arrangements for the protection of Russian interests after their departure, but the French Representative having no immediately available means of accomplishing this. Mr. Hayashi, Japanese Minister in Seoul, has instructed the Japanese Consuls at these two places to provide all facilities for the withdrawal of the Consuls and such of their nationals as may desire to leave, or for the protection of those wishing to remain.

Mr. Motono telegraphs from Paris that the French Red Cross Society has expressed sincerest sympathy with the sister society in Japan, and has offered every assistance if Japan will accept it. It is stated that the Japanese Government has agreed to this offer. The Government has also accepted the offer of assistance made by American ladies under the leadership of Miss McGee.

The Mexican Government has declared its intention of observing strict neutrality and the Siamese Government issued a proclamation in that sense on the 12th instant.

As for the Chinese, their neutral methods are said to be taking a form which inspires some doubt of their real character.

It appears to be believed in Japan that when Mr. Motono made inquiry of the French Government with respect to the coaling of Russian war-ships at Jibouti, the reply given was that the coal had been contracted for before any declaration of war was made. Our own rendering of the telegram was that the coal had been actually supplied and was in the ships' possession prior to the declaration of war. Of course if it was only promised, then Mr. Akiyama, a Councillor of the War Office, who is quoted in the columns of the *Asahi*, speaks justly when he charges France with violating her neutrality. But the data are not sufficiently clear to justify any hard-and-fast judgment. We should think it most improbable that any departure from international law has been made by the French.

WAR FUNDS.

The *Official Gazette* announces the issue of a domestic loan of 100 million *yen*. Subscribers are to send in their applications to the Bank of Japan, its agencies or branches, from the 1st to the 10th of March, accompanying the application with a deposit of 2 *yen* in every hundred of the sum offered. The bonds, which are to be of five denominations, namely, 50 *yen*, 100 *yen*, 500 *yen*, 1,000 *yen* and 5,000 *yen*, will carry interest at the rate of 5 per cent., and the lowest selling price will be 95 *yen*. Payments will be required in eight installments, namely

March 21st	2 *yen*	per	100
From 16th to 25th April	15	"	"
" " May	15	"	"
" " June	15	"	"
" " August	15	"	"
" 16th to 24th Sept.	15	"	"
" 17th to 25th Oct.	15	"	"
" 16th to 25th Nov.	15	"	"

Anything offered over and above the minimum selling price must be paid in at the time of the second installment. The principal will be paid back in 5 years.

A big meeting of business-men and journalists was held in the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, on the 14th instant. About 250 persons attended. The object of the meeting was to come to an understanding that all pretty differences of opinion should be laid aside and that the nation should unite to support the Government and carry on the war as one man. Most of those present had attended in the same place last November, for the purpose of passing a resolution in the sense of urging the Government to take resolute steps with regard to Russia. Mr. Shimada Saburo, who addressed the meeting in succession to Mr. Ooka Ikuzo and Mr. Taguchi Ukichi, reminded his hearers of the previous action, and said that as they had associated themselves openly with a warlike policy on that occasion, so now the responsibility devolved on them of assisting to carry the war to a successful termination. Mr. Sonoda Kokichi then spoke. He said that whereas this was an affair of life and death for Japan, its issue had comparatively small importance for Russia, her Far-Eastern possessions being, in effect, only a branch of her huge business. Still Russia's first step had been to ask Europe for money. Money, indeed, was the prime necessity, and it appeared to Mr. Sonoda that the Japanese would not experience any difficulty in furnishing the required amount if they contributed their stores of gold and silver objects of art and ornaments: if, in short, they brought to the war chest the great sum of money now uselessly absorbed in such channels. His own pessessions of that nature were small but he gladly gave them all, though they included silver vases presented to him by the Imperial Household Department.

The meeting then unanimously resolved that the support of the whole nation was essential to strengthen the Army and Navy, and that the best way to give that support was to relieve the minds of the soldiers and sailors of all anxiety on account of their families. Therefore it was the duty of the nation: (1) to subscribe readily to the war funds; (2) to economise as far as possible all administrative outlay, whether of the Central Government or the Communal Government, so as to employ in the vital interests of the State the money thus saved; and (3) to devise means for assisting small capitalists so as to promote the genera efficiency of the country's wealth-earning mechanism.

The meeting also passed a vote of thanks to Admiral Togo and Rear-Admiral Uryu.

A committee was finally appointed to carry out the above resolutions. It consisted of Mr. Ikebe, of the *Asahi Shimbun*; Mr. Tokutomi, of the *Kokumin Shimbun*; Mr. Ooka Ikuzo, of the *Chuo Shimbun*; Mr. Taguchi Ukichi, of the *Keizai Zashi*; Mr. Kuga, of the *Nippon*; Mr. Asahina, of the *Nichi Nichi*; Mr. Minoura, of the *Hochi*; Mr. Shimada, of the *Mainichi*; Mr. Kuroiwa, of the *Yorozu Choho*; Mr. Kato Masayoshi of the Yusen Kaisha, Mr. Takahashi Konkyo of the Bank of Japan, Mr. Sonoda Kokichi of the Fifteenth Bank, Mr. Misaki Kamenosuke of the Shokin Ginko, and Mr. Asabuki Yeiji.

All over Japan there is a movement towards voluntary subscriptions to the war chest. The amount is expected to reach a very large figure. We observe that 29 Chinese residents of Yokohama have put up 1,320 *yen*. The *Kenkyu-kai* section of the House of Peers have decided to hand over their working fund of 31,150 *yen*.

On the 13th instant 51 bankers met in Tokyo to consult about subscribing to the loan. The result of their consultation was that in Tokyo alone the required sum of 100 million *yen* would be put up. The 15th Bank offers 10 millions; the Mitsui, Mitsu Bishi and Specie Banks, 5 millions each; the First Bank, 3 millions; the Bank of Japan 20 millions; the Imperial Household Department 20 millions, and so on. There is no doubt that money will be subscribed easily.

It is stated that Tokyo alone is prepared to put up 110 million *yen* for the first loan, and that if Osaka, Kyoto, &c., be added the subscriptions will amount to 150 millions. Yokohama is putting up 15 millions and Osaka 37 millions. Other places have not yet been heard from.

The Emperor has signified his pleasure that the whole store of old gold and silver coins lying in the Imperial Treasury together with the bullion, shall be handed over to the Bank of Japan to strengthen the reserve.

It seems probable that the idea started by Mr. Sonoda Kokichi at the big meeting of business-men and journalists a few days ago will become very popular. Mr. Sonoda's theory is that every one has a greater or less sum of money sunk in gold and silver ornaments of various kinds, and that if these ornaments were handed to the Treasury a very large amount of specie would become available without any diminution of the country's floating capital. Mr. Sonoda did not stop at mere advice. He collected all such objects in his own possession, including gold cups and vases given to him by the Emperor, and he handed over the whole to the Bank of Japan. On every side we hear of people following his example. The Emperor's order that all the old gold and silver coins in the Imperial Treasury as well as all the bullion should be similarly dealt with, is a sequel of Mr. Sonoda's suggestion, and those that know the Japanese predict that sacrifices of this nature will become the order of the day. The spirit of patriotism that prevails is something extraordinary. Even people in the lowliest circumstances are setting aside sums saved by daily efforts of hard self-denial in order that they may contribute something to the cause of country. There must still be great quantities of *oban* and *koban* stored in the strong-rooms of wealthy people, and that the aggregate value of the gold and silver ornaments in the various households is immense can not be doubted. What we hope is that these things will neither be broken up nor sold. They can be kept by the Bank as a strong reserve against a crisis, which will never come, we are confident. Many of these objects have an art value very much greater than their intrinsic worth. And what is the worth of a nation that can make such effort? It is a nation that will go far.

His Excellency Count Arco Valley, in continuation of his many benevolent deeds in Japan, has contributed a thousand *yen* to the Red Cross Hospital.

THE CHEMULPO PRISONERS.

It appears that the Japanese authorities have behaved with much generosity in the case of the survivors of the *Koreetz* and the *Varyag*. Some five hundred of these men, including officers, had fled to the British, French and Italian ships lying in the harbour. The *Talbot* had 120 on board at one time. Of course the fugitives had to be given up, but the Japanese decided to restore them all provided they gave a pledge not to take up arms again during the present war.

We learn further that a Red-Cross hospital has been organized in Chemulpo by the Japanese and that they have offered to treat the Russian wounded there. A missionary hospital has been obtained for the purpose and a staff of surgeons and skilled nurses are with the troops that landed on the 8th instant.

There things contrast forcibly with the sinking of an inoffensive merchant steamer and the destruction of all her crew.

Mr. Hayashi wires from Chemulpo that it has been decided to place 32 wounded Russians under the care of the Japanese in the newly established Red Cross hospital at that port, and that Dr. Wada, of the Seoul Hospital, has gone to Chemulpo to assist surgically. Twenty men who were too badly hurt to be carried away from the *Pascal* remained on board that vessel when she started for Chefoo and Shanghai.

When the *Pascal* left Chemulpo on the 14th instant, she had on board, in addition to M. Pavlow and the staff of the Russian Legation, the Legation Guard of 75 men; 7 officers and 39 men of the *Varyag* and 9 officers and 169 men of the *Koreetz*. The French Representative gave a written engagement that these officers and men of the two Russian ships should not take part again in the war.

We learn from the *Nichi Nichi's* Seoul correspondent that the number of Russian officers and men including the wounded—who went by the *Pascal* to Saigon was 260. Our contemporary says that if there be added to the officers and men remaining, the total number of prisoners from the *Koreetz* and the *Varyan* reaches nearly 700.

THE RUSSIAN NAVAL LOSSES.

Viceroy Alexieff has telegraphed to St. Petersburg that the following ships are *hors de combat*; *Cesarevitch*, *Pallada*, *Retvizan*, *Askold*, *Novik*, *Sevastopol*, *Potropaulovsk*.

It is conjectured that the last two ships were torpedoed in the attack on the 14th instant.

IMPERIAL MESSAGES.

The Emperor has addressed a message of approval and encouragement to Vice-Admiral Togo on account of the operations at Port Arthur.

Viscount Kagawa has conveyed a similar message from Her Majesty the Empress.

His Majesty the Emperor has addressed a warm message of encouragement to three Divisions; namely, the Guards (headquarters, Tokyo), the Second Division (headquarters, Sendai) and the Twelfth Division (headquarters, Kokura). It may therefore be inferred that these troops will form the First Army Corps.

On Monday the Emperor gave farewell audience to over 200 officers, from the rank of second lieutenant upwards. They were entertained in the Palace. A similar ceremony is to take place to-day when 290 officers will be present, and there will be a third audience on the 17th. All these officers belong to the Divisions now ordered to the front.

BISHOP NICOLAI'S ADDRESS.

At a meeting recently held by some leading members of the Nippon Seikiokwai (Greek Church) Bishop Nicolai delivered an address as follows:—

I did not make up my mind until yesterday whether I should remain in Japan or not in case of a Russo-Japanese war. If I return to Russia I should still have much business to attend to on behalf of our mission, but I have decided to remain in Japan. I am very glad to hear that your members unanimously decided that I should not return to Russia. I believe this is God's will. Especially I felt this to-day when I was praying during the service. My indecision up till yesterday belonged to my private convenience and not to the public. To say the truth, it is about 23 years ago since I left my native country, and a longing crept over me to return to my sweet home. But thinking the matter over more seriously I realised that this was only my private inclination, and that my public life belonged to Japan, where our church is yet in its infancy. Now I am thanking my God that your members have decided the question for me as you have. And again, I thank you for your kindness and that of your members in providing for my safety in case personal danger threatened. You say that I need not enter a foreign Legation, that you will protect me. But I think such a promise is not necessary. Our Russian Minister will provide for the protection of Russian subjects in Japan by either the French or German Ministers when he withdraws from Tokyo, and moreover, the Japanese Government will protect such Russians who have no relations with the war. But it will be necessary to ask for the protection of the authorities for the safety of our Cathedral and all the buildings of the Church. These buildings are the property of the Japanese Greek Church and in case they are violated (which I think will not be the case) your members would suffer a great loss.

I hope there will be no change in our church through the outbreak of war. *Denkiosha* (evangelists) must propagate the Master's Gospel, students must attend the Mission school as usual and I will devote myself to the translation of the Prayer-book with my assistant, Mr. Nakae. And if an Imperial Proclamation of war is issued your members must pray for the triumph of Japan and when the Japanese army has conquered the Russian forces you must offer to God a prayer of thankfulness. This is the obligation laid on the Greek Christian in their native country. Our Lord Jesus Christ teaches us patriotism and loyalty. Christ himself shed tears for Jerusalem. That was because of his patriotism. And you must follow in your Master's steps.

I prayed as usual to-day in the Cathedral but henceforth I will not take part in the public prayers. This is not for the reason that it might be dangerous for me to appear in the Cathedral, but for the reason that until now I prayed for victory and the peace of the Japanese Emperor, but now in case of war I cannot pray, as a Russian subject, that our native country should be conquered by an enemy. I have as you also have an obligation to my country, therefore I am glad to see that you realise your obligation to your country. For myself I will not for the time being serve in the public prayers of the Japanese Church.

JAPANESE BONDS.

London, February 14.

Japanese loan bonds have advanced.

MOBILIZATION IN RUSSIA.

The reserves in Siberia are being mobilized. The officers in reserve in Russia have also been levied.

FRIENDLINESS.

London, February 15.

Viscountess Hayashi (wife of the Japanese Minister in London) has commenced to collect donations toward a fund for relieving soldiers suffering from sickness or wounds. The British people are readily contributing towards this fund.

CHINESE NEUTRALITY.

China has informed the Powers that she can not bear the responsibility of maintaining neutrality in such areas as are still under foreign administration.

THE RUSSIAN SHIPS.

The warships *Osliabia*, *Aurora* and *Dmitri Donskoi* and the transports *Saratoff* and *Orel* have not yet reached the Indian Ocean.

GREAT BRITAIN AND JAPAN.

London, February 16.

The public in Great Britain are pleased at the safe arrival of the *Nisshin* and *Kasuga*.

RUSSIA MISTRUSTS GREAT BRITAIN,

Lord Lansdowne, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in the course of a speech in the Upper House last night, controverted the notion in Russia that Japanese warships are concentrated at Wei-hai-wei and using that port as a naval base.

THE BRITISH BUDGET.

The House of Commons has concluded the discussion on the Budget, with the result that the Government has a majority of 51 votes.

LOAN BONDS.

All loan bonds have advanced about £4 since the 11th.

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE.

The official papers since 1900 between Great Britain and Russia have been issued. According to these documents, Russia displayed hypocritical action in the delay of negotiations.

THE DEATH OF MR. HANNA.

Mr. Marcus Alonzo Hanna, a member of the U. S. Senate, is dead. His age was 67 years.

[The following notice of the deceased statesman appears in *Who's Who*:—Hanna, Marcus Alonzo; Chairman, National Republican Committee, since 1896; Senator, Ohio U.S.A., since 1897; A Hanna & Co., coal and iron merchants; President, National Union Bank; Director, Cleveland City Railway Co.; *b.* New Lisbon, Ohio, 24 Sept. 1837; *m.* 1867, *d.* of Daniel P. Rhodes, Cleveland. *Educ.*: Western Reserve University. Until 1867 partner in wholesale grocery house; takes prominent part in electioneering tactics, and secured the nomination and election of M'Kinley as President; delegate to National Republican Convention, 1884, 1888, and 1896.]

(FROM THE "ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

THE TZAR.

London, February 11.

The proposed visit of the Tzar to Moscow has been postponed.

THE KAISER.

The visit of the Kaiser to the Mediterranean has been put off.

THE BALKAN QUESTION.

London, February 14.

The Balkan question is becoming serious. Turkey and Bulgaria are busily engaged in making military preparations, so that war is anticipated to be unavoidable.

THE JAPANESE VICTORIES.

The Japanese victories seem to have changed the attitude of the press on the continent. All the papers in Vienna praise Japan, and public opinion in Berlin is emphatically in favour of Japan.

GREAT BRITAIN.

In accordance with International Law, all coal ports in the British dominions have been ordered to supply to warships of the belligerent countries only such quantity of coal as will enable them to reach the nearest port of their own country.

(FROM THE "S.-CHINA MORNING POST.")

AN EXPERIMENT.

London, February 3.

The Marquis of Lansdowne, speaking in the House of Lords, yesterday afternoon, stated that the idea that the Government had made a suggestion to the effect that one hundred thousand Asiatics should be imported into the Transvaal was incorrect. The proposal was to introduce ten thousand Chinese labourers as an experiment.

UNTRIED LEADERS.

The leadership of the House of Commons, in the absence of the Premier, Mr. A. J. Balfour, was shared yesterday by the Home Secretary, Mr. Akers Douglas, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain replied, on behalf of the Government, to the acrimonious attacks of the Opposition.

LORD MILNER'S VIEWS.

London, February 4.

The opponents of Chinese labour are conducting an active campaign throughout Great Britain. They now include a very considerable number of Unionists. The South African Blue Book, just published, includes a despatch from Viscount Milner dwelling upon the trade depression and the falling revenue in the Transvaal Colony. According to Lord Milner, unless the situation soon changes, a great exodus of the white population is inevitable. As a result of these visible facts the scale of Colonial opinion has turned most decisively in favour of the importation of Asiatic labour as the only possible way out of a serious situation.

BATTLESHIP "NEW ZEALAND" LAUNCHED.

London, February 5.

The twin-screw, first-class, armoured battleship *New Zealand* was successfully launched yesterday at Portsmouth.

WAR OFFICE OFFICIALS DISMISSED.

London, February 5.

In pursuance of the army reform scheme, the heads of departments at the War Office on Monday, February 1, received leters of dismissal. Equivalent employment will be found for all the officials elsewhere.

UNION JACK CLUB.

The King and Queen, accompanied by the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, last evening attended a skating carnival in London in aid of the Union Jack Club. The King afterwards entertained at supper a party of sixty guests interested in the movement.

(FROM THE "N.-C. DAILY NEWS.")

COLLAPSE OF THE COTTON CORNER.

London, February 5.

Wild scenes on the New York cotton market are reported. After violent fluctuations, cotton closed 100 points down.

THE TIBET EXPEDITION.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Brodrick, Secretary for India, stated that it was not the object of the mission to Tibet to annex any portion of the country. The Bluebook will include the correspondence with Russia.

GERMAN TROUBLE IN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

Windhoek, Okahandja, and Damaraland have been relieved without loss, the enemy retreating to the mountain. The Germans have up to this lost 26 men killed in the fighting, and 44 settlers murdered.

NO CIPHER MESSAGES FOR JAPAN.

London, February 7.

The General Post Office has issued a notification that private code telegrams will not be accepted for Japan.

COLLAPSE OF THE COTTON CORNER.

London, February. 6.

There were enormous liquidations on the New York cotton market yesterday. The bulls were overwhelmed by an avalanche of selling, and their rout was unprecedented.

Wild speculation in coffee continues (at New York).

PACIFICATION OF SOUTH AFRICA,

The programme of colonial reliefs shows a considerable reduction in the army in South Africa in the course of the year. Nine infantry and three cavalry regiments will return home between March and August.

THE PREMIER'S ILLNESS.

London, February 7.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Balfour) has developed bronchial trouble. Another doctor has been summoned.

DESTRUCTION OF RUSSIAN TELEGRAPHS.

Peking, February 9.

It is learnt by telegram from Kinchou that the Russian telegraphic communication between Kaiping and Haichêng, Yinkou and Tashihchiao was totally destroyed on the 5th instant by mounted bandits.

CANTON UNREST.

Hongkong, February 10.

The U. S. S. *Monterey* sailed yesterday for Canton to protect the interests of American citizens there should trouble arise. Beyond the fact that railway surveyors, having met with opposition from the natives, have returned from the interior, officials of the Canton-Hankow railway deny knowledge of anything more than the customary feeling of unrest at Chinese New Year. It is stated Viceroy Shum is prepared to leave the city.

GREAT BRITAIN, RUSSIA, AND TIBET.

London viâ Bombay, February 9.

Russia, in a momorandum dated the 2nd of February 1903, threatened to take steps to protect her interests in consequence of British action in Tibet.

On the 18th of February, Lord Lansdowne informed Count Benckendorff, the Russian Ambassador, that if there were any display of Russian activity Great Britain would be obliged to reply by a display of activity exceeding that of Russia.

Some weeks later Count Benckendorff submitted a statement of the Russian view, declaring that any disturbance of the *status quo* in Tibet would compel Russia to safeguard her interests elsewhere in Asia. Lord Lansdowne replied that Great Britain must insist on Tibet's fulfilling her treaty obligations.

When the Younghusband Mission advanced, Count Benckendorff made earnest representations, to which Lord Lansdowne replied that it was beyond measure strange that these protests should be made by a Power which all over the world never hesitated to encroach on its neighbours. If the Russian Government had a right to complain of Great Britain's advancing in Tibet, what kind of language was Great Britain not entitled to use concerning Russian encroachments on Manchuria, Turkestan, and Persia?

JAPANESE ATTACK ON DALNY.

Chefoo, February 11.

The C. N. S. *Kiukiang*, just arrived from Dalny, reports that place was bombarded by the Japanese fleet. The electric light works were destroyed. Japanese marines were landed.

THE FIRING ON THE "FUPING."

Weihaiwei, February 11.

The *Fuping*, when leaving Port Arthur, was fired on three times by the Russians. Several Chinese were wounded, and one has died here. The captain was compelled to promise not to divulge the affair,

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S HOLIDAY.

London, February, 10.

Mr. Chamberlain has gone for a trip up the Nile.

THE CONFLAGRATION AT BALTIMORE.

The great fire at Baltimore has been got under control. The area devastated covers 140 acres, and the loss is estimated at forty millions.

(FROM THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.")

RISING IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Manila, February 9.

45 of the constabulary and garrison at Vigan, Ilocos province, Luzon, have seized the barracks, liberated the prisoners, and escaped southward with 55 rifles and plenty of ammunition. They are cutting the telegraph-wires and gathering recruits. Governor Wright has despatched a battalion of the 11th Cavalry and three companies of scouts and constabulary. Swift punishment is expected.

GREAT FIRE AT BALTIMORE.

London, Februarv, 8.

A fire at Baltimore (Maryland, U.S.) began in the dry-goods store district and rapidly developed into a vast conflagration. Six hundred houses have been destroyed already and the fire is spreading. The probable damage is estimated at £40,000,000 sterling. Ten firemen have been killed in the efforts to fight the flames.

Washington and Philandelphia have sent aid to Baltimore.

(FROM THE "MANILA CABLENEWS.")

NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

St. Petersburg, January 27.

All the first reserve of the Russian army has been ordered to join the colours, and the reservists are already forming in battalions and squadrons, according to their arm of the service. In the military district of St. Petersburg alone eighty-six thousand men have been mobilised already and are now awaiting transportation for the Far East.

All railroad property is in the hands of the War Minister and a clear track for troop trains has been telegraphed for between this capital and Moscow. Trains are being made up in sections, railway troops working night and day repairing engines and putting freight coaches in shape for the occupancy of troops and generally making extraordinary preparations for the long trans-Siberian run.

Especial vigilance is being exercised to prevent possible Nihilist treachery. Great care has been used in selecting the men for the railway service, particularly the flagmen and switchmen. Officers of proven loyalty have been detailed from the line to assist in the work, and spies of the War Office, disguised as soldiers, mechanics, and even as army officers, are carefully scrutinising the conduct of both officers and men. The local militia is utilised to guard the railway depôts and machine shops, and no one is allowed near the railroad but those actually under orders to assist in the work.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Tremont 1	F. Feb. 19
America	P. M. Co.	Korea 2	Sa. Feb. 20
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Siberia 3	M. Feb. 22
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Olympia 4	M. Feb. 22
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Roon	Sa. Feb. 27
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic 5	Su. Feb. 28
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Th. Mar. 3
Europe	M. M. Co.	Sydney	Th. Mar. 3
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Tartar	F. Mar. 4
Canada	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. Mar. 7
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	Th. Mar. 17

1 Left Seattle on the 1st inst.
2 Left San Francisco on the 2nd inst.
3 Left Hongkong on the 13th inst.
4 Left Hongkong on the 13th inst.
5 Left San Francisco on the 10th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Tremont	Sa. Feb. 20
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Seydlitz	Sa. Feb. 20
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Korea	Su. Feb. 21
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Olympia	Tu. Feb. 23
America	P. M. Co.	Siberia	W. Feb. 24
Europe	M. M. Co.	Australien	F. Feb. 26
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	M. Feb. 29
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Sa. Mar. 5
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Tartar	Sa. Mar. 5
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. Mar. 7
Canada	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	F. Mar. 18

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

America Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,256, P. H. Going, 11th Feb.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 25th Jan., Mails & General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Socotra, British steamer, 3,896, C. J. Benton, 12th Feb.,—London via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Pionier, German steamer, 975, Wiese, 12th Feb.,—Christmas Island, Phosphate.—C. Illies & Co.

Chiyoda Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,039, H. Tanaka, 12th Feb.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kosai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,419, F. E. Cope, 12th Feb.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Moyune, British steamer, 3,016, D. P. Campbell, 12th Feb.,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Shingu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,861, Nagata, 13th Feb.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Benvorlich, British steamer, 2,164, W. Thomson, 13th Feb.,—Rangoon via ports, Rice.—O. Reimers & Co.

Kumamoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,237, K. Iwanaga, 13th Feb,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Volute, British steamer, 2,595, Kerr, 13th Feb.,—Singapore, Kerosene Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Tosa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,592, A. Christiansen, 13th Feb.,—Seattle, Wash., via Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Totomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,396, H. Sakimoto, 14th Feb.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ismaila, British steamer, 3,381, R. W. Gimblett, 15th Feb.,—Rangoon, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Glengyle, British steamer, 2,243, T. Darke, 15th Feb.,—London via ports, General.—Jardine Matheson & Co.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 884, R. Iida, 15th Feb.,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kotsu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,604, M. Osumi, 15th Feb.,—Taku, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Afridi, British steamer, 2,354, Thos. Golding, 15th Feb.,—Tsuruga, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Seydlitz, German steamer, 4,971, C. Dewers, 16th Feb.,—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Pingsuey, British steamer, 4,150, E. Warrall, 16th Feb.,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Miyajima Maru, Japanese steamer, 998, C. Sasaki, 16th Feb.,—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,110, N. Nielsen, 17th Feb.,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Changsha, British steamer, 1,463, Thos. Moore, 17th Feb.,—Australian via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Glaucus, British steamer, 3,891, John Barr, 17th Feb.,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Sophie Rickmers, German steamer, 2,262, Pappe, 17th Feb.,—Java, Sugar.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Peleus, British steamer, 4,800, J. Barwise, 17th Feb.,—Tacoma, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

A. G. Ropes, American ship, 2,303, Rivers, 18th Feb.,—New York, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 18th Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Andalusia, German steamer, 3,477, Schmidt, 18th Feb.,—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Silhonia, German steamer, Hildebrandt, 4,239, 12th Feb.,—Havre, Bremen and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Yarra, French steamer, 2,115, Sellier, 12th Feb.,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Kumamoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,237, K. Iwanaga, 13th Feb.,—Unknown.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Indravelli, British steamer, 3,152, R. J. Craven, 13th Feb.,—Portland, Oregon, Mails and General.—P. & A. S.S. Co.

America Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,256, P. H. Going, 17th Feb.,—Yokosuka.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Chiyoda Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,039, H. Tanaka, 14th Feb.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Totomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,396, H. Sakimoto 15th Feb.,—Unknown.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tosa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,592, A. Christiansen, 15th Feb.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mikawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,203, T. Kuwahara, 15th Fe.,—Unknown.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Socotra, British steamer, 3,896, C. J. Benton, 15th Feb.,—London via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Osterbek, German steamer, 1,510, P. Petersen, 16th Feb.,—New Castle and Australia, Ballast.—To Order.

Moyune, British steamer, 3,016, D. P. Campbell, 16th Feb.,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Emma, German steamer, 1,681, W. Ziengemeister, 17th Feb.,—Tsintau, General.—Grosser & Co.

Glengyle, British steamer, 2,243, T. Darke, 17th Feb.,—Kuchinotsu, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *America Maru*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. M. Morel Bazan, Mr. W. H. Brill, Mr. F. S. Brookhart, Mr. F. S. Brookhart and 2 children, Mr. W. B. Colver, Mrs. W. B. Colver, Miss Lillis Crummer, Mr. Eugene Crockett, Miss F. V. Gilmore, Mr. E. H. Hendry and son, Mr. F. Imboden, Mr. E. A. Kelley, Mrs. T. A. Kelley, and Mrs. F. Smyth, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kosai Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Miss Maria Wilson, Dr. T. M. Hocken, Mrs. and Miss T. M. Hocken, Mr. A. R. Weigall, Capt. G. W. Wall, Mr. R. Hamilton, Mr. J. B. Clarke, Mr. R. Nox, and Mr. Hayashi, in cabin; Mr. Ross, Mr. M. F. Thom, Mr. Rydzewski, Mr. J. B. Smith, Mr. Kissomall, Mr. Yamaoka, Mrs. Yeguchi, Miss Yeguchi, in second class; 19 Japanese, and 15 Chinese, in steerage.

Per German steamer *Seydlitz*, from Europe via ports:—Mr. J. A Harmssen, Capt. R. C. King, Mrs. and Miss von Francois, Mr. Woas, Mr. L. D. Jeld, Mr. F. E. Barto, Rev. A. F. King, Mr. C. A. Graham, Mr. C. Gibbens, Mr. F. C Wilkinson, Mr. and Mrs. W. Pilatte, and Mr. Hu Chi Ming, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. G. J. Hawkins, Miss M. Forster, Mrs. M. Onslow, Dr. and Mrs. Dunlop, Mr. A. C. Van Nierop, Capt. Williamson, Mr. A. Campignon, Mr. S. Campignon, Mr. G. Taverner, Mr. W. J. Schroth, Mrs. Hoy and 4 children, Mr. Cowen, Mr. A. G. Denbigh, Lt.-Com. Marsh, Mr. D. Story, Mr. J. G. Martyr, Mr. P. T. Pritscker, Mr. W. Schopflochen, Mr. Ferrier, Mr. Stafford, Mr. A. R. Tufts, Mr. H. R. Williams, Mr. C. Atkinson, Mr. Bradley, Mr. T. Kershaw, and Mr. A. F. White, in cabin; 5, in intermediate; 25, in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Yarra*, for Marseilles via ports:—Madam Ponthus, Mr. E. T. J. Blount, Mr. J. W. Withington, Com. Roussine, Mr. Th. Eckardt, Madame S. M. Middleton, Colonel Samoyloff, Mr. and Madamoiselle Bartschersky, Mr. L. F. Davydoff, Mr. E. Hoyer, Mr. O. Staeger, Mr. Roppopoff, Mr. Schultz, Mr. and Mrs. G. Nazaroff and infant, six Chinese officers, Mr. Kurashina, Mr. Okitoff and servant, Mr. T. Asano, Mr. A. Culty, Mr. Sen Tan, Mr. G. Tsunoda, Mr. C. Pravieux, Mr. M. Chang Kai Yin, Mr. Chan Yuen Hoy, Mr. Chang Wan Tsz, Mr. and Mrs. Argand, Capt. Pelletier, Lieut. Grenier, Capt. F. P. Carroll, Mr. Yanagisawa, Mr. and Mrs. de Sivers, infant and governess, Mr. J. Jousefovitch, Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Lwowsky and infant, Baron Rosen, Baroness Rosen, Miss Rosen, Miss de Almeida, Miss E. Dillon, Prince and Princess Koudacheff, Mr. B. Arsenieff, Mr. A. Niem, Mr. G. Trautschold, Mr. E. Schofield, Mr. H. W. Dick, and Mr. A. Rolland, in cabin; Mr. L. Le Dore, and 15 Chinese, in third class.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw and Waste silk shipped per steamer *Yarra*:—

	RAW.				WASTE.			
	Marseilles	Lyons	Milan		Marseilles	Bale	Russia	
Boyer, Mayet, Gilliee Co.	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nabholz & Co.	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Longin & Co.	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
L. Gouillond	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
P. Dourille	—	23	—	—	—	—	—	—
Varenne & Co.	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—
Cl. Eymard	—	—	—	—	71	—	—	—
Ulysse Pila & Co.	—	—	—	—	35	—	—	—
Herbert Dent & Co.	—	—	—	—	18	—	—	—
Cornes & Co.	—	—	—	—	24	—	—	—
Dell'Oro & Co.	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	—
Bavier & Co.	—	—	—	—	90	—	—	—
Total	49	37	9	—	254	—	—	—

Per British steamer *Socotra*, for London via ports:—Raw Silk for Europe, 171 bales; Waste Silk for Europe, 219 bales.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Business is quite at a stand still.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER YARD.
White Shirting—{40 yds. 36 in. / 50 yds. 36 in.}	0.09 to 0.10
	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	Y.2.85 to 3.60
Grey Shirting—9lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.80 to 4.25
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	3.00 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton Italians and Satteens	0.20 to 0.40

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	Y.0.35 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 32 in.	0.30 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.16 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.50 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 to 65 inches	0.90 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0.60 to 0.66
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	9.50 to 12.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.90 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches	1.90 to 2.25
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 5lb, 24-25 yards, 32 nches	2.50 to 3.65

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Y. 140.00 to 150.00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	—
Nos. 38/42, Singles	—
Nos. 32, Doubles	145.00 to 150.00
Nos. 42, Doubles	155.00 to 160.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/100, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	245.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	295.00 to 305.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	425.00 to 435.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling	Nominal.	33
Indian Broach		26
Chinese		23

METALS.

Metals have been in good demand and stocks in Tokyo are much reduced.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward	Y.3.95 to 4.25
Iron Plates, assorted	4.25 to 4.45
Sheet Iron	4.45 to 6.70
Galvanised Iron sheets	10.10 to 11.10
Wire Nails, assorted	5.30 to 5.90
Tin Plates, per box	6.40 to 7.30
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.95
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1¼ inch)	4.95 to 5.45

KEROSENE.

The market is strong and prices are maintained.

American	$3.52
Russian	3.35
Langkat	3.25

SUGAR.

The market is firm and business has been fairly active.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	Y.6.25 to 6.60
Brown Manila...	6.25 to 7.25
Brown Daitong	4.80 to 6.20
Brown Canton...	5.50 to 7.60
White Java and Penang...	7.20 to 8.00
White Refined...	8.50 to 11.25

INDIGO.

No enquiry whatever.

	PICUL.
Java, Medium to best...	270.00 to 320.00
Calcutta, Medium to best	180.00 to 290.00
Madras (*Kurpah*), Medium to best ...	140.00 to 170.00
Madras (Dry Leaf), Medium to best ..	100.00 to 140.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Consuming markets, on finding that silk here is not to be had at "sacrifice" rates have come to the conclusion that they had better operate at current prices. Consequently there has been free buying the last few days and quotations have hardened. Our market closes strong with an upward tendency.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra Best, Coarse ...	Y.1,070 to 1,080
Filatures—Extra, Fine	—
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	1,030 to 1,035
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	—
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	910 to 920
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	980 to 985
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	890 to 895
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	920 to 930
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	—
Common—Coarse	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1½	—
Re-reels—No. 2	—
Re-reels—No. 3	900 to 905
Kakedas—Extra	930 to 935
Kakedas—No. 1	910 to 915
Kakedas—No. 1½	890 to 895
Kakedas—No. 2	870 to 875

WASTE SILK.

Conditions of this market unchanged. Small orders come to hand for good quality Noshi and Kibiso at full rates.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	180 to 185
Noshi—Filatures, Good	170 to 175
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	125 to 130
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	115 to 120
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Good...	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Joshiu, Best	130 to 135
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	120 to 125
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	150 to 160
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	140 to 145
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	70 to 80
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	70 to 80

TEA.

Nothing to report.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	—
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine...	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common...	—

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, February 18.

Kirin Breweries are obtainable at *yen* 110. Grand Hotels, sellers at *yen* 240, offers for shares are wanted. Helms Bros., sales at *yen* 45. Langfeldts, buyers at *yen* 35, offers of shares are wanted. Nickels, sellers at *yen* 37. Engine and Iron Works are obtainable at *yen* 90.

	YEN.	
Yokohama E. & I. Works	90	Sellers.
Grand Hotel	240	Sellers.
Club Hotel..........................	70	Buyers.
Oriental Hotel, Kobe	75	Nominal
Langfeldt & Co.....................	35	Buyers.
Japan Brewery Co.	109	Sales.
C. Nickel & Co......................	37	Sales.
Helm Bros.	45	Buyers.

Telephone No. 323.

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, February 18.

London silver unchanged; China sterling quotations unaltered and local rates have remained steady and close for the outgoing mail per steamer *Empress of India* as under.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 3/16
— — Bills on demand..............	2/0⅜
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 5/16
— Private 4 months' sight..............	2/0 9/16 @ ½
— — 6 months' sight..............	2/0 11/16 @ ⅝
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	252½ @ 3
— Private 4 months' sight......	257½ @ 7
— — 6 months' sight......	259 @ 8
Hongkong—Bank sight ....per $100.	96½*
— Private 10 days' sight do.	93½*
Shanghai—Bank sight	73*
— Private 10 days' sight	76*
India—Bank sight	148⅝
— Private 30 days' sight	151½
America—Bank sight................................	48¾ @ ⅞
— Private 30 days' sight	49¼ @ ½
— Private 4 months' sight	50½ @ ¼
Germany—Bank sight	205 @ ½
— Private 4 months' sight	210 @ 9½
Bar Silver (London)	27⅛

* Nominal.

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Yokohama, March 17th, 1903. M.1y.

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH, 1904.

BIRTHS.

On the 20th instant, at No. 10, Hinokicho, Akasaka, Tokyo, Mrs. A. DEGUY, of a Son.

On Saturday, 20th inst., at 6 45 a.m., the wife of C. THWAITES, of a daughter.

On the 25th February, at the Imperial German Legation, Tokyo, Mrs F. THIEL, of a Daughter.

DEATH.

In the City of Tokyo, on Feb. 22nd, EMMA THOMASINA, daughter of the late Dr. Thomas Theron Alexander.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE U.S. warship *New Orleans* arrived at Chefoo on the morning of Feb. 21st from Manila.

THE electric tramway companies of Tokyo, from Feb. 18th, prohibited smoking in their cars.

EX-GOVERNOR TAFT of the Philippines was sworn in as U. S. Secretary of War at Washington on the 2nd inst.

THE losses of the Japanese who recently withdrew from Vladivostock are estimated at about *yen* 3,500,000.

A CASE of scarlet-fever was reported on Feb. 17th in Tokyo. The patient is a son of Rear-Admiral G. Ijuin.

THE financier, Villmas Cohn, one of the guarantors of the first instalment of the Transvaal Loan, has died suddenly at Johannesburg, it is believed owing to the strain of the present acute situation in South Africa.

THE *Jiji* announces that Counts Katsura and Inouye intend to subscribe ten thousand *yen* each towards the war loan.

THE directors of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha met on Feb. 17th and decided to subscribe one million *yen* towards the war loan.

J. SUMITA, who was sentenced to death on May 19th last in the Osaka Appeal Court on a charge of murder, was executed on Feb. 12th.

AN association is being formed in Belgium with a capital of 1,000,000 francs (about £40,000) to grow cotton in the Congo Free State.

PRINCES KUNI and Kitashirakawa arrived on Feb. 22nd at Hiroshima from Tokyo. They will be attached to the troops at the front.

A DEAD rat containing plague bacillus was found on Feb. 21st in a godown of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha at Kayaba-cho, Tokyo.

BARONESS MITSUI and other ladies of that family have donated ten thousand *yen* towards the fund to relieve suffering soldiers and their families.

THE construction of the electric railway between Hon-cho and Asakusa-bashi, Tokyo, has been completed, and traffic was opened on Feb. 21st.

PRINCE KUJO (father of the Crown Princess) proceeded to the Palace on Feb. 21st at 10.30 a.m. and was received in audience by the Emperor.

VISCOUNT SOGURA has offered to the Bank of Japan a pure gold ingot of four *sun* square and one *sun* thickness and several gold cups, etc., to strengthen the reserve

S. OKAMOTO (31), Kanda, Tokyo, murdered his wife on Feb. 19th by beating her on the head with a hardwood block. Some trivial dispute is reported to be the cause.

JAPANESE gold coins amounting to about *yen* 1,500,000 were exported from Yokohama to Vancouver by the steamer *Empress of India* which left on Feb. 19th.

A TELEGRAM from Matsuyama states that two hundred captured Russians will shortly be brought there. They will be accommodated in the Buddhist temple Chokenji, at Onsen.

THE Sakai Electric Light Company held a general meeting on Feb. 18th and decided to close their business. The property is to be sold to the Osaka Electric Light Company.

IT is officially reported that Rear-Admiral Arai arrived at Chemulpo on Feb. 21st. He will attend to the raising of the Russian warships that were sunk in the recent engagement.

TOKYO papers report that four American Military officers have applied to the Department of War, through their Minister, for permission to follow the Japanese troops going to the front.

LIEUTENANT L. E. CRENAN, of the U. S. Philippine Scouts, is the latest officer in the Philippines to be charged with embezzlement of public funds. He is now under trial, but the amount of his defalcations is not mentioned.

K. KANAMORI (28), an ex-employee of the Hotel Metropole, who on Oct. 30th murdered a fellow employee by cutting him on the head with a large knife, was sentenced on Feb. 20th in the Tokyo District Court to one year and a half's imprisonment with hard labour.

MR. K. MOCHIZUKI, ex-member of the House of Representatives, has begun a libel case in the Yamanashi District Court against the three local papers which stated that he was employed by Russia as a spy.

A TELEGRAM from Chemulpo to the *Kokumin* states that the crews of the Japanese torpedo-boats presented on Feb. 21st articles to the Russian bluejackets, who are under surgical treatment in the hospital.

PRINCE KAN-IN, President of the Nippon Red Cross Society, has granted, under sanction of the Emperor, medals of merit to Messrs. H. Kessler, M. Pors, and H. V. Gielen, who recently donated a thousand *yen* each to the Society.

THE officials of the Kanagawa Kencho have agreed to set apart one-tenth of their salaries for the purpose of subscribing to the war loan. With a view to this intention, they have agreed to economize in their household expenses.

K. TSURUKAWA, a former policeman of Saitama Prefecture, entered on Feb. 18th the dwellings of two farmers in the village of Okawara, Chichibu district, and robbed them of money, menacing them the while with a sword. The offender is still at large.

VICE-ADMIRAL Sir Gerard H. U. Noel, K.C M.G., K.C.B., the new British Commander-in-Chief on the China Station in succession to Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge, is on board P. & O. steamer *Mongolia*, which was stopped by the Russian squadron in the Red Sea.

A BRITISH gentleman, Mr. R. M. Thomson, has donated a thousand *yen* to the Japan Red Cross Society through the London branch of the Specie Bank, which remitted the amount by telegraph to the Yokohama office. The head office on Feb. 20th paid the money to the Society.

HIS Excellency Lord Kitchener has so far recovered that he has been able to dispense with the use of a stick. With only a very slight lameness, apparent from the result of a bone fracture, we are glad to notice, says the Calcutta *Englishman*, that His Excellency can move about with freedom.

A TELEGRAM from Saseho states that H. Nagai, a coal merchant, has stolen a quantity of Cardiff coal valued at about *yen* 3,000 belonging to the Naval Station and attempted to sell it to a Russian. He absconded when the police appeared at his dwelling to arrest him. His three employees, who assisted him, were arrested on Feb. 19th at Nagasaki.

MR. K. YAMADA, chief of the district of Otaru, Hokkaido, and representative of the District Assembly, sent on Feb. 20th a telegram to the Italian Minister at Tokyo asking him to convey the thanks of the local people to the Italian crew who came out on the *Kasuga* and *Nisshin* to Japan. The Minister replied warmly on the following day.

A GREAT sensation has been caused by the alleged theft of several most important State documents from the desk of Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria. These documents contain records of some of the strictest Palace secrets, which, it is feared, may now be divulged. Strenuous efforts are being made to discover the thieves, but it is believed the documents have been purloined at the instigation of the Russian Government.

AFFAIRS AT PORT ARTHUR.

Friday, February 19.

A British steamer, the *Shiping* which has just reached Shanghai, reports that she left Chin-wan-tao on the 9th, but being driven by contrary winds to the neighbourhood of Port Arthur, was there seized by a Russian ship and carried into port. On the 10th she attempted to leave, under the shadow of the British flag, but the Russians fired on her, and she had to put back happily uninjured. She was then sent to Dalny, where the Authorities detained her until the 15th. Her officers say that there are ten thousand Russian troops at Dalny, and that they know nothing whatever of the things that have happened at Port Arthur. How Chinese!

It appears that the statement as to the sinking of the *Boyarin* came originally from Chefoo, and that it is now greatly doubted. Folks at Takeshiki had heard something about the *Bayan*, which is an armoured cruiser of 7,800 tons, and then came Chefoo's news about the *Boyarin*, which vessel, not having been mentioned in any previons list of casualties, seemed likely to have been the one torpedoed on the night of the 14th. But the fact is now considered apocryphal. It will probably have to be placed on the list of Chefoo canards.

Saturday, February 20.

Shanghai sends news that a Russian gunboat was blown up at Port Arthur on the 13th instant. The name given is apparently *Djidjit*. At any rate it is not *Yenisei*. But we can scarcely suppose that there have been two such accidents almost simultaneously. The probability is that Shanghai's news is identical with the news sent home by Viceroy Alexieff and telegraphed out here from Paris. The only difficulty is that Shanghai's telegram is dated the 18th. Shanghai must have known all about the *Yenisei* long before that time. Perhaps the statement made by the officers of the *Shiping* is true, namely, that the loss of the *Yenisei* left the Russians ignorant of the exact whereabouts of their own mines.

The funeral of the five Japanese officers and men killed in the battle at Port Arthur took place at Sasebo on Tuesday, 16th inst., says the *Nagasaki Press*. Three officers were among the dead, viz., Lieut.-Commander Nakayama, one sub-lieutenant, and one midshipman, all belonging to the battleship *Fuji*. The funeral service was conducted in accordance with Shinto ritual, and an oration in honour of the dead was made by the Commander of the Admiralty port, Admiral Sameshima. The ceremony was attended by representatives of every branch of the Navy, and thousands of civilians assembled to pay respect to the memory of the first to give up their lives for their Emperor and country in the present war.

St. Petersburg's version of the incident on the 14th is really too naive. A 12-inch shell, we are told, struck a transport. One would suppose that 12-inch shells, were quite common birds of passage on a winter's night, whereas in fact no larger projectile is fired by any war-ship possessed by Russia on the Far-Eastern station and if either the forts or the line-of-battle ships fired 12-inch shells to repel an attack by torpedo-destroyers, the state of demoralization existing at Port Arthur on the night of the 13th and 14th February should be handed down in history as something phenomenal. Yet the Russian account of the affairs is that a 12-inch shell struck a transport!!! What in the name of high heaven were the Russians doing with 12-inch shells? Only a naval or a military men can appreciate the supreme, the incredible absurdity of firing a 12-inch shell at a 350-ton torpedo craft. It would be about as sensible to bombard a mosquito with rocks.

The S.S. *Wenchow*, which put into Chemulpho on the 20th instant, gives a very circumstantial account—published by the Foreign Office in Tokyo—of the state of affairs at Port Arthur when she left that place for Shanghai on the morning of the 15th. According to her story, the *Retvisan* had to be driven ashore at the harbour's mouth after the torpedo attack, and in trying' to pass her after the battle on the 9th, the *Petropavlovsk* ran on the Tiger's Tail spit. Both vessels were subsequently got off, and the *Retvisan* is now moored to a light-ship outside the harbour. Nine ships are in harbour, all unfit for the battle line, and the *Novik* is in dock, no attempt being made to repair the others. The people of the *Wenchow* are very precise as to the position of each vessel, and are equally positive that all are *hors de combat* except the *Poltava* and four cruisers which are anchored near the western fort. The destroyers and torpedo-boats are in two lines near the Tiger's Tail Spit; that is to say, at the mouth of the harbour on the west.

Tuesday, February 23.

The chief of the naval staff at Port Arthur is said to have asked the Russian Consul at Shanghai to deny that any attack was made by Japanese torpedo-craft on the night of the 13th instant, and the Consul has endeavoured to give effect to this request through the columns of the local press. The *Asahi Shimbun*, in publishing this piece of intelligence, chooses for caption the words *shikari jusan-nichi ni arazu* (yes, it wasn't the 13th), which appears to hit the falsehood on the head. The attack took place on the morning of the 14th, so the staff-officer and the Consul are both as veracious as Brutus.

Another sweet story has been published by the Russians in London. It is to the effect that when the *Yenisei* was blown up, the cruiser *Boyarin* went to her assistance but owing to a violent gale she ran on a rock and became a total wreck. We begin to suspect strongly that both the *Yenisei* and the *Boyarin* owed their fate to Japanese torpedoes. A gale of wind in which 350 ton Japanese destroyers could live but a 3200-ton Russian frigate could n't, doesn't blow every day.

And what about the "London telegram" that reached us *viâ* Paris to the effect that the Japanese fleet made an attack on Port Arthur on the night of the 14th of February, but inflicted little damage? There are now in Tokyo representatives of all the leading London journals—*The Times*, the *Standard*, the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Morning Post*, the *Daily Chronicle*, the *Daily Mail* and the *Daily Express*—and there are also agents of Reuter and the Central News. Every one of these, we venture to affirm, telegraphed to London the fullest available details of the torpedo attack on the morning of the 14th instant. From what hole or corner, then, did London unearth the canard that the attack was made by the Japanese fleet and that it produced little effect?

And how about the 12-inch shells that were accidentally issuing from Russian guns that morning, and were happening, just happening, to hit unhappy Russian transports? What between the suicide of the *Yenisei*, the fortuitous death of the *Boyarin* in going to her assistance and the wandering 12-inch shells, Port Arthur must have been a tremenduous place in the small hours of the morning on the 14th of February.

A slight addition is made to our knowledge of what passed on the occasion of that torpedo attack. It appears that the destroyers became separated in rounding some head-land the location of which can only be conjectured. It appears, further, that neither the *Asagiri* nor the *Hayatori* could clearly distinguish whether any Russian ship was lying outside the harbour: the snow was falling too thickly. A merchant steamer, apparently the *Norway*, was alone visible. But presently fire was opened from the Russian side, and this furnished the desired indication. At least one torpedo was observed to burst against a Russian vessel, probably the *Boyarin*. It is further alleged that the Russian destroyers fired into each other—an accident very apt to happen on such occasions—and that three of them were injured.

A Chinese belonging to the Russo-Chinese Bank, who left Port Arthur on the morning of the 9th of February, says that the attack of the torpedo-craft took the Russians entirely by surprise and that within an hour the ships had fired away all their ammunition. The greatest confusion prevailed on shore, some hastening to carry down supplies of ammunition, others thinking only of saving themselves and their belongings. But the most interesting fact—if it be indeed a fact—related by this Chinaman is that the *deus ex machinâ* on the Japanese side was—a barber. He had resided for years in Port Arthur, had acquired the Russian language, and knew every detail about the officers and the ships. Thus equipped he answered, from the Japanese destroyers every hail addressed to them by the Russians, and so the little craft managed to reach a death-dealing position. *Si non è vero.*

Numbers of Japanese—the last batch consisted of 166 women and 7 men—are reaching Chefoo from Port Arthur. On the whole it does not appear that these people were badly treated. The higher officials took much care that no indignities should be inflicted on them, and if there was any cause of complaint it appears to have been furnished by petty jacks-in-office who did not reflect the spirit of their superiors, A great deal of delay occurred *en route*. Thus a party of 11 persons were detained nine days on the way from Newchwang to Port Arthur. That, however, seems to have been due to the necessity of collecting them all at Port Arthur by a fixed time. It is noted that the Russians passed them without charge over the railway and did not exact anything for their passage by steamer. The facts go far to prove that previous accounts were exaggerated. There are, indeed, stories of a different complexion, but they do not indicate any remarkable degree of roughness on the part of the Russians.

A ship which arrived at Chefoo on the 22nd February, having left Talien on the 21st and Port Arthur on the 20th, reports that a feeling of great depression prevails among the garrison at Port Arthur and that arms have been served out and placed in the hands of everyone capable of bearing them.

The officers of the steamer *Wenchow*, which arrived at Nagasaki on the 22nd, informed the Governor that the ships lying injured at Port Arthur are the *Retvisan*, *Cezarevitch*, *Poltava*, *Askold*, *Pallada*, *Diana* and *Novik*, of which the *Novik* is alone capable of speedy repair. The remaining eight warships with the torpedo-craft, numbering 20 in all, are anchored inside the harbour and display no intention of going out into the open to fight.

It is semi-officially stated in Tokyo that the troops at Port Arthur on the 15th inst. were 22 companies of the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th regiments. The whole of the 25th, 26th, 27th and part of the 28th regiments, which began to arrive on the 7th inst., and a battalion of artillery.

Wednesday, February 24.

It is again stated on the authority of the crew of a German steamer which was lying at Dalny on the 11th and 12th, that on the former day the *Yenisei* was blown up by accident when laying mines, and that on the 12th two small cruisers shared her fate, having come into contact with torpedoes the position of which was not distinct owing to the *Yenisei's* misfortune.

Chefoo wires that an attempt to send 1,200 oxen from that place to Port Arthur has been checked by the Customs Authorities. The enterprise was in foreign hands but the nationality is not stated.

Thursday, February 25.

It is stated that the foreign journalists in Port Arthur have been ordered to leave that place and repair to Chefoo or Newchwang. It is news to learn that there are any foreign journalists at the Russian base. They will have an interesting story to tell when their pens are free.

Japanese newspapers report that the Chinese at work in the dock at Port Arthur have gone on strike. There are said to be two thousand of them. The shrewd Chinaman is not likely to lose this opportunity of exacting a few extra cash.

(From the "Jiji Shimpo.")

ANOTHER JAPANESE ATTACK ON PORT ARTHUR.

Chefoo, February 25th, 3.26 p.m.

According to a telegram received by the Russian Consul here from the officer commanding at Port Arthur, the Japanese Squadron attacked the fortress on the night of the 24th and the following day and was repulsed by the fire from the forts, the result being that four Japanese battleships were sunk.

Shanghai, February 25, 5.30 p.m.

The reported sinking of four Japanese battleships at Port Arthur is contradicted here. The Japanese squadron, consisting of four battleships and nine cruisers, was sighted to-day off Shantung promontory passing in a westerly direction, coming from the north-east. It appears that the Japanese squadron sunk four transports, laden with stones, at the outside of the port in order to make the blockade more complete. The place where these transports are sunk is reported not to have been quite suitable for the purpose.

VICEROY ADMIRAL ALEXIEFF'S REPORTS.

The Viceroy's official reports are now an interesting study. We place them in the order of their publication :—

Saigon, February 11.

The *Messager du Gouvernement* publishes the following despatch from Admiral Alexieff to the Emperor of Russia :—" I have the honour to respectfully inform Your Majesty that towards midnight eight or nine Japanese torpedo-boats attempted suddenly to blow up with mines the ships of the Russian Squadron which were in the outer roadstead at Port Arthur. The iron-clads *Retvisan* and *Czarewitch* and the cruiser *Pallada* were injured. These ships are about to be examined in order to ascertain the amount of the injury."

Saigon, February 11.

In the night attack against Port Arthur the iron-clad *Cesarewitch* had an injury to her rudder; the *Retvisan* in her pumping machinery, and the *Pallada* in the middle of her hull. These vessels continue afloat. Measures are being taken to get them into the inner roadstead.

On the following day, the 9th February, at 11 a.m., a squadron of 15 Japanese iron-clads and cruisers bombarded Port Arthur. The citadel and the Russian squadron replied. After an hour of bombardment the Japanese withdrew to the south. During the combat the iron-clad *Poltava*,and the cruisers *Diana*, *Askold* and *Novik* received injuries below the water-line.

The damage done to the citadel is insignificant. Two officers and 41 sailors were wounded; 9 killed.

Saigon, February 11.

St. Petersburg—The injuries suffered by the *Cesarewitch* and the *Retvisan* are not grave. Both ships took part in the defence of Port Arthur on the following day. The *Pallada* will soon put to sea again. The injuries to the squadron and the forts during the attack on Port Arthur were of little gravity.

Admiral Alexieff, telegraphing to St. Petersburg on the 11th instant, says that the *Cesarewitch* and and *Pallada* were brought into the harbour on the 9th instant, and that the hole in the hull of the *Retvisan* had been plugged. The repairs of the battleships, however, will be difficult, and it is impossible to tell when they will be completed. The *Pallada* and the *Novik* will be docked one after the other and their repairs will occupy about 15 days. The ships in the battle on the 9th were all brought into harbour on the 10th. The repairs of these vessels will be completed in the course of three days.

The wounded men of the *Pallada* will probably all die, having been seriously injured by the gas of the exploding torpedo. A reconnaisance made of the neighbouring seas on the 10th did not disclose the presence of a single Japanese ship. More efficient measures of defense have been taken by means of torpedo-boats and gun-boats. The night of the 11th passed without incident.

St. Petersburg, February 14

The following ships are no longer fit for the fighting line :—*Cesarewitch*, *Pallada*, *Retvisan*, *Askol* , *Novik*, *Sevastopol* and *Petropavlovsk*.

It will be observed that this last report makes no mention of the line-of-battle ship *Poltava* and the cruiser *Diana* which, on the 11th instant, were announced to have re-received injuries below the water line. It will also be observed that whereas the *Pallada* was to have been ready for sea in 15 days from the 11th, she is now stated to be unfit for the fighting line. And it will finally be observed that the *Sevsatopol* and the *Petrospavlovsk* are returned as wounded in the report of the 14th for the first time. When did these two last ships get their hurts? We can only conclude that it was in the torpedo attack on the night of the 14th. Probably before going to press we shall have some telegraphic information as to the Viceroy's version of the incidents of that night, for, humiliating as its experiences were for his naval officers, he is not likely to avoid all public mention of it. Taking the Viceroy's statement as it stands, the Russian fighting strength has been reduced by the following :—

			Tons.
Cesarewitch,	line-of-battle-ship		13,100
Retvisan	,,	,,	12,700
Sevastopol	,,	,,	10,950
Petropavlovsk	,,	,,	10,950
Pallada,	protected cruiser		6,630
Askold	,,	,,	6,500
Novik	,,	,,	3,000
Varyag	,,	,,	6,500
Korietz,	cruiser		1,413
			71,743

The ships that remain to him at Port Arthur as first class fighting material are as follows :—

		Tons.
Poltava	Line-of-battle ship	10,950
Peresviet	do	12,674
Pobieda	do	12,674
Bayan	Armoured cruiser	7,800
Diana	Protected cruiser	6,630
Boyarin	do	3,000
		53,720

Moreover, of these ships two, the *Poltava* and the *Diana*, are admitted to have been struck below the water line. It may therefore be confidently affirmed that the Viceroy has completely lost the command of the sea. It was reported by the officers of a steamer which left Port Arthur for Shanghai on the evening of the 8th that the Russians at the former place were in the highest spirits and that they counted on crushing the Japanese without difficulty should the latter venture to attack. Probably they are correspondingly demoralized now. They have lost 8 of their best ships and they have not succeeded in putting a single Japanese vessel *hors de combat*, or even in injuring a single Japanese vessel sufficiently to drive her into dock. Admiral Togo is still at sea with his whole fleet. Should the successor of the present Russian Admiral show himself a competent man, he might still accomplish something with his squadron of 3 iron-clads and three cruisers; and could he effect a junction with the four fine vessels now lying idle in Vladivostock, he would be formidable, and might at least put up as gallant a fight as the Chinese did ten years ago at the Yalu. But as things stand the power of the sea has gone from Russia, and her choice of a battle-field on shore must be largely influenced by that disastrous fact.

London wires that Viceroy Alexieff and his staff have moved from Port Arthur to Harbin. That is very likely. Harbin is more suitably situated than Port Arthur as a centre of military operations, especially now that the naval force of Russia at the latter place has been shattered.

WIJU AND YONG AM-PHO.

It is stated that the Korean Government has now decided to declare Wiju and Yong Am-pho open ports, and that the declaration will be published in a few days. The decision comes somewhat late in the day, and from all indications it would seem that the ordinary functions of open ports are not likely to be performed quietly at either of these places for some time to come. The Russians are evidently massing troops in the direction of the Yalu, though as yet they have not made any definite attempt to establish a lodgement on the river or to cross it. We judge from the fragmentary reports received in Tokyo that at present the Russians are thinking of repelling an invasion from the Korean side rather than of attempting one themselves. They are keeping a close watch on the regions beyond Wiju by means of Cossack scouts and they have a detachment of videttes in Yong Am-pho, but as for the main part of their force in the district, Antung and Kiulien seem to be the points of concentration. In fact, the Russians are for the moment perplexed as to the point where a Japanese blow is to be struck. They are cut off from maritime sources of information, and the Japanese have so successfully closed all other avenues of intelligence that everything is obscure. Doubtless if Japan had waited another six months until His Majesty the Tsar was "good and ready" to deliver those "blows worthy of his dignity and might" which he now promises with such solemn bombast, his Manchurian army's case would be more comfortable. Meanwhile the Korean Government—we again learn—has issued orders to all the provincial officials throughout the empire to treat Japanese soldiers with the utmost civility and to afford them every facility.

CHINESE NEUTRALITY.

Saturday, February 20.

The following documents have been published in Tokyo:—

Note from the Chinese Minister to Japan addressed to Baron KOMURA, Minister for Foreign Affairs, dated February 13th, 1904.

Japan and Russia have broken off their peaceful relations; but China being on friendly terms with the two countries, her Government attaching great importance to the relations of good neighbourhood and in obedience to the Imperial command, have taken steps for the observance of the rules of neutrality and ordered the authorities of each and all provinces to strictly observe them. The local Authorities have also been instructed to keep tranquillity in their respective districts and to extend protection to the commercial and Christian population. Moukden and Hsing-king being the sites of the Imperial Mausoleums and palaces, the Governor General concerned has been given strict instructions to guard them with the greatest vigilance. The towns, villages and official buildings in the Three Eastern Provinces as well as the persons and properties of their inhabitants shall not be damaged or injured by the two belligerents. The Chinese troops stationed in those provinces shall not attack the troops of the belligerent countries nor shall the latter be allowed to attack the former. A garrison has been despatched by the Peiyang Commissioner to such districts lying west of the Liao as were already evacuated by Russia. In the various provinces as well as in Outer and Inner Mongolia the rules of neutrality are to be carried out, so that troops of the two belligerents may not intrude thereupon; and in case they have crossed the boundary line China will take the measures for repelling them. Such steps on the part of China shall however not be taken as making a rupture in the friendly relations.

In Manchuria, however, there are localities still in occupation by foreign troops and beyond the reach of the power of China, where the enforcement of the rules of neutrality will, it is feared, be impossible. The Three Eastern Provinces as well as the rights pertaining thereto shall remain under China's sovereignty whichever side may gain victory and shall not be occupied by either of the Powers now in war.

The above is being communicated to the representatives of foreign Powers in Peking. At the same time you are instructed to make the same declaration to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Government to which you are accredited.

Reply dated February 17th, 1904, of the Japanese Government to the Chinese Note.

The Imperial Government, desiring to avoid as far as possible a disturbance of the peaceful condition of affairs which now prevails in China, will, in all parts of the Chinese territory excepting the regions occupied by Russia, respect the neutrality of China so long as Russia does the same.

The rules of war which govern the Imperial forces of Japan in the field, do not permit the wanton destruction of property. Accordingly the Imperial Chinese Government may rest assured that the Mausoleums and Palaces at Moukden and Hsing-king and the public buildings of China everywhere, will be secure from any injury not attributable to the action of Russia.

Furthermore the rights of Chinese officials and inhabitants within the zone of military operations, will in their persons and property, be fully respected and protected by the Imperial forces so far as military necessity permits. In the event however, they should extend aid and comfort to the enemy of Japan, the Imperial Government reserve to themselves the right to take such action as the circumstances require.

It only remains to say in conclusion that the present war is not being waged by Japan for the purpose of conquest, but solely in defence of her legitimate rights and interests, and consequently that the Imperial Government have no intention to acquire territory as a result of the conflict, at the expense of China.

The Imperial Government also wish the Imperial Chinese Government to clearly understand that whatever action may be taken by them on Chinese territory which is made the theatre of war, will be the result of military necessity and not impairment of Chinese sovereignty.

Thursday, February 25.

It appears that Mr. Uchida has remonstrated strongly against China's tame acquiescence in Russia's refusal to regard the West Liao region as neutral ground. Mr. Uchida has pointed out to Prince Ching that this territory was duly evacuated by Russia, the evacuation being completed by the 8th of October, 1902, in accordance with treaty, and that when Japan urged upon China the advisability of observing strict neutrality, the Tokyo Government regarded the situation as it actually existed, one of the actualities being that China's administrative authority extended beyond the Great Wall as far as the Liao River. If China, in consideration of Russian menaces, now restricted her sphere of neutrality, thus extending the area of the conflict, Japan would be driven to make a corresponding change in her own programme. It would seem that in this matter the Wai-wu-pu was influenced by the minatory tone adopted by M. Lessar and the staff of the Russian Legation. These gentlemen pointed out that though Japan had gained some trifling successes at sea, Russia would soon pour half a million of men into Manchuria, and crush the insolent little Power. But the latest news is that, in deference to Mr. Uchida's representations, the Chinese have given to Russia an unequivocal reply, rejecting her protest and declaring their intention of treating the whole region up to the Liao River as neutral. This decision is likely to prove of considerable importance. Not that the regions west of the Liao have any immediate use for the Russian army except as sources of supply, but that China is thus enabled to place her forces in a position which, should her neutrality prove at any moment illusory, might have most embarrassing results for Russia, and that this West Liao district, under Chinese administration, might become an asylum for the mounted bandits whose enterprises against the railway cause Russia so many nightmares.

Tientsin reports that the Russians having purchased in that place large quantities of flour apparently for the use of the troops in Port Arthur, Viceroy Yuan warned the railway authorities to carefully scrutinise all merchandise passing over the Tientsin-Shanhaikwan line, and refuse freight having the nature of conditional contraband. It is easy to appreciate the inconvenience that the Russians must suffer from the strict enforcement of China's neutrality and their loss of the sea power in the Gulf of Pechili and the Yellow Sea. Could they control the maritime avenues to Newchwang, the latter city would be an almost unfailing emporium of supplies for their troops. But with Newchwang blocaded, with the Shanhaikwan railway's services paralysed, and with the other sea approaches sealed, there will be no resource except the single line of railway which has also to discharge the duty of transporting troops and war material. We expect to hear at any moment that Russia has ordered all non-combatant subjects to leave Manchuria. The only trouble connected with that is that they would have to be carried home by the railway, which has other functions to discharge.

Up to the present, however, it does not appear that the movements of China's troops reflect the resolution said to have been taken by the Peking Government. The advance guard of Yuan Shih-kai's army, namely 500 cavalry, have gone from Lan-chow to Yung-ping, which latter city is well within the Great-Wall circuit.

THE NEUTRAL POWERS.

Monday, February 22.

The Governor of the Philippines has notified that the United States proclamation of strict neutrality must be carefully observed by all persons under his jurisdiction.

Austria-Hungary has proclaimed strict neutrality.

A telegram from Singapore dated the 19th instant says that the Russian transport steamer *Voronej*, from Shanghai for Odessa, was not allowed to remain at Singapore for the purpose of loading merchandise, and was given only 300 tons of coal to continue her voyage.

The Argentine Republic has declared neutrality.

The French Government has announced its intention of observing the rules of neutrality laid down by it during the Hispano-American War. These rules do not set any limit of time for the stay of a belligerent man-of-war in a French port, when she is not accompanied by a prize, but they do prohibit her from using a French port in a manner constituting it a basis of operations, and they forbid the supply of any articles to a belligerent vessel except such provisions as are essential to preserving the lives of her crew while in port or on her voyage. Coal certainly does not fall into that category.

Tuesday, February 23.

The Japanese Government approached the French with regard to the Jibouti question and received a reply in the sense that the Russian battle-ship *Osliabya* and the cruisers *Aurora* and *Dimitri Donskoi*, accompanied by a transport carrying 600 troops, left Jibouti on the 18th instant for Odessa. Two destroyers are still in the port, but they are not fit to put to sea, and until their repairs can be effected they are suffered to remain. The French Government is said to have at the same time intimated its resolve to observe strict neutrality in every sense.

Wednesday, February 24.

There is some uncertainty as to the exact import of the intelligence published in Tokyo on the 22nd instant with reference to the Russian squadron which was recently reported as lying at Jibouti. The uncertainty relates to the direction taken by the men-of-war after leaving the port—whether they went towards the Far East or whether they returned to Odessa. We are inclined to think that the latter was their destination, for although the actual language of the message indicates the transport alone as having sailed for Odessa, it is evident from the French Government's answer that they intend to take a very strict view of their duties as neutrals. They say that the two torpedo-boats remaining in the harbour have been disarmed, as they are unfit for sea, and have been placed under detention until the termination of the war, and the plain inference is that had the boats been fit for sea they would not have been allowed to proceed eastward, their long stay in the port having disqualified them. If that rule applied to the torpedo-craft, it must have applied to the men-of-war also. They have probably put back to Odessa. Two points are notable in connexion with that. One is the very high sense of justice by which

France is animated. That Great Britain should apply the laws of neutrality strictly, as she is evidently doing—*vide*, for example, the case of the Russian Volunteer cruiser *Voronej*, which had to leave Hongkong within 24 hours and was hustled out of Singapore with equal celerity, only 300 tons of coal being allowed to her—that Great Britain should be strict is easy enough, since strictness makes for the advantage of her ally, Japan. But a rigid interpretation of the rules in France's case costs a great effort since it, has to be made at the expense of the country *amie et alliée*, to which France has been so loyal and for whose friendship she had made so many sacrifices. The credit accruing to her is proportionately large.

The second notable point is that if Russia has recalled the Jibouti division, she must be assumed to have abandoned the struggle in the East so far as the sea is concerned. Such was not her intention at the first. She evidently thought of sending out her Baltic squadron, which will be powerful one of these days, when the *Borodino* group are completed, but which does not now possess any great fighting force. The Baltic re-inforcement and the *Ossliabya* re-inforcement, however, have apparently been recalled, and the remnants of the Port Arthur fleet, together with the Vladivostock squadron, are to be left to eke out a precarious and unserviceable existence. That means that the sea is entirely lost to Russia as an avenue of supplies. She will have to carry all her provisions and all her munitions of war over the railway—four thousand miles of a single line. It is a big problem.

Later.

A telegram received at the Foreign Office in Tokyo, dated the 21st instant at Paris, states that the Jibouti squadron passed Perim on the 20th instant, steering for Suez. This removes all doubt as to the question of Russia sending naval reinforcements to the Far East, for the present at all events. Had the conflict with Japan occurred when the ships laid down under the 1901-1902 programme were completed, the position in the Far East might have been very different to-day.

Le Temps has just published an article which explains that the officer commanding the Jibouti squadron, came to the conclusion, in view of the relative strengths of the Japanese and Russian navies in the Far East at present, that he could not accomplish anything by bringing out a detachment consisting of only one battle-ship and two cruisers. He deemed it necessary to proceed eastward in company with the *Borodino*, the *Imperator Alexander* and the *Kniaz Suvaroff*. These three vessels are iron-clads of 13,516 tons and 18 knots speed. The *Borodino* is building at the New Admiralty in St. Petersburg where she was laid down in May 1900. The *Alexander III.* is building at the Baltic Works and was laid down in May 1899; and the *Suvaroff*, which also is building at the Baltic Works, was laid down in May 1901. It is not probable that any one of these battleships can be ready for sea before the end of the present year, unless perhaps the *Alexander III.*

THE "MANJOUR" & CHINESE NEUTRALITY.

Saturday, February 20.

The *Manjour* still lies at Shanghai. She does not go out of the river and by remaining she flagrantly violates international law. A correspondent of the *Hochi Shimbun*, who writes under date of the 13th instant, says that after two essays to leave the Yangtze, and after having been twice driven back by the apparition of Japanese vessels waiting to receive her, she proceeded to land her armament and convert herself into a non-entity. This spectacle attracted a large crowd of jeering Chinamen, and also attracted the attention of the Taotai, who ordered the ship to take her guns on board again. The *Hochi's* correspondent sends a photograph of the disarming operation, and the *Hochi* promises to publish it. But the Shanghai papers of the 13th instant do not confirm that story. One of them says, on the contrary, that the gunboat, then lying at the wharf of the Chinese Eastern Railway Company at Pootung, was busily engaged making ready for action; that she had taken down all her top-hamper, sent her spars ashore, was packing bags of coal on her deck, and had steam up. This paper adds, on the authority of "a distinguished naval officer," that the *Manjour* will await the arrival of two Russian destroyers, and will then endeavour to steal out of the river. But the latest telegram says that her commander, Muraieff, being pressed by the Taotai to leave the port, has replied that he will do so when the Japanese war-ships waiting for him are also required to leave. That is a curious rejoinder, for the Japanese war-ships, whatever they may be, are doubtless lying at the mouth of the Yangtse, which is not a neutral port and is a great many miles away from Shanghai.

If the *Manjour's* presence at Shanghai be a violation of international law, what is to be said about the presence of the *Ossliabya*, the *Dimitri Donskoi*, the *Aurora* and a Russian torpedo flotilla at Jiboutil? These vessels, according to Reuter's latest telegrams, have received instructions to remain at Jiboutil until further orders. They have already—or some of them have already—been allowed to coal there under the pretext that coal had been promised to them before war was declared—a pretext which might easily be extended so as to carry them round the world as often as they desired to make its circuit—and now, apparently, they are allowed to use the French port as a rendezvous for just whatever period suits their convenience. Strict neutrality becomes a mere farce in the face of such doings.

Sunday, February 21.

The *Jiji* publishes a telegram from Shanghai saying that an American ship-of-war has arrived there in consequence of the illegal presence of the *Manjour*. We greatly doubt, however, whether the United States Government is likely to make any direct move in such a matter. Communications are passing between the Japanese Consul-General and the Taotai, and it may be assumed that something will ultimately be effected. Of course the *Manjour* herself is not a matter of any importance. But her presence constitutes an incessant menace to Japanese merchant shipping. She may at any moment drop down the river and waylay an outgoing or an incoming steamer. If the ship is sufficiently indifferent to China's neutrality to remain at Shanghai making the place either a port of refuge or a basis of operations, she is evidently capable of converting the Yangtze into a battle-field should that course suit her convenience. At all events she furnishes an interesting illustration of China's practical inability to discharge the duties of neutrality which she has undertaken. It is plain that China's competence finds its limits in Russian forbearance. The *Manjour* is said to be acting under Viceroy Alexieff's orders, and if that be so, then evidently the Russian Government's endorsement of Chinese neutrality is not recognised by the Russian Government's principal representatives. On the other hand it must be admitted that the case is a severe test.

Monday, February 22.

The British newspapers of Shanghai are reported to be arguing that the continued presence of the *Manjour* at that place is a distinct violation on China's part of her pledge to observe neutrality and on Russia's part of her engagement to respect China's neutrality. Hence, they contend, Japan has an unquestionable right to send her men-of-war for the purpose of seizing the *Manjour*. The *Asahi's* news is to the effect that the Chinese authorities are not at all likely to employ force for the vindication of their neutrality, and that unless Japan take some definite step, the *Manjour* will remain quietly where she is, a constant menace to Japanese shipping. Our readers are doubtless aware that Japanese liners continue running to Shanghai just as they did before war broke out. They will have to abandon the enterprise if a Russian gunboat be suffered to make Shanghai a basis of operations.

The *Nippon* alleges that the *Akitsushima*, *Akashi* and *Suma* have left Japan to look after the *Manjour*.

Tuesday, February 23.

There is a good deal of talk about the *Manjour*. For a small, insignificant vessel she is giving a great deal of trouble. The Taotai of Shanghai is reported to have made strong representations to the Russian Consul, but the latter evades immediate responsibility by pleading that the matter is in the hands of M. Lessar in Peking. To Mr. Uchida, on the other hand, who addresses himself direct to Prince Ching, the answer is that several remonstrances have been made to the Russian Legation and to the St. Petersburg Government *viâ* the Chinese Representative in that city, but they have failed to elicit any satisfactory reply in either quarter. Strange to say the French Consul in Shanghai is reported to be endorsing the procrastinating tactics of his Russian colleague, but that is scarcely credible in view of the orthodox attitude assumed by the French Government with regard to Jibouti. Doubtless the *Manjour* muddle will soon be settled either by the vessel leaving Shanghai or by her armament being removed. But in the meanwhile the incident has made two things quite plain: one is that China is totally powerless to enforce the neutrality she has proclaimed; the other that Russia, although she took a prominent part in urging the adoption of neutrality, has not the faintest intention of observing it unless her convenience runs on all fours with her obligation. To be sure, that is nothing new. Russia has given many object lessons teaching that her international engagements derive their sanctity, wholly and solely, from her own interests. But there have been few instances so flagrant as this case of the *Manjour*; or, at any rate, few that followed so rapidly on the first assumption of the duties they violate. As for China, can anything be more farcical than her constructive admission of impotence to enforce her own laws in the face of a little gunboat of a few hundred tons displacement?

Wednesday, February 24.

It is reported by telegraph that in consequence of representations made by Mr.

Uchida to the Wai-wu-pu, the Chinese Government has instructed Viceroy Wei that as the continued presence of the *Manjour* at Shanghai is a distinct violation of China's neutrality, the vessel must be required at once to leave the port, and if she decline to do so, her armament must be seized and her crew compelled to land. The Wai-wu-pu has informed M. Lessar of the issue of this order, and M. Lessar has reported it to Viceroy Alexieff. Meanwhile Shanghai alleges that M. Lessar has been essaying minatory tactics. He has formally stated to Lien Fang, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, that if the *Manjour* be compelled to leave Shanghai, the whole responsibility will have to be borne by China. It does not appear that this threat has had any practical effect. The general belief is that China has ordered the *quod restat* of her naval power to proceed to Shanghai for the purpose of driving out the *Manjour*. Public opinion in Shanghai regards M. Pavlow as the instigator and abettor of the *Manjour's* present contumely, and thinks that it is Russia's object to involve China in trouble over this matter, and thus, by drawing her into the war, to obtain for herself (Russia) the advantage of being able to use Chinese ports as places of refuge and sources of supply. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* says that on the 21st the Shanghai Taotai, acting under instructions from Viceroy Wei, ordered the *Manjour* to leave the port within 24 hours, but that there was no appearance of her complying.

It will be observed that nothing is heard of Great Britain in all this. She is "lying low." We remember vividly how, in 1894, she announced that no violation of the neutrality of the Yangtze valley would be permitted by her, and how Admiral Freemantle made a naval demonstration which removed all doubts as to the course he would pursue in the event of any attempt to disregard the announcement. Whether the order was strictly enforced against China there was much query at the time; but, then, to enforce it strictly would have been very difficult and Admiral Freemantle's sympathies were not equivocal. That was ten years ago, however, and conditions are very different now. The British Government is taking, we venture to think, the wisest and most beneficial course in leaving the matter to be settled by the parties directly concerned. The *Itsukushima* is understood to be somewhere in the neighbourhood of the scene, and when China's impotence is finally established there will be Japanese means forthcoming. To attack the *Manjour* in the river off Shanghai would be a very difficult operation, and we are confident that Japan would shrink from a step so disturbing to the tranquillity of a great tradal mart. Something, however, will have to be done. Russia has effectually demonstrated her determination not to pay the least deference to Chinese neutrality if it suit her convenience to ignore it, and China is thus relieved from any neutral obligations *vis-à-vis* Russia.

As we write a telegram reaches us *via* the *Jiji Shimpo* from Shanghai, dated the 23rd instant, which says that the United States ships *New Orleans*, *Albany* and *Wilmington* have reached Shanghai, and that they are expected to be followed by the British ships *Pigmy* and *Humber*. These five vessels are supposed to be destined to preserve the peace of the port. How they can do so unless the *Manjour* remove herself one does not see.

Meanwhile there is another complication, one that we have long foreseen. China, it will be remembered, has resolved to include in the sphere of her neutrality the part of Mánchuria lying between the Liao River and the Great Wall. She claims that the region was evacuated by Russia in the first evacuation period, which ended on October 8th, 1902, and that consequently it is now unquestionably under the administration of the Peking Government. Of course the claim is absolutely valid. There never was the slightest query about the first act of evacuation. Russia herself explicitly declared its consummation at the time, and she has no title to exercise administrative authority in the Western Liao region unless she now confesses that her first act of evacuation was a pure farce, or unless she alleges, that the outbreak of war has changed everything. It would seem, nevertheless, that she is determined to cling to this district. The Chinese Representative at the Court of St. Petersburg telegraphs to his Government that Russia refuses to recognise the Western Liao region as within the zone of Chinese neutrality, and the Minister asks to have formal protest made on the subject.

With reference to this, Tientsin telegraphs that the Chinese Government shows signs of yielding to Russia's claim. Viceroy Yuan's cavalry, which was to have patrolled the region in question, starting from Shanhaikwan on the 23rd instant, is reported to have received orders to proceed no further than Yung-ping. "Proceed" is an inappropriate word in this context, for Yung-ping lies south-west of Shanhaikwan within the Wall, being thus nearer to Peking than is Shanhaikwan. Viceroy Yuan is said to have been much exasperated by this change of plan, which involves the abandonment, or at any rate the radical modification, of the previous programme, under which the troops of Ma Yu-kong were to have had their basis at Chan-yang.

It does not follow, we think, that this action on Russia's part implies a desire to draw China into the arena of hostilities. More than a month ago, when the war cloud was becoming dense, we alluded to the subject of the Liao district, and pointed out what a serious matter it would be for Russia to have Chinese troops posted so near her right flank as the western bank of the Liao River. They would be within easy striking distance of the railway, thus constituting a constant menace. Russia's strategical business is to keep all potential enemies as far away as possible from her most vulnerable part.

There has been considerable talk of Russian coaling facities in the Sunda Strait; or, to speak more accurately, at Sabang on the south of Banka Island. But even supposing that the Dutch Government were willing to neglect the duties of a neutral by allowing Russian ships to coal there, the advantage would be small for the supply is insignificant. Moreover it is stated that the whole quantity —some 40,000 tons—has been bought up by British subjects for the use of the British navy. France has made it quite plain that she does not intend to permit any breach of her neutrality such as would be involved in the coaling of belligerent war-ships, and it thus seems to follow that unless Russian vessels can carry enough fuel to last them from Odessa to Port Arthur or Vladivostock, they must abandon the idea of coming eastward.

Friday, February 26.

The *Manjour* question remains unsettled. China is said to have advanced a plea that as she has no naval strength to enforce neutrality in this case, there is no resource except to insist that the *Manjour* must disarm and remain in Shanghai as a non-combatant, her officers and crew being held prisoners until the termination of the war. But Japan will not consent to that, and in truth it is a ridiculous pretense. For China is by no means without naval force. She has quite a considerable array of vessels. The two cruisers *Hai-tien* and *Hai-chi*, for example, could make mincemeat of the *Manjour* at short order, both being excellent steel ships of 4,300 tons displacement with a nominal speed of 22½ knots and a powerful armament, including 8-inch and 4.7-inch quick-firers. There is a statement that these vessels have been ordered to Shanghai, but what they will do when they get there remains to be seen. Most people must have lost all confidence in China's resolution to assert her sovereign rights. Nothing more invertebrate and pusillanimous than her general procedure can be conceived. Of course the cause of her timidity is easily understood. She must feel like a householder in the presence of armed burglars. Her only hope of respite from complete spoliation, she imagines, is to cower down suppliant-like before her enemies. From Japan's example she has not even yet inferred the value of manly self-assertion.

THE "SHIPING."

The *Jiji Shimpo* gives an account from its Shanghai correspondent under date of the 19th instant with reference to the case of the *Shiping*, which was detained for 5 days at Port Arthur and Dalny. It appears from this statement that the *Shiping* was on her way from Chinwan-tao to Shanghai when stress of weather obliged her to make for Port Arthur. Arriving in the vicinity of the place, a shotted gun was fired at her, though she flew the British flag, and she was signalled to anchor where she was. She did so, but as the weather had moderated in the afternoon, she got under way and had proceeded about a mile on her voyage to her destination when two more guns, both shotted, were fired at her. The shells passed ahead and astern, and the steamer lost no time in returning to her former berth, during which operation another shot was fired which passed over her. A destroyer then came and anchored in her neighbourhood and she was ultimately ordered to Dalny, where she lay until the 16th, a Russian guard being on board during some 24 hours of the time. In the night spent at Port Arthur, the 10th, she heard shots fired from the forts and observed frequent goings and comings of small vessels. At Dalny a curious explanation was given of her detention; namely, that the torpedo transport ship had been blown up accidentally while laying mines, and that with her had perished the only two men fully acquainted with the location of the torpedoes laid in the harbour. Small craft of light draught could come and go with immunity, but the Russians could not undertake to pilot a steamer safely out of the bay. Altogether the *Shiping's* treatment shows singular indifference to international usages, to say nothing of the insult to the British flag. Experience, too, has not inspired such confidence in Russian gunnery that a steamer can be considered safe when shells are fired ahead of her, astern of her, and over her at a distance of over a mile. The Russians really seem unfit to be entrusted with the use of fire-arms.

THE CHEMULPO ENGAGEMENT.

Saturday, February 20.

The officer commanding the *Chiyoda* has arrived in Tokyo and reported to the Emperor the details of the action on the 9th instant at Chemulpo. He says that the captain of the *Varyag*, a man of about 50, was wounded on the right temple during the action. The *Varyag*, according to this officer's account was undoubtedly sunk by the fire of the Japanese ships, but the *Koreetz* went down in consequence of an explosion which was the work of her own people. The *Sungari's* catastrophe, he thinks, was an accidental result of the *Koreetz* explosion, as the two ships were only 50 metres apart. The shot-torn flag of the *Varyag* has been brought to Tokyo and will be placed in the Yushu-kwan at Kudan.

Sunday, February 21.

It is stated that a party of 7 Japanese subjects, travelling over land from Fusan to Chemulpo have been assassinated by Koreans. We read in Tokyo journals that there is no maritime communication at present between Fusan and Chemulpo. Steamers ply from Fusan to Mokpo, but are not allowed to go on to Chemulpo. It was for that reason that the above travellers attempted to make the overland journey. They are described as belonging to a party of three hundred Japanese who await at Fusan the opening of maritime communications with Chemulpo.

The *Amphitrite* has carried away from Chemulpo to Singapore the Russian officers and men, numbering 275, that had escaped to the *Talbot* after the fight on the 9th instant, together with 53 men of the *Sungari*.

A telegram published by the Foreign Office says that the British Consul at Chemulpo made an official communication to the Japanese Minister in Seoul about the *Varyag* fugitives on board H.B.M.S. *Talbot*. He stated that these officers and men would be detained in British territory until the close of the war. They were subsequently sent away in the *Amphitrite*, as our readers know.

RUSSIAN MILITARY MOVEMENTS.

Friday, February 19.

The Russians are said to be strengthening the defences at Newchwang. Apparently the fact of the place being an open port does not count any longer.

It is stated that Colonel Muraieski (?), lately commandant of the Russian garrison in Peking, and transferred a few days ago to the command of the Regiment at Harbin, has been assassinated between Newchwang and Moukden when *en route* for the scene of his new duties.

There are renewed rumours of the presence of Russian troops south of the Yalu. One report says that 2,000 have entered Wiju and that 3,000 are at Kiu-lien-ching, and that the Wiju force has 14 guns with it. The *Nippon* publishes a statement, said to be on good authority, that a party of 20 Cossacks are *en route* for Pyong-yang.

The *Asahi* calculates that seven Russian regiments have now been moved towards the Yalu; namely, four from Port Arthur, two from Dalny and one from the districts adjacent to Antung. This account does not include the troops of whom we have recently heard so much as marching from Liaoyang. We suspect that outside the War Office in Tokyo, there is not much information among the Japanese about the distribution of Russia's forces in Manchuria.

China seems to be concentrating a considerable force at Shanhaikwan and in its vicinity for the purpose of asserting her strict neutrality.

We learn from good authority that all the Russian troops hitherto stationed at Nikolisk, with the exception of 1500, have proceeded to Harbin, and that 3,000 men have gone from Vladivostock to Manchuria.

It is stated on good authority that Russian scouts are daily seen in the district about Wiju and on the bank of the Yalu opposite to Chhong-song.

Sunday, February 21.

The *Kokumin* and the *Asahi* publish statements from Seoul to the effect that Wiju reports the advance of 300 Cossack cavalry from the Yalu towards Anju *en route* for the Korean capital. These troopers can scarcely be anything but scouts, but their presence in Korea—assuming the rumour to be correct—may create an inconvenient panic.

It appears, according to news from Newchwang, that on the 12th instant a rumour reached that place of a conflict between the Russians and the Japanese on shore, and something like a panic ensued. Shortly afterwards a force of Russian cavalry and infantry entered the town and took possession. This report says, further, that the Russians are searching for and arresting all Chinese who speak Japanese as well as all Japanese subjects and all Chinese that are on intimate terms with Japanese.

Another telegram from Newchwang, received in a trustworthy quarter, states that a rumour of the advance of a Japanese force towards the Liao River created a panic in the settlement. The leading Russian lady fled to a certain consulate and asked for protection; the Russian merchants began to pack their belongings, and Russian paper money ceasing to be negotiable, there resulted a run on the Russo-Chinese Bank which it could not meet.

Shanghai journals say that Viceroy Alexieff, in addition to requiring the Chinese Authorities to guard the line of railway, has intimated to them that China will be held responsible for all obstacles placed in the way of the Russian army, and that Russia will demolish or remove any Chinese buildings which impede her military operations.

Monday, February 22.

Admiral Alexieff, according to a telegram from Peking, proceeded on the 19th instant to Mukden, ostensibly for the purpose of recruiting his health but really to instruct the Russian staff there that application should be made to the Chinese Governor-General Tseng, in the sense that Russia desired to have the Chinese regular troops posted at a distance of 60 miles (Russian) from the line of railway in order to protect it. The conjecture is that the Viceroy has doubts about the conduct of Chinese regulars, and that he wishes to remove them from the vicinity of the line lest they should join the mounted bandits who constantly threaten it. General Tseng Chi did not fall in with the arrangement. He was scarcely likely to do so, for apart from the fact that by taking such steps he would be materially assisting his country's enemy, there is the plain consideration that if he officially assume any duties connected with the guarding of the railway, the Chinese Government will be subsequently responsible for any injury the line may suffer. The railway is essential to Russia, but, at the same time, it terribly embarrasses her. Without it she can not bring her forces to the field; with it she is obliged to keep a large part of them out of the field in order to guard it.

The *Jiji Shimpo's* Peking information contains opinions expressed by a high Chinese official who has just returned from Port Arthur. He alleges that the defeats suffered by the Russian squadron have greatly broken the spirit of the Russians and inspired them with apprehension as to their ability to remain in secure possession of Port Arthur under Viceroy Alexieff's direction. Haste is being made, therefore, to transport all important documents from that place to Mukden, which the Viceroy is expected to make his chief base. But the question is, does this decision rest any longer with Alexieff? According to present appearances, it will be for Kuropatkin or Makaroff to fix a plan of campaign, and neither of them can do so definitely until Japan exposes her hand.

According to a telegram from Chhong-song in Hamyong-do the Russians are leaving the Tumen River and concentrating at Possiet Bay. A concentration at Possiet could only have for purpose the defence of Vladivostock. They are said to be advancing in that direction from Hun-chung and Ning-tau, all of which would indicate that they apprehend a Japanese attack upon Vladivostock.

A telegram from Seoul says that a party of 38 Cossacks have arrived at Song-chhon, which lies to the north-east of Pyong-yang. The presence of Cossacks at a point so far south of the Yalu River indicates a very bold movement, but can not be anything more than a scouting operation. These Cossacks, however, would experience no special difficulty in rejoining the Russian force northward of the Yalu in the face of a Japanese direct advance, which they would thus be able to notify in full time.

Another report has it that 500 Russian troops have reached Chong-ju, and that 20 of them have crossed the river Pak-chhon. Chong-ju is about 30 miles south of the Yalu and 45 miles north of Pyong-yang. The Pak-chhon is a little river southward of Chong-ju and northward of the Chhong-chhon-gang which flows past An-ju. All those places will be found on the map of Korea recently issued from this office. The Russians can not have any considerable force on the south of the Yalu or ready to move southward of it. But if they could place even five thousand men at Pyong-yang, which is a very strong position, they would be able to give a great deal of trouble. The only point is that such a column would presently find itself operating in the air unless its communications could be guarded against an attack from the direction of the sea.

Tientsin sends word that the six companies of mounted bandits whose apparition in the neighbourhood of Haicheng was recently announced, have been cutting telegraph wires and injuring railways in that neighbourhood, and that another naive application has been made by the Russian officer in command, who thinks that really the Chinese Governor of Kirin should take precautions for securing these railways and telegraphs which are so essential to Russian success in striking blows worthy of her dignity and might against that provocative, treacherous little Japan. But the Governor of Kirin shares the view of the Governor-General of Manchuria that the duty of policing Russian means of military communication can not properly be undertaken by a neutral country.

Is Russia really making herself so extremely ridiculous or is some one doing her a nasty turn? We should have accepted the latter hypothesis without hesitation a month ago, but since the appearance of the Tsar's recent manifestoes no silliness, however extravagant, can be thought impossible on the part of Russians.

The latest news from northern Korea, published by the War Department, is that 30 Russians have reached Kazan in Pyong-an-do. Pyong-yang itself is quiet, but the telegraph northward of Anju is not working, from which it may be inferred that the district is over-run by Russians. Kazan is a little to the south of Chong-ju. From the same source we learn that several hundreds of Russian cavalry reached Chong-ju on the 20th instant at 3 p.m., and their advance guard of 40 men crossed the Chhong-chhon-gang on the same evening.

Tuesday, February 23.

It appears that the small Russian force which has crossed the Yalu and penetrated as far as the vicinity of Anju, is not supported by any column of appreciable magnitude. In fact, the operation looks very like an attempt to restrict Japan's choice of battle-field by forcing her to fight on the line of the Yalu. If that be the object, it is not very cleverly conceived, since a Russian menace from the direction of the Yalu can not have formidable dimensions at present, and there are strong reasons for thinking that if Pyong-yang be the aim of the Cossack flying column the latter is late in the field. Pyong-yang is safe, and Pyong-yang, as we have often observed, is the position of most vital importance in northern Korea. No one can venture to predict at this moment where the Japanese bolt will be shot. The Russian commanders in Manchuria share the general uncertainty, and any successful effort on their part to fix the location would be immensely to their advantage.

The *Nichi Nichi* has a telegram saying that thirty-eight Cossack troopers have arrived at Unsan, where an American company is engaged in mining operations. The Cossacks are accompanied by two Chinese interpreters and one Korean. They have taken possession of the premises of the American company, but the latter's Japanese employees, who number 200, have not yet been withdrawn. Unsan is some 30 miles south of Chhong-chhon.

The Russian troops south of the Yalu do not appear to be moving against Pyong-yang.

Wednesday, February 24.

It appears from the indications thus far furnished that the Russians are invading—or rather raiding—Korea from two directions, namely, Possiet Bay and the Yalu. At the former place the Ussuri forces are concentrating and they have sent scouts into Ham-gyong-do, who have cut the telegraph between Son-chin and Yuen-san. Those advancing from the Yalu into Pyong-an-do have cut the line from Wiju to Seoul, and the two bodies may soon establish communications in the mountainous districts of the two northern provinces. This is a kind of guerilla warfare which can not accomplish much, and will not, we should hope, divert the Japanese from more serious matters.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* has telegrams saying that a thousand Russian troops have made their appearance at Chong-fu and 400 at Kasan, while another advance guard of Cossacks have reached Wiju and pushed on to a point 12 miles south of that place. All this seems to be a reconnaissance in force. We can not conceive that it indicates a serious invasion of Korea from the Yalu direction, for Russia has no force in that region sufficient for such a purpose.

The *Hochi Shimbun* alleges that it would be a matter of great difficulty for any considerable Russian force to cross the Tumen into Korea, as the river's current is very swift, and there exists at present only a frail wooden bridge quite unsuited for the passage of artillery.

It is again reported that the Russian Authorities approached the Chinese Government with a demand that the latter should undertake to guard the Manchurian Railway. But the Chinese replied that whereas the Russians had not seen fit to entrust them with that duty in time of peace, they must decline altogether to undertake it in time of war. Russia certainly loses nothing by assurance. Unless she acknowledges China's sovereignty in Manchuria, she can not possibly expect the Chinese to guard the railway, and if she acknowledge China's sovereignty, then Manchuria becomes neutral territory and the passage of Russian troops through it for belligerent purposes is utterly illegal. If China undertook the duty which the Russians are endeavouring to thrust on her, she would at once become Russia's active ally.

Viceroy Alexieff, however, is reported to have issued a proclamation calling upon the Chinese inhabitants to protect the railway, and reminding them that Russia protected them in the days of the Boxer outrages. *Sanctas simplicitas!* What a tangled web we weave when first we practise to deceive.

Thursday, February 25.

Reports from northern Korea indicate that the Russian advance has been checked by the discovery of "an obstacle" at Pyong-yang, and that the inadvisability of posting any large force southward of the Yalu has been recognised. Everything is kept so secret that no intelligible information can be furnished from that interesting quarter, but it is plain that the Russians have adopted the one kind of strategy open to them, namely, an attempt to fix the Japanese line of advance by themselves assuming the offensive in the Kiulien-Pyongyang direction.

The *Asahi Shimbun* reports that on the forenoon of the 25th instant the Japanese and Russian scouts came within sight of each other at Suk-chhon, which is 25 miles northward of Pyong-yang. They did not exchange shots, however. It is added that the Russians have cut the telegraph between Pyong-yang and Anju.

It is stated that the Russian force on the Tumen shows no inclination to advance into Korea and that the roads are so bad as to render the passage of troops almost impossible.

THE JAPANESE PAVILION AT THE ST. LOUIS EXHIBITION.

Mr. Kawashima, the celebrated silk-mercer of Kyoto, has caused to be temporarily erected on the vacant ground immediately behind the offices of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha in Yurakucho, Tokyo, the beautiful pavilion that is to be sent to the St. Louis Exhibition, where it will serve, first, as a unique example of Japanese decorative art in its highest application, and secondly as a place for displaying the exhibits of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. All visitors will be welcome to inspect the pavilion on the afternoon and evening of the 26th instant, and throughout the day as well as in the evening of the 27th.

THE RUSSIAN SQUADRON IN VLADIVOSTOCK.

Various telegrams are reaching Tokyo which seem to indicate that the Vladivostock squadron has again put to sea. A village—Tsusumura—on the south of Tsushima reports that on the 20th instant the sound of heavy guns was heard to the north-west. Hakodate, under date of the 20th, wires that a ship of unknown nationality has been sighted in the neighbourhood of Okujiri island apparently seeking to cut the submarine cable. This last rumour is confirmed by one from Sapporo, which speaks of three men-of-war being engaged fishing for the cable, and from Iki island arrives a statement that 5 ships of unknown nationality have been seen in the neighbouring waters. Finally, the master of the *Tamagawa Maru* reports that on his voyage to Tsushima from Fusan, he sighted a vessel which he did not recognise. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* predicts that Russia will disregard the principle adopted by all civilized nations, namely, that undefended towns and villages should not be bombarded by a hostile fleet. Many places on the coasts of Japan invite enterprises of that kind, whereas the only Russian places exposed to assault are Vladivostock, Port Arthur and Talien. It may be observed in connexion with this that the principle of not bombarding undefended towns used to be wholly disregarded by the Occident in dealing with the Orient. Nothing was commoner than that ships flying the colours of a highly civilized Western country should proceed to cannonade villages and towns incapable of offering any appreciable resistance. This was a frequent form of reprisals. It was by the Council of International Jurists which met at Venice in 1896 that the principle of not bombarding defenceless places was first definitely recognised, but whether Russia adheres to it or not is an open question.

Again it seems that the apparition of the Vladivostock squadron in northern seas is a myth. The Naval Department announces that it can not find any trustworthy confirmation of the news, and that there is nothing to report from the neighbourhood of Okujiri where the squadron was said to have been sighted.

THE RICE CROP.

Official investigations show that the rice crop of last year does not come up to the very high estimates made in the autumn. It was expected to exceed 47 million *koku*, whereas it is something less than 46 millions. The following figures are published by the *Official Gazette*:—

Year.	Crop in *Koku*.
1893	37,267,418
1894	41,859,047
1895	39,960,798
1896	36,240,351
1897	33,039,293
1898	47,387,666
1899	39,698,258
1900	41,466,734
1901	46,914,434
1902	36,947,091
1903	46,475,038

The average crop being 43,253,374 *koku*, it appears that last year's yield was 6,221,664 *koku* above the average and also that it was 9,527,947 *koku* better than that for 1902. The reason assigned for the slight disappointment is that just as the grain was approaching maturity, unfavourable weather set in.

THE "NAGONOURA MARU."

Tuesday, February 23.

We learn with very great satisfaction that the charges of inhumanity brought against Russian naval officers in connexion with the sinking of the *Nagonoura Maru* were unfounded. According to a telegram received in Tokyo, a German steamer, the *Stolberg*, reached Nagasaki on the 22nd instant from Vladivostock. She had on board 53 Japanese residents of Vladivostock, 1585 Chinese, and 41 persons saved from the *Nagonoura Maru*. Only 2 of the *Nagonoura's* crew were drowned. It appears, therefore, that the Russians were careful to save life, an act specially meritorious since a heavy sea was running. All the accusations brought against them in that particular context must be withdrawn with profound apologies.

Wednesday, February 24.

The Master of the *Nagonoura Maru* says that the Russian ships of the Vladivostock Squadron signalled to him, in the first place, that he and his crew must quit the steamer at once. He signalled in reply asking for succour, and the Russians answered that they were preparing to succour him. But immediately the four men-of-war opened fire, and their shells struck the little steamer. The master, his crew of 33 and his four passengers, hastened to lower the boats and escape from the side opposite to the warships, but while they were doing so a shot struck two of the men and they fell into the sea. The rest concluded that their hour had come and that their best chance lay in making direct for the Russian ships, which they did, the shots of the *Gromoboi* passing over their heads as they approached her. They were taken on board and put into three cabins; the 4 passengers in one and the 31 seamen in two others. Presently they saw their steamer stand on end, explode and go down During the next two days, the 12th and the 13th, the four cruisers steamed hither and thither, and finally made for Vladivostock where they arrived on the 14th. Meanwhile the crew and passengers of the *Nagonoura Maru* were kept close prisoners, and were fed on black bread and tea. At Vladivostock they were put into the house of detention attached to the jail at Vladivostock, and on the following morning various articles of warm clothing were supplied to them. The same afternoon they were released and put on board a German steamer bound for Nagasaki.

THE "NISSHIN" AND "KASUGA" FÊTE.

On Friday Tokyo entertained the officers and men that brought out the *Nishin* and the *Kasuga*. The Hibiya Park was the scene of the jollification in the afternoon, and the Imperial Hotel in the evening. There were day fire-works and night fire-works; there were illuminations; there were wrestlers; there was a band; there was a banquet, and there was a crowd that cheered itself hoarse whenever a foreigner appeared. Nothing could have been brighter, and more hospitable and more goodhumoured. It was perhaps a little above the heads of some of the gentlemen that had worked before the mast in the two cruisers. A good square meal with lots of liquor would have been more on their level. But they certainly enjoyed themselves, and many of them were profoundly astonished.

The *Nisshin* is to belong to the Maizuru station, the *Kasuga* to that at Kure.

THE RUSSIAN MANIFESTO.

The following telegram has been received at the Foreign Office:—

The Russian Government is said to have officially published on the 18th inst., the following Communique:—

"Eight days have passed since Russia has been burning with indignation against an enemy which has suddenly broken off negotiations and whose aim it was to obtain a slight success in the long desired war by a treacherous attack. The Russian nation with natural impatience is wishing for a speedy revenge and expects news from the Far East with feverish anxiety. The unity and power of the Russian nation remove doubts that Japan will receive chastisement for her treachery and for having challenged Russia to war. While our Sovereign desired to maintain peace, the circumstances of the outbreak of hostilities compel us to wait with patience for news concerning the success of our troops, which can not be received before decisive action is taken by the Russian army. The wide distances of the territory attacked and the desire of the Emperor to maintain peace, were the reasons for the impossibility of making far reaching preparations for war beforehand. It will not take much time to give Japan signal defeats worthy of the power of Russia, while Russia will be careful not to shed unnecessarily the blood of her children in inflicting chastisement on a nation which well deserves it and which has challenged Russia in an arrogant manner. She must, however, wait for events with patience in the certainty that our army will revenge the attack a hundredfold. The operations on land still lie in the distant future. We can not receive news from the seat of war very quickly. Unnecessary shedding of blood is not worthy of the power and greatness of the Empire of Russia. Our fatherland shows so much unity and willingness to make sacrifices in the national cause that all correct news arriving from the seat of war shall be immediately published to the whole nation."

The above is said to have been published with a view to consoling public opinion in Russia, which was much depressed by the late unfavourable news from the seat of war.

A WONDERFUL COLLECTION OF BRONZES.

One of the most interesting objects at the St. Louis exhibition will be a collection of ancient Chinese bronzes which have been entrusted to the care of Mr. Okazaki Sessei, and will by him be carried to America. It is unnecessary to remind readers who have informed themselves more or less about Japanese art, that Mr. Okazaki is one of the most celebrated, if not actually the most celebrated, of modern Japanese bronze-casters and chisellers. Jomi Eizuke of Kyoto is probably as well known, but the two men work in such different lines that they can scarcely be called rivals. A full understanding of the mysteries of bronze castings is virtually beyond attainment by any but a practical bronze-caster, and that is what gives importance to Mr. Okazaki's connexion with this collection, for the fact constitutes a certain guarantee that the objects are exactly what he judges them to be, or, at any rate, are the closest possible approximations. When the date of a bronze goes farther back than the *Yuan* dynasty (1260—1368), or possibly the *Sung* (960—1260), it becomes such a rare object that very few examples are available for purposes of comparison, and the connoisseur is obliged to fall back on indications connected with the patina or the texture—indications which only the expert's eye can decipher. This collection of which we are speaking includes specimens ranging from the *Chin* dynasty (255—206 B.C.) through the *Han* (206 B.C 221 A.D.) and the Minor Dynasties (221—618) to the *Tang* (618—907). Some of them were taken originally from sepulchres, some from temples, but nearly all have long enjoyed the loving tendance of reverent collectors. The patinas are really wonderful. They show fields and clouds of the most brilliant verdigris-green, deep and glowing lapis-lazuli blue, rich grape-purple, dead-leaf russet and eel-skin yellow. It is evident that the bronzes must have undergone very varied experiences, some deriving their oxidization from centuries of association with extreme humidity while others have mellowed in a dry atmosphere. There is no decoration in high relief. That is essentially a Korean method, afterwards adopted and perfected by the Japanese. A Chinese bronze has incised or very low-relief designs only—diapers, arabesques and highly conventionalized animals or reptiles—and this kind of work is finely illustrated on the Okazaki specimens. One feels when looking at these bronzes that the only becoming way to treat them is to place them severally under glass cases and bestow on them the same attention as one would give to a choice relic of the old Grecian masters. The secret of their provenance is not told. We suspect that some of them at all events reached the hands of outsiders through the door unwittingly opened by the Boxers to the treasures of Chinese virtuosi. American collectors, collectors of the right sort, will revel in them, and will be delighted to hear Mr. Okazaki's expositions, coming from one of Japan's greatest modern artists. A few of the bronzes have inscriptions which remain to be deciphered and identified, a work that will doubtless be achieved before the collection reaches America.

AFFAIRS AT NEWCHWANG.

Sunday, February 21.

It would appear that there are still about a hundred Japanese fugitives at Port Arthur, mostly women and children. Mr. Uchida, Japanese Representative in Washington, has requested the United States Minister to take steps for their return, as well as for the release of Japanese subjects held prisoners by the Russians, and Mr. Conger is said to have instructed the U.S. Consul at Newchwang to make the necessary application.

Monday, February 22.

It is reported that a party of Russian soldiers numbering 50, under the command of two officers, broke into the house of a Japanese residing in Newchwang, tied up two men and wounded another. The United States Consul immediately took up the matter. He proceeded at once to the place, caused the police to free the Japanese and to lay a complaint before the Russian officer in command, and he telegraphed to the United States Minister in Peking asking him to demand reparation. On the following day the Consul caused a guard to escort these two Japanese and six others to the railway station. We read also that the Consul provided travelling funds for the women.

Have we any incidents in Japan to match these doings, or the doings in Vladivostock, or the doings in Mukden, or the doings in Haicheng, or the doings in Port Arthur, or the doings off Tsugaru Strait? The answer is a murmur from Kobe about some rude coolies. What has Kobe done to its coolies, we wonder. How has it manufactured them?

A telegram from Newchwang says that the gun-boat *Bobr* (950 tons), which has been laid up there for the winter, is making strenuous efforts to get to sea. Her captain has contracted for ten thousand *yen* to have a practicable exit made through the ice.

Tuesday, February 23.

It is stated that at Newchwang, since the circulation of a rumour that Japanese troops had landed at that place or in its neighbourhood, all the inhabitants have hastened to hang out the flags of their various countries together with an intimation that they are not Russians. The Russian authorities have vainly endeavoured to check this, and are represented to be themselves considerably perturbed.

The United States Consul at Newchwang, fearing that the Russians in Manchuria may again take measures to forcibly conduct Japanese fugitives to Port Arthur, has sent an official to Tashikiao to guard against such a contingency. Tashikiao is the junction of the Mukden-Dalny Railway with the Newchwang branch.

KOREA.

Saturday, February 20.

A telegram from Seoul says that the Japanese have issued war notes, exchangeable for silver. The denominations are 10 *yen*, 5 *yen*, 1 *yen*, 50 *sen*, 20 *sen* and 10 *sen*. These will be a great convenience to all persons connected with the troops, especially to the foreign war correspondents.

It is stated that all the employees of the Russian Yalu Timber Company have withdrawn from Yong Am-pho to Antung.

The United States Representative in Seoul is said to be pressing for the immediate opening of Yong Am-pho and Wiju. We suspect that there will be a military opening ceremony there before long.

Monday, February 22.

There appears to be a sad flutter in the nest of the Soks and the Myongs and the Hongs and the Lis and the Mins; that is to say, in the circle of the Korean Russo-phils. Some have fled, some are flying and some are trembling. Very likely these gentlemen were honestly anxious to do the best for their country. From their point of view they had just as much warrant to angle for Russian protection as for Japanese. Therefore none will be so wantonly cruel as to ridicule their present discomfiture. They have had their day. That is all that need be said. But some rumours say that among these Russophils supposed to be flying on their own account, two or three are really commissioned to find and prepare a retreat for their perennially perplexed monarch. Chhun-chong in Kan-won-do is named as the locality selected.

His Majesty received Major-General Kioshi on the 19th instant. The Major-General is in command of the brigade that landed at Chemulpo on the memorable afternoon and night of the 8th instant.

Tuesday, February 23.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* reports that the circulation of Japanese military paper is not successful in Seoul. It appears that these notes were issued without any previous warning, and were accepted at first on the supposition of their being exchangeable for gold. But the banks—presumably Korean banks or exchange shops—decline to change them even for silver except at a discount of twenty per cent., and they have fallen quite out of favour in Seoul. Apparently there has been some bad management.

There would seem to be still some delay about the opening of Wiju and Yong Ampho. The American Representative is reported to be urging the Korean Government to hasten its decision.

Wednesday, February 24.

The Japanese Consul, telegraphing from Seoul, says that everything has risen in price on account of the war and that the discredited nickels, which formerly were exchanged at 220 per 100 Japanese *sen* have now risen to 145, greatly to the embarrassment of the Japanese merchants.

Thursday, February 25.

Mr. Hayashi introduced to the Emperor of Korea on the 23rd instant Lieut.-General Inouye, who commands a Division of the Japanese army.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* has telegrams from Seoul saying that the mantle of M. Pavlow has fallen on the present French Representative in Seoul, and that he is carrying on with the Russo-phils—Li Keun-thaik, Li Hak-keun, Hyon San-kon, etc.,—a vigorous intrigue having for main object the escape of the Emperor to Chhun-chhong (not Chhong-chhon) which is virtually within the region where Cossack troops are now scouting. It is extremely silly on the part of the plotters to concert such manœuvres, and we take leave to doubt whether the French Representative has any hand in them. The upshot will be that the Japanese will have to take the monarch into custody. Perhaps, however, that would not be displeasing to Russia's friends: it would throw a sinister light on Japan's doings.

Friday, February 26.

There has been a commotion in Korean political circles, as was predicted some days ago. Li Yong-ik, who has for some time distinguished himself by vacillating between Japan and Russia, is reported to have finally fallen between the two stools, and to be now on his way to Japan, the never-failing refuge for distressed officials. Meanwhile the Cabinet has been re-organized, the portfolio of foreign affairs being given to Li Yong-sik (a recent convert to the Japanese cause), that of finance to Pak Chong-yong (pro-American); and the position of comptroller of the imperial exchequer falling to Yun Ung-yol, whose political complexion is not stated.

Mr. Kato, Foreign Adviser to the Korean Government, is expected to return to Japan immediately on important business.

The Russian consul at Fusan is to leave for Nagasaki about the 27th instant accompanied by two or three of his nationals.

A Japanese who has just returned from Yuensan reports that since the outbreak of hostilities communication with that place has virtually ceased, and the inhabitants—presumably the Japanese—are feeling a scarcity of provisions. Two Russian whaling schooners and three coast defence vessels are in the neighbouring sea. He adds that Russian troops are posted at Kyong-hang (or Kyong-heun) on the south of the Tumen, that is to say, on the Korean side.

The premises of the American mining company at Unsan having been taken possession of by Russian soldiers, the foreign employées of the company have taken their departure, and it is expected that the Japanese will soon follow.

Under what pretext, we wonder, has this property been seized by the Russians? It is a well established rule of international law that the property of subjects or citizens of neutral states follows the fortune of the belligerent state within whose territorial jurisdiction it is situated. But Korea is not a belligerent state. She is not taking in the war any part save an involuntary one. In allowing Japanese soldiers to traverse her territories for the purpose of attacking Russians, she fails to discharge the duties of a neutral, but, on the other hand, she allows Russian troops to traverse and use her territory for the purpose of attacking the Japanese, and the plain truth is that she has no competence to restrain either Power. It appears to us that the property of neutrals having a legitimate existence on Korea soil is not properly liable to seizure by Russian soldiers.

SHIPBUILDING IN THE UNITED STATES.

The *Marine Review* points out that at the beginning of January a year ago shipyards on the great American lakes had orders for sixty-two vessels valued at $13,491,500. Now the number of orders on hand is only twenty-five, many of them for small vessels, and the aggregate value is only $3,970,500. In the list of a year ago there were forty-eight freighters, capable of carrying in the single trip 230,950 gross tons on eighteen feet draught. In this year's summary there are only ten freighters, of a combined capacity of 63,400 tons. Naval vessels now building, so far as number is concerned, is less than a year ago; but a very substantial programe remains, for of thirty-eight on the constructive list thirteen are first-class battleships, eight armoured cruisers, there protected, and four second-class cruisers. Of the ten others two are gunboats, three training vessels and five are torpedo craft. All of the submarines have been completed and are either in commission or in the dockyards for repairs. The programme, therefore, is heavier this year as regards displacement, and lighter as regards horse-power. This is due to the fact that so many of the torpedo boats, which have tremendously disproportionate horse-power to their displacement, are off the stocks. The displacement of the vessels building is 354,214 tons, as against 284,943 tons for last year, and the horse-power is 404,100, as against 448,720 for last year. The cost of the vessels now building, exclusive of armour and armament, is $88,284,516, as against $77,199,516 for last year; and there is still to be added the cost of three training vessels, building in navy yards, and two battleships, *Mississippi* and *Idaho*, contracts for which have not yet been let to the shipbuilders. In merchant work on the seaboard there is little encouraging to report. On the contrary, the situation is especially discouraging, for there is not a single new order of any importance to chronicle. There is not now, and has not been for two years and more, an order given for a vessel for the foreign trade of the United States. The Maryland Steel Company, however, has considerable work on hand. It has made a specialty of suction dredges and secured contracts to build five of them for the United States Government. It is not to be understood, however, that shipbuilding on the seaboard is altogether dead. While the big yards have not had much to do, there is, of course, the continual wastage in coastwise vessels which must be replaced by the product of American shipyards; and the builders of wooden vessels have been fairly busy throughout the year. But the showing is such as to prove that the United States occupies a most ignoble position in the world's output of ships.

WAR NOTES.

Friday, February 19.

The cable between Formosa and Foochow was recently cut, and repairs are being effected by the Japanese. A telegram to the *Jiji Shimpo* says that the French officials in Foochow are endeavouring to incite the Chinese against assisting in the work of restoration.

The Japanese Government has accepted an offer made by American friends of Japan to purchase and equip a hospital ship and send her out to assist the work of the Red Cross Society in this country.

Baron Rosen and M. Pavlow left Shanghai on the 19th instant by the *Yarra*.

Saturday, February 20.

The Russian four-per-cents. were arrested in their descent by the efforts of the Russian Government, but it is stated that the announcement of an issue of 50 million roubles worth of notes in St. Petersburg has again disturbed the market.

Sunday, February 21.

The ice on the Peiho has broken up. There are still a couple of inches at Taku, but maritime communications are expected to be opened in two or three days.

The Foreign Office in Tokyo has received a telegram from Europe saying that the Russian Government is adopting extraordinary measures to encourage the nation in the struggle with Japan. Prayers are offered in all the provincial towns and inspiriting proclamations are issued. It is announced that some time must elapse before news can be received of a really satisfactory result, and that in the interval the authorities will publish everything reaching them from the seat of war, not concealing the evil or exaggerating the good. In pursuance of that plan the facts of the fight at Port Arthur on the 9th instant are avowedly announced. They take the form of a list showing the names of the principal officers engaged on the Russian side and the rewards bestowed on them, the public being thus left to infer a victory. The same telegram confirms the rumour that Kuropatkin has been appointed to command the Russian army in the Far East, his title of "General," however, remaining unchanged. The Minister of Finance has resigned, owing to ill-health, and has been succeeded by an official whose name becomes quite impossible in its transliterated forms.

Russian four-per-cents have again fallen in the London market. They are now quoted at £89.15s.

The laying of torpedoes in Talien Bay is said to have been concluded on the 15th instant.

The London *Times* considers that Russia has decided to retreat upon Harbin, and expresses astonishment at her state of unreadiness.

The Emperor has addressed a message of approval and applause to the officer commanding the Fourth Division of destroyers, Captain Nagai, in connexion with the attack made on the 14th instant.

The American Episcopal Mission has offered St. Luke's Hospital, Tokyo, with its attending staff of physicians and nurses, to the Japanese authorities for the use of their sick and wounded during the war. In a personal interview with Baron Hashimoto, Surgeon-General of the Red Cross Society, Dr. Scriba and Dr. Teusler tendered their services at any time in case of need, and Dr. Teusler received from the Society permission to go with them to the front, subject to the orders of the Military Surgeons in charge.

The Chinese residents of the United States are said to have addressed to the *Wai-wu-pu*, for transmission to the Court, a petition embodying three requests; first, that the Emperor himself should assume the reins of government; secondly, that China should ally herself with Japan and declare war against Russia; and thirdly that the Chinese in America should be allowed to contribute war expenses. It is added that, in consideration of the reflection on the Empress-Dowager conveyed in the first item of the memorial, the document has been pigeon-holed by the *Wai-wu-pu*.

Monday, February 22.

Many of the Japanese fugitives from Manchuria were obliged to abandon all their belongings or to sacrifice them for a mere song, and as Chinese bandits and Cossacks relieved them, *en route*, of any little money they had been able to collect, their plight is said to be very miserable.

The *North-China Daily News* has commenced a subscription for the families of Japanese soldiers serving at the front, and funds are said to be coming in rapidly.

The Japanese Consuls in Tientsin and Chefoo have arranged to charter a steamer belonging to the Kaiping Mine Company for the purpose of conveying Japanese fugitives from Chin-wan-tao.

A telegram from the Japanese Consul at Chefoo, dated the 22nd February, says that a German steamer has just arrived from Dalny having 170 Japanese fugitives aboard, most of them women. They were first sent to Dalny from the interior of Manchuria. The Russian authorities at Dalny and Port Arthur seem to have protected them duly, though they were maltreated on the way.

Tuesday, February 23.

A Japanese who left Pyong-yang on the 13th instant says that the Japanese residing there, together with fugitives from Antung and Wiju, formed a volunteer company of 120 men, 40 of them being armed with rifles which they obtained at the Consulate.

The Emperor has made handsome presents to the officers who commanded the *Nisshin* and the *Kasuga* on the voyage out, and has given Orders to three British subjects and two Italians.

The Swiss Government has informed the Japanese Government that the conference of the Red Cross Society, which was to have been held in May next, has been postponed on account of the war.

The people on the German steamer *Stolberg*, which has arrived at Nagasaki from Vladivostock, say that the news of the Port Arthur affair reached Vladivostock on the 11th, and that mines were laid at the mouth of the harbour on the 15th.

Wednesday, February 24.

The *Oshima* has raised a steam-launch belonging to the *Varyag* and it is said to be immediately usable. As for the *Varyag* herself, steps to float her are to be taken as scene as Major-General Arai arrives upon the seem. The *Varyag* having been sunk solely by gun-fire, there will probably be no great difficulty in repairing her, but the *Koreetz* was blown up and even though raised she would be practically worthless.

It is expected that the Emperor will move to Kyoto at the beginning of April; that is to say, after the rising of the extraordinary session of the Diet, which will probably be summoned for about the 20th of March. According to law 10 days should elapse from the time of issuing the proclamation to the time of opening the session, but the Emperor has power, of course, to abbreviate the interval on special occasions.

The *Elba*, having on board 7 officers and 124 men of the *Varyag*, left Chemulpo on the 23rd instant for Hongkong.

The War Department has received a telegram from Chefoo saying that the bulk of the Chinese coolies in Russia's service in Manchuria were flying from that country. Over ten thousand have already returned to Chefoo, and it is believed that the Russians are experiencing very great inconvenience.

The master of the steamer *Columbia*, which arrived in Yokohama on the 23rd, reports that on the morning of the 22nd he sighted a cruiser with three funnels and two masts off Inuboye-zaki in Shimosa, and that he conjectured her to be one of the Vladivostock squadron. The probability of this is strongly questioned by the Naval authorities.

A telegram received from Paris says that Russian securities are falling continuously. On the 20th they dropped from 92.10 to 91.002. This is attributed to the signs of unrest shown in Europe, but that explanations can not be regarded as conclusive. The Bank of France has appointed a commission to investigate the matter, and its main recommendation seems to be a measure designed to check speculative transactions.

Thursday, February 25.

The steamer *Korea* is said to have had on board a large quantity of preserved provisions destined for Port Arthur. It is thought that this contraband has been treated as was that on board the German steamer *Emma*; in other words, it was merely diverted from its Russian destination.

WAR FUNDS.

Following the example set by the Emperor, Marquis Tokugawa, feudal chief of Mito, has taken from his strong room the various old gold and silver coins that have been reposing there for years, and is about to hand them over to the Bank of Japan. These are historical coins. There are the 100 gold *oban* given by the Tokugawa Court to the Mito chief during the *tempo* era (1830-43) when the latter built the *Asahi Maru* and presented her to the *Shogun* for purposes of coast defence. There are the 100 *oban* placed in the strong room in 1843 by the celebrated Prince Nariaki (Rekko), with the injunction that they were to be used for war expenses only. There are the golden ingots—weighing about 10 lbs.—used in Nariaki's days for medicinal purposes, and there are many gold and silver utensils, the whole representing about 100,000 *yen* in bullion value, The *Jiji Shimpo* thinks that if all the old feudal families do as Marquis Tokugawa has done, a large amount of precious metals will quickly be collected. Of course there is not the smallest immediate occasion to bring specie to the vaults of the Bank of Japan, where a hundred millions are already lying, a sum that might be reduced by one half without disturbing the equilibrium of the gold system. The *Nichi Nichi* computes that millions upon millions of gold coins, old and new, are hoarded by the people.

Over 30 persons have thus far followed the example of Mr. Sonoda Kokichi in lodging old coins and gold ornaments with the Bank of Japan, and many of the noble houses are said to be consulting with a view to similar steps.

The *Shogyo Shimpo* says that no bills will be submitted to the Diet in its special session except the war budget and such taxation measures as the Government may think necessary in connexion with the war. Hence the occasion is not likely to last more than 10 days.

The subscriptions in sight for the 100 million *yen* loan are said to aggregate 280 million *yen* already, although the list will not be opened until the 1st of March. Eighteen prefectures as well as Hokkaido and Formosa have not yet been heard from, and it is therefore anticipated that about 350 million will be offered in all. Success seems to have attended the scheme for issuing bonds of small denominations—especially those for 25 *yen*. The price offered for these is expected to be one or two per cent. above the minimum figure, whereas the tenders for large sums will be mostly at 95. Considering that the Government's five-per-cent consols and other securities are now selling at 88, the rate of subscription for this war loan is remarkable.

We observe in the *Jiji Shimpo* a statement that Mr. H. W. Denison has contributed a thousand *yen* to the war fund. That is incorrect. The figure should be two thousand. It is further stated that the agent of Armstrong and Company, who came out with the *Nisshin* and the *Kasuga*, has contributed a thousand *yen*. The well known merchant of Formosa, Mr. Lin, has put up a sum of 500,000 *yen*, and has directed that his son should purchase war bonds to the amount of 2½ millions. The *Kokumin* says that owing to his exertions the Chinese in Amoy are about to subscribe 20 or 30 million *yen* to the loan.

Japanese four per cents. continue to fall in the London market, and so do British consols. On the other hand the Japanese five-per-cents. have risen 15 shillings.

THE RED CROSS LADIES' NURSING ASSOCIATION.

We understand that Lady MacDonald and a Committee of foreign ladies are organizing a concert in Tokyo for the benefit of the Red Cross Ladies' Nursing Association. It may be well to say a word about this Association since its nature and objects are probably not widely known among foreigners. The President of the Association is H.I.H. Princess Komatsu, the members are all ladies, and the manager is Marchioness Nabeshima. All the members are trained in the duties of nurse, and their work is consequently of the greatest assistance to the Red Cross Society. Bandages and many other surgical necessities are sent to the field by the Association. Its members visit the wounded men in the hospitals and also work as nurses there. Some of them even go to the front. They also keep in close touch with the regular nurses of the Red Cross, seeing them off when they start for the field, welcoming them when they return, sending presents and comforts to them during the discharge of their arduous functions and seeking otherwise to encourage and assist them. It will thus be seen that the work done by the Association is wide and very helpful. Though its operations are, so to speak, subordinate to the larger work of the Red Cross, it usefully supplements the latter, and is also entirely self-supporting. We understand that the committee of the concert will be wholly foreign, and the concert will, in effect, afford an opportunity for the practical display of that spirit of generous helpfulness which evidently animates the foreign community at this juncture; a spirit which knows no distinction of nationality, but thinks only of the sufferings of the officers and men who are all equally worthy of sympathy as champions of their country's cause.

VICEROY ALEXIEFF.

Peking thinks that Viceroy Alexieff's departure from Port Arthur to Mukden may be interpreted from two points of view. He desires to inspect the defences along the line of the Yalu, and he has convinced himself that, the tenure of Port Arthur being scarcely possible without disproportionate sacrifices, the best plan is to draw in the line of defence. Other onlookers incline to the view that he is discontented and has withdrawn from the front for that reason. But it has to be noted that the Viceroy's permanent departure from Port Arthur is by no means certain. It is true that telegrams reaching St. Petersburg from that place no longer bear his signature, being forwarded in the name of his chief of staff. But it is also true that no active official in his place would remain quiet at Port Arthur in existing circumstances: he would move about from part to part of the region entrusted to his care, and endeavour to make the best possible disposition of the forces at his command. Russia is on the defensive for the moment and she labours under the disadvantage of having a very wide front to guard, and being exposed to attack from many directions on only one of which her videttes can operate. Viceroy Alexieff may well be moving about through his command, but at any moment we may hear of his return to Port Arthur. Then again, it must be remembered that Kuropatkin is coming out to take command of the Manchurian Army and that Makaroff is *en route* to assume the direction of the Navy. Probably these officers are to meet Alexieff at Harbin and arrange in consultation a plan of campaign. Of course their task will be greatly simplified when Japan shows her hand. In the meanwhile it seems to us that no hard-and-fast inferences are to be drawn from Alexieff's movements.

GENERAL BARON KODAMA AND THE WAR CORRESPONDENTS.

General Baron Kodama entertained at luncheon in the Nobles' Club on Friday twenty-two of the principal war correspondents of foreign journals, who are now staying in Tokyo. Generals Fukushima and Murata were among the gnests. Before each cover was placed a bouquet of flags—Japanese, American and English—and Baron Kodama when drinking to the good health af his foreign guests, raised the flags aloft and gave the characteristic national greeting to each. Mr. Maxwell, correspondent of the *Standard*, expressed in appropriate terms his own and his confreres' appreciation of Baron Kodama's hospitality and their hearty sympathy with Japan; Mr. Kirton, of the Central News Agency, proposed a toast which evoked a most hearty response, the health of the gallant officers and men that took the Japanese destroyers into action on the night of the 8th and the 14th, and Mr. Melton Prior, of the *Illustrated London News*, made a clever and delightfully racy sketch of "Our Bobs," which he presented to the genial host.

GERMANY AND JAPAN.

The Emperor of Germany has addressed a message direct to the Empress of Japan informing Her Majesty that the German naval and military hospitals at Yokohama and at Tsing-tao in Kiaochou Bay are placed at the disposal of Japan for the use of soldiers or sailors wounded during the war. The Empress has replied, expressing her profound appreciation of this gracious offer, and stating that it will be gratefully availed of should the occasion arise.

Germany's action in this matter can not fail to produce a deep impression in Japan. It shows practical sympathy which will go far to heal the soreness that has recently exhibited itself.

AN ENGLISH COUNTY FAMILY.

One of the most delightful books of Memoirs placed on the market this winter bears the title:—

"Memoirs of Anna Maria Wilhelmina Pickering." Edited by her Son, Spencer Pickering, F.R.S. Together with Extracts from the Journals of her Father, John Spencer Stanhope, F.R.S., describing his Travels and Imprisonment under Napoleon. (Hodder and Stoughton.)

Mrs. Pickering was born in 1824, being the daughter of John Spencer Stanhope and Elizabeth Wilhelmina Coke, whose father, a descendant of the famous Lord Chief Justice (*ob.* 1633), was afterwards Earl of Leicester. The extraordinary manner in which the two families, by dint of double and triple marriages, were mixed up, is illustrated by a passage from the Memoirs, which we quote:—

> I remember that one day at Holkham, Lord Huntingtower, who had just arrived, was sitting by me, and said:—"I suppose you are a relation, and can tell me all about these people: I wish you would, for I do not know any of them." "Oh, yes," I said, "with pleasure; I can tell you who they all are. That is my mother, and that is her brother, sitting next to her" (pointing to Edward Coke, who looked like her son); "that" (pointing to Wenny, then a little boy) "is uncle to the old gentleman sitting near them (Lord Rosebery); that is Lady Rosebery, and she is niece to my mother" (being just the same age as she was):—"and that is my father, sitting next to his mother-in-law" (who was much younger than he was); and so I rattled on through the whole party, which sounded far more extraordinary than any description here can give the slightest notion of. I burst out laughing, and said, "Now I have told you who all the people are, and how they are related to each other; and I think you will consider us a very extraordinary family."

This extract will convey to the reader an idea of the bright discursive style of the book, while it further gives one an idea of the atmosphere in which the writer moved, the atmosphere of an English county family of a hundred years ago, in which all the men were brave and all the women more or less charming, and for the most part not yet hideously dressed. The book is full of fun, particularly that portion of it written by Anna Maria. Through nearly 350 pages we travel with her, spending most of the time at Cannon Hall or Holkham, with an occasional visit to London, a tour abroad, and a trip to Scotland or Wales. We meet distinguished people and hear amusing stories, seeing life through Anna Maria's merry eyes. Not a page of the Memoirs is dull, not a subject hackneyed. There is a charming story of Victoria as a maiden Queen:

> An official who saw her get out of the carriage on her return from the first opening of Parliament was struck with the extremely quiet dignity of her manner while crossing the rooms in the Palace at St. James's; and, as she passed through a door which led up a staircase to her own apartments, a wish came across him to know whether this stately dignity would be maintained after she had passed out of sight of them: he managed to satisfy his curiosity,

> and, at the foot of the staircase, saw her roll her train round her arm, then take up her dress all round, and, like a girl, as she was, run up, two steps at a time, calling loudly to her dogs.

There is an equally pleasing account of her in the new dignity of a young wife:

> The Queen was always wonderfully graceful, and could throw more meaning into a bow than could any woman in Europe. One of the prettiest things I ever saw was an unexpected meeting between her and Prince Albert. I was walking with my husband in Hyde Park, and seeing the scarlet outriders just turning the corner by the Serpentine, we went up to the railings to watch the Queen pass. On the other side of the railings was a gentleman on horseback, and we saw that it was Prince Albert. We waited to see the meeting, expecting that he would ride up to the carriage and speak to her. But he took off his hat, and held it in the most deferential manner to the very bow of his saddle, and sat thus, bareheaded, and quite immovable, waiting for his Sovereign to pass. His two grooms were also bareheaded. The Queen's carriage came on; as it passed, she did *not* acknowledge him with a smile or a kiss of the hand, as I had expected, but bowed in a perfectly grave and dignified manner—the Queen receiving the homage of the first of her subjects; then her head went lower, and she threw into her bow all the deference of a wife for the husband whom she honoured above all the world. Were I writing of anyone else, this might be set down to imagination, but where the Queen was concerned there was no fancy; she knew exactly what she meant to express, and she expressed it exactly.

One of the most vivid scenes in the book is an account of the tremendous ovation accorded to the Queen at the Opera House immediately after the dastardly attempt on her life in 1842. When Anna Maria first came out, in London, an extraordinary furore was caused by the introduction of the polka. "I never saw anything like the excitement the dance created," she says. "Everyone who danced it at our ball became from that moment marked people of fashion, and remained so." There are many delightful anecdotes—of the Queen-Dowager and her mania for pins; of the marriage of Louis XVI. and Marie Antoinette; of the Duke of Wellington's tactics in the hunting-field; of Mr. Spencer Stanhope's romantic Scotch tour with the Lord of the Isles; of the Princess Royal, who, when quite a baby, was found admiring herself before a cheval glass, and saying, "No, Princessy; I never did see anything like you"; of Madame Tussaud, just becoming famous.

As one reads further the men and events of the early years of Queen Victoria's reign come vividly before the eye. Lord Brougham bustles up (Solon, Lycurgus, Demosthenes, Archimedes, Sir Isaac Newton, and Lord Chesterfield in one post-chaise), bound on the voyage of discovery that created Cannes. Longley, Archbishop of Canterbury, is hastily apostrophised as "Butter in a lordly dish." A Yorkshire yokel boasts that his fifty years of married life had passed without a jar, and his old helpmate comments: "Varie conscientious but varie dool." Lord Melbourne stops a maid-of-honour running away from Buckingham Palace with "We are not going to have a revolution on your account." Sydney Smith, from the pulpit of St. Paul's, claims the attention of Archibald, a member of the family, with a sneeze: "Ar-chie, Ar-chie." You see Keane and Macready as Richard III.; "the joyous Chantrey" in his studio; the Emperor Francis Joseph a promising and prophetic young man; Prince Albert as a collegian, King Christian of Denmark before he was married, and General Bonaparte on St. Helena; the last of the Yorkshire bone-setters bone-setting; stories of famine riots and of election amenities.

The second half of the book is devoted to extracts from the journal of John Spencer Stanhope, father of Anna Maria, who, as a young man, came into direct and unpleasant contact with Napoleon's rule in Spain and France, where he was for many months a prisoner. His journal is almost as interesting as his daughter's recollections, though he had not her liveliness and sprightly wit. He recounts several hairbreadth escapes, and is able to give an insight into the iron sternness of Napoleon's government. In later years his engagement to Elizabeth Coke, whose father became the first Earl of Leicester, was a source of much satisfaction to the bride-groom's family. "To crown all, the gamekeeper expressed his approbation of the marriage, saying that it was a very good pheasant connexion."

Altogether these Memoirs are memoirs to read.

* After that dreadful attempt of Fieschi with his infernal machine, my aunts went to Madame Tussaud's to see his image, and they were perfectly startled when in the wax figure they recognised my grandmother's *frotteur*, who used to come every morning to rub her floors while they were living at Versailles; they then called to mind that his name was indeed Fieschi."

BRITAIN'S STANDARD OF PROSPERITY.

What is the British criterion of prosperity? Mr. Rufus Fleming, the United States Consul at Edinburgh, has been endeavouring to discover this very thing, and in a confidential report to Mr. Secretary Hay points out the difficulties which surrounded the task. He says: "Except in so far as facts and statistics speak for themselves, it is no easy matter to correctly represent actual conditions. One cannot be too careful in estimating the value of opinions expressed by newspapers, trade journals, and managers of manufacturing plants. I do not mean that they are intentionally misleading or that there is any other purpose on the part of the press or managers of great works than to say exactly what they think. But the mental habit of measuring conditions in this new century by those of the old days, when British manufacturers had little competition to meet anywhere, and when profits were enormous, has imparted a pessimistic colour to all comment on industry and commerce. The monopoly they long enjoyed at home and in many outside markets having come to an end, the requirement of vaster production at much lower prices to make industries pay renders vivid the memory of the easy-going times of prosperity, and gives a distorted view of the existing situation. In fact, the chief apparent danger to British manufacturers in important branches lies in their reluctance to turn away from the past and forget all about it, and to face the present and future, face the necessity for bringing their equipment up to date. They have lost ground, and probably will continue to lose ground, for their rivals in the industrial field are formidable; but if they adopt advanced scientific methods in all departments, they should be able to hold their own. None will admit this more frankly than the American captains of industry. One of these gentlemen, the head of a manufacturing concern in the Middle West, who has been in this country two or three months, said to me recently: 'The discouraging talk I hear everywhere from manufacturers is inconsistent with Board of Trade returns. They are not living on their capital by any means. The wealth they have accumulated is untouched, save what may have gone into mining speculations and similar things.' Speaking of Scotland only, I am convinced that the decline in certain branches of industry has not gone far enough to affect very materially the well-being of the people. The dullness in mercantile lines is partly due to the fact that skilled workmen are not fully employed, but the wiser heads in business are disposed to attribute restricted buying chiefly to the great losses sustained by speculative thousands—through the margin-wasting depression of South African and other shares. These losses have temporarily reduced the purchasing power of a class whose trade is, as a rule, the mainstay of mercantile houses."

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

On the 18th instant the Emperor summoned Count Inouye and addressed to him a gracious message to the effect that His Majesty desired to have his advice on important affairs of State, and trusted him to use the utmost diligence. The Emperor used similar language to Marquis Ito, Marquis Yamagata and Count Matsukata when appointing them to the Privy Council at the time of the last political crisis. Count Inouye, however, is not appointed to the Privy Council, and we therefore conclude that this injunction is conveyed to him as a special mark of the confidence placed in him by the Emperor at this juncture.

Humourous situations crop up in the least expected places. Towards the close of the meeting of foreign residents held at the Oriental Hotel on Tuesday, Mr. N. W. McIvor proposed, and Mr. A. Bellamy Brown seconded, that Bishop Awdry and Bishop McKim together with the Heads of Missions in Tokyo be invited to serve as an advisory board in conjunction with the Committee elected that afternoon to deal with the funds subscribed by the foreign communities to relieve the distress occasioned by the war. The motion, most unexpectedly, was lost by a large majority, and for a time it was difficult to understand the reason for the vote. But the following evening we find the *Japan Herald* writing:—

> The rejection of the motion to invite the foreign heads of missions in Tokyo to serve as an advisory board was undoubtedly a wise step. No doubt they are gentlemen of great ability and experience, but the organisation being entirely of a secular nature and the distribution of the money to be made to persons of all creeds, there seems no reason why special measures should be taken to seek advice from the leaders of one faith over another. Such procedure, if adopted, would have created an unfavourable impression.

It is only fair to add that this comment is on all fours with remarks dropped at the close of the meeting, to the effect that the community had, at any rate, kept out the clerical element. Perhaps the proposer of the resolution, being an American citizen, and the seconder, being an English subject, were to blame for what is undoubtedly a misapprehension and a laughable one at that. What they intended to convey by the expression—heads of missions—was, the duly accredited Ministers of the various Powers: in other words, *Chefs de Mission*. Next time more care will be taken in drafting a resolution in the English tongue ere it be submitted to a public meeting in Yokohama.

The *Temps* of the 3rd January has an interesting article on the present condition of the Egyptian question, which the *Spectator* summarises in a short note. To the current complaints, *Nous avons perdu l'Egypte*, the *Temps* retorts that there are not many French colonies in which France is represented by fifteen thousand Frenchmen and investments to the extent of £80,000,000.

Yet this is the case in Egypt, where two-thirds of the Egyptian Debt is held by Frenchmen, and the annual payments to France are reckoned at nearly £5,000,000 sterling, Egypt standing fourth in the list of countries in which French interests are engaged. The writer then proceeds to summarise the political arrangements by which French interests in Egypt are guaranteed,—the Capitulations, the Caisse de la Dette, and the mixed Tribunals, all of which restrict the autonomy of Egypt and of the Power in occupation. But he claims that France has repeatedly shown a disposition to relax the assertion of her control wherever it conduced to the well-being of the country. It is not the moment, he concludes, to state precisely the responsibilities of the past, but rather in a contrary spirit to contemplate modifications possible in existing circumstances. "France can never forget that she possesses in Egypt interests too considerable for her to abandon their supervision, rights too precious and well defined for her to allow them to be weakened, unless for the best of reasons."

In the course of an article on the late Princess Mathilde Buonaparte, the *Spectator* says:—

> The Princess Mathilde, daughter of Jerome Buonaparte, had much of her brother's force and brightness; might, had she been a little more independent of her father, have been Empress of the French; and had she been born in the class to which she mentally belonged—namely, the old Scotch ladies of rank—would have been celebrated for her rough and realistic wit in a dozen biographies. "You dislike revolutions?" she said on one occasion. "That is not my role. But for a revolution I should have been selling oranges in Ajaccio,"—just the sentence the Scotch lady so placed would have uttered. In circumstances many of which were unpropitious, she successfully held her own as a leader of society, and old as she lived to be, the abler the Parisian, the more he sought intimacy with the haughty lady who never forgot, even when most interested in a discussion, that she was a Princess. No doubt she was half Royal, and the fact gave her something of her position, but she did not derive from the house of Wurtemberg either her wits or the energy which enabled her to survive and forget the many crushing blows of her personal career.
>
> The position of the Princess Mathilde, like that of many of the disinherited Princes, shows that the glamour produced by the possession of a throne spreads far, and lasts for a long while after the throne is lost. It is nearly ninety years since Waterloo; yet if the French Republic were rendered unpopular by misfortune, the thoughts of every Frenchman would turn first of all to the expatriated members of the ancient dynasty, or of the family which twice supplanted it.

The *Pascal* arrived in Shanghai on the 18th, and the telegraph states that the French Consul there gave a brilliant entertainment in honour of Baron Rosen, M. Pavlow and the principal officers of the defunct Russian ships. There is a story that M. Pavlow landed at Chefoo from the *Pascal*, and came thence incognito by the *Suncho*. Shanghai's hand is visible in that fable.

It is stated that the new battle-ships ordered in England recently are to be called the *Katori* and *Kashima*. These names are taken from the celebrated Shrines in Hitachi, where are worshipped the deities to whom Jimu Tenno prayed when he undertook his expedition.

Viscount Yoshikawa has been appointed Minister of State for Home Affairs.

A telegram received in an official quarter in Tokyo, states that the German Minister of Foreign Affairs, speaking in the Reichstag on the 19th inst., said that it was impossible to reduce the German garrison at Kiaochow. It was now composed of 2,600 men. The Government had intended to withdraw 600 men but owing to the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese war this intention had been abandoned. The Foreign military garrisons in China are the chief buttress of the security of foreign life and property, and moreover Germany must be prepared to discharge the duties of strict neutrality.

The *Official Gazette* of the 22nd instant contains a series of rules relating to the treatment of prisoners. A special office, called *Furyo jōhōkyoku*, is to be established in Tokyo, and will undertake all business of this nature. Among the regulations we observe some which provide for the safe transmission of money or comforts sent by friends or relatives of prisoners and for the conveyance of the effects of deceased soldiers to their relatives as well as for carrying out the provisions of their wills.

We gather from a Peking telegram published by the *Jiji Shimpo* that there has been some mistake perpetrated in transmitting information to *The Times*. A message sent across the wires from Mr. Greener, who is with the Russian Siberian army, was transmitted from Peking by Dr. Morrison. It related to the Japanese army and the doings of the Japanese navy, and it appears to have been of such a misleading nature that Viscount Hayashi, Japan's Representative in London, deemed it necessary to publish a contradiction. Dr. Morrison is understood to disclaim all responsibility as he merely transmitted the message, and of course Mr. Greener can not have had any source of information except the Russians. Evidently if the Tsar is so very silly as to proclaim that the Japanese have been the provocative party in this catastrophe and that he and his innocent statesmen and unoffending army and navy have been treacherously assailed by Japan, we must be prepared to find that veracity is not the first weapon with which his subjects will be disposed to fight.

We learn from a New Zealand paper that on Dec. 16th the foundation stone of a new building for the Missions to Seamen Institute—the outcome of a public-spirited donation of £7,800 from Mrs. Williams, widow of the late Captain W. R. Williams.—was laid with much ceremony at Wellington. In addition to the Premier, Mr. Seddon, and other Ministers, there was a large company present. The stone was laid by Mrs. Williams.

Mr. Kurino, formerly Japanese Representative in St. Petersburg, has left Berlin with his staff for Stockholm.

Copies of Mr. Stead's new paper have reached Yokohama and a very poor production it is, considering the amount of puffing which preceded its appearance. The London correspondent of the *China Mail* makes merry over it in this style:—

> The *Daily Paper* arrived this week, heralded by crowds of picture-bearing sandwichmen and balloons dropping cheques over all London, and distributed by pretty girls with scarlet hat ribbons and skirts four inches off the ground. It contains no racing news, no alcoholic advertisements, no stock exchange quotations, and is to be conducted in strict accordance with the Sermon on the Mount, as interpreted by Mr. W. T. Stead, who has promised in print to love even Mr. Chamberlain. Subscribers are to have a gallery of chromos, printed in America apparently, and those who do not subscribe are to find it difficult to buy it in town. It is to be brought to our doors about ten in the morning (after we have gone into the city) for our wives to waste time over it while we are working. So far, it seems a mighty poor production. It is quite angelic enough to be deadly dull, and fills up with non-copyright matter like the Adventures of John Gilpin, and the Black Tulip of Dumas. Also on Tuesday it treated its eager readers to a biography of Joan of Arc. In a week or two, it will discover the lamentable demise of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Anne, and then we shan't be long!

Among the crowd of illustrated weekly papers which have lately appeared in London, the latest to reach our hands is *The Bystander*. About the size of the New York *Independent*, the new journal deals with social, theatrical, travel and sporting topics in a light and airy fashion. It is freely illustrated from photographs, while its cover pages and a special supplement by the late Phil May—a study of the late Sir Wm. Allen—are in colours. It is rather difficult to perceive what place *The Bystander* desires to fill, but doubtless it will find patrons among the large class who want plenty of pictures and nothing very serious in the way of letter press. No 6, of Vol. 1, we might mention, contains an article on "The Great Britain of the Far East," the reading matter in which runs to 40 lines, and the pictures to three pages and a half. Messrs Kelly & Walsh have the magazine on sale.

It is announced that the *Birmingham Daily Gazette*, the *Midland Express*, and the *Evening Dispatch* have been amalgamated under one ownership, and are now the property of Mr. Alfred C. Harmsworth and Mr. C. Arthur Pearson. Fleet Street is curious as to whether this move is a preliminary to an amalgamation of the London interests of the firms named. The *Morning Leader* prints the following list of the daily newspapers owned by Messrs. Harmsworth and Messrs. Pearson:—

MESSRS. HARMSWORTH.

Daily Mail.
Evening News.
Daily Mirror.
Manchester *Daily Mail.*
Birmingham *Gazette.*
Leeds *Mercury.*
Glasgow *Daily Record and Mail.*
Portsmouth *Daily Mail.*

MESSRS. PEARSON

Daily Express.
St. James's Gazette.
Birmingham *Midland Express.*
Birmingham *Evening Dispatch.*
Leicester *Evening News.*
Newcastle *North Mail.*
Newcastle *Evening Mail.*

In addition, Messrs. Harmsworth have announced a halfpenny daily paper for Edinburgh, and own the London *Weekly Dispatch* and the *Illustrated Mail.*

A map showing the distribution of insanity in the United States has been prepared by Dr. William White, superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane, and furnishes, says *The Public Ledger* (Philadelphia), "powerful corroboration of those adherents of the theory that it is the struggle for existence, the fear of misery, poverty, and unwholesome conditions of city life, which are twisting men's wits in our day." The writer goes on to say:—

> Dr. White, like many census officials, discourages the practise of drawing conclusions from bunches of undigested statistics, but there are certain facts which stand out clearly. In the New England States there is one insane person for every 359 of population; in New York and Pennsylvania, one to every 424; in Virginia, Maryland, Kentucky, and Tennessee, the ratio is one to 610; in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan, the same; in the Middle West, one to 750; in the Southern States, one to 935, and in the Rocky Mountain division, one to 1,263. The density of population is greatest in New England, and there insanity is most common; and the relative number of insane decreases regularly with the increasing sparseness of population in the several divisions. There is one exception. In the Pacific Coast States—California, Oregon, and Washington—the insanity rate almost reaches that of

New England. This apparent aberration is explained by the theory that the settlers of California and the coast were of the class of riffraff and cranks and wild-eyed men who followed in the wake of gold, whereas the Rocky Mountain States and the Middle West were settled by the hard and virile, serious-minded men who found new States with the sane and sensible purposes of winning a sure livelihood from mother earth. In other words, they were not of the class from which 'rainbow-chasers' are recruited. Another reason for the soundness of the agricultural and sparsely settled regions is the fact that the workers work with their hands, and closeness to the soil makes men physically strong and wholesome, with important resultant effects on the mind. The pioneers leave the old home, and they leave the less adventurous and less hardy at home, who intermarry, and the unfittest are the result The farmer, then, has his compensations, in spite of the talk of his loneliness and its evil effects.

According to authentic figures on the production of copper for the year 1903, the output both from the United States of North America and the world at large was the largest on record. The following figures show the production for 1901, 1902 and 1903:—

Country.	1903.	1902.	1901.
United States	318,861	303,446	272,609
Spain, Portugal	51,000	49,790	53,621
Mexico	48,000	35,785	23,795
Chile	30,000	28,930	30,780
Japan	31,000	29,775	27,475
Germany	22,000	21,605	21,720
Canada	22,500	17,485	18,800
Australasia	29,000	28,640	30,875
Miscellaneous	37,000	35,860	36,317
Total	589,361	551,316	515,992

The following table gives the annual production of the United States and of the world since 1880, in long tons:—

Year.	United States.	World.
1880	27,000	153,959
1885	74,052	225,592
1890	115,916	269,455
1895	196,917	334,565
1900	269,111	485,854
1901	272,600	515,992
1902	303,446	551,316
1903	318,861	589,361

It is very difficult to discover the actual condition of affairs in Holy Russia, so strict is the censorship and so well-disciplined are the journalists of the Muscovite empire. But from all accounts matters are going from bad to worse very rapidly. Indeed, a prominent London journal declares that the state of affairs now existing has been compared by competent observers to that which obtained in France before the great revolution. It is certain that the reforms which were introduced by the Czar Alexander II., failed of their intended effect, and that the peasantry has exchanged serfdom to the great nobles and landed proprietors for slavery to the money-lenders, who find them the ready money with which to carry on their slothful and improvident husbandry. Carefully as the true condition of the Budget is concealed by the Finance Ministers, it cannot be denied, continues our contemporary, that Russia is really bankrupt, that the majority of the people of the country districts are in a state that borders on chronic starvation, and that money which would be far better employed in European Russia is wasted in ambitious schemes in Asia. But the state of the country has at last grown so desperate, that on the advice of the Minister of the Interior, the Czar has promulgated an edict, ordering the formation in the different Governments of the Empire of Committees, composed of delegates from the nobles and from the Zemstvos, for the purpose of discussing a project for agrarian reform in Russia. If this move is intended seriously, it is only just proposed in time, but as the Government's hands are full in the Far, Middle, and Near East, it gives rise to the suspicion that the Committees are only meant to keep the peasants quiet.

The *Official Gazette* publishes a statement as to the result of the operation of the new Insurance Regulations. It will be remembered that the Japanese Government greatly modified its enactment in the case of life insurance companies. Instead of requiring that they should deposit their legal reserves with the Treasury, the authorities agreed to limit the deposit to 150,000 *yen*, paid in one installment. Even with that condition universal compliance seems to have been impossible, and in the case of the fire companies many were unable to make any deposit at all under the terms of their constitution. Thus the net result is that out of 71 companies doing business in Japan, 35 only are to continue operations and 36 will withdraw. It is regrettable that this should be the case, but we do not see that any fault can be found with the Japanese Government. It has exacted a minimum of security by way of protection for its own subjects.

THE BANK OF JAPAN.

The semi-annual meeting of shareholders of the Bank of Japan was held in Tokyo on Feb. 20th. There was a large attendance. Mr. Matsuo, Governor of the Bank, addressed the meeting as follows:—

GENTLEMEN:—In my capacity of this Bank's Governor, a charge conferred on me in October of last year, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this Forty-third meeting of Shareholders. I have now the honour to submit to you the report of the transactions of the Bank for the 36th year of *Meiji* (1903), and in doing so I shall avail myself of the opportunity to make a few remarks on the general economic condition of the country as well as on the main features of the Bank's business during the year under review.

In the 36th year of *Meiji*, although there were some fluctuations from time to time, yet the general economic situation was on the whole sound, and the year closed amid indications of moderate prosperity in all lines of industry. As a consequence of the economic caution maintained for many years, a gradual increase of available capital in the money market made itself apparent from the beginning of the year under review. Accordingly the Bank lowered its rate of daily interest 2 *rin* in March and other banks followed suit. Even at the season of the raw silk trade, there was no considerable increase in the demand for funds, and the money market remained very quiet. A bad harvest in the previous year had necessitated the importation of a large amount of our staple food, rice, and it was feared that a considerable outflow of specie would result. But fortunately the flourishing condition of our export trade and other causes making for an inflow of foreign capital, produced a balance of exchanges and obviated any large cash remittances.

Taking advantage of this quiet situntion in the money market and the consequent fall of the rate of interest, companies of various descriptions secured better terms for their liabilities or floated new obligations at lower rates. These facts tended to impart stability to the condition of enterprise and furnished reasons for anticipating a further improvement of business. Moreover, in the latter half of the year, the silk industry prospered; its export proceeded smoothly, and favourable climatic conditions gave prospect of a heavy rice-crop. Thus the business outlook seemed very bright. On the other hand, however, diplomatic questions which had been absorbing attention since the spring of the year, seemed to gradually assume so serious a character as the months went by, that despite these hopeful business prospects, the money market could not shake off its sense of reserve; and further, inasmuch as, towards the end of the year, the some-time flourishing silk-trade suffered a check, the year closed amid circumspection and inactivity.

Such being the general economic situation, the transactions of the Bank could not but conform to it. The amount of the Bank's advances to the money market varied from time to time, but the general tendency was in the direction of decrease. Thus, the total of these advances, which had ranged between 40,000,000 *yen* and 50,000,000 *yen* in January, fell after March to an average of about 20,000,000 *yen*, and in the month of November, it was reduced temporarily to about 15,000,000 *yen*. Towards the end of the year, the demand for money rapidly increased during several days, but the aggregate advances on the last day of the year did not greatly exceed 51,000,000 *yen*. Seldom during recent years had the Bank's loans fallen to such a small figure, and the fact clearly indicated a general industrial depression as well as the existence of a large supply of available capital in the market.

As regards the condition of foreign trade in the year under review, the exports and imports of commodities amounted to 289,500,000 *yen* and 317,130,000 *yen* respectively, the aggregate being 606,630,000 *yen*. These figures, when compared with the total for 1902, namely 530,030,000 *yen*, which was then regarded as unprecedented in the annals of the country's foreign trade, show a very satisfactory result, notwithstanding the sluggishness of the general market. The increase in imports was mainly attributable to purchases of foreign rice, which amounted to over 50,000,000 *yen*, while a strong demand abroad for our principal articles of produce such as *habutaye*, cotton yarn, tea, copper and coal, explains the increase in exports. The import and export of specie were respectively 27,800,000 *yen* and 19,000,000 *yen*, being just the reverse of what might have been expected in view of the returns of imports and exports of commodities. Such a state of affairs is doubtless attributable to large profits accruing from the enterprises of our people abroad; and at the same time, to an influx of foreign capital owing to independent causes. Thus a part of the proceeds of the sale of our Government bonds in London was remitted during the year, producing an excess of specie imports which at one time, reached 18,000,000 *yen*. But towards the end of the year, depression in the silk trade as well as stringency in the money market of the United States which caused a large quantity of specie to go thither, reduced the excess to 8,800,000 *yen*, at which figure it stood on the last day of the year. This gold movement is still continuing in the same direction.

With reference to the minor affairs of the Bank, there is very little to be reported. The building of our branch office at Osaka, commenced in 1897, was completed last year, and the new office was opened on February 1st. New buildings were felt to be necessary also at Nagoya and Kyoto, and they have been in course of construction since September last.

With much regret I have to report that our late Governor, Mr. Tatsuo Yamamoto, retired from office in October on the expiration of his term. The faithful and meritorious services rendered by him in the world of finance and economy under many difficult circumstances will be long cherished in our memory.

I have thus briefly reviewed the economic situation during last year. The gradual increase of available capital in the market and the favorable condition of our foreign trade must be regarded as most propitious signs. But, now, unfortunately, war has become inevitable in order to secure the permanent peace of the Far East. It is well known, that a sound financial condition is of cardinal importance in time of war, and that the foundations of public finance must be laid in the national economy. The circulation of money and the production and distribution of commodities are likely to differ greatly in time of war as compared with time of peace, and it behoves business men to vigorously prosecute peaceful enterprises in spite of the many difficulties incidental to war. Moreover, war expenditures tend to cause a sudden increase in the amount of money in circulation, so that those controlling the market must endeavour to find avenues of employment for this surplus and to established equilibrium between the Treasury's disbursements and the demand for capital. The success of our military operations will depend in no small degree on prudent management in business circles, and we must all appreciate our responsibility at this critical time. In such matters an institution like this Bank must take the lead, and I count on united support in discharging our duties without failure.

RUGBY FOOTBALL.

The game of Rugby football between the Keiogijiku University and the Y. C. and A. C., played on the Yokohama ground on Saturday afternoon, turned out another sweeping victory for the foreign fifteen. The Japanese players again put up a very plucky game and there can be no doubt as to the knowledge of and familiarity with the rules, but they lacked "beef" and that means a lot in this game.

In view of the present situation, Mr. Sakamoto, Governor of Fukui, intends to reduce by about one-third the ordinary expenditures of that prefecture for this year. He will convene the Prefectural Assembly on March 3rd to consider his proposal.

THANKS TO RUSSIA.

RUSSIA seems to be determined that this grim chapter of international history shall have its comic side. What is more, she appears to be willing that the laughter shall be entirely at her own expense. The TSAR figures as the jester, and the character seems to suit him well, though the world has hitherto supposed him to be rather of a grave and sombre than of a jocular temperament. It is true that HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY's humour would be more appreciable were it less cryptic. We are uncertain, for example, what he means by treachery. Hitherto the traitor's stock-in-trade has been supposed to be a marked readiness to make promises and offer pledges without any idea of keeping the former or being bound by the latter. Japan has not shown herself specially rich in that faculty. She has never solemnly engaged, for example, to do a certain thing by a certain definite date, and then proceeded to do the very opposite thing when the date arrived. She has never made with another nation an agreement binding herself to commence an explicit operation on a fixed day and to complete the work in three installments each at its own determinate period, and she has never, when those periods arrived, treated them as though they were still in the lap of an inscrutably distant future. That kind of conduct would be called treachery by ordinary folks, but, for reasons which we need not elaborate, it is plainly not counted treachery by Russia. Her definition of treachery appears to be the striking at an enemy without waiting for him to get good and ready. To warn him that friendly intercourse has ceased and that he must be prepared for any action which the other side's interests appear to dictate—that is not enough. If he be a large, slowly moving creature, requiring much time to sharpen his ponderous sword and don his weighty armour, that time must be given. There must be no hasty striking, no unseemly quickness of attack. To be alert, to be prompt, to obey the German stategist's axiom by taking the initiative the very instant that war is known to be necessary, that is treachery. By behaving in that shameless manner Japan has written herself down a traitor. Great, big, strong Japan and poor, weak, little Russia! The comparison makes the former's procedure all the nastier and more discourteous. The Government in Tokyo have shown most disingenous suspicion of Russia. When they saw her protracting the negotiations week after week and month after month the while she hastened her preparations for war; when they heard her proclaiming that now, now she was about to make concessions and that much margin for talk still existed in the region of neutral zones and spheres of influence, the while she hurried out her warships to Eastern seas and her regiments to the scene of the treachery which was not orthodox treachery, they betrayed their distrust by attributing ulterior designs to an honourable and promise-keeping empire, and by allowing themselves to imagine its statesmen capable of insincerity. And then, after having waited so long that the world laughed at their suicidal patience and their own nationals cried bitterly against such a sacrifice of the country's interests, they were so inconsiderate, so offensively abrupt, as to step out of a game where they had everything to lose and nothing to gain, and to inform Russia that friendly discussion must cease and stern action take its place. That was bad enough. But worse was to follow. For within the ridiculously short space of three days the giant Japan rushed at the pigmy Russia and dealt her some blows that made her reel. What is the result? The result is that quite a time must elapse before Russia can return the buffets in a manner worthy of her bulk and slowness. "Look here," cries the TSAR. "I wasn't ready and I can't be ready for ever so long, and what a figure I shall have to cut in the meanwhile! I never provoked any one. I never purloined another person's belongings. I never promised to return them and did n't do it. I never put off for weeks and months the making of replies to friendly proposals, and when I did make them, they were not each more unsatisfactory and less sincere than the other. It was Japan that did all those things, the provoking, treacherous little creature. I didn't dream that she would dare to hit me, and now she has not only given me a buffet, but done it at such an unseasonable moment that ever so much time must elapse before I shall be good and ready to return the slap." It is really kind of the TSAR to furnish these materials for a good laugh.

The sober truth, however, is that HIS MAJESTY's Manifesto is addressed not to the world but to his own people. It is solely for domestic consumption. The Russians, throughout the wide dominions of the great Northern Power, must not know the truth. At Dalny they did not know on the 15th of February that Port Arthur had been attacked on the 8th and 9th. Neither did the Chinese in Canton know that Weihaiwei had fallen in 1895 until a month after the brave Admiral TING had breathed his last. The truth can not be served out without sauce or *en masse* to the Russian people. They must have it diluted and in small doses, their constitution not being robust.

GERMANY AND JAPAN.

GERMANY'S recent attitude towards Japan has evidently gone far to efface any unfavourable impressions previously existing. The Berlin Government is said to have shown unquestionable though necessarily circumspect friendliness towards this country in the latter stages of the Russo-Japanese negotiations, and telegrams lately received from Europe indicate that the tone of the German press is now distinctly cordial to Japan. These things are appreciatingly noticed by the *Kokumin Shimbun*, which also directs attention to the fact that Germany readily accepted the proposal made by the United States Government for limiting the area of the war, though the terms of the measure could not be expected to please Russia. Just as such welcome incidents were leading the Japanese to hope that Berlin's readiness, at one time apparent, to sacrifice Japan on the altar of European politics had given place to a juster appreciation of her potentialities, the KAISER had one of his happy inspirations. HIS MAJESTY telegraphed direct to the EMPRESS of JAPAN offering the use of the German naval and military hospitals at Yokohama and Kiaochou for Japanese wounded men; an act which, already significant as a mark of sympathy, derived additional value from the KAISER's graceful thought of addressing himself to the EMPRESS, whose name is a synonym among the Japanese people for everything benevolent and charitable. The *Kokumin Shimbun* evidently thinks that its countrymen's sentiments towards Germany will be materially affected by all these evidences of goodwill, and we may add to the catalogue a circumstance which, we frankly confess, caused us some surprise, namely, the ridicule heaped by the German press upon the TSAR's most undignified complaint that he had been treated with treachery by the Japanese because they did not give him ample time to get ready for beating them. No people know the silliness of such pretences better than the Germans, who have reached their high place among the nations by a uniform exercise of the very qualities the Japanese are now displaying, promptitude and determination. Nevertheless we did not expect to hear German journals strike a note so discordant with Russia's wishes as this peremptory rejection of the TSAR's plea. It is scarcely necessary to dwell upon the importance of Germany's friendship from a Japanese point of view, or to point out how much Russia must be ultimately influenced by such unequivocal evidences of Germany's disapproval. Liaotung was the beginning of the breach between Japan and Germany. Perhaps it may now be the bridge to happier relations.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF JAPANESE CURRENT LITERATURE.

Among magazines, as an organ of public opinion, the *Taiyō* has no rival in this country. On the burning questions of the day it commands the services of the best writers. Numerous are the articles in the February number on the one absorbing topic of the hour. Count Ōkuma is quoted as urging the Government to take the public into its confidence more than it has hitherto done on the ground that by so doing it will greatly strengthen its position. Mr. Ozaki Yukio expresses himself as dissatisfied with Japan's attitude to Russia, thinking it quite unreasonable that Japan should even demand a limitation of the military force Russia keeps in Manchuria and maintaining that no self-respecting Power would dream of being dictated to by a foreign nation on such a subject. Even after Germany's victory over France, says Mr. Ozaki, the latter Power would not hear of agreeing to diminish the size of its standing army to please a neighbouring country. Not even Napoleon I could exact such concessions from his conquered foes.* But the above-named and other short effusions are cast into the shade by a very masterly review of the whole situation in the Far East in its political and military aspects by Colonel H. Nezu, entitled *Tairo Shusen Saku* (The Anti-Russian War Policy). The article is too long to be thoroughly dealt with in this Summary. We can do no more than quote a few of the conclusions to which the most careful investigation has led the writer, who, it must be remenbered, has spent many years in the study of China and Korean affairs and who is recognized by the Japanese as one of the greatest of authorities on the Far Eastern Question. Colonel Nezu's article is a carefully reasoned presentation of the situation in which Japan finds herself to day. His essay covers over 10 closely printed pages. It is divided into four parts as follows (1) The gravity of the Situation. (2) The best time for beginning the War. (3) The length of time the War will occupy and the cost of it. (4) The summing up of the argument in favour of immediate action. If has been proved by a series of negotiations and by other things, says Col. Nezu, that Russian interests in the Far East and Japanese interests in Korea and China are hopelessly antagonistic and seeing that neither country is prepared to give way war is quite inevitable. Russia's exit in the Far East and her establishment as a great power in this part of the world are part of a policy on which for many years past she has set her heart and her failure to realize it would be a tremendous blow to her. Col. Nezu thus sums up the issue: *Ikan to nareba, Manshū ni okeru Russia no shippai wa jitsu ni Russia zenkyoku* (全局) *no shi-kwatsu mondai ni shite, sono seikō wa sunawachi Nihon Teikoku no an-ki* (安危) *mondai tarubekereba nari.* . . . "A collision between the two countries is inevitable because Russia's failure in Manchuria would be to that country a matter of life or death, and because Russia's success there would imperil the existence of this empire." Russian policy in the Far East is next discussed with considerable insight, and it is shown that whereas the representatives of other European Powers have come to the East to trade or to teach, Russia has always had quite another object in view, namely the territorial expansion of her empire. So deep-seated in the hearts of her statesmen is this Far Eastern expansion, says Col. Nezu, that unless we stop her, it is quite sure that she will swallow up the greater part of China. If Russia's policy were other than it is, some kind of arrangement might be come to by the two countries. But knowing her policy as we do, we dare not allow her to hold sway in Manchuria, much less let her have a permanent footing in Korea. To remain in Manchuria and to govern it is a policy which at all costs Russia is determined to follow. Hence we must meet this resolution with still stronger resolution and fight till we drive her out of that province (*Kore wo yō suru ni, Manshū mondai no kwanzen naru kaiketsu wa, sunawachi Manshū keiyei* (經營) *no kontei daha* (打破) *ni hoka narazu. Manshū keiyei no kontei wa Rojin ga hijō no dai kesshin wo motte mamoru tokoro, ima ware kore wo daha sen to hossu, nanzo mata hijō no daikesshin nakarubeken ya.*† Col. Nezu next marshals the arguments in favour of Japan's having it out with Russia now rather than a few years later. The more time that is given to Russia the stronger will she make her military position in Manchuria. She labours under many disadvantages now that might be removed later on. The navies and armies of the two Powers are then compared by Col. Nezu. Coming to the consideration of the time the war is likely to occupy, Col. Nezu says that if Japan sends 10 divisions of troops, she would need to leave one of these in Korea. With the other 9 she would march into Manchuria and attack Russia's strongholds. The colonel thinks that even in six months Russia is likely to be hard pressed. Defeat in battle will mean more to her than to the Japanese, as she figures as one of the greatest Powers. Her prestige would be so reduced that her numerous enemies would certainly use the occasion for taking vengeance on her for past injustice, cruelty and oppression. Defeat after defeat would make her war with Japan intensely unpopular in St. Petersburg, and with a fading reputation her attempts to float war loans would prove a financially disastrous business. I do not think that the war need last more than a year or a year and a half before Russia will begin to feel the strain of carrying on extensive military operations so far away from home to be greater than she can sustain for any length of time. Col. Nezu laughs at the notion that Japan will need to march far into Siberia before she can induce Russia to treat for terms. The railway through Manchuria being in Japan's possession, as it certainly will be, and Russia's communication by land and sea cut off, how can she remain in Port Arthur for any length of time? Into the expense of the war Col. Nezu goes next, but we cannot follow him here. If Japan's arms are victorious, Col. Nezu predicts that the Chinese will only be too glad to work hand-in-hand with her island neighbour in safeguarding her empire against a second Russian invasion. China, educated and renovated by Japan could withstand any European aggression with which she might be threatened. Manchuria would be thrown open to the nations of the world. Japan's Korean railway would certainly be connected with the Manchurian line and thus a great future for both China and Korea would be opened up. It is not territorial expansion that Japan has in her mind now as much as keeping the whole of the Eastern world from being placed at the mercy of a thoroughly unscrupulous, unjust and despotic European Power.‡

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Dr. Ariga Nagao contributes a long article to the *Taiyō* on "Japanese Students in Foreign Lands." He voices general opinion when he says that from one cause or another the results of sending men to study abroad have been disappointing. Dr. Ariga, as he tells us in his essay, has himself spent many years abroad and is well acquainted with hundreds of young men who have either been sent by the Government or have gone abroad at their own expense, so that his opinion should carry great weight on this subject. Dr. Ariga says that the notion that the chief object of sending young men abroad is to enable them to complete their studies in foreign lands can no longer be entertained. When he himself entered the Berlin University and listened to lectures on Psychology and Ethics, the shallowness and elementariness of these lectures astounded him. Most subjects could today be better studied in this country than abroad. The object of foreign travel and residence is to broaden views and to enable the student to return to Japan and tell his fellow-countrymen what the great world outside Japan is thinking and doing. The characters of travelled people are quite different from those of persons who have spent all their days in one small country, and who have only mixed with their fellow-countrymen. The acquisition of the power of speaking foreign languages is a worthy object to be pursued while living abroad. This needs much perseverance and much time. Dr. Ariga tells us he began with English, then went to German, afterwards to French, and lastly to Russian, and that he converses in these languages, though very imperfectly in the last. He has much to say on the time that is required for thorough foreign study, on the class of young men that should be chosen, and so on. But we have no space to pursue the subject further.

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Dr. Tanaka Seihei contributes a long essay to the *Taiyō* on Music, which is a dispassionate review of the present state of feeling among the Japanese on the possibility of developing the art here as it is known and developed in the West. Dr. Tanaka writes as a specialist, being undoubtedly the greatest Japanese authority on this subject. His article covers some 14 pages of the Magazine. Dr. Ueda Mannen writes in the same number of the *Taiyō* on "Stage Language."

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The *Teikoku Bungaku* from the beginning of the year increased its size. The principal contributors to this Magazine are students of the Tōkyō Imperial University. Occasionally Dr. Inoue Tetsujirō or some other professor gives the Magazine a helping hand. The subjects treated in this organ are mostly foreign literary subjects. Lengthy accounts of the views and writings of various well-known Western authors are given. Like a large number of other magazines issued by schools and colleges, the *Teikoku Bungaku* is very colourless and commands little respect from the outside reading world. The January number contains some verses which record the impression of Mr. Tsuchii Bansui while travelling in Europe. Mr. Tsuchii is considered to be one of the ablest of Japan's modern versifiers and among students he has many admirers. Some years ago he wrote a good deal; but after taking to humdrum teaching, the poetry went out of him, as it has gone out of many other school-teachers. His European tour seems to have had the effect of arousing the muse afresh.

To the same number of the magazine Dr. Inoue Tetsujirō contributes an article on the "Future of Japanese Music." Dr. Inoue is of opinion that musical taste in Japan needs much more cultivation than it receives. He by no means endorses the despondent views held by some in reference to the capabilities of the Japanese in this direction. But he does not agree with Dr. Tanaka in thinking that the best plan to adopt is to ignore Japanese music altogether and instruct young people in the art as it is practised in the West. Here Dr. Inoue's conservatism comes in and he writes, "Our music is part of our very selves. It was evolved out of Japanese human nature. To despise it is impossible. It must be improved and developed." Dr. Inoue admits that for centuries Japanese music has undergone no development whatever. The defects of the Japanese system of music he sets down under eight headings as follows:—(1) Its very *limited scope.* Vocal and instrumental music alike are still in a most elementary stage. The standard is decidedly very low. (2) *It is monotonous.* The same sounds occur so repeatedly that the ears get wearied of hearing them. (3) *It has only melody, no harmony* (*Keichō* 繼調) *arite, wachō naki koto.*) (4) *It is without a system of notes.* (5) *Japanese instruments are of the rudest kind and no development has taken place in this line for centuries.* (6) *The training of the voice is not understood in this country and hence is most defective.* (7) *Our song composers have always occupied a low level.* There is no sublimity about the words that are sung to the accompaniment of harp and *samisen* music. As for *samisen* songs they are most of them obscene and quite unfit for the ears of refined ladies and gentlemen. (8) *The method of teaching music is very defective.* Dr. Tanaka agrees with me, says Mr. Inouye, in reference to Nos. 4, 7 and 8 of the above-named points. The question of the future of Japanese music depends entirely on whether or not these 8 defects can be remedied. If they are irremediable, then Japanese music is doomed.

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The *Teikoku Bungaku* (January number) prints an English contribution signed Yone Noguchi called "A Protest Against Modernism: A Japanese with Charles Warren Stoddard," which is full of bathos and much that is quite unintelligible. Some few poetical ideas of the Noguchi type expressed in American slang, the sublime and the ridiculous mixed in unique fashion, will be found in the piece. There are, however, some happy touches, here and there. Here are a few sentences:—"I have been getting rid of the sad muses lately. I whistle into the air. I smile up to the sun. Didn't he plan (the sun, or Stoddard?), some time ago to fly from the world—he with me—and busy ourselves in some obscurity

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* There is much confusion in Mr. Ozaki's line of argument. Russia's position in Manchuria rests on usurpation and aggression and is not for a moment to be compared to that of the French nation vis à vis the Germans after the Franco-Prussian war.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

† "The only thoroughly satisfactory solution of the Manchurian question is the destruction of the *point d'appui* of Russia's Manchurian schemes. In the defence of this Russia will show tremendous resolution. If, then we wish to destroy it, we too must display extraordinary strength of purpose."

‡ It must be remembered that this article was written early in January.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY).

(somewhere where he could smell the roses abundantly, and keep a few intimate books and 'a parrot to swear for fun')?"

Noguchi's English poems are in circulation in this country, we observe. Some say he is quite mad. Others that he is a great genius. He defies all the laws of English composition; but geniuses have often claimed the liberty to do that, and certainly such a practice is no proof of madness.

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Two years ago there was published at Leipsic a book which showed up the seamy side of Russia in such a striking manner that it ran through several editions in a few months. It attracted the attention of Dr. Gotō Shimpei, who suggested to Mr. Tawara Teijirō the advisability of his translating it into Japanese. This has now been done and the book has just been issued by the *Kokumin Shimbun* Printing Press under the title of *Rokoku Ankokumen* (The Dark Side of Russia). In the translation it covers 270 pages. It will be sure to command a large sale at the present time, as it predicts Russia's downfall. The author says, "I have no doubt whatever that 100 years hence, if not 50 years hence, Russia will have lost most of her territory in both Europe and Asia. European Russia will certainly tumble to pieces and a number of small states will take its place." The author goes on to argue that Russian policy is not capable of being pursued very much longer. The mere lust of dominion apart from economic pressure is bound to land a country in ruin. England, France, Germany and America desire new territory principally for commercial purposes. There is a pressure of population at home and so they extend their borders. Not so Russia. She has only a population of 5.7 per square mile and yet she is perpetually seizing fresh territory. She is as a greedy as a cormorant. She benefits none of the races which she subjugates. She defies the laws of humanity and the canons of justice alike; she disturbs the peace of the world and oppresses her subjects with heavy taxation. On the altar of her ambition are sacrificed the happiness and welfare of her subjects." The book has much to say on the corrupt state of the Russian army, and on the inability of any Emperor on the throne to rule as he wishes. The state of the Russian army was disclosed to the Germans by a Colonel Grimm, says this book. According to this work Russia is ripe for a revolution and it is bound to come. This has been predicted for the last 50 years; but still Russia holds on. The work has been excellently translated. The narrative flows along in a fascinating way. The book will command a large sale.

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By degrees Japan is getting supplied with a number of valuable dictionaries on technical subjects. The Dōbunkan, Jimbochō, Kanda, has announced that it has in the press a very bulky lexicon on Economics. It is to be called the *Keizai Daijisho* and will appear next July. It is to cover no less than 2,500 pages, and hence will certainly be quite exhaustive. In past years we have often called attention to the fact that a very large number of the books issuing from the Japanese press were translations, but during the last 12 months, it seems to us, there has been a distinct advance in literature, in that more original works have appeared. The Dōbunkan announces the publication of a valuable work written by Mr. Yoshii Nizō and containing the views of Mr. Matsusaki Zōnosuke on "Coinage and Credit." The work is the result of years of investigation on the subject treated. Mr. Yoshii, in addition to visits paid to England, Germany, and France, was one of the commissioners sent to India to inquire into the state of trade there. The work covers about 800 pages and sells at 2 *yen* per copy.

The *Shōgyō Ji-i* (Wa-Ei and Ei-Wa) is a handy little dictionary covering 320 pages and selling for 60 *sen* per copy at the Dōbunkan. It was compiled at the office of the *Keizai Sekai*. A companion work is their Dictionary of Commercial abbreviated terms, (*Ei-Wa Shōgyō Ryaku-go Ji i*) which is issued by the same house at 40 *sen* per copy.

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Magazines on education are far too numerous for efficiency. It is a great pity that in literary circles as well as in the commercial and industrial world the Japanese should carry competition and the division of available forces so far as they do. It ruins the best enterprises. The best magazines on most subjects are now issued by big publishing houses which can afford to sink a little money in order to make their organs permanently successful. The *Taiyō* is now said to pay well, through it did not do so till quite recently. The Joint-Stock Company known as the Kinkōdō has been for some time past running a number of magazines on special subjects. Among them the *Kyōikukai* (Educational World) may be said to have been fairly successful. It has now entered on its third year. It commands the services of some good writers and the views to which it gives the greatest prominence are mostly of a practical type. In a recent number we find some well written comments on current educational topics from which we extract the following:—

(1) *The price of school text-books*. Though there is little doubt that hitherto the profits made by the sale of text-books have exceeded what is reasonable, any attempt on the part of the Mombushō to fix a maximum price for books prepared by private individuals is open to many objections. In the first place when the Department of Education makes the cost of compiling and printing books by a Government bureau the criterion as to the price for which books prepared by private publishers can be sold it adopts a wrong standard. In preparing text-books a Government bureau runs no risks and does everything on a wholesale scale. But a private publisher goes into the business without any sure guarantee of success. (a) He has to chose and pay the author on the chance of success (b) He is not at all certain that his book will be franked by the Mombushō. It may be rejected repeatedly on account of some trifling disagreement between the examining official and the author, and the author may refuse to give way on the ground that he knows more about the subject treated than the Mombushō official who passes judgment on his work, which is very frequently quite true. The private publisher is involved in many expenses in putting his books on the market not borne by a Government book-publishing bureau. And, moreover, he is never quite certain about the demand for any one work. If he has some successes, he has many failures. If he is lucky enough to publish a work that commands a large sale on account of its great superiority to rival text-books, he deserves to have all the profit that accrues for his successful venture.

(2) *The supply of new Government text-books for the elementary schools.*—These books are needed in April next, and according to information that has reached us the authorities are not at all sure that they will have as many copies ready as are needed. Objection has been taken to the hasty manner in which the books have been prepared, and the compilers have admitted that they will need revision later on, and so it is reported that only a limited number of copies of each work will be struck off. It looks then as though a great many schools will find themselves without text-books at the beginning of the next academic year. The books hitherto in use are forbidden; and the number of newly compiled volumes is short. The private publishers who are free to prepare books for the market are uncertain as to their prospects of success against the State-compiled works, and so the country is likely to fall between two stools, and the Department of Education will have to bear the responsibility of attempting an impossibility in the compilation of text-books.

(3) *Schools and their graduates.*—It seems to us after wide observation that in most cases education ceases with graduation. The teachers at Government schools seem to think that their responsibility ends when their pupils finish the school course, and consequently they make no attempt to perfect the work of training that has been commenced in the school. They are content to live and die as mere school teachers and have not the ambition to be leaders of society. (*Kyōiku wa tan ni gakkō kyōshi taru nomi narazu, shakai no kyōshi tomo nari uru ni arazu ya?*) All schools ought to devise some means for collecting their graduates periodically and supplying them with instruction and guidance as long as they are willing to receive them.

(4) *The lack of energy among educationists.*—The educational world is a very sleepy world. The majority of school teachers are men-machines, without initiative or originality of any kind. One remedy for this state of things would be for educationists and religious devotees to join hands. The latter would certainly put some life into the former and the objects of the two classes of instructors are in the main the same. We should like to see school teachers occupying pulpits occasionally and preachers occupying school platforms. Before the great outside public they should present a united front and endeavour to lead society in the right paths.

The article before us, after discussing other matters, enumerates the urgent educational questions of the day as follows:—(1) *The alteration of our School system.* This question has been discussed *ad nauseam*, and certain changes are almost universally acknowledged to be most desirable. But there the matter rests. Action was expected from the present Minister, since he himself advocated certain radical changes, but as yet nothing certain is known as to his contemplated action. (2) *Business Education.* This is a topic the importance of which the central and provincial authorities alike fully recognize. The primary, middle, and normal schools ought to have a combined working scheme whereby lads designed for business should receive a suitable training. (3) *The Training of Teachers.* It may not be feasible to spend more money on this, but it is certainly possible to give more efficient training than is now done. How much of the expense should be borne by the Central Government and how much by the local Government is a matter that needs readjusting. (4) *The extension of general education and its efficiency.* The country must be prepared to spend quite a third more than it is now spending on this object. The principal burden of this should be borne by the provinces. To make the local authorities responsible for the increased outlay is the easiest way of solving this question. The general standard of the nation needs raising and this can only be done by making our ordinary general education more effective and better adapted to the times.—(5) *The question of Text-books.* The decision to entrust the compilation of text-books to Mombushō officials was reached under Baron Kikuchi's administration. It has been stated in the papers that the present Minister disapproves of the plan. If so its failure is a foregone conclusion. As indicated above, the supply for this year is almost sure to be insufficient. There are endless difficulties connected with carrying out the scheme.—(6) *School Fees.* There is no question connected with education that needs more attention than this. The principle that all who can afford it should pay for a high-class education is not carried out in this country. Many of the students who reap the benefit of the education provided in the Middle and High Schools are well able to pay for the privileges they enjoy. Instead of this the greater part of the expense of this teaching is borne by the general tax-payers, who are mostly poor. This is an injustice that calls for redress. (7) *School Inspectors.*—There are those who are in favour of their abolition and those who desire to see them retained. All are agreed, however, in thinking that a new type of inspector is needed.

* * *

There is a want of enterprise with the *Kyōiku Kōhō* when we compare it with a magazine like the *Kyōiku Sekai*. It has jogged along since the year of our Lord 1894 in much the same way from month to month, content to fill its pages with such material as is obtainable without much regard to its interest or suitability. But now and again readable articles are to be found in its pages. Such is a paper by Dr. Yokoi Jikei entitled, "Education regarded from a Practical Point of View;" the gist of which we give below. During the past 10 years every Minister of Education has acknowledged the importance of making our system of education more practical, more commonsense in character; but looking at the schools of the country and the students they turn out, we are obliged to confess that existing school mills produce many theory-spinners, but few practical men. I have made a special study of agriculture and I should like to see a system of education followed which would turn out intelligent practical farmers by the thousund. That our present system does not do. Education, to be worthy of the name should certainly teach children how to read, write and calculate. In this, however, our schools to-day do not show such good results as did those existing 20 years ago. It is the general opinion among those who have looked into this subject that the boys who graduate at Primary and Middle Schools to-day can neither read, or compose as well as did their predecessors 10 years ago. Now one does expect practical results from education. Whatever occupation a boy or girl may take to, he or she will feel the need of the means of increasing knowledge by consulting books. We are not sure at all that the Mombushō was wise in prescribing limits to the number of Chinese characters to be used. Certain it is that many of those omitted are in constant use in general literature. . . . . There is a great want of thoroughness with our teaching and our learning. We do not aim sufficiently at being accurate. What many of our students think they know they only half know, and many of them after studying for years are not at all ashamed to make mistakes in the most elementary parts of a subject. The application of learning to real life is something that we as a people have yet to learn. To too many the pursuit of learning is a mere pastime quite disconnected with real life. Onr chief aim in education should be to develop the ordinary intelligence of the mind and to teach young people how to apply their minds to any and every subject that calls for consideration.

FIRES.

Fire broke out on Feb. 19th at the village of Nanaura, Hoji, near Kanazawa, destroying forty houses.

Fire broke out on the morning of Feb. 19th at Shingu-machi, near Wakayama, destroying seventy houses.

The Tokyo Button Manufactory and three other buildings were burned down by fire on Feb. 20th at 3.10 p.m. The accident occurred in the factory the cause being the explosion of an inflammable preparation.

Shortly after six o'clock on Sunday evening fire broke out in an empty house at Vamamotocho Itchome near the Race Course road, Yokohama. A very strong gale was blowing from the south at the time, but the firemen managed to extinguish the flames before more than five houses had been destroyed.

Fire occurred on Feb. 22nd at 9.50 p.m. in the office of an Indian merchant at No. 127, Yokohama. It was put out before the flames could extend throughout the building, the result being that part of a sample room only was damaged. The cause is reported to be a small quantity of sulphur which was among the contents of the sample room.

The Yamagata District Court was destroyed by fire on Feb. 22nd at 8 p.m. The cause is reported to be negligence. The business of the Court will be transacted in the Local Court.

Fire broke out on the evening of Feb. 23rd at Hanakawato, Tokyo, destroying six houses. Negligence was the cause.

Another outbreak of fire occurred on the night of Feb. 22nd in the dwelling of a farmer, S. Naito, in the village of Tokaido, Toyotama, near Tokyo, destroying the building. A woman was killed. Sparks from the kitchen stove were the cause.

DAI NIPPON.

1904.

From my land, a *torii* on the waves,
I have charged the rising sun
To bear this word to thy sea-born braves,
When his long land-course be run:—
"By the shore of all the seas of the earth,
"Alone have we stood, from the hour of our birth,
"And our destinies are one.

"From the Táira of old Japan,
"In the land where the gods were young;
"From the loins of the Minamoto clan;
"From the Hojo lords who flung
"To the storm the armada of Kubla Khan;
"From the Tokugawa who ruled the *han*;
"From these are my people sprung.

"I, too, am outpost of the deep,
"And a sentry to the seas:
"And my dead, too, in thousands sleep
"Where never stirs the breeze;
"And my land, too, like to thine own,
"A conqueror's foot has never known,
"Nor slept in servile ease.

"Brother, give me thy helping hand,
"Brother, stand thou by me,
"We are the vanguards of the land,
"And the first-born of the free,
"I in the East, as thou in the West,
"We are twin—we are twin; and our mother's breast
"Is the civilising sea."

James Bernard Fagan, in *The Times*.

"THE NEW BOY."

"The New Boy" was played again to a crowded and sympathetic house on Saturday evening, the audience including several leading residents of Tokyo. It was matter of favourable comment that the comedy went with a swing from the opening to the close and that Mr. Aslet's *Felix Roach* was an even more finished piece of acting than at the first performance. He had gained confidence, was more cynically at home in the part, and yet gave no sign of over-study. If Yokohama possessed the prototypes of London's pit and upper gallery *habitues* many of his exits would have been rewarded with a hiss: as it was, he was loudly applauded time and again. The Bijou Orchestra were again most delightful and their rendering of the selection from "Hiawatha" was encored. The ladies received many floral tributes at the close, the stage being almost swamped in flowers. Altogether the piece has made a decided hit.

PRESENTATION.

An interesting presentation was made on Thursday afternoon to Mr. F. T. Leak upon his approaching departure for home. Mr. Leak has resided in Yokohama for some years and in the capacity of Hon. Secretary of the Yokohama Yacht Club and otherwise has made for himself a host of friends. The presentation took the form of a handsome pair of silver boxes (cigar and cigarette) with ornate relief work, each of which bore the inscription:—"To F. T. Leak, from his Yokohama Friends, 1904" The gift was accompanied by a brief address, signed by the subscribers, which read:—

Yokohama, February 25, 1904.

Dear Mr. Leak,—We, the undersigned, take this opportunity on the eve of your departure from Japan to express our best wishes for your future happiness and prosperity; in doing so we beg your acceptance of the accompanying gifts as a souvenir of your residence in Japan which we affectionately hope will remind you of the many friends you leave behind.

The presentation was made by Mr. F. W. Thomas in a few well chosen words, and Mr. Leak appropriately responded, expressing his keen appreciation of the kind feeling shown in this way. After this Mr. Leak's health was proposed and heartily honoured and the pleasing function concluded.

THE LAW COURTS.

THE CASE OF TREASON.

The trial of M. Takahashi, who was arrested at Yokosuka on a charge that he was in the Russian service as a military spy, began on Feb. 20th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Hadano and Public Procurator Kobayashi.

Mr. T. Yasumura was present as counsel for the accused.

Having stated to the Court the punishment to which the accused is liable, the Public Procurator said that Takahashi was employed for three years past by Commander Roussine, naval attaché of the Russian Legation, Tokyo, as a military spy. The accused became acquainted, through T. Hara, who had been employed by the Russian Legation on the same service, with the clerks K. Hasegawa of the Yokosuka Naval Station and C. Seno of the Maidzuru Naval Station, whom he requested to furnish to him on behalf of the Russian officer details of naval secrets. He paid them *yen* 5 per month as postal expenses and paid also compensation to them. The clerks agreed to his proposal, but privately they laid all the letters from the accused before the authorities whenever these were received. The employees then gave the accused some information which were considered not to be secrets of naval affairs, which the accused furnished to the Russian officer in Russian. The Public Procurator added that after enquiring at the Department of Foreign Affairs, he understood that the name of the accused was not recorded in the Department as an interpreter of the naval attaché of the Russian Legation, though the accused insisted in the preliminary examination that he had been so employed.

The Court examined the accused. He stated that he was employed by the Russian Legation in July, 1895, on the recommendation of Kawasumi, one of his friends, who is connected with the Russian (Greek Church) mission. He was thereafter removed to No. 72 Bluff, Yokohama, where the Russian naval officer was staying. He was educated at the Nicholai Mission School for seven years, after which he was engaged in the service of the Church. Accompanied by a Russian Missionary, the accused went to Siberia for a little over a year. In February, 1901, Commander Roussine arrived here to take the place of the previous naval officer and also lived at No. 72, Bluff, Yokohama. The accused was employed to make extracts from Japanese papers, with regard to Japanese military and naval affairs, translating them into Russian. On Oct. 11th, 1899, Hasegawa, an employee of the Yokosuka naval station, called on the accused, when the latter asked him to furnish information as to naval affairs which was not publicly known. The request was entirely meant to be a joke. The accused stated that on the introduction of T. Hara, who had been in the service of the Russian Legation, the accused became acquainted with Hasegawa. He was paying *yen* 5 per month as postal expenses besides compensation, of which the amount was not fixed every month. Having been shown a letter of the accused addressed to Hasegawa, accused stated that in 1902, he obtained a plan of a new road in Yokosuka constructed from the railway station, and about the same time he asked Hasegawa to furnish a detailed report with regard to the stock of coal in the station, the movements of the torpedo-boats and warships, the armament of the Navy, the commanding officers, general views on the naval force, etc. These instruction were prepared by the Russian officer who employed accused. Hasegawa, however, did not reply. In the same year the accused received from Hasegawa a report regarding the replacement of the guns on board the *Hashidate*. The accused used a false name, Inaba Tokusaburo, whenever he wrote to Hasegawa. He also asked Hasegawa for detailed plans of the *Matsushima* and other training ships. The accused asked S. Seno, an employee of the Maidzuru Naval Station for reports as to naval secrets.

The Court rose for tiffin.

At 1 p.m. the trial was resumed when the Public Procurator introduced several letters which the accused wrote to Oshima, an employee of the Saseho Naval Station, which evidence was also similar to that in the cases of the foregoing naval employees. The accused stated that at the request of his employer, he wrote letters to Oshima and Seno to furnish general information with reference to the construction of dockyards and to the harbours of Takeshiki, Tsushima, and Saseho, etc. The accused was simply a go-between for the Russian officer and the Japanese, translating into Japanese and into Russian.

The Court showed accused the whole evidence including many letters written by him and the statements of witnesses, and summarized their purport.

Counsel for the defence asked the Court for leave to examine Mr. Ikariyama, Chief of the Kagacho police, and Sekimoto, a detective of the same station, on the ground that they had been connected with the accused in some secret matter.

The Court rejected the application. Counsel thereupon asked the Court to examine the accused as to whether the two police officers were connected with him and further asked the Court to close the Court during the examination which counsel considered to be injurious to public order.

After a consultation, the Court decided to exclude the public.

This was at 2.20 p.m.

The Court re-opened in about an hour, when the accused stated that while employed by Commander Roussine he took notice of the Japanese who called on the Russian officer. Whenever he saw a suspicious one, he always informed Mr. Ikariyama, the Chief of the Kaga-cho police. He believed himself that he was performing rather a patriotic action and certainly no such ugly conduct as that of a *Rotan* (Russian spy). The accused added that he was always concealing and destroying such information as he considered to be injurious to Japan whenever he received it from his friends.

The Public Procurator stated that the accused was in the service of the Russian officer as a spy and he was probably also in the service of the Kaga-cho police as a "dog" to conceal his shameful conduct and to avoid the suspicion of the authorities. The Public Procurator summarized the evidence consisting of over fifty letters written by the accused, and contended that the accused should be punished with eight years' minor confinement in accordance with Arts. 112 and 113 of the Penal Code, and Art. 1 of the Law with regard to Military Affairs.

Counsel for the defence asked the Court to acquit the accused.

M. Takahashi, who was charged with being in the service of Russia as a military spy, employed by Lieut. Commander Roussine, naval attaché of the Russian Legation, was sentenced on Feb. 23rd at 10.30 a.m. in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Hadano, to eight years' minor confinement.

The Judge read a lengthy statement as to the reasons for the sentence, summarizing the evidence, which consisted of letters written by the accused and of the statements of the gendarmerie officers who arrested him at Yokosuka and the other witnesses, which documents were produced at the trial.

The Court was filled with a crowd of auditors including the wife and female servant of the accused. After the reading of the sentence by the Judge, cries of "*zama miro*!" ("what an unbearable sight!") or "*ii-kibida*!" ("serves him right!") were shouted in the Court.

JOVANSEN v. CLUB HÔTEL.

This case, in which the plaintiff claims *yen* 90.48, came up again in the Yokohama Local Court before Judge Yei-iri on Feb. 20th, when judgment was delivered rejecting the claim of plaintiff with costs.

LIBEL CASE.

The trial of the libel case filed by Mr. A. Hofmann, Kobe, against three Tokyo papers, the *Niroku*, *Hochi*, and *Yorodzu* was concluded on Feb. 23rd in the Tokyo District Court. Sentence will be delivered on the 27th at 9 a.m.

FORGING POSTAL MONEY ORDERS.

C. Fukushima and T. Ichimura were sentenced on Feb. 24th in the Tokyo District Court to six years minor confinement each. They bought several postal money orders of *sen* 20 each at various times since September last and having changed them into *yen* 5 or other amounts, drew them at several post offices in Tokyo.

CHARGE OF PERJURY.

S. Adachi (44) who was charged in the Honolulu Court, Hawaii, of having made a false statement in November last when he was being examined as a witness and afterwards fled to Yokohama, was arrested on Feb. 22nd by the Harbour Police and delivered to Mr. Hendry, U.S. Marshal, who arrived here to take over the accused. The latter was taken on board the steamer *Siberia*, which left on Feb. 24th for the islands. It appears that after accused left Honolulu the U.S. authorities asked the Yokohama police by telegram to arrest him. On Dec. 10th the Harbour police arrested him and detained him for sixty days awaiting the arrival of a U.S. officer to receive him. After the expiration of that period, as provided by law, the Japanese temporarily released the accused, but kept him under surveillance. On Feb. 11th the U.S. officer arrived with a warrant for his rendition.

AMERICAN TOPICS.

Miss Mibrow, an American from Detroit, has received the degree of Doctor of Science from the University of Berlin. She is the first woman chemist to whom the university has granted the degree.

John Alexander Dowie left San Francisco on the *Sonoma* on Jan. 20 for Sydney. There are two bridal suites on the *Sonoma*, and both were occupied by the Dowie party. To obtain this preferment the apostle paid $200 in addition to the regular fares.

There is a strong possibility that Miss Ada Rehan may become Sir Henry Irving's leading lady next season. Sir Henry has made Miss Rehan an offer to join him in a series of old comedy revivals and the chances are that she will accept.

News of one of the most important geological discoveries ever made in South America has been received at the University of California from Astronomer W. H. Wright, head of the Lick Observatory expedition in Chile. The find is remarkably perfect specimen of the ichthyosaurus.

It is reported that a plan is on foot to merge all the interests of the Vanderbilts into one great railroad property. This will mean the consolidation of lines that have a total mileage of 11,700 and include more than a dozen roads, among them being the Pittsburg & Lake Erie, the Vanderbilt property in Pittsburg.

Property worth $5,000 was divided on January 26 among public and private beneficiaries by the late Mrs. Abigail Olney, widow of Professor Charles F. Olney. The greatest bequest was the Olney Art Gallery, valued at $300,000 to Oberlin College, together with an endowment fund of $10,000 for its maintenance.

The harvest of wheat and linseed in Argentina in 1903 has been the largest on record. Only a few years ago the raising of sheep and cattle held its place as the staple industry of the country, but the plough is coming into use more every year, and the flocks and herds of the country no longer increase in as great a proportion as in past years.

Lieutenant General Young, retired, and Lieutenant General Chaffee, chief of staff, both began military life in the ranks as private soldiers. A pretty incident of the retirement of the former and accession of the latter to the head of the U S. army was the following note handed to General Chaffee with a pair of shoulder straps at the time of the transfer of authority:—"Private Young, Company K. Twelfth Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, presents his compliments to Private Chaffee, Troop K. Sixth United States Cavalry, and asks him to accept this pair of lieutenant general's shoulder straps."

During the last year there were over 12,000 failures in Canada and the United States, and the liabilities aggregated nearly $157,000,000, or $40,000,000 more than in the year preceding. At the same time the failures in Canada alone were only 972 (23 less than for 1902), and the liabilities were $7,552,724, or nearly three and a half millions less than for the year before.

Charles Scribner's Sons has been incorporated under the laws of New Jersey with a capital stock of $2,000,000, all common. The charter of the corporation is a very broad one, allowing the company to publish books and newspapers and do a general publishing business. The incorporators are Charles Scribner, Arthur H. Scribner, Edward L. Burlingame and Edwin W. Morse.

The Canadian Pacific Railway's plan for extensive irrigation in the Canadian northwest has become an assured fact, and tenders will be called in Vancouver, Chicago, Montreal, Winnipeg and Calgary for the main canal excavations. The project will be started near Calgary, and if it proves as successful as the Canadian Pacific Railroad engineers have every faith that it will, more than 3,000,000 acres of land will be reclaimed by the company and rendered fit for cultivation.

The *Oil Investors' Journals* gives a summary of the southern oil production and movement during the year 1903, as follows: Oil moved from the Texas and Louisiana fields during the years 1903, 15,000,000 barrels; oil produced in the Texas and Louisiana fields for the same time, 14,100,000; in storage January 1, 1904, 8,000,000, and if the oil held for the Southern Pacific and the Santa Fe for fuel purposes and the oil stored in eastern stations is included, the total of stored oil will be 10,500,000 barrels.

The following ruling has been received at the New York post office from the Department at Washington: "The Post Office Department has decided that post cards or private mailing cards issued by private persons bearing on the address side the words 'United States of America' are unmailable. However, in order to give the owners of such cards reasonable time to dispose of those on hand, they will be accepted for mailing until July 1, 1904, upon payment of postage at the proper rate. On and after July 1, 1904, such cards will be treated as unmailable at any rate of postage."

A writer in the *New York Sun* declares that "Chicago is undoubtedly the wickedest city in the world." Chicago's murder record has ever been a black one, but the figures for this police year are appalling. So far as such crimes go, 1903 is certainly her black banner period. In 1902 136 murders were admitted by the police to have occurred there, while many a fractured skull case at the hospital docketed "cause of accident unknown," might well have been charged up to sandbags or to bludgeons. But merely those cases reported in the newspapers for 1903, up to Dec. 28, numbered 158.

The Secretary of the United States Navy, Mr. Moody, has received from the General Board of the Navy a recommendation that a strongly fortified coaling station be established at Kiska Island, in the Aleutian chain. According to the board, the place is of greater strategic value than any other point in the North Pacific. The plans provide for storing 100,000 tons of coal or four times as much as can be stored at San Francisco, and the estimated cost of the work is $1,500,000. There is a fine harbour in Kiska Island, and a natural breakwater for this is formed by Little Kiska Island. Kiska Island is in the main Aleutian chain, 500 miles west of Dutch Harbour. It was recently surveyed by the Pacific Squadron under Rear Admiral Glass, and in April some naval officers will be sent there on a collier to get additional information to enable contractors to bid intelligently on the construction work.

The General Board regards the island as of great strategical importance.

One of the most notable scientific institutions in the United States was established as the result of the bequest of an English scientist and philanthropist who, after spending much of his time in travel upon the European continent, died at Genoa, in Italy, in 1829. We refer to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, established in 1846 in pursuance of the bequest of Mr. James Smithson, which became available in 1835. The dead man slept in the quiet birthplace of Columbus for almost three-quarters of a century, but his remains have lately been brought to the United States. They will be interred in the national capital within sight of the great institution he founded, and in time a monument will be erected which will commemorate in a fitting way the story of his benefaction, which has done so much to carry out the desire of its founder "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men."

Part I of the report of the Bureau of Statistics of New Jersey for 1903, contains the statistics of manufactures of the state for the year 1902. Among the industries for which figures are given, the most important in the number of persons employed, capital invested and value of products is the silk industry. Including the dyehouses and throwing mills, there are 165 establishments engaged in the production of silk goods. The aggregate amount of capital invested in all the establishments is $24.872,624. The aggregate value of stock or material used is $27,389,826. The principal item of stock is raw silk, of which 5,087,192 pounds, valued at $21,380,045, was used. The total selling value of the goods produced reached the sum of $47,849,603. The average number of persons employed during the year was 14,068 males and 12,022 females. The total amount paid in wages during the year was $11,089,184.

According to the *Textile World*, 334 new textile mills were put in operation in the United States in 1903. This, with the exception of 1900, when 400 mills were erected, is the largest annual total on record. The new mills for 1903 are distributed among the different branches of the industry in practically the same proportion as in 1902. Each branch—cotton, woollen, silk, knitting and miscellaneous—shows an increase in number. The following gives the number of new textile mills in each branch of the industry for the past seven years:

	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897
Cotton.........	81	68	59	171	91	34	49
Woollen	65	46	53	48	49	25	53
Knitting	105	82	93	109	57	46	71
Silk	58	45	29	43	32	19	43
Miscellaneous.	25	21	21	29	16	10	14
Total.........	334	262	255	400	245	134	230

Of the eighty-one new cotton mills, forty were located in the south and forty-one in the north. The spinning capacity of the new southern, 281,752 spindles, is more than double that of the northern mills. Many of the new mills, especially in the north, were equipped without spindles, for weaving only, and for the production of batting and similar fabrics that do not require the spinning process. For this reason the number of mills is relatively larger than the number of spindles. A marked feature of the cotton mill construction in 1903 was the large number erected for the manufacture of yarn and batting from cotton waste. The tendency for mills to concentrate in districts where manufacturing is already established is shown in 1903 by the fact that Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Alabama are in the lead in cotton mill construction in the south. The total number of cotton spindles (416,752) installed last year is below the average for the past seven years. More new woollen mills were completed in 1903 than in any of the previous eight years.

In 1903 the total pine lumber cut in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota aggregated 4,791,552,000 feet, as compared with 5,294,395,000 feet in 1902 and 5,336,448,000 feet in 1901. Following figures, copied from the *American Lumberman*, give the cut for important years:—

1903	4,791,852,000	1896	5,725,763,035
1902	5,294,395,000	1895	7,050,669,235
1901	5,336,448,000	1894	6,821,516,412
1900	5,485,261,000	1893	7,326,263,782
1899	6,056,508,000	1890	8,597,623,000
1898	6,155,300,200	1877	3,595,333,496
1897	6,233,454,000		

Stocks of northern pine on hand at the close of 1903, constrated with preceding years, were 1,964,562,000 feet, compared with 2,112,719 000 feet in 1902, 2,388,256,000 in 1901 and 2,839,605,000 in 1900. That is going back far enough to cover the boom in the lumber trade beginning with 1900. Stocks on hand at the close of 1903 were less by 148,167,000 feet than they were at the close of 1902, 423,704,000 less than at the close of 1901 and 875,153,000 less than at the close of 1900. During these four years the output declined 693,709,000 feet. A feature of the shingle production in the old white pine States is the fact that the totals from 1890 to 1903 have not shown that degree of decline that pertains to the out put of lumber. The falling off during the thirteen years named was 1,978,123,000 the product in 1890 having been 4,320,325,000, and in 1903, 2,342,202,000. During the thirteen years there was much fluctuation from year to year. In 1826 the total fell to 1,886,063,000. In 1891, 1892, 1893, 1897 and 1898 the totals were in the three billion class, in 1895 the product was 2,093,367,859, and the total has now risen to 3,000,000,000 since 1898. Stocks of shingles on hand at the end of 1903 make a heavy showing against 1902, the figures standing for 667,072,000 at the close of 1903, compared to 397,815,000 in 1902. In 1903 the production of hemlock reached 1,334,444,000 feet, against 1,277,814,000 feet in 1903 and 1,264,943,000 feet in 1901. The output of northern hard woods amounted in 1903 to 799,734,000 feet, which compares with 730,315,000 feet in 1902 and 790,592,000 feet in 1901.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

It has long been known that the Czar possessed a very pretty musical gift, and His Majesty has recently essayed his power as a composer of music to his own verses. In these verses the predominant note is one of religion. They extol the glories of the Orthodox Church and its saints, and exalt the virtues of Christian self-sacrifice and renunciation of worldly goods and prosperity. Literary and musical judges speak well of both verses and music. The compositions are dedicated to the Grand Duke Constantine Constantinovich.

It is evident that the proposal, first made by a Madrid newspaper, that there should be a national celebration of the third centenary of the publication of "Don Quixote," is being enthusiastically taken up in Spain. The date is May of next year, and a Royal decree has now been published associating the King and Government with the movement. It is also announced that a Royal Commission is to be formed, on which representatives of the learned societies will find a place to make fitting preparations for doing honour to the great Cervantes, whose wonderful story is known wherever literature is understood.

It is curious that at the very time when Sir Oliver Lodge, whose lecture we refer to elsewhere, was refusing to discuss the medical properties of radium, Mr. Strutt should have been able to announce that he had discovered that amazing substance in the waters of Bath. Perhaps it is this which gives that "flavour of warm flat irons" to which Mr. Samuel Weller so strongly objected, and which Mr. John Samauker declared to be the "kallibeate" taste: but however that may be, it may very well be that radium is the most important curative agent in the Bath springs. King Lud seems to have been well ahead of his time in the matter of medical science.

Presumably the fiscal policy of Mr. Chamberlain accounts for that increase in the issue of pamphlets of which the *Publishers Circular* takes note in its résumé of the number of books published in England last year. Although a thousand better than 1902, the total number of books recorded in the past twelve months is about a hundred below 1899 and 1898, and four hundred less than in 1897. Of the year's total of new books and editions of 8,381, novels, tales, and juvenile works taken together once more head the list; while poetry and drama make a quite respectable show. About three hundred sixpenny novels, mainly new editions of course, were issued in 1903.

Mr. T. N. Foulis, of Edinburgh and London, is publishing the "Life of Omar Al Khayyami." The author is a Persian journalist, who differs on many points from previous writers on this subject, and is the first Persian author to discuss in English comments concerning Omar. He totally disagrees with English and American biographers regarding the poet's parentage, his profession and his philosophy in general, claiming him to be of Arab descent and never to have had anything to do with tent-making. This book should be of interest to those who are students not only of Omar but of Persian literature. There will be further interest in the decoration of the volume which is Persian, while on the vellum cases for the very limited *edition de luxe* the decorations are being prepared in Persia by native artists.

It is now rather more than twelve months since M. Sven Hedin returned to Europe from his long expedition of exploration in Chinese Turkestan and Thibet, which lasted from the summer of 1899 to that of 1902. Two volumes just published by him give a full account of his wanderings and his geographical discoveries, which constitute most important additions to science. He found on the confines of Chinese Turkestan, traces of an extinct civilisation, and excavation brought to light coins and other remains, which have been identified as associated with a powerful State situated in the third century, between Turkestan and the Huns, and having as its capital the flourishing city of Lowlan, of which mention occurs several times in Chinese records. The country was completely obliterated and buried under the sand storms which about this epoch set in in that region.

The late Princess Mathilde was for a long time on terms of intimate friendship with the great critic Sainte-Beuve. She constantly corresponded with him on literary matters. Estrangement only came when Sainte-Beuve began to write for *Le Temps*—a journal which in those days professed advanced opinions, which the Princess held in aversion. But they were reconciled again eventually. When Sainte-Beuve was on his death-bed one of his last instructions to his secretary was that if the Princess asked that her letters to him should be returned to her she was to have them. She did ask for them, fearing lest their premature publication by Sainte-Beuve's literary executor might give offence to living men of letters mentioned in them. That was a long time ago, however, and there is probably no reason why the letters should not be made public now.

The Castle of Langeais, in Touraine, which M. Jacques Siegfried, imitating the Duc d'Aumale's example with respect to Chantilly, has announced his intention of bequeathing to the Institute of France, stands on the right bank of the Loire, between Cinq-Mars and Bourgueil. It was begun in the thirteenth century by Pierre de la Brosse, barber to Louis IX., afterwards favourite of Philip the Bold, and completed a hundred years later by Jean Bourré, Minister to Louis XI., the ruler familiar to readers of "Quentin Durward." Langeais is one of the finest existing specimens of the military architecture of that period, having been carefully preserved and restored both by M. Siegfried and its previous owner, M. Baron. It has many historical associations. At one time it was the property of a princess of Lorraine, who sold it to the famous Marshal d'Effiat, the father of the no less celebrated Cinq-Mars, from whose family it passed, until the Revolution, into the possession of the Duc de Luynes. A large number of curios and works of art are gathered together in the castle. There are magnificent chimneypieces of carved stone in the Hall of the Duchess Anne and the Guardroom. Ceilings and panellings of carved wood abound. In one apartment is assembled a collection of old French faience; another is full of armour. Ancient articles of furniture, oak chests, coffers, tables, and tapestry are dispersed here and there, and among the numerous pictures are several valuable historical portraits—for instance, a fine one of Catherine de Medici, others of Mazarin's nieces, another of Mlle. de la Vallière, and another of Madame de Maintenon, whose sedan chair is also preserved here. All these things and many others are to be included in M. Siegfried's princely bequest.

Sir Hubert Parry, who has been recalling some pleasant talks on musical matters which he had with Herbert Spencer, has managed to crowd a remarkable amount of work into his life of fifty-five years. The present Director of the Royal College of Music, he has examined and lectured much outside the College, he has contributed voluminously to Grove's Dictionary, besides publishing important volumes on his own account, while his achievements in composition are, of course, of the first importance. At Highnam Court, Gloucester, Sir Hubert Parry has a charming country residence, which was purchased by his father, the late Mr. Gambier Parry, from an old West of England family named Guise. On his father's side Sir Hubert is descended from the great naval family of Gambier whence perhaps he derives his love of the sea, while his mother was the daughter of Mr. H. F. Clinton, the historian, and author of valuable works on Greek and Roman art.

An amazing story is told in the *Odessi Listak* dealing with the bigotry and prejudice felt among certain classes in Russia against Tolstoy. While during the summer months, he was spending the summer in Gashra, on the south coast of the Crimea, he occasionally visited a relation, a lady occupying a flat in the well-known seaside health resort of Yalta. On one occasion during a visit the great writer was taken suddenly ill, and was compelled to take to his bed for several days. No sooner did the owner of the house, a wealthy widow, hear of this than she at once came to the flat in a rage and commanded that "that godless, excommunicated fellow" be turned out. This being naturally refused, she applied to the police to carry out her wishes. When they declined to interfere, she engaged a band of itinerant musicians to play all day beneath the window of the sick room, while her servants were sent on the roof of the house to beat upon it with sticks, or to spring rattles in the rooms nearest to that in which Tolstoy was lying. In the end, so excruciating became the din that the great writer had perforce to be carried to less noisy quarters, lest his life should be endangered.

NOTICES TO MARINERS.

His Excellency Oura Kanetake, Minister of State for Communications, gave notice on Feb. 9th, that a Fog Siren has been established at Tairadate Lighthouse, Province of Mutsu, and it will be sounded, during thick or foggy weather, giving one blast of 3 seconds' duration separated by silent intervals of 42 seconds, on and after February 20th, 1904. And also that Kawara-su Buoy, southwestward of Hiroshima, Shiaku-seto, Inland Sea, has been temporarily withdrawn, owing to damage. The Buoy will be replaced in its position on an early date of which due notice will be given.

Under date of February 15, the Minister of State for Communications gives notice that "according to the case necessary some lights of the Japanese coasts shall be temporarily extinguished." Two days later he announced:

> Notice is hereby given that on and after February 25th, 1904, a Fixed White Light will be exhibited from a structure erected on Yakataishi Rock, northward of Yetajima, Hiroshima Bay, Inland Sea.
>
> The Light having 80 candle power will illuminate the entire horizon.
>
> The Beacon is built of stone, conical in shape, painted red and surmounted by a Fixed White Light.
>
> The elevation of the light above the sea will be 12 feet, and in clear weather it will be seen for a distance of 8 nautical miles.
>
> The Position of the Beacon according to the Japanese Admiralty Chart No. 50 is:—
>
> Latitude North 34° 17′ 47″ (approx.)
> Longitude East 132° 28′ 33″ (approx.)
>
> On the same date the temporary light will be discontinued.
>
> Note:—The Beacon is not in constant supervision. Should the light go out by accident there may be some delay in relighting it.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The German warship *Thetis* arrived on Feb. 22nd at Chemulpo.

Marquis Ito left Tokyo on Feb. 22nd for Oiso by the 8.30 a.m. train.

The M. M. *Ernest Simons* recently did the run from Kobe to Woosung in 50 hours, or at the rate of 18 knots an hour.

Major-General Kojima, in reserve, died on the night of Feb 22nd. The illness is said to have been apoplexy. He was sixty years of age.

Mr. M. Morita, director of the Commercial and Industrial Bureau, left Tokyo on Feb. 22nd for Seoul and China. His business is not stated.

The Department of Communications has decided that post parcels for Pyong-Yang and Chinnampho, Korea, will not for the present be accepted.

The prizes secured at Chemulpo after the naval engagement were brought on Feb. 22nd to Tokyo. These will shortly be exhibited at the Yushu-Kwan, Kudan.

According to telegrams, Nagano, Yamanashi and several other prefectural assemblies have decided to reduce their local expenses in consequence of the present crisis.

Shichi (31) the wife of a blacksmith, at Morishita-cho, Asakusa, Tokyo, committed suicide on the night of Feb. 20th by drinking nitric acid. Temporary insanity is reported to be the cause.

Mr. R. Omura, Manager of the Hakodate Dock Company, and six others were ordered on the night of Feb. 22nd to leave Hakodate on suspicion of having been in the service of Russia as spies.

A Straits paper states that during the present snipe season in Perak, which is coming to a close, one sportsman reports having accounted for 48 birds with 52 shots. Can any Japan sportsman equal this?

Queen Alexandra has again contributed to the funds of the Salvation Army, and both the Queen of Holland and the Queen Mother have just given contributions to the work of the Army in the Netherlands.

The Lady Nurses' Society sent a hundred cases of biscuits by the hospital ship *Kosai Maru*, which left Yokohama on Feb. 22nd for Chemulpo, to be presented to the Russian sufferers now being treated at the Japanese hospital.

The *Nichi Nichi's* Osaka correspondent states that some foreigners and Japanese employed by Russia as military spies are now in that city. They are sending their information to foreign ships lying at various ports of the Empire.

Mr. Sudzuki, Public Procurator of the Yokohama District Court, has been removed to the Niigata District Court, and Mr. S. Kobayashi Public Procurator of the Maebashi District Court is appointed to fill the vacancy at Yokohama.

Major-General Uyehara, who has been paying a visit to Great Britain, Germany and France to investigate foreign military affairs, returned on Feb. 17th, arriving at Kobe by the French mail steamer. He immediately left by the train for Tokyo.

The Yokohama Silk Union Guild has applied to the Minister for Agriculture and Commerce to appoint special correspondents at London, New York, Lyons, Bombay and other important business centres in order to secure information with regard to business, fashions, conditions of supplies, etc. The Guild intends to spend *yen* 25,000 per annum for the purpose.

The Governor of Nagasaki telegraphed on Feb. 23rd that two cases of small-pox were found among the fugitives who arrived there by a steamer from Vladivostock via Tsuruga. They were immediately removed to hospital.

Lieut. Boyle on Feb. 23rd donated two thousand *yen* towards the fund for relieving distressed soldiers, through Mr. Ozaki, Mayor of Tokyo. At the same time, he also presented thirty-three *yen*, which amount had been contributed by the foreign sailors of the *Kasuga* and *Nisshin* for the same purpose.

A telegram from Takeshiki reports that a Japanese torpedo boat (destroyer) was passed on Feb. 23rd off Hirato, by an American steamer (*Korea*) which was steering in the direction of Shimonoseki. The passengers of the latter, including many foreign ladies, waved their handkerchiefs and cheered the war vessel.

A button dealer, M. Suda, found on the night of Feb. 23rd, at Ginza, near Shimbashi station *yen* 75 and a bank pass-book showing a balance of *yen* 9,900 and sent the property to the Kyobashi police station the following day. It was found that the money and book had been lost by Mr. J. Helm, No. 42, Yokohama. The police delivered the property to the owner.

The Chief of Police of Kanagawa-ken, issued, on Feb. 19th, the following instructions, forbidding us to publish any information with regard to various military matters, as set out below:—

1.—The organization of Divisions, the names of high officers, including Commanders-in-Chief and staff officers connected with the forces.
2.—Transportation of troops of the various divisions by land or sea.
3.—The departure of trains carrying troops.
4.—Destination of troops carried by trains.
5.—The names of places where troops from the various divisions are concentrated or the place of their departure.
6.—The movement of transport ships and names of commanding stations.

Before his departure from Bizerta for the Suez Canal Admiral Wirenius, in command of the Russian squadron, made one or two observations of some interest to the superior officers of the French Navy, who had gone to bid him farewell. He said that in any event the present crisis would have the effect of greatly hastening the full realisation of two of Russia's principal ideals of Naval policy in the Far East. These are to convert Vladivostock and Port Arthur into the two most important Naval arsenals in the Empire, each having a fleet of corresponding strength depending upon it as a base. As a direct result of the present crisis, this project will be fully realised before the end of 1905.—What does Admiral Wirenius think now?

In the course of an interview which appears in *Cassell's Saturday Journal*, Viscount Hayashi, the Japanese Minister in London, says:

> There is something solid and dignified about the average Briton that never fails to impress me; England is so progressive. As a city I consider London unique. In the first place it is so large, yet so orderly and well-governed. It is an example of what your laws, the love of justice, and the loyal spirit of a great people towards their country and King can produce. As a foreigner from the Far East, I can assure you that London at once arrests attention. I know Paris is a fine city; so is Berlin, and, for that matter, St. Petersburg; but as an example in city governmentship, if I may use that term, London is a study.

The real secret to Britain's position amongst the nations of the world, in the Viscount's opinion, is her love of justice and her laws and the sincerity of her citizens.

In the little Slum Halls situated in twenty-four of the meanest streets in London the Salvation

Army every morning this winter has been supplying farthing breakfasts to hundreds of hungry boys and girls. From a description in the *Social Gazette* of some of the scenes witnessed at these feasts we take the following :—

> "Can't you bring any sort of a cup?" asked the Captain of one little fellow. "No," was the somewhat short reply. "But haven't you a small basin, jug, or anything at home that will hold the cocoa?" again queried the Captain. "No!" he said, hanging his head. "It's true wot 'e sez, Captin," chimed in a little chap who was standing by, "'cos 'e an' 'is muvver sleeps on the stairs."

The little boy and his mother were homeless, and slept by night on the stairs of model dwellings. The children turn up at these feasts in crowds ranging from seventy-five to 250. The clothes of many of them would form an excellent study in rags, and would be very comical were the fact not so pitiful :—

> In the dim light, as they sit around, their big, black eyes shine out of their thin, pallid cheeks with startling distinctness. Some of them are fine little fellows. One whom we saw had a head whose shape and size would send a phrenologist into raptures, and whose yellow, tangled locks, blue eyes, and pretty, but, alas! the white face, irresistibly brought to mind the story of Pope Gregory and the young Angles.

The *Nichi Nichi* states that the Government has decided, for the purpose of meeting the war expenditure, to increase the taxes on land, business, incomes, registration, saké, etc. The draft proposals will be brought forward in the coming extraordinary session of the Diet. The increased taxation will be reduced to ordinary levels after the war is over.

THE NAVAL BATTLE AT CHEMULPO.

The *Nagasaki Press* has received from a resident of Chemulpo the following interesting details of the naval action which terminated in the destruction of the Russian cruiser *Varyag* and gunboat *Koreets* :—

Chemulpo, February 10.

At 9.30 a.m. yesterday the British Consul sent round to all British subjects an original letter from the Japanese Consul a copy of which I enclose herewith :—

Japanese Consulate, Chemulpo,
February 9th, 1904.

Sir,—I have the honour to notify you that Rear Admiral S. Uriu, commanding a squadron of the Imperial Japanese Navy, who is at present in Chemulpo roadstead with the force under his command, requests me to notify to you that, as hostilities exist between the Government of Japan and the Government of Russia, he shall be obliged to attack the Men of War of Russia, stationed at present in in the Port of Chemulpo, with the force under his command, in case of the refusal of the Senior Naval Officer present at Chemulpo to his demands to the Russian Senior Naval Officer present to leave the Port of Chemulpo before noon on the 9th February, 1904.

The above mentioned attack will not take place before 4 p.m. 9th February, 1904.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(Signed) MOTOSHIRO KATO.
His Imperial Japanese Majesty's Consul.

At 11.30 a.m. the Russian 1st class cruiser *Varyag* and the gunboat *Koreets* steamed out of the harbour and at 11.50, when they were nearing Round Island, the fighting commenced, the first shot being fired by the *Varyag*.

It was, unfortunately very misty, but calm with intermittent sunshine and there was a light easterly breeze. With glasses we could only see the fight at intervals. While it lasted the fighting was very severe, chiefly 6-inch and 9-inch guns being used. At 12.20 p.m. the *Varyag* and *Koreets* were seen to be returning to port as quickly as possible, the former with a decided list to port of about seven degrees, and by 12.40 the fight was practically over. The *Koreets* was not damaged at all and there were no casualties on her, the Japanese having evidently concentrated the whole of their attention on the *Varyag*, which was terribly knocked about, both the upper and lower bridges were shot away, the funnels riddled with bullets, most of her guns put out of action, and two large holes made in the port side, one just below the water line being undoubtedly the cause of her listing over. The casualties on the *Varyag* were 1 officer and 40 men killed, 4 officers and 60 men seriously wounded of whom 9 have since died.

The steam steering gear on the *Varyag* broke down at a very critical moment, when she was manœuvring at a speed of 23 knots, and she had to go full speed astern to save her from running on the rocks. The speed was then reduced to 10 knots, to enable the hand steering gear to be used effectively. To maintain the fight at such a low rate of speed was impossible and the only course open was to return to port, which she did, and the wounded were then transferred to the *Elba*, *Pascal*, and *Talbot*.

A few minutes before 4 o'clock, the time when Admiral Uriu intended to renew the attack in the harbour, the Japanese fleet appeared to be about to enter the harbour, when precisely at 4 o'clock the *Koreetz* was blown up. The Japanese ships then retired, but continued to watch the *Varyag* which was gradually listing more and more to port. At 5 p.m. she was seen to be on fire and an hour later she heeled over and sank. She now lies on her port side and at low tide this morning two of her starboard guns were clearly in view.

Immediately after the *Varyag* sank the Russian steamer *Soongari* was seen to be on fire and at 2 o'clock this morning she also disappeared.

They all lie in shallow water and the recovery of the *Varyag* should not be a difficult task.

When the *Varyag* and *Koreets* steamed out to what, in the face of such enormous odds, was certain destruction, the crews from the men-of-war in port cheered them again and again and when the *Koreets* was blown up the band of the French cruiser *Pascal* played the Russian national anthem and the Russian sailors on board the neutral ships went on their knees.

Although the fight took place eight or nine miles from the shore, some of the windows in the settlement were broken by the vibration caused by the firing of the heavy guns.

The suspense between 1 and 4 o'clock on the 9th was very trying to us on shore, for during the previous night the Japanese transport landed 2,500 troops, who are lodged in the houses in Chemulpo, and it was thought to be a question whether the Russians would or would not first bombard the Japanese settlement and then go out to meet their fate Had the Russian ships remained in port and not accepted the Japanese challenge, it is the general impression that the Japanese Admiral would not have dared to have attacked them in harbour for fear of damaging the other foreign men-of-war.

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Special Service.)

ADMIRAL MAKAROFF TO COME EAST.

London, Feb. 19th.

Admiral Makaroff has left St. Petersburg to supersede Admiral Starke in the command of the fleet at Port Arthur. He is accompanied by a large staff, including engineers and naval architects.

MR. MARK HANNA'S DEATH.

Mr. Mark Hanna is dead.

CHINESE LABOUR IN THE TRANSVAAL.

Mr. Samuel's amendment to the address, opposing the importation of Chinese labour to the Transvaal, has been rejected. The Transvaal is now enabled to proceed with the importation of Chinese.

RUSSIAN SHIPS FROM THE BALTIC.

Six Russian men-of-war passed Gottland (Sweden) on Feb. 15th.

ANOTHER MANIFESTO FROM THE TSAR.

London, February 19.

The Tsar has issued a manifesto bitterly inveighing against Japan, and declaring that much time is now necessary in order to strike blows worthy of the dignity and might of Russia. But, the manifesto adds, Japan's treachery and provocation will yet be avenged a hundred fold.

FIGHTING IN THE BALKANS.

The Albanian insurgents have been routed, losing 800 killed and wounded. The Turkish loss is also heavy.

THE LAST TORPEDO ATTACK.

London, February 20.

The only Russian reference to the Japanese torpedo attack on the 14th inst. on the Port Arthur squadron, published at St. Petersburg, is a statement that 12-inch shells struck and slightly damaged the Volunteer steamer *Kazan*. It is believed that the warship torpedoed was the cruiser *Boyarin*.

THE RUSSIAN RED SEA SQUADRON.

London, February 21.

A Squadron, believed to be Russian, coming from Jibouti, passed Perim, going northward. This coincides with the St. Petersburg report that the squadron has been ordered home.

ITALIAN REINFORCEMENTS.

The Italian cruisers *Calabria*, *Carlo Alberto*, *Lombardia* and *Dogali* have been ordered to the Far East.

MORE RUSSIAN RECRIMINATIONS.

The Russian official statement formally charges Japan with violating international law by making a series of revolting attacks before making a declaration of war.

Viceroy Alexieff has been ordered to defer his departure for Harbin until Admiral Makaroff arrives.

RUSSIA AND AMERICAN CONSULS.

London, February 21.

Russia has informed the United States that she will not grant an exequatur to Mr. Morgan as U. S. Consul at Dalny, because she desires to have no foreign officials in the Liaotung peninsula during the war.

THE TSAR'S MANIFESTO.

The remarkable wording of the Tsar's Manifesto, admitting implicitly the unpreparedness of Russia and foreshadowing a long delay before decisive action is taken, has been much commented on.

The Times considers this means a war of exhaustion, and another wholesale retreat similar to that of Moscow (during the wars of Napoleon) leaving Port Arthur and Vladivostock isolated. It observes that this is a great resolve, but its success depends upon the will of the enemy.

THE BALKANS.

Later.

It is semi-officially declared in Vienna that Russia's interests in the Balkans is rather intensified than diminished by the latest turn of events. The idea that the war in the Far East prevents Russia from co-operating in the pacification of Macedonia is unfounded.

KUROPATKIN MADE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

London, February 22.

An Imperial *Ukase* relieves General Kuropatkin of his position as Minister of War and appoints him to the post of Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Army in Manchuria.

FRENCH RELIEF MEASURES.

All the French newspapers have opened subscription lists to relieve the Russian sick and wounded.

FRENCH OPINION.

Le Temps has published an article laying stress on the anxiety of both Great Britain and France to remain aloof from the war. It urges them both not to let their inclinations carry them beyond what is proper.

A BOURSE PANIC.

There was a panic on the Paris Bourse on Saturday owing to various baseless rumours that Italy, Germany and France were mobilising.

THE CAPE CABINET.

London, February 23.

The new Cape Cabinet has been formed, with Dr. Jameson as Premier.

RUSSIA'S SQUADRON STOPS P. & O. STEAMER.

Reuter's correspondent at Aden wires that the P. and O. steamer *Mongolia* encountered a Russian battleship and four destroyers in the Red Sea. A destroyer tried to cut-off the *Mongolia* but failed, and then the whole squadron chased her, but being unable to overtake the steamer, signalled her to halt, whereupon the *Mongolia* stopped. A destroyer approached and scrutinised the *Mongolia*, after which it signalled: "Beg to be excused."

[Note—There can be little doubt that the P. & O steamer was mistaken for one of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's London liners, the P. & O. Company and the N. Y. K. pursuing a very similar style in painting their ships, the white line from stem to stern being identical.—Ed. *J.M.*]

ANXIETY IN EUROPE.

The war is evidently exciting apprehension among neutral Powers. Sweden is mobilising troops and fortifying her coasts; Spain is sending considerable re-inforcements to the Canaries, and is otherwise preparing; Portugal is sending the *Vasco da Gama* to the Far East and appears to contemplate mobilization.

RUSSIA ON THE PAMIRS.

It is announced in St. Petersburg, in connection with the departure of General Wanoff for Turkestan, that the Russian troops in the direction of the Pamirs are to be consideraby reinforced.

THE "SMOLENSK."

The transport *Smolensk* has re-entered the Canal and is steering homewards.

THE QUESTION OF CHINA'S NEUTRALITY.

London, February 24.

Russia and Japan, replying to the United States, announce that they both are prepared to respect the neutrality of China outside Manchuria and the actual seat of war.

SCARCITY IN VLADIVOSTOCK.

All civilians in Vladivostock have been ordered to leave owing to scarcity of food. The Government is taking everything available.

RUSSIA'S NAIVE ALLEGATIONS.

London, February 24.

Russia has sent a Note to the Powers, in which she charges Japan with a violation of the law of nations in connection with the engagements at Chemulpho and Port Arthur.

ORDERED HOME.

Admiral Wirenius' squadron, including the transports, has been ordered home.

A STRANGE OUTBREAK.

M. Muravieff, Russian Minister of Justice, when delivering judgment as President of the Hague Tribunal in the Venezuelan case, which was argued, before the Hague Court of International Arbitration, referred disparagingly to the Japanese pretensions.

Mr. N. Mitsuhashi, Japanese Minister to the Hague, objected to such remarks from the Arbitration Tribunal, and has requested instructions from Tokyo.

RUSSIA ON INTERNATIONAL LAW.

London, February 25.

Russia's Note, after quoting what it describes as various flagrant breaches of international law, says that Russia considers it her duty to lodge a protest with the Powers. She is convinced that they agree with her in this attitude. She declares to be invalid all orders and declarations arising from Japan's illegal assumption of power in Korea.

STARTLING NEWS FROM PORT ARTHUR.

It is officially announced in St. Petersburg that four Japanese battleships and two transports have been sunk at Port Arthur.

(Received at the Legation of France.)

THE FOURTEENTH.

Saigon, February 19.

It is telegraphed from London that the Japanese fleet attacked Port Arthur on the 14th instant without appreciable result.

(From the "Jiji Shimpo.")

RUSSIA'S COAL TRANSPORTS.

London, February 17.

The Russian steamers *Hersberry* (?) *Alstone* (?) and *Java* left Barry last month carrying welsh coal for Port Arthur. They are expected to arrive at their destination in March.

THE RUSSIAN SQUADRON.

The *Oslabya* and other Russian warships are still lying at Jubutil awaiting instructions from Admiral Makkaloff, who left Cronstadt yesterday, to succeed Vice Admiral Starke.

RUSSIAN WARSHIPS.

London, February 19.

A Russian warship has arrived at one of the Canary Islands where she will be supplied with coal to enable her to reach the nearest port in Russia.

Several Russian warships are lying at Jibutil and others have arrived at Teberdzka (?) in the Red Sea.

THE TZAR'S DECLARATION.

According to the *Times'* correspondent at Vienna, Russia's Declaration of War has bewildered the Austrians.

[The *Jiji* gives "led astray" for "bewildered."]

RUSSIAN PLANS.

The *Times* declares that Russia intends to withdraw to Harbin, and that the insufficient measures of preparation are matters of astonishment.

THE RELIEF FUND.

London, February 21.

The contributions to the fund promoted by Viscountess Hayashi, wife of the Japanese Minister in London, to relieve the sufferers by the war have reached £2,400.

THE BALTIC SQUADRON.

The Russian authorities are now attempting to break the ice in the Neva River to allow of the departure of the Baltic Squadron.

THE RED SEA SQUADRON.

The Russian squadron at Jibouti has been sighted off Perim. It seems to be going in a northern direction.

THE TSAR'S DISSATISFACTION.

According to official information from St. Petersburg, the Tsar repeatedly expresses his discontent, on the ground that Japan has brought on the war.

THE NEAR EAST QUESTION.

The Porte is exasperating Bulgaria, and the impression is that war will be opened in April.

RUSSIA'S BLACK SEA SQUADRON.

The British torpedo gunboat *Harrier*, lying in the Bosphorus, has been ordered to watch the actions of the Russian squadron in the Black Sea and to communicate the same to the British squadron at Lemnos.

THE RUSSIAN RED SEA SQUADRON.

London, February 22.

The Russian Squadron chased and stopped the P. & O. S. N. Co. steamer *Mongolia* off the Jebel Rudzuka (?) (an island of Arabia a little the north of Perim—*Jiji*) supposing it to be a steamer of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, and has apologized for the error.

The Russian Squadron coal transports are at Jebel Rudzuka (?)

It is rumoured that the proposed departure of the Russian Squadron for the Far East has been suspended. Two Russian transports have left for Suez on their way home.

STOCKS AND SHARES IN PARIS.

Last Saturday, the Paris Bourse experienced a panic. The cause is believed to be that Russia has refused to protect the U. S. Consul who has been appointed for Dalny.

ORDER FOR TORPEDOES.

Russia has ordered from the Whitehead Company a large supply of fish torpedoes of a type similar to that in use in Japan.

GENERAL KUROPATKIN.

London, February 23.

General Kuropatkin has commenced his preparations. He will leave St. Petersburg in March.

RUSSIA BLAMES JAPAN.

Russia has circulated a Note among the Powers, in which she declares that Japan has contravened the provisions of International Law at Chemulpo and Port Arthur.

THE BALKAN QUESTION.

The Turkish Minister at Washington has declared that the Bulgarians are making military preparations and that war has become unavoidable.

(From the "Asahi Shimbun.")

VICEROY ALEXIEFF.

London, February 17.

Viceroy Alexieff and his staff officers have gone to Harbin.

RUSSIA'S DEFENSIVE MEASURES.

Russia is strengthening the forts at Newchwang and reorganizing her defences both by land and sea.

RUSSIAN TROOPS FOR THE FRONT.

London, February 23.

A hundred and twenty thousand troops from Moscow, Warsaw, and Kieff are preparing for an advance and some are already on their way to the Far East. For the most part they will assemble at Harbin. All the trains from the principal towns are filled with soldiers.

THE BAIKAL RAILWAY.

The Russian railway authorities are entirely occupied by the transportation of troops overland and are also endeavouring to complete the work on the Baikal railway within two months, though the construction is extraordinarily difficult.

RUSSIA'S DEMAND UPON CHINA.

With regard to the request of Viceroy Alexieff that the Chinese Government should give orders to its military to assist Russia in protecting the Manchurian railway, the Chinese authorities replied that the Government could not entertain a request to assist the Russians at this critical time, when the latter had insisted in time of peace that the Chinese have no such capacity.

RUSSIAN CENSORSHIP OF TELEGRAMS.

Russia has abolished the censorship of foreign telegrams excepting those with regard to military affairs.

(From the "S.-C. Morning Post.")

PRESSURE AT CARDIFF.

London, February 6.

The Admiralty agents at Cardiff have been instructed to secure at once large cargoes of coal for the British fleet in the Far East. The agents, however, are compelled to wait, owing to the pressure caused by the demand from foreign fleets.

BELLIGERENT SHIPS.

London, February 12.

The Khedive of Egypt has instructed the Egyptian port authorities that belligerent ships must pass through the Suez Canal as speedily as possible, and that there must be no delay. Two Russian transports and two torpedo boats are coaling at Port Said.

"SECOND ALABAMA CASE."

The Russian Press accuses Britain of lending Japan Wei-hai-wei. This action, it is contended, threatens a second "Alabama" case.

FEVERISH PREPARATIONS AT ST. PETERSBURG.

London, February 11.

There is great activity at St. Petersburg and all the principal centres of Russia. Hospital trains have been hastily organised, and with doctors, nurses, and medical stores are being hurriedly despatched to the Far East.

FRANCE NEUTRAL.

An important order has been issued by M. Pelletan, the French Minister of Marine. He has ordered the French naval squadron in the Far East not to leave French waters.

A ROYAL WEDDING.

Her Royal Highness Princess Alice of Albany was married yesterday to H.R.H. Prince Alexander of Teck in the St. George's Chapel at Windsor. Their Majesties King Edward and Queen Alexandra were present, together with the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duches of Connaught, and several foreign Princes and Princesses.

GUN PLATFORMS IN WARSHIPS.

An interesting point in connection with all battleship designs is the height of the gun-platform above water, for on his depends, in a large measure, the ability of the ship to fight in a heavy seaway; and this question has been specially brought forward in connection with the new Chilian battleship recently bought by the British Government, and illustrated and described in a double number of *Engineering*. One of these, formerly the *Libertad* and now H.M.S. *Triumph*, built by Messrs. Vickers, Sons, and Maxim, like all modern battleships, has been built without a forecastle or poop. Her bow guns are 25 ft. above the water line forward, which is the same height as in the case of the latest class of British battleships. As regards the after barbette guns, the height is between 23 ft. and 24 ft., or about 1 ft. more than in the case of our *King Edward VII.* class. In comparison with cruisers having a forecastle the conditions in battleships are not quite so favourable. For instance, the ships of the *Cressy* class have an advantage of about 9 ft., to those of the *Drake* class 10 ft., and those of the *Diadem* class about 8 ft.; but it must be remembered that in all of these cruisers the guns are of less calibre, involving not only less weight for the gun, but considerably less weight for the mountings, whilst at the same time the armour-protection for gun and gun-mounting is very considerably less. Even were it considered desirable to have battleship guns at such a great height as 33 ft. to 34 ft. above the water-line, it would involve a serious question for the naval architect as to how far the placing of such a load at such a great height would influence the seaworthiness and stability of the ship. Without adequate protection, which involves very considerable weight, the guns and mountings must be necessarily liable to serious damage in action, and the battleship must be able to withstand all attack in the line of battle. This, indeed, is one of the main differences between the battleship and the cruiser. As regards the after guns the battleship is in a more favourable condition than the cruisers we have mentioned, because these cruisers have no poop: the *Triumph's* guns are from 1 ft. to 3 ft. higher than in cruisers of the three classes named. Turning now to the broadside guns, very considerable interest has been awakened amongst naval authorities as to the desirability of having such long and powerful weapons mounted in the 'tween decks, or within the concentrated casemate, as in the *Triumph.* These guns are of 7½-in. calibre, and occupy the position devoted to weapons of 6-in. calibre in other British ships. It has been suggested that these 7½-in. pieces, because of their greater length in comparison with 6-in. quick-firers, are less advantageously situated for firing when the ship is rolling. Were this true, it would certainly be a serious objection to the placing of the guns in this position; but examination of the published records of our British ships has enabled *Engineering* to produce a diagram which clearly demonstrates that, notwithstanding the great length of 33 ft. of the 200-pounder guns in the *Triumph*, which is about 10 ft. longer than the 100-pounder guns fitted to our modern battleships and cruisers, the muzzles of the larger guns are more advantageously placed for similar angles of heel than the 6-in. guns. The 6-in guns of the *King Edward* class are 5¼ in. below the centre line of the muzzle of the 7½-in. guns of the *Triumph*, while the 6-in. quick-firers of the cruisers already named are in the *Diadem* class 1 ft. 11 in., and in the *Cressy* and *Drake* classes, 1 ft. 8 in., nearer the water-line than the *Triumph's* 7½-in. guns.

MRS. MAYBRICK.

London, January 31.

Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper says this morning that Mrs. Florence Maybrick, the American who was serving a life sentence for having poisoned her husband, was released from Aylesbury female convict prison at 6.45 o'clock on the morning of January 25th on special license. Her mother, the paper says, had visited her on January 23rd, and evidently was the bearer of important news. The Governor of the prison on Sunday conferred with the prison officials with a view to arranging for the departure of the prisoner, which was carried out very quietly.

Mrs. Maybrick, accompanied by one of the prison matrons, entered a closed carriage and drove to Aylesbury station, where she took a train for London. She drove from Euston station and from there went to a private house not far from the metropolis. She will remain there for a short period in order to recuperate and to await the completion of certain formalities, which will give her a freedom of movement not allowed by persons on ordinary ticket of leave.

Mrs. Maybrick, the paper concludes, during the last few months in prison, was employed in the lightest work, as a reward for good conduct.

London, February 2.

The whereabouts of Mrs. Maybrick is variously announced in the newspapers this morning as Cornwall, Holloway prison, at sea, bound for the United States, etc.

The *Daily Chronicle*, which is under the same ownership as *Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper*, the journal that on Sunday published the story of Mrs. Maybrick's release declares the statement that Mrs. Maybrick has sailed for the United States to be untrue, and adds that she is still in England, and that certain conditions attached to her liberation impel her to exercise great discretion in her attitude toward the public, and for a time, at least, it will only be possible for her to acknowledge through the press her gratitude for the efforts of her sympathizers in obtaining her release.

The *Daily News* says the whereabouts of the institution in which Mrs. Maybrick is recuperating is kept a profound secret because she is still in the custody of the authorities.

"In fact," the paper says, "Mrs. Maybrick and her custodians are concealing their identity, and this is necessitated by her being privileged to walk abroad with her female wardens. It is understood that after a period of rest she will return to either Woking or Holloway prison to receive her formal discharge on special license."

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE.

From	Line	Steamer	Date.
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Roon	Sa Feb. 27
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic 1	Su. Feb. 28
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Shawmut 2	Tu Mar. 1
Hongkong	O. & O. Co	Coptic 3	Th Mar. 3
Europe	M. M. Co.	Sydney	Th. Mar. 3
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Tartar 4	F. Mar. 4
Canada	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M Mar. 7
America	P. M. Co	China	Tu Mar 5
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co	Em. of Japan	Th. Mar 17
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Korea	Sa Mar 19
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Tacoma	Tu Mar 22

1 Left San Francisco on the 10th inst.
2 Left Hongkong on the 19th inst.
3 Left Hongkong on the 24th inst.
4 Left Hongkong on the 24th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer	Date.
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	M Feb 29
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Shawmut	W. Mar 2
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Roon	Sa Mar 5
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Sa Mar 5
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co	Tartar	Sa. Mar. 5
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. Mar. 7
Europe	M. M. Co.	Sydney	F. Mar 11
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	China	W Mar 16
Canada	C. P. R. Co	Em. of Japan	F. Mar 18
America	P. M. Co.	Korea	M. Mar. 21
Hongkong	N. P. Co	Tacoma	W. Mar. 23

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Australien, French steamer, 2,900, Guignes, 19th Feb.,—Marseilles via ports, and Kobe, 18th Feb., Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Korea, American steamer, 5,651, W. B. Seabury, 20th Feb.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Tremont, American steamer, 6,195, T. W. Garlick, 20th Feb.,—Seattle, Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, Y. Nomura, 20th Feb.,—Bonin Islands, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Obra, British steamer, 3,496, T. Johnson, 20th Feb.,—Rangoon via Manila, 9th Feb., Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Ganges, British steamer, 2,722, Stibbold, 20th Feb.,—Rangoon, Rice.—To Order.

Tjilatjap, Dutch steamer, 2,475, H. Koops, 21st Feb.,—Java, General.—E. L. van Nierop & Co.

Marechal de Gontaut, French bark, 1,743, Donniere, 22nd Feb.,—New York, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Olympia, American steamer, 1,730, A. Dixon, 22nd Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Albenga, German steamer, 2,769, Peterson, 22nd Feb.,—New York via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Clara Jebsen, German steamer, 1,103, F. Bendinen, 22nd Feb.,—Anping, Sugar and Rice.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Victoria, American steamer, 2,112, J. Truebridge, 22nd Feb.,—Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Siberia, American steamer, 5,655, J. T. Smith, 23rd Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, Y. Nomura, 23rd Feb.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Borneo, British steamer, 2,944, Gordon, 23rd Feb.,—London via ports, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Glaucus, British steamer, 3,591, Baker, 24th Feb.,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Lennox, British steamer, 2,361, McNair, 25th Feb.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tetartos, German steamer, 1,812, Dessler, 25th Feb.,—Iloilo, Sugar.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 19th Feb.,—Vancouver via Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Hakuai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,419, J. Sekine, 19th Feb.,—Unknown.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 772, Y. Kamoshita, 19th Feb.,—Unknown.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Seydlitz, German steamer, 4,971, C. Dewers, 20th Feb.,—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Peleus, British steamer, 4,800, J. Barwise, 20th Feb.,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Changsha, British steamer, 1,463, Thos. Moore, 21st Feb.,—Kobe, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Ismaila, British steamer, 3,381, Stebbing, 21st Feb.,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Tremont, American steamer, 6,195, T. W. Garlick, 21st Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Andalusia, German steamer, 3,477, Schmidt, 20th Feb.,—Kobe, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Korea, American steamer, 5,651, W. B. Seabury, 22nd Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Benvorlich, British steamer, 2,164, W. Thomson, 22nd Feb.,—Moji, Rice.—O. Reimers & Co.

Pingsuey, British steamer, 4,150, E. Warrall, 22nd Feb.,—Victoria, B.C., and Seattle, Wash., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Kosai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,419, K. Honma, 22nd Feb.,—Ujina, —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Olympia, American steamer, 1,730, A. Dixon, 23rd Feb.,—Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Volute, British steamer, 2,595, Kerr, 23rd Feb.,—Nagasaki, Kerosene Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Victoria, American steamer, 2,112, J. Truebridge, 24th Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, Y. Nomura, 24th Feb.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Siberia, American steamer, 5,655, J. T. Smith, 24th Feb.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Tjilatjap, Dutch steamer, 2,475, H. Koops, 24th Feb.,—Kobe, General.—E. L. van Nierop & Co.

Albenga German steamer, 2,769, Peterson, 24th Feb.,—New York via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per French steamer *Australien,* from Marseilles via ports:—Mr. Ohara, Mr. Kolson, Mr. M. Tsubono, and Mr. W. F. Wenyon, in cabin.

Per American steamer *Tremont,* from Seattle, Wash.:—Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Allen, Mr. E. Blum, Major F. S. Bourne, Mr. M. M. Goldsmith, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Good, Mr. and Mrs. J. Goodnow and maid, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Olsen, and Mr. Gordon Smith, in cabin.

Per American steamer *Korea,* from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. J. S. de Beuneville, Mr. H. C. Butcher, Mrs. H. C. Butcher, Miss E. P. Butcher, Miss L. P. Butcher, Mr. F. Churchman, Mr. B. F. Dillingham, Mrs. B. F. Dillingham, Mr. M. Egawa, Miss K. E. Green, Mrs. F. G. Hall, Mr. C. Leland Harrison, Mrs. C. Leland Harrison, Miss A. C. Hartshorn, Capt. K. Kokubo, Dr. G. Katsuki, Mr. S. Ohki, Mr. F. T. Patterson and valet, Mr. L. Romisch, Capt. A. Smallwood, Dr. V. C. Stearns, and Mr. K. Umehara, in cabin. For Kobe:—Mr. E. D. Cady, Lieut. H. S. Hansell Mrs. H. S. Hansell, Rev. R. A. Mitchell, Mrs. R. A. Mitchell and child, Miss L. Stuart, Dr. E. D. M. Stryker, and Mrs. E. D. M. Stryker, in cabin. For Nagasaki:—Mr. E. A. Elliott, Mrs. E. A. Elliott, Rev. Bronnell Gage, Mrs. Bronnell Gage, Mr. Harry Maitland, Miss H. Mooser, Mrs. R. H. Parker and child, Mrs. C. Zilz, Miss O. L. Zilz, and Master R. Zilz, in cabin. For Manila:—Mr. F. W. Abbott, Miss B. M. Alexander, Mr. R. L. Barron, Mr. L. E. Bement, Mr. W. R. Brinkerhoff, Mr. Arthur Cohn, Miss P. Cohn, Miss Lillian Cohn, Miss C. Cleland, Mr. L. W. Cureton, Mr. J. Dissett, Mrs. A. M. Glenn, Mr. S. A. Greenmell, Bishop T. A. Hendrick, Mr. F. Ilaya, Mr. W. L. Johnson, Mr. W. H. Lockey, Mr. R. T. Laffin, Miss Mary Lyman, Mr. G. R. Lynde, Mr. W. A. Millett, Mr. C. S. Moody, Mr. E. Murray, Mrs. May Robinson, Mr. C. J. Saill, Mr. J. T. Shang, Mr. E. E. Tyzzer, Mrs. C. W. Vogel and infant, Mr. H. E. Wescott, and Mr. C. P. Williams, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. T. E. Adams, Mr. E. S. Benson, Mrs. E. S. Benson, Mrs. E. Beresford, Mr. Harold Bola, Mr. Horace G. Burt, Mrs. Horace G. Burt, Mr. T. E. Clark, Mr. T. A. Crellin, Mr. A. I. Croll, Mr. C. H. Deene, Mrs. P. Dinsmore, Mrs. Gray-Donald, Mr. P. E. Dudley, Mrs. P. E. Dudley, Mr. B. Faymonville, Miss Laura Florine, Mr. G. F. Foye, Mrs. E. Foye-Shortledge, Mr. Nate Frankel, Mr. L. S. Gillette, Mr. J. B. Gilfillan, Jr., Mr. Wm. Gorham, Miss G. Hammon, Mr. J. R. Holman, Mr. F. A. Hollabaugh, Miss L. Homung, Mr. G. M. Hechscher, Mr. A. W. Jackson, Mrs. A. W. Jackson, Miss G. B. Jackson, Mr. M. B. Koon, Mr. C. P. F. Kellogg, Mr.

E. B. Kimball and wife, Mrs. H. Krusi, Master R. Krusi, Mr. H. S. Locksmith. Mrs. H. S. Locksmith, Mr. J. O. Loveridge, Mr. Charles Morgan, Mrs. Charles Morgan and maid, Mr. R. E. Maynard, Mr. C. L. Mitchell, Mr. W. R. Moffitt, Mr. H. P. Olcott, Mr. M. L. Platt, Mr. A. W. Perry, Mr. W. M. von Pustan, Mr. Henry Linn, Mr. J. S. Pillsbury, Mr. G. Poncin, Mrs. G. Poncin, Mr. G. E. Rockwood, Mrs. G. E. Rockwood, Mr. A. W. Rettig, Mrs. A. W. Rettig, Mr. H. D. Reinken, Mrs. H. D. Reinken, Mrs. C. Richards, Miss M. Stewart, Dr. R. Schiffmann, Mr. P. Shuttleworth, Mr. J. W. Sutton, Mr. C. A. Stewart, Mr. J. M. Taylor, Mr. C. V. Thomas, Mr. R. W. Tirrill, Mrs. R. W. Tirrill, Mr. L. R. Tuttle, Mrs. L. R. Tuttle, Mr. J. T. Wilkinson, Dr. O. E. Wall, Mr. H. W. Wickham, and Mr. C. W. Yale, in cabin.

Per American steamer *Victora*, from Tacoma, Wash.:—Mr. P. Whiteing, and Mr. J. Prussia, in cabin. For Shanghai:—Mr. D. Bishof, Mr. C. S. Fowler, and Mrs. Fowler, in cabin. For Manila:—Mr. Jas. Madison, Mr. H. D. Fisher, Mr. L. A. Jennings, Mr. E. M. Cummings, Mr. C. E. Ferguson, and Mrs. Ferguson, in cabin; 1 Japanese, and 10 Chinese, in steerage.

Per American steamer *Siberia*, from Hongkong via ports:—Lieut. J. A. Pierson, Mr. Geo. Lynch and wife, Mr. A. Labin, Mr. W. Leech, Mr. J. L. Coburg, U.S.N., Mr. Jos. Thebaud, Mr. P. Oakey and wife, Mr. S. Takahira, Miss Kayser, Mr. N. Yamamoto, Capt. A. D. Ricardo, Mr. E. H. Tuska and wife, Miss M. Braess, Mr. J. L. Kimmons and wife, Miss May Kimmons, Mr. C. Miller and wife, Mr. R. E. Abenheim, Miss Ward, Mr. L. E. David, Mr. A. W. Gordon, Mr. Carl Wilkins, Mr. Kannhauser, Capt. Horton, Miss A. N. Hail, Lieut. Glossop, Mr. A. Wilckens, and Mr. Dewette, in cabin. For Honolulu:—Mr. T. E. Looney, Mr. E. H. Winship and wife, Miss M. Mather, and Mr. Kannengisser, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Dr. C. F. Winner, Miss R. George, Mr. C. H. Jones, Mr. B. K. Miller, Com. Parker, U.S.N., Mrs. Parker, Mr. Geo. E. St. Clair, Mrs. L. H. Fales, Mrs. F. Allen, Mr. E. H. Goodheart, Mrs. E. H. Goodheart, Major W. Winson, Col. C. E. L. B. Davis, Mr. P. B. Castles, Mr. T. A. Tuarez, Mrs. Douglas Storey, Miss Cabell, Mr. F. L. Kimball, Mr. J. R. Martin, U.S.N., Mrs. J. R. Martin, Dr. J. M. McMillan, Mr. B. Lagrange, Miss J. Mann, Mrs. J. Ingle, Mr. G. F. Mosher, Mrs. G. F. Mosher, Mr. H. H. Read, Mrs. J. D. Roberett, Master Roberett, Miss Ingle, Master Ingle, Master J. Mosher, Master J. Rosenfeld, Mrs. W. V. Pratt, Mrs. E. Larned, Mr. O. Pollock, Mrs. Barrows and 4 children, Miss A. M. Frothingham, Miss E. Hink, Miss McKinstry, Mr. J. H. Scott, Mrs. J. H. Scott, Mrs. H. T. Scott, Capt. Sebree U.S.N., Mrs. Sebee, Capt. J. A. Rogers, Mrs. C. A. Clung and infant, Miss Clung Mr. H. W. Langheim, Mrs. H. W. Langheim, Mr. T. B. Lawler, Mr. J. N. West, Mrs. J. N. West and four children, Mrs. Archibald Miss Archibald Mrs. A. A. Rosette, Rev. Roots, Mrs. Roots and infant, Mr. C. R. Railey, Mr. F. F. Prentiss, Mr. A. B. Rosenfeld, Mrs. A. B. Rosenfeld, Miss D. Spunt, Mr. J. M. F. Lambooy, Mr. E. H. Rigby, Mrs. V. Burdett, Mr. J. E. Harding, Mr. N. G. McPherson, Mrs. N. G. McPherson, and Mr. K. Shindo, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—Lady Bromley, Mr. H. A. Bromley, Mr. A. Campignon, Mr. S. Campignon, Dr. W. F. Dunlop, Mrs. W. F. Dunlop, Miss M. Foster, Mr. G. J. Hawkins, Mr. F. S. Kelly, Miss M. Onslow, Mr. W. J. Schroth, Mr. R. P. Sharp, Mr. F. L. Taverner, Mr. A. R. Tufts, Mr. A. C. Van Nierop, Capt. Williamson, and Mr. F. E. Wilkinson, in cabin; Mr. Li Ying Wah, Mr. Melville, Mr. K. Tomita, Mr. James Payne, Mr. Murakami, and Mr. H. Nakayama, in intermediate.

Per German steamer *Seydlitz*, for Europe via ports:—Bishop & Mrs. Partridge, Mr. H. R. Williams, Mr. F. E. Barto, Mrs. Neubert, Mr. C. W. Atkinson, Mr. A. L. Dewette, Mrs. Schulz, Mr. Bischof, Dr. H. R. Macaulay, Mr. Wenyon, Mr. R. Pope and native servant, Mr. E. Toepffer, Miss Crommelr, Col. Newcomen and native servant, Mr. Workman, Mr. F. D. Browne, Mr. Wong Kik Mun, Mr. W. T. Payne, Mr. and Mrs. Bush, Mrs. Palfrey, Miss H. M. E. Hancock, Mr. G. L. Bayley, Mr. W. L. Merriman, Mr. G. W. Bramhall, Mrs. and Miss V. Francois, Mr. F. L. Meyer, Mr. D. Pecci, Mr. Angelo Scomparim, Mr. Luigi Nattino, Mr. Anglielno Pontremdi, Mr. K. Kitagaki, Mr. M. Schluter, Mr. E. Schluter, Miss Hamilton, Mrs. Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Worley, Mr. Towson, Mr. R. Takeda, Mr. H. Wakabayashi, Mr. Roochin Yaen, Mr. Ruttoumall, Mr. E. Stocker, Mr. W. J. Kingsley, Prof. T. Shimada, Mr. C. Imaoka, Mr. M. Ford, Mr. M. Kuriyama, Mr. S. Ayabe, and Mr. T. Nagano, in cabin; 172 crew of cruiser *Kasuga*, in steerage.

Per American steamer *Korea*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. F. W. Abbott, Mr. T. E. Adams, Miss B. M. Alexander, Miss A. F. Armbruster, Mr. A. L. Bagnall and servant, Miss Bagnall, Mr. B. L. Brown, Mr. L. E. Bement, Mr. E. S. Benson, Mrs. E. S. Benson, Mrs. E. E. Beresford, Mr. Wm. A. Bradley, Mr. W. R. Brinkerhoff, Mr. Brookhart, Mrs. Brookhart and 2 children, Mr. H. C. Butcher, Mrs. H. C. Butcher, Miss Laura P. Butcher, Miss Eleanor P. Butcher, Mr. E. D. Cady, Mr. Allen Cameron, Mr. F. E. Clark, Dr. Margaret Cleaver, Miss C. Cleland, Mr. Arthur Cohn, Miss L. Cohn, Miss P. Cohn, Mr. Eugene Crockett, Mr. A. I. Croll, Mr. H. Crombie and servant, Mrs. H. Crombie, Miss Crombie, Mr. L. W. Cureton, Mrs. Davis, Mr. C. H. Dacre, Mr. B. F. Dillingham, Mrs. B. F. Dillingham, Mr. Jos. Dissett, Mrs. Gray Donald, Mr. W. Eastlake, Mr. P. E. Dudley, Mrs. P. E. Dudley, Mr. E. A. Elliott, Mrs. E. A. Elliott, Mr. B. Faymonville, Mrs. G. F. Foye, Mrs. E. Foye-Shortledge, Mr. Nate Frankel, Mr. J. B. Gilfillan, Jr., Mr. L. S. Gillette, Mr. J. V. Gillis, Miss F. V. Gilmore, Mrs. A. M. Glenn, Mr. S. A. Greenwell, Miss G. Harmon, Lieut. H. S. Hansell, Mrs. H. S. Hansell, Mr. C. Leland Harrison, Mrs. C. Leland Harrison, Bishop T. A. Henrick, Mr. F. Hollabaugh, Mr. T. Haya, Mrs. E. E. Imboden, Mr. A. W. Jackson, Mrs. A. W. Jackson, Mr. F. H. Jermyn, Mr. W. L. Johnson, Mr. N. B. Koon, Mrs. H. Krusi, Master R. Krusi, Mr. W. H. Lackey, Mr. R. T. Laffin, Mr. C. P. F. Kellogg, Mr. E. B. Kimball, Mrs. E. A. Kimball, Mr. Henry Linn, Mr. J. O. Loveridge, Miss Mary Lyman, Mr. G. R. Lynch, Mr. Harry Maitland, Mr. R. E. Maynard, Mr. W. A. Millett, Mr. C. E. Mitchell, Mr. E. A. Mitchell, Mrs. E. A. Mitchell and child, Mr. W. R. Moffitt, Mr. C. S. Moody, Miss H. Mooser, Mrs. Chas. Morgan, Mrs. Chas. Morgan and maid, Mr. E. Murray, Mr. A. S. Murray-Stewart, Mr. R. H. Parker and child, Rev. F. Parrott, Mr. F. T. Patterson and valet, Mr. A. W. Perry, Mr. J. S. Pillsbury, Mr. M. L. Platt, Mr. G. Pousin, Mrs. G. Pousin, Mr. H. D. Reinken, Mrs. May Robinson, Mr. G. E. Rockwood, Mrs. G. E. Rockwood, Mr. C. J. Saill, Mr. J. T. Schang, Dr. F. Schiffmann, Mr. S. Slioda, Mr. Claude H. Smith, Mrs. F. Smyth, Dr. E. D. M. Stryker, Mrs. E. D. M. Stryker, Miss L. Stuart, Mr. J. N. Sutton, Mrs. J. M. Taylor, Mr. R. W. Tirrill, Mr. L. R. Tuttle, Mrs. L. R. Tuttle, Mr. F. R. Tyzzer, Mrs. C. W. Vogel and infant, Dr. O. F. Wall, Mr. H. F. Westcott, Mr. J. E. Wilkinson, Mr. C. P. Wilkinson, Mr. F. Wuriu, Mr. C. W. Yale, Mrs. C. Zilz, Miss O. L. Zilz, and Master B. Zilz, in cabin.

Per American steamer *Korea*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. S. Adachi, Mrs. A. Allen, Mrs. Archibald, Miss Archibald, Mr. S. Arima, Capt. M. Asaoka, I.J.N., Mrs. C. R. Bailey, Mrs. Barrows and 4 children, Mr. L. E. Bemiss, Mrs. G. W. Bramhall and servant, Mrs. H. Blum and amah, Miss Marguerite Blum, Master Ralph Blum, Mrs. W. Burdette, Miss Cabell, Mr. P. B. Castle, Mrs. Mary M. Clark, Col. E. L. B. Davis, U.S.N., Mrs. L. H. Fales, Mr. J. A. Ferguson, Mr. O. Freemantle, Miss A. M. Forthingham, Mrs. Fukushima and 2 children, Lieut. M. Fujita, I.J.N., Mr. Eigo Fukai, Miss R. George, Mrs. C. A. Glunz and 2 children, Mr. E. H. Goodheart, Mrs. E. H. Goodheart, Mr. C. Lacy Goodrich, Mr. C. A. Graham, Mr. J. E. Harding, Miss Mae Henderson, Mr. E. R. Hendy, Master Hendy, Miss E. Hink, Mr. E. O. Hopkins, Mrs. E. O. Hopkins, Miss C. Hopkins, Dr. J. K. Hurley Mrs. L. Ingle, Miss L. Ingle, Master Ingle, Mr. T. Iwasaki, Mr. H. C. Jones, Baron K. Kaneko and servant, Mr. A. Kannengiesser, Mrs. T. A. Kelley, Mr. N. E. Kelsey, Mr. F. L. Kimball, Mr. B. Legrange, Mr. J. M. F. Lambooy, Mr. H. W. Langheim, Mrs. H. W. Langheim, Miss E. Larned, Mr. T. B. Lawler, Mr. T. E. Looney, Miss J. Mann, Mr. J. R. Martin, U.S.N. Mrs. J. R. Martin, Miss Mather, Miss M. McKinstry, Dr J. M. McMullen, Mr. W. G. McPherson, Mrs. W. G. McPherson, Mr. B. K. Miller, Mr. K. Miyajima, Rev. G. F. Mosher, Mrs. G. F. Mosher, Master J. Mosher, Mr. R. F. Mumme, Mr. N. Nichols, Com. Parker, U.S.N., Mrs. Parker, Capt. H. H. Paynter, Mr. Paul Th. Pietzcker, Mr. Franz Popert, Mr. O. Pollack, Major S. Powell, Mrs. W. V. Pratt, Mr. F. F. Prentiss, Mr. H. H. Read, Mr. E. H. Rigby, Mrs. J. D. Robnett, Master J. Robnett, Mr. E. J. Roberts, Capt. J. A. Rogers, Rev. Mr. Roots, Mrs. Roots and child, Mr. A. B. Rosenfeld, Mrs. A. B. Rosenfeld, Master J. Rosenfeld, Mrs. Rossetti, Mr. T. Sakai, Mr. M. Sarachi, Mr. J. H. Scott, Mrs. J. H. Scott, Mrs. H. T. Scott, Capt. V. Sebree, U.S.N., Mrs. V. Sebree, Mr. Shindo, Lieut. H. T. Skinner, Miss D. Spunt, Mr. Geo. F. St. Clair, Mrs. Douglas Story, Mr. N. Suzuki, I.J.N., Mr. S. Suzuki, I.J.N., Mr. J. Suzuki, Mr. Takahashi, Mr. H. K. Tetsuka, Mrs. H. K. Tetsuka, Miss F. K. Tetsuka, Mr. T. A. Tuarez, Mr. K. Uchida, I.J.N., Mr. F. W. Wakefield, Mrs. F. W. Wakefield, Rev. J. W. West, Mrs. J. W. West and 4 children, Mr. G. H. Willy, Mr. E. H. Winship, Mrs. E. H. Winship, Major W. Winson, U.S.A., Dr. C. F. Wisner, Mr. S. Yagi, and Lt. M. Yamamoto, I.J.N., in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per British steamer *Empres sof India*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—

TEA.

From.	Canada.	Chicago & West.	New York & East.	Pacific Coast.	Other Cities.	Total Packages.
Hongkong	661	—	—	356	—	1,017
Shanghai	—	—	1,302	—	—	1,302
Kobe	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yokohama	182	238	—	—	—	420
Total	843	238	1,302	356	—	2,739

SILK.

From.	New York.	San F'cisco.	Easton.	South Man'ster.	Total Bales.
Hongkong & Canton	492	—	—	—	492
Shanghai	524	—	—	—	524
Yokohama	753	—	—	—	753
Total	1,769	—	—	—	1,769

Per American steamer *Olympia*, for Tacoma:—

TEA.

	Canada.	Chicago & West.	New York & East.	Pacific Coast.	Other Cities.	Total Packages.
Hongkong	—	—	—	181	—	181
Shanghai	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kobe	—	200	100	—	—	300
Yokohama	—	1,434	175	—	—	1,609
Total	—	1,634	275	181	—	2,090

SILK.

	New York.	Other Cities.	Total Bales.
Hongkong	—	—	—
Shanghai	185	—	185
Yokohama	22	—	22
Total	207	—	207

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw & Waste Silk shipped per steamer *Seydlitz*:—

	Raw.				Waste.			
Nabhols & Co.	98	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sulzer Rudolph & Co.	89	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sieber & Co.	122	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
P. Dourille	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
H. Bernardin & Co.	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jewett and Bent	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Herbert Dent & Co.	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Otto Streulli	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cl. Eymard	—	—	—	—	72	—	—	—
Bavier & Co.	—	—	—	—	33	—	—	—
Dell'Oro & Co.	—	—	—	—	25	—	—	—
Siber, Wolff & Co.	—	—	—	—	34	—	—	—
	378	—	—	—	164	—	—	—

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Hardly any business to report.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER YARD.
White Shirting—40 yds. 36 in. 50 yds. 36 in.	0.09 to 0.10
	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	Y. 2.85 to 3.60
Grey Shirting—9lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.80 to 4.25
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	3.00 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton Italians and Satteens	0.20 to 0.40

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	Y. 0.35 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 32 in.	0.30 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.16 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.50 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 to 65 inches	0.90 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0.60 to 0.66
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	9.50 to 12.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.90 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches	1.90 to 2.25
TurkeyReds—3.8 to 5lb, 24-25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.65

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Y. 140.00 to 150.00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	—
Nos. 38/42, Singles	—
Nos. 32, Doubles	145.00 to 150.00
Nos. 42, Doubles	155.00 to 160.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/100, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	245.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	295.00 to 305.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	425.00 to 435.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling	Nominal.	33
Indian Broach		26
Chinese		23

METALS.

Still a fair demand.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward	Y. 3.95 to 4.25
Iron Plates, assorted	4.25 to 4.45
Sheet Iron	4.45 to 6.70
Galvanised Iron sheets	10.10 to 11.10
Wire Nails, assorted	5.30 to 5.90
Tin Plates, per box	6.40 to 7.30
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.95
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1¼ inch)	4.95 to 5.45

KEROSENE.

No special feature to report.

American	$3.52
Russian	3.35
Langkat	3.25

SUGAR.

There has been a moderate business.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	Y.6.25 to 6.60
Brown Manila	6.25 to 7.25
Brown Daitong	4.80 to 6.20
Brown Canton	5.50 to 7.60
White Java and Penang	7.20 to 8.00
White Refined	8.50 to 11.25

INDIGO.

Hardly anything doing.

	PICUL
Java, Medium to best	270.00 to 320.00
Calcutta, Medium to best	180.00 to 290.00
Madras (*Kurpah*), Medium to best	140.00 to 170.00
Madras (Dry Leaf), Medium to best	100.00 to 140.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

A quiet week. Quotations unchanged but holders are disposed to be current. Buyers are busy inspecting recent purchases and are not at the moment eager for fresh operations.

	QUOTATIONS.
Filatures—Extra Best, Coarse	Y.1,070 to 1,080
Filatures—Extra, Fine	—
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	1,030 to 1,035
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	—
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	910 to 920
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	980 to 985
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	890 to 895
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	920 to 930
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	—
Common—Coarse	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1½	—
Re-reels—No. 2	—
Re-reels—No. 3	900 to 905
Kakedas—Extra	930 to 935
Kakedas—No. 1	910 to 915
Kakedas—No. 1½	890 to 895
Kakedas—No. 2	870 to 875

WASTE SILK.

Market without change. Small daily business in desirable kinds; other sorts neglected.

	QUOTATIONS.
Noshi—Filatures, Best	180 to 185
Noshi—Filatures, Good	170 to 175
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	125 to 130
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	115 to 120
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Good	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Joshiu, Best	130 to 135
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	120 to 125
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	150 to 160
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	140 to 145
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	70 to 80
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	70 to 80

TEA.

Nothing to report.

	QUOTATIONS.
Choicest	—
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common	—

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, February 25.

Kirin Breweries are obtainable at *yen* 110. Langfeldts changed hands at *yen* 40. Grand Hotels, sellers at *yen* 240. Helms, sellers at *yen* 50. Nickels, sales at *yen* 35. Engine and Iron Works are obtainable at *yen* 90. Y. U. Club debentures, buyers at *yen* 108. Brewery debentures, sales at *yen* 109.

	YEN.	
Brett & Co. Limited	8½	Nominal.
Club Hotel, Limited	70	Nominal.
Grand Hotel, Limited	240	Sellers.
Helm Bros., Limited	50	Sellers.
Langfeldt & Co., Limited	40	Sales.
Nagasaki Hotel, Limited	35	Nominal.
C. Nickel & Co., Limited	35	Sales.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Founders	450	Nominal.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Ordinary	75	Nominal.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Preference	70	Nominal.
Japan Brewery Co., Limited	110	Sellers.
Yokohama E. & I. Works	90	Sellers.

Telephone No. 323.

ITCHING HUMOURS

SPEEDY CURE TREATMENT FOR EVERY HUMOUR.

Bathe the affected parts with hot water and CUTICURA SOAP, to cleanse the skin and scalp of crusts and scales, and soften the thickened cuticle. Dry, without hard rubbing, and apply CUTICURA OINTMENT freely to allay itching, irritation, and inflammation, and soothe and heal, and lastly take CUTICURA RESOLVENT PILLS, to cool and cleanse the blood. This pure, sweet, and wholesome treatment affords instant relief, permits rest and sleep, and points to a speedy, permanent, and economical cure of the most torturing, disfiguring, itching, burning, and scaly skin, scalp, and blood humours, eczemas, rashes, and irritations, from infancy to age, with loss of hair, when all else fails.

MILLIONS USE CUTICURA SOAP

Assisted by CUTICURA OINTMENT, for preserving, purifying, and beautifying the skin, for cleansing the scalp of crusts, scales, and dandruff, and the stopping of falling hair, for softening, whitening, and soothing red, rough, and sore hands, for baby rashes, itchings, and chafings, and for all the purposes of the toilet, bath, and nursery. Millions of Women use CUTICURA SOAP in the form of baths for annoying irritations, inflammations, and excoriations, for too free or offensive perspiration, in the form of washes for ulcerative weaknesses, and for many sanative, antiseptic purposes which readily suggest themselves to women, especially mothers.

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EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, February 25.

London silver 1/16 lower and China sterling quotations ⅛ to ⅜ lower have caused local rates on China to advance, but otherwise there is no change.

London—Bank T.T.	2.0 1/16
— — Bills on demand	2.0⅛
— — 4 months' sight	2.0 1/16
— Private 4 months' sight	2.0 5/16 @ ½
— — 6 months' sight	2.0 11/16 @ ⅝
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	252½ @ 3
— Private 4 months' sight	257½ @ 7
— — 6 months' sight	259 @ 8
Hongkong—Bank sight per $100.	95*
— Private 10 days' sight do.	92*
Shanghai—Bank sight	74½*
— Private 10 days' sight	77*
India—Bank sight	148¾
— Private 30 days' sight	151¾
America—Bank sight	48¾ @ ⅞
— Private 30 days' sight	49¼ @ ½
— Private 4 months' sight	50½ @ ¼
Germany—Bank sight	205 @ ½
— Private 4 months' sight	210 @ 9½
Bar Silver (London)	26 1/16

* Nominal.

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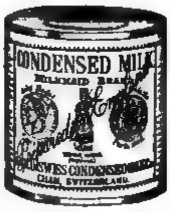
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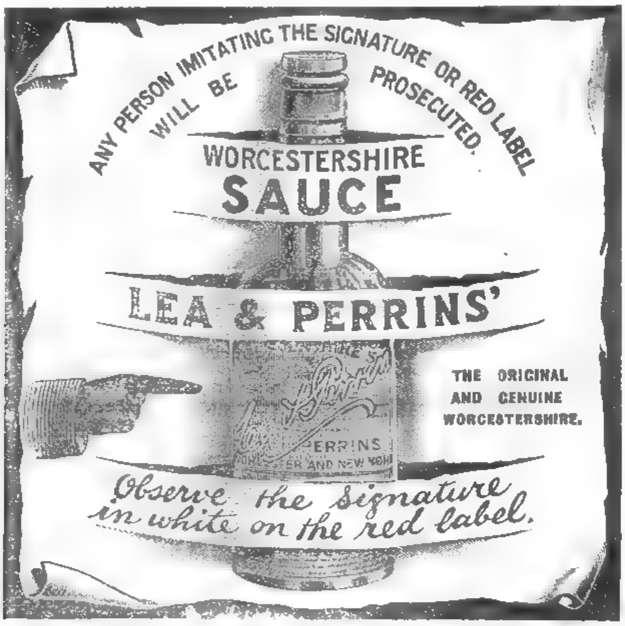

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Yokohama, March 17th, 1903. M.1y.

（毎土曜日一 發行）

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MARCH 5TH, 1904.

BIRTHS.

On the 27th Feb., at No. 1 Bund, Yokohama, the wife of HERBERT IRVING BELL, of a Daughter.

At Saga, on the 24th February, the wife of the Rev. H. V. S. PEEKE, of a Daughter.

On the 29th February, at No. 46-A, Bluff, Yokohama, Mrs. OSCAR HAYNEMANN, of a Son.

At Glasgow, on the 1st March, the wife of R. B. MCKINNELL, of a Daughter.—By Cable.

MARRIAGES.

On February 25th, at H.B.M.'s Consulate, Kobe, and afterwards at Trinity College Chapel, Osaka, Mr. FREDERICK PARROTT to D. M. E. OSBORN CLEAVER.

On the 7th January at All Saints, Surrey Square, Newington, London, by the Rev G. Taylor, Curate of the Parish, the Rev. WALTER THORNTON ANDREWS, B. A., eldest son of the Rev. Walter Andrews, M. A, Rector of Middleton St. George, Durham, England, late C. M. S., Japan, to LILY, youngest daughter of Major-General Robert Hoskyns Philips, late Madras Staff Corps, of Knockwood, Shortlands, Kent.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE net profits of the Yokohama Specie Bank for the past half year are said to be *yen* 1,617,667.

ON February 19th, the *China Mail* announced that the *Deuteros* was a total loss on the Paracels.

THE Chiyoda Mutual Life Insurance Company on Feb. 23rd was permitted by the authorities of the Agriculture and Commerce, to commence business.

AN official telegram states that the U. S. Senate ratified on Feb. 23rd the Panama Canal Treaty.

THE Enoshima Electric Tramway between Oiwake and Gokurakuji was opened on March 1st for traffic.

NINETEEN convicts broke out of Abashiri prison, Nemuro, on February 25th and perpetrated outrages in the city.

ACCORDING to an official telegram, Lieut. General Sakaroff has been temporarily appointed Russian Minister for War.

THE construction of the railway between Kagi and Kakan, Formosa, being completed, traffic was opened on Feb. 28th.

THE Osaka-Kobe Electric Railway Company has decided to float a second issue of debentures amounting to *yen* 475,000.

THE mother of Count Hisamatsu, who has been ill since the beginning of January, died on Feb. 28th, aged sixty-two years.

MR. J. NODA, a member of the editorial staff of the *Jitsugyo Shimbun*, Yokohama, was ordered on Feb. 27th to leave Yokohama.

A TELEGRAM from Nagasaki states that Mr. Morgan, U.S. Consul to An-tung, arrived there on Feb. 27th *en route* to his post.

THE Osaka Shosen Kaisha re-opened on Feb. 29th their line between Osaka and Chemulpo, with the steamer *Chikugogawa Maru*.

TELEGRAPHIC communication between Foochow and Formosa was reopened on Feb. 25th. The line had been interrupted since the 11th.

MR TADASU YOSHIKAWA, eldest son of Viscount Yoshikawa, Minister of State for Home Affairs, died on the night of Feb. 24th. He had been ill for several months.

Two copper-plate printers and a tea dealer were arrested on Feb. 29th in Tokyo. They had forged ten *yen* notes and circulated them in Tokyo and Yokohama.

A TELEGRAM has been sent to Kobe from the Y. C. & A. C. saying that the Association team can make it convenient to go down to play the Interport Match in Kobe on Saturday, March 12.

A MAN armed with a large knife early on the morning of Feb. 28th entered the dwelling of a leather dealer, C. Mitani, Shintani-cho, Asakusa, Tokyo, and stole *yen* 8.50 after menacing the family.

THE presidents of the Nippon Life Insurance Company and the Iriyama Colliery Company were prosecuted on Feb. 25th in the Tokyo District Court on a charge of infringing the Commercial Code.

THE *Jiji* states that H. Miyake (46) and W. Fukuda (41), members of the editorial staff of the *Niroku*, were arrested on the morning of Feb. 28th on suspicion of having received money by means of threats.

IT is officially reported that the Russian Government has suspended telegraphic communications between Vladivostock and Nagasaki, in accordance with Art. 8 of the International Telegraph Treaty.

OVER two hundred pigmies were brought from one of the Philippine islands by the steamer *Shawmut*, which arrived at Yokohama on March 1st. They will be shown at the St. Louis Exhibition. They are only three feet in height and black in colour.

MR. S. SHIBA, Otamachi, Yokohama, says the *Asahi*, has purchased the German steamer *Pioneer* of 1,700 gross tons, lying at Yokohama, for £7,000. She had arrived from Christmas Island with phosphate rock.

ACCORDING to telegrams from the Governor of Nagasaki received in Tokyo since Feb. 27th, small-pox is prevalent in that port, the patients being principally persons who had arrived from Vladivostock and Chin-wan-tao.

ON the morning of Feb. 29th, Count Katsura, the Premier, Marquis Oyama, Chief of the General Staff Office, and other high officers of the military and naval staff proceeded to the Palace and had audience of the Emperor.

T. ANDA, blacksmith (26) and a woman committed suicide on the morning of Feb. 28th at the Kwagetsu-ro brothel, Suzuki, Tokyo, by drinking sulphuric acid and then cutting their throats with razors. Heavy debts were the cause.

THE Osaka Shosen Kaisha's steamer *Tairri Maru*, which was under construction at the Nagasaki Shipbuilding Yard, was launched on Feb. 27th. Her gross tonnage is 1,200 tons. After completion she will be employed on the South China line.

LORD ROBERTS, Commander-in-chief of the forces; Lieutenant-General Lord Grenfell, Commanding the Fourth Army Corps, and Sir William Butler, commanding the Western District, have been invited to join the new army council of the British Army.

MR. G. ISEKI, a Tokyo lawyer, who was sentenced in the Tokyo District Court to four months' imprisonment on a charge of fraud, was discharged on Feb. 25th by the Tokyo Appeal Court on the ground that the evidence against him was insufficient.

A GOODS train of the Nippon Railway was derailed on March 1st at 1 p.m. at a point between Ojimatani and Nakayama, near Morioka, with the result that all the cars were overturned, and thirteen were damaged, the locomotive being thrown down the bank.

SIR CHARLES STEWART SCOTT, who has been the British Ambassador to Russia since 1898, will retire from that position next April. There is much speculation as to who will be his successor. The *Pall Mall Gazette* states that King Edward will proceed to St. Petersburg early in July next, and that there is much speculation as to the object of his visit.

THE Uraga Dock Company held a general meeting on Feb. 27th in Tokyo and passed the accounts for the last half-year. The gross income was *yen* 285,830.75, from which amount *yen* 281,155,80 was disbursed in expenses. The balance was *yen* 4,674.55, to which *yen* 8,545,08 brought from the previous account was added. This total was carried forward to the next account.

THE death is announced of Lady Inglis, the heroine of Lucknow. As the wife of the soldier who commanded the brave garrison after the death of Sir Henry Lawrence and Major Banks, she was the central female figure in that brave company. During the terrible period from early in July until the arrival of Havelock and Outram, the Bayard of the East, towards the end of September, Lady Inglis played a courageous part in caring for the wounded and giving strength to the other ladies of the beleaguered garrison. Her husband died forty-two years ago, after being made a K.C.B.

THE LAST PORT-ARTHUR AFFAIR.

Friday, February 26.

There is no longer any question as to the nature of the affair which, according to St. Petersburg's official report, ended in the sinking of four battle-ships and two transports. What happened was, as surmised above, that on the night of the 23rd-24th several vessels laden with stones were taken to Port Arthur by the Japanese for the purpose of being sunk at the mouth of the harbour. The forts and the secondary armament of the *Retvisan*—which vessel is still lying outside moored to the light-ship—opened on the Japanese with sufficient accuracy to prevent them from reaching the position they desired. Four of the stone-laden ships were either sent to the bottom by gun-fire or abandoned—this part of the story is still somewhat obscure,—but their crews were carried off safely by the torpedo craft which accomppanied them. There was thus no loss of life, nor did any of the Japanese war craft suffer the slightest injury. On the other hand, however, the operation of sealing the harbour's mouth did not succeed.

There is another Russian version, said to have been telegraphed to a Major-General in Shanghai. It puts the time of the incident at 2 a.m. on the 24th, and it says that there were twelve Japanese vessels loaded with explosives. The document does not explain, however, what purpose these explosives were intended to serve. The forts and the *Retvisan* discovered the approach of the Japanese in good time and opened such a fierce fire on them that two of the steamers were sunk and two had to be run aground. Part of their crews were drowned, and the rest were probably rescued by the torpedo-craft, which, also, received close attention from the Russian gunners, but whether they suffered in consequence there was no way of ascertaining. The torpedo-boats with the 8 steamers that escaped, were seen on the horizon at dawn. The sender of this report adds that all the wounded Russian war-ships are being rapidly repaired, and refers to the fact of the *Retvisan's* fighting on the night of the 23rd-24th as a proof that she has still to be reckoned with. But can she put to sea? A line-of-battle ship moored permanently to a light-hulk can not be called serviceable.

Up to the moment of going to press no official statement had been published about the Port Arthur affair of the 24th instant. But no doubts are entertained that what happened was an attempt by the Japanese squadron to seal Port Arthur by sinking stone-laden vessels at the entrance. Five steamers were used for the purpose, the *Jinsen Maru* (2,331 tons gross), the *Tientsin Maru* (2,943 tons), the *Hokoku Maru* (2,766 tons), the *Buyo Maru* (1,136 tons) and the *Bushu Maru* (1,240 tons). Each ship is said to have had a complement of 5 on board, namely, 3 in the engine room and 2 on deck. All escaped, and neither the torpedo-craft nor the squadron seem to have suffered any damage whatever. The only question is whether these vessels were sunk in the desired place, or whether, as Alexieff's report says, they were sunk elsewhere or abandoned in consequence of the fire of the forts and the *Retvizan*. The idea that the *Retvizan* took part in the defence is scouted in Japanese naval circles. They say that the *Retvizan* is on the bottom, and that only the shallow water saves her from being invisible.

Saturday, February 27.

The facts of the enterprise undertaken by the Japanese for the purpose of closing the entrance to Port Arthur are now clearly ascertained from official and other reports. It appears that the steamers chosen for lading with stones and sinking were all old vessels, and everything valuable had been taken from them before they started on their last voyage. We have already published the names of the ships and their tonnage, but it may be added that the *Tenshin Maru* and the *Jinsen Maru* belonged to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, by which Company they were purchased during the war of 1894-5. They were respectively 17 and 27 years old and were valued at 200,000 *yen* and 150,000 or 160,000 *yen*. The *Hokoku Maru* belonged to Mr. Kawamura. She was 34 years old and is supposed to have been worth 60,000 or 70,000 *yen*. As for the *Buyo Maru* and the *Bushu Maru*, they belonged to the Nippon Shosen Kaisha and their united value is estimated at about 100,000 *yen*, so that, speaking roughly, the little squadron represented something like half a million of *yen*. It was manned by 77 volunteers. When the Naval authorities decided to make this essay, they called for volunteers, and an enormous number of men offered themselves, the general idea being that here was a unique opportunity to do a brave thing. A tolerably brave thing it was too, for the frail vessels had to be taken right up to the mouth of the harbour and sunk within short range of the Russian forts, the Russian war-ships and the Russian torpedo-craft. In command of the 77 volunteers was Captain Arima Ryokitsu, and he was assisted by Commander Hirose Takeo; by First Lieutenants Saito Shichigoro and Masaki Yoshitaro; by Second Lieutenant Shimasaki Yasuzo; by Chief Engineers Yamaga Daizo, Kurita Tomitaro and Minamisawa Yasuo; by Engineers Oishi Chikanori, and by Assistant Engineer Sugi Masato. The five steamers and the torpedo craft that were to accompany them for part of their way, assembled on the evening of the 23rd at some place probably 50 or 60 miles from Port Arthur, but of course the name of their rendezvous is concealed. By about 4 a.m. on the 24th they reached the immediate vicinity of Port Arthur. Admiral Alexieff truly affirms that they had a very warm reception. What happened to the five vessels is clearly shown elsewhere.

The entrance to the harbour is 350 yards wide—that is to say, through a distance of 350 yards 3¾ fathoms of water are found. On the east the water then suddenly shoals to 1½ fathoms, and on the west to 2¾. Evidently in order to block an entrance 350 yards wide with five steamers, namely, one steamer to every 70 yards, very precise work is required on the part of the vessels' crews: work scarcely possible at night under fire. It seems clear that the ships with one exception were all sunk by the Japanese themselves and that only one of them went to the bottom in consequence of Russian gunnery. It would have been a poor feat anyhow to sink frail merchant vessels at close range, but even that consolation can not be accorded to the Russians.

At 10 a.m. on the 24th the torpedo-craft returned to the squadron's base. They reported in the sense of the above statements and at the same time, or subsequently, Admiral Togo received news, presumably from his scouting ships, that the *Bayan*, the *Novik* and 4 or 5 Russian destroyers were outside Port Arthur. That night (24th), therefore, he ordered a squadron of destroyers and torpedo-boats to attack the enemy. The squadron set out and made the circuit of the whole region outside Port Arthur and Talien but did not find any Russian vessel. It would seem that the Russians' habit is to seek the shelter of the harbour at night and to peep out during the day-time. His torpedo-craft having rejoined him empty-handed at 7 a.m. on the 25th, Admiral Togo set out with the main squadron shortly afterwards, and on sighting Port Arthur observed that the *Askold*, the *Bayan* and the *Novik* were all outside. He opened fire on them and after 20 minutes the three ships retreated into the harbour. This made it plain to the Admiral that the blocking enterprise had not been successful. His attack against the three cruisers was made at long range. It commenced at 11.45 a.m. and ended at 12.05 p.m., when the Russians sought the shelter of the harbour. Simultaneously the squadron, using its heaviest ordnance, threw shells into the harbour and had the satisfaction of observing a burst of flame and smoke as the result. The squadron then withdrew. Meanwhile an independent division had observed two of the enemy's destroyers steaming from a point westward of Liao-ti-shan. These were attacked. One made her escape; one was destroyed. In all these operations the Japanese had no casualties whatever.

The names of the 77 men that volunteered to take the stone-laden steamers into Port Arthur have been published. Leading Japanese journals justly say that because she has such men Japan is able to hold her own in this fight. Certainly it was a fine act. Greater risks are seldom run.

Not the least striking feature of the whole affair was the incident on the 25th instant, when Admiral Togo's squadron lay off Port Arthur and threw 12-inch shells into the harbour where the Russian men-of-war lay. The Russians have much patience.

ADMIRAL KAMIMURA'S REPORT.

The official report from Admiral Kamimura, commanding the Second Fleet, dated February 26th, is substantially as follows:—

> Transports were sent out on the evening of February 3rd with the mission to block Port Arthur by sinking themselves at the entrance to the port. A torpedo flotilla was sent at the same time in order to pick up the crews of these ships. The flotilla joined the main fleet on the morning of the 24th and reported that all of the transports were sunk by destroying themselves, *i.e.* the *Hokoku Maru* at the foot of the lighthouse on the left side of the entrance of the port, the *Bushu Maru* outside the *Hokoku Maru*; the remaining *Jinsen Maru*, *Tenshin Maru* and *Buyo Maru* at the east of the Lao-chi Hill. The crews of these transports were all picked up safely; our fleet of destroyers and torpedo flotilla are all safe.
>
> On the evening of the 24th our destroyer fleet was engaged in a general reconnoitring attack of Port Arthur, Talien and Pigeon Bay.
>
> On the morning of the 25th, our main fleet advanced toward Port Arthur and commenced a bombardmentof the Russian ships and fortresses from a distance. A little past noon the *Novik*, *Askold* and *Bàyan* all fled into the port. It must therefore be admitted that our attempt at shutting the entrance to the port was but of little effect. Then we fired into the port. Big smoke was seen arising from inside. This bombardment lasted only a quarter of an hour and the fleet retired. During this operation our fleet of cruisers sank one Russian torpedo-catcher in Pigeon Bay.
>
> No damage to our fleet, and no casualities on our side.
>
> Admiral Togo is still in an advanced position. A detailed report will be sent from him.

ADMIRAL TOGO'S REPORT.

Admiral Togo's Report, received at the Admiralty on the 27th at 2 p.m. and written by him on the 26th, runs as follows:—

> Preparations for the movement referred to in this report commenced on the 20th but had to be deferred one day owing to inclement weather. When they were completed, the whole squadron proceeded

on the 22nd in the direction of Port Arthur. At 2 a.m. on the 24th a division of destroyers, consisting of the *Murakumo*, the *Yugiri*, the *Shiranui* and the *Kagero*, under the command of Commander Mano, proceeded towards the mouth of the harbour. The duties of this division were to go in advance of the special transports, to attack the enemy's scouting vessels and to engage any ships he might have on guard. The destroyers approached the harbour and discharged torpedoes at a ship which had the appearance of the *Amur*—a torpedo-transport of 2,500 tons, sister-ship of the *Yenisei*—but the effect of the projectiles was not clearly discernible. An hour and a half later, namely, at 3.30 a.m., the division of special transport vessels advanced for the purpose of sealing the mouth of the harbour. These five steamers had to encounter the full blaze of the enemy's search-lights and his violent cannonade. As they steamed in the *Tenshin Maru*, in endeavouring to get out of the field of a search-light, went a little out of her course and ran aground on the east of Lao-to-shan. The *Buyo Maru* was sunk by her crew at a point about 400 metres outside the *Tenshin Maru*. The *Hokoku Maru* pushed on to the harbour's mouth, and was sunk by her crew at the base of the light-house with her head pointing about north-west. The *Bushu Maru* was scuttled by her crew at a point south-east-by-south of the *Hokoku* and at a distance of about 2½ cables. The fifth steamer, namely, the *Jinsen Maru* seems to have run aground under the hill Mantau-shan. All the officers and men, who had performed this brave act, were taken off by five torpedo-boats *Hayabusa*, *Kasasagi*, *Manazuru*, *Chidori* and *Tsubame* under Commander Sakurai, which went in boldly through the enemy's fire just as the day was breaking and rescued every one of the five steamers' crews. Three of the *Hokoku's* crew were slightly wounded by the enemy's fire but the rest were unscathed, as also were the officers and men of the torpedo-boats, and the boats themselves received no damage whatever. It is most regrettable that the special transports were not successfully sunk so as to effect their purpose, but nothing can detract from the courageous and devoted conduct of the officers and men that took them in or from that of the officers and crews of the torpedo-boats that rescued them.

That day (24th) at 10 a.m. the Squadron proceeded to the neighbourhood of Port Arthur, and a division of cruisers advanced to inspect the approach to the harbour. They suddenly perceived the *Novik* and 5 destroyers steaming from Laoti-shan in the direction of the harbour and they opened fire on them, but with what result it is not clear.

On the night of the 24th three divisions of destroyers were sent in to make the circuit of the place. One searched Pigeon Bay; a second tried Talien, but neither found any ships. The third division went to Port Arthur and discharged projectiles but with uncertain result.

On the 25th at 9 a.m. the main squadron steamed to a point within long range of the port. Three of the enemy's cruisers were observed outside, namely, the *Bayan*, the *Askold* and the *Novik*. They were fired at, and at the same time an indirect fire was opened on the interior of the harbour. The forts and the cruisers joined in returning the fire about 20 minutes, and then the cruisers retired into the harbour and the Japanese Squadron drew off. As the range was long it is improbable that the enemy suffered much and as for the Japanese ships they were not touched nor had they any casualties. It appeared that the enemy's object was to draw the Japanese vessels into the cross-fire of the forts and into the vicinity of the place which has been mined.

While this was in progress, a division of Japanese cruisers went to the south of the harbour to reconnoitre. They saw two Russian destroyers making for the harbour's mouth from the direction of Laotithan. Upon these they opened fire. One escaped, but the other—a four funnelled boat—ran on the rocks in Pigeon Bay and was smashed by the Japanese fire. The cruisers returned unharmed.

VICEROY ALEXIEFF'S REPORT.

The following is the substance of the official report sent by Admiral Alexieff:—

February 24th, 2.45 a.m.—Japanese torpedo boats again attacked Port Arthur with the object of shutting up the entrance of the port by sending some big steamers with combustible materials. Two of these were destroyed; one near Tiger Peninsula and the other near Mount Jol-donques, by Russian fire. The fire of the *Retvisan* and the fortresses against the Japanese torpedo boats continued till daybreak In the morning 4 Japanese steamers were found destroyed in the bay and 8 torpedo-boats were steering towards the Japanese men-of-war, which were waiting for them in the offing. The crews were saved by boats; some were drowned perhaps, and some others were picked up by their own torpedo boats. The passage of the port remains free. A Japanese steamer is still burning; some mines are floating in the bay. The Japanese fleet composed of two divisions was seen steaming away. Three Russian cruisers were sent out to pursue them vainly. They were recalled to clear the bay from floating mines. No loss on the Russian side.

Sunday, February 28.

The latest official report about the last Port Arthur affair is as follows:—

OFFICIAL REPORT.

Received by Navy Department
on the 27th Feb., 1904.

The five vessels intended to obstruct the entrance to Port Arthur advanced at about 4 o'clock on the morning of the 24th from southward of Laoti-shan towards the mouth of the port. It appears that the *Tenshin Maru*, which was in the van, steered too far to port and as she was about 3 miles to the southwest of the shore, was shot and seriously damaged, and ran purposely upon the shore. The other vessels in her wake changed their course to northeast and advanced; but the enemy's search-lights, flashing upon them, impeded their progress. The enemy's fire first struck the steering gear of the *Bushu Maru*, which thereupon was disabled and grounded not far from the *Tenshin Maru*. She destroyed herself and sank. Next, the *Buyo Maru* was seriously damaged by the enemy's shells and sank without reaching the harbour entrance. Meanwhile, the *Hokoku Maru* and the *Jinsen Maru* advanced with great energy and reached the entrance with difficulty. The former, on the outer side of the stranded warship *Retvisan*, and the latter, on the east of the same vessel. Each lighted the explosives on board to destroy themselves, and their crews, after giving a loud cheer, got into the boats when they found their own vessels sinking. Immediately the crews got into their boats, they tried to row up to the torpedo boats, but the enemy's searchlights lit up their path without intermission and as the enemy's fire became very severe, the boats were compelled to row around under cover and failed to approach our torpedo boats. And further, as the seas became heavier at sunrise, the boats suffered great hardships and succeeded in reaching the squadron only at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day.

From this it is evident that Viceroy Alexieff's report is much more accurate than appeared to be the case originally. Two out of the five stone-laden steamers were prevented by the fire of the Russians from accomplishing their object and had to be run ashore and destroyed. One was actually sunk before reaching the harbour's entrance. Two, however, reached the immediate vicinity of the *Retvisan* and were there sunk by their crews, one on each side of the disabled line-of-battle ship. It is to be remembered, however, that Viceroy Alexieff describes the *Retvisan* as having contributed her share to the defence of the port. Nevertheless these Japanese steamers managed to steam right alongside of her, where their crews sent them to the bottom and then escaped in open row-boats, reaching the squadron after nearly eleven hours' struggle against heavy seas. That was an extra-ordinary exploit. It presents itself to us as the most brilliant hitherto achieved in this war of records.

The Minister of State for the Navy addressed the following message to Admiral Togo on the 27th instant:—

> I have received with great satisfaction your report of the third attack upon Port Arthur It is true that such events are chiefly attributable to the virtues of His Majesty the Emperor, but without the loyal and courageous action of yourself and the officers and men under your command these achievements would not be possible. You did not indeed succeed in fully accomplishing the purpose of the operation. but there can be no doubt about the magnitude of the achievement. That you and your command have for many days unceasingly carried on offensive operations and have deprived the enemy of all opportunity to undertake anything, thus displaying the strength and enhancing the prestige of your country, is to me a source of great and respectful admiration. I offer my congratulations for the actions of your squadron and express my sense of the hardships you have undergone.

It is stated that Viceroy Alexieff has ordered all non-combatant foreigners to leave Port Arthur.

There is a story that during the fight on the 9th instant when several Japanese shells fell in the town of Port Arthur, the elevation of the guns having been affected by the rolling of the ships, many of the Chinese inhabitants fled from the place, and the Russian soldiers took advantage of their absence to loot the deserted houses.

Another statement coming from Sasebo is that the *Yenisei*, which, according to a Russian report, perished by contact with one of her own mines, was never seen after the 9th and it may therefore be assumed that she was one of the victims of the Japanese attack.

Admiral Viscount Ito has addressed a message of congratulation to Admiral Togo. He expresses great admiration of the exceptionally gallant conduct of the men that took five unarmed steamers into the innermost zone of the enemy's fire, and declares that whatever the material results of such an act, its moral significance can not be under-rated.

Monday, February 29.

It appears that the cable between Chefoo and Port Arthur is injured and communication is interrupted. In connexion with this Mr. Mizuno, Japanese Consul at Chefoo, is said to have informed the Great Northern Company that any attempt to repair the cable will be regarded as a breach of neutrality. In fact, Russia must carry on her communications by means of instruments entirely within territory controlled by herself. That would reduce her to the land lines along the railways. The Great Northern Company is said to have merely acknowledged the receipt of the notice.

Japanese newspapers all state that the effort made by the gallant crews of the five steamers sent to seal Port Arthur has not been entirely fruitless. Two of the steamers as our readers know, were sunk in the appointed places, namely, one on either side of the *Retvisan* which is lying with her keel on the bottom outside the harbour. These two are the *Hokoku Maru* (2,766 tons) and the *Jinsen Maru* (2,331 tons), the former under the orders of Commander Hirose and the *Jinsen* under that of Lieut. Saito, their engineers being Messrs. Kurita and Minami respectively. The effect of the sinking of these two ships, it is said, is that whereas a vessel could formerly enter Port Arthur in 35 minutes, she now requires 2 hours for the operation. The *Retvisan's* position is said to be immediately under the light-house on the western promontory at the mouth of the port. Here the width is not more than 400 yards, and the presence of three ships at such a place can not fail to impede the navigation more or less.

It is now stated that, after all, one Japanese lost his life in this gallant operation. At all events one man is missing. The original report said that 77 only had taken charge of the 5 ships, but it appears that there were 78, and 77 of these have returned unscathed, except 3 who were slightly wounded. The 77 know nothing of any one having been drowned and it can only be assumed that the missing man was killed by one of the many shot and shell poured upon the five vessels.

The Emperor has addressed to Admiral Togo a message of warm eulogy with reference to the blocking operation, which His Majesty describes as "gallant and patriotic."

Apart from the results actually achieved by the Japanese squadron under Admiral Togo's orders, what must strike every thoughtful observer is the skill shown by the officers and men in handling their ships. Apparently there has not been a accident after three weeks of almost incessant work. The torpedo divisions have approached to within striking distance of Port Arthur and Talien on four different occasions. First they made that remarkably successful attack on the 8th instant. Then they went in on the 14th instant. Next they preceded the blocking steamers on the night of the 23rd—24th. Then they accompanied the steamers and took off their crews. And finally they searched the three bays, Arthur, Talien and Pigeon, during the night of the 24th—25th. Every one of these operations was carried out in black darkness, the torpedo-craft not using a single light after getting within 10 miles of their destination, and the lowest speed of movement was probably 20 knots. It is really a feat to have got through all that work without mishaps in the shape of break-down or collision, and the necessary inference is that not only has sound seamanships been displayed but also the men have remained cool enough to exercise all their professional skill at moments of crisis. Experts will appreciate the record.

Tuesday, March 1.

The man who perished in the gallant attempt on the morning of the 23rd ultimo was Umehara Kenzaburo, a second class seaman of the *Yashima*. He belonged to the crew that manned the *Jinsen Maru*.

Wednesday, March 2.

The chief of the Russian Staff at Port Arthur sends official intelligence to Shanghai that on the 24th inst. the Japanese attempted to sink four vessels at the entrance to the harbour, but the ships were all sent to the bottom by the fire of the *Retvisan* and the forts before they could reach the desired places. He adds that on the 25th and 26th Japanese torpedo-boats were sunk and that on the 26th the Japanese Squadron engaged the forts at long range. We have not heard anything about the sinking of Japanese torpedo-boats or about any operations by them on the 26th. Perhaps this tale emanates from the source responsible for the Kleimé-now-Witgeft story about the torpedo attack on the 14th.

It is plain that the *Retvisan*, though fast aground, is lying on an even keel and can use her secondary armament. The shells from her small guns are said to have fallen as thick as hail on the two steamers that approached her on either side on the morning of the 24th. She has 47 quick-firers ranging from 12-pounders to 1-pounders, and any of these would be tolerably effective against frail iron vessels like the blocking steamers. After the men from the two steamers took to their boats they continued to occupy the field of electric search-lights from all sides and to be the centre of a fierce fire from sea and shore. It is indeed wonderful that any at all escaped from such a situation and still more wonderful that the tale of casualties did not exceed four.

The *Kobe Maru* has just arrived at Saseho with 66 sick men and wounded. The latter say that since the commencement of naval operations the enemy have lost 5 destroyers and have 10 or more remaining. According to accounts from other sources the destroyer *Beztraschni* was hit by a Russian shell on the night of the 8th and had her machinery so much injured that she is no longer serviceable. On the same night 3 destroyers disappeared and have not since been heard of. They are announced as missing. Finally, there was one destroyer disposed of by the Japanese cruisers in Pigeon Bay on the 25th instant.

Thursday, March 3.

The Russian Foreign Affairs Official at Port Arthur telegraphs to Major-General Deshino(?) at Shanghai that after the affairs of the 23rd and 24th, maps of Port Arthur, Adams Bay and the Yellow Sea were found on the stone-laden Japanese ships and that a wire for conducting electricity to explode a torpedo on one of the vessels, was cut by the Russians. We gather that the cutting of this wire enabled the Russians to extinguish a fire on board the ship, but it is all very vague.

The same report says that the Japanese Squadron did not approach within range of the forts on the 24th instant.

The report further claims that among the destroyers sent in to prepare the way for the blocking steamers, the people on the *Retvisan* saw two sink, and that the only effect of the 12-in shell which burst on the deck of the *Askold* was to wound one man in the foot and the hand. It was probably the most impotent 12-inch shell that ever reached its mark.

This Foreign Affairs Official adds that at low water a Japanese destroyer can be seen on the bottom in Port Arthur harbour; that 5 unexploded torpedoes have been found, and that since the 27th of February there has been no sign of the Japanese fleet. He wires on the 29th.

Saseho reports that in the attack on the 25th instant the Russians fired blank cartridges and tried to draw the Japanese to short range, but as buoys were observed, indicating the presence of mines, the Japanese kept at a respectful distance. These mines are said to be about 5 miles from the harbour's mouth.

The *Jinsen Maru* and the *Bushu Maru* each had 3 boats when they were taken in to be sunk at the entrance to Port Arthur, but each lost two of its boats by the enemy's fire, and the whole of the crews had to embark in two boats. They expected to reach the torpedo-craft that were to rescue them somewhere in the neighbourhood of Laotishan, but owing to a strong easterly wind and a heavy sea they failed to find the torpedo-boats. They attempted to flash a signal, but it attracted only the searchlights and the fire of the Russians. Pulling southward with all their strength, they sighted a torpedo-boat, and made signs to her, but she did not see them. By this time the day was dawning and they had to abandon all hope of being picked up by the torpedo-boats. They pulled steadily in a southerly direction, but the wind was so violent from the east that at one time they seemed doomed to be blown into the Gulf of Chili, where they must have been lost. They escaped that fate, however. Becoming separated, they lost sight of each other, and when they had rowed until the afternoon without food or water they were much exhausted. Finally they picked up the squadron. The *Bushu's* boat arrived an hour before that of the *Jinsen*. In the former there were Lieutenant Shimasaki and one other officer with 12 men. The *Jinsen's* boat was under the command of Lieut. Sato. It had another officer and a crew of 13. It was while lowering the *Jinsen's* boat that a stoker, Umehara Kenzo, was killed by a shot, the only death on the Japanese side that night. The secondary armament of the *Retvisan* seems to have done more injury than the fire of the forts. It was by her shells that the *Bushu Maru* was disabled when changing direction.

JAPAN'S DECLARATIONS OF FEB. 6TH.

The following are the declarations made by the Japanese Representative in St. Petersburg to the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs on the 6th of February—declarations which Russia now apparently claims to have regarded as a pleasant amenity:—

The undersigned, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, has the honour, in pursuance of instructions from his Government, to address to His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias the following communication:

The Government of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan regard the independence and territorial integrity of the Empire of Korea as essential to their own repose and safety, and they are consequently unable to view with indifference any action tending to render the position of Korea insecure.

The successive rejections by the Imperial Russian Government by means of inadmissible amendments, of Japan's proposals respecting Korea, the adoption of which the Imperial Government regarded as indispensable to assure the independence and territorial integrity of the Korean Empire and to safeguard Japan's preponderating interests in the Peninsula, coupled with the successive refusals of the Imperial Russian Government to enter into engagements to respect China's territorial integrity in Manchuria, which is seriously menaced by their continued occupation of the province, notwithstanding their treaty engagements with China and their repeated assurances to other Powers possessing interests in those regions, have made it necessary for the Imperial Government seriously to consider what measures of self-defence they are called upon to take.

In the presence of delays which remain largely unexplained and naval and military activities which it is difficult to reconcile with entirely pacific aims, the Imperial Government have exercised in the depending negotiations, a degree of forbearance which they believe affords abundant proof of their loyal desire to remove from their relations with the Imperial Russian Government every cause for future misunderstanding. But finding in their efforts no prospect of securing from the Imperial Russian Government an adhesion either to Japan's moderate and unselfish proposals or to any other proposals likely to establish a firm and enduring peace in the Extreme East, the Imperial Government have no other alternative than to terminate the present futile negotiations.

In adopting that course the Imperial Government reserve to themselves the right to take such independent action as they may deem best to consolidate and defend their menaced position, as well as to protect their established rights and legitimate interests.

The undersigned, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to H. M. the Emperor of Japan, has the honour, in pursuance of instructions from his Government, to acquaint H. E. the Minister for Foreign Affairs of H.M. the Emperor of all the Russias, that the Imperial Government of Japan, having exhausted without effect every means of conciliation with a view to the removal from their relations with the Imperial Russian Government of every cause for future complications, and finding that their just representations and moderate and unselfish proposals in the interest of a firm and lasting peace in the Extreme East, are not receiving the consideration which is their due, have resolved to sever their diplomatic relations with the Imperial Russian Government which for the reason named have ceased to possess value.

In further fulfilment of the command of his Government the undersigned has also the honour to announce to H. E. Count Lamsdorff that it is his intention to take his departure from St. Petersburg with the staff of the Imperial Legation on (date).

RUSSIAN MILITARY MOVEMENTS.

Friday, February 26.

The *Shogyo Shimpo* takes the same view as that already expressed in these columns, but goes into greater detail. It says that the crossing of the Yalu by any considerable force would be a matter of great difficulty as there are no bridges and none could be erected at present. It is true that immediate facilities for passage are afforded by the ice, but the season for the ice is nearly over, and without providing for the approaching open weather, troops could not venture into Korea in any numbers. Besides, the Russians have not the command of the sea, and consequently could not prevent the Japanese from landing a force at the mouth of the Yalu, thus cutting the communications of any troops that happened to be south of the river. It is possible that an affair of outposts may occur at any moment, but nothing in the nature of a general engagement on Korean soil need be anticipated. The Russians will probably concentrate on Kiulien-ching and Fenhwan-ting. Their present action in Korea is a feint.

Saturday, February 27.

The Chinese are represented as stating that parties of 30 Cossacks are stationed along the line of the Manchurian railway at intervals of 1⅓ miles, and that they keep fires burning all night. That would mean that between Mukden and Dalny some 5,000 men are on duty every night. Let us reduce the number by one half, and put it at 2,500. Then since the men must have at least 3 nights in bed out of four, it would follow that for the duty of guarding that stretch of railway alone, 10,000 troops are constantly required. And this calculation would give 30 men for every length of 2⅔ miles.

The ice has finally broken on the Peiho. A steamer entered the river on the 26th.

There are various rumours as to the movements of Russian troops immediately north of Pyong-Yang. One story has it that 200 men are posted between Pyong-Yang and Anju, but the most advanced are not said to have penetrated beyond Sunan, which is about 17 miles from Pyong-yang. There is a statement that over fifty guns have reached Anju, but that such a park of artillery should be in the possession of the van of a small army is not credible.

Sunday, February 28.

The Russians are said to be buying large quantities of fodder for horses in Manchuria, and the Chinese Government has issued orders that no further sales shall be made.

It is expected that a collision must soon occur in the district immediately north of Pyong-yang. The Russians, however, do not seem to be in any formidable force. They are all cavalry and it is scarcely probable that they contemplate making a serious stand.

It is stated in trustworthy circles that on the 28th instant at 9 a.m. Russian mounted scouts appeared within 700 metres of Pyong-yang, and, being fired on by the Japanese, retired.

Monday, February 29.

Seoul reports that the sound of artillery was heard outside the northern gate of Pyong-yang on the morning of the 28th instant. Presumably this is an exaggerated account of the brief engagement that took place, as already reported, between a party of Russian scouts and the Japanese troops in Pyong-yang. It would seem that mounted videttes on the Russian side have pushed down as far as Sinan and even to a more southerly point, but they are not in any considerable force, and the probability is that their purpose is merely to keep in touch with the Japanese and to necessitate on the latter's part caution which will delay a general advance northward. There is no possibility of placing any reliance on the stories told by Koreans about the number of men engaged in such operations. The experience of the China-Japan war taught that fact.

Tuesday, March 1.

News from Pyong-yang confirms the previously received intelligence that on the morning of the 28th Feb., the first collision took place between Japanese and Russian troops. Forty Cossacks advanced by a branch of the Wiju highroad towards the Chhil-song gate of the town, being partially covered by a Korean tomb. Thence they opened fire on the Japanese guarding the gate, who replied, with the result that the Russians retired, as was of course their business to do. It is a pity that in such positions the tactics of the Boers can not be adopted, namely, never to unmask a position by replying to the fire of scouts. It appears that Pyong-yang is now nearly a deserted town, the inhabitants having all retreated to safe places. The *Shogyo Shimpo's* Seoul correspondent alleges that two of the enemy's horses were killed in the above encounter.

As for the Korean soldiers who were posted at Pyong-yang and who had the reputation of being the little empire's best troops, they too have made themselves scarce.

Viceroy Alexieff and his staff are said to be still in Mukden. News from Peking is to the effect that the Viceroy tried by cajolery and by threats to induce Governor-General Tseng to collect supplies and furnish coolies for the use of the Russian forces, and, in short, to administer Manchuria as though its inhabitants were allies of Russia. Tseng, though not a strong man, has sufficient discernment not to assume such an attitude without instructions from the Central Government and in the face of the neutrality which he knows that China has proclaimed. Hence he has quietly ignored and is ignoring the Viceroy's behests. Under these circumstances Alexieff is reported to have taken the law into his own hands by proclaiming that the inhabitants of Manchuria must render every assistance to the Russians against the Japanese and that any persons failing to do so will be severely punished. Alexieff doubtless considers that Manchuria is now a part of the Russian empire and that its Chinese and Tartar population must regard themselves as Russian subjects. It is not unnatural that in his position he should take that view. But he would be acting more logically if he removed the Chinese Governor-General and all the Chinese officials, replacing them by nominees of his own. Nothing could be more anomalous than that the Chinese Empire should continue to administer a region which the Russians are openly engaged in stealing from China, and that the Chinese administrators should be expected to aid in the consummation of the theft. Out of the present state of affairs some very curious complications are sure to arise, and if at this early stage the Russian Viceroy is obliged to resort to openly proclaimed threats in order to secure the submission and cōoperation of the Chinese inhabitants, he has taken a path which will presently lead him into an *impasse*. Japan in Korea has averted what might have become a similar difficulty on a smaller scale, for she has openly constituted herself the guardian of Korean independence and integrity. But if Alexieff took a similar course in Manchuria, if, as representing the Russian Government, he proclaimed that Russia had ceased to be a violater of pledges and was now the assertor of China's integrity and independence so far as concerned her three Eastern Provinces, this war need never have been commenced.

It is not in the above respects, however, that Russia is flagrantly disregarding the neutrality which she herself urged China to proclaim. In Peking also she shows the same mood. The movement of Ma's ten thousand men to Chau-yang, and of Yuan's force to Kinchow, outside the wall, has created great alarm at Russian head-quarters as indicating that at a moment of emergency Russia may find a not altogether contemptible enemy posted on her flank. Accordingly Viceroy Alexieff is said to have conveyed to the Peking Government, through M. Lessar, an intimation that at the first sign of hostility on China's part, or in the event of her persisting to assert her neutrality in the West Liao region, Russia will at once march an army of five hundred thousand men against Peking from Chanchiakow. To move such a force, or any considerable force, across the desert and into Chili would be a feat quite beyond Russia's immediate strength even though she were free to devote her whole attention to its accomplishment. But China does not reason in the face of menaces: she merely wilts. It would seem that she is disposed now to let the West Liao question drift and to refrain from any attempt calculated to inconvenience Russia, although Mr. Uchida is employing all his eloquence to inspire her with some courage. Can China possibly be saved from destruction when she has not the slighest disposition to save herself?

In this context we read a repetition of the curious statement that the *Peking and Tientsin Times* has been purchased by Russia, and that it is now exerting itself to convince its Chinese readers of the impotence of Japan in a military sense as compared with Russia.

Wednesday, March 2.

It is reported from Seoul that the most advanced scouts of the Russians northward of Pyong-yang, namely 50 men, are at Haiju, a place not marked on the maps but presumably a small town in the neighbourhood of Sukchhon or Sunan. At Kasan there are said to be 500 and at Chonju 4,000. These numbers are very problematical. They are probably taken from reports carried in by Korean peasants.

The *Nichi Nichi's* correspondent thinks that the Russians south of the Yalu have no idea of attacking, and that they are merely an observation corps. That may be assumed, for to attack Pyong-yang with a force of five thousand or even five times five thousand would be a hopeless task. It looks as if the Russian plan was to hold the Japanese southward of the Yalu as long as possible and meanwhile to establish a strong defensive position at the river. The weakness of such a position would be that it lies exposed to be outflanked from the sea.

Telegrams received by the *Nichi Nichi* from Seoul say that the number of Russian troops between Wiju and Anju does not exceed 400 cavalry, and that they are merely scouting without any intention of fighting. Neither are there any Russian troops in Kiulien. In Antung, however, there are 2,000 of all arms. The main strength is at Liaoyang.

The Russians have seized the telegraph offices at Ningpyong and Anju, have made prisoner of the principal local official in Anju, and have carried off all the books of the local Government. Curious spoil.

Thursday, March 3.

Yuensan sends news that 1500 Russian troops have passed south of the Tumen, have reached Hoi-yong, have seized the local headman and have required the inhabitants to furnish provisions. Hoi-yong is on the inland road from the mouth of the Tumen to Sonchin. It is celebrated as the furthest point to which the Japanese General Kato Kyomasa penetrated in his pursuit of the Korean monarch over 300 years ago. The Russians can scarcely contemplate any serious move into Korea from that direction. Probably what is happening is that the force—a considerable force—sent from Vladivostock to Possiet Bay, has thrown a small flying column into Korea across the Tumen. The Russian plan of campaign is gradually developing. They have determined to menace Korea from the directions of the Yalu and the Tumen, that is to say, from the north-west and the north-east, Laoyang being the ultimate base in the former case and Vladivostock in the latter. The strategical disadvantages of their position would disappear if Japan accepted these challenges and devoted her whole strength to pushing back the two invasions by operating from Pyongyang in one case and from Yongsan in the other. But the Russian forces on the Yalu and in Possiet Bay are both exposed to the danger of having their communications cut. The regiments in Possiet Bay have been carried thither by sea from Vladivostock and are drawing their supplies from that place. We have it in evidence that the Vladivostock ice-crusher *Nadorshnik*, instead of discharging her normal functions, has been transporting troops and munitions to Possiet Bay. Such movements would have been well enough 35 years ago, in the era of raids and forays. But they are now an idle dissipation of strength; precisely such a dissipation as Russian commanders made in the case of their naval squadrons—a dissipation then attributed to magnificent supineness, but really attributable, it would seem, to an entirely false conception of the enemy's strength. However it must be confessed that this aggressive activity on the part of the army contrasts pleasantly with the inert helplessness of the navy.

It is reported that a Russian vessel has come to Kilju, which lies a little north of Sonchin, and is there engaged in reconnoitering operations. What is there to reconnoiter, we wonder. Unless perhaps the Russians think that a Japanese column is to move towards the Tumen from Yuensan. It is from the latter place that this news comes.

We are now informed that not more than 500 Russians, all cavalry, are between Seoul and Wiju; that there are not any in Kiulien, and that Antung has a garrison of 2,000. This is the account given by the *Jiji*, the *Asahi*, and the *Nichi Nichi*. But the *Kokumin* says that there are probably 1,000 in the neighbourhood of Wiju, 1,200 in Chong-ju, 78 in Ningpyong, 50 at Sun-an and 2,400 distributed between Kasan, Pak-chhon and Anju. No one—at least no journalist—seems to be quite confident about this matter. It will be perceived that the *Kokumin's* intelligence assigns 4,728 men to regions where the other three journals put 500 only.

The *Jiji Shimpo* has a telegram that 300 Russian troops from Possiet Bay have crossed the Tumen and advanced to Ungkwi Bay. Probably this is an offshoot of the movement described above.

GERMAN OPINION REGARDING RUSSIA'S PLAINT.

The following Berlin telegram, dated Feb. 25th the has been received at the Foreign Office, Tokyo:—

> In commenting on the late circular of the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, the *Lokal Anzeiger* remarks that Japan had, in a formal sense, undoubtedly no right to land troops or to exercise her Sovereignty within the territority of a country which was recognized as an independent State and which declared its neutrality *vis-a-vis* the Russo-Japanese war, but practically the question is wholly different, because Korea, with her weak and insufficient military force, was not able to maintain neutrality. Therefore the Russians could freely enter Korea if the Japanese had not come there before them. It is, therefore natural from the geographical position of the seat of war that Korean territory should be utilized as a basis of Japanese military operations. The recognition by the Powers of the independence of Korea under these treaties, does not necessarily imply that they have guaranteed her inviolability in case of war, as, for instance, with regard to the case of Belgium.
>
> One point is, however worthy of notice in the Russian circular, that neither Korea's neutrality nor the validity of ordinances emanating from the Korean Government is any longer acknowledged by the Russian Government.

The following comment appeared in the Berlin *Bourse Courier*:—

> While the two belligerents are preparing for a serious combat on the battle field, the interval is employed by them in waging a collateral diplomatic war, Japanese inspired articles giving her case concerning the termination of negotiations and the rupture of diplomatic relations, while Russia brings severe accusations against Japan of violating international law. In regard to the Russian Circular, from an important point of view, it can only be said that no complaint can be made against the Japanese Government from the moment when they broke off diplomatic relations with Russia. The question, however, still remains unsolved: what were the reasons which induced Japan to break off diplomatic relations before the receipt of Russia's reply in Tokyo, which was only a matter of 24 hours difference in waiting and would not have caused any important change in the situation. At all events, it is useless now to pronounce any opinion as to which of the two parties was in the right or in the wrong; and according to the rules of war, the cannon of one will now decide.

The *Vossiche Zeitung* says that the Russo-Japan war is progressing in a manner for which it would be difficult to find any precedent. No one imagined that in a few hours Japan would have been able to secure the superiority at sea. It turns out to be quite false that four Japanese men-of-war were sunk outside Port Arthur, and the truth is that the Russian fleet is shut up in the harbour unable to attempt any offensive movement. It is to the operations on land that public attention will now be directed. Numerically the Russian army is the stronger, but considering the great distance of the field of operations and the difficulty of sending troops there, Russia will certainly feel the strain very severely. General Kuropatkin is said to have alleged that the war will last at least 18 months. In that case this war will not only produce most grave effects upon the financial and economical condition of the combatants, but will also be severely felt by the neutral States that have commercial relations with the belligerents. Germany happily stands in a position which secures her against being reached, however remotely, by the influences of the contest. She will maintain strict neutrality, and having not the remotest interest in the fate of Manchuria, will be able to watch the struggle calmly.

KOREA.

Saturday, February 27.

The Americans and Japanese from Unsan are said to be withdrawing to Pyong-yang.

Li Yong-ik seems to have been the real cause of all recent anti-Japanese obstructions in Korea. Hence his removal from office and his retirement to Japan where he will find a safe asylum and time to reflect. It is said that Li had made his obstructive influence very strongly felt of late. There is a report that the Imperial Treasury of which he had charge was found to be filled with empty boxes, and thus as the Japanese say, "his tail is exposed." Min Yong-chhol, who belonged to the same political clique, is to seek refuge in the Korean Legation in Peking, where he will be in charge; Li Keun-thaik has resigned his post and left the capital for his provincial home; and Kil Yong-chu also is expected to make himself scarce. The Emperor, it is now thought, will have fewer fits of trembling.

Monday, February 29.

The following has been published:—

> Korean Minister for Foreign Affairs communicated under date of Feb. 25, to the Japanese Minister at Seoul substantially as follows:—
>
> Wiju, in Northern Pyel-teung, had formerly been the site for overland trade with China, but as the consequence of certain events, the trade has for a time been discontinued. Since, however, the trade of that town has gradually been revived, the Korean Government now deem it proper to open the town for foreign commence. I therefore, in accordance with the decision of the Council, and with the approval of H.M. the Emperor, declare this to the Foreign Representatives accredited to this Court. The limits of the city and the date of opening shall be communicated later.

The Korean Government declared on the evening of the 25th that Anju is to be open to foreign trade. As yet the limits included in the term "Wiju" and the day of opening are not fixed, but the expectation is that Yong Am-pho will be included in the limits. This, doubtless, is one of the "orders" which the Russians have adopted the precaution of declaring null in prospective.

News from Seoul says that the war notes hitherto issued in that city total some 70,000 *yen*, and that probably their issue in the capital will not exceed that amount. They will be used rather in provincial districts.

Seoul and Chemulpo seem to be suffering much from scarcity of provisions. Prices have risen 500 or 600 per cent., and even at these enormously enhanced figures provisions are difficult to obtain. Arrangements had been made for a supply of 500 *koku* of rice, but the ordinary means of communication having been interrupted owing to the passage of troops, this staple could not be carried. In deference to Japanese representations a quantity of Annam rice stored in the imperial warehouses was put on the market, and the Osaka Shosen Kaisha has now determined to renew the line of steamers between Fusan and Chemulpo from the 29th inst. It will be understood, of course, that the usual steamship services have been interrupted. Rice is said to be now selling at 21 *yen* per *koku*, and a small bundle of vegetables costs 90 *sen*.

The Russian troops in Korea have seized the encampment of the Korean soldiers at Anju and taken possession of the men's arms. The Koreans do not appear to have offered any resistance. Eighty of them fled to Pyong-yang on the 26th instant.

A Japanese newspaper of doubtful credibility alleges that in consequence of the newly concluded Protocol the Korean Government has issued instructions to its Representative in St. Petersburg to withdraw with all his staff from the Russian capital.

It is stated (*Nippon*) that the Emperor of Korea has signified his intention of contributing 100,000 *yen* to the Soldiers Relief Fund, that the Crown Prince will give 50,000 and Prince Yong 20,000.

The *Nippon* says that in the sequel of the new Protocol Mr. Hayashi has asked the Korean Government for the Seoul-Wiju railway concession.

Tuesday, March 1.

It is reported that the Korean force sent to guard the northern frontier of Hamyong-do has been completely routed by the Russians but there are no details. Probably the force referred to was posted on the southern bank of the Tumen.

One may note in this context that Russia's talk about Japan's failure to observe the neutrality of Korea sounds strangely in connexion with her own doings. Long before, very long before, the outbreak of hostilities or the rupture of diplomatic negotiations, Viceroy Alexieff was moving troops towards the northern bank of the Yalu and massing them at Feng-hwang and Kiulien. What did he intend to do with them? The question was answered on the very morrow of the rupture of negotiations, for the advance guard of these troops forthwith crossed the Yalu and began to move through Korea towards Pyong-yang. It would be difficult, we imagine, to discover in all the history of civilized states anything more frivolous than the conduct of Russian statesmen at this crisis. They are simply grasping at every straw, however fragile, which seems capable of helping to convict Japan of unworthiness to remain in the comity of nations. No wonder that the Japanese apply to Russia's procedure the epithet used in describing the petulance of women and children, *guchi wo iû*.

The views entertained by the various Powers with regard to the new Korean-Japanese Protocol have not yet been ascertained fully, but the British and American Governments are understood to have expressed approval of it.

The Ministers of the United States and of Great Britain have respectively applied to the Korean Government to provide due protection for the mining property of American citizens at Unsan and for the persons and property of missionaries throughout Pyongan-do.

An exodus of Koreans from Pyong-yang and from the places along the high-road thence to Anju and Wiju is reported. These people have not been fortunate. Twice within ten years they find themselves brought into immediate contact with war.

Wednesday, March 2.

The Emperor of Korea has subscribed ten thousand *yen*, the Crown Prince 5,000, and Prince Yong 3,000 for the purpose of erecting a place to entertain Japanese officers.

It is confirmed that in the exercise of the privileges secured by the recent Protocol, Mr. Hayashi has asked for the concession of the Seoul-Wiju Railway.

Li Yong-ik seems to have left Seoul just in time. Immediately after his departure he was impeached, and the Emperor ordered his removal from high office to a prison, but Li had disappeared. He was in Osaka on the last day of February and he set out for Tokyo yesterday.

The Japanese Consul at Chemulpo telegraphs that the ice in the Tadong river is nearly broken up and that navigation is probably possible.

Thursday, March 3.

It is stated from Seoul that although the Korean Government does not object to granting to a Japanese syndicate the concession of the Seoul-Wiju line, a certain Power is inclined to make protest. France, we presume, is the Power referred to. She probably contends that when her people, having failed to undertake the construction of the line within the appointed time and having no prospect of being able to undertake it at any time, surrendered the concession, it was understood that the work would be done by the Korean Government itself.

Mr. Miyasu, Japanese Consul at Seoul, repeats his statements as to the scarcity of provisions at Seoul and Chemulpo owing to the arrival of troops. He says that already there is considerable distress and that it will be greatly aggravated if things are allowed to remain as they are now. His recommendation is that steps be at once taken to re-establish the regular line of steamers between Japan and Chemulpo.

The leading London journals discuss the new Japan-Korea *protocol*. Their general view seems to be that it places Korea in much the same position with regard to Japan as that occupied by Egypt with regard to England, and that the practical working of the agreement will result in similar relations between the two countries.

Li Yong-ik, speaking at Osaka, claims to have had a hand in concluding the new Protocol. He has apparently donned a thoroughly pro-Japanese garment since his arrival in this country, and he now declares himself as much pleased by Japanese victories at sea as he is grieved to think that Japanese soldiers have not found comfortable accommodation in Korea. We trust that Mr. Li's mood will last.

A telegram to the *Shogyo Shimpo* from Berlin says that the German Government has raised no objection whatever to the new Japan-Korea Protocol.

It is stated that Mr. Hayashi, learning of some transactions with reference to the appointment of a Japanese subject as adviser to the Korean Government, had pointed out that it would be desirable that he should be consulted before the making of such appointments. Connected with this story is the name of Mr. Oye Taku, well-known at one time on account of his relations with the late Count Goto in political matters.

It is reported that there has arisen in Seoul a party hostile to the new Protocol. The head of the malcontents is Li Yong-in, Vice-President of the Privy Council. These people are said to be making themselves so active that the Cabinet talks of resigning.

Friday, March 4.

We read in the *Kokumin Shimbun* that France's objection with regard to a Japanese concession for the construction of the Seoul-Wiju railway is met on the Japanese side by the explanation that the line is needed for strategical purposes, an object with which the quondam French concessionaires are not in any way concerned. From that point of view Korea's last Protocol with Japan binds her to grant the concession and disposes effectually of the French protest, which, after all, is probably not very serious.

It is considered that the anti-Japanese party in Seoul which has lately raised its head in opposition to the Japanese-Korean Protocol, is not of much consequence. It is a pity that these politicians, instead of crying out about the independence of their country when she is taken under the protection of a Power which fought once for that independence and is now guaranteeing it against the aggressions of an all-devouring State, do not exert themselves to educate among their countrymen the protentialities of self-defence without which her independence is impossible.

Lieut.-General Inouye, who commands the Twelfth Division, now in Korea, has issued a notification with regard to the treatment of prisoners and the manner of dealing with spies or persons that obstruct the military operations.

CHINA.

General Ma Yu-kon's forces, consisting of 20 battalions—nominally ten thousand of all arms—have passed the Great Wall and taken up positions at Chou-yang, Kien-chan and other places. Viceroy Yuan's forces are still inside the Wall but it is said that they will advance should such a movement be required by the occasion. China, then, seems to have finally determined to regard as within the neutral zone all that part of Manchuria included between the Great Wall and the Liao River. Long before war became certain the interest attaching to this question was pointed out in these columns. Of course if China confine herself to posting a few soldiers northward of the Wall in the vicinity of Shanhaikwan, Russia need not pay much attention to her. But if the determination of the Peking Government be to assert its neutrality throughout the above region right up to the Western bank of the Liao, there will be posted in close proximity to Russia's right flank and, above all, to her line of railway a body of troops having the character of potential enemies. We shall be surprised if Russia does not continue her most strenuous efforts to free herself from that great inconvenience. It is perhaps premature, however, to conclude that China has become vertebrate in this matter. Accounts differ. One rumour represents her as having made up her mind irrevocably; another says that the Wai-wu-pu is still negotiating with Viceroy Alexieff on the subject. As for Russia, she appears to have adopted a practical method of protesting by at once posting a small force on the west bank of the river.

Viceroy Yuan is reported to be very solicitous about the foreigners in the military service of his country. He has required the German employées to sign and seal a set of seven pledges, the nature of which is not stated, and he has issued orders that no foreign military men shall be allowed to accompany the Chinese troops outside the Great Wall.

We alluded in a recent issue to secret shipments of cattle from the neighbourhood of Chefoo to Liaotung, and to the fact that the Japanese Consul had strenuously called the attention of the Chefoo Taotai to this breach of neutrality. The Taotai is now said to be taking vigorous steps to check the abuse. He has ordered the gun-boat *Chen-hai* to watch the coast.

Shanghai sends word that the United States ships *San Francisco*, *Brooklyn* and *Tacoma* have assembled there, and that they will presently set out to carry Mr. Morgan, the United States Consul, to Dalny. This statement requires confirmation.

A report comes from Peking to the *Kokumin Shimbun* that the Russian Government have intimated formally their conviction of China's inability to maintain strict neutrality and their determination not to recognise her neutrality any longer.

The Chinese Authorities are said to be taking vigorous measures to prevent the secret export of munitions of war to Manchuria.

The 1904 issue of the "Directory and Chronicle" published at the office of the *Hongkong Daily Press*, is to hand and calls for the high terms of commendation usually employed in commenting upon this really monumental work. In the Directory proper every locality where foreigners are settled and reside finds a place, from Vladivostock and Nicolaiesk through a long series of inland cities and sea and river ports southward to Singapore, Penang, Dutch India, the Philippines, the list winding up with Labuan in Borneo. The Yokohama section is necessarily condensed but the information, so far as we have been able to gather, is fairly accurate and up to date. If we may infer from this the general trustworthiness of the Directory then it has indeed substantial claims to a place on the merchant's and official's desks. There is in addition a mass of matter inserted for reference, such as treaties, conventions, protocols, tariffs, Orders in Council—so that within one pair of covers a busy man may well find facts or figures for which he must otherwise have recourse to a dozen volumes. A special feature of this year's issue is, we note, the publication of the complete Customs Tariff of Japan, including not only the articles and rates of duty covered by the revision that came into force in April, 1903, but also those covered by the Commercial Treaties with the various Powers. But a point presents itself: will the "Directory and Chronicle" continue to grow in proportion to the treaty and convention-making that seems to have set in?

From the *Peking and Tientsin Times* we take the following proclamation which has been issued by Yuan Shi-kai, the powerful Viceroy of Pe-chi-li:—

1.—Anyone creating wild rumours calculated to alarm or produce doubt in the people's mind will be beheaded.

2.—Anyone teaching or learning mystic practices like Boxer measures and red lantern doctrines will be beheaded.

3.—All persons gathering together for purposes of plunder or forcible disorder will be beheaded.

4.—Anyone in the Government service, military or civil, found connecting himself in any way with people spreading strange doctrines or connected with disorders, will be beheaded.

5.—For the harbouring of those who spread wild doctrines and mischievous beliefs, the head of the family will be imprisoned for five years and all the property confiscated.

6.—If in any family or in any village any person is known to spread mischievous doctrines, the head of the family or the *Tipao* must report the same to the authorities. If this is not done and the matter is discovered, the head of such family will be imprisoned for one year, or the head of such village for three years.

7.—If in any place any altar or other thing is erected by those teaching strange doctrines to make public demonstrations thereon, anyone reporting the same will be rewarded by the property belonging to the guilty persons being given to him.

8.—Anyone arresting a teacher of mischievous doctrines and bringing him to the authorities will receive a reward of Tls. 200 for a leader, or Tls. 200 for any five followers of the same. Those giving such information as will enable the authorities to arrest such leader, will receive half the reward.

9.—The prevention of all these evils depends greatly on the vigilance of the local officials in each district, and in any district where it is found that people are assembling and public instruction is being given in foolish doctrines, those officials must be strongly impeached.

10.—These prohibitions are intended to guard the people against any trouble in the future, and to give those inclined to foolish practices warning, that they may repent and escape punishment. But it does not exonerate those who are well known to have been evil doers in the past, and for whom the authorities are still seeking. Yamen runners are warned not to make this prohibition an excuse for troubling the people.

11.—If any persons falsely accuse others for the sake of reward, they will be heavily punished if such is discovered.

The Peking correspondent of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* telegraphs that M. Lessar has now officially demanded of the Chinese Government the withdrawal of General Ma's forces from Chouyang, which is on the Manchurian side of the Great Wall. Apparently Russia's objections had not previously taken an official form, but they are now preferred as demands of the Russian State. It thus follows that Russia openly declares even her first-period evacuation of Manchuria to have been a farce—that is to say, the evacuation supposed to have been concluded on October 8th, 1902. We do not immediately see how she could have contrived to be more faithless than she has been in this matter. She allowed the world to suppose, she encouraged it in the belief, that the first step in the programme of evacuation had been duly carried out, and resting in that belief no apprehension or serious suspicion was felt by the nations until the date for the completion of the second step came and passed without any sign of evacuation. But now the Russian Government turns round and publicly avows that the whole business was pure fraud and deception; that in reality no part of Manchuria was ever evacuated, and that the whole of the three provinces have ceased to be part of China and must therefore be excluded from the sphere of her neutrality. This monumental exhibition of perjury is aptly supported by empty menaces of marching an army of half a million men across the steppes of Mongolia against Peking *viâ* Kalgan. Russia does not shrink from talking big. She has found it pay hitherto. The nations have cowered under her threats. But it is possible that the stage may have now become too small for her. Viceroy Yuan has perhaps some back-bone. We do not know. It were very rash to assume the existence of that attribute in any responsible Chinese stateman. But he is said to be wrathful about Russia's lawless and contumelious conduct, and to be disposed to persist in his Government's original programme even at the expense of a collision with Russia. The only question is, which course will least conduce to Russia's convenience. What a pity it is that all the Powers sit with folded hands in the face of Russia's bluster. The note she issued to the nations on the 9th of February shows so clearly what her diplomatic course was with regard to Japan. Manchuria, according to that note, concerned, in the first place, China but also "all the Powers having commercial interests in China" and as she knew that "all the Powers" with the solitary exception of Japan, were indisposed to interfere with her aggressions, therefore she insolently and arbitrarily declined to discuss the matter with Japan to whom it was a question of life or death. Perhaps Japan's courage may inspire some other nations to look the blustering giant squarely between the eyes.

The Chinese in the employment of the Russians at all their coal mines in Manchuria are said to have struck work. This does not appear to be in any sense a matter of patriotism: it is a question of lucre. The rouble note has greatly depreciated in purchasing price and the Chinese labourers are feeling the fact. If it be true that Russia is going to pay her way in Manchuria with fiat paper there is much suffering in store for the unhappy inhabitants.

Another example of her impecuniosity and unscrupulousness is said to have been displayed at Newchwang where she proposes to devote the customs revenue to military expenditures. That would be sheer robbery. The customs revenues belong to China primarily, and secondarily to the Powers, who hold a lien on them as security for China's debt. Sir Robert Hart is said to have protested vehemently. We can well imagine it. Sir Robert may be trusted to do his duty. The Chinese Government will support him until the strain begins to tell on its weak back. But the Powers will not budge. The Russian bogie is too much for them.

The Russian Government is said to have formally intimated to the Chinese Government that whereas Japan is compelling Korea to take certain steps against the latter's will, Russia will not recognise the validity of any of these steps. It is curious that Russia does not perceive the applicability of her protests to her own conduct. What is she doing now except trying to force China to take certain unwilling steps with regard to the West-Liao region? What is she doing in Manchuria except trying to compel the inhabitants and their officials to support her in a war virtually directed against their own country? The scripture of international law was evidently compiled, in Russia's opinion, solely for Russia's convenience. She declines to acknowledge the binding force of any decalogue where she is herself concerned, but she insists that its provisions shall be applied with the utmost strictness to the conduct of others.

Attempts to forward food-stuffs to Port Arthur from China have still to be checked. A Tientsin merchant was about to send seven thousand sacks of flour, it is said, when Mr. Uchida appealed to the Peking Government on the subject. Probably Chinese merchants do not fully understand the duties of strict neutrality, though they ought to do so had they read their Government's proclamation on the subject.

THE "MANJOUR."

Friday, February 26.

The *Manjour* was to be disarmed on the 25th instant, her armament being taken charge of by the Customs officials and her crew sent home by another steamer. As a matter of strict propriety her crew should be held by the Chinese until the conclusion of the war, but possibly some special agreement has been made concerning them.

Saturday, February 27.

The disarmament of the *Manjour* does not seem to have been yet effected. Japan insists that her guns shall be taken out, and that she shall be deprived of all the marks of a man-of-war. But the Russians want to reduce the matter merely to the removal of her rudder. It is expected that the more drastic course will be adopted in a few days.

Sunday, February 28.

Peking telegraphs that it has been finally arranged to disarm the *Manjour* and to keep her officers and men in China until the termination of the War. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* is much discontented about this affair. It says that a wholly novel precedent has been established. There may be still a practical recognition of the principle that a ship escaping from battle and taking refuge in a neutral port, should be disarmed by the neutral Power and her crew held prisoners. But no one ever heard of the idea that a ship unharmed, not having engaged in any conflict and not placed in any jeopardy, should be treated as the *Manjour* has been treated. Such a ship should either take her chance in battle or should be handed over to the belligerent from whom she is seeking to escape. Not only does Japan thus lose an addition to her fighting force, but also there is imposed on her the burden of seeing that the *Manjour* does not subsequently escape and rejoin the Russian fleet. Our contemporary holds that in this matter China has shown herself the friend of Russia rather than of Japan, and insists that if the Peking Government intends to allow itself to be then brow-beaten by M. Lessar, Japan must adopt measures of self-protection.

Monday, February 29.

The public are probably tired of hearing about the *Manjour*. She is to be dismantled; that is certain. But as to what is meant by dismantling there seems to be a difference of opinion, Japan wanting something much more thorough than Russia is disposed to agree to. It can scarcely be said that in this matter Russia has shown any solicitude for that international law to which she appeals so fervently when her own interests are furthered by doing so. Japan has been obliged to reduce her fighting strength by two ships during a space of more than three weeks simply because Russia has grossly violated one of the least equivocal rules of neutrality.

Wednesday, March 2.

A telegram from Shanghai says that the Taotai has officially informed the Japanese Consul-General with regard to the *Manjour* that the ship is to be disarmed, that her officers and crew are not to be allowed to take further part in the war, and that China is to be responsible for the full carrying out of this arrangement.

Thursday, March 3.

The *Mandjour* question still hangs fire. Rumour says that the disarmament of the vessel had been carried to a certain point on the 25th ultimo, when the Russian Minister again interfered. This led to fresh discussion, and a final decision was reached on the last day of February. But it has not yet been carried into effect. Meanwhile there is another rumour in the sense that the Chinese Government has addressed a circular to the Powers complaining of Russia's violation of neutrality in the case of a place like Shanghai where all are interested in removing any obstacle to the tranquil conduct of trade.

We do not know the exact details of this affair. There has been so much talk that even the outlines are obscured. But it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that Russian diplomacy is displaying the pragmatical fussiness for which it has been notorious during the past five years. The question of the *Mandjour* is as clear as crystal. Does Russia propose to observe the unequivocal principle of international law or does she not? Is she willing that the vessel should be disarmed and placed *hors be combat* for the remaining period of the war, or does she entertain some dishonest project of ostensibly complying with the requirements of law and subsequently evading them by some ruse which will restore this paltry gunboat to her squadron? If she be honest in the matter, what occasion is there for all this discussion and objection? If she be honest why do her diplomats do everything in their power to throw suspicion on her integrity?

VLADIVOSTOCK.

A British steamer which left Vladivostock on the 23rd and reached Nagasaki on the 26th, reports that at the former date the four cruisers were lying inactive and showing no signs of leaving the harbour. Two armed transports were there also. The ice at the entrance to the harbour was 3 feet thick, and communications by land were very arduous. There was no appearance of the garrison having received any increment. Large baulks of timber were being sent overland to some destination not ascertained but supposed to be Port Arthur. It is, however, almost inconceivable that Liaotung should draw a timber supply from Vladivostock overland. In this context we may note that presumably the export of timber from the Yalu has ceased.

A report has been received from Sado that an unrecognised warship was seen in the offing, and there were suspicions that she might be one of the Vladivostock Squadron. But the Japanese Authorities take no stock in the story.

It is a significant fact that martial law was proclaimed at Vladivostock on the 9th of February, and the proclamation must have been drafted on the 8th, in other words prior to the opening of hostilities by Japan at Port Arthur. That was indeed a convincing indication of peaceful intention!

The martial law proclaimed at Vladivostock on the 9th of February is of a most stringent nature. It declares that the persons and property of all individuals, whether civilian or military, must be held at the disposal of the military authorities; that every one—apparently soldiers are included—must forage for himself; that all persons desiring to avoid the operation of this law may withdraw, and that all persons remaining may be desired to withdraw at any instant, in which event no responsibility will be accepted on account of their persons or property; that all those leaving by train will be allowed to carry away only such articles as they can attach to their persons, but those leaving by carriages, carts or other vehicles may carry away their entire goods with the exception of cattle, fowl or provisions of any kind.

THE RELIEF OF LADYSMITH.

Sunday was the anniversary of the relief of Ladysmith after a four months' siege in which the garrison suffered many losses and privations. It is the custom to celebrate this event in London by a dinner to which are bidden only those who took part in the defence of the town. Several of the besieged are now in Tokyo awaiting orders to go to the front. On Sunday night they dined at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo. Capt. Jardine, Capt. Lionel James, of *The Times*; Mr. Maxwell, of the *Standard*; Mr. MacHugh, of the *Daily Express*; Mr. Melton Prior, of the *Illustrated London News*; and Mr. Lynch, of the *Daily Chronicle*, formed the party. Colonel Hume, Military Attaché of the British Legation, and Capt. Tanaka, Aid-de-Camp to General Baron Kodama, were present as guests.

WAR NOTES.

Friday, February 26.

It having transpired that Chinese junks are secretly carrying provisions to Port Arthur from the neighbourhood of Tsinghai in Shantung, Mr. Mizuno, Japanese Consul at Chefoo, has approached the Taotai on the subject, and the latter has sent a gunboat to check these practices.

The *Nichi Nichi* has a telegram from Chefoo which says that, according to a trustworthy Chinaman, the Russians have made preparations to blow up the wharves and all the principal buildings at Dalny in case of emergency.

A telegram from Chemulpo quotes a person who was in Port Arthur from the 8th to the 14th. He says that with the exception of the *Pobieda* there was not one Russian ship that escaped unscathed, and that they are all in the harbour undergoing or awaiting repairs.

There are statements that Port Arthur has provisions for three months only, but such rumours must be accepted with much reserve.

The master of an American ship, which has just entered Moji, says that six Japanese subjects have been killed by Russian gendarmes at Port Arthur on suspicion of cutting telegraph wires.

It is again alleged that Viceroy Alexieff has unquestionably transferred his headquarters to Harbin.

A telegram to the *Kokumin* alleges that General Ma Yu-kan's troops have already passed beyond the Great Wall for the purpose of preserving neutrality in the region westward of the Liao River.

The canned meat—rumoured to be worth a million *yen*—which is on board the S. S. *Korea* has for direct destination Nagasaki, not a port in Russian occupation. Consequently it is not probable that any severe measure will be taken with regard to the vessel or her cargo. She will be allowed to continue her voyage and to land the meat at Nagasaki, its consignee at that port being held responsible for its ultimate destination.

Saturday, February 27.

A telegram from Shanghai, dated the 25th instant, says that the *Wilmington* suddenly weighed anchor and left the port, although 150 of her men were ashore. The *Wilmington* is a gunboat of 1,397 tons, and her full complement of men is 170. She could scarcely afford to go away leaving 150 of them on shore.

Shanghai is to have a Russian organ published in English. That is an interesting departure. It will be very satisfactory to learn about Russian views and hear the Russian side.

The Vladivostock *Far East* publishes the speech addressed by the Tsar to the students of the Naval College in St. Petersburg on the 10th instant, when His Majesty announced to the students that their course would be shortened by 3½ months and that all would be at once commissioned in view of the necessity of increasing Russia's military and naval forces. The Tsar took occasion to allude to Japan's treachery in attacking his forces before she had declared war. He must know by this time how the world laughs at him.

The order for mobilization reached Blagovetchensk on the 10th instant and produced the effect of at once running up prices. There were 160 Japanese residents—presumably they are there still—but the military governor adopted such prompt and resolute measures that no disturbance of any kind occurred nor were the Japanese subjected to any inconvenience.

The Vladivostock journal of the 12th says that a universal requisition for horses was issued on the 10th instant, but that it produced only 300 animals.

The inhabitants of Vladivostock appear to be all making their way to Nicholesk and Habarovsk. The trains going north from Vladivostock are said to be crowded.

It is stated that on the 11th instant a pood of beef was sold for 10 roubles in Vladivostock.

Monday, February 29.

Following is the Russian contradiction published in Shanghai by the *N.-C. Daily News* on Feb. 22nd, to which we have already referred :—"We have been requested by the Russian Consul-General, Mr. Kleménow, to publish the following telegram received here from Port Arthur on Saturday :—'The official communication emanating from the Japanese Embassy in London concerning the attack of torpedo destroyers on Port Arthur during a snowstorm on 13th February is totally false. There was no attack ; not a single ship was damaged nor was any vessel exposed to any attack or damage. All up to date is absolutely quiet. (Signed) Admiral Witgeft, Chief of Naval Staff.'" As everybody now knows, the attack did not take place on the 13th. But Admiral Wetgift knew very well that at 3 a.m. on the 14th the Japanese destroyers assaulted the shipping in Port Arthur and drew the fire of the forts. Yet "all up to date is absolutely quiet." Quiet!

Tuesday, March 1.

Japanese securities are still falling in London. The four-per-cents are now quoted at £66 and the five-per-cents at £77.5s.

There has been published in Tokyo a translation of an article which appeared in the Harbin *Daily News* of the 7th February. We do not think it worth while to re-translate the production from Japanese into English, as it is merely a bombastic utterance unworthy of serious attention. At the close of the essay its author warns England and America that Russia will not forget their sympathy with Japan at this juncture, but it really matters very little to the threatened Powers whether the Muscovite memory is retentive or leaky.

Of the Russian ships that remained in the Red Sea, the cruiser *Aurora*, four destroyers and one torpedo-boat, entered the Suez Canal on the 29th ultimo. There still remain the *Osslabya*, the *Dimitri Donskoi* and three destroyers.

The number of Japanese war correspondents who received recognition from the Authorities up to the 1st of March was 20, including two magazine representatives. These belonged to Tokyo. The number for the provinces was 38. With regard to foreign correspondents, the figure given is 53, and their interpreters and servants total 26.

The Dalny newspaper of February 10th comforts its countrymen by an announcement that a great battle has taken place on the Yalu in which the Japanese fled, leaving 500 dead and wounded upon the field, the Russian casualties being only 80. It further states that Chemulpo has been captured by a Russian squadron, and that in the torpedo attack on the 8th a Japanese destroyer was sunk, one was captured and one escaped.

Wednesday, March 2.

A rumour has reached Tokyo that the railway from Harbin to Nikolskoie has been destroyed through a distance of 2 kilometres in the neighbourhood of Ningtow. That would mean that Vladivostock is temporarily isolated from Harbin.

A Russian resident of Nagasaki sent to the Governor of the Amur on the 19th of January a document which that official published as a state document on the 5th of February, that is to say, on the day before Japan broke off diplomatic relations with Russia. It is an interesting document as showing two things, first, the consummate faith of the Russians in their own destiny as rulers of Asia, and, secondly, their supreme contempt for the Japanese as belligerents. The writer sets out by saying that Russia then occupied a uniquely favourable position in China, all the Powers having virtually abandoned their some-time attitude of resistence to her claims, and Japan being the sole objector that remained. Japan, however, did not count at all. Her utter insignificance compared with the stupendous might of Russia was fully understood in St. Petersburg. It was incredible that she should persist in her attitude of contumely, and if she did then the duty would devolve upon Russia of crushing her once and for all, thus saving the world from the Yellow Peril and rendering a permanent service to humanity. That seemed to be Russia's heaven-sent mission in Asia, and she ought to discharge it without flinching.

This document would be of no consequence as a mere expression of individual opinion. But so soon as the views it expresses are publicly adopted by the Governor of the Amur Provinces, it must be taken as expressing the opinion held by one section at all events of Russian officialdom.

Thursday, March 3.

The Japanese *Official Gazette* publishes regulations with regard to the correspondence of prisoners of war, which is to be carried free of charge.

The Russian war-vessel *General Admiral*, which is reported as having arrived at the Azores, is an old cruiser (4,722 tons), launched in 1873. Probably her mission is to seal the Cape route if possible, as the *Osslabya* and her consorts are sealing the Canal route, but as she never had a speed of more than 12 knots, and as her work for some years has been training service, she can not be very successful in the role of commerce-destroyer.

RUSSIA'S LOSSES.

The Naval Department, collating the various reports hitherto published, inclusive of those from Russian sources, comes to the following conclusions with regard to the injuries suffered by Russian ships since the beginning of the war :—

Retvisan—Struck on the port-side under the water-line by a torpedo and sunk ; now lying on the west of the harbour's mouth where she constitutes an obstruction to navigation.

Tsarevitch—Struck on the port-side at the water-line by a torpedo.

Petropavlovsk—Uncertain. Said to have been injured but to what extent is not yet ascertained.

Yenisei—Blown up by one of her own torpedoes.

Poltava—Struck in the stern on the port-side at the water-line by a Japanese shell.

Diana—Injured by the Japanese cannonade on the 9th instant.

Askold—Struck on the port-side at the water-line by a shell.

Pallada—Struck on the port-side under the water-line by a torpedo.

Boyarin—Injured, it is reported, in the Japanese attack on the 14th instant, but nothing definite known.

Sevastopol—Said originally to have a defect in her machinery and probably unfit for the fighting line.

Novik—Struck amidships on the port-side at the water line by a Japanese shell.

Varyag—Sunk at Chemulpo.

Koreetz—Sunk at Chemulpo.

WAR AND PATRIOTIC FUNDS.

The *Teikoku Kiujutsu Gikai* (association for the succour of soldiers), which was organized by Counts Inouye and Matsukata, seems to be obtaining large funds The Barons Iwasaki have contributed fifty thousand *yen* ; the Mitsui Family, fifty thousand ; Prince Shimazu, ten thousand ; Prince Mori, ten thousand ; Baron Shibusawa, twenty thousand ; Mr. Okura Kihachiro, twenty thousand ; Mr. Sumitomo, thirty thousand ; Mr. Konoike, twenty thousand and Mr. Fujita twenty thousand. Thus nine contributors have put up 230,000 *yen*, or an average of over 25,000 each. That is certainly very handsome.

The Emperor has contributed 7,000 *yen* and the Empress 5,000 *yen* to the Ladies Patriotic Society, the members of which are principally wives and daughters of naval officers.

The names of various foreign employees of the Japanese Government are published as contributors to the funds of the Red Cross Society. Dr. Baelz' name figures for a thousand *yen*.

THE LADIES' SOCIETY FOR THE RELIEF OF FAMILIES OF SOLDIERS AT THE FRONT

(*Shussei Gunjin-Kwazoku Imon Fujin-kai*).

This Society, whose name expresses its object, held a preliminary meeting at the Nobles' Club on Feb. 25th at 2 p.m. There were present Princess Mori, Marchioness Kuroda, Countess Itagaki, Countess Matsukata (junior), Baroness Sannomiya, Lady MacDonald, Mrs. Griscom (by proxy), Mrs. Miller and others to the number of over 100. A lecture was delivered by the Honble. Miss Shimoda Uta, of the Peeresses School and various documents were read by Baron Mori. Miss Shimoda's address was very simple. It expressed a profound sense of the gravity of the situation and of the duty that devolved upon the women of the nation to help their fighting men by providing as far as possible for the latter's families. The speaker knew well that in almost every household something was already being done, whether in the way of preparing bandages or rendering more direct aid. But many of those to whom she was now speaking could not spare from their domestic occupations sufficient time for such work, and it was to afford them an opportunity of assisting that this society was projected. Miss Shimoda alluded in terms of the warmest gratitude to the sympathy shown by foreign ladies, especially by those of England and America.

A conference was then held as to the election of a committee and as to other details of the society's organization.

THE LADIES' BENEVOLENT NURSE SOCIETY

(*Tokushi Kango Fujin-Kai.*)

On Feb. 28th at 2 p.m. this Society, which is affiliated with the Red Cross Society, held a meeting at the residence of Prince Kanin in Nagatacho. There were present Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Kan-in, Princess Higashi-Fushimi, Princess Fushimi, Princess Nashimoto, Princess Shirakawa, Count and Countess Matsukata, Baron and Baroness Hanabusa, Marchioness Nabeshima and many other notables to the number of about 166. Marchioness Nabeshima, in her position of President, read out several reports, and Count Matsukata delivered a speech. He alluded with deep appreciation to the loyal spirit always shown by the Japanese people in any national crisis and he then passed on to speak of the sympathetic aid lent by foreign ladies who were organizing a concert in aid of the Society's funds. It behoved them now, in view of this admirable example, not to rest content with a mere temporary subscription, but to endeavour to collect enough to place the Society's funds on a permanently secure basis. Thereafter Prince Kanin, as President, nominated seven managers and seven committee-men, and the meeting broke up.

At the meeting of the General Committee of the Yokohama and Tokyo Foreign Residents Association for the Relief of Sufferers by the War, convened at the Masonic Hall on Monday afternoon, the following gentlemen were elected as an Executive Committee:—J. W Copmann, E. C. Davis, N. F. Smith, L. Mottet, Cæsar Hawkins, Williamson Jones, E. W. Frazar, N. W. McIvor, Rev. W. Weston, J. Walter and M. Pors.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the above Association held on Tuesday it was unanimously resolved that:—"The Committee of the Yokohama Foreign Relief Association for sufferers by the war desire to emphasize their appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Mr. J. P. Mollison as Chairman of the General Committee."

Twenty-eight Chinese of Kobe have decided to subscribe jointly *yen* 412,000 towards the Treasury Bonds.

The directors of the Nippon Marine Insurance Company, Osaka, met on Feb. 25th and decided to subscribe two hundred thousand *yen* towards the war loan. The employees of the Company offer fifteen thousand *yen* for the same purpose.

We learn from our Nagasaki contemporary that a meeting of the ladies of the foreign community in Nagasaki was held in the Nagasaki Hotel, when it was decided to raise a fund to assist the families of the Reservists who have been called out for service; and also to receive gifts of clothing, and other things which may be useful to them. The following ladies were appointed a Committee:—Mrs. Boeddinghaus, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Evington, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Layard, Mrs. Muller-Beeck, Mrs. Ringer, Miss Stout. Mrs. Layard was elected Treasurer, and Mrs. Evington, Secretary to this Committee.

Marquises Ito, Yamagata, and Oyama, and Counts Inouye and Matsukata will subscribe twenty thousand *yen* each towards the issue of Treasury Bonds.

Princess Yuki Kayo, eight years old (daughter of Prince Kayo) Kyoto, has donated fifteen *yen* towards the fund for relieving distressed soldiers.

THE CHEMULPO PRISONERS.

There are twenty-four of the crew of the *Varyag*, including petty-officers, receiving treatment in the Japanese hospital at Chemulpo. Three of them only are so slightly wounded as to be able to converse. These men say that when the ship left the harbour the men all imagined that they were merely going to Port Arthur, and had no expectation of what was in store. But the officers took refuge in the strongest part of the ship (the *Varyag's* conning-tower has her thickest armour—6-in.). The crew numbered 540. When the ship passed under fire, the men withdrew from the dangerous posts, and it became necessary ultimately to summon the stokers to man the guns. These wounded men do not know how many were killed altogether, but they speak of one officer, a midshipman, who was blown to pieces. Four officers were wounded. These went to the *Pascal*. One sub-officer was killed. As to the wounded men, 34 are known to have reached the *Pascal* and 24 are undergoing treatment on shore. No reason was assigned for setting the ship on fire. Simply an order in that sense was given. Several wounded men perished in the flames. These informants allege that their food on board ship was of the worst and that they had received no pay for two months. They are most grateful for their treatment in the Japanese hospital. They confirm the report that the *Koreets* was not injured at all. The Japanese did not fire on her.

The Russian Government having instructed the French Vice-Consul in Seoul to address to the Japanese Consul at Chemulpo, Mr. Mimasu, who is also director of the temporary hospital erected there, the Tsar's thanks for the kindness shown to the Russian wounded, the Vice-Consul has conveyed this message in person, and has further intimated that the Russian Government desires to defray the expenses connected with the care of the wounded. Should Japan be unwilling to accept the money, the Tsar wishes to make a corresponding contribution to the funds of the Red Cross Hospital and he asks for guidance as to the amount. This gracious message having been conveyed to Count Matsukata, who is vice-director of the Red Cross Society of Japan, the Count replied that while sincerely grateful for the kindly expressions of the Russian Government, the proposal to defray expenses or make presents to nurses and surgeons could not be entertained. On the other hand, the Society would gladly receive any contribution to its funds which are applied to humane purposes without distinction of nationality.

NEWCHWANG.

The foreign consuls at Newchwang are said to be holding meetings for the purpose of considering the status of the place—whether it is to be regarded as neutral or as within the sphere of belligerent operations. The Russians take the latter view. They have three thousand troops at the place and the Russian gunboat anchored there—or rather ice-bound—is preparing for action. Considering that the Russians do not recognise China's right to include in her neutral territory even the region nominally evacuated by them on the west of the Liao, it is not likely that they will concede her right in the case of Newchwang. If they do not, Newchwang will be virtually ruined, for the Japanese, having the command of the sea, will take care that no food supplies of any kind are carried thither by ships, and the Chinese Government will be bound to adopt a similar precaution on shore. Then the foreign Community will have no course but to remove themselves. Possibly that would please Russia, who is understood to have ambitions as to substituting Newchwang for Dalny. But will the United States and England consent to such deliberate ignoring of their subjects' treaty rights? The boundary of Russian aggressions must be set somewhere.

The Russian Authorities have informed the United States Consul in Newchwang that they are sending back a hundred Japanese subjects who had remained in Manchuria, and that, in deference to the request of the Consul, they are handing over two Japanese subjects who were undergoing criminal sentence.

JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

Japanese journals publish a statement with reference to the negotiations between this country and Russia. The following is a translation of this interesting document:—

The Russian Government have, in their communiques of the 18th and 20th February, charged Japan with having treacherously obtained a slight victory by a sudden attack upon Russia, which was bent upon maintaining peace, and asserted that since the rupture of diplomatic relations can never be looked upon as the opening of hostilities, and since Japan did not issue her declaration of war until on the 11th, she was guilty of a flagrant breach of the principles of International Law in making as early as the 8th February most unwarrantable attacks on Russian men-of-war and merchant ships.

That Russia had never entertained any sincere desire for peace may be clearly seen from the facts that she persistently refused throughout the whole course of the negotiations to meet the proposals made by Japan in a conciliatory spirit, and that by wanton delays she put off the settlement of the quession, while at the same time she was busily extending her naval and military preparations. In confirmation of these facts may be given her warlike preparations in the Far East since April last, when she failed to carry out her promised second evacuation of Manchuria.

INCREASE IN NAVAL STRENGTH.

	No.	Tonnage.
Battle-ships	3	38,488
Armoured Cruiser	1	7,726
Cruisers	5	26,417
Torpedo Destroyers	7	2,450
Gun-boat	1	1,334
Mine-ships	2	6,000
Total	19	82,415

In addition to these, Russia sent destroyers in section by rail to Port Arthur. The work of putting those vessels together was hurried up and seven of them have been already completed. Furthermore, two vessels of the Volunteer Fleet were armed at Vladivostock and hoisted the Russian naval ensign.

She further ordered out one battleship, three cruisers, seven destroyers and four torpedo-boats (total tonnage amounting to about 30,740), which might have joined the Russian squadron already in the Far East, had not certain ulterior circumstances compelled Russia to recall them, and these if added to the others, would make the aggregate increase 113,000 tons.

Increase in land forces:—

Since the 29th June last when, on the pretext of a trial transportation on the Siberian railway, Russia sent to China two infantry brigades, two artillery battalions, a body of cavalry and military train, Russia has continued to dispatch troops to the Far East, and at the beginning of the present month their total augmented strength was over 40,000, and plans were being made for sending out if necessary over 200,000 more.

She has at the same time been engaged day and night in strengthening the fortifications at the naval ports of Port Arthur and Vladivostock, building forts at Hunchun, Liaoyang and other strategical points, and forwarding arms and ammunition to the Far East by the Siberian railway and the Volunteer fleet; and in the middle of October last, a train of 14 cars hurriedly left Russia laden with the equipment of a field hospital.

It is therefore quite evident that Russia had not the least inclination for friendly settlement, but solely sought by military preponderance to force Japan into submission.

The military activity of Russia became from the latter part of January to the beginning of February still further intensified. On the 21st January about two battalions of infantry and a detatchment of cavalry were dispatched from Port Arthur and Dalny to the northern frontier of Korea; and on the 28th of the same month, an order to prepare for war was given by Admiral Alexieff to the forces which were stationed in the vicinity of the Yalu; and on the 1st February, the Commander at Vladivostock, under orders of his Government, requested the

Japanese Commercial Agent at that port that, as a state of siege might at any moment be proclaimed there, he would make his nationals prepare to withdraw to Habarovsk. At Port Arthur, all the powerful war-ships except a battle-ship then under repair, steamed into the open sea, while troops advanced in large forces from Liaoyang towards the Yalu. Who can then say that Russia had no warlike intentions or that she was unprepared for war? Japan, seeing that the situation had become so critical that it admitted of no further delay, was compelled to break off the abortive negotiations and decided to take necessary steps for self-protection. The responsibility for the challenge to war rests, then, not with Japan but solely with Russia.

Finally on the 6th February Japan announced to Russia her decision to terminate pending negotiations and that she would take such independent action as she might deem best to defend her position menaced by Russia and to protect her established rights and legitimate interests, and that she would sever her diplomatic relations and withdraw her Legation. The term "independent action" naturally includes the opening of hostilities. Even supposing that Russia was unable to understand it in that sense, that is of course no reason why Japan should, in Russia's place, be held responsible for the misinterpretation. Again, it is the unanimous opinion of international jurists that a declaration of war is not an indispensable pre-requisite to the opening of hostilities. Indeed it has been the common practice in recent wars to declare war subsequently to the opening of hostilities. Japan's action is not therefore open to the least criticism from the standpoint of international law. It must certainly be confessed that the charge sounds rather odd, coming as it does from the lips of Russia; for there are not only very many historical instances of that country herself instantly taking hostile action without declaring war, but in 1808 she invaded Finland even before the rupture of their diplomatic relations

THE PHONOGRAPH TO THE RESCUE.

For many years past the pronunciation of English by Middle School graduates in this country has been the despair of the English and American teachers employed in the various High Schools. These gentlemen have been spending from three to six years in correcting the bad pronunciation learnt in the Middle Schools. The mispronunciation referred to may be traced to two main sources, namely (1) to the pernicious habit of using the Japanese *kana* for representing English sounds, making "the" read ゼ—(*ze*), and (2) to the practice of employing Japanese teachers to give instruction in pronunciation who are thoroughly incompetent to perform this function. More than two years ago we ourselves suggested to a number of school teachers that the easiest way out of the difficulty would be to make use of phonographs for teaching pronunciation in all cases where foreigners could not be employed through want of funds. We are glad to observe by an advertisement which appeared in a recent issue of the *Jiji Shimpo* that this plan is about to be tried. Messrs. Cunningham and Matsuda Hitotsubashi, teachers in the Nobles' School, have the honour of being the first to inaugurate this new method of teaching a foreign language. The advertisement informs us that the Sankodo, 23, Nameki-machi, Asakusa, Tokyo, now have on sale two phonographs that have been especially prepared for teaching pronunciation. One of these reproduces Mr. Cunningham's pronunciation of a number of colloquial sentences; the other gives Mr. Matsuda's pronunciation. The former sells at 25 *yen* 50 *sen* and the latter at 19 *yen* 50 *sen*. This of course is only a beginning. There will doubtless be hundreds of different phonographs in use in this country before many years are past. It is desirable that there should be as much variety as possible, within certain limits, as however good and pure a man's accent may be, and however musical his tone of voice, to hear these reproduced by several thousand students month after month would prove wearisome. Messrs. Cunningham and Matsuda must expect rivals in the field but we are glad that they have set the ball rolling. The advertisement says that the new appliance combines pleasure with utility and that by means of it students of English can get on without foreign instructors. The Japanese name given to this method of teaching English is *Chikuonki Eigo-ôyô Dokushu* (Learning how to pronounce English without a teacher by means of a Phonograph). The question is, will the Mombusho adopt this new method of teaching pronunciation promptly or not? It will depend entirely on whether the high officials can be got to give the matter serious attention. Unfortunately the Department of Education has in the past seldom been ahead of the general public in instituting reforms or even in recognizing their desirability.

THE PHILIPPINES.

The Hon. William H. Taft, who succeded the Hon. Elihu Root as Secretary of War for the United States, seems to take a very hopeful view of the situation in the Philippines, of which he was the first civil administrator. Speaking to a Washington journalist, immediately on his arrival home, he said: "First we had the war, and when the military ended the insurrection a period of ladronism followed. The ladrones were at their highest power about the time of my return two years ago. We put the constabulary and Philippine Scouts to work, and now there is no ladronism in the islands. It has entirely disappeared. The Philippines were never in a more peaceful condition. As for any possible insurrectionary movement, such a thing is not even thought of. We have won over the insurrectionary junta and the criminals—about 2,500—in prison, and the people are beginning to trust us. The imprisonment of the criminal insurrection leaders has had a more subduing effect than execution and drastic measures would have had. I think the people are really beginning to believe what we tell them. and are on the road to like the Americans." Referring to the military force in the Philippines, ex-Governor Taft expressed the opinion that their presence was a great moral restraint. There are now about 15,000 troops in the archipelago, and this, in his opinion, is a greater number than is actually needed in the Philippines. Looking at the matter from the standpoint of the Philippine Commission and not as Secretary of War, he said that he thought the military force could be reduced to 10,000 troops. The importing of caribao to replace those destroyed by rinderpest and other diseases had not succeeded very well. The caribao, he explained, is absolutely essential to the raising of rice, and the growing of rice cannot be successfully carried on by the Filipinos until the problem of getting the islands stocked with caribao is settled. "The people are beginning to return to their homes, and take an interest in agriculture. We must, however, get the islands stocked again with cattle, and this once done they will never be swept away again by rinderpest, for we have solved the question of handling the disease, but the unacclimated imported cattle from China are difficult to raise." As showing that the financial outlook of the archipelago is good, he remarked that for the fiscal year 1903 the balance of trade in favour of the islands was about $500,000. The exports amounted to $32,500,000, and the imports to about $32,000.000. The year before the imports were the same but the exports were only $24,000,000. Mr. Taft is strongly opposed to any change in the shipping law that would require the transportation of commerce between the Philippines and the United States in American bottoms.

THE JAPANESE-KOREAN TREATY.

The following is an official English translation of the text of the Protocol signed at Seoul on February 23rd, 1904:—

Mr. Hayashi, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, and Major-General Yi 'I chi Yong, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs *ad interim* of His Majesty the Emperor of Korea, being respectively duly empowered for the purpose, have agreed upon the following Articles:—

Art. I.—For the purpose of maintaining a permanent and solid friendship between Japan and Korea and firmly establishing peace in the Far East, the Imperial Government of Korea shall place full confidence in the Imperial Government of Japan and adopt the advice of the latter in regard to improvements in administration.

Art. II.—The Imperial Government of Japan shall in a spirit of firm friendship ensure the safety and repose of the Imperial House of Korea.

Art. III.—The Imperial Government of Japan definitively guarantee the independence and territorial integrity of the Korean Empire.

Art. IV.—In case the welfare of the Imperial House of Korea or the territorial integrity of Korea is endangered by aggression of a third Power or internal disturbances, the Imperial Government of Japan shall immediately take such necessary measures as the circumstances require and in such cases the Imperial Government of Korea shall give full facilities to promote the action of the Imperial Japanese Government.

The Imperial Government of Japan may, for the attainment of the above mentioned object, occupy, when the circumstances require it, such places as may be necessary from strategical points of view.

Art. V.—The Governments of the two countries shall not in future, without mutual consent, conclude with a third Power such an arrangement as may be contrary to the principles of the present Protocol.

Art. VI.—Details in connection with the present Protocol shall be arranged as the circumstances may require, between the Representative of Japan and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Korea.

FUGITIVES.

Another batch of 169 Japanese fugitives, who left Vladivostock on the 24th instant by a German steamer, say that nine of their original number were murdered and ten arrested. The story is vague. They add that at the time of leaving Vladivostock the four cruisers were still anchored there, but they do not say by whom the murders were committed or the arrests effected.

There has arrived at Nagasaki a ship called the *Kamping*, having on board 630 Japanese refugees, including 300 from Manchuria—*i.e.* 60 from Tehling, 65 from Mukden, 90 from Harbin and 114 from Liaoyang—296 from Chefoo and 30 from Tientsin. Among the number were 100 women who had been detained for several days at Port Arthur by the authorities. These, the greater part of them, honest wives and pure daughters, suffered nameless indignities at the hands of the Russian soldiers, and having been robbed of that which a women holds most precious, were robbed also of the few articles and the little money they had saved from the wreck of their fortunes. It is the prayer of all honest men that a day of retribution may come for these savage Russian soldiers.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

Russia's procedure recalls forcibly the proclivity of the devil to quote scripture for his own purpose. Her appeals to international law which she herself sets a conspicuous example of utterly ignoring whenever it suits her convenience to do so, show that her sense of dignity is not very well developed. It is to be observed, however, that she does not forget her ambitious designs even when she stands before the tribunal of public opinion challenged by herself. She seizes the opportunity to declare that all her previous engagements about Korea are now abrogated. As a matter of fact it was quite unnecessary for her to do anything of the kind. War wipes out all treaties or covenants, and as she has drawn the sword against Japan, her previous pledges to this empire do not hold. Nevertheless it is interesting to hear her avowal, *urbi et orbi*, that she intends to absorb Korea. That appears to us to be what her announcement to the Powers indicates: nothing more or less. We have no doubt that she will absorb all she can get. That is her right.

A remarkable instance of the enormous increase in the value of land in London is afforded in the case of St. Clement Danes Holborn Estate Charity. This estate was purchased in 1552 of one William Breton, by the churchwardens of St. Clement Danes, for the sum of £160. It consisted of 12 messuages and freehold land situate in Holborn. The annual income now exceeds £7,000. Almshouses with extensive grounds, a chapel, committee rooms, baths, and laundry accommodating 40 persons formerly ratepayers of the parish, are maintained, and each receives, in addition, a stipend of £30 per annum. A large grammar school for boys, and middle class schools for girls were opened in 1862. Large donations are made each year to King's College Hospital, the local dispensary in Stanhope-street, and the District Visiting Society. The governing body of the charity consists of ten trustees and 20 managers, and includes the Hon. W. F. D. Smith, M.P., Mr. Emden, L.C.C., Mr. H. H. Twining, Mr. C. Awdry, and Mr. Edward Terry.

A very severe shock of earthquake was felt in Tokyo at 5.50 p.m. on the 26th instant. Yokohama also experienced the shock.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* and the *Jiji Shimpo* both learn from authority which they seem to regard as trustworthy, that on the 8th instant Viceroy Alexieff received instructions from St. Petersburg in the sense that diplomatic relations with Japan had been severed and that warlike operations must commence. The *Nichi Nichi* gives 6 p.m. as the time of the receipt of these instructions; the *Jiji* speaks of the forenoon. On the other hand, an English officer who reached Port Arthur on the 8th and visited the Viceroy, was informed by the latter that although the exact outcome of the situation was still uncertain, there was no uncertainty about the fact that war would not take place.

On the 27th ultimo a celebration took place in Kagi in connexion with the opening of the railway from Tainan to Toroku, a distance of 57 miles. Among those present were 3,050 natives of Formosa by whom the land for the construction of the line had been given gratis to the Government. The fete was attended by many foreigners also, and is said to have passed off with great eclat. The telegram conveying this news says that the war crisis has not produced any excitement in Formosa.

The current number of the *East of Asia* magazine (which, it may be noted, contains many most excellent papers) has in the place of honour a very readable account of a trip up Fuji with a camera by Mr. C. E. Bruce-Mitford, of Yokohama. A number of photographic views serve to enhance the interest of the article and it is on this ground to be regretted that the machining of the pages should in many instances have been so inexpertly performed as to detract considerably from the effect of Mr. Bruce-Mitford's pictures. Also two of the scenes might well have been omitted, being mere blurs. In the matter of that grand spectacle, the sunrise as viewed from Fuji's summit, the author was no more fortunate than the great majority who climb the mountain, for he only saw the sun "rise over a vast rampart of massed clouds which walled the summit in on all sides round." Incidentally he quotes Mr. Douglas Sladen in "A Japanese Marriage" as declaring that for picturesque beauty Enoshima exceeds Clovelly, and describes this as undoubtedly pro-Japanese hyperbole. "Enoshima," he says, "could be stowed away in Mill Mouth without attracting attention, while its topmost point would reach only half-way up the cliff of Gallantry Bower." As to which it may be remarked that people do not always adhere slavishly to facts when comparing the scenery of different lands, and Mr. Douglas Sladen may be one of the imaginative sort. Besides, that gentlemen has been a number of years absent from Japan and his memory may be playing him tricks.

The barrels of salt beef, numbering 12,240, and valued at 150,000 *yen*, which the *Korea* brought from America for Port Arthur, are now in the hands of the Customs at Nagasaki. As there is no purchaser for them at that place, and as they would be confiscated if any attempt were made to send them to their original destination, the probability is that they will be returned to America. There is another lot of similar provisions—2,093 barrels—at Nagasaki, having just been returned from Hongkong, and there are 260 boxes of munitions of war which have been landed from a British steamer. It would probably pay the Japanese Government to buy up all these waifs and strays.

Count Arco Valley proceeded to Hayama on the 29th ultimo for the purpose of presenting to Her Majesty the Empress an Order offered by the Queen of Bavaria. His Excellency was received by the Empress at the Detached Palace.

The foreign war correspondents who have been recognised by the Japanese authorities number 53, namely 29 British, 17 American, 5 French and 2 German.

According to the *Shogyo Shimpo* the Government is likely to accede to the application of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha the reference to continuing the usual subsidies although chartered vessels are employed. Many of the Company's ships having been taken up by the State for public service, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has been obliged to interrupt several important coasting lines, to the great inconvenience of the public. Of course the obvious plan would have been to charter steamers for these lines, but the difficulty was that, according to the strict letter of the law, the chartered ships, not being Japanese owned, would not have been eligible for the subsidies previously enjoyed. It seems scarcely fair that the letter of the law should be carefully followed in cases to which it was never intended to apply, and the Authorities are now said to be taking a liberal view of the matter.

A telegram from Paris says that the accident reported by Reuter as having taken place on Lake Baikal occurred on the 28th ultimo. A locomotive and five carriages broke through the ice, and 4 officers and 21 men were drowned. This must have been one of the first trains sent over the new line. The failure of the ice-bridge will greatly impede the despatch of troops eastward.

The tonnage of three of the ships concerning which the Japanese Prize Court (*Hokaku Shinkenjo*) has announced its decision, as stated in our last, are as follows:—The *Mukden* (2,500 tons), belonging to the East China R. Co.; the *Algun* (3,950 tons), belonging to the same Company; the *Rossia* (3,952 tons), belonging to the Russian Trade and Navigation Company.

The Assouan Dam, which was completed in December, 1902, at a cost of over *yen* 50,000,000, has already proved something in the nature of a boon to the people of Egypt. Some interesting points regarding the first year's experience of the dam were emphasized by Sir Benjamin Baker in a lecture delivered some time ago at a meeting in York. Sir Benjamin stated that the Assiout Barrage, working during the summer of 1902, caused a saving of £600,000 on an expenditure of a million. During the most critical periods for the crops—March till June of last year—the available supply of water for irrigation was just doubled as a result of the action of the dam. The irrigation of rice, prohibited in previous years, was allowed; several similar prohibitions were relaxed; and the increase in value of land now converted to perennial irrigation is calculated at over five millions sterling. It is announced that Sir John Aird, whose firm carried out this great work, is to send a well-executed model of the dam to the Louisiana Purchase Exhibition at St. Louis.

POLICE INTIMATION.

The Superintendent of the Yokohama Chief Police Station summoned the representatives of the local foreign press to his office on Feb. 29th and issued the following instructions, regarding matters which should not be published:—

1.—Strategical Affairs.
2.—Future Military movements.
3.—Organizations of squadrons.
4.—Damages inflicted by warships including torpedo-boats, and transports.
5.—Disposition of the army in the field.
6.—Distance of cannonade, and quantity of ammunition,
7.—Position or name of places where troops concentrate or what places are used as military bases.
8.—Stations of warships including torpedo-boats, and transports.
9.—Conditions with regard to coal, drinking-water, and military necessities on warships, including torpedo-boats, and transports.

It was added that if any news is printed such as to enable readers to understand the meaning of any such movement though important names are omitted the paper concerned will be prosecuted. Such reports must first be inspected by the authorities before being printed.

The police also handed over a pamphlet containing a speech by Major Nogawa of the army, delivered in Tokyo for the guidance of journalists in regard to the affairs. This pamphlet dwells upon the necessity for preserving military secrets and summarized the tactics pursued in the Japan-China and Franco-German wars with regard thereto.

RUSSIA'S PLAINT.

IT need scarcely be said that Russia's plaintive protest about being taken unawares is treated with ridicule by Japanese newspapers. They ask how the Russian Government interpreted the note handed to Count LAMSDORFF by the Japanese Representative in St. Petersburg on the 6th of February. The note declared that Japan, being no longer able to entertain the least hope of a settlement by the route of negotiations, was now compelled to announce the rupture of diplomatic relations, and to give formal notice that she would henceforth take whatever independent action seemed best for the protection of her vested rights and legitimate interests, the object of such action being to strengthen and safeguard the threatened positions. At the same time Mr. Kurino was instructed to demand his passports. That was on the 6th of February. What did Russia imagine? What did she suppose to be the meaning of such a notice? What sort of "independent action" did she expect Japan to take? What does any intelligent. Government, what must every intelligent Government, understand by action which follows on the cessation of friendly negotiations and the rupture of diplomatic relations? Did Russia imagine that Japan's notice meant mere lapse into a state of silence and quiescence; tacit abandonment, in short, of everything for which she had contended? Russian statesmen are well acquainted with international law. No statesmen know better what the latest and most credited authorities say on the subject of declarations of war. Take HALL'S dictum, for example:—"An act of hostility, unless it be done in the urgency of self-preservation or by way of reprisal, is in itself a full declaration of intention; any sort of previous declaration therefore is an empty formality unless an enemy must be given time and opportunity to put himself in a state of defence, and it is needless to say that no one asserts such quixotism to be obligatory." The learned jurist then proceeds to tabulate and analyse historical examples, and finally reaches this conclusion:—"Looking at the foregoing facts as a whole it is evident that it is not necessary to adopt the artificial doctrine that notice must be given to an enemy before entering upon war. The doctrine was never so consistently acted upon as to render obedience to it at any time obligatory. Since the middle of the last century it has had no sensible influence upon practice. In its bare form it meets now with little support compared with that which it formerly received. In the form of an assertion that a manifesto must be published it is so enfeebled as to be meaningless." That is what international law says, the law now appealed to by Russia. And whatever shadow of doubt might remain in the minds of some conservative formalists, in the minds of men who still cling to the old-time phantasy of "solemn denouncement," that doubt is completely dispelled by the fact that Japan did convey to Russia an explicit notice which could not mean and did not mean anything but war. The unequivocal truth is that Russia had intended to protract the negotiations on one fallacious pretext or another until her slowly moving machinery had been brought into a state of complete readiness. Japan did not choose to await her antagonist's convenience. That is the whole story. One would think that Russia might at least have the dignity and manliness to refrain from these frivolous complaints.

JAPAN AND KOREA.

THE newly signed Protocol between Japan and Korea is a very straightforward document. It places the Korean empire distinctly and definitely under Japanese protection. The arrangement is no idle form. Korea pledges herself, in the first place, to repose full confidence in Japan; in the second, to adopt the latter's advice with regard to administrative improvements; and finally, to refrain from making with a third party any arrangement contrary to the principles of the Protocol. On the other hand, Japan promises to ensure the safety and repose of the Imperial House of Korea and guarantees the independence and territorial integrity of the Korean Empire. If either the welfare of Korea's Imperial House or her territorial integrity be endangered by foreign aggression or domestic disturbance the Japanese are to take suitable measures, receiving in that event full facilities from Korea as well as freedom to occupy such strategical positions in her territories as may appear necessary.

Japan fought for Korean independence ten years ago. But having secured it by a victory over China, she left Korea to qualify for the enjoyment of the gift and for its preservation. It is easy to understand the reasons which then influenced Japanese statesmen. They thought that any interference in Korea's domestic affairs might render illusory, in appearance at all events, the independence just obtained for her, and they were sure that such interference would be interpreted by foreign nations as an evidence of Japan's aggressive ambition. It would have been said that she had freed Korea from the Chinese yoke in order to substitute for it the Japanese. Onlookers may detect something of sentiment in such motives and may object that sentiment should be excluded from international dealings. It is a wise principle in general, but a principle not fully applicable to the case of Japan, who labours under the disadvantage of having to placate the world's opinion by proofs which would not be demanded of any Western country. Knowing what the shallowest history can not but reveal as to their own treatment of Oriental peoples in the past, Occidental nations naturally read a retaliatory instinct into all the ambitions of an Eastern State, and to free herself from that suspicion is one of the hardest of Japan's tasks; a task demanding great patience and very exceptional self-denial. There is no room to doubt that if, in 1895, she had assumed the attitude justified by her victories; if she had dictated certain reforms to Korea and insisted on their thorough-going prosecution under her own immediate direction, the position would long ago have become too unequivocal for the prosecution of any Russian intrigues, or the intrusion of any Russian aggressions, and the present war would have been averted. There is not to be any repetition of that undue forbearance, so far, at any rate, as advice is concerned, and Korea will be forced by this Protocol to follow Japan's counsels. How such compulsory complacence can be reconciled with the preservation of the little empire's real independence, we do not see. If any habitable half-way house exist between effective assumption of administrative authority and the giving of counsels which must be followed by the administration without option, we fail to perceive it, especially where the material for the experiment is so radically defective. That, however, is a matter for trial. The fact as it stands is that Japan has taken a most practical step towards freeing herself of all aggressive designs and relieving herself of foreign suspicion. She is to reform Korea without annexing it; protect it without impairing its sovereignty. Had Russia been willing to place her relations with Manchuria on a similar footing, there had been no war. The Japanese Government has furnished by this Protocol a powerful reply to those that attribute self-seeking motives to her policy. She is still the champion of Korean independence not an aggressor upon Korean integrity.

A BYPATH OF HISTORY.

Formosa under the Dutch, by the Rev. WM. CAMPBELL, F.R.G.S., British Presbyterian Mission, Tainan; London, KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, TRUBNER & Co.; Yokohama, KELLY & WALSH, Ltd.

The Rev. William Campbell has already given the world a fascinating account of Missionary work in Formosa, and he now follows his first success with an account of Formosa under the Dutch, which takes the form of a handsome quarto of 630 pages. Mr. Campbell, has compiled his book from contemporary records. The new work is worthy, despite some drawbacks to which we refer below, to take its place alongside its predecessor. The author deals with a subject that lays outside the ordinary track of latter-day historians, and it is therefore rather a pity that, instead of following the plan he has adopted, he had instead collated his facts and woven them into a connected narrative. As it is, we are first of all given, in Part I., some notes on the topography of the island, an account of the inhabitants, a history of the Dutch trade, and the religion of the island; then follows Part II., which is devoted solely to notices of Church work in Formosa; while Part III. treats of the Chinese conquest of the island. Now all these parts overlap, for each practically treats of one and the same period. The author in his preface acknowledges the awkwardness of the arrangement and says that it has "involved no small amount of prolixity and repetition." And in this we thoroughly concur. Still, for all that, we return our hearty thanks to Mr. Campbell for his book. It must have involved an infinite deal of wearisome research in very musty archives, and have cost an infinite amount of time and worry, such as only an enthusiast would have cared to have incurred.

The First Part of the volume, dealing with topography, inhabitants, religion, Dutch trade, etc., is made up of selections from the "Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indian" of Francois Valentyn, a voluminous work which was published, we learn, in Dordrecht in 1724-26. Our author says that this old writer is often quoted as the main authority on the subject and so he has reproduced all Valentyn's notes on topography, trade, and religion, and has added to them the splendid account of the customs and habits of the aborigines which the Rev. George Candidius, the pioneer missionary to Formosa (a man of most saintly character) reported to van Rechteren, and which was issued in quarto in 1630. The seventeenth century Dutch writers were observant men, and their accounts of the "beautiful island" and its many tribes, each with its diverse manners, customs and dialects, make most interesting reading. The strange marital customs of the Formosan islanders (many of which survive to this day), with their mysterious ban on childbirth before a woman had reached the age of 35 or over (now an obsolete custom, Mr. Campbell opines, as he has seen many young women nursing children); the peculiar position of the husband and father in the wife's house, which he really never inhabits until old age begins to creep upon him; the restriction of all religious teaching to a sect of priestesses, whose most solemn rites involved a free indulgence in spirituous liquor—these things and many others equally curious set the Formosans as a race apart, though their head-hunting proclivities and the turning over of all agricultural pursuits to the women would seem to involve no very distant cousinship with the Dyaks of Borneo.

The Dutch, having evicted the Spaniards, were the dominant power in Formosa from 1624 until 1661—(when Koxinga completely wiped them out)—and within three years of the opening up of their extremely profitable trade in the island they had started missionary work among the aborigines. Georgius Candidius arrived in 1627. Mr. Campbell says that "he was evidently a man of great good sense and earnestness, beside being very humble-minded, and filled with high ideals of the work in which he was engaged." His success among the natives was certainly wonderful, his conversions being numbered by the hundreds, and the Rev. Robertus Junius, who came to the island two years afterwards him, was equally successful. But this striking success was only transient, and when Koxinga swept the Dutch out of Formosa he swept away at the same time nearly all traces of their missionary labours. From the letters of the Rev. R. Junius we learn that some years before the final catastrophe the natives were growing restive of the Dutch fashion of compulsory education and attendance at divine service, and great difficulty was being experienced in getting them to attend either school or conventicle. Their early enthusiasm for knowledge had petered out under the too strenuous system of their teachers. Mr. Campbell points out in his preface "that this fragment of church history teaches us that it is very questionable missionary policy to persist in purely aggressive efforts without making adequate provision for meeting the spiritual wants of those who have already broken with idolatry." Koxinga made a very complete wreck of all things Dutch, but in some explanatory notes at the end of his book Mr. Campbell tells us that twenty-five years ago he quite accidentally stumbled upon some traces of the old Dutch Christian influence. He says: "I was told by a Chinese friend in Kagi city of an aboriginal tribe away due east which practised a kind of baptism of infant children, and the report appeared so trustworthy and circumstantial as led one to conclude that this must be some genuine survival of the missionary work of two hundred and twenty years ago." The Rev. Father de Mailla, who visited Formosa in 1715 also heard of this custom, but he doubted the trustworthiness of the report, as it came through Chinese interpreters imperfectly acquainted with the Formosan language. This survival is undoubtedly interesting and opens up a wide field of thought. Students of missionary annals will be deeply interested in the two Catechisms and a sermon by the Rev. R. Junius which Mr. Campbell has capitally translated and inserted in his book. They give an excellent idea of the kind of teaching the native converts were subjected to and of the methods of work pursued by the propagandists in the 17th century. These methods, by-the-way, raised much contemporary criticism—as can be seen by the voluminous extracts from old Dutch letters which Mr. Campbell prints—and at one time the labours of Junius were greatly discredited both in Formosa and at home. But the Classis at Amsterdam supported him and the storm, which had arisen partly through jealousy, subsided.

The third part of Mr. Campbell's book contains an account of the nine months' campaign conducted by Koxinga against the Dutch, which terminated in the fall of Castle Zeelandia and the expulsion of the Westerners. Reading these vivid records, taken from "'t Verwaerloosde Formosa," one agrees with Mr. Campbell that sympathy must be awakened towards Frederick Coyett, the last Dutch Governor of Formosa. He was undoubtedly an honourable, brave, but ill-used man, and his character deserves to be vindicated. Nothing but contempt can be poured upon the Council at Batavia that so shamefully deserted him, while their agents, who should have given him the freest help and service, van der Laan, Hermanus Clenk, and Claes Verburg, write themselves down by their actions as the most despicable of men. The notes which Mr. Campbell prints in his Appendix are very valuable contributions to our knowledge of Formosa past and present, and it but increases our regret, on reading them, that our author has put his book together so curiously, and bunched the extremely interesting information these notes contain in an undigested mass at the very end. We notice that he runs a tilt at Mr. Davidson for his "white-washing" of the character of Koxinga. Mr. Campbell writes down this pirate-chief as a "coarse, unholy brute" and will not entertain any pleas advanced by Mr. Davidson in his defence. In the carefully compiled Bibliography which closes the book, Mr. Campbell points out that Captain Brinkley, in his article on Formosa in the 10th edition of the "Encyclopedia Britannica," is not correct when he says "so far as it is known there are no lakes in Formosa," for in 1873 he (Mr. Campbell) made a journey into the interior to visit the *Tsui-Hoan*, or Water Savages, and was the first European to gaze upon the only good-sized lake in the island. He called it Lake Candidius, and describes it as being about two miles broad by four miles long from north to south; its surface stands some 2,366 feet above sea-level. Lake Candidius is about 38 miles in a straight line from the market town of Po-tan and about 14 miles south of the Po-sia plain.

Mr. Campbell has given us a book which should prove a veritable gold-mine to the next man-of-letters who sits down to write the history of Formosa.

"DULCE ET DECORUM EST PRO PATRIA MORI."

Not a sigh, not a groan,
When the Mother sends forth her son to war.
She mourns not, though she be left alone,
She only prays the Gods for more

Such soldier boys.
She prays not that she may live in ease
Mid swift-wing'd riches; useless toys,
She scorns such paltry gifts as these.

Not a groan, not a sigh,
Though she seems to hear the cannon's roar
And the wounded's agonizing cry,
She only prays the Gods for more

To fight the fight.
For sweeter than child is her country dear,
And since wrong is wrong and right is right,
She knows that the Gods must hear

Not a groan not a sigh;
Though they bring the death-stung hero home,
Though they bring him home to die.
Though the watching Mother sees him come

Not a tear is shed.
But she thanks the Gods for the great gift given,
And with joy she renders the priceless dead
To her Country and to Heaven.

M. K.

YOKOHAMA CRICKET AND ATHLETIC CLUB.

The annual general meeting of members of the Yokohama Cricket and Athletic Club was held in the Pavilion on Tuesday at 5.30 p.m. Dr. E. Wheeler, President of the Club, was in the chair and there were about 30 present.

The notice calling the meeting was read by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. S. Moss.

The CHAIRMAN said before proceeding with the ordinary business of the meeting he would like to call attention to the fact that Mr. F. O. Stuart, who had been for five years Honorary Treasurer of the Club, was taking his departure, and he thought members of the Club could do no less than give him a vote of thanks for the painstaking way in which he had looked after the interests of the Club (applause). Continuing, he said the funds of the Club were he thought, fairly satisfactory. Of course there had been a good deal of extra expense in consequence of the cricket and football interport, but he thought that on the whole they would be found satisfactory. The thanks of the members were due to the ladies who had looked after them by giving them tea, etc., as well as to Mr. Brady for his great exertions in getting up the smoker, and also to Mr. Daniel who gave a very handsome prize for the highest individual score in the interport. The Junior Athletic Club were going on gaily and they looked upon the members as young blood coming on for a future occasion—(Hear hear). Rugby football seemed to be in favour—(hear, hear and laughter) and had been enjoyed by the spectators—he could say that. They deeply regretted the loss of a few members, among them their old friend Mr. N. P. Kingdon, and Mr. E. Flint Kilby, who did so much for the Club when he was President and afterwards took an interest in its affairs, and also Mr. David Jackson who always took a deep interest in the Club, put his hand freely in his pocket to subscribe in support of it, and at one time gave a very good silver prize for the tennis handicap.

On the motion of Mr. F. O. STUART, seconded by Mr. D. H. Blake, the minutes of last meeting were taken as read.

On the motion of Mr. C. THWAITES, seconded by Mr. F. Pollard, the report and accounts were adopted. (They are given below.)

The CHAIRMAN said the next business was the election of a Patron and Honorary Member in place of Mr. Henry Bonar who had gone from among them. He begged to propose Mr. John Carey Hall, British Consul-General.

Mr. BLAKE seconded and the motion was agreed to.

There being no other candidates, Mr. BLAKE proposed the election of Dr. Wheeler as President by acclamation (applause).

Mr. W. Y. SHOWLER seconded and the proposal was agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. S. WHEELER, seconded by Mr. F. E. White, Mr. D. H. Blake was elected Vice-President.

On the motion of Mr. S. R. FORD, seconded by Mr. K. Dodds, Mr. F. E. White was elected Captain of Cricket.

The CHAIRMAN said that of the Committee Mr. Bathgate was out and they were losing Mr. F. O. Stuart; the other members, he thought, were willing to serve.

Mr. F. O. STUART thought it might be mentioned that Mr. W. B. White was willing to take over his (Mr. Stuart's) duties as Hon. Treasurer.

A ballot was then taken, Messrs. F. E. WHITE and SHOWLER acting as scrutineers, and resulted in the election of members of the Committee of Messrs. W. S. Moss (Hon. Secretary), W. B. White (Hon. Treasurer), Dr. Garton (Baseball), Messrs H. W. Kilby (Football), S. Wheeler (Athletics), W. Y. Showler (Ground).

This was all the business and a vote of thanks to the Chairman, on the motion of Mr. F. O. Stuart, brought the meeting to a close.

Following are the report and accounts:—

During the past year interest in the various games supported by the Club has been well maintained. Detailed reports are given below.

During the year 52 new members were elected, and there are now 254 active members on the books of the Club.

The Committee regret to record the death of Messrs. E. Flint Kilby, N. P. Kingdon and D. Jackson, all old and enthusiastic members. Mr. Kilby for many years acted as President of the Club, and the Committee were pleased on the representation of several members to invite subscriptions towards the erection of a tombstone to his memory, and this has been largely responded to.

Mr. F. O. Stuart, who for the past five years has acted as Hon. Treasurer to the Club, leaves Yokohama for home. The Committee wish to record his energetic and efficient services and tender him their sincere thanks.

The thanks of the Club are also due to those members who generously donated prizes in connection with the various sports throughout the year, and especially to Mr. V. Blad, who by presenting a prize for a cross-country race inaugurated an event which the Committee trust will become annual.

The thanks of the Club are given to Mr. G. G. Brady, who again organized a smoking concert and so greatly assisted to make the Interport cricket week a success.

The Committee have granted the use of the Club Ground to the Junior Atletic Club. This opportunity for the boys of Yokohama to practice field games will undoubtedly increase the playing strength of the Club in time to come. The Ladies' Hockey Club has again received the use of the Club ground.

ACCOUNTS:—The usual abstract is appended, and the Committee regret that the debt on the Club has been increased during the year, though only by the small amount of *yen* 44.43. Subscriptions and Entrance fees have increased considerably, but this has been counter-balanced by the increase in the working expenses. As this has been necessitated by the larger number of active members now belonging to the Club, it cannot be taken exception to, but while the accounts show that the Club can pay its way, it cannot materially reduce its debt without special income, and the retiring Committee recommend to their successor the organizing of a Concert or Bazaar or other money-raising device for this purpose.

REPORT ON THE GROUND:—Despite the rather heavy wear the ground has experienced during the past season the same may be said to be in very fair condition.

Several additions have made to Cricket, Football, and Baseball gear and everything is in good repair for the coming season.

CRICKET:—Owing to bad weather in the early part, and extreme heat in the latter part, of the Summer the Season on account of the small number of games has been a very disappointing one.

Two Matches were played against the Navy, one of which resulted in a draw, and the other in an easy win for the Y. C. & A C.

The Interport Match took place in Yokohama this year and was won by the home team by an innings and 13 runs, thus wiping out the previous year's defeat. The Y. C. & A. C. single innings total of 352 runs form a record in these games.

Centuries during the year were made by E. W. Kilby (not out), 113, *v.* H.B.M.'s fleet, and H. W. Kilby's 101 *v.* Kobe.

We are glad to report that the Club has been much strengthened by new blood, and as most of the old players will be available for next season, the Y. C. & A. C. should have an XI. able to give a good account of itself against all-comers.

In consequence of the small number of games that have been played, the Committee have decided not to present either Batting or Bowling prizes. Great praise is, however, due to the Kilbys and J. M. Mollison for their excellent figures.

BASEBALL:—The season last year may be regarded as a successful one. The interest at first in baseball was not as great as anticipated, though towards the middle and end of the season a large number of players evinced a great deal of interest in the game, and matches between two club nines aided greatly in bringing new material to the front. The usual number of games were played with nines from the American men-of-war and Japanese schools, while the starting of the U.S. Naval Hospital's team and baseball grounds enabled a good many of the Club members to play nearly every Saturday.

The annual Interport contest with Kobe was played at this port and resulted in a hard-earned victory for our opponents by two games to *nil*. They were close and exciting, 16-17 and 12-7, being an improvement over the usually much larger scores.

A fair supply of gear is on hand, though a quantity of suitable bats should be ordered for the coming season.

RUGBY FOOTBALL:—The season has proved a most successful one, the game maintaining its great popularity among members. The Club won 4 matches and lost 2. The Club only had its line crossed twice during the season and scored 77 points to 10 against, a most satisfactory record.

The annual Interport game played this year at Kobe was won after a hard tussle by the Club by two tries to *nil*. The members of the team were most hospitably entertained by Kobe, and much enjoyed their visit.

The details of matches are as follows:—

Y. C. & A. C. *v.* H.B.M. Fleet, 1 try to 1 dropped goal.
 ,, H.M.S. *Albion*, 2 tries to *nil*.
 ,, H.M.S. *Ocean*, 3 goals (15 pts.) to *nil*.
 ,, H.M.S. *Glory*, 1 try to 2 tries.
 ,, Kobe R. & A.C., 2 tries to *nil*.
 ,, Keiogijuku University, 7 goals 3 tries to *nil*.

The interport team were:—Back.—P. V. Mitchell. ¾ Backs.—S. Wheeler, J. S. Cartwright, J. L. Graham, E. W. Kilby. ½ Backs.—H. E. Hayward, J. E. Moss. Forwards.—W. S. Moss (Captain), F. O. Stuart, F. W. R. Ward, W. J. White, W. B. White, A. Kingdon, O. Strome and W. M. Squire.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL:—There has been considerable interest shown in this game during the season under review, and the practice games have been well attended.

A team of Japanese from the Tokyo Higher Normal School was met on the 6th February, but their play was not of a very high standard, and the Club, with rather a weak eleven, easily vanquished their opponents by ten goals to *nil*.

The other matches were:—

7 Nov. *v.* Officers of H. M. Fleet.. Drawn...... 2—2
10 ,, H.MS. *Albion* .... Lost......... 3—6

The annual match *v.* the K. R. & A. C. was postponed from the 20th February, owing to the irregularity of the train service, and will take place, in Kobe, on 12th March.

LAWN TENNIS:—The enthusiasm displayed over lawn tennis during the summer of 1902 was in no way diminished last season, and the courts were in almost constant use every evening.

The entries for the "Jackson" Cup, Singles Handicap and Doubles Handicap were again large, the first being won by Mr. P. A. Cox, who met Mr. van Cleve in the final round. Mr. H. R. Barnard, the holder, was defeated by Mr. van Cleve during the earlier stages of the competition. The single handicap was won by Mr. J. M. Mollison and the Doubles by Messrs. F. O. Stuart and H. W. Kilby.

ATHLETICS:—The annual Athletic Sports were held on Saturday, 30th May. The ground being heavy prevented any exceptional times being made, only one record was broken, E. W. Kilby throwing the Cricket ball 114 yds, 1' 8".

A cross-country race was held on Saturday, February 6th, for Cups presented by Mr. Blad. There was quite a lot of interest evinced in this event, which was won in good style by W. B. Mason, Jr., H. W. Kilby being second.

The usual list of Club records for the Athletic Sports is appended:—

Event.	Record.	Date.	Names.
100 yards Sprint	10½ secs.	Oct., 1884	E. Abbott
120 yards Sprint	13¼ secs.	Nov., 1880	F. V. Samuels
150 yards Sprint	16¼ secs.	Nov., 1873	E. Abbott
300 yards Race	38 secs.	Nov., 1873	W. Brent
Quarter Mile Race ...	53⅕ secs.	May, 1902	C. E. Libeaud
Half Mile Race ......2m.	9 secs.	May, 1876	A. H. Dare
One Mile Race ......4m.	45 secs.	May, 1876	A. H. Dare
One Mile Walk ......8m.	20 secs.	May, 1874	A. T. Watson
120 yards Hurdles (10 3'6" Hurdles)..	17 secs.	May, 1903	J. F. Drummond
High Jump	5' 6⅞"	June, 1901	W. P. Wise
Long Jump	20' 11½"	May, 1902	J. F. Drummond
Hop, Step and Jump..	41' 8½"	June, 1901	J. F. Drummond
Throwing the Cricket Ball ....114yds.	1' 8"	May, 1903	E. W. Kilby
Putting the Shot (16lbs.)	36' 8½"	May, 1902	R. Nicholson
Pole Jump............	9' 1"	May, 1902	R. Nicholson

THE HONORARY TREASURER IN ACCOUNT WITH THE YOKOHAMA CRICKET AND ATHLETIC CLUB.

ABSTRACT OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31ST JANUARY, 194.

RECEIPTS.

To Subscriptions:—	Yen.	
First half year	1,488.00	
Second half year	1,518.00	
Tokyo Members	36.00	
Visiting Members	68.00	
Junior Athletic Club	20.00	
	3,130.00	Yen.
To Entrance Fees		780.00
To Rent received from Ladies' Hockey Club		50.00
To Rent received for lockers		97.00
To Surplus on Bar Account		109.32
To Sundry Receipts		13.40
To Balance, at debit of Club at 31st January, 1904		3,184.14
		7,363.86

PAYMENTS.

By Balance from last Account	3,139.71
By Working Expenses, including Wages, Horsekeep, New Turf, Printing, &c., &c.	2,359.93
By Match Expenses, including Interports, less Receipts in connection with same	360.54
By Ground Rent for Year to 31st March, 1903	410.28
By Fire Insurance	154.50
By Interest..	173.82
By Gear purchase, less re-sold to Members	615.41
By Cost of New Horse, less received for Old Horse	35.00
By Loss on Sports Account	28.19
By Loss on Tennis Tournament	82.00
By Sundries..	4.48
	7,363.86

Yokohama, February 17th, 1904.
FRANK O. STUART,
Hon. Treasurer.

Examined and found correct.
L. R. BREMNER, } Auditors,
W. B. WHITE, }
Yokohama, February 26th, 1904.

THE ELECTIONS AND THE DIET.

The following have been returned for the Diet in Tokyo:—Messrs. Oishi Kumakichi, Hatoyama Kazuo, Minowa Shinjiro, Akiyama Teisuke, Seki Naohiko, Taguchi Ukichi, Tsunoda Shimpei, Yebara Soroku, Kurizuka Seigo, Takanashi Tetsushiro and Fukuchi Genichiro.

The elections seem to have passed off on March 1st with great quietness throughout the country. The result of the polling in Yokohama was announced at noon on March 2nd, as follows:

	votes.
Mr. S. Shimada	1,060
Mr. S. Horiya	361
Mr. I. Sudzumoto	289
Mr. N. Ito	81
Count T. Katsura	1
Mr. T. Hara	1
Mr. N. Hiranuma	1
Mr. S. Totsuka	1
Mr. K. Onuki	1
Mr. S. Murata	1

The first two candidates were elected.

According to official investigations, the political parties put up the following candidates in the general elections:—

Seiyu-Kai	205
Progressists	156
Teikoku-to (Imperialists)	26
Chusei Club	23
Doshi Kenkyukwai	17
Koyu Club	17
Liberals	45
Non-party	116
Party, not known	59

It is expected that the Diet will be convened for the 18th instant and officially opened on the 20th. This will involve a marked departure from the law which requires, in the first place, that an interval of 20 days must be allowed after a general election in order that the members may signify their assent or dissent, and that an interval of 40 days must separate the convening order from the date of assembly. The present circumstances, however, are quite exceptional.

As we go to press intelligence reaches us that an Imperial Decree has just been issued summoning the Diet for the 18th instant and fixing the duration of the session at 10 days.

MARCH MONEY MARKET.

Tables showing the amount of money required during the month of March to meet various calls are published by Tokyo papers:—

PAID-UP.	Yen.
Land tax, 5th payment	8,208,732
Income tax, for latter half year	2,194,413
Saké tax, 4th payment	15,716,401
Soy tax, 3rd payment	1,102,522
Tax on Soy Manufactured for private use, 3rd payment	10,467
Tax on Mines, for latter half year	569,383
Treasury bonds, 1st instalment *yen* 2 per face value of *yen* 100	2,000,000
Osaka-Kobe Electric Tramway Company, 5th payment on shares	225,000
Hakata Railway Company, 6th payment on shares	207,500
Hokkaido Railway Company, 7th payment on shares	1,200,000
PAID-OUT.	
Interest on 5 per cent. Government loan	1,898,503
Interest on Nagasaki Harbour Improvement loan	20,625
Dividends of Yokohama Specie Bank	1,170,000
Dividends of Toyo Kisen Kaisha	195,000
Interest on loans of various Companies	108,400
Redemption of debentures of Kyushu Railway Company	28,000
Interest on debentures of Industries Encouragement Bank	38,689
Refund of debentures of Industries Encouragement Bank	18,740

LITERARY GOSSIP.

The King of Italy has bestowed upon Mr. William Le Queux, the novelist, the cross of the Order of the Crown of Italy.

Miss Hannah Lynch, novelist and essayist, died in Paris last month. One of her best known books was *The Autobiography of a Child*. She wrote also a study of Mr. George Meredith, *French Life in Town and Country*, *Prince of the Glades*, *Dr. Vermont's Fantasy*, *Through Troubled Waters*, *Daughters of Men*, and other books and contributed to various reviews and magazines. Miss Lynch also acted as Paris Correspondent of the *Academy*.

With the February number of *Knowledge* a fresh development of its scope and contents is made by its directors. It has during its twenty-two years' career been chiefly devoted to astronomy and the natural sciences; but in future it will add physics, electricity, and applied science to these subjects. In order the more suitably to effect this alteration, *Knowledge* will be amalgamated with the *Illustrated Scientific News*. The combined journal will be issued under the title of *Knowledge and the Illustrated Scientific News*.

It is interesting to learn how boys and girls in the Colonies and other places abroad regard the old country, says the *Globe*. The editor of *Chums* recently asked his readers who reside beyond the seas to indicate the twelve cities and towns in the British Isles which they would most like to visit. By means of voting it was made clear that the following in the order indicated were the favourite places:—1, London, 2, Edinburgh, 3, Dublin, 4 Glasgow, 5, Liverpool, 6, Manchester, 7, Birmingham, 8, Belfast, 9, Oxford, 10, Aberdeen, 11, Portsmouth, 12, Brighton. Next in order came:—13, Sheffield, 14, Bristol, 15, Cambridge, 16, Cork 17, York, 18, Plymouth.

Some time ago the chief dramatic critic of *The Times* had a serious falling out with the manager of a popular London theatre, and as a result, Mr. Walkley was refused a seat when he applied for admission as *The Times* critic at an important first performance. The big journal supported its representative and for a while very strained relations existed. By the last home mail we find that Mr. Walkley and Mr. Bourchier have exchanged letters, buried the hatchet, and agreed to associate again on terms of intimacy. One of our London contemporaries has reduced the incident to rhyme, in the following fashion:—

"Dear Mr. Walkley—do you know—
  I'm feeling quite a yearning for you;
I would have written long ago,
  Only I didn't like to bore you.

"I'm sorry if you thought me rude,
  Perhaps I was a shade sarcastic:
But then I never dreamed that you'd
  Resort to measures quite so drastic.

"Forgive my quips: I stand confessed
  As 'volatile' as good Miss Mowcher;
Resume the rôle of 'Welcome Guest,'
  Return to your distracted Bourchier!"

"Dear Mr. Bourchier, say no more—
  I'm really not the least offended;
Why, even when you closed your door,
  I knew your wrath was half-pretended.

"And now you've shown you can regard
  The feelings of 'our leading journal,'
I'll gladly play in your backyard,
  And vow a fellowship eternal." (Does so.)

There is much charming writing in Mr. Wymond Carey's new book, "For the White Rose," which will appeal to all lovers of English prose. Here is a passage referring to the peculiar stillness of the New Forest:—

"Picture to yourself the head of a secluded valley enclosed in heathery slopes. The valley itself is rich pasture-land, and through it rambles a broad brook overhung with beech and poplar and alder. Just where the stream crosses the valley road, place a long low-storied house, with attics dotted amongst the gables, a manor built of the warm red brick loved by the men who had grown to enjoy the peace of good Queen Bess, and mark everywhere the latticed windows with the Tudor mullions and copings. The oak door, with the date 1571, faces up the valley across a noble expanse of lawn dominated by the mighty cedar planted to commemorate the restoration of King Charles the Second. Away on the right lie the two fish-ponds, shimmering now a purple brown in the westering sun, and fringed with nodding sedge, bulrush, and irises in a framewonk of spreading hazel; and beyond is the screened pleasaunce of the bowling-green. To the back are the gardens, terrace on terrace, ending in the orchards, which gave the place its name,—such orchards as float in a rainbow of melting colour across a poet's dream of the Hesperides. Through the trees runs the stream, chattering over its golden bed to the forget-me-nots, the rats, the ferns, and the brambles. Here in spring-time the lush grass reaches to the knee and the mossy trees emboss their blossoms on the cloth of gold, now of daffodill, now of buttercup; and here in autumn the apples gleam at the amethyst of the dying heather, while the bronze of the turning bracken bids the trees don their russet, for October is at hand. Most impressive of all is the perfect peace. The stillness of this spot, wholly apart from the turmoil of the world on a summer afternoon—a stillness made more still by the cooing of the wood-pigeons and the cawing of the rooks,—is a thing to awe as it fills the spirit. Is it not English, this peace, as the Manor and its setting are wholly English? But it is the pure clear colour of the rich rural comfort of a country into whose genius has blended something of the pastoral austerity of the wolds on the one side and the mellow fatness of the cider-land beyond,—a genius born of the glamour and romance, the sylvan fairyness forlorn, which is the dower of the Forest alone."

TO LONDON AND BACK VIA SIBERIA.

This was the title of a very interesting lecture given on Friday evening at Van Schaick Hall by Mrs. James Walter before the members of the Yokohama Literary Society. The President, in introducing the lecturer, said that it was a common cause of complaint that persons who did interesting things were generally disinclined to talk about them afterwards. He had, however, persuaded Mrs. Walter on her return to Japan last Fall to put some of her observations upon paper, and they would thus have that evening an opportunity of travelling with her over a railway that at the present moment was occupying a considerable amount of the world's attention, and of listening to her account of a journey that five years ago would have been completely within the region of impossibilities.

Mrs. Walter began by describing the difficulties of getting into as well as out of Russia even with a properly issued passport and threw on the screen an illustration of this all-important document, showing the number of times it was *visèd* during her journey to and fro. She then described the steamer *Manchuria*, on which she journeyed from Nagasaki to Dalny, and gave a lively description of her adventures in that town ere she finally managed to get seated in a railway car of the Chinese Eastern Railway. Many views of Dalny were shown and then some beautiful scenes on the shores of Lake Baikal and some equally notable sights in the big city of Irkutsk, the Urals, the Volga, etc., till Moscow was at last reached. Though the speed of the trains was slow, Mrs. Walter thought this had a compensatory side, for at the end of her trans-Siberian journey she felt far less tired and worn-out than she has felt in rushing across the United States in the fast American trains. Everywhere too the officials did all they could to help her, showing a courtesy rarely to be met with among a similar class of men in America, and though at times she found no one who could speak anything but Russian, on the whole she got through the long journey without any particularly awkward inconveniences. The wonderful old city of Moscow afforded the speaker great delight, and some charming pictures of the Kremlin, the Church of St. Basil, the Church of the Saviour, and other sights in the ancient capital of the Czars were shown. Returning from London on her way back to Japan, Mrs. Walter encountered, early in October, a heavy snowstorm in Moscow, but this did not prevent her from seeing something more of the city and of witnessing a most interesting religious festival there. But for a delay in Dalny, owing to the non-arrival of the connecting steamer, Mrs. Walter would have made the run from London to Nagasaki in 21 days; as it was, she took 23. Altogether Mrs. Walter enjoyed the experience, and her lecture, written in a bright and interesting style, held her audience thoroughly engrossed.

On the proposition of the President, Mrs. Walter was warmly thanked for her address and the many pretty pictures with which she had illustrated it. After a slight pause, some twenty snapshots taken on the Siberian railway by a recent traveller, which had been kindly placed at the disposal of the Society, were thrown on the screen. These were also thoroughly enjoyed. Miss Mendelson (piano), Mr. H. A. Poole (violin), and Mr. W. Karl E. Vincent (organ) then gave a series of Russian folk-songs, after which Mr. Brady brought a thoroughly enjoyable evening to a close with Chevalier's burlesque French *chanson*, "Tink-a-tin."

THE PASSING OF OLD SIR HARRY.

The wash of the waves on these hoary coasts,
  The salt-wind soaking the cliffs' white face,
And the grey gulls wheeling like homeless ghosts
  Through the mist and the spray where the cruisers race,
And the long sad sob of the central deep—
Grieve at the shores of lasting Sleep.

The call of the waves can woo no more,
  The scent of the sea no more invite;
The grey old Admiral steps ashore,
  His flag is struck in the raven night,
The waves fall back in the yeasty strife,
And he stands sea-drenched at the Gates of Life.

Haply, he feels that the land is good,
  Though never those coasts with ocean shake,
For there at the Gates are Benbow, Hood,
  Frobisher, Nelson, Hawke, and Drake,
And their hands are stretched in welcome sweet
To the Admiral Father of England's Fleet.

—*The Globe.*

THE PRIZE COURT.

According to the *Official Gazette* of March 1st, the Prize Court has notified that the following six Russian steamers are prizes of Japan and that those concerned with the ships must present their claims within thirty days, commencing on the day of notice:—

The steamer *Rossia*, captured Feb. 7th by the Imperial warship *Tatsuta* in the neighbourhood of Kyu-Tien-am, Korea.

The steamer *Mukden*, captured on Feb. 6th by the warship *Chinyen* at Fusan, Korea. Consignees: Russo-Chinese Bank, one case containing ten thousand roubles; Messrs. Ahrens & Co., three cases of musical instruments, etc.; Messrs. Holme, Ringer & Co., several cases of sundry goods; etc.

The steamer *Algun*, captured on Feb. 7th by the warship *Adzuma* off Yakko-po, Korea. 311 roubles.

The steamer *Nicholai* captured on Feb. 10th by the warship *Miyako*, on the sea, north latitude 35.7 and east longitude, 129.15. Korean coins, 6,500 *mom*.

The steamer *Michael*, captured on Feb. 10th by the warship *Miyako* on the sea, north latitude 35.10 and east longitude 129.20. Cargo, whale oil, etc.

The steamer *Alexander*, captured on Feb. 10th by torpedo-boat 17 at Idzuhara, Tsushima island. Cargo, whale oil, etc.

FIRES.

The Murayama Agriculture School, Yamagata Prefecture, was destroyed by fire on the evening of Feb. 24th.

Fire broke out early on the morning of Feb. 26th in the dwelling of a Chinaman, Lin-Chong-den, No. 126, Yokohama, destroying a building which was divided into three tenements. A fireman of the Kagacho police station was injured. The cause of the fire is reported to be sparks from a cooking range.

Fire broke out on the night of Feb. 28th at Toyo-oka-cho, Oita prefecture, destroying seventy-three houses. The damage is estimated at over two hundred thousand *yen*.

On Wednesday morning, March 2nd, at about 8.20 o'clock, fire broke out in the accountants' room of the temporary office of the Yokohama Specie Bank and the flames immediately spread, with the result that the room was destroyed and the ceiling and roof of the adjoining office partially damaged. The cause of the outbreak is under investigation, but it is believed to be due to defective stove pipes. Fortunately no business books or documents were injured, as these had not yet been taken from the strong room. The Bank's office was removed after the fire to the new building, which is almost completed, so that business was not interrupted in the slightest.

Mr. M. C. Fernando of No. 127, Yamashita-cho, where a fire broke out on the 22nd ult., has been arrested by the Kagacho Police on suspicion of incendiarism.

Fire broke out on the evening of Feb. 29th at the Ishikawajima Shipbuilding Yard, Tokyo, partly destroying a shed. The cause is believed to have been tobacco ashes. On the previous day, the Shinto temple, Yose-Jinsha, Tsukui, Kanagawa prefecture, was burned by fire. The loss is estimated at about twenty thousand *yen*. The cause is not known.

About 12.40 p.m. on Thursday fire occurred in the machine room of the Union Electric Light Company at Ura-Takashima-cho, Kanagawa, partially damaging the building. The machinery seems to have been injured, so that light throughout Kanagawa is expected to be suspended for a week or more.

Fire broke out on Wednesday, March 2nd, at 7.50 p.m. at Ashibiki-cho, Yokohama, burning down four houses. A *hibachi* was the cause.

AMERICAN TOPICS.

Mayor McClellan, of New York, has ordered President Darlington of the Board of Health and Police Commissioner McAdoo to close the following theatres:—Grand Opera House, Madison Square Theatre, Princess Theatre, Vaudeville Theatre, Hurtig & Seamans and the theatre part of Huber's Museum. He also served notice on nineteen theatres that unless certain alterations for safety were made he would order them closed too.

A bill has been introduced in Congress appropriating $50,000 for a biological station at San Diego for the study of marine life and ocean currents on that part of the Pacific coast. The station is to be conducted by the University of California. One of the latter's professors and some of its students have been engaged in the work tentatively for [some time past, the San Diego Marine Biological Association defraying the cost.

What will become of the vast estate of the late Mr. William C. Whitney on October Mountain, now that he is dead, is a question that is agitating Washington people. In 1896 Mr. Whitney bought over 12,000 acres of land adjoining Lenox and spent $60,000 a year in making it into a grand shooting park. At great expense he brought there herds of buffalo, elk, moose and deer, flocks of angora goats and sheep, pheasants and partridges. The lake he stocked with bass and the brooks with trout.

It is said that A. W. T. Lawrence, whose father was at one time a wellknown newspaper man of St. Louis, has been informed by his broker, J. E. Wright of Kansas City, that he is $40,000 ahead through the recent manipulations of the cotton market. Lawrence is now a convict in a Missouri penitentiary, where he was sent about a year ago for stealing $1500 from the West End Hotel, St. Louis. Notwithstanding his incarceration Lawrence succeeded through his broker in playing the cotton market.

The Canadian Pacific Railway has planned irrigation works near Calgary which will reclaim 3,000,000 acres of arid land in the neighbourhood if the expectations of the engineers are fully realized. The land is now worthless owing to the lack of water. It is assumed that irrigation will render one-half of the tract fit for the growing of cereals of all kinds and make the other half suitable for grain cultivation and grazing. Bids are to be invited for the construction of works that will irrigate 300,000 acres. This is intended as an experiment. If it proves a success the 3,000,000 acres will be reclaimed.

The gift of $50,000 by Mr. John Hays Hammond of New York for a metallurgical laboratory at Yale has just been increased by him to $100,000. In announcing this additional gift, Professor Chittenden, director of the Sheffield Scientific School, says it makes possible the construction of a laboratory of adequate size and with an equipment suited for all modern requirements. It is expected that the laboratory will be unique of its kind.

Sarah J. Lippincott, the former actress-writer, has brought suit against Harper Brothers for $40,000 for libel. The action is based on a story in Julian Hawthorne's book, "Hawthorne and His Circle," in which the author published extracts from the diary of his father, Nathaniel Hawthorne, one of which tells of Mrs. Lippincott, who was then Grace Greenwood, being a guest of Charles Kemble, the actor, at a dinner given by him in London, at which were present a number of prominent people. According to the diary Kemble was reading a portion of the play "King Lear," when he broke down and wept. The scene, the diary says, affected Miss Greenwood also and she became hysterical and fell to the floor and shocked the diners.

A New York physician claims to have discovered a lemon juice germicide for the bacilli of both grippe and pneumonia, which diseases have made extraordinary ravages in that city this winter. This physician says he has killed the germs of pneumonia in culture tubes with the simple application of lemon juice, and through its timely use, where symptoms of the disease were in evidence in patients under his care, the results obtained were highly satisfactory. The medicinal virtues of the lemon have been long recognized by the medical profession. It has been used successfully in London in cases of typhoid. If it is truly valuable as a remedy for grippe and pneumonia, the field of its usefulness will be greatly broadened and its production stimulated.

The *Engineering and Mining Journal* estimates that the gold production of the world in 1903 reached a total of $327,049,750, this being the highest on record, and exceeding that of 1902 by $28,106,552. The leading producers, in order were: Australasia including the commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand, $88,170,909; the United States, $74,425,340; the Transvaal, $61,527,231; Russia, $24,000,000; Canada, $19,500,000; Mexico, $12,550,000; British India, $11,118,120. No other single country produced over $10,000,000 in value. This order is the same as in 1902. In 1901 and 1900, however, the United States led, Australia came second, and the Transvaal far down on the list. In 1889 Australia was first, the Transvaal second, and the United States third. In 1898, the Transvaal headed the list, with Australia second, and America third. In 1903 the five leading producers—Australasia, the United States, the Transvaal. Russia, and Canada—together produced $267,623,480, or 82 per cent of the total.

Major Charles L. McCawley, who gained the ill-will of the members of the United States Supreme Court by causing them to give precedence to the foreign diplomats at a recent Presidential reception, has charge of all social functions at the White House. The position was formerly occupied by Colonel Symons, but he found his other duties so exacting that he was allowed an assistant. He chose Major McCawley, who has assumed the social duties of his chief. The affair at which the question of precedence came up was given in honour of the Supreme Court Justices. When they were about to be presented to the President, McCawley ushered in the diplomatic corps, to the outspoken disgust of the jurists. Meanwhile another little trouble has arisen in regard to military escorts for the diplomatic corps. It seems that a precedent was established by the meeting of Governor Taft with a troop of cavalry and according to Mr. Root, the retiring Secretary, the same honour when he left Washington. The same courtesy will be requested of the U.S. Government when the next new Ambassador is received in audience for the first time by the President. This is the custom observed in other countries and it is understood that American Ambassadors abroad have always insisted on full military honours.

The New York banks are lending $94,000,000 more money to-day than they were a year ago, while their deposits are $92,000,000 higher and cash is $29,00 ,000 greater. The New York banks have cut down circulation in the last two weeks of January by over $1,000,000. Deposits are $13,000,000 above the highest on record: loans also broke all records and are $44,000,000 higher than last February. In ten months the New York banks have increased their deposits by $$71,000,000, and $176,000,000 has been recovered in the last six weeks. The enormous dealings of the New York banks amaze all the financial centres, says the *Boston Journal*, and indicate that all financial roads now lead to New York. Money continues easy. There is little speculation. The iron trade remains quiet. Rail-makers will not sell at the price at which users of rails are ready to buy. There is anticipation of a decided improvement in business at the opening of spring and a hopeful feeling prevails. The recent expansion of loans amounting to over $100,000,000 is due to large corporate borrowing as well as to investments in sterling and commission house time loans. The money which has been pouring into New York of late is surplus circulation which has gone out to move the crops and come back again.

Mr. Grover Cleveland's tribute to the late Mr. W. C Whitney runs as follows:—

The news of Mr. Whitney's death has greatly shocked me. As I think of him, my mind, passing beyond recent years, dwells upon the day of my association with him in high official duty, and recalls the time when I had the opportunity to enjoy his unreserved intimacy and friendly companionship. Our relations have never changed, but the exigencies of life have forbidden recent close intercourse. Mr. Whitney had more calm, forceful efficiency than any man I ever knew. In work that interested him he actually seemed to court difficulties, and to find pleasure and exhilaration in overcoming them. His conquest over the obstacles he encountered in undertaking to build up our Navy afforded him greater delight than the contemplation of the great results he achieved in his department of the Government. His judgment was quick, clear and astonishingly accurate, and when it was called into action his mental poise was so complete that neither passion nor irritation could lead him astray. While I remember all this with admiration and affection, I recall with more tender sentiment Mr. Whitney's devotion to his friends, his extreme consideration for all with whom he came in contact, his thoughtfulness for the ease and comfort of others, and his ready impulse to help those who needed help. I mourn the death of a friend of whom it can be truthfully said that in his character were combined mental traits of a high order and loving qualities of heart that grappled him to his friends with hooks of steel.

THE LAW COURTS.

A CASE OF FRAUD.

R. Takahashi (no relation of the M. Takahashi, punished on Feb. 23rd by the Yokohama District Court), charged with fraud, was sentenced on Feb. 25th in the Tokyo District Court to three years' imprisonment with hard labour and a fine of *yen* 10, and six months' police surveillance.

It may be remembered that the accused received money from a secretary of the Russian Legation on a promise that he would furnish military secrets and plans of the naval stations. This promise was discovered by the police before the delivery of the secrets, and there was not sufficient evidence to prove that he had possessed any secret documents. The man was accordingly punished for receiving money under false pretences from the Russian official.

LIBEL CASE.

The case instituted by Mr. Hofmann, Kobe, against the *Hochi*, *Yorozu*, and *Niroku*, came up again on February 27th in the Tokyo District Court. C. Arakawa, nominal editor, and M. Nagasawa, nominal publisher of the *Yorozu*, were sentenced to forty days' imprisonment with hard labour and a fine of *yen* 7, and fifteen days' imprisonment with hard labour and a fine of *yen* 5 respectively. The members of the *Hochi* staff were released. The sentence on the members of the *Niroku* was reserved till March 1st as they were unable to be present in Court.

PUNISHMENT OF NEWSPAPERS.

The Tokyo papers, *Niroku*, *Miyako* and *Keizai Zasshi*, which had been prosecuted by the authorities of the Navy on a charge of having published military movements without permission, were punished on Feb. 27th with fines of from *yen* 40 to *yen* 60 in the Tokyo District Court.

AH TIECK v. NORTHERN ASSURANCE CO.

The hearing of this case in which plaintiff claims *yen* 4,945 with interest at 6 per cent. per annum, was resumed on Feb. 29th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno. Mr. H. S. Playfair, agent of the Commercial Union Assurance Company, was examined as a witness.

He stated that he went on Oct. 31st to the godowns situated at Nos. 34 and 35 Yokohama, after these buildings had been destroyed by fire. He examined the *débris*, as the Commercial Union Assurance Company were interested in the contents of the godowns He first paid a visit to a godown marked E. F with K. on top. There were no such things as Chinese clothes, shoes, etc., there. He met Mr. J. W. Crowe, of Messrs. Strachan and Company, Agents of the Northern Assurance Company, in the compound, when the latter told him that the boxes covered with skin belonged to a Chinaman. The witness and Mr. Crowe went to a corner of the godown marked "E" where some things were stacked, in a pile; they had been damaged by fire. The witness explained in detail what he found in the godowns after which he stated that the *debris* was sold by auction by Mr. Hall.

Cross-examined, witness stated that the property belonging to the Chinaman was not sold by auction.

Counsel having summarized the evidence, entered on a lengthy discussion, after which the case was adjourned till March 4th, when judgment will be delivered.

CLAIM ON SNAKE-GOURDS.

The hearing of the case instituted by Shimidzu, a snake-gourd dealer, against Messrs. Winckler and Company, was resumed on Feb. 29th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno.

Defendants' counsel introduced a business book as evidence, in regard to which plaintiff's counsel stated that the entries were made in several kinds of ink such as blue, red, etc,, so that the books could not be proved to be perfect business books in accordance with the provisions of Commercial Law. He refused to admit the books as evidence in the case.

Defendant's counsel asked the Court for leave to examine the Japanese broker, Kabayama, as a witness. The Court decided to do so on March 7th.

INFRINGEMENT OF THE COMMERCIAL LAW.

The hearing of the case brought against the Nippon Yusen Kaisha on a charge of contravening the Commercial Law, concluded on March 2nd in the Tokyo District Court. The directors—Baron Shibuzawa, and Messrs. R. Kondo, M. Kabo, S. Iwanaga, K. Sonoda, S. Aosada, H. Soda, and S. Ogawa—were sentenced to a fine of *yen* 5 each.

PUNISHMENT OF A ROBBER.

S. Takehara, charged with having strangled an old woman to death at Hayashi-cho, Honjo, Tokyo, in November last, has been sentenced to penal servitude for life. The convict had been sentenced to death but the sentence was commuted in consequence of his not being 20 years old when he had committed the crime.

Z. Takemura, charged with robbery and murder, was sentenced to death on Feb. 29th in the Osaka District Court.

"THE MODERNIAN."

The third number of *The Modernian* has reached us. Again we note that it reports steady progress both in numbers and in work accomplished. The notes by "Dimples" are interesting reading, though we think they would have been in better taste had they made no allusion whatever, either in prose or rhyme, to a recent controversy. The photographic illustrations are excellent, particularly to be commended being those of cliff scenery at Negishi by S. Vincent.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Captain Lea and Lieut. Boyle left Kyoto on March 2nd for Nagoya.

The Newchwang British volunteers of 1900 have received the China medal.

A telegram states that four foreign war correspondents left Moji on March 2nd for Korea.

Mr. Li Yong-ik, former Korean Minister of Finance, left Osaka on March 1st by the 2.28 p.m. train for Tokyo.

Marquis Ito, President of the Privy Council, returned on March 1st from Oiso, arriving at Shimbashi at 11.36 o'clock.

Y. Kashiwagi (19). Kobe, has absconded with *yen* 17,000 belonging to his employer. He is believed to be in Tokyo or Yokohama.

Major-General Prince Louis Napoleon has arrived at Harbin, and is to command a Russian brigade against the Japanese.

The Central Tea Guild has received a telegram from its Chicago branch to the effect that the tea market is brisk but prices are stationary.

N. Ito, who was one of the Parliamentary candidates in Yokohama, was arrested on March 2nd on a charge of infringement of the Election Law.

A coolie and his wife were arrested on March 1st at Shitaya, Tokyo. They had turned half *sen* copper coins into 20 *sen* silver pieces and circulated them.

The Governor of Niigata telegraphed on Feb. 29th that a case of small-pox had appeared at West Kambara, the patient being one of the fugitives from Vladivostock via Moji.

A telegram from Yamanashi announces that Mr. K. Mochizuki, a candidate for the House of Representatives, was arrested on Feb. 29th on suspicion of having infringed the Election Law.

A telegram from Wakayama states that several supporters of Mr. M. Nakanishi, a parliamentary candidate, were arrested on March 2nd. They are charged with an infringement of the Election Law.

The nominal editor of the *Yomiuri Shimbun* was punished with a fine of *yen* 30 on March 2nd in the Tokyo District Court. He published a report with regard to naval movements without the sanction of the authorities.

Captain Kaburaki, of the Navy, who was recently appointed attaché of the Japanese Legation in London, will leave on March 18th by the steamer *Empress of Japan* for Vancouver on his way to his post.

M. Takahashi, who was sentenced on Feb. 23rd by the Yokohama District Court to eight years' minor confinement on a charge of having been a military spy in the service of Russia, appealed on the 29th against the sentence.

The Hongkong A.D.C. have been giving the Gilbert opera *His Excellency*, and among the players we note a former member of the Yokohama A.D.C., Dr. Norris. The *China Mail* says:—

Surgeon H. L. Norris, R.N., as *Syndic*, played his part remarkably well, and his singing with Mr. W. J. Phillips (Dame Courtlandt) especially convulsed the house.

M. Tsutsui, K. Oikawa, and T. Sakata, who were charged with having manufactured *saké* clandestinely in October last, were sentenced on Feb. 29th in the Tokyo District Court to a fine of *yen* 250, *yen* 100 and *yen* 70 respectively.

The funeral of Mr. G. McBain, whose death has been recorded, took place at Shanghai on Feb. 15th and was very largely attended. The local journals wrote in high terms of the deceased gentleman. The *N.-C. Daily News* said:—"One whose left hand rarely knew what his right hand did in the way of charity, was the late Mr. George McBain. Numerous instances of his kindly thought for less fortunate fellow-creatures were spoken of in various places yesterday."

K. Okada, who was connected with the text-book affair, and who was also charged with having attempted to obtain money from a missionary of the Russian Church by means of fraud, by proposing to sell him Japanese military secrets, was sentenced on Feb. 29th in the Tokyo District Court. For the former charge, the punishment was forty-five days' imprisonment with hard labour and a fine of *yen* 5, and for the latter, one year's imprisonment with hard labour, a fine of *yen* 20, and six months' police surveillance.

An Indian, C. Fernandez, No. 127, Yokohama, was examined on March 1st at the Kagacho police station and then removed to the Public Procurators' office of the Yokohama District Court. The charge is not certainly known, but some Japanese papers believe that the examination is connected with the fire which occurred on the night of Feb. 22nd in the main dwelling. Two Indian employees of Mr. Fernandez were also examined on the 2nd in the same Court.

The Bank of Formosa held a general meeting on March 2nd in Tokyo and passed the accounts of the last half-year. The net income was *yen* 197,483.29. Out of that amount, *yen* 42,000 was set apart as reserve, to redeem losses; *yen* 5,000 as reserve for equalizing dividends; *yen* 5,000 as special reserve; *yen* 10,700 as bonus to employees; *yen* 90,000 as dividends for shareholders at the rate of 4½ per cent; and the remainder was carried forward to the new account.

Mr. Oura, Minister for Communications, promulgated on March 3rd in the *Official Gazette*, regulations relating to postal letters and money orders for prisoners of war. According to the regulations, postage and other charges will be exempted on letters and money orders of prisoners; and on the envelopes must be written the words "Postal service of Prisoners" in Japanese or "Service des Prisonniers de Guerre" in French; and envelopes containing money orders must have the words "Prisoner's Draft" in Japanese.

Mr. J. N. Jordan, C.M.G., British Minister at Soul, occupies a position just now of no little delicacy, remarks a London paper. An Irishman by birth, he became a student-interpreter in China in 1876. His knowledge of the Chinese language led to his being appointed Chinese Secretary to the British Legation at Peking. His official connection with Korea dates back to 1896, when he was appointed Consul-General and afterwards Minister. He was last home on leave in 1900.

An important art find, which is also of some importance in history has just been made by the art dealer, Herr Hulfemann, of Wiesbaden. The Paris correspondent of the *Newcastle Chronicle* states that up to the present, there has not been in existence any known portrait of Marie Antoinette, other than miniatures, though it was known that David had painted one in 1790, as a companion picture to his "Louis XVI. going to the National Assembly." This was smuggled out of France by an emigrant noble, who gave it in gratitude to a family in Westphalia, and it has now been traced and restored. It is a fine portrait of the hapless Queen, who is represented in a low-necked dress of clouded green, with purple drapery, and a rose in her hair.

The *China Mail*, of Hongkong, has opened a subscription list on behalf of the Japan Red Cross Society. It says:

> While everyone will sympathise with the sick and wounded Russians, we think it may be stated with fairness that the conduct of the Russian officials in Manchuria and of the Russian Government has alienated the sympathies of most people, who admire the noble efforts of the Japanese to stop the wanton and unjustifiable aggression of Russia in Eastern Asia. The Japanese are fighting for more than appears in the recent negotiations respecting Korea and Manchuria. The suffering of the sick and wounded during the rigors of a northern winter must be great, and we now make this appeal for subscriptions in aid of the Japanese Red Cross Society, which is doing what it can to alleviate the sufferings of a patriotic people. Any subscription received will be forwarded to the proper authorities in Japan free of charge by the Yokohama Specie Bank.

To test the taste of the reading public a newspaper representative called at a Free Library the other day, says the *Globe*, and submitted a list of books on Japan. He was unable to obtain one of these books. Every single volume bearing in any way on the history of Japan or dealing with the life and customs of the Japanese was "out." Whether the same result would be obtained at all the Free Libraries it is not easy to conjecture, but the present case is at least instructive as indicating the taste of the public for literature other than ephemeral fiction. When any great subject occupies the public mind it is well known among publishers that there will be a demand for books dealing with the question. It is a curious reflection that one result of the present trouble in the Far East has been to make the English people better acquainted with the Japanese. One has only to glance at the popular journals to see how keen is the public interest in the life and customs of our Eastern ally. Prior to the present disturbance the general public knew very little of the romantic history of the Island Kingdom, with its curious religious evolution, its spirit of chivalry, and its practical light-heartedness in the business of existence. Now, however, it would seem that England is as well acquainted with the Japanese as with India or Canada, and the result is a strengthening of the intuitive sympathy which exists between the two nations.

CORRESPONDENCE.

YOKOHAMA FOREIGN RELIEF ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In your issue of yesterday I notice a paragraph with reference to myself, reading as follows:—

> "At a Meeting of the Executive Committee of the above Association held on Tuesday it was unanimously resolved that:—"The Committee of the Yokohama Foreign Relief Association for Sufferers by the War desire to emphasize their appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Mr. J. P. Mollison as Chairman of the General Committee."

I have also received a letter from Mr. A. Bellamy Brown, addressed to me as Chairman of the General Committee, Yokohama and Tokyo Foreign Residents Association for the relief of Sufferers by the War, of which the following is a copy:—

> J. P. Mollison Esq., Chairman of the General Committee, Yokohama and Tokyo Foreign Residents Association for the relief of Sufferers by the War.
>
> Sir,—I am instructed by the Executive Committee of the above Association to convey to you the information that at a Meeting of the Committee held at the Chartered Bank on March 1st, it was proposed and unanimously carried that:—
>
> "The Executive Committee of the Yokohama and Tokyo Foreign Relief Association desire to emphasise their appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Mr. J. P. Mollison as Chairman of the General Committee."
>
> I have very great pleasure in forwarding to you this resolution, and beg to remain,
>
> Yours very sincerely,
>
> (Signed) A. Bellamy Brown,
> Secretary.

It will be evident to everyone, that unless for occult reasons best known to the Executive Committee themselves, the above resolution is superfluous and wholly unnecessary.

It is sufficient for me to feel that I have done my duty towards the kindly people amongst whom I have lived for nearly 40 years, by remembering them in their time of trouble, and doing my utmost to promote the success of a movement having for its object the relief of the wives and children of Japanese soldiers and sailors called to the front, many of whom may not return.

Yours very truly, JAMES P. MOLLISON.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of the shareholders in this Corporation was held at the City Hall, Hongkong, on Jan. 20. Mr. A. J. Raymond was in the chair.

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen,—Your directors are very pleased to come before you with the favourable report which I have just read. I feel sure that all our shareholders, and more especially those at home, will be glad to find that, notwithstanding the uneasiness which has prevailed during the period under review, in consequence of the political situation in the Far East, we are able to recommend a dividend of £1.10 0. and a bonus of 10/- per share, and also the transfer of $500,000 to credit of silver reserve fund. As regards our sterling reserve of £1,000,000 your directors have deemed it advisable to make some adjustment of our investments in view of the serious fall in the price of all first class securities. You will observe in the balance sheet that our holdings of £570,000 2½ per cent. Consols have been written down to 85. The National War Loan of which we hold £225,000 is redeemable in 1910 at par and that stock is quoted at about 97; we have therefore allowed it to remain unchanged in our books at 90, but the other sterling securities amounting to £325,000, all of them gilt edged stocks, have been written down to £286,000, which is considerably lower than the present market prices. Then apart from reserve fund our investments appearing under the heading of Consols, Colonial and other securities, as $8,784,467,89 have likewise suffered in the general depreciation and for these ample provision has also been made. We may reasonably expect to see all these securities recover in value in course of time, but I am sure it will be a satisfaction to every one interested in the welfare of the Bank to know that we are continuing along these safe lines of policy which have brought us to our present strong position.—(Applause.) I may mention that these securities largely consist of British Government stocks, we have such a big interest in the Far East in the ordinary course of our business that it has not been the custom to include that field in our separate investments to any great extent. Compared with the last report the other figures in the balance sheet do not present any very striking feature. Deposits have slightly increased, our note circulation continues to expand and bills payable stand at $20,882,914.55 against $12,273,675.78 last half year, but both these items are usually higher in December than in June. On the other side the amount of our cash and also of our bullion in hand and in transit is larger; bills discounted, loans and credits show a decrease of about $7,000,000, while in bills receivable there is an increase of $11,000,000. All the writing down which I have mentioned has been effected out of current profits, so that the result of the half year's working is really better than at first sight appears from the report; that result, gentlemen, bears better testimony than any words from me, to the efficiency of our managers and staff generally, and in order to mark our appreciation of their successful efforts we have voted them a bonus of fifteen per cent on their salaries, and this I trust will meet with your approval.—(Applause). I do not think that there has been anything in the general course of trade as reflected in our business which calls for special comment, unless it be the phenomenal rise and violent fluctuations in the price of cotton and this, I fear, will have an adverse effect on the import trade all over the East for some time to come. And now, gentlemen, in conclusion, one word on the political situation. In my speech at the last general meeting six months ago I ventured to express the hope that the efforts of diplomacy might prove successful in bringing about an amicable settlement of the difficulties then threatening the peace of the Far East. Unfortunately that hope has not been fulfilled. All that I can now say is that I very earnestly desire—I am sure we all very earnestly desire—that the war which has broken out between Russia and Japan may be brought quickly to an end, and that it may result in a lasting peace based on the principle of the maintenance of the integrity of China, (including the rich and fertile province of Manchuria, with its vast commercial potentialities) and the effectual operation of the policy of the open door with equal trading opportunities for all. In the meantime you may rest assured that the management is fully alive to the gravity of the situation, and will use every endeavour to safeguard your interests. If any shareholder desires any further information I shall be glad to answer any questions. (Applause).

There being no questions, the Chairman proposed that the report and accounts as presented be adopted and passed.

Mr. Marshall said:—Mr. Chairman, and gentlemen, I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts as presented. The report before us combined with the able speech we have just heard from the chair cannot fail to meet with the utmost satisfaction from all shareholders. Gentlemen, such results as the report shows cannot be achieved without the most careful attention and thorough efficiency on the part of all responsible, and I think you will agree with me when I express great satisfaction that the ability and efficiency of our managers and staff is being recognised in a small way by the bonus we are asked to vote to them.—(Applause). The motion was carried.

Mr. Master proposed, and Mr. Humphreys seconded, that the appointment of Mr. C. A. Tomes to the Board of Directors in place of the Hon. R. Shewan resigned be confirmed, and that Mr. E. Goetz and the Hon G. W. Dickson be re-elected. Carried.

On the proposition of Mr. G. de Champeaux, seconded by Mr. McK. Ross, the Hon. C. S. Sharp and Mr. W. Hutton Potts were re-elected auditors.

Mr. Orange said:—Gentlemen, before we part I have pleasure in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman, the Directors, the Chief Manager and staff of the Bank. The report which has just been passed to-day is an eloquent tribute to the ability and skill which they have displayed in the conduct of the affairs of the corporation.—(Applause).

KOBE TRADE REPORT.

The annual report of the Committee of the Hiogo and Osaka Chamber of Commerce has been published. From it we take the following as referring directly to the trade of the port:—

The Government statistics for the year give the total trade of the port of Kobe as *yen* 245,052,229. The last five years compare as follows:—

	Imports yen	Exports. yen
1899	120,289,524	75,320,884
1900	137,484,281	69,706,549
1901	125,979,022	77,306,226
1902	144,516,111	74,748,143
1903	154,534,013	90,518,216

Compared with 1902, this shows an increase in Imports of *yen* 10,017,902 and in Exports of *yen* 15,770,073, and represents the largest trade since the opening of the Port. Raw Cotton still heads the list of Imports, but shows a falling off from last year of *yen* 9,723,295, the respective figures being *yen* 58,087,584 and *yen* 67,810,879. The next most important factor in Imports is Rice, which compares as follows:—

	yen
1903	23,675,778
1902	7,013,705

This may seem somewhat anomalous, as the home harvest of 1903 was an exceptionally good one. But the crop is harvested in the Autumn and the importations during the year only about covered the short crop of 1902.

As far as Imports are concerned, notwithstanding the increase, the year has not been a satisfactory one for what may be classed as General Imports, and only a very few lines have turned out profitably. Towards the end of the year the political situation was in such an acute state that the ordinary course of trade was a good deal interfered with.

As regards Exports, the large increase is mainly in Cotton Yarns, which represent a value of *yen* 24,391,237 as compared with *yen* 14,897,143 in 1902. Copper also shows an increase of *yen* 3,030,968.

The variations and fluctuations of Silver Exchange have had their effect on Exports as usual, but not to such an extent as in 1902. Exports to China ports have been much less affected, and hence the improvement in the Yarn trade.

Last year we referred to the accumulation of money in the Japanese banks and the natural curtailment of the general business of the country. In 1903 this state of affairs has been much more pronounced. In the early part of the year the interest on fixed deposits in the leading banks was lowered from 6 per cent. to 5½ per cent., and towards the end of the year 5 per cent. was the rate. Interest on advances and loans was at the same time lowered by Japanese from about 7 per cent. to 5 per cent. At the close of the year, however, there was a slight reaction. The financial situation generally and the position of the Banks may therefore be classed as exceptionally sound.

The trade of the Port of Osaka is increasing, but not to the extent that was anticipated. The last four years compare as follows:—

	IMPORTS. yen.	EXPORTS. yen.
1900	9,741,437	9,626,595
1901	10,246,750	12,646,293
1902	11,875,730	15,050,519
1903	16,506,488	18,394,998

* * *

The Committee have addressed the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister on the urgent necessity of the enlargement of the Customs accommodation in Kobe. The present arrangements are entirely inadequate to meet the requirements of the increasing trade of the Porrt and cause great delay in the passing and transportation of merchandise. The Committee also suggested the great advantage of a Free Zone and the importance of improvements in the Harbour so as to facilitate the landing and shipping of goods and to avail of the advantages that will arise when the construction of the new line of railway from the Harbour to the main line is finished. This is expected to be completed by March, 1905.

The total entries of shipping during 1903 are returned as 3,864,587 tons as against 3,329,380 tons in 1902, an increase of 535,207 net tons.

The following list will show the relative position of the various nationalities where the tonnage is over 100,000. The Japanese figures include the coasting tonnage as well.

	1903.		1902.	
British	1,454,846	Tons.	1,345,638	Tons.
Japanese	1,352,720	,,	1,168,416	,,
German	436,991	,,	435,134	,,
United States of America.	323,961	,,	181,078	,,
French	126,044	,,	100,457	,,

The increase in American shipping is noticeable, and is mainly due to the growing trans-Pacific trade under that flag.

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

THE PORT ARTHUR AFFAIR.

London, Feb. 26.

It is officially stated that Viceroy Alexieff has telegraphed to the effect that the Japanese re-attacked Port Arthur at 2.45 on the morning of Feb. 24th with torpedo boats and endeavoured to block the harbour by sinking four steamers filled with combustibles. The *Retvisan*, supported by the batteries, destroyed two steamers near the entrance. Daylight showed four steamers destroyed and eight torpedo boats steaming towards the Japanese fleet. The entrance of the harbour is clear.

MR. BALFOUR.

Mr. Balfour has reappeared in the House of Commons.

THE CHEMULPO PRISONERS.

The Japanese Government has intimated its willingness to allow the Russian Chemulpo prisoners now *en route* to Ceylon for detention, to return to Russia on parole. The British Government is now in correspondence with Russia with a view to such an arrangement.

THE BAIKAL ICE RAILWAY.

The Lake Baikal ice railway is completed and trains are crossing.

THE BALKAN TROUBLES.

London, February 27.

Pourparlers between Turkey and Bulgaria for a pacific settlement of the question continue favourably.

RUSSIANS IN THE RED SEA.

A Russian destroyer on Monday night stopped the liner *Ombasa* in the Red Sea. An officer boarded her and examined her papers.

GOVERNOR OF NEW ZEALAND.

London, February 28.

Lord Plunkett has been appointed Governor of New Zealand.

GREAT FIRE IN THE U. S.

There has been a great fire in the business section of Rochester, New York; blocks of buildings are being dynamited to arrest the spread of the conflagration.

THE BALTIMORE FIRE.

Altogether three acres in the business section of Baltimore were destroyed by the recent fire.

RUSSIAN WARSHIPS SEIZE STEAMERS.

London, February 29.

It is reliably reported at Suez that the Russian warships anchored in the Gulf have seized the British steamers *Ettrickdale* and *Frankby* and the *Norwegian* steamer *Mathilda*, laden with coal.

FRENCH TROOPS FOR INDO-CHINA.

Le Temps states that 20,000 colonial infantry have been warned to hold themselves in readiness to sail for Indo-China.

IMPENDING DISSOLUTION RUMOURED.

There is much talk in political circles of the dissolution of Parliament within a few weeks. Repeated divisions have lately shown the Government majority to be gradually diminishing. It fell on Thursday evening to 14. Although this was a scratch division it is regarded as a symptom of growing indifference on the part of Ministerialists.

RUSSIA AND CONTRABAND OF WAR.

London, March 1.

Russia has issued a war regulation declaring coal, rice and foodstuffs to be contraband of war.

THE RAILWAY CONGESTED.

The Trans-Siberian Railway is very much congested, and a locomotive has disappeared in the ice on Lake Baikal.

BRITISH ARMY ESTIMATES.

The Army Estimates are £8,900,000 (?), being a decrease of £5,600,000. The total number of men is 227,000, being a decrease of 8,761. Provision is made for a permanent garrison in South Africa of 21,500 men. The linked battalion system is abolished, and the old numbers will be resumed by regiments.

CAPTURED COLLIERS RELEASED.

London, March 2.

The three colliers seized in the Gulf of Suez have been released by order of the Czar.

ANOTHER SEIZURE.

The Liverpool collier *Oriel*, bound for Singapore, has been seized by the Russians in the Red Sea.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

Capt. Ernest G. Pretyman, Secretary to the Admiralty, in introducing the Navy Estimates, justified the increases on the ground that Great Britain must be equal to any two powers. Mr. (? J. B.) Roberts in an amendment urged that the Government should communicate with the other naval powers with the view of reducing armaments. Mr. Arnold Forster, replying, declared that the Government had gone as far as it could. The amendment was rejected.

ADMIRAL MAKAROFF.

London, March 3.

Admiral Makaroff arrived at Port Arthur on March 1st.

RUSSIAN NAVAL MOVEMENTS.

The Russian cruiser *General Admiral* has arrived at Ponta Delada (Ponta Delgada, a port on S. Miguel Island, Azores).

The cruiser *Dimitri Donskoi* has applied for leave to remain at Suez for repairs, which will probably occupy a fortnight.

Five Russian torpedo boats have left Port Said for Algiers. It is reported that they have been directed to waylay and search vessels in the Mediterranean for contraband of war.

KUROPATKIN'S DEPARTURE.

General Kuropatkin is to start for Manchuria on March 12th.

THE CAPTURED COLLIERS.

Later.

The Rusians detained the captured colliers ten days before releasing them.

THE "SADO MARU" STARTS FOR HOME.

The Japanese (Nippon Yusen Kaisha) steamer *Sado Maru*, coal laden, sailed from Cardiff on Feb. 29th. She will probably go via the Cape.

NEW RESIDENT OF PERAK.

Mr. E. W. Birch, C. M. G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of British North Borneo, has been appointed Resident at Perak.

(Received at the Legation of France.)

FRANCE AND THE FAR EAST.

Saigon, February 26.

Mr. Pelletan, Minister of Marine, speaking before the Parliamentary Naval Committee, gave re-assuring declarations as to the defence of the Colonies and the situation of the Fleet. A division of torpedo-craft is to set out for the Far East. The mobile defence of Indo-China will be considerably re-inforced.

THE PORT ARTHUR AFFAIR.

Admiral Alexieff confirms that the attack against Port Arthur failed. Four Japanese fire-boats sunk. He does not speak of Japanese armour-clads.

INCREASING FRENCH NAVY ESTIMATES.

Saigon, March 3.

M. Rouvier, Minister of Finance, has proposed to the Chamber an increase in the expense of the Navy.

SHIPS FOR THE FAR EAST.

The cruisers *Alger* and *D'Assas*, escorting the torpedo-boat destroyers *Mousquet*, *Fronde*, *Javeline*, and *Pistolet*, have started for Saigon.

THE JAPANESE PLANS.

St. Petersburg, March 3.

According to news received from various quarters it is said that the Japanese have the intention of landing somewhere near Port Arthur.

Tientsin, March 3.

There are actually 25,000 Russian troops on the banks of the Yalu.

(Received in Tokyo.)

AN APPLICATION IN BLOOD.

Admiral Togo reports to Admiral Viscount Ito that in response to his call for volunteers to man the five steamers which were intended to block the harbour at Port Arthur, two thousand men volunteered, and one of them wrote his application in blood. One man was killed on the *Jinsen Maru*, and three were wounded on the *Hokoku Maru*. These are the two vessels that were sunk on either side of the *Retvisan*.

THE "MANJOUR."

The *Manjour's* armament has been handed over to the Foreign Municipality in Shanghai, and M. Lessar has given a pledge that the vessel will not leave Shanghai during the war. As to whether her boilers are to be taken out of her, the matter is still under discussion.

THE CHEFOO—PORT ARTHUR CABLE.

In reply to Mr. Consul Mizuno's protest with regard to the repair of the cable from Port Arthur to Chefoo, the Great Northern Telegraph Company stated that they had not made any attempt to repair the cable and would not do so without consulting the Japanese Government.

RUSSIAN DAMAGES AT PORT ARTHUR.

It is telegraphed from Paris on Feb. 28th that during the fighting at Port Arthur on the 24th, a 12-in. shell burst on the deck of the *Askold*, smashing two guns (the remainder of this part of the telegram is obscure). The *Novik* also was damaged, and the *Bayan* had one of her funnels shot away. The number of killed in the ships was 22 and the number of wounded 41. On shore 3 were killed—some reports say 7—and 18 were wounded.

THE TURNED-BACK SQUADRON.

The battleship *Oslabya*, the Volunteer steamer *Saratoff*, three destroyers and two torpedo-boats entered the Suez Canal on the afternoon of March 2nd. The cruiser *Dimitri Donskoi* remains at Suez for repairs. The *Aurora* and two destroyers left Port Said on March 1st. It would thus appear that there is no truth in the statement that two destroyers were disarmed at Jibouti.

(From the "Jiji Shimpo.")

THE RUSSIAN NOTE.

London, February 25.

In reference to the Note circulated by Russia among the Powers, the general opinion is that the document tends to show that Russia was really astonished by the superior and prompt action of Japan.

RUSSIA AND KOREA.

Russia, it is said, intended Korea's neutrality to be applicable both to Japan and Russia, but it has resulted in inducing Korea to take up the cause of Japan.

THE RUSSIAN SQUADRON.

The *Osliabya* and other Russian warships are on their way home.

GREAT BRITAIN AND RUSSIA.

London, February 26.

The Earl of Selborne, First Lord of the Admiralty, said in the course of a speech delivered last night in the House of Lords that the Russian complaint with regard to Wei-hai-wei (Russia contended that the port was open to Japan as a naval base) was a piece of wicked hypocrisy. The *Times* strongly criticises the wicked and poisonous statements made on the Continent as to the neutrality of Great Britain.

SUBMARINE CABLE.

The U.S. Government has approved the proposal to lay a cable between Guam and Japan.

THE BAIKAL RAILWAY.

A train ran yesterday over the ice on Lake Baikal.

RUSSIANS IN THE RED SEA.

London, February 27.

The *Osliabya* and other Russian warships stopped the *Ombasa*, a steamer belonging to the British-India Company, at Suez, having mistaken her for a Japanese steamer.

FRANCE'S NEUTRALITY.

In the course of a speech, M. de Lannesan advised the French Government not to interfere in the present crisis.

RUSSIAN OFFICIAL REPORT.

With regard to the engagement at Port Arthur, last Thursday, the Russian official report says that the Russian cruisers retired into the inner harbour in consequence of the superior force of the Japanese attack.

A FRENCH REPORT.

The *Matin*, Paris, reports that the Japanese are about to attack Dalny.

FIRST COLLISION ON LAND.

Seoul, February 28, 2.30 p.m.

Several hundred Russians arrived yesterday at a place about four miles distant from Pyong-yang.

This morning at 9 o'clock, fifteen Russian scouts appeared seven hundred metres to the north of Pyong-yang. After firing for some minutes, they were repulsed by the Japanese.

KING EDWARD AND JAPANESE OFFICERS.

London, February 29.

This morning the King gave audience at Buckingham Palace to Major Inagaki and other officers previous to their departure.

JAPAN-KOREAN TREATY.

With regard to the Treaty between Japan and Korea, public opinion in Great Britain regards the protocol as an effective reply to the note which Court Lamsdorff, Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, lately circulated among the Powers, and on the other hand, considers the Russian political and military position in Manchuria to be irreconcileable with the meaning of the Russian note.

RUSSIANS CAPTURE STEAMERS.

The Russian squadron has captured the coal steamers *Ettrickdale* and *Frankby* and examined the *Benalder* and *Palawan* at Suez.

RUSSIA'S NAVAL PLANS.

The *Oslabya* and other warships are passing Suez, and are expected to proceed to the Baltic. A new squadron will be thus organized in the Baltic consisting of these and the battleships and cruisers lying in those waters. The fleet will leave in June and arrive in September at Port Arthur. According to a despatch from St. Petersburg, Russia intends to avoid serious fighting till April and will endeavour to induce Japan to tire herself out with wearisome work.

(From the "Asahi Shimbun.")

THE CHILIAN WARSHIPS.

London, February 25.

In reply to a member, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Chancellor of the Exchequer, stated in the House of Commons with regard to the purchase of two Chilian warships, that had another Power purchased them it was feared that the balance of power would be lost and the British Government bought them so as not to interfere with that balance. Mr. Ritchie ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer, endorsed the view that the purchase of the warships was unavoidable.

RUSSIA'S INTERIOR AFFAIRS.

London, February 27.

In the principal towns of Russia, the influence of the revolutionists has remarkably increased. The Caucasus is involved in great ferment. The local police are endeavouring to put down all demonstrations which are organised under the guise of patriotic processions. Whenever an unfavourable report is received from the Far East, the Socialists plainly show a high hand.

THE THIBETAN QUESTION.

London, February 29.

The Marquess of Lansdowne, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in the course of a speech delivered in the House of Lords, said that the purpose of Great Britain is to maintain the independence of Thibet, so that no one among the Powers should enjoy a preferential right excepting Great Britain. The belief in Thibet that Russia would furnish the Dalai Lama with assistance caused an extraordinary obstruction to the policy of Great Britain. His Lordship believed that Russia had obtained satisfactory guarantees from Thibet with reference to her influence over the latter country.

THIRD ATTACK ON PORT ARTHUR.

London, March 2.

A Yin-kow correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* telegraphed on the 29th ultimo that on the morning of the 25th, the Japanese squadron seriously attacked Port Arthur for an hour. The *Askold*, *Bayan*, and *Novik* returned the enemy's fire. The result was that the *Askold* was nearly sunk, the *Novik* seriously damaged, the *Retvisan* (? *Bayan*) retired with heavy injuries, and a torpedo-boat was sunk.

(From the "N.-C. Daily News.")

THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY.

London, February 15.

Viceroy Alexeiff admits that attempts have been made to wreck the Manchurian railway, including a bridge over the Sungari, but says these were noticed in time, and the line is closely guarded.

JAPANESE FORCES AND MOVEMENTS.

London, February 16.

It is estimated that 300,000 Japanese troops are ready to take the field, without impairing the land defences.

Great secrecy is being observed, the troops being removed at night.

London, February 16.

Information has reached Washington that nearly twenty thousand Japanese were landed at Chemulpo on the 14th instant.

London, February 17.

It is stated at St. Petersburg that a large movement of Japanese troops covered by cruisers is proceeding in the Gulf of Liaotung, with the object of cutting the railways near Port Arthur.

MORE RUSSIAN REINFORCEMENTS.

London, February 18.

Six Russian men-of-war passed Gottland, Sweden, on the 15th instant, going South.

The Czar, reviewing a Siberian regiment proceeding to the front, stirringly addressed the men, wishing them success, and invoking blessing on the Russian arms. He concluded by saying:—"Good-bye, my brothers!"

THE LOSS OF THE "BOYARIN."

London, February 20.

A telegram from Tientsin says that after the accidental blowing-up of the *Yenisei* by a mine, a violent storm occurred, whereupon the mines came to the surface and floated about in all directions.

Next day the *Boyarin*, sent to assist in securing them, was caught in the storm, driven on the rocks, and became a total wreck.

THE VICEROY TO WAIT AT PORT ARTHUR.

London, February 21.

Viceroy Alexieff has been ordered to defer his departure to Harbin until Admiral Makaroff (who is to supersede Admiral Stark) arrives at Port Arthur.

THE "TIMES" ON THE SITUATION.

London, February 21.

The *Times* says that Great Britain's sympathy with Japan is natural and legitimate, and sufficient, should the improbable emergency arise, to enable our Government to give effect to all the terms of our treaty with Japan.

English sympathy is not merely grounded on the fact that Japan is our ally. It draws strength and gratification from the knowledge that Japan is fighting the battle of all the civilised nations.

THE CREWS OF THE "VARYAG" AND "KOREETZ."

Weihaiwei, February 22.

H.M.S. *Amphitrite* has taken a part of the crews of the Russian ships *Varyag* and *Koreets* to Hongkong.

Hongkong, February 22.

The *Amphitrite* has arrived at Mirs Bay with 140 Russians transferred from the *Talbot* from Chemulpo.

Forty of these are seriously wounded and go to the Government Hospital.

The steamer *Namsang* has been chartered to convey the remainder to Colombo, and leaves to-morrow.

CONDITIONS AT PORT ARTHUR.

London, February 22.

Reuter's correspondent, by special permission, has visited Port Arthur, which the Russians claim is capable of two years' resistance.

BRITISH STUDENTS OF THE WAR.

London, February 24.

In addition to Major-General Nicholson and Colonel Haldane, a dozen officers of all arms are being sent to watch the Japanese operations at various points, under the directions of General Nicholson.

AN AUDACIOUS FAILURE.

At a court-martial on three Japanese disguised as coolies who were arrested when attempting to blow up the railway bridge over the Sungari river on the 21st instant, it was revealed that they were a Japanese colonel of engineers, a naval torpedo lieutenant, and a lieutenant of sappers, all belonging to the General Staff.

They are condemned to death and immediately hanged from the Sungari Bridge.

MANCHURIAN RAILWAY.

London, February 26.

An official report to the Director-General of the Chinese Eastern Railway states that the Manchurian railway is strongly guarded, there being at every mile approximately a high watch tower with thirty Cossacks.

(From the "S.-C. Morning Post.")

ALEXIEFF'S INCAPACITY.

London, February 18.

Public opinion in Russia and even in the Services, is strongly against Admiral Alexieff.

The public accuse him of incapacity, and a strong movement is on foot which favours the immediate appointment of General Kuropatkin, the Minister of War, to the command of the army.

RUSSIAN PLAN OF CAMPAIGN.

London, February 18.

The Russians contemplate the abandonment of Port Arthur, leaving there a garrison only sufficiently strong enough to hold the town.

The remainder of their army will be concentrated at Harbin.

In this case only minor engagements between the opposing forces may be expected south of the Yalu, and a decisive battle will be likely to occur in the vicinity of Kirin.

CHINESE LABOUR QUESTION

London, February 16.

The Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies, announced in the House of Commons that protected Chinese will be stationed in the Transvaal.

Lord Milner, telegraphing on the 11th inst., gave as his opinion that the Boer attitude on the Chinese labour question was unaffected by the anti-Chinese letter for which Botha and Delarey are responsible.

The Boers are not unfavourable to the introduction of Chinese labour into the Transvaal.

Mr. John Morley's amendment was greeted with cheers and counter-cheers.

Although Mr. Balfour and Mr. Chamberlain were absent, the debate was one of the most brilliant in Parliament.

The Opposition consider that the position of the Government is seriously shaken.

Mr. Redmond declared that the Irish declined to commit themselves at the present stage of the controversy; but as the amendment was a vote of confidence in the Government, and no Government refusing Home Rule could have the confidence of the Irish Party, they would vote against the Government.

RUSSIA'S MILITARY MOVEMENTS.

London, February 21.

Russian is mobilising 120,000 troops at Moscow, Kieff, and Warsaw. Many of these are already *en route* to Manchuria, and the others are preparing to leave. They will most likely be concentrated in the neighbourhood of Harbin. The Russians are now devoting all their energies to the land operations. Strenuous efforts are being made to construct the railway round Lake Baikal. The railway was contracted to be finished at the end of 1904. Serious engineering difficulties are being encountered, and the tunnelling is bulging. It is nevertheless, expected that the railway round the lake will be finished in two months. Trains crammed with soldiers are daily leaving the chief towns of Russia.

From the "China Mail."

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA CO.

London, February 18.

The British South African Company issued the balance of their unalloted capital in four hundred thousand shares at 111 on the 16th inst. The move is made in consequence of the stagnation of trade in South Africa, unforeseen outlay, and diminished receipts for the past year.

(From the "Hongkong Daily Press.")

THE QUESTION OF TIBET.

Singapore, February 19.

The Russian threat with reference to Tibet has been treated in India with amused contempt. It has created no sensation among the natives, who recognise the Russian collapse and are in sympathy with Japan. The Tibet Mission is passing forward.

[Note.—On Feb. 1st the Mission and 4,000 Tibetans were reported at Guru. The additional Tibetan reinforcements are said to number 1,700 men, and the force is said to possess a thousand firearms of various descriptions. The remainder are armed with bows and spears. A Phari rumour credits them with the possession of two long-range guns, which carry from four to five miles. The force consists only of tall, gaunt Tibetans, dressed in nondescript uniforms, and there are no Chinese. So far, there has been no hostile movement. In spite of alarms and rumours, the current of Chumbi-Tuna news reports all quiet. It is officially announced that, owing to the threatening attitude of the Tibetans assembled at Guru, it has been deemed necessary to stiffen Colonel MacDonald's force; therefore 200 Mounted Infantry, with British officers, left Umballa for Darjeeling; and two Maxims, with detachments, are to leave later for the same destination.]

RUSSIA PURCHASING MORE TRANSPORTS.

London, February 17.

Negotiations have been concluded by Russia for the purchase of some large transports at Antwerp.

REFORMING THE WAR OFFICE.

February 16.

H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught has been appointed Inspector-General of the Forces, with Earl Roberts as adviser.

THE RUSSIAN BUDGET.

The details of the Russian Budget for this year show, says an exchange, that the Ministry of Ways of Communications still remains the largest spending Department of the entire bureaucracy, no less than 473,274,611 roubles being assigned to it for the year 1904, an increase of nearly 15,000,000 roubles over the amount assigned for the year just past, when everyone recognised that the enormous sums put down to the pacific purposes of railway construction and maintenance in reality covered military preparations in the Far East. The present vote of over 50,000,000 pounds sterling for this Ministry is of precisely the same character, though not solely applicable to the Far East. The new railroad which stands foremost this year is the Orenburg-Tashkend line, running through a perfect waste, and avoiding as possible any towns on the way. The total cost of the Siberian and Manchurian railways, together with the new harbour of Dalny, amounts to 845,400,000 roubles. There has hitherto been practically no return for this vast expenditure of capital, and it appears from the report that no return is to be expected until Russia has a harbour in Korea. The late Tsar Alexander III. guaranteed out of his private funds a sum of 350,000,000 roubles for the Siberian railway. The War Ministry receives over 3¼ million pounds sterling more than last year, an increase of the "expenditure in the Kwan-tung territory" accounting for about half a milion of this, and a very largely increased "reserve credit" of over a million and a half pounds sterling being the principal items. The total assigned to the War Department reaches 38 million pounds sterling. The Navy has been assigned less this year than last, and, though the reduction is not very large, it is curious to note that it is the only decrease in any spending department. The total Budget of the Russian Empire has grown since the amazing total of over two milliards of roubles, reached for the first time last year, by over 100 millions of roubles, and now stands at 1,178 millions of roubles (230 million pounds sterling).

UNDERGROUND LONDON.

An interesting article upon the new tube railway from Finsbury Park to the City, which has just been completed, appears in the London *Daily Chronicle* of January 14th, and we reproduce it below:—

London is gradually being undermined in all directions with deep level tunnels intended to promote the public convenience, and yesterday another of the remarkable electric railways was brought to such a stage of completion that it might be inspected by representatives of the public.

The Great Northern and City Railway represents for the moment the latest development in this method of construction. Its opening in a few weeks' time will be hailed with joy by the many thousands who live in the North part of London, and who travel daily to and from the City, for it offers a direct line of communication, as an alternative to the more roundabout routes which are now so terribly congested during the rush hours. Besides, its connection at Moogate-street by means of a subway with the City and South London Railway fifteen or twenty feet below will afford facilities for travel from North to South London which do not now exist, and at Moorgate-street it also adjoins the Metropolitan Railway. Moreover, in time to come, it may link up the great lines of the North and South of England, for it is so constructed that its tunnels will take the standard railway stock of the Great Northern Railway Company.

The spaciousness of the stations and tunnels at once impresses the visitor who is familiar with the older tubes. The South London, which was opened in 1890, has a diameter of 10ft. 6in., while the new tube is 16ft. in diameter. The style of the stations is similar, and the familiar white glaze bricks line all the walls, while it is declared that the line is absolutely fire-proof, though for greater security there is a fire-proof pathway between the rails in the tunnels, so that passengers in untoward emergency may make their exit in security.

The carriages, too, are spacious and comfortable, the seats being arranged crosswise, and there are for greater convenience doors in the centre as well as at the end. The design appears to be admirably suited for the rapid conveyance of large numbers of passengers. The standard trains will consist of seven coaches, with seats for about 430 travellers.

The line is three and a half miles long, and though the City terminus is fixed at present in Moorgate-street, it will ultimately be made at the Lothbury corner of the Bank of England. From Moorgate-street outwards the first station is in Old-street, and the next at Essex-road, close by the Agricultural Hall; a station is also being made at Highbury, a departure from the original plan, which will enable the line to cater for an important district.

At the fourth outward station, Drayton-park, the line comes to the surface, and there the repairing shops and carriage sheds have been established. It was originally intended to make a junction with the Great Northern lines here, but the difficulties in the way of the easy handling of traffic were too great; and the line has been carried on by an underground extension to Finsbury-park, where a remarkable engineering feat has been achieved.

A large underground station has been built there, the roof of which is the permanent way of the Great Northern line, and this work has been done in a year, without interruption to the running of a single train. Broad stair-ways lead from the upper station to the floor twelve feet below, where vast lifts are erected to carry passengers to the electric trains forty feet further down. These broad and easily-sloping stairs, by the way, are found at every station, so that the energetic passenger may ignore the lifts if so inclined.

The generating station by the Regent's Canal is considered a model of its kind; it is constructed on a comparatively small area, and, as Mr. E. W. Moir, director of Messrs. Pearson and Sons, Limited, who has been responsible for the construction of the line, says, it is packed with machinery like a battleship.

There are several novelties in the newly made line, which has been under construction for four years. The iron rings, for instance, which completely line the tunnels of the other electric railways, are in this case carried round for only a part of the circle, the lower part is composed of a vitrified brick invert, and this it is thought will lessen the vibration and diminish the noise made by the train as it travels. Another novelty is that two collector rails are used for the first time on any electric railway in London, one on each side of the track; that it is believed, will lead to greater safety and continuity of working.

The fare for the whole distance will be twopence, with penny fares between certain intermediate stations, and there will be a three-minutes service at the outset, the journey occupying 13 ½ minutes, including four stops of twenty seconds each.

During the hours when the pressure is lower a similar service will be maintained, but with shorter trains. In this way it is hoped to carry at least 5,000,000 passengers every year for each mile of line, or altogether 17,000,000 from local traffic alone. This is regarded as a low estimate, for the Central London carry 7,000,000 passengers per mile.

Beyond the local traffic, however, there are the 30,000,000 passengers who are brought to Finsbury-park by Great Northern trains, and on the computation that at least a third of their number will use the new line, the tube may have to carry 27,000,000 passengers annually.

The chief engineers of this great undertaking, which will do much to relieve the congestion of London, are Sir Douglas Fox and Partners; Mr. Alexander Ross, chief engineer of the Great Northern Railway, and Mr. H. W. Sadler are the engineers of the section constructed by that company from Drayton-park to Finsbury-park.

The following particulars indicate the progress up-to-date in the provision of deep-level railways for London:—

TUBES WORKING OR COMPLETED.

City and South London	6½ miles.
Central London	6¼ miles.
City and Waterloo	1½ miles.
Great Northern and City	3½ miles.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

Baker-street and Waterloo.
Great Northern and Strand.
Charing-cross, Euston and Hampstead.

UNIVERSAL BIBLE SUNDAY.

(COMMUNICATED.)

The arrangements for the observance of Bible Sunday on March 6th—the last day of the Bible Society's century—are now practically complete; and in nothing is the universality of the British and Foreign Bible Society more emphasized than in the remarkable way it has been able to enlist the sympathies of all Protestant Churches in the organization of this world-wide Thanksgiving.

Considering the controversial trend of the times, it would have been sufficiently noteworthy to arouse comment had the united demonstration been limited to the various Christian communions in England. But its unique feature is the drawing together of the Churches of other lands, no less than those of England, in one great celebration, all minor differences of race, language and sect being submerged in the great bond of our common heritage – the Charter of Salvation as contained in the Word of God.

In London, their Majesties, King Edward VII. and Queen Alexandra will be present at Divine Service at St. Paul's Cathedral, on Bible Sunday, when the Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs and the Corporation will attend in State. The Sermon will be preached by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Among the earliest to endorse the suggestion that March 6th should be observed as Bible Sunday were the Archbishops of Canterbury and York; while the Bishops have, with hardly an exception, written letters commending it to the clergy in their respective dioceses. Cordial resolutions in favour of observance have also been received from every Nonconformist Assembly and Conference which met last year, including the Baptists, the Congregationalists, the Society of Friends, all denominations of Methodists, the Moravians, and the Presbyterians. In Scotland, both the Established Church and the United Free Church are co-operating in the celebration.

In the British Colonies the idea was greeted with universal approval. The Metropolitan of Rupert's Land and Primate of all Canada, the Archishop of Sydney, the Archbishop of the West Indies, and the Archbishop of Capetown, and nearly fifty Colonial and Missionary Bishops of the Anglican Communion, have written cordially endorsing the observance of Bible Sanday. The chief representatives of non-Episcopal Churches in the Colonies have responded with equal readiness, and the proposal has received the hearty sanction of the Synod of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa.

In the United States of America, both the chief Presbyterian Churches, the two Methodist Churches, and the presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, have cordially agreed to observe Bible Sunday in their various Churches throughout the States.

All the great Missionary Societies, without exception, have joined hands to observe this day of common thanksgiving, many of them having generously arranged to forego their own sermons or meetings on March 6th. in favour of Bible Sunday. That the suggestion would meet with enthusiastic support in the Mission-field throughout the world was a foregone conclusion. Both to the Missionary and to the Native Church, God's Book often stands for more then we can possibly realize. To the preacher, cut off from most that is helpful and invigorating in the Christian life, the written word takes on an added worth as a source of strength and inspiration; while to the converts, the Book itself, even apart from its message, acquires a preciousness from the fact it is frequently the first, and sometimes the only volume produced in their own language.

But the must significant item in this huge programme is the bringing into line of the Protestant Churches on the Continent of Europe, and establishing a link between those that may be most widely sundered on minor points. Bible Sunday will be kept by hundreds of congregations, representing Lutheran, Reformed, and Waldensian Churches. The Archbishop of Upsala has written, in the name of the Bishops of Sweden, promising the cooperation of all their clergy. A meeting of the Danish Bishops in Copenhagen passed a unanimous resolution in the same terms; while similar resolutions have been passed by the Consistory of the Protestant State Church in Saxony, and the Conventus of both the Lutheran Church and the Calvinistic Church in Hungary. Thus, throughout the world, thanksgiving will be made to Almighty God in all tongues and by all peoples on this memorable day.

It is obvious that such a festival as this could only be organized by an institution absolutely catholic in its aims, world-wide in its work, and unrestricted by any merely national interest. From the very outset, the Bible Society has been able to unify Christians of all denominations in the God-appointed task of seeking to place the Gospel in the hands of the whole human race. And this universal thanksgiving exemplifies most forcibly one of the Society's ideals which was voiced by Lord Bexley, its second President, in the following words: "If we cannot reconcile all opinions, let us unite all hearts."

A CENTURY-OLD WAR ODE.

At this time it is interesting to read the following ode, written by Henry James Pye (Poet Laureate) which appeared in the London *Globe* on January 18th, 1809, when Europe was racked by the Napoleonic domination:—

Full-orb'd in equinoctial skies,
When the pale moon malignant rides,
And bids the howling tempest rise
And swells the ocean's briny tides;
Dreadful against the sounding shore,
The winds and waves tumultuous roar,
The torrent-braving mound in vain,
The stormy inroad would restrain,
The surges with resistless sway
Force o'er laboured mole their way;
Scorn every weak resource of human toil,
O'erwhelm the peopled town, and waste the cultur'd soil,
But when, by native fences barr'd
From billowy rage, the happier land,
And rocky cliffs for ever stand
To the wide-water'd coast a guard.
Such as on Vecta's southern steep,
Look down defiance on the raging deep;
Such as on Dover's breezy down
On Gallia's hostile borders frown,
Tho' billows urging billows roar
And idly beat against the shore,
While from the heights sublime the swain
Mocks the vain efforts of the foaming main,
Till Nature bids the deluged surge subside
Hush'd is the tempest's voice, and refluent rolls the tide.

So o'er Europa's ravaged plain
We saw the torrent wild of war
Resistless spread its iron reign,
And scatter ruin wide and far;
The embattled wall, the warlike band,
Vainly the tyrant's course withstand;
Before the impious sons of Gaul
The legions fly, the bulwarks fall;
Yet Britain's floating castles sweep
Invasion from her subject deep.
Yet by her rocks secure from harm,
Securer by her patriot arm.
Iberia turns the battle's tide.
Resists the injurious tyrant's pride.
While, freely floating in the ambient sky,
Sacred to freedom's cause, their mingled ensigns fly.

A KEPPEL STORY.

In the course of an account of the career of the late Admiral Sir Henry Keppel, a London journal says the following incident respecting Keppel and his ship the *Raleigh* is recorded in the Hongkong journals of the time. If not literally true it is at least *ben trovato*:—

One day, for some reason, the Admiral, Sir Michael Seymour, who was then on the flagship *Calcutta*, gave orders for the *Raleigh* to proceed to sea in face of a very strong S.W. monsoon. The *Raleigh* was to go out by the Lyeemoon, and return by Green Island. The ship was got under weigh, and went out in the ordinary way by the Lyeemoon, and sailed round the island. After some hours she came back by way of Green Island, with all plain sails and all studding sails set. At first this called for no special attention, except for the grand sight of a man-of-war under full sail. But the harbour was full of sailing ships of all nations, and as the *Raleigh* came near and threaded her way among them, the crews of the various ships became interested. When the *Raleigh* came near to her anchorage the order was quietly passed, and then, as if by magic—in came all studding sails; then in the same manner all plain sail; after that "Let go the anchor," and a running moor was made. Then came cheers from every sailor who had witnessed the manœuvre, cheers that could be heard all over Hong Kong as it was then.

The Admiral was not pleased with this piece of skill in seamanship, and for coming through a crowded harbour under all sail. The *Raleigh* was ordered out for a 24 hours' cruise, and to come in in a ship-shape way the next time. Well, she went out again, and as she came in past Green Island she had all sail as before, and when nearing the shipping, greatly to the astonishment of everyone, in came all plain sail and furled, leaving only the studding sails and under these she went through the shipping to her anchorage, and then, "In all studding sails," and a running moor was made as before. And, if possible, the cheers were more vehement than before. What was the effect? Why, nearly half the sailors in the merchant ships wanted to join the *Raleigh*. They could not be accommodated, but many were engaged and put on board the *Sybil*.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong............	C. P. R. Co.	Tartar 1	F. Mar. 4
Europe	M. M. Co.	Sydney 2	Sa. Mar. 5
Canada	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China 3	Tu. Mar. 8
Hongkong............	N. P. Co.	Tacoma	Tu. Mar. 8
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Preussen	Sa. Mar. 12
America	P. M. Co.	China 4	Tu. Mar. 15
Hongkong............	C. P. R. Co	Em. of Japan	Th. Mar 17
Hongkong............	P. M. Co.	Korea	Sa. Mar 19
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric	W. Mar 23
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Lyra	Th Mar 24
Hongkong............	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	M. Mar. 28

1 Left Hongkong on the 29th ult.
2 Left Kobe on the 4th inst.
3 Left Vancouver on the 23rd ult.
4 Left San Francisco on the 27th ult.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Roon	Sa Mar. 5
America...............	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Sa. Mar. 5
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co	Tartar	Sa. Mar. 5
Hongkong............	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	Tu. Mar. 8
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Tacoma	W. Mar 9
Europe	M. M. Co.	Sydney	F. Mar. 11
Hongkong............	P. M. Co.	China	W Mar. 16
Canada	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	F. Mar. 18
America...............	P. M. Co.	Korea	M. Mar. 21
Hongkong............	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Th Mar. 24
Hongkong............	N. P. Co.	Lyra	F Mar. 25

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Bengloe, British steamer, 1,633, James Potter, 27th Feb.,—London via ports, General.—Cornes & Co.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, K. Sato, 27th Feb.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bamberg, German steamer, 2,659, Miltzlaff, 27th Feb.,—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Roon, German steamer, 5,013, G. Meiners, 29th Feb., —Hamburg and Bremen via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Merionethshire, British steamer, 1,950, Cundy, 29th Feb.,—London via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Hokuriku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,475, H. Shirakata, 29th Feb.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yowata Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,364, W. Hunter, 1st March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 1st March,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Dolores, American schooner, 128, Herren, 1st March, —Bonin Islands, General.—To Order.

Samara, British steamer, 1,790, Lewis, 1st March,—Hongkong, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Shawmut, American steamer, 6,195, Wm. Smith, 2nd March,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Pasha, British steamer, 2,839, Elliott, 2nd March,—Rangoon, Rice.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Sambia, German steamer, 3,623, Lunning, 2nd Mar., —Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Telena, British steamer, 3,124, Carter, 2nd March,—Taketoyo, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Tung Shing, British steamer, 1,173, Selby, 2nd Mar., —Shanghai, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Indrasamha, British steamer, 3,367, Wm. E. Craven, 3rd March,—Astoria, Or., Mails and General.—P. & A. S.S. Co.

Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, F. H. Armstrong, 4th March,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General. —O. & O. S.S. Co.

Kennebec, British steamer, 3,301, Wallace, 4th Mar., —New York via ports, General.—Standard Oil Co.

Foo Shing, British steamer, 1,443, Arthur, 4th March, —Cardiff, Coal.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Ajax, British steamer, 4,478, H. Batt, 4th March,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

DEPARTURES.

Australien, French steamer, 2,900, Guignes, 26th Feb.,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Obra, British steamer, 5,496, T. Johnson, 26th Feb., —Kobe, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Sophie Rickmers, German steamer, 2,262, Pappe, 27th Feb.,—Kuchinotsu, Ballast.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Clara Jebsen, German steamer, 1,103, F. Bendixen, 27th Feb.,—Formosa, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, K. Sato, 28th Feb.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Glaucus, British steamer, 3,591, Baker, 29th Feb.,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Lennox, British steamer, 2,361, McNair, 29th Feb.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Borneo, British steamer, 2,944, Gordon, 29th Feb.,—Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Canton, British steamer, 1,110, L. A. Muer, 28th Feb.,—Kobe, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Afridi, British steamer, 2,354, Thos. Golding, 1st March,—Moji, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Merionethshire, British steamer, 1,950, Cundy, 1st March,—Moji, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Hokuriku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,475, H. Shirakata, 1st March,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Inaba Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,839, W. Bainbridge, 1st March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kaga Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,906, S. J. G. Parson, 1st March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bamberg, German steamer, 2,659, Miltzlaff, 1st March,—Kobe, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 2nd Mar., —Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Yawata Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,364, W. Hunter, 3rd March,—Shanghai, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shawmut, American steamer, 6,195, W. M. Smith, 3rd March,—Victoria, B.C. and Tacoma, Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co.

Tetartos, German steamer, 1,812, Dessler, 3rd Mar., —Kuchinotsu, Ballast.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Kaga Maru*, from Seattle, Wash.:—Mr., Mrs. and Miss Mizutani, Mr. M. Tanaka, Mr. W. H. Braemar, and Mr. W. D. H. King, in cabin.

Per German steamer *Roon*, from Europe via ports:—Mr. A. Hayao, Mr. Charles Lund, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Trye, Mrs. R. Pope and child, Dr. Florenz, Mrs. Florenz, Miss Weston, Mr. and Mrs. Limo, Mr. R. M. Boger, Mr. John A. Martin, Mr. Leop. Fleischmann, Mr. Maurice Beckaut, Mr. W. Hughes, Mr. de Lalande, Mr. C. E. Maliguy, Mr. Alb. Troise, Mr. and Mrs. Kyonnuza and child, Mr. and Mrs. Murphine, Mrs. Suzu, Mr. Pope and servant, Mr. W. T. Payne, Mr. and Mrs. Hanson, Miss O. Nishiyama, Miss Elsa Schmidt, Mr. Campbell and servant, Mr. H. Bethell, Mr. C. Gibbers, Mr. Kreshervy, Mr. Ring Che Woo, Mr. H. Ichihara, Mr. A. S. Mallwood, Mr. and Mrs. McCallough, and Mrs. Schulz, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. A. S. Hoyt, Sir B. Leighton, Mr. C. C. Osborne, Mrs. C. C. Osborne, Miss G. Remington, Mr. J. Ricalton, Mr. Grant Wallace, Mr. M. Boyer, Mr. R. Freiwald, Mr. F. E. Shaw, Mr. A. F. Thane, Mr. R. W. Tirrill, and Mrs. R. W. Tirrill, in cabin. For Kobe:—Mr. J. W. Hunt, in cabin. For Nagasaki:—Mrs. E. A. Sturge, in cabin. For Shanghai:—Mr. H. T. Whickham, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. Bert Ashurst, Mr. E. J. Bates, Mr. W. T. Beardsley, Mr. Albert Butler, Mr. F. A. Crooks, Mr. Velos Dolliver, Mr. E. M. Ellison, Mr. John Fowler and son, Mr. Eugene Garnett, Mrs. W. F. Hancock, Mr. L. P. Mamilton, Mrs. L. P. Hamilton, Mr. R. H. Harrell, Mrs. R. H. Harrell, Mr. F. S. Hufford, Mr. W. F. Hughes, Mr. H. Johnson, Mr. A. B. Johnson, Mr. L. E. Kern, Mr. W. S. Lanthorn, Mr. J. S. MacNider, Mr. W. C. Mayer, Miss L McDonald, Mr. L. J. Prescott, Mr. Lott Sandy, Mr. H. S. Simpson, Mr. F. L. Simanton, Mr. C. H. T. Townsend, Mr. Wm. Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Weeks, Mr. F. A. Wester, Mr. M. R Wheeler, Mr. C. S. Husted, Miss M. E. Bury, and Miss M. Yost, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mrs. S. Arnold and 2 children, Mr. Bert Ashurst, Mr. E. I. Bates, Mr. W. T. Beardsley, Miss M. E. Beers, Mr. C. Blakely, Mrs. C. Blakely, Mr. M. Boyer, Mr. Albert Butler, Mr. W. B. Clover, Mrs. W. B. Clover, Mr. F. A. Crooks, Mrs. W. S. Davidson, Mrs. P. Dinsmore, Mr. Delos Dolliver, Mr. John Fowler and son, Mr. E. M. Ellison, Mr. B. Freiwald, Mr. Eugene Garnett, Mr. J. B. Geary, Mr. L. P. Hamilton, Mrs. L. P. Hamilton, Mr. J. T. Hamilton, Mrs. W. F. Hancock, Mr. B. H. Harrell, Mrs. B. H. Harrell, Mr. G. M. Heckscher, Mr. E. H. Himrod, Mr. T. S. Hufford, Mr. W. F. Hughes, Mr. J. W. Hunt, Mr. C. S. Husted, Mr. A. R. Johnson, Mr. M. H. Johnson, Mr. L. E. Kern, Mr. D. H. King, Mr. W. S. Lanthorn, Mr. F. T. Leak, Mr. R. H. Little, Mr. J. S. MacNider, Mrs. C. C. Manifold, Mr. W. C. Mayer, Miss L. McDonald, Mr. C. Miller, Mrs. C. Miller, Mr. H. C. K. Newman, Mr. H. P. Olcott, Mr. L. J. Prescott, Mr. W. M. von Pustan, Mr. A. W. Rettig, Mrs. A. W. Rettig, Mrs. C. Richards, Mr. Lott Sandy, Mr. P. Shuttleworth, Mr. F. L. Simanton, Mr. H. S. Simpson, Mr. F. P. Solomon, Mr. R. J. Tobin, Mr. C. H. T. Townsend, Mr. E. H. Tuska, Mr. Wm. Wallace, Mr. L. D. Weeks, Mr. F. A. Wester, Mr. M. R. Wheeler, Mr. H. T. Whigham, and Miss M. Yost, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Coptic*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. R. W. Mason, Mr. M. Beart, Mrs. M. Beart, Miss Beart, Miss Beart, Mr. H. Runker, Master Beart, Miss Poynton, Miss Russell and amah, Mr. W. D. Straight, Mr. H. D. Ashton, Mrs. R. E. Gill, Mr. A. Rizetti, Mrs. Wm. Kerr and amah, Mr. G. H. Browning, Capt. T. A. Christensen, Mr. S. Meadows, and Mr. C. Mancini, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Mr. Allan Greenwell, Dr. A. Anderson, Mr. C. F. Davis, Mr. L. J. Lindsay, Miss H. Tanner, Mrs. M. L. Cannaday, Dr. P. H. Lerrigo, Mrs. P. H. Lerrigo, Master E. Beattie, Mr. B. Well, Mr. C. J. Peoples, Mr. E. Weck, Mr. H. W. Houlding, Mr. G. W. Beecher, Miss M. Jacobs, Mrs. T. H. Lovejoy, and Mrs. T. Brown, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Australien*, for Marseilles via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Maurice, Mr. and Mrs. Pope, Captain Lea, Captain Boyle, Mr. T. A. Crellin, Mr. Victor Heller, Miss Liddle, Miss Montgomery, Mr. G. Carpentier, Mr. C. Wenger, Mr. T. Kershaw, Mr. L. E. David, Mr. J. Kuhn, Mr. and Mrs. Hardy L. Locksmith, Mr. W. H. Wickham, Mr. A. E. Pearson, Mr. C. H. Thorn, Mr. Sakio Choh, Mr. T. C. Stafford, Mr. Harry Maitland, Mr. L. F. Thom, Mr. Lee Moy Ching, Mr. Sung Zao Tsur, Mr. S. Makishima, Mr. Li Wing Chung, Mr. and Mrs. W. Weise, Mr. A. Lemth, Mr. R. Tietz, Mr. H. Wagott, Mr. H. Blocher, Mr. G. Locht, Mr. Chun Bick, Mr. E. R. Aldrich, Mr. Nishigori, Mr. H. A. Tolmer, Mr. R. Porter, Mr. G. Deboulet, Mr. R. Jamin, Mr. and Mrs. W. Pillate, Mr. E. Baron, Mr. C. Gibbens, Mr. and Mrs. Brownell Gage, Mr. and Miss Stewart, Mr. Douglas Story, Mr. Percival Phillips, Mr. Von Gossberg, Mr. Augusto Comese, Messrs. McIver, Eck, Childs, and J. White, 29 officers and subalterns, and 96 seamen, cruiser *Nisshin*; Messrs. Bottaro, Aimi, Rosso, Fossati, Moscatelli, Marcelino, 20 officers and subalterns, and 7 seamen, cruiser *Kasuga*; 40 Arab stokers of cruiser *Nisshin*, 2 Chinese, and 2 Japanese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Borneo*, for London via ports:—Mr. A. R. Riddle, Mr. H. K. Hitcheach, Mr. D. Marshall, Mr. John North, Mrs. Parker, Mr. C. H. Browning, and Capt. C. Spada, in cabin; 11, in steerage.

Per American steamer *Shawmut* for Victoria B.C. and Tacoma, Wash.:—Mr. and Mrs. Ballon, Mr. D. W. Garrison, Miss Stone, Mr. Kawasa, Mr. E. C. Huff, Mr. Lippy, General F. Moore, Mr. C. F. Cox, Mr. R. C. Bryant, Mr. C. E. Pettet, Mr. Healy, Mr. Broomfield, Mr. Holton, Mr. J. B. Caldwell, Mr. J. M. Leaton, Mr. B. A. Leavy, Mr. W. Williamson, Mr. Hunt, Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Pavey, Mr. Quarthant, Mr. Dopey, Mr. M. Cullough, Mrs. M. Cullough, Mr. McFill, Mr. Carlson, Mrs. Smith, Miss Wilson, Mr. Kybock, Mr. S. Mendoye, Mr. V. Samilla, Mr. P. Sumilla, Mrs. Pinkton, Mr. Hughes, Mr. F. Hofstedt, Mr. J. Clark, Mr. Reallec, Mr. Donnelley, Mr. Bonk, Mr. Kobayashi, Mr. Finst, Mr. Lonbeig and Mr. Jashe in cabin.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw and Waste silk shipped per steamer *Australien*:—

	Raw.				Waste.			
	Marseilles	Option.	Lyon.		France.	Bale.	Russia.	
Sulzer Rudolph & Co.	10	169	—	—	—	—	—	—
Boyer, Mayet, Guilliee Co.	—	35	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sieber & Co.	—	40	—	—	—	—	—	—
Otto Reimers & Co.	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jardine, Matheson & Co..................	—	36	—	—	—	—	—	—
Siber Wolff & Co....	—	—	27	—	—	—	—	—
P. Dourille	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	—
Herbert Dent & Co.	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—
H. Bernardin & Co.	—	—	63	—	—	—	—	—
Longin & Co.	—	—	49	—	—	—	—	—
Otto Streuli & Co..	—	—	30	—	—	—	—	—
Cl. Eymard	—	—	—	—	70	—	—	—
Bavier & Co..........	—	—	—	—	91	—	—	—
Total............	10	300	195	—	161	—	—	—

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON and Antwerp, via ports, about Mar. 5th, the "AJAX."—Butterfield & Swire.

For HONGKONG via Kobe, Moji, Nagasaki and Shanghai, Mar. 5th, the "INDRASAMHA."—P. & A. S.S. & Co.

For BREMEN and Hamburg, via ports, Mar. 5th, at 9 a.m., the "ROON."—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

For BONIN ISLANDS via ports, Mar. 5th, the "HIOGO MARU."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

For CANADA, United States, and Europe, via Vancouver, B.C., March 5th, the "TARTAR."—Canadian Pacific Railway Co.

For SAN FRANCISCO, via Honolulu, Mar. 5th, at Noon, the "COPTIC."—O. & O. S.S. Co.

For HAVRE, Hamburg and Bremen via ports, Mar. 6th, at Daylight, the "SAMBIA."—C. Illies & Co.

For PORTLAND, Ore., about Mar. 7th, the "INDRAPURA."—P. & A. S.S. Co.

For HONGKONG, via Kobe, Inland Sea, Nagasaki, and Shanghai, March 8th, the "EMPRESS OF CHINA."—Canadian Pacific Railway Co.

For KEELUNG, via Moji (from Kobe), Mar. 10th, at Noon, the "TEUCER."—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

For MARSEILLES, via ports, and Shanghai, Mar. 11th, at 9 a.m., the "SYDNEY."—M. M. S.S. Co.

For VICTORIA, Seattle and Tacoma, Wash., Mar. 11th, the "AGAMEMNON."—Butterfield & Swire.

For LONDON and Antwerp, via Kobe, Shanghai, Hongkong, Straits, Colombo and Port Said, March 13th, at 4 p.m., the "JAVA."—P. & O. S.N. Co.

For HONGKONG, via Kobe, (Inland Sea), Nagasaki, and Shanghai, about Mar. 16th, the "CHINA."—P. M. S.S. Co.

For CANADA, United States, and Europe, via Vancouver, B.C., Mar. 18th, at Noon, the "EMPRESS OF JAPAN."—Canadian Pacific Railway Co.

For SAN FRANCISCO, via Honolulu, Mar. 21st, the "KOREA."—P. M. S.S. Co.

For HONGKONG, via Kobe, and Moji, about Mar. 23rd, the "TACOMA."—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

For HONGKONG, via Kobe, (Inland Sea), Nagasaki, and Manila, about March 24th, the "DORIC."—O. & O. S.S. Co.

For HONGKONG, via Kobe, Inland Sea, Nagasaki, and Shanghai, about Mar. 28th, the "ATHENIAN."—Canadian Pacific Railway Co.

For VICTORIA, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash., Mar. 28th, the "VICTORIA."—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

For AUSTRALIA and New Zealand, (from Kobe), Mar. 30th, the "CHINGTU."—Butterfield & Swire.

SHIPPING IN YOKOHAMA.

STEAMERS.

Ajax, British steamer, 4,478, H. Batt, 4th March,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Bengloe, British steamer, 1,933, James Potter, 27th Feb.,—London via ports, General.—Cornes & Co,

Dolores, American schooner, 128, Herren, 1st March—Bonin Islands, General.—To Order.

Foo Shing, British steamer, 1,443, Arthur, 4th March,—Cardiff, Coal.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Ganges, British steamer, 2,722, Stibbold, 20th Feb.,—Rangoon, Rice.—To Order.

Kennebec, British steamer, 3,301, Wallace, 4th Mar.,—New York via ports, General.—Standard Oil Co

Pionier, German steamer, 975, Wiese, 12th Feb.,—Christmas Island, Phosphate.—C. Illies & Co.

Roon, German steamer, 5,013, G. Meiners, 29th Feb.—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Pasha, British steamer, 2,839, Elliott, 2nd March,—Rangoon, Rice.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Sambia, German steamer, 3,923, Luning, 2nd March,—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Samara, British steamer, 1,790, Lewis, 1st March,—Hongkong, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Telena, British steamer, 3,124, Carter, 2nd March,—Taketoyo, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Strathgyle, British steamer, 3,284, J. R. Gordon, 16th Jan.,—Hongkong, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Tung Shing, British steamer, 1,173, Selby, 2nd Mar.,—Shanghai, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

SAILING VESSELS.

A. G. Ropes, American ship, 2,303, Rivers, 18th Feb.,—New York, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Marechal de Gontant French bark, 1,743, Donniere, 22nd Feb.,—New York, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

MEN-OF-WAR.

Amagi Kan (10 guns), Japanese gunboat, 920, Com. Minami Yoshitaka, 21st Jan.,—Yokosuka.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

In Yarns and Shirtings the market is dead; clearances have stopped and there are no fresh sales or contracts to report. No change to report in Fancy Cottons and Woollens.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER YARD.
White Shirting—{40 yds. 36 in. 50 yds. 36 in.} ...	0.09 to 0.10
	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	Y.2.85 to 3.60
Grey Shirting—9lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.80 to 4.25
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches...	3.00 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton Italians and Satteens...	0.20 to 0.40

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	Y.0.35 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 32 in....	0.30 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches...	0.16 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.50 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 to 65 inches ...	0.90 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0.60 to 0.66
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	9.50 to 12.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches...	0.90 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches...	1.90 to 2.25
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 5lb, 24-25 yards, 32 nches...	2.50 to 3.65

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Y. 140.00 to 150.00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	—
Nos. 38/42, Singles	—
Nos. 32, Doubles...	145.00 to 150.00
Nos. 42, Doubles...	155.00 to 160.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/100, Plain...	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	245.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	295.00 to 305.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	425.00 to 435.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling...	Nominal.	33
Indian Broach...		26
Chinese		23

METALS.

A large business has been done in bars but the market is quieter at the close.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward...	Y.4.05 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.30 to 4.60
Sheet Iron...	4.65 to 6.90
Galvanised Iron sheets	10.00 to 11.00
Wire Nails, assorted	5.15 to 5.75
Tin Plates, per box...	6.70 to 7.60
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.05
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1¼ inch)	5.00 to 5.50

KEROSENE.

The market is weak.

American	$3.47
Russian	3.20
Langkat	3.30

SUGAR.

Nothing doing in Hongkong refined, the advance in silver exchange making further sales prohibitive.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	Y.6.40 to 6.80
Brown Manila...	6.40 to 7.30
Brown Daitong	5.40 to 6.80
Brown Canton...	5.90 to 7.80
White Java and Penang...	7.30 to 8.10
White Refined...	8.80 to 11.50

INDIGO.

No enquiry of any importance.

	PICUL.
Java, Medium to best...	270.00 to 320.00
Calcutta, Medium to best	180.00 to 290.00
Madras (*Kurpah*), Medium to best ...	140.00 to 170.00
Madras (Dry Leaf), Medium to best ..	100.00 to 140.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

A moderate business doing at quotations. Some holders of good quality silks hold their goods off the market, while others are more current at quotations. Lyons is dull and sends limits which are at present unworkable here.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra Best, Coarse	Y.1,060 to 1,070
Filatures—Extra, Fine	—
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	1,020 to 1,025
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	—
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	920 to 930
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	970 to 980
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	900 to 910
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	920 to 930
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	—
Common—Coarse	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1½	920 to 930
Re-reels—No. 2	—
Re-reels—No. 3	880 to 890
Kakedas—Extra	—
Kakedas—No. 1	920 to 925
Kakedas—No. 1½...	900 to 910
Kakedas—No. 2	880 to 890

WASTE SILK.

Market continues as last advised. Small business. Prices strong for good fibre whereas low Kibiso are the turn in favour of buyers.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	180 to 185
Noshi—Filatures, Good	170 to 175
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Good...	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Joshiu, Best	130 to 135
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	120 to 125
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	150 to 160
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	140 to 145
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	70 to 80
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	60 to 70

TEA.

There have been some transactions aggregating about 1,000 piculs. Settlements to the end of February amounted to 195,600 piculs, against 179,800 piculs at the corresponding date last year.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	—
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine...	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common...	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, March 3.

London silver ⅛ higher and China sterling quotation ⅛ higher have caused local rates on China to be easier, other rates remain about the same.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0$\frac{1}{16}$ @ ⅛
— — Bills on demand.............	2/0⅛ @ $\frac{3}{16}$
— — 4 months' sight	2/0$\frac{5}{16}$ @ ⅜
— Private 4 months' sight............	2/0$\frac{5}{16}$ @ ⅜
— — 6 months' sight........	2/0$\frac{11}{16}$ @ ⅝
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	253 @ ½
— Private 4 months' sight......	257½ @ 7
— — 6 months' sight......	259 @ 8
Hongkong—Bank sight .... per $100.	93¾
— Private 10 days' sight do.	90⅜
Shanghai—Bank sight	75
— Private 10 days' sight	77
India—Bank sight	149½
— Private 30 days' sight	152½
America—Bank sight..	48¾ @ 9
— Private 30 days' sight	49¼ @ ½
— Private 4 months' sight	50½ @ ¾
Germany—Bank sight	206 @ ½
— Private 4 months' sight..	210 @ 9½
Bar Silver (London)	26½

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, March 3.

Kirin Breweries are obtainable at *yen* 110. Langfeldts changed hands at *yen* 40. Grand Hotels, sellers at *yen* 240. Helms, sellers at *yen* 50. Nickels, sales at *yen* 35. Engine and Iron Works are obtainable at *yen* 90. Y. U. Club debentures, buyers at *yen* 108. Brewery debentures, sales at *yen* 109.

	YEN.	
Brett & Co. Limited	8½	Nominal.
Club Hotel, Limited	70	Nominal.
Grand Hotel, Limited	240	Sellers.
Helm Bros, Limited	50	Sellers.
Langfeldt & Co., Limited.........	40	Sales.
Nagasaki Hotel, Limited	35	Nominal.
C. Nickel & Co., Limited	35	Sales
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Founders...	450	Nominal.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Ordinary...	75	Nominal.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Preference.	70	Nominal.
Japan Brewery Co., Limited ...	110	Sellers.
Yokohama E. & I. Works	90	Sellers.

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WILD WITH ECZEMA

And Other Itching, Burning, Scaly Eruptions with Loss of Hair.

Speedy Cure Treatment.

Bathe the affected parts with Hot Water and Cuticura Soap, to cleanse the surface of crusts and scales, and soften the thickened cuticle. Dry, without hard rubbing, and apply Cuticura Ointment freely, to allay itching, irritation, and inflammation, and soothe and heal, and lastly take Cuticura Resolvent Pills, to cool and cleanse the blood. A single set is often sufficient to cure the most torturing, disfiguring, itching, burning, scaly, pimply humours, eczemas, rashes, irritations, and chafings, with loss of hair, when all else fails.

The agonizing itching and burning of the skin, as in eczema; the frightful scaling, as in psoriasis; the loss of hair and crusting of the scalp, as in scalled head; the facial disfigurement, as in pimples and ringworm; the awful suffering of infants and the anxiety of worn-out parents, as in milk crust, tetter, and salt rheum,—all demand a remedy of almost superhuman virtues to successfully cope with them. Such are the CUTICURA remedies, the purest, sweetest, most speedy and economical curatives for the skin, scalp, and blood ever compounded. Mothers are their warmest friends.

Millions of Women Use Cuticura Soap

Assisted by CUTICURA OINTMENT for preserving, purifying, and beautifying the skin, for cleansing the scalp of crusts, scales, and dandruff, and the stopping of falling hair, for softening, whitening, and soothing red, rough, and sore hands, for baby rashes and chafings, in the form of baths for annoying irritations and inflammations of women, or too free or offensive perspiration, in the form of washes for ulcerative weaknesses, and many sanative, antiseptic purposes which readily suggest themselves, as well as for all the purposes of the toilet, bath, and nursery.

CUTICURA RESOLVENT PILLS (Chocolate Coated) are a new, tasteless, odourless, economical substitute for the celebrated liquid CUTICURA RESOLVENT, as well as for all other blood purifiers and humour cures. Put up in screw-cap pocket vials, containing 60 doses.

CUTICURA REMEDIES are sold throughout the world. Australian Depot: R. Towns & Co., Sydney. British Depot: 27-28, Charterhouse Sq., London. French Depot: 5 Rue de la Paix, Paris. POTTER DRUG AND CHEM. CORP., Sole Props., Boston, U. S. A.

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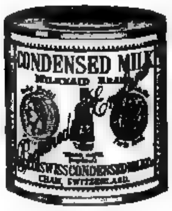

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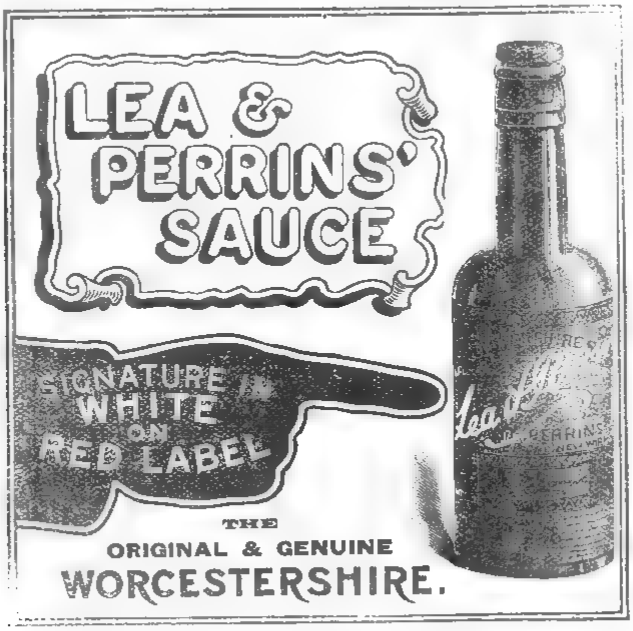

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MARCH 12TH, 1904.

BIRTH.

On January 27th, 1904, at Chalford, Gloucestershire, England, the wife of E. HAMILTON HOLMES, H.B.M.'s Consular Service, Japan, of a Daughter. China papers please copy.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

A CASE of small-pox was reported on March 3rd at Seta, Gumma prefecture.

THE German steamer *Pioneer*, recently purchased by the Japanese, has been re-named *Kocho Maru*.

Two cases of typhus are reported in the Tokyo Gassed Yarn Spinning Mill, the patients being female workers.

THE Chinese Prince Pu-lung will arrive on March 16th at Nagasaki by the steamer *Korea* from Shanghai.

OXFORD has defeated Cambridge in the inter-University Hockey match this year by one goal to nothing.

A TELEGRAM from Shimonoseki reports that the steamer *Shinshu Maru*, early on the morning of March 3rd, ran on an unseen rock in the Korean Sea and was wrecked. The crew were all saved. Details are not yet known.

TOKYO papers report that the Empress will return to Tokyo about March 20th from the Hayama Detached Palace.

PRINCE NASHIMOTO has left Paris, and is expected to arrive at Yokohama on April 4th. He had been studying at a military institution.

THE Russian Consul at Fusan, Korea, and his party, who had been staying at Nagasaki for some days past, left on March 5th for Shanghai.

THE Emperor presented a thousand *yen* on March 3rd to Marquis Tokudaiji, Grand Chamberlain, who has been ill for some weeks past.

Two convicts of the Chiba Prison quarrelled on the morning of March 7th, the result being that one of them was severely injured with a spade.

MR. N. HIROMO, Osaka, has purchased the British steamer *Glengyle* and re-named her the *Miyoshima Maru*. She was built in 1886 at Glasgow and her gross tonnage is 3,355.

A SAD accident is reported from Tsu, Aichi prefecture. A girl, 13 years old, employed at a weaving factory, was crushed to death by the toothed wheels while working on the glossing machine.

TWENTY-TWO Russians who were treated in the Japanese Red Cross Society's hospital at Chemulpo, left on March 6th by the *Hakuai Maru*. They are to be accommodated at the Matsuyama Hospital, Iyo province.

A SNOW slide occurred on the morning of March 2nd at the Hashidate mine, Niigata prefecture. A house was thrown into the Nagajiri river, with the result that nine coolies employed at the mine were killed and four injured.

THE dead body of a woman, apparently about thirty years old, was found on the morning of March 8th under the pier at Yokohama. It was removed by the Harbour police who believe that she committed suicide by drowning herself.

THE nominal editor and publisher of the *Nichi Nichi* have been punished with a fine of *yen* 30 each on the charge of having published reports with regard to military movements, without having submitted the same to the inspection of the authorities.

A TELEGRAM from Nagasaki announces that the repairs on the captured Russian steamer *Manchuria* were completed on March 3rd, when a trial trip took place. She will be taken to Saseho in a few days.

CONSIDERABLE excitement has been created in German commercial circles by the announcement that Messrs. J. & P. Coats (Limited), of Paisley, are about to obtain a firm foothold in Germany, by the acquisition of the Saxon sewing cotton factory of Messrs. Heydenreich & Company.

THE German steamer *Jacob*, chartered by the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, which was to leave Kobe on March th for Yuensan, Korea, refused to sail, the captain and the German Consul protesting that the route is not considered to be entirely safe.

A GHASTLY affair was reported early on the morning (about 1 o'clock) of March 3rd at Nishino-kubo, Shiba, Tokyo. A confectioner, T. Fujita (53) and his wife, Toyo, were murdered, their heads having been beaten in with a large hammer and their daughter, Fuji (28), who was suffering from consumption, was very severely injured. The murderer is still at large and the cause of the crime is not known. The confectioner was one of the directors of the Keihin Bank and the Aikoku Life Insurance Company.

THE *Jiji* states that the goods traffic on the Tokaido and Sanyo railways was to be resumed on March 9th and to be suspended on the 16th. Owing to the frequent suspensions, about 2,800 tons of merchandise for Tokyo only are lying at the Osaka station.

A YOUTH named T. Ishikawa committed suicide on March 7th on the railway near Uyeno station, Tokyo. The cause is not yet known. He had been employed by a soy manufacturer at Tansumachi, Shitaya, and left there on the previous day without the consent of his employer.

M. TAKAHASHI, the "*Rotan*," (Russian spy) who was sentenced on Feb. 23rd in the Yokohama District Court to seven years' minor confinement and who appealed to the Tokyo Appeal Court, withdrew his appeal on March 7th. The sentence will thus stand, and he was to be removed to prison on the following day.

K. FUKANO was executed on March 8th in the Ichigaya Prison, Tokyo. On March 1st last he entered the dwelling of a farmer, D. Ogawa, in the village of Nakagawa, Kimitsu, Chiba prefecture, armed with a club, beat the farmer to death and stole a purse containing three *yen*. He was arrested in Tokyo, and sentenced to death.

THE steamer *Haimun*, chartered by the London *Times*, arrived on March 3rd at Nagasaki from Wei-hai-wei and took on board eight hundred tons of coal. She was to leave for Korean waters. Mr. Fraser, a correspondent of the *Times*, was on board the steamer. Wireless telegraph apparatus is provided on one of her masts. Chefoo will be her base. The correspondent will take photographs of views of naval engagements. It is said that the *Times* will employ two more steamers for the same purpose. They will visit Wei-hai-wei, Hongkong and Japanese waters.

IN the Admiralty Division in London, a claim was made for salvage remuneration in respect of services rendered by the Liverpool steamship *Shimosa* to the Italian liner *Sardegna* in the Atlantic Ocean in June last in the course of a voyage from New York to China and Japan. The defendants admitted the services, but said the *Sardegna* was never in a position of material danger. The value of the salved property was £118,447, and that of the *Shimosa*, with her cargo and freight £265,580. His Lordship awarded the plaintiffs £6,400 in this proportion: £5,300 to the owners of the *Shimosa*; £400 to her master, and £700 to the crew.

THE new French armed cruiser *Sully*, which has been ordered to sail for the Far East, is still at Toulon, and it is announced that M. Pelletan has relieved Captain Farret of the command, and replaced him by Captain Guiberteau. This decision has caused great surprise. The *Temps* believes that the officer incurred M. Pelletan's displeasure by objecting to the *Sully's* hurried departure after she had met with an accident in dock, one of her torpedo tubes being bent, and doubts also existed as to the solidity of one of her screws. Finally, the gunnery trials had not been completed, and some of the guns had shown defects.

AFFAIRS AT PORT ARTHUR.

Friday, March 4.

Admiral Togo sends some details of the attempt to block Port Arthur. From the report of Commander Arima, who was in command of the five steamers, it appears that the *Bushu Maru*, as already reported, had her rudder shot away or her steering gear injured, and, losing her direction, went ashore at the base of Mantau-shan. The *Hokoku Maru*, under Commander Hirose, had nearly reached the harbour's mouth when she received a furious cannonade from the *Retvisan*. Her steering gear became useless and she took fire in the fore-part, so that finally she had to be beached under the light-house. The *Jinsen Maru*, under Lieutenant Saito, was just entering the harbour when in the immediate vicinity of the light-house, she came into collision with what seemed to be a sunken ship, and unable to move in either direction, was blown up by her crew. Thus the *Hokoku* and the *Jinsen*, though not entirely successful, proved of some service for the intended purpose. The Admiral sends these statements by way of supplement to his previous reports. He expresses great satisfaction that the dangerous operation did not involve more casualties than one killed and three wounded, which he describes as a wonderful escape.

Shanghai has received a telegram from London, dated the 2nd, saying that according to a report sent by the *Daily Telegraph's* correspondent in Newchwang, the Japanese Squadron on the 29th February (query 25th) attacked Port Arthur; that the *Askold*, the *Bayan* and the *Novik* went out to the defence; that the *Askold* was nearly sunk, the *Novik* badly damaged, the *Retvisan* again injured and a torpedo boat sunk, after which the Japanese withdrew. It is just possible that the Japanese squadron did make another attack on the 29th ultimo but no news of anything of the kind has reached Tokyo officially, and the details of the *Daily Telegraph's* story tally remarkably with those of the Paris report already received. The London journal's correspondent adds that the forts were silenced by the Japanese fire.

From Shanghai news reaches the *Asahi Shimbun* that the scarcity of provisions in Port Arthur is felt more and more, and that in spite of the high prices offered edibles cannot be procured. Considerable stores of food stuffs have been purchased in Tientsin, but they cannot be passed on the railway.

We should think that these rumours are to be regarded with reserve.

Saturday, March 5.

The *Novoye Vremya* has an interesting article in which it takes for text an opinion said to be held in Russian social circles to the effect that the defeats Russia has just experienced at sea will have a wholesome effect in inculcating the necessity of reforms, and that her recent experiences at Port Arthur especially will be as useful to her as was her discomfiture at Sebastopol fifty years ago. Therefore those imbued with a really patriotic desire for their country's good may not unreasonably welcome Japan's successes. Such is the view said by the Russian semi-official organ to be entertained in influential quarters. But the *Novoye Vremya* thinks that the desired reforms might just as well be effected in the sequel of victory, and that there is no occasion to wait for defeat. "What we hope," says the St. Petersburg journal in conclusion, "is that the losses already suffered will not only encourage reforms but will also have a good effect generally."

In the *Jiji Shimpo* we find a note containing intelligence sent by that journal's correspondent from Chefoo. The authority for the facts stated is a Chinese subject, one of a party of 80 who arrived at Chefoo on the 28th ultimo, having escaped by junk—which they hired for $1,000, though the price in ordinary times would have been $80—from an island lying 22 or 23 miles westward of Port Arthur. This man alleges that the force now assembled at Port Arthur consists of the following:—

	Men.
The Ninth Regiment	700
The Tenth	1,000
The Twenty-fifth	2,400
The Twenty-sixth	900
The Twenty-seventh	1,300
The Twenty-eighth	1,300
Newly arrived troops	1,300
Enrolled at Port Arthur	900
Sanitary Corps	400
Intendance	600
Artillery	600
Total	19,400

According to the same authority, the men of the 25th Regiment hastened to the base of Hwan-kin-shan on the 9th of February at the time of the bombardment of the fleet, the idea being that a landing was contemplated by the Japanese. A shell from the attacking fleet fell among these men and killed or wounded 130. There are now over 200 wounded men in hospital belonging to the navy and the army. The Russians are buying up all the cattle they can find, but they are taking provender for their horses without paying for it, and the inhabitants are consequently praying for the arrival of the Japanese. There are over ten thousand bags of flour stacked at the station. Guards are posted over all the supplies of coal in the shops and none is allowed to be sold to the people, who are consequently compelled to use wood only for fuel. Commodities are at least twice their ordinary price. No Chinese subjects or coolies are allowed to leave the place, and great discontent consequently prevails. At present the number of ships actually undergoing repairs is two. Six or seven are lying in the west harbour. Since the attacks of the Japanese the military have lost heart, and are no longer disposed to use that boastful language previously employed by them so freely.

One point in the above detail of forces seems to us to be decidedly questionable, namely, the statement that there are only 600 artillery-men at Port Arthur. Such a force would be quite insufficient to man the batteries unless all the gunners are supposed to be on duty all the time.

In connexion with this question of Russia's immediately available forces, the Peking correspondent of *The Times*, wiring under date of January 21st, gives the following list:—

> The following corrected list of the Russian military forces in the Far East to date comprises all the troops east of Lake Baikal in Siberia and Manchuria, including those guarding the whole of the Manchurian railways and the railway between Vladivostock and Khabarovka, and those guarding the Amur River, and the troops on shore at Vladivostock, Possiet Bay, Dalny, and Port Arthur,
>
> The total strength at the present moment in this vast region consists, inclusive of the frontier or railway guard, of 3,115 officers, 147,479 men, and 266 guns.
>
> The infantry, numbering 2,100 officers and 105,829 men, consists in the first place of 32 regiments of East Siberian Rifles, each with 39 officers and 1,906 men. Each regiment has one company of mounted infantry. There are also four regiments of regular army infantry from Russia, Nos. 123, 124, 139, and 140, consisting of 16 battalions with 312 officers and 15,348 men; also 16 battalions of infantry field reserve with 252 officers and 15,300 men; also one battalion and one company of fortress infantry from Nikolaievsk with 20 officers and 1 186 men. The two battalions of Port Arthur fortress infantry recently became the 29th Regiment, and the six battalions of Vladivostock fortress infantry became the 30th, 31st, and 32nd Regiments of East Siberian Rifles. The frontier guard infantry, 55 companies with 268 officers and 13,103 men, make up the total of the infantry.
>
> Of cavalry there are 148 squadrons, with 603 officers and 21,914 men, made up of six regular cavalry squadrons from Russia, 87 squadrons of Trans-Baikal Cossacks, and 55 frontier guard squadrons.
>
> The artillery consists of 36½ batteries, with 266 guns. There are 15 field batteries of eight guns each and one of six guns; four horse batteries of six guns each; two mountain batteries of eight guns each and one of six guns; one heavy battery of eight guns; one horse mountain section with two guns; also six batteries with six quick-firers each; also six frontier guard batteries of eight guns each. Each battery consists of six officers and 242 men. There are also two battalions of garrison artillery at Vladivostock and two at Port Arthur, consisting of 16 companies with 42 officers and 2,620 men; also one company at Nikolaievsk. The total artillery force is 264 officers and 10,567 men.
>
> The engineers comprise 22 companies with 88 officers and 3,745 men—namely, two battalions of East Siberian Engineers, including a telegraph company; the 4th Trans-Amur railway battalion (not four battalions as reported); also the Ussuri railway brigade; also the Port Arthur engineer company, besides one submarine company at Nikolaievsk and another at Vladivostock; also a balloon section.
>
> The supply transport comprises 60 officers and 5,423 men.
>
> In reading these figures it is necessary to remember and to understand certain facts about the Russian position. First, the line of communications between Manchuria and Western Siberia consists of a single line of lightly constructed railway; secondly, the Manchurian Railway, which is somewhat exposed to wreckage, traverses for 1,555 miles an unfriendly country whose people may possibly regard the Japanese as liberators; thirdly, the total strength given represents the full war strength and assumes that not a single man is sick or absent nor a single gun disabled.
>
> All the Russian fleet, except four armoured cruisers at Vladivostock, is at present at Port Arthur, wedged in a confined harbour, or rather basin, with only one dock available for repairs.

London wires under date of the 3rd instant that whereas Russia had counted on sending all her provisions and munitions of war by maritime transport, she has now lost the command of the sea and is compelled to forward everything overland. The result is that the resources of the imperfect Siberian Railway are taxed to their uttermost, and that the despatch of troops by that route must prove a slow and unsatisfactory process.

Sunday, March 6.

The *Jiji Shimpo's* Peking correspondent learns from a foreign military officer who has just returned from Liaotung, that the Russians in Port Arthur are employing five thousand Chinese coolies daily on the construction of works to defend the land side of the place and that the guns taken from China are to be mounted there. The mines laid between Dalny and Talien Bay number 360, of which 32 have beeen carried away by the tide. The neighbourhood of Talien must be a very dangerous place if so many torpedoes are floating around.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* publishes a statement said to have been made by a naval architect who recently visited Port Arthur. The *Tsarevitch* was struck on the starboard side. She is now drawing 2 or 3 feet more than her normal draught and though able to use her guns, could not put to sea. The *Retvisan* is aground. Some of her armament is still serviceable but she can not be repaired at Port Arthur. The *Petropavlovsk* was struck below the water-line in the attack on the 9th of February, but did not otherwise suffer. The *Pallada* is still afloat and can be repaired. The *Askold* lost one of her funnels and had one of her 6-inch guns put out of action. The *Novik* had two shots below the water-line and is now in the dry dock. The *Diana*, though hit, was not seriously injured. The *Boyarin* is a complete wreck.

Monday, March 7.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *Jiji Shimpo* says that a pressing request reached the Russo-Chinese Bank in that place from Port Arthur, in the sense that unless two hundred thousand roubles could be sent before the end of the month, great inconvenience would be felt. The Bank, however, owing to the run suffered by it on the outbreak of war, had no available funds nor had it any immediately available way of sending money. It managed with some difficulty to collect ninety thousand roubles in notes, which amount it entrusted to one of its employees, and sent him off disguised as a Chinese coolie. This fact taken in conjunction with the application for flour made by Port Arthur at the close of February, goes to show that the place is poorly equipped for anything like a siege.

A message to the *Asahi* from Tientsin says that 30 Russian marines attempted recently to escape from Port Arthur, but that they were captured at the station and immediately shot.

Tuesday, March 8.

Shanghai reports that preparations are being made at Port Arthur to dock the *Askold*, but that the *Tsarevitch* has been virtually given up as hopeless. An expert in the employment of the Russian authorities, however, considers that she may be repaired, and it would seem that the same view is held with regard to the *Retvisan*.

What has become of the other Russian ships? We hear nothing now-a-days except about the *Tsarevitch* and the *Retvisan* in the matter of battle-ships, yet there should remain the *Poltava*, the *Petropaulovsk*, the *Sevastopol*, the *Peresviet* and the *Pobieda*, a formidable squadron of 5 first-class armourclads.

In this context the statement of a Chinese workman who has just reached Chefoo, having made his escape from Port Arthur, is pertinent and interesting. He alleges that before the war there were about a thousand artificers and a thousand coolies working at the dock, and that after the Japanese attack their wages were raised 50 per cent. Nevertheless they took their departure in such numbers that soon only 400 artizans remained and no coolies at all were available. The Russians were consequently obliged to draft 400 marines for duty at the work. Since the fighting there have been two cruisers docked. The first was put in on the 12th or 13th of February and came out on the 21st of that month, when her place was taken by another, which will be ready for sea about the middle of the present month. With regard to the other ships, 8 or 9 of them are said to have received temporary repairs and to be lying in the harbour.

The *Jiji Shimpo* has a telegram from Shanghai saying that the American and British residents of Port Arthur have been expelled under circumstances of great harshness, but that the Germans and Danes are allowed to remain "because the weather is unpleasant" for travelling.

Wednesday, March 9.

A Chinese artizan who has just reached Chefoo from Port Arthur, says that on the 25th of February a large Russian war-vessel and a small cruiser left the harbour to make investigation into the state of the ships sunk by the Japanese or stranded. These war-ships were fired on by the Japanese in the offing, and the larger vessel had her stern injured. Both escaped into the harbour. The same man alleges that the forts on Hwang-kin-shan have been greatly injured, and that only three places—guns (?)—are fit for service.

The *Chuo Shimbun* says that news has been conveyed to a certain Legation in Tokyo in the sense that on the 5th instant a Japanese squadron of 15 vessels attacked Port Arthur, caused great damage in the town, where fire broke out, seriously injured the dock and deprived the *Retvisan* of capacity to act even as a floating target. No intelligence of such doings has been officially received in Tokyo.

The *Nichi Nichi* publishes a telegram, via Chefoo, which says that on the evening of the 8th a Japanese squadron began to bombard Port Arthur and Dalny and that the bombardment was continued on the 9th. It does not appear that any official news of this has been received in Tokyo.

A Chinaman who arrived at Chefoo on the 8th from Port Arthur says that during the attack on the 24th Feb. a Russian destroyer, attempting to escape from the Japanese, ran on a mine and was sunk.

The same man reports that a Russian cargo-boat being mistaken for a Japanese destroyer, was sunk by the forts in a place that renders her a great impediment to the use of the dock.

It appears that on the 26th February the Americans and Englishmen in Port Arthur and Dalny were ordered to leave at 24 hours' notice. They reached Chefoo on the 8th, and according to their account the only foreigners remaining were Germans and Danes, keepers of small stores. The Russians have plenty of grain but a scarcity of vegetables, and depend upon local resources for meat. These refugees add that the two steamers sunk by the Japanese are undoubtedly serious obstacles to entry and exit; that the Russians are very busy repairing their ships and that two have been finished and have taken their place in the fleet.

Thursday, March 10.

A Chinese subject who has just returned to Chefoo from Port Arthur says that naval matters in Manchuria are now under the sole command of Admiral Makaroff, military matters under General Kuropatkin, and administrative affairs only under Viceroy Alexieff. He alleges that on the arrival of Makaroff, the new Admiral proposed a programme for attacking the Japanese Squadron with the destroyers and torpedo-craft that remained still intact, but the officers in command of these craft were of many ways of thinking and showed so little alacrity in endorsing the Admiral's plan that it was finally decided to submit the question for the decision of the Viceroy in Mukden. A clever Chinaman, surely, to have obtained such an insight into the inner councils of the Russians.

The Russian official intelligence-office at Shanghai declares that all reports published by British journals as to attacks upon Port Arthur subsequently to the 26th of February, are falsehoods. Where are these reports to be found, we wonder. They have not emanated from Japanese sources.

A Chinese subject who left Port Arthur on the 2nd and reached Chefoo *viâ* Tientsin on the 8th instant, alleges that although he would not have been allowed to travel by the Manchurian railway had he not belonged to a firm which does business for the Russians, he observed no evidence of the pressure of military transport alleged by them as a reason for stopping the ordinary passenger traffic; on the contrary, trains were running almost empty. The Russians speak in very exaggerated terms of the number of troops in Port Arthur: in reality its garrison is small. Concerning provisions, he affirms that everything is requisitioned for military use, and the Chinese say that unless the Japanese army comes soon, they will be starved. In addition to the work proceeding at the dock, the *Askold* is having her funnels repaired and her guns re-mounted where she lies. The fort on Hwan-kin-shan is greatly injured. At Dalny mines are laid at four places in the small dock, around the harbour-master's offices, around a large rock at a building behind the landing place and at several places round the big dock. Besides there is a mine in every interval of 11 feet of the principal wharf. Eighty Chinese that attempted to leave the place on the 20th instant, were apprehended and imprisoned for 6 days.

THE GENERAL ELECTIONS.

We have now three statements as to the result of the general elections. It will be simplest to place them side by side:—

	Kokumin's Statement.	*Nichi Nichi's Statement.*	*Asahi's Statement.*
Seiyu-kai	131	136	130
Progressives...	91	94	96
Imperialists ...	19	19	20
Independents..	138	111	74
Liberals	—	19	26
Various.........	—	—	33

N. B.—Under the heading "various" in the *Asahi's* statement there are included 12 of the *Chusei* Club, 10 of the *Dôshi Kenkyû-kai* and 11 of the *Koyu* Club.

The *Kokumin* gives a comparative table showing the expansion or diminution of the parties during the past 3 years:—

	1904.	1903.	1902.
Seiyu-kai	131	187	193
Progressives	91	96	106
Imperialists	19	17	21
Independents......	138	76	56

It will be observed that the *Seiyu-kai* has lost very heavily: indeed, though still the largest among the organized parties, it does not command anything like a majority (190) of the Lower House.

It will further be observed that the trend of the time is markedly in favour of the Independents. All accounts agree in attributing to them a considerable increase in number.

As to the representation of the urban and rural populations, it is given as follows by the *Nichi Nichi*:—

	Rural members.	Urban Members.	Total.
Seiyu-kai	116	20	136
Progressives.........	80	14	94
Independents	76	35	111
Imperialists	16	3	19
Liberals	15	4	19
Total......	303	76	379

THE DIET.

The Diet will have to do much more in its approaching session than to vote war supplies. It will have to vote war taxes also. On the latter topic it is not impossible that some differences of opinion may be developed, and in order to prevent any semblance of disunion the whole matter will probably be discussed beforehand by the party leaders.

The *Hochi* and the *Nippon* says that the Diet will be asked for an appropriation to build a railway from Wiju to Newchwang, for which a concession has already been obtained from China.

RUSSIAN MILITARY MOVEMENTS.

Friday, March 4.

The Governor of Chankiakow is said to have reported that Russian troops are pushing southward. That is very vague. It would indicate a plan on Russia's part to menace China's north-western frontier, but the value of such a move or its rationale is not immediately apparent, unless we connect it with the Liao question, and with Russia's alleged menace to march against Peking from the Kalgan direction. She is no Cadmus, however, to summon soldiers from the barren soil, and it is inconceivable that she can have any force in the neighbourhood of Chankia-kow, unless some enterprising Cossacks have organized bands of Mongolians.

It is now stated that not more than 800 Russian troopers are in Korea south of the Yalu. We need not weary our readers with details on the subject, as it is plain that most of the published statements are more or less hypothetical. But we may note that 500 Cossacks are said to be at Chhang-song, which is a place about 40 miles up the Yalu from Wiju on the Korean side.

There is a rumour in Tokyo that on the 1st instant the sound of heavy guns was heard in the vicinity of Kyong-song, that is to say, in the sea off the coast just below the mouth of the Tumen. Possibly there has been a fight in Possiet Bay, where a considerable body of Russian soldiers seem to be stationed. They have apparently been transported thither by sea from Vladivostock, and if that is the case their communications with their base are in a very precarious condition.

There is good authority for saying that a few days ago the Russian troops who were southward of Anju, have crossed the Chhong-chhong and retired north.

Saturday, March 5.

A telegram from Tientsin reports that Viceroy Alexieff arrived in Mukden on the 22nd of February and made the railway station his head-quarters. It is stated that about three thousand men are reaching the city daily. Where are they quartered, we wonder, and whence do they come?

From Yuensan a report reaches the *Jiji* that the Chinese—presumably the bandits—have captured Tsitsihar. Probably this is a distorted version of the attack said to have been made by 500 Tungses on the Russian position at Haicheng.

Sunday, March 6.

The same authority says that there are 4,000 Russian troops in Liaoyang; that 300 are guarding the railway, and that there are 2,000 in Mukden. He further alleges that two bandit leaders at the head of 2,000 men, are lurking in the hills near Sing-min-ching—a town on the west of Mukden—, waiting for an opportunity to attack the Russians.

From Kiu-lien and Feng-hwang comes news that the Russians are seizing all the vehicles in the district and compelling the inhabitants to do forced labour, so that there is a general cry for the speedy arrival of the Japanese army.

From the neighbourhood of Pyong-yang come rumours of the same nature as those arriving from Kiulien and Feng-hwang. In the case of Pyong-yang the story takes the form that the Russians are making forced purchases with almost worthless rouble notes, to the great discomfiture of the people.

The British and American residents of Pyong-yang send word that they are suffering much discomfort and inconvenience, owing to the fact that the citizens mistake them for Russians. In this context it is alleged that although Japanese war notes are no longer issued in Seoul, they were circulating freely in Pyong-yang until the Korean officials at the latter place began to discredit them by taking a heavy per-centage on exchange. Naturally the notes are now losing favour.

News from Wiju viâ Pyong-yang indicates that on the 1st or 2nd instant a body of Russian troops entered the former place. They consisted of 781 cavalry and artillery, 10 officers, 50 land transport, 5 guns and 30 baggage-carts. There appears to be some truth in this story, for intelligence arrives from an independent source that the Russians are fortifying An-tung and that their outposts are at Wiju. On the north-eastern side they are said to have pushed southward as far as Kyong-song, which is a few miles northward of Kil-ju on the road to Sonchin.

From Mukden the *Asahi Shimbun's* Tientsin correspondent reports the arrival of news that Viceroy Alexieff has been resorting to all kinds of cajolery and menace to win the Governor-General Tseng to his side, but that no success has attended his efforts. On the same authority it is stated that the report of Viceroy Alexieff having been wounded at Port Arthur is true.

It is rumoured that a Russian force of 750 cavalry, 200 artillery and 2 battalions of infantry has reached Chan-kia-kow; in other words, threatens to invade China from the north-west *viâ* Kalgan. If this be true—which we greatly doubt—Russia must have been entertaining for some time an extensive scheme of conquest.

Monday, March 7.

The *Asahi* publishes an apocryphal telegram said to have come from Weihaiwei to Chefoo. Its purport is that a conflict has taken place between Japanese and Russian troops at a point about a hundred miles from Vladivostock, and that the Russians fled, abandoning their arms and provisions. Our contemporary rightly observes that the news requires much confirmation. It has a Chefoo taint.

The news is confirmed that a detachment of Russian troops has reached Kyong-song, having crossed the Tumen. They are said to number only 70 and to be the advance guard of a thousand men of the Seventh Regiment of Siberian sharp-shooters who are now assembled at Possiet Bay. In connexion with this it is to be noted that the statements recently received from one quarter or another as to the Vladivostock squadron having left port towards the close of last month and being still at sea, are now supplemented by the reports of folks who have seen the ship's search-lights. The conjecture is that the troops assembling at Possiet Bay are carried thither by sea, and that the squadron is covering the operation. It appears to be all conjecture, however. We may recall our readers' notice to the fact that the master of the S.S. *Afridi*, which carried away the main part of the Vladivostock refugees, reported that the ice-breaker *Nodovshnik* was engaged on military transport service to Possiet Bay instead of attending to her regular duties.

A march from Possiet Bay to Yuen-san and thence across to Pyong-yang would be a most arduous and lengthy undertaking, to say nothing of the risk attending a long line of communications vulnerable not only at its base between Vladivostock and Possiet Bay, but also throughout its whole length along the sea-coast. This movement of the Russians has no serious element, and must be regarded in the light of a diversion which is not at all likely to withdraw the Japanese from the prosecution of their main plans, whatever the latter may be. The same may be said in a modified degree as to the incursions southward of the Yalu, modified because, although their significance as an invasion of Korea would be petty, they may have the collateral purpose of fortifying the line of the Yalu.

A telegram to the *Asahi* from London says that a very distinguished Russian officer suggested, at a recent military council in St. Petersburg, that the wisest plan for Russia would be to abandon Port Arthur and concentrate her forces at some point more easily defended and less remote from her base. It may well be supposed that such a proposition was vigorously resisted and finally rejected. What arguments its opponents employed we are not told, but it may be assumed that they regarded Port Arthur as a fortress where the Japanese could be held until Russia assembles a sufficient force by land and by sea to overwhelm the audacious islanders.

It is expected that Viceroy Alexieff will remain at Mukden until General Kuropatkin reaches that place, and that General Linevitch will continue in command of the Russian troops in Manchuria pending the same event. Quite a considerable time has elapsed since Kuropatkin was appointed to the command-in-chief, and recent intelligence spoke of his arrival at Harbin. But the telegram we are now quoting suggests that he had not reached Harbin up to the 27th of February.

Tuesday, March 8.

The *Asahi* publishes a Paris telegram saying that the advance guard of the Fourth Army Corps, which Russia is sending eastward, have arrival at Hailar and will proceed to Tsitsihar, there to await the coming of the main body. The state of the line at Lake Baikal is said to constitute a serious impediment to transport.

The Koreans state that the Russians are sending troops by sea from Vladivostock to Ham-heung, using four transports for the purpose. Ham-heung is one of the principal towns in northeastern Korea. It is 47 miles north of Yuensan, being thus far to the southward of Sonchin. The towns between it and Yuen-san are all along the high road. It would be an almost reckless move for the Russians to adopt such a programme, as the column would soon find itself in danger. Curiously enough, however, news comes that the telegraph wires have been cut between Yuensan and Fusan, which would suggest that some move is being made in that vicinity.

It is rumoured that the Russians have in their pay at Talien and Port Arthur 700 bandits, and that they have increased the stipends of these men in order to prevent their joining the Japanese.

Wednesday, March 9.

It is extremely perplexing to know what the Russians are actually doing on the north-east coast of Korea. There was news on the 8th instant that they had landed at Ham-heung, which is almost within striking distance of Yuen-san and is considerably south of Son-ching. Now comes intelligence that a body of sixty troopers appeared at Kyong-song on the 6th instant, and having visited the telegraph station and made certain investigations as to the presence of Japanese subjects, proceeded in the direction of Musan, which lies in the hills at some distance up the Tumen. Of course it is not impossible that there may be a steady advance along the coast-road from Possiet Bay simultaneously with a landing at a point further south, but except as a diversion the whole movement is inexplicable, and the perils attending it are obvious to the meanest intelligence. The Russians have no force at Vladivostock from which they could afford to detach an invading army.

From the direction of the Yalu comes intelligence that a southward move has again been made. Three thousand troopers are said to have made their appearance in Wiju, and after patrolling the district and effecting measures of defence in various directions, one half of their number moved south to Sonchon, which is near the coast at a distance of 49 miles from Wiju. Yet another account speaks of a general withdrawal of the Russian scouts towards the Yalu. Evidently the sources of this intelligence are untrustworthy. Of course the Japanese military authorities know precisely what the Russians are doing, but the public is excluded from military confidence and the only view we can take is that Russian troops are moving hither and thither probably as far south of the Yalu as Anju. Even further south than Anju, namely, at Suk-chhon, various outrages by Russian soldiers are reported to have taken place, and we even hear of collisions between them and the Korean soldiers sent to protect the inhabitants. But truly it would be rash to allege that the collisions are not between the Korean braves and their unhappy *protegés*, who with the Cossacks on the one hand and their magnificent protectors on the other are in a pitiable plight.

Newchwang states that the Russians have placed four mines along the coast south-east of that place in anticipation of a Japanese landing. It is also reported that the railway guards at Haiching detected some bandits in the act of attempting to blow up the line with dynamite.

The *N. C. Daily News* has received these notes from a reliable source in Moukden, capital of Fengtien province (Lower Manchuria):—

> It is stated from various parts of the province that a great many Russian conscripts have deserted from their several garrison posts, many assuming the native garb in order to escape discovery, while others again have fled to the hills and joined scattered bands of brigands.—A large Russian river gunboat armed with quick firers and manned by a company of Russians belonging to the regular army, which used during the summer and warm months to patrol the Liao River, is now aground there and unable to leave the vicinity. In his anxiety to get away so as to avoid possible capture by a Japanese or Chinese force in the near future the Russian commandant of the gunboat tried to get together a large body of coolies to dig a channel so as to enable the gunboat to get down river into deep open water. In spite of the offer of extra pay no Chinese could be tempted to work for the Russians who are now universally looked upon in Manchuria as the worst enemies of China. The gunboat is therefore still lying high aground in the Liao.—News has been received by Tartar General Tseng Ch'i of Moukden that mounted bandits have pulled up a large number of rails and destroyed portions of the Manchurian railway in six different places, making in all a total of some forty-eight miles in extent. Sixteen so-called Russian "railway guards" have also been shot or had their throats cut by mounted bandits during the operations above noted. With reference to the unfortunate Japanese officers caught by the Russians while attempting to blow up the Sungari river railway bridge, it is reported that it would never have happened had the unlucky officers not been too eager to do their work. As a matter of fact there was a large body of mounted Hunghutze thirty-miles away ready to support them had these three officers only consented to wait twenty-four hours longer. There were four Japanese ready to do the work, of whom one happened to be with the Hunghutze at the time in order to lead them to the vicinity of the bridge for the purpose of covering the operations. Either the three captured officers thought they saw an opportunity of blowing up the Sungari river bridge before the arrival of their covering party, and so were caught by the Russians, or they were discovered by the latter while loitering in the neighbourhood and suspicions accordingly aroused and so were arrested and tried by court-martial; at any rate when the Hunghutze appeared in the vicinity they saw a whole regiment of infantry and some 300 cavalry encamped near the railway bridge. Scouts sent on to find out the truth soon returned with the sad news and a body of Russian cavalry being reported coming towards the place where the Hunghutze were drawn up, the latter bad to retire taking the fourth Japanese officer with them.

Thursday, March 10.

The *Nichi Nichi's* Peking correspondent telegraphs that there are about 8,000 Russian troops in and about Kirin, and that they are constructing a temporary railway from Kirin to Chang-chun, that is to say, a line to connect Kirin with the Harbin-Liaotung railway. They are also constructing forts and otherwise strengthening the position between Kirin and Ningtau The railways from Harbin to Vladivostock and from Harbin to Liaotung run nearly at right angles from Harbin, and the three towns above mentioned, namely, Chang-chun, Kirin and Ningtau lie on a line forming the base of a right-angled triangle having Harbin for its apex. The town of Fan-hwa-ching is also spoken of as included in this scheme of fortification. It is stated that the Russians are forcing the inhabitants to labour, that they have deprived all the Chinese soldiers of their arms, that they are seizing provisions without payment and that they are treating the Chinese officials with rude peremptoriness. The Chinese General at Kirin is so enraged by these proceedings and so powerless to prevent them that he has had recourse to the only kind of protest and refuge under the circumstances—he has taken to his bed.

The Russians appear to be still very busy at Newchwang. Chefoo reports that another body of 2,000 have reached the place, and that by way of preventing a Japanese landing they have expended ten thousand dollars on the purchase of Chinese junks which are to be sunk at the mouth of the Liao.

Japanese scouts are said to have found that there are over 40 Cossacks in Kasan, which is some 16 miles north of Anju on the road from Pyong-yang to Wiju.

NEWCHWANG.

Friday, March 4.

There is news from Newchwang confirming the statement that the Chinese employees at the coal mine near Mukden have gone on strike and destroyed all the machinery connected with the mine. This is said to be a matter of much importance as the produce of the mine is essential to the service of the railway.

Peking telegraphs that the Russians have posted troops here and there in the district between Singmin-ching and Tienchwantai. The former place is on the railway a little to the west of Mukden, and the latter is near Newchwang, also on the west. This means that the Russians have definitely occupied the West Liao region which the Chinese claim to be within the neutral zone. Russia, then is quite determined to maintain that every inch of Manchuria is still in her possession.

It is stated that the Russian forces have all been withdrawn from Newchwang with the exception of 2 companies of the Fifteenth Regiment and a detachment of Cossacks. This diminution of force is believed to be due to the cessation of recent rumours as to the probability of a Japanese landing at Newchwang.

Saturday, March 5.

Tientsin telegraphs to the *Asahi* under date of the 3rd that Russian troops to the number of 3,000 have entered Newchwang; that they have requisitioned every available vehicle; that the inhabitants are closing their shops and shutting up their houses; and that something like a panic prevails.

Dr. Morrison, who lately made a tour of inspection to Newchwang, reports that between Kinchow and Sing-min-ching there are no Russian troops, only an occasional scout making his appearance, and that in Newchwang there are only 500 infantry of the 15th Regiment together with about 20 gunners. This estimate was probably made before the arrival of the three thousand men mentioned above.

The Russians are now said to be desirous of restoring Newchwang to the status it enjoyed before they assumed military control of the place in 1900. Their reasons are that were Newchwang once more a perfectly open settlement and therefore neutral ground, it could be largely though surreptitiously used as a basis of supply, and the danger of a Japanese landing there being also averted, the strain on Russia's slender military forces would be proportionately relaxed. Various measures pointing to that result are said to have been taken recently, but they have not met with any success. Nor is it likely that they will. People are not quite so foolish as to lend themselves blindfold to Russian ruses. Ever since 1900 Russia has been in military occupation of Newchwang, thus depriving the place effectually of its character as a foreign settlement where all the Powers have equal privileges, and throughout that period she has appropriated to her own uses the revenues of the Customs, to which she never had any valid title. Having thus blown hot to suit her own convenience in time of peace, she would now blow cold to suit the same convenience in time of war. But she has given such abundant proofs of her methods that every one knows what to anticipate: every one knows that should she emerge victorious Newchwang will be occupied by seven devils instead of one evil spirit, whereas should she emerge defeated, the present demon will certainly be cast out. There is nothing to be gained, therefore, by paltering to her manœuvres. The spirit she herself would show in the given circumstances may be taken as a fair guide by those she would cajole. Perhaps it is because of failure in that direction that she has now suddenly increased her force of occupation from 500 to 3,500.

Sunday, March 6.

It is stated that the Russo-Chinese Bank in Tientsin has received from Port Arthur a pressing demand for money, but the despatch of coin over-land is now an impossible business. In the same context it is mentioned that the Newchwang branch of the Bank is making preparations to withdraw. A heavy burden is being gradually thrown on that single line of railway.

The *Asahi* has a telegram from Peking saying that the Russians in Newchwang are making strenuous efforts to sustain the credit of their paper-money which has ceased to circulate in the town. They have appealed to the Customs authorities for assistance, and they are said to have threatened that if they are driven out of Newchwang by the Japanese, they will leave one half of the town in ruins behind them.

BOMBARDMENT OF VLADIVOSTOCK.

Saturday, March 5.

There are rumours that the Vladivostock squadron has been seen in the neighbourhood of Yuensan, and there are also rumours that a Japanese landing has been effected at a place indicated by several asterisks. These stories come from very apocryphal sources. They seem to have their origin in the reported sound of cannon near the north-east coast of Korea a few days ago. On this subject Fusan wires to the *Jiji* that the Vladivostock ships have all been repainted black; that many of their men deserted after the recent return of the vessels from cruising in the Sea of Japan, and that the places of the deserters have been filled with Koreans who have accepted Russian nationality.

There are rumours that two Russian warships were seen in Ussuri Bay on the 19th and the 23rd, but the story is vague.

On the 13th of February the military Governor of Vladivostock issued a proclamation, the intention of which was to quiet the minds of the Chinese and Korean elements of the population and to prevent an exodus of workmen or artizans, who were promised high wages, and to ensure that in case of need all horses and forage demanded by the authorities should be given up at once.

Sunday, March 6.

There are renewed rumours that the four Vladivostock cruisers left that port on the 27th ultimo, with the idea of preventing a rumoured landing of Japanese troops or war stores at Yuensan or Sonchin. These are the ships that have been sighted in the offing during the past few days by inhabitants on the north-eastern coast of Korea.

Tuesday, March 8.

At this moment of writing—8 a.m., 8th instant—we are without any intelligence from Japanese sources as to the bombardment of Vladivostock, reported from St. Petersburg to have taken place on the afternoon of the 6th instant. It is expected that news will be received officially in the course of the day. The nearest point for effecting a communication by wire—supposing Yuensan unavailable—would be Hakodate, which is over 400 miles distant and could not have been reached from the squadron until the evening or night of the 8th. Vladivostock is a difficult place to attack from the sea-side, and the Amur Bay, on which the town lies, is a long narrow inlet —only 2½ miles wide—running far up into the shore and taking a sharp turn at a point about two-thirds distant from its entrance. The Japanese ships, however, must be supposed to possess accurate plans of the fortifications and if they were able to bombard at a range of 5 miles, it is scarcely credible that they did no damage. Very different were the results of their fire against Port Arthur at an even greater range. The silence of the Russian batteries also is not easily explained. The batteries must be heavily armed, and from their superior elevation their fire should be more formidable than that from ships. When the positions of guns are unknown and when it is desired to keep them unknown, the proper game of an enemy is to refrain from replying to an unmasking cannonade, unless its effects are too destructive to be tamely endured. But that the guns of a parmanent fortification where there is nothing to conceal and whence a few well planted shells might inflict serious damage on the attacking squadron, should keep silence throughout a bombardment when 200 heavy projectiles are directed against the batteries, is an unprecedented kind of strategy, nor do we think that as a warlike feat it is likely to secure much applause.

The statement that the greater part of the Japanese shells failed to explode remains to be verified. We have been hearing much of late about the Shimose explosive—not lyddite as the telegram erroneously states—for which a rank is claimed second to blasting gelatin only in disruptive violence, and as blasting gelatin has never been brought under sufficient control to serve for artillery uses, the Shimose compound would thus stand at the head of the list. In every bombardment or battle there are many shells that fail to explode, but the record alleged by the Russians in this case is worse than the average and we await the Japanese report with interest, our conviction meanwhile being that Vladivostock's story is considerably exaggerated.

According to a telegram received at the Foreign Office, Viceroy Alexieff reports that on the morning of the 6th, at 8.45, a Japanese squadron of 7 vessels was sighted from Vladivostock. It was then steering towards Askold Bay, which is on the east of Amur Bay, where Vladivostock is situated. After a time the ships changed direction towards Ussuri Bay, which is between Amur Bay and Askold Bay. This was at about noon, and at 1.30 p.m. the vessels opened fire at a distance beyond the range of the shore guns. Among the Japanese ships the *Izumo* and the *Yakumo* were recognised, but none of the other vessels could be distinguished.

The heaviest guns carried by the *Izumo* and the *Yakumo* are 8-inch. If they took any part in the bombardment, it seems strange that the guns in the forts could not reach them.

The Naval authorities explain that the delay in giving out intelligence is never due to any unwillingness to instruct the public, still less to any tardiness in allaying the patriotic anxiety of the nation. It may happen, of course, that some points in a report have to be suppressed, especially when an attack is still progressing, and it may happen that other points are so obscure as to require further reference. But the general explanation is that whereas places attacked from the sea are usually in direct telegraphic communication with their base so that the enemy is in a position to transmit news quickly, the attacking squadron has to send to its own base, probably far distant, or at any rate to some remote point, in order to get in telegraphic touch with the capital. Meanwhile it is observable that the Russians speak of lyddite shells and at the same time allege that whereas 200 were fired no damage was done. The Japanese do not use lyddite as an explosive, but if the Russians had reason to conclude that the shells were loaded with that compound, it must have been because of the violence of the explosions, a fact difficult to reconcile with the allegation that no damage was done. As to the silence of the forts the reason assigned is that they waited for the Japanese ships to come within easy range, which would indicate a degree of coolness and reserve very inconsistent with the conduct of the gunners at Port Arthur, who "let off" all the ordnance they could lay hands on, whatever its calibre or ballistic capacities. The probability is that the gunners in the forts took refuge outside the zone of danger or that the forts themselves were quickly silenced. The forbearance claimed by the Russians is not usual in war, and can not be reconciled with the known potentiality of the guns mounted at Vladivostock.

Wednesday, March 9.

According to the same journal a Japanese squadron of 7 vessels left a certain base on the 3rd instant to search for the Vladivostock squadron, which was supposed to be at sea. On the morning of the 6th one Russian ship was sighted about 50 leagues from Vladivostock. She steamed away at full speed toward that place and succeeded in effecting her escape but not without serious injury. It was in the sequel of the pursuit that the Japanese squadron bombarded Vladivostock. These incidents also have not been officially reported to Tokyo.

On Wednesday afternoon it was rumoured that the Japanese squadron sent to Vladivostock attacked the Russian squadron on the afternoon of the 6th and that news might be expected to reach Tokyo officially on the evening of the 9th.

Thursday, March 10.

Russian official sources at Shanghai tell us that the ships which attacked Vladivostock opened fire at a distance of 6 versts; that nearly all the shells failed to explode; that one killed a woman and wounded 5 recruits; that the cannonade lasted 40 minutes; that the squadron put in an appearance the following morning and then withdrew, the Russian forts and ships having made no reply.

A verst is 1170 yards. Therefore a range of 6 versts is less than 4 miles. The forts at Vladivostock must have 10-inch guns at least, and at 4 miles the fire of a 10-inch guns should be deadly. Eight-inch guns, too, are thoroughly effective at that range, and the *Gromoboi*, the *Rossia* and the *Rurik* have 12 8-inch guns in their batteries. Why did Vladivostock submit quietly to be bombarded at such a range, and above all why does it boast of such a feat?

It appears that this bombardment of Vladivostock was an affair of altogether secondary importance, incidental to a cruise of a Japanese Squadron in the Sea of Japan, whither Vice-Admiral Kamimura went partly in search of the Russian cruisers and partly to disturb the continuity of Russian proceedings at Possiet Bay and on the Korean coast. There is a statement, apparently coming from a trustworthy source, that subsequently to the bombardment the Admiral called at a certain place whence telegrams could have been despatched, but he evidently did not think it worth while to report his doings, or perhaps he desired to conceal his whereabouts. London telegraphs that at the time of the bombardment the Russian squadron was not in Vladivostock. If that be true there may be an encounter in the Sea of Japan.

A message from London gives a Russian explanation of the silence of the forts at Vladivostock. It is an explanation to which we have already alluded, namely, that the forts did not wish to unmask their position. But it is a frivolous explanation, for the Japanese doubtless know exactly where the forts are situated, and besides such a consideration would not weigh for one instant against the advantage of disabling or sinking some of the Japanese ships. What are the forts for, anyhow? Are they built for the purpose of hiding themselves? It is a quaint illustration of the spirit that animates the Russians. We could understand the conception of such a manœuvre by Chinese strategists, but when a heavily armed Russian fortress refrains from returning the fire of a few Japanese ships lest its position should be discovered, somehow one is not prompted to marvel at the fine battle-craft of the performance.

Later.

Vice-Admiral Kamimura, who commanded the squadron that recently operated in the Sea of Japan, has sent to Tokyo a telegram received at 2.30 a.m. on the 10th instant. It says:—"Passing through the ice on the morning of the 6th instant, as previously planned, the squadron reached the eastern entrance to Vladivostock. None of the enemy's vessels was seen outside the harbour. Steering so as to keep out of the line of fire of the forts on Cape Basarghin and in the Bosporus strait, we held a north-easterly course and approached to the base of the land forts. From 1.50 p.m. for a space of about 50 minutes, we maintained an indirect cannonade and after firing a few shots into the mouth of the harbour, we withdrew. I believe that our bombardment produced a fairly proportionate effect. Soldiers were seen in the land-forts, but they did not return our fire. At 5 p.m. smoke was seen eastward from the mouth of the bay, and there seemed to be a probability of the approach of one of the enemy's ships, but the smoke gradually grew faint in the distance. On the morning of the 7th we examined America Bay and Strelow (?) Bay but found nothing. At noon we again approached the eastern entrance of Vladivostock but there were no signs of the enemy's ships, nor did the forts fire on us. We then proceeded to Possiet Bay, but there also we saw nothing of the enemy."

It seems impossible to discover from the above account exactly where the Admiral placed his ships for the purposes of the indirect bombardment. Cape Basarghin, of which he speaks, stretches partly across the eastern entrance to the Bosporus Strait, but to cannonade Vladivostock from the eastern side of this Cape over the intervening group of hills seems out of the question. Besides the Admiral says that he approached the base of the forts, and soldiers were seen in them, and that they did not return his fire. They certainly would not have returned it had his ships been steaming under the shelter of Cape Basarghin, for that position is completely masked from the shore-batteries. We can only conjecture that from a point along the coast northward of Basarghin Cape a position exists from which the town and its protecting forts are assailable at long range and by indirect fire. Even that conjecture, too, is inconsistent with the statement that shells were dropped into the harbour's mouth. At all events it is plain that no risks were taken, and that the bombardment was under circumstances which necessitated small results.

CHINA.

Friday, March 4.

The latest news from Peking is that the Chinese Government is resolved to send its forces beyond the Great Wall: in other words, that it will assert its title to the West Liao region. In pursuance of this resolve, Viceroy Yuan has posted 15 battalions (7,500 men) of infantry at Yung-ping, 8 battalions of cavalry at Sien-an, and 5 batteries of artillery at Wu-ming. But inasmuch as all these places are within the Great Wall we do not detect any practical evidence of Peking's resolve. The conflicting accounts of China's purpose are probably a true representation of its infirmity.

On the 16th of February Viceroy Alexieff is said to have issued a proclamation to the inhabitants of Manchuria. His Excellency alluded to the attack made by the Japanese Squadron at Port Arthur, and said that Russia having been thus driven to take up arms, would not allow a Japanese soldier to set foot on Russian or on Chinese territory. He went on to say that Russia and China stood to one another in the proverbial relationship of "lips and teeth" and that when confronted by an enemy they should render mutual assistance. Instead of adopting that natural view, the Chinese Government had signified its desire to stand neutral at this juncture. The inhabitants of Manchuria, however, would judge more wisely and would endeavour to aid the Russians by providing forage for horses and other necessaries. There need be no apprehension that the people would suffer anything at the hands of Russian soldiers: these, on the contrary, would protect them and should be welcomed as protectors. Therefore the inhabitants should assist in guarding the Russian lines of telegraph and the Russian railways. If these suffered any injury, the inhabitants of the district would be held responsible. The Russian troops would exterminate the bandits and secure tranquillity for law-abiding folk. It was therefore the latter's plain duty to give information as to the lurking places of the bandits. For the rest, any one attempting to harbour these outlaws would be severely punished. Finally, should any of the inhabitants venture to show hostility to the Russian soldiers, the Viceroy swore that such persons should be swept from the face of the earth.

It is stated that the Chinese Prince Pu-lung, son of Prince Tsai-chi, will visit Japan *en route* for the United States, and that he will spend 10 days in this country. These names will not convey much to our readers, so we may add the information that the young Prince is a grand-son of Prince Yin-chi, and therefore a great-grand-son of the Emperor Tao-kuang. His Highness is to proceed to the St. Louis Exhibition. He was expected to leave Peking on the 3rd or 4th and to travel thence to Shanghai, there embarking on the *Amping* and reaching Nagasaki about the 17th instant. In Tokyo he will lodge at the Shiba Detached Palace, and be the guest of the Japanese Court. He is accompanied by a suite of 6 persons.

Deception, cajolery and menace—they are freely employed by the Viceroy. He must have a supreme contempt for the intelligence of the people of Manchuria. Unhappy people. They are between the devil and the deep blue sea.

Saturday, March 5.

It is stated that there are 8 American ships-of-war in the river at Shanghai and that they are attracting the attention of all nationalities.

The Chinese Government, replying to M. Lessar's remonstrances with regard to the advance of General Ma's standards beyond the Great Wall, is said to have stated that the object of the movement is to prevent excesses on the part of the bandits and to preserve neutrality. The frequent apparition of Russian soldiers in the region immediately westward of the Liao River lended to disturb men's minds and prevent the tranquillization of the region, and Russia is requested to remove all her force to the other side of the River. Such is said to have been the Wai-wu-pu's answer. Will China adhere to it or will Russia accept it?

Sunday, March 6.

A telegram to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* says that M. Lessar's protest about the movement of General Ma's forces to Chaoyang, has no validity inasmuch as Chaoyang is in Mongolia, not Manchuria. This is characteristic. It strikes us as a mere subterfuge. The question is, does China intend to enforce neutrality in the West Liao region or does she not. To evade that plain issue by pretexting that troops originally intended for the purpose of enforcing neutrality there have gone only as far as a place in Mongolia, is really contemptible. We judge from this that China intends to shuffle out of the difficulty, and the suspicion is confirmed by news that whereas Viceroy Yuan had received authority to advance his lines to Kinchow, he has now been instructed to "await a seasonable opportunity" inasmuch as such action at this immediate juncture might provoke a collision.

Tientsin telegraphs that the British Consul has ordered Mr. Cowen, editor of the *China Times*, to withdraw from that place inasmuch as his journal is calculated to disturb the public peace. It appears, according to this intelligence, that the *Times* is vehemently pro-Japanese and anti-Russian, and there is said to be much sympathy with the editor. The story as it stands is scarcely credible. Probably the Consul's action has been prompted by some reason quite apart from the general tone of the newspaper.

Shanghai telegraphs that there are 3,000 Russian refugees in the Settlement and that many of them are suffering considerable privations, being without proper shelter or food and without means to obtain them.

The Chinese Government are said to be adopting England's cause in the Thibet question.

Monday, March 7.

The question of the West-Liao district seems to be dragging on its weary length in Peking. The latest story is that the Russians have asked to be allowed to consider as belligerent territory a line 40 or 50 kilometers from the right bank of the river, their pretext being that such a space is necessary to the due protection of the railway on the left bank. What the Chinese have replied we do not learn, but probably they will accept the compromise.

The *Asahi's* Peking correspondent sends a quaint little story. He says that when the first detachment of Viceroy Yuan's troops from Paoting left the train at Lanchow *en route* for Yung-ping, Colonel Kornikoff(?) of the Russian army and other foreign officers were on the platform to inspect them. The bearing, equipment and discipline of the men proving much better than these onlookers had anticipated, the Russian Colonel waited on Viceroy Yuan and having complimented him on the quality of the troops, urged that a couple of thousand of such men would be amply sufficient to send out for the purpose of asserting China's neutrality in the district near the Great Wall. Yuan replied by recalling the Colonel's statement, made some time previously; that Russia would pour half a million of men into Manchuria. Japan, said the Viceroy, may be expected to send three hundred thousand, and as that will bring the total belligerent forces in Manchuria to eight hundred thousand, it scarcely seems too much that China should be represented on the scene by ten thousand, or one eightieth of the total.

It would appear from Tientsin telegrams that some effort is being made by the Russians to prevent the exodus of Chinese from Liaotung. Two or three hundred who recently attempted to escape by train to

Tientsin, were stopped at the station, and had subsequently to make their way on foot to another station where they were allowed to entrain.

It now appears, or is reported, that the four United States war-vessels at Shanghai are awaiting orders to convey Mr. Morgan to Dalny. A few days ago the story was that they were just about to start on that mission.

The Russian refugees at Shanghai are said to find no sympathy or succour, though many of them appear to be in a very forlorn plight.

Tuesday, March 8.

M. Lessar, according to a telegram from Peking to the *Jiji Shimpo*, is said to have made representations to the Chinese Government on the subject of the bandits in Manchuria. His Excellency, so the report runs, points out that these bandits are causing much trouble, raising disturbances where tranquillity is desirable, and threatening to tear up, or actually tearing up, railways whose security is of importance to the Russians. Therefore M. Lessar calls upon the Peking Government to instruct Governor-General Tseng that vigorous measures must be adopted to prevent such mishaps, otherwise China's alleged neutrality will be illusory and she will have to bear the consequences of her neglect of duty. It need scarcely be said that the *Jiji's* correspondent comments with amusement upon this extraordinary procedure. Prior to the present crisis Russia not only encouraged the bandits for her own purposes, but even induced respectable citizens to join their ranks. To-day she strenuously denies China's right to send any troops beyond the Great Wall. Yet, at the same time, she requires China to quell disturbances with which a strong force of troops alone could cope. The correspondent alleges that the Chinese Government is quite astounded by the unreasonableness of such demands and does not know how to reply to them. For our own part, we can not credit them. Great as is the ridicule Russia has brought upon herself since this complication entered the stage of arms, we find it impossible to believe that a clever man like Lessar would make himself the mouthpiece of such silliness. Manchuria is the theatre of war, and to require China to quell the bandits there because they inconvenience Russia would be as absurd as to require her to keep the three provinces free from the incursions of Japanese soldiers.

It is stated that the Russians have ordered the immediate removal of all Chinese residing within a distance of 10 *li* (3⅓ miles) on either side of the railway. The plan is to replace these people with railway guards.

The Russians are said to be contemplating the seizure of Sing-min-ching. This town is the first important station on the main road running westward from Mukden. It is on the right bank of the Liao, and consequently its occupation by Russian troops would be an emphatic announcement that the West-Liao region is not within neutral territory.

There is some disturbance reported from Chining in Shantung in connexion with the levy of taxes to meet the Indemnity.

Prince Kudachieff and Mr. Arsenieff, hitherto serving at the Russian Legation in Tokyo, have been transferred to Peking, where they arrived on the 4th instant.

The American warships at Shanghai are becoming veritable men in buckram. They are now said to number ten! With regard to the purpose of their concentration, however, the machines of the canard factory are beginning to work languidly.

Thursday, March 10.

The West-Liao question continues, it would seem, to be vigorously discussed and threatens to assume large dimensions. Yuan is said to have made a very strong representation in the sense that Russia's refusal to recognise as neutral territory a region openly evacuated by her in compliance with treaty obligations, should not be admitted for one moment by the Chinese Government. To this Prince Ching is alleged to have replied that such an attitude on China's part, being unsupported by adequate force, could not be usefully maintained and that it will be better to allow things to take their course. Meanwhile Russia is renewing her threats. Seeing that Chan-yang has become the head quarters of a Chinese force of 30,000 men, and that the same is true of Yung-ping, the former army being under Viceroy Yuan's command and the latter under General Ma's, M. Lessar has informed the Wai-wu-pu that military preparations of such magnitude can not be reconciled with any theory of strict neutrality and that if China persists in her imprudent course, Russia will have to take suitable steps in her own interests. It is not to be conceived that Japan will remain a silent spectator of these things. She is evidently adopting the wise and dignified plan of not figuring in the petty rôles that Russian statesmen have chosen to fill at this juncture. She left them to worry over the *Mandjur* bone of contention until the spectacle excited the ridicule of the world, and she is barely noticing—but in a crushing manner it must be admitted—the querulous and school-girl-like complaints of Russia about breaches of the law of nations and the neutrality of Korea. But the Liao problem may touch her closely, for Russia seems bent upon magnifying it into an excuse for disregarding China's neutrality and deliberately gathering all the illegal advantages resulting from such disregard. It does not appear to strike the Russians that in attempting to place the West Liao region beyond the neutral pale they are openly proclaiming their own flagrant faithlessness to promises, proclaiming that their pretended evacuation of the region during the period ended on Oct. 8th, 1902, was a mere farce. The fact is that in all cases they pursue their present purposes without any regard to past events and with corresponding indifference to good faith. This plan of drawing a sponge boldly over the record and starting altogether afresh requires considerable recklessness, and assumes on the part of the public a singular complaisance of memory.

In the context of the above it has to be noted that the Russian troops are said to have pushed their outposts as far as Kinchow, the neighbourhood of which place, as well as the city itself, they are said to be devastating after the fire-and-sword fashion of their Asiatic warfare. Of course all these accounts of their violence to peaceful inhabitants must be taken with reserve as coming from hostile sources of intelligence, but even after that equation has been sufficiently applied, there remains enough to show that they are cruel first and tactful afterwards. Kinchow is an important city at the north-western corner of the Gulf of Pechili. The Newchwang railway runs westward along the shore of the Gulf as far as Kinchow and then turns south to Shanhaikwan and Tientsin. If Russian soldiers are in occupation of Kinchow it means that they have seized the whole of the West-Liao region along the Gulf of Pechili and that China's pretence of preserving neutrality there has been treated with contempt. Newchwang now is distinctly in the belligerent zone, and is liable to be attacked by the Japanese fleet at any moment. History will write it down as one of the most curious incidents in the story of nations that the great Powers of the West sit with folded hands and craven faces while Russia treats their subjects and their interests exactly as suits her own convenience. The open-port fiction is now effectually exposed. When Japan was in the field nine years ago, the neutrality of Shanghai was asserted by a purely arbitrary and forceful process. Now that Russia is in the field she is shrinkingly permitted to convert treaty ports into fighting fields according to her own sweet will.

Prince Pu-lun, who is to proceed to the St. Louis Exhibition, reached Woosung on the 9th and after inspecting the forts and ships, proceeded to Shanghai where he landed on the 10th. He was to be entertained by Consul-General Odagiri, and his plan is to leave Shanghai for Japan on the 15th instant in the S.S. *Amping*.

THE "MANDJUR."

Friday, March 4.

The *Mandjur* question remains open. Russia is snapping her fingers in China's face. She ought to be tired of the futile amusement by this time. And for what a paltry object do her misguided officials cover her with the reproach of deliberately defying the law of nations! A little gun-boat is the whole *corpus vile*. Russia values her reputation very slightly.

Saturday, March 5.

The *Mandjur* question seems to have been at last settled. Her armament was to be transferred to the Customs Warehouse on the 5th instant. M. Lessar may be a clever diplomatist. He has the reputation of being. But we must frankly say that he has made a poor figure in this business. He must have known that the disarming of the *Mandjur* was quite inevitable, and that to defer the operation by paltry pretexts and frivolous objections was at once undignified and unmanly.

Monday, March 7.

Probably the *Mandjur* is by this time disarmed. It would seem that Japan did not think it worth while to make any international protest about such a paltry matter. The laugh is now wholly at Russia's expense.

Tuesday, March 8.

The *Mandjur's* disarmament continues to be a matter of discussion. It will soon, and indeed it is already, one of the biggest jokes conceivable. The action of the Russian officials with regard to this petty little craft establishes a record of pragmatical fussiness.

Thursday, March 10.

That stupendous problem the *Mandjur* appears to be still a subject of discussion. Some accounts say that her disarmament has already commenced; others allege that it has been delayed because the Shanghai Municipality declines to have dumped down in the model settlement a party of Russian marines who are most unlikely to prove themselves eligible neighbours during a long period of enforced residence. Probably the puzzle will be disentangled sooner or later.

KOREA.

Friday, March 4.

The Russians continue their futile activity in the neighbourhood of the Tumen. Those that were reported on the 2nd instant as having penetrated into Korea as far as Ungkwi Bay, are now said to have withdrawn, and others have made an excursion up the Tumen as far as Onjo. Somebody probably feels the effect of these movements, but their object can not be very serious.

There are new estimates of the number of Russians gathered on the northern frontier of Korea. Yesterday rumour said that Kiulien was not garrisoned; to-day two thousand men are assigned to it. One can not tell what to believe. The most extreme estimate, however, does not give Russia more than a few thousand men in the vicinity of the Yalu.

The pro-Russian anti-Japanese party in Seoul have had recourse to dynamite. Two bombs were thrown into the houses of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Li Chi-yong, and his Secretary at 1.30 a.m. on the 2nd instant. The bomb failed to explode in the case of the Minister's house, and besides the Minister was absent. At the Secretary's residence no one was hurt: some furniture alone suffered. These acts are supposed to have been perpetrated by members of the Peddlers' Guild which was lately disbanded by order of the Authorities, but the instigators are believed to have been Kil Yong-chu and his fellow-thinkers. Five of the Guild were arrested by the Japanese police, but there being no conclusive evidence against them they were released.

Later telegrams say that the plot of Li Yong-in, Vice-President of the Privy Council, has signally failed, and that public opinion is now unequivocally inclined towards Japan. The *Kokumin Shimbun* affirms that it would be a mistake to interpret these doings as having any political significance. They are merely the results of struggles for office. The Koreans probably believe that the Japanese contemplate radical changes such as were essayed after the war of 1894-5, and are therefore solicitous about the distribution of offices under the new regimen.

Tokyo journals allege that Viscount Aoki is likely to proceed to Seoul as adviser to the Korean Government under the terms of the new Protocol, and that he will discharge functions similar to those undertaken by Count Inouye in 1895. If Viscount Aoki undertake this task, it will be very fortunate for Korea and for Japan also.

It is alleged that the United States Representative in Seoul has applied to the Korean Government for permission to send sixty American marines to guard the property of United States citizens at Unsan. This news appears in the *Asahi*, but we hesitate to attach any credit to it.

The *Nippon* has a telegram from Seoul saying that the Korean Government have placed at the disposal of Japan until the close of the war the line of telegraph between Pyong-yang and Seoul.

The same paper says that work will soon be commenced on the Seoul-Wiju Railway, but the assertion is surely premature.

Mr. Hayashi is said to be pressing for the final steps with regard to the opening of Wiju, and the English Representative is pointing out that unless Yong Am-pho be included in the limits of Wiju, it can not be said that trade has been made free on the Yalu line.

On the 4th instant Mr. Hayashi proceeded to the Palace to tender thanks to the Emperor of Korea, the Crown Prince and Prince Yong for contributing 180,000 *yen* to the Soldiers Relief Fund.

Saturday, March 5.

It is stated that the Russians are keenly on the alert along the north-east frontier of Korea, and that they are watching the coasts of Possiet Bay and Ungkwi-wan in considerable force.

Mr. Hayashi is said to have addressed the Korean Government in very strong terms about the bomb outrage, insisting that vigorous measures must be adopted by the police.

The German Minister in Seoul, of whom little has been heard of late, is reported to be now seeking an audience of the Emperor, and to be pressing for assent to his long-ago-preferred request for a gold-mining concession.

It is denied that the United States Minister in Seoul has made any proposal in the sense of despatching American troops to Unsan, where the mining property of his nationals is threatened, or has been seized, by Russian soldiers.

Sunday, March 6.

The Emperor of Japan has conveyed through Mr. Hayashi a warm acknowledgment of the generosity of the Korean Court in contributing a sum of 180,000 *yen* to the Soldiers Relief Fund. When the Japanese Representative proceeded to the Palace to deliver this message, the Emperor of Korea is said to have taken the opportunity of expressing his satisfaction with the new Korean-Japanese Protocol.

The Korean Representative in St. Petersburg having been ordered to withdraw, inasmuch as Korea is now Japan's ally and therefore Russia's enemy, has retired to Paris.

It appears that the Korean police are not taking sufficiently vigorous measures to protect the officials who were recently attacked with bombs, or to arrest the leaders of the anti-Japanese agitation. Mr. Hayashi has been obliged to make a representation to the Korean Government. The present idea is that these bomb-throwers were seeking merely to create an impression that the recently concluded Protocol was not liked by the Korean public and that Japan forced it upon Korea against the latter's will. This by way of precaution against the contingency that the Russian dog may ultimately come out on top.

The 24 wounded Russians who have been undergoing medical treatment at Chemulpo, were sent away in the hospital ship *Hakuai Maru* on the 5th instant. They are to be transferred to the hospital at Matsuyama in Iyo. It appears that five of these men were despaired of by the ship's doctors, but their lives have been saved by skilful operations.

A British man-of-war put into Yuen-san on the 5th *en route* for Sonchin, where she goes to carry away the missionaries.

The *Jiji Shimpo* has a telegram from Seoul saying that the leaders of the anti-Japanese party, Li Hakkeun and Kil Yong-chu, are endeavouring to incite the Korean soldiers in Pyong-yang to lend their aid for a *coup d'etat* against Li Chi-yong, the present Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The ice on the Tadong broke up on the 4th instant, and the river became navigable, so that Chin-nam-po is now accessible to steamers.

The *Talbot* is said to have left Chemulpo for Sonchin with the object of carrying away from thence any British subjects that may desire to withdraw.

Rumours continue to arrive that Kil Yong-chu and Li Hák-keun are inciting the Korean soldiers in Pyong-yang and the Peddlers' Guild to make some violent demonstration against the party responsible for the Protocol recently concluded. On the other hand, news comes that in reply to Mr. Hayashi's application for stronger measures to protect life and property, the Korean Government has stated that the arrest of Kil Yong-chu and his accomplices has been ordered, and that they will be dealt with severely.

Tuesday, March 8.

It is stated that work will be commenced on the Pyong-yang section of the Seoul-Wiju railway by the 10th of this month, and that the work will probably be finished before the close of the year. Presumably this first section is to be a military line.

Steamers are now busily plying between Chemulpo and Chinampo, the ice on the Tadong having broken up a few days ago.

There is a report that the telegraph between Fusan and Yuensan has been cut.

It is alleged that the Prince Imperial of Korea desires to pay a visit to Japan. He has asked the Emperor for permission and is likely to receive it. This is from the *Nippon.*

Wednesday, March 9.

It appears that the Korean Government is showing marked reluctance to publish in the *Official Gazette* the text of the new Protocol, and that Mr. Hayashi is urging the necessity of a step without which the officials of Korea can not learn authoritatively the terms of the new convention. This we take from the *Nippon* with all reserves of credence.

The Emperor of Korea has addressed to all local officials throughout his dominions a notice that whereas the Japanese army duly pays for all provisions or military necessaries requisitioned by it, the sums defrayed are often diverted to the pockets of the officials and never find their way to the owners of the goods. Such a practice is denounced by His Majesty, who announces that any one convicted of it shall be severely punished.

It is stated that two Koreans, Messrs. Min and Li—names which signify very little—have been arrested at Chemulpo when *en route* for Shanghai, there to confer with M. Pavlow. We begin to understand why M. Pavlow has remained at Shanghai. It would have been better for the peace of the East had he continued his journey westward.

Undoubtedly the Korean Government has a peck of troubles on hand at present. A list is given by the *Nichi Nichi*. There are, the opening of Yong Am-pho; the concession for the Seoul-Wiju railway; the promulgation of the Protocol; the circulation of Japanese war-notes; the bomb outrage; the compensation to Mr. Asada for the destruction of his store at Chemulpo; the solatium for the family of Mr. Kubo Goichi who was murdered at Kaisong; the question of compensation to the Seoul Electric Railway Company, and the applications for mining concessions by the French, Belgian and Italian Ministers. Our contemporary says that these matters are all under consideration, and that the questions concerning Japanese subjects or Japanese interests are likely to be decided favourably. That is probable.

It is again stated that work has been actually commenced on the Seoul-Wiju line—military work, of course.

The expectation is that Marquis Ito will set out before the middle of the month. He will be accompanied by Mr. Tsuzuki Keiroku, Chief Secretary of the Privy Council; Major-General Usagawa, Rear-Admiral Sakamoto, Viscount Higashizono, Imperial Chamberlain; Mr. Kokubo, Second Secretary of Legation; Mr. Sakata Jujiro, Councillor of the Foreign Office, and Mr. Furiya, Private Secretary of the Imperial Court Investigation Bureau. Tokyo newspapers state that this mission resembles that entrusted to Marquis Saionji at the time of the China-Japan war, and that the Marquis will not remain more than a week or ten days in Seoul. The *Nichi Nichi* does not think that the mission has any special administrative significance, but that it is merely an expression, as emphatic as possible, of the relations that the Emperor of Japan desires to establish between his country and Korea. The first subject in this country is despatched to show the importance of the embassy. The *Chuo*, whose editor is very close to Marquis Ito, is persuaded that His Excellency's presence in Seoul will be taken as an opportunity for definitely fixing Korea's future policy.

Four members of the Korean Cabinet are said to have resigned, but only one resignation was accepted, that of Kwan Chai-hyong, President of the Privy Council.

It appears, according to the *Jiji's* intelligence from Korea, that the three members of the Peddlers' Guild arrested in connexion with the bomb-throwing outrage, have confessed that they were virtually compelled to make the attempt by Kil Yong-chu and the pro-Russian party. Of course in speaking of pro-Russians in this context we do not mean to suggest for a moment that any Russian inspiration was at work. The truth seems to be that this affair is merely another illustration of the tendency of political intrigues in Korea. Kil Yong-chu and his friends found themselves thrust out into the cold and in danger of worse things—as they supposed—, and therefore they plotted a step which might terrorize their rivals into less drastic procedure. A complication is that the present chief of police is the man under whose directions An Kyen-su, the leader of the pro-Japanese party, was done to death by torture in 1902. It was in fact for that exploit that he received the appointment of chief of police. He now declines, or shows reluctance, to proceed against the implicated members of the Peddlers' Guild, and his removal from office will therefore be the next step in the drama. But, characteristically enough, that reform is to be deferred until after the 15th instant, when the obsequies of the Empress-Dowager are to be performed. In Korea the course of justice and the preservation of public order are considerations subservient to the regularity of Court etiquette and State functions. Really it seems that the little empire has not made the slightest fundamental progress during the past twenty years. The evil is not quite as prominent as it used to be, but the concealing cover is very thin. Marquis Ito will have his hands full if he really intends to stretch them out for Korean assistance. We trust that he will be radical. Patchwork is evidently of no manner of use. The Marquis has achieved great things in his own country, but then he had excellent material to work with. Perhaps his perspicacity may enable him to discover some good material in Korea also, but that is a slender hope.

The *Shogyo Shimbun* says that the ice on the Yalu recently began to melt.

Marquis Ito is expected to leave Tokyo about the 12th or 13th and to embark at Kobe.

The two Koreans arrested at Chemulpo when *en route* for Shanghai to confer with M. Pavlow, have been released on taking the oath of fealty.

RUSSIA'S NAVAL FORCE IN THE FAR EAST.

The *Kokumin Shimbun* publishes a statement said to have been compiled in a most trustworthy quarter with regard to Russia's naval force in the Far East. We learn from this statement that, torpedo-craft excepted, the total displacement of the squadron was originally 206,173 tons and the number of vessels 34; out of which the ships no longer able to take their place in the fighting line are 6 with a displacement of 42,848 tons, besides 4 with a displacement of 26,676 tons which have been injured but are still capable of fighting. Thus the unscathed squadron totals 24 vessels of 136,649 tons displacement. But among these last there are 14 ships with a displacement of 36,390 tons, which can not be classed as good fighting material. It results finally that the ships able to take their place in the first fighting line are 10, with a displacement of 100,359 tons.

The details of the above calculation are as follows:—

SUNK OR INJURED SO AS TO BE UNABLE TO FIGHT

	Tons.
Retvisan	12,902
Tsarevitch	12,915
Pallada	6,731
Varyag	6,500
Yenisei	2,590
Koreetz	1,210
Total 6 ships	42,848

To these must be added the *Sevastopol* (10,960 tons), which appears to have met with some accident incapacitating her:—

SHIPS INJURED BUT STILL CAPABLE OF FIGHTING.

	Tons.
Poltava	10,960
Askold	5,905
Novik	3,080
Diana	6,731
Totals 4 ships	26,676

To these should be added, according to Viceroy Alexieff's report, the *Petropavlovsk* (10,960 tons) and the *Boyarin* (3,200 tons).

Putting the matter otherwise, out of the 7 battleships in the Russian squadron when hostilities broke out, no less than 5—the *Retvisan*, the *Tsarevitch*, the *Sevastopol*, the *Poltava* and the *Petropavlovsk*—are either wholly or partially crippled; out of the 9 first-class cruisers, 4—the *Pallada*, the *Varyag*, the *Diana* and the *Askold*—are in the same category; and out of the [illegible] second-class cruisers, 1—the *Novik*—has been injured, and the other—the *Boyarin*—has either gone ashore or been torpedoed.

It would result that Russia's first-class fighting force is now reduced to

AT PORT ARTHUR:

2 Battle-ships—the *Peresviet* and *Pobieda*, sister-ships of 12,674 tons displacement—, and one armoured cruiser, the *Bayan* (7,800 tons).

AT VLADIVOSTOCK:

Three armoured cruisers—the *Gromoboi* (12,336 tons), the *Rossia* (12,200 tons), and the *Rurik* (10,940 tons)—, and one protected cruiser—the *Bogatyr* (6,750 tons).

In other words, out of a squadron of 18 line-of-battle ships and cruisers, there now remain fit for the fight 2 battle-ships and 5 cruisers; the Port Arthur detachment being 2 battle-ships and one cruiser, and the Vladivostock detachment 4 cruisers.

WAR NOTES.

Friday, March 4.

It is stated that work has been finished on the line-of-battleship *Alexander III*; that the *Borodino* will be finished in July; the *Orel* in August, and that the *Knias Suvaroff* can not be ready for sea before next year. It would thus appear that in September next Russia will be able to send out three of this group of fine ships.

The Vladivostock *Eastern News* of the 10th instant seems to have published a wildly abusive and childishly contemptuous article about Japan. It calls her a mad idiot, alleges that she is a mere monkey knowing nothing of foreign intercourse except its superficialities, talks about solemn declarations of war and such stuff, and altogether betrays the frantic intemperance of a hysterical woman. The conclusion reached is that Japan has acquired the perennial title of "armed pirate."

The Osaka *Mainichi*, having published matter which it knew—having been so instructed—to be injurious to its country's interests, has been excluded from the Naval Department in the matter of subscriptions and news.

Sunday, March 6.

In the *Chuo* we read that the *Manchuria* and the *Mongolia* are now in dock at Nagasaki and that their repairs are almost fully completed. The *Chuo* says that they have become prizes and will be at once used in the public service of Japan. They are both fine steamers of nearly 4,000 tons, the property of the East Chinese Railway Company, but we question the accuracy of the *Chuo's* statement as to their being now in dock at Nagasaki.

Monday, March 7.

It is expected that the Prince Imperial will join the Imperial Head Quarters when His Majesty moves to Kyoto, and that Vice-Admiral Prince Arisugawa, whose health does not warrant him in taking active service, will also be a member of the Head Quarter Staff.

It would appear that the news of Japan's successes has aroused great enthusiasm at Singapore. With the exception of the French element of the population the rejoicing is universal. The Jews pray every morning in their synagogue for Japan's victory, and in the theatres a piece representing the night-attack by the torpedoes is vehemently cheered.

A Japanese steamer reports that on her way northward from Hongkong, at a distance of 80 miles out, she was brought within the field of an English destroyer's search-light.

At Hongkong there has been a fancy dress ball where Port Arthur incidents found ponrtrayers, to the great satisfaction of onlookers.

A London telegram, dated Feb. 24, which appears in the *Hongkong Daily Press*, says:—Seventy miles of railway and bridges between Harbin and Vladivostock have been destroyed. In Japan the length was put at 2 kilometers.

The *Kokumin Shimbun* says that on the 26th of February the *Fuji*, the *Yashima*, the *Chitose* and the *Takasago* received orders to take possession of the small islands lying on the north-east of Talien off the coast of the the Liaotung peninsula. The principal of these islands—which on foreign maps are marked as the Elliot Group—is Haiyun, in which is situated Thornton Harbour. The ships proceeded thither on the 28th and landed a party of marines at [illegible] a.m. They found the inhabitants—some 500 people—much alarmed at this apparition of an armed force, but as for Russian occupation, the only traces of it were some signal flags and a quantity of coal, the Russians having withdrawn on the 23rd of the same month.

The commanders of the *Asama* and *Chiyoda* have presented to the Emperor some mementoes of the *Varyag*.

Tuesday, March 8.

It is now denied that Viceroy Alexieff has received any wound. Several foreigners recently saw him conversing with his countrymen on the platform at Tashikiao station, and observed that he was in his usual state of health.

A certain consul who recently returned to Peking from Vladivostock, is represented as saying that some two thousand Japanese residents, having lost their opportunity of getting away by the *Afridi* or previously by sailing vessels, have been obliged to repair to Habarovsk where they are held prisoners by the Russians.

London says—we do not know on what authority—that the plan of the Russians is to draw the Japanese into the interior of Manchuria. Naturally the further inland the campaign is carried, the nearer it gets to Russia's base and the less trouble she has with her long line of railway. But it is difficult to reconcile such a programme with her tenure of Port Arthur and her excursions into Korean territory from the directions of the Yalu and Tumen.

The *Asahi* is informed from Peking that the Russians have great difficulty in getting the assistance of transport coolies in Manchuria. Even at largely increased rates of pay, the inhabitants are all refusing to serve. They will probably soon get something in addition to pay. The same paper learns from the same source that Vladivostock is in great straits for provisions. How can such news reach Peking, we wonder. There must be a strict censorate of all the wires communicating with Vladivostock.

H. I. H. Prince Fushimi has given his house in Tokyo for military use in the event of a certain mobilization, and the authorities have accepted the offer.

Thursday, March 10.

The Russian paper published in Harbin says that the Russian authorities have issued orders for buying up 20,000 poods of grain in the Amur region and the whole of the available supply in the Baikal district.

We extract the following from *The Times'* Paris letter:—

"A leading article on the Russo-Japanese conflict in to-day's (Jan. 22nd) *Republique Francaise*, the leading Conservative Republican organ, contains the following, which it gives as a fact little known in Europe, but which has left profound traces in peoples' minds in the Far East. It appears that on the morrow of the Japanese victory over the Chinese the Russian admiral present in those regions proposed to Admiral de Beaumont, who was in charge of the French squadron, that they should attack and destroy the Japanese fleet, which owing to the hard work it had already done would be unable to offer any serious resistance. The French admiral declined the proposed co-operation, having no orders, and perhaps also, adds the *Republique Francaise*, because such action appeared to him inconsistent with his duty and with the rules of the law of nations."

WAR AND PATRIOTIC FUNDS.

Subscriptions to the new War Loan commenced on the 1st instant, and had exceeded the amount required—100 million *yen*—in the first four days of the allotted 10-day period. From the returns it appears that 60 persons subscribed for amounts under 10,000 *yen*; 25 persons for amounts varying from 10,000 to 100,000; 14 persons for sums between 100,000 and 1,000,000, and 3 persons—Prince Shimazu, Prince Mori and Marquis Mayeda—for sums of over a million. The following are the names of some of the principal subscribers among the nobles:—

	Yen.
Marquis Tokugawa	300,000
„ Asano	300,000
„ Kuroda	200,000
„ Hachisuka	200,000
„ Matsudaira	150,000
„ Ikeda	150,000
Prince Tokugawa	100,000
Count Toda	100,000
Count Matsudaira	100,000
Viscount Matsudaira	100,000
Count Sakai	100,000
Prince Shimazu (junior)	100,000
Count Hotta	100,000
The *Kwazoku Kwaikwan*	100,000
Prince Shimazu (senior)	1,000,000
Prince Mori	1,000,000
Marquis Mayeda	1,000,000

Thus far the names of only one Imperial Prince and one Imperial Princess appear for large sums: that is to say, Prince Arisugawa, 30,000 *yen*, and Princess (Dowager) Komatsu 50,000. The International Oil Company of Yokohama are subscribers for 100,000 *yen* worth at a figure above par (95).

The subscriptions for the new loan of 100 million *yen* reached 232,141,750 *yen* up to the 7th instant. The Emperor's subscription of 20 millions was made on the 9th.

It is stated that the war taxes will be on land, on incomes, on business, on *sake*, on sugar and on tobacco. There is also some talk of taxing salt and silk stuffs, but a decision has not yet been reached. The amount to be obtained is put at 70 million *yen*, which has to be supplemented by a large sum—some say 50 millions—procured from postponements of public works, including railways. The effect of increasing the land tax will not be felt as much as might be supposed as there will be no corresponding increase of local land rates. The rate is now actually 3.3 per cent., and under the terms of the five-year-period law it would revert to 2.5 per cent. next month, when the total produce of the tax would be 36 million *yen*. The idea is to double this latter figure. The Treasury would then benefit to the amount of 36 millions, but the difference to the people would be only the difference between 3.3 and 5 per cent., namely 1.7 per cent. It is understood that no objection whatever will be made to the proposed increase, but there may be some dispute about the period, one view being that a number of years should be fixed and another that nothing definite should be settled.

THE IMPERIAL SOLDIERS RELIEF SOCIETY (*Teikoku Gunjin Yengo-kwai*).

The object of this Society is to assist the families of military men killed or maimed in the war. A certain measure of aid is given in such cases by the Government, but of course there are many, a great many, instances calling for special assistance, and these it is that the Society hopes to meet. The promoters are all prominent business men—Messrs. Soyeda, Kato (Masayoshi), Asabuki (Yeiji) and Masuda (Ko). The following are the largest sums that have thus far been subscribed:—

	Yen.
Prince Shimazu	30,000
Prince Mori	30,000
Prince Tokugawa (Senior)	10,000
Marquis Tokugawa (Owari)	10,000
Marquis Tokugawa (Kishu)	10,000
Marquis Mayeda	20,000
Marquis Asano	10,000
Count Matsukata	10,000
Count Inouye	10,000
Baron Iwasaki (Hisaya)	50,000
Baron Mitsui	50,000
Baron Shibusawa	10,000
Mr. Yasuda Zenjiro	30,000
Mr. Furukawa Junkichi	30,000
Mr. Sumitomo Kichiyemon	30,000
Mr. Okura Kihachiro	20,000
Mr. Akaboshi Yanosuke	20,000
Mr. Fujita Denzaburo	20,000
Mr. Konoike Zenyemon	20,000
Total of 19 subscriptions	420,000

The *Gunjin Yengo-kai* seems likely to prove a most successful institution. We gave above a list of nineteen contributors who had put up a sum of 420,000 *yen*. On the 6th instant a meeting of the Society was held in the Mitsui Club, when Counts Inouye and Matsukata delivered addresses. Subsequently several new subscriptions were announced; as Mr. Masuda Ko, ten thousand *yen*, Mr. Tanaka Chobei, ten thousand; Mr. Asano Toichiro, ten thousand; Mr. Kondo Rempei, five thousand; Mr. Makoshi Kyohei, five thousand, &c. The contributions now exceed half a million.

The Prince and Princess Imperial have contributed 2,500 *yen* to the *Aikoku Fujin-Kai* (Patriotic Women's Association).

Japanese securities continue to fall in London. The five-per-cents are now quoted at £75 5s., and the four-per-cents at £65 5s. It is stated that certain shrewd German merchants of Yokohama see a good opening here, and are making arrangements to purchase these securities.

The Emperor and Empress have presented a sum of 12,000 *yen* to the Patriotic Ladies' League, and the Prince and Princess Imperial have given 2,500 *yen*. On the 27th of this month the Lady President, Princess Kanin, has summoned a meeting of all the local branches to take place at the Kanin Palace.

THE TOKYO DRAMATIC & MUSICAL SOCIETY.

This Society, which has been inactive for some time, is rousing itself to assist the benevolent movement now so general. A theatrical performance is projected when, we learn, three plays will be given. In the first Madame la Baronne D'Anethan and Mrs. Marsh will take part; in the second, Mr. and Mrs. Clegg, Mrs. Marsh, Madame la Baronne D'Anethan and Mr. Laughlin; and in the third Mrs. Barclay and Mr. Brady. With her usual kindness Viscountess Aoki has consented to allow the rehearsals to take place at her house. There will be two performances, one in Tokyo at the Shorei-kwai and one, a week later, at the Public Hall in Yokohama. Ladies of Tokyo and Yokohama are to be patronesses, and their names will be announced at a later date. The proceeds are to be contributed to the fund for the wives and children of soldiers at the front; a cause that ought to enlist universal sympathy for many families, who, deprived of their bread-winners, obliged to take the field, are already suffering distress.

THE FOREIGN RELIEF ASSOCIATION.

The following are the names of those that have consented to act as the Tokyo Executive Committee of the Yokohama and Tokyo Foreign Residents Association for the relief of sufferers by the War :—

Mr. E. J. Blockhuys
Mr. R. W. Irwin
Mr. W. H. Stone
Mr. A. A. Deguy.
Mr. R. Lehmann.

Intending subscribers to the Yokohama and Tokyo Foreign Residents' Association for the Relief of Sufferers by the War should take an early opportunity of sending in their names to either of the British banks, the local heads of which are Honorary Treasurers. There are reasons for suggesting that those who are in sympathy with this project should immediately signify their support of it. No doubt to some it has appeared that there has as yet been very little of such suffering as might justly call for extensive relief, but surely no one supposes that this dreadful conflict can or will be carried on without the infliction of widespread sorrow and misery. The pressing need will arise all too soon and the work of rendering assistance will be much facilitated if before it comes the Honorary Treasurers have a substantial sum in sight, and a goodly list of names. It is hardly necessary to point out that the objects of the Fund will be with difficulty attained if everybody holds back until a great battle with its terrible casualty lists moves them to active compassion and loosens their purse-strings. In this case as indeed in all cases where succour is intended it is emphatically true that *Bis dat qui cito dat.*

THE U.S. AND CONTRACT LABOUR.

We are not unaccustomed to hearing of cases in which the provisions of the United States Contract Labour Law have been enforced with a rigidity that is singularly inconsistent with the claims made for the "Open Door" in other parts of the world, that citizens may have an equal share with the peoples of all lands in commercial and industrial privileges. A very little investigation has usually—indeed, it may safely be said, always—been sufficient to show that those objectionable enforcements were made at the demand of political demagogues who sought favour in the sight of certain classes of voters, rarely native-born; that they do not truthfully represent the feelings of the real citizen of the United States, who knows his civilization to be of stouter stuff than to be endangered by a little abrasion of underpaid alien labourers. An incident has lately come to our notice that tends to prove the correctness of that opinion, and, it is to be regretted, evinces a spirit of labour union tyranny in England which for vindictiveness is more repulsive than anything lately heard of. Certain of the facts were mentioned some time ago, but the details have recently been received. Stourbridge, in Worcestershire, is the birthplace and present home of the English flint-glass industry, which was founded there some four hundred years ago by Hungarian refugees. The Stourbridge glass-blowers were said to have wrested the palm from their Bohemian fellows, just as the latter had stolen it from the Venetians. But, with the facilities afforded by the natural-gas supply of fuel in certain sections of western New York and Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio. West Virginia, etc., coupled with the ease with which raw materials of superior quality are obtained in that district, the palm of th eflint-glass manutacture passed still farther westward. American factories cannot fill their orders: French and Belgian competitors steal the colonial trade from England, while the Stourbridge glassworks, like so many other British industries, limp and halt and languish on half-time and half-pay. Workmen of the highest skill, who in the United States would earn five to ten dollars a day, are and have been for months earning for their families only ten shillings a week.

Under these circumstances, twelve of the more ambitious of the Stourbridge glass-workers determined to try their fortunes in the United States. Their objective point was Coruing, N.Y., where one of their fellow townsmen, who had left Stourbridge only a few months before, was general manager of the Steuben glassworks. He wrote to his home that skilled flint-glass-blowers were difficult to get in the States, and promised to employ all twelve at wages beyond their wildest dreams, and not only that but he could guarantee full time and constant employment. It must be remembered that the obnoxious Contract Labour Law is understood to make exception of such skilled, technical labour as cannot readily be found among citizens of good standing in the United States, and the fact that the general manager himself had been permitted to take his first job, is strong evidence in favour of that understood construction of the law. Now, one would naturally suppose that the fellow workmen of those twelve glass-blowers at Stourbridge would have been very glad to see them go, from purely selfish motives, if they did not rejoice at the good prospects of their friends, because it would be logical to say that the fewer workmen there were, the more work there would be to divide up among the remainder. If anyone were to object, it would appear to be natural that the employers should be the ones to do so, seeing their supply of skilled labour lessened. But in this case the probabilities of common sense were reversed. The British employer, although he doubtless has some regrets, is of too good stuff as a rule to put a stumbling block in the path of a workman who starts out bravely to better himself. The fellow-workmen, however, the Glassworkers' Friendly Society, to which all twelve belonged, of necessity not from choice, instead of rejoicing at the good luck of their fellows, resented the leaving of those men, resented it with a malignant perversity that suggested the placing of every possible obstacle in the path of the emigrating workmen. The weapon which the British union chose was the alien contract law of the United States. That law was passed in the early eighties twenty years ago, when owners of coal-mines were in the habit of engaging low-priced labourers, literally by the ship-load, in Italy and Austria, and taking them to the United States to supplant the high-priced, assertive resident workmen; but the law has always been a dead letter when it is evident that the imported labourers will not supplant workmen already in the country, are not intended to be used for breaking the market price of labour, or are of a class such as cannot be obtained in the States. The final outcome of the recent Philippine Islands case, tends to show this; but it likewise shows how easily a law that is fundamentally unrighteous can be made to serve bad ends. In the case of the Stourbridge glassworkers, the immigration officials had no intention of interfering with these skilled workmen who were actually needed, but the British Glassworkers' Friendly Society wrote to an affiliated body, the Glassworkers' Friendly Society of America, telling of the contract, if contract it were, of the departure of their fellow-workmen, and giving a minute personal description, including colour of hair, eyes, etc., such as would make detection of the immigrants easy. The president of the American Society turned over this information to the immigration officials of the Department of Commerce and Labour, and supplemented it with gross perversion of facts—setting forth that these immigrants were intended to deprive other workmen of lucrative employment, etc., and the twelve workmen were stopped at the frontier. After a futile appeal to Secretary Cortelyou, their deportation was ordered; yet when the facts became publicly known there was a howl of indignation that will probably go a long way towards helping to secure readjustment of the present humiliating conditions. On both sides of the Atlantic, newspapers are expressing the indignation which naturally all feel at the inhuman act of the British Friendly (?) Society, and at the sniffling shrewdness of the American Union officials, all of whom seem to be commending themselves for having done a bit of detective work equal to the best article that Sherlock Holmes could show. The officials of the U.S. Immigration Bureau are to be excused in this case, for it is admitted that they tried to read the law liberally not literally, but the result of the episode shows up Labour Unionism in its worst possible phase. It seems that the persecution of the twelve glass-workers who went to the United States, is on just the same lines as similar instances in which various labour unions have sought—and successfully—to prevent workmen from leaving their places without consent of the district labour organisation, in order that the labour leaders might control absolutely the supply of all kinds of labour. The alien contract law of the United States is a blot on the statute books of any country, and until, it is repealed, will stultify all claims to freedom and the inalienable rights of man; but the fact that it can be used, as it appears to have been used in this case, to help resuscitate the condition in England of the Middle Ages, when peasants were whipped, branded, or even hanged for leaving their parishes without permission, must tend to bring it into such contempt as shall ensure its repeal.

THE PRIZE COURT.

The *Official Gazette* of the 1st instant contained, as our readers are aware, a list of ships and their cargoes which the Japanese Prize Court had declared to be prizes of War, in accordance with the provisions of the Prize Law of 1894. At the same time, it was notified that any interested parties who might have cause for protest in connexion with the Court's decision, were invited to lodge their protests within 30 days from the date of the notification, namely, the 1st instant. On the following day, that is, the 2nd instant, there was promulgated an Imperial Edict amending the Law of 1894, in the sense that public announcement of ships and cargoes confiscated should be made in two foreign journals published in Japan, as well as in the *Official Gazette*. It would seem that the Edict has betrayed some persons into the error of supposing that the notification made in the *Official Gazette* of the 1st instant was not valid, and that it will have to be repeated in two foreign newspapers, the period of 30 days counting from the date of such repetition. That is not necessarily the case, we learn. The authorities are understood to hold that the notification made under the provisions of the old law is valid and binding.

The crews of the nine Russian steamers made prizes by Japan since the outbreak of war have been taken from Sascho to Nagasaki and there set free. They consist of 252 Russians, 11 Germans, 162 Chinese, 10 Koreans, 3 Norwegians, 5 Danes and 15 Japanese Presumably the Japanese were set free at Sasebo.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

The following statement has been officially published:—

The Imperial Japanese Government are given to understand that the Russian Government have recently addressed a Note to the Powers, in which the Government of Japan are charged with having committed certain acts in Korea which are considered by Russia to be in violation of International Law, and all future orders and declarations of the Korean Government are declared in that Note to be invalid.

The Imperial Government do not find it necessary in the present instance to concern themselves in any way with the opinions or declarations of the Russian Government, but they believe it to be their right and duty to correct mis-statements of fact which, if permitted to remain uncontradicted, might give rise in the minds of neutral Powers to incorrect inferences and conclusions.

Accordingly the Imperial Government make the following statement respecting the five acts, which, in the Note referred to, are declared to be fully proved and confirmed facts.

1. The Imperial Government admit that Japanese troops landed in Korea before the declaration of war was issued, but not before a state of war actually existed between Japan and Russia. The maintenance of the independence and territorial integrity of Korea is one of the objects of the war, and the despatch of troops to the menaced territory was a matter of right and necessity, which had the distinct consent of the Korean Government. The Imperial Government draw a sharp distinction between the landing of Japanese troops in Korea in the actual circumstances of the case and the sending of large bodies of Russian troops to Manchuria without the consent of China, while peaceful negotiations were still in progress.

2. The Imperial Government declare that the allegations under this number are untrue. The Imperial Government did not stop the delivery of Russian telegrams by the Danish cable, neither did they destroy the Korean Government's telegraphic communication. Regarding the alleged sudden attack, Feb. 8th, on two Russian men-of-war in the port of Chemulpo, it is only necessary to say that a state of war existed and that, Korea having given her consent to the landing of Japanese troops at Chemulpo, the harbour of Chemulpo had ceased to be a neutral port, at least as between the belligerents.

3. The Imperial Government have established Prize Courts with full authority to pronounce finally upon the question of the legality of seizures of merchant vessels Accordingly it would manifestly be out of place for the Imperial Government to make any statement regarding the assertion under this number.

4. The Imperial Government also declare the charge under this number to be absolutely and wholly without foundation in fact.

5. The Imperial Government deny the accuracy of the statement under this number. No demand either direct or indirect was addressed by the Japanese Government to the Russian Minister to retire from Korea. On the 10th Feb., the French Chargé d'affaires called on the Japanese Minister and informed him, as he did afterwards in writing, that it was the desire of the Russian Minister to leave Korea and asked the opinion of the Japanese Minister on the subject. The Japanese Minister replied that if the Russian Minister would withdraw in a peaceful manner, taking with him his staff and Legation guard, he would be fully protected by Japanese troops. He did so withdraw of his own free will on the 12th Feb., and an escort of Japanese soldiers was furnished him as far as Chemulpo.

In this connection it may be remarked that the Russian Consul at Fusan remained at his post as late as 28th Feb. It is reported that he was compelled to stay so long in the absence of instructions, which the Russian Minister apparently did not care to give his Consul before his departure. When it was made known that the necessary instructions had at last reached the Russian Consul and that he desired to leave Fusan as soon as possible, the Japanese Consul in the same port offered him every facility for his departure and his passage to Shanghai through Japan was arranged by the latter.

CONCERT IN TOKYO.

A concert was given at the Academy of Music in Tokyo on the afternoon of the 5th in aid of the Ladies Nursing Association of the Red Cross Society. It was under the patronage of H.I.H. Princess Kanin, and of the following foreign ladies:—

Baroness d'Anethan.
Madame d'Ambro.
Madame Melegari.
Madame V. Erckert.
Madame Harmand.
Lady MacDonald.
Madame de Freitas.
Mrs. Wood.

The room was crowded to over-flowing and warm applause greeted each number; well deserved applause, for both the singing and the instrumental music were of the highest quality. We append the programme:—

PROGRAMME.

1. ORCHESTRA:
Wedding March from the Midsummer Night's Dream ....*Mendelssohn.*
Instructors and Students of Tokyo Academy of Music.

2. VIOLIN SOLO:
Fantasia Appassionata ....*Vieuxtemps.*
MISS K. KODA.

3. Soprano Solo from Lakne..............*Delibes.*
MME. ANDRE.

4. ORCHESTRA:
Three Dances from Henry VIII.......*German.*
a. Morris Dance.
b. Shepherd's Dance.
c. Torch Dance.
Instructors and Students of Tokyo Academy of Music.

5. ALTO SOLO (Aria)
Penelope weaving a Garment from Odysseus....................................*Bruch*
MRS. W. T. PAYNE.

6. PIANO SOLO:
Fantasia ....*Hiller.*
PROF. HEYDRICH.

7. BARITONE SOLO:
A May Morning ....*Denza.*
MR. N. G. MAITLAND.

VIOLA SOLO:
Larghetto ....*Nicode.*
PROF. JUNKER.

9. VOCAL DUET:
Oh, That We Two were Maying............*Smith.*
MRS. PAYNE AND MR. MAITLAND.

10. ORCHESTRA: Suite Carmen..................*Bizet.*
a. Prelude. b. Aragonaise.
c. Intermezzo. d. Finale (les Toreadors.)
Instructors and Students of Tokyo Academy of Music.

Conductor:
PROF. A. JUNKER.

"KANJO KISOKU."

In old-time Japan there used to be a custom of handing to *samurai* on the field of battle or immediately afterwards a document called *Kanjô*. This was done only in cases where quite exceptional prowess had been shown, and the value attaching to such a distinction was extraordinary. Of course, in the subsequent distribution of more substantial rewards, the owner of a *Kanjô* received special consideration. Even captains like Hideyoshi and Iyeyasu particularly affected the custom. Their knowledge of men and their experience in the field taught them what a powerful incentive was thus furnished to the brave and the strenuous. There exists to this day a well known book called *Bushô Kanjô-ki*, wherein are inscribed the names of those that obtained this distinction, together with facsimiles of the *Kanjô* themselves, and very interesting reading the latter are. This custom has now been revived. A series of rules called *Kai-Riku Kanjô Juyo Kitei* have been published. The first says that any independent commanding officer, whatever his rank, may bestow a *Kanjô* on any person under his command when such person has shown exceptional merit in the face of the enemy, and when his conduct is of a nature to constitute an example to military men. When a *Kanjô* is granted the event is to be proclaimed to the Army and Navy, but in the event of subsequent misconduct the *Kanjô* may be withdrawn. The fact of a grant is to be reported, together with the details, to the Minister of State for the Army or the Navy, by whom the report will be submitted to the Emperor. The rule is to be retrospective so far as concerns the present war. It may be assumed, therefore, that the leaders of the torpedo squadrons and the officers and petty officers in command of the blocking steamers will be thus distinguished.

DEATH OF FIELD MARSHAL COUNT VON WALDERSEE.

We regret to announce that according to a telegram received at the Imperial German Legation and kindly communicated to us, Field Marshal Count von Waldersee expired on the evening of Saturday the 5th instant. He was, we believe, in his 68th year. His death is a great loss to Germany, and will be widely mourned by many men of all nationalities to whom his tact and kindly courtesy endeared him during the period of his command-in-chief of the allied armies in China.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

Mr. Kurino, former Japanese Minister at St. Petersburg, left Stockholm on March 3rd and will embark on March 16th at Genoa for Japan.

The *Asahi* says that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has chartered 18 foreign steamers aggregating 53,000 tons, for the purpose of carrying on services which were interrupted owing to the diversion of the regular steamers to public purposes. The foreign services in question are the Kobe-Korean, the Yokohama-Shanghai and the Kobe-Kelung; and the domestic services are on the east and west coasts. It need scarcely be said that Tokyo journals rejoice at this resumption of the duties of the mercantile marine. The *Nichi Nichi* notes that the trade between Japan and China received a great impetus from the war of 1894-5, and predicts that the same result will follow from this war. Japan has acquired the mastery of the sea and is able to restore several of her services, whereas all the Russian lines in the Far East are suspended.

Lady Violet Greville, writing in *The Graphic*, makes a pertinent comment on the inequalities of child life in England which can even be applied to conditions prevailing in Yokohama. She says:—While the children of the poor go neglected, it is the fashion of the present day for the children of the rich to be absurdly pampered and spoilt. No rough wind is to blow upon them, no hard way to be trodden, no difficult lesson to be learnt. All is to be made easy. They are dressed up and flattered and caressed until the result in the future may easily be guessed. The spoilt child becomes the selfish woman, the unhappy wife, the bad mother. Small girls whose pictures appear in the illustrated papers as the charming daughters of the beautiful Lady So-and-So, are bound to grow vain and frivolous, and to think themselves little pivots of the universe. If mothers only realised it, children are far happier treated as children and not as grown people or dressed-up dolls. If a child is healthy it is perfectly natural, and shams and show are abhorrent to it. The children of the poor have not enough pleasure in this world; the children of the rich have far too much.

The Egyptian Government has ruled that war-vessels of the belligerents are interdicted from taking their prizes not only through the Suez Canal but also into any of the harbours of Egypt, as Port Said or Suez. In these circumstances it is difficult to see what the Russians can do with any ships captured by them in the Red Sea. They must apparently send them round by the Cape of Good Hope.

General Dragomiroff (or Dragoumirow), whose views as to the abandonment of Port Arthur in order to avoid further reverses are reported by telegram to have been rejected by his colleagues, was one of the most distinguished officers in the Russian army during the Russo-Turkish war, and is the author of a well-known manual on the preparation of troops for battle. He was in command of the advance guard at the passage of the Danube in 1877. He is reported to have strong French tendencies and at the French manœuvres of 1895 was in close attendance on Generals Saussier and Boisdeffre.

Rear-Admiral C. D. Lucas, R.N., whose name has been mentioned in connexion with the forthcoming forty-eighth anniversary of the institution of the Victoria Cross, enjoys the distinction of having been the first recipient of that much-coveted honour. The act of conspicuous bravery, on June 21, 1854, by which he secured it consisted in throwing overboard during the campaign in the Baltic a live shell which had fallen on board the *Hecla*. The V.C. had its origin during the Crimean war, when Queen Victoria felt that some recognition of the personal daring and heroism of her soldiers in that terrible struggle was needed; and it is said that the designs for the first Cross were made by no less a person than the late Prince Consort. Both the Cross and its bar are made from bronze which formerly formed part of Russian guns captured in the Crimea. It may not be generally known that at one time the award was not confined to service in action. An instance occurred in 1866, when a private in the Rifle Brigade was granted the Cross for heroic conduct at a fire in Canada, while a London policeman was among the first batch of recipients decorated by the late Queen in Hyde Park in 1857. By a change made in the warrant in 1885, however, the Victoria Cross can now be earned only by service in the field. Another fact not known to all, perhaps, in connexion with the V.C. is that when it was first instituted the decoration was viewed with anything but favour by many soldiers, who held it to be superfluous and uncalled for. "As well decorate a woman for her virtue as a soldier for being brave," was one famous officer's blunt way of putting it. Nowadays it is, of course, the most highly prized of all distictions.

It is expected, says the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, that their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Arisugawa will visit the St. Louis Exhibition, the Emperor being anxious to mark his sense of the importance of American friendship.

We learn from a London telegram dated Feb. 19th that the Royal eulogy of Lord Roberts contained in the special Army Order issued on the previous evening, in which the King took leave of Lord Roberts as Commander-in-Chief of the Army, was commented upon as another instance where the tact of His Majesty rescued Ministers from an awkward dilemma. The exceedingly curt manner in which the War Office dismissed Lord Roberts deeply incensed the late Commander-in-Chief, and this feeling was shared by the public to such an extent that it threatened to lead to a serious attack on the Government. The King's first intimation of his disapproval of the War Office treatment was to invite Lord Roberts to Buckingham Palace, where marked attention was shown to the Field-Marshal. This has now been followed by the Army Order, which was sent out by the King personally, not, as usually, through the War Office.

THE WAR AND THE BOOKMEN.

It is scarcely surprising, human nature being what it is, that the English and American publishers should take immediate advantage of the present Russo-Japanese strife. Rising nobly to the occasion they appear to be bent on deluging the literary market-place with books dealing with the countries and nations of the Far East, many of them reprinting old works in their entirety, or furbishing up others by adding chapters bringing them up to date; while others are issuing new books by new writers; and each and all are advertising their product as the one and only work likely to adequately satisfy the public craving for knowledge and information. The last few mails from England have brought us several of the new books, among them being the following:—

Korea, by ANGUS HAMILTON: London, William Heinemann.

Japan: Aspects and Destinies: by W. PETRIE WATSON: London, Grant Richards.

Impressions of Japan: by G. H. RITTNER: London, John Murray.

Japanese Physical Training, by H. IRVING HANCOCK: New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons.

The Russian Advance, by Hon. ALBERT J. BEVERIDGE: New York, Harper and Bros.

These volumes are of very diversified interest, but each deserves attention at the present time. Mr. Hamilton, who writes on Korea, seems to have spent some months in the Hermit Kingdom and visited Seoul, Fusan, Chemulpho and the other treaty ports, including Masampho and Wonsan; the monasteries of the Diamond Mountains and the fishing villages of the west coast. He used his opportunities well and his book makes pleasant reading, the pen-pictures it contains giving a very good idea of the present state of affairs in Korea. Of course it is all light and elusive, redolent of modern journalese in manner of treatment, and therefore calling for little labour in the perusal. Readers in the Far East will turn at once to the introductory pages, in which Mr. Hamilton tabulates the strength, naval and military, of the two belligerents, and his description of Port Arthur before the outbreak of war is not flattering to the Russians by any means. Of the Russian soldier he says:—

> The Russian is a phenomenal marcher; the actual weight of his equipment is 58 lbs. 2oz. One tent is carried in section between six men. Each soldier carries in his haversack two and a half days' biscuits. The ration in daily use for war consists of: Biscuit, 1lb. 13oz., meat 7¼ oz., groats, 4½oz., salt, ⅞oz., tea, $\frac{9}{48}$oz., sugar, $\frac{8}{10}$oz., spirits $\frac{1}{7}$ of a pint.
>
> In the exigencies of active service it happens that the Russian soldier must forage for himself. Under any circumstances, however, he sustains himself on very little nourishment and relies in a great measure upon what he can find. The Russian cavalry is armed with sword, rifle, and bayonet. The latter is invariably carried "fixed," even when the weapon itself is slung. A few regiments only carry the lance. The field guns are steel breech-loaders manufactured at the Obukhov works. They are akin to the Krupp pattern; many, however, have the interupted screw breech and the de Bange obturation. At present there are many varieties of artillery with the Russian troops particularly in their fortified positions, to which places the Russian transported the seizures which they made from the Chinese during the Boxer crisis. These embraced French, German, and British examples of artillery. On land, the immense superiority of the reserve numbers of the Russians reduces the advantages which would accrue to the Japanese if the fighting were confined to the sea. At the same time, however, it should be remembered that the Russian troops are slow movers, and although they may exhibit magnificent endurance, and although they may be relied upon to fight well, the lack of individual initiative upon the part of the Russian officers robs the operations of that dash and address which is embodied in the spirit of the Japanese Army.

Regarding the Japanese fleet, Mr. Hamilton says:—

> In case of war it appears that with one exception the ship comprising this (first) division are all British built. Designs, armour-plating, and armament follow the type and standard of our own Navy, and it is therefore obvious that we cannot fail to be stirred deeply by the results of any collision which may occur. Each nation possesses in Far Eastern waters ships supplied with the latest appliances which science and ingenuity have devised. To the people of this Empire, whose security rests primarily upon the fleet, our interest in the engagements is naturally the higher, by reason of the similarity between the ships which will be engaged upon one side and those of our own Navy.

Turning to Korea, our author points out how helpless she is in the present crisis, without means of defence or offence, and quite ready to fall into the arms of the victor whichever it may turn out to be. With regard to her internal condition he writes:

> At present Korea is in a state of transition. Everything is undefined and indetermined; the past is in ruins, the present and the future are in the rough. Reforms are scarce a decade old, and, while many abuses have been redressed, the reform movement suffers for lack of support, comprehension, and toleration. The aspirations of the few are extending but slowly to the nation. Progress is gradual and the interval is tedious. The commercial phase of the movement is full of vitality, and the factories which have been established show the evolution of enterprise from aspiration. Foreigners are introducing education, while the present commercial activities are attributable to their suggestion and assistance. The small response which these efforts elicit, make the labour of keeping the nation in the right direction very difficult. The people can scarcely relapse into the conservatism of ancient days, but they may collapse altogether, owing to the unfortunate circumstances which are now making Korea an object of ironical and interested observation among the Western Powers. She may be absorbed, annexed, or divided; in endeavouring to remain independent, she may wreck herself in the general anarchy that may overtake her.

The above extract refers to the country at large; of the capital, Seoul, Mr. Hamilton writes rather enthusiastically.

> The changes have been somewhat radical. The introduction of telegraphy, has made it unnecessary to signal nightly the safety of the kingdom by beacons from the crests of the mountains. The gates are no longer closed at night; no more does the evening bell clang sonorously throughout the city at sunset, and the runners before the chairs of the officials have for some time ceased to announce in strident voices the passing of their masters. Improvements, which have been wrought also in the

conditions of the city—in its streets and houses, in its sanitary measures and its methods of communication—have replaced these ancient customs. An excellent and rapid train runs from Chemulpo; electric trams afford quick transit within and beyond the capital; even electric lights illuminate by night some parts of the chief city of the Hermit Kingdom. Moreover, an aqueduct is mentioned; the police force has been reorganised; drains have come and evil odours have fled.

Mr. Hamilton sees in all this reformation the guiding hand of Mr. McLeavy Brown, the Chief Commissioner of Customs, and he pays eloquent tribute to that sorely tried official for all that he has managed to accomplish in the face of such baffling obstacles. It will come as a surprise to many, we fancy, to read of the high level of education prevailing among the women of Korea. They take delight in their ancient history, are well-versed in the popular literature of the land, and though their lives are rather circumscribed according to Western notions, the Korean women are very dominant factors in the life of the nation:—

> Ornamental elegances, the tricks and traits of our drawing-room minxes, are ignored by the gentler classes, vocal music and dancing being the accomplishments of dancing-girls and *demi-mondaines.* The arts of embroidery, dressmaking, sewing, and weaving absorb their attention until they have gone through the gamut of domestic economy. Occasionally women of the upper class learn to play the *kumungo*, an instrument some five feet long and one foot wide, bearing a faint resemblance to a zither and emitting a melancholy and discordant wail. There is one other stringed weapon, the *nageum*, but the awful screech of this unhappy viol overwhelms me, even in recollection. The usual and most simple amusement for the middle-class is the gentle, aimless stroll, for the purpose of "look see." Swinging, rope-games, dice, dominoes, and dolls find some favour as distractions.

Regarding the Court and the principal members of the Emperor's entourage, Mr. Hamilton has much to say. First as regards the Emperor:—

> His Majesty is now almost a cypher in the management of his Empire. Nominally, the Emperor of Korea enjoys the prerogative and independence of an autocrat; in reality he is in the hands of that party whose intrigues for the time being may have given them the upper hand. He is the slave of the superb immoralities of his women. When he breaks away from their gentle thraldom, in the endeavour to free himself from their political associations, his exceedingly able and unscrupulous Minister, Yi Yong-ik, the chief of the Household Bureau, rules him with a rod of iron. It matters not in what direction the will of his Majesty should lie, it is certain to be thwarted with the connivance of Palace concubines or by the direct bribery of Ministers. If the King dared, Yi Yong-ik would be degraded at once. No previous Minister has proved so successful, however, in supplying the Court with money; and, as the Emperor dreads an empty treasury, he maintains him in his confidence.

Then, as regards the Lady Om:—

> In a Court which is abandoned to every phase of Eastern immorality, it is a little disappointing to find that the first lady in the land no longer possesses those charms of face and figure, which should explain her position. There is no doubt that the Lady Om is a clever woman * * * * Lady Om is mature, fat, and feebly, if freely, frolicsome. Her face is pitted with small-pox; her teeth are uneven; her skin is of a saffron tint. * * * * Her dominion over the Emperor is wonderful. Except at rare intervals, and then only when the assent of Lady Om to the visit of a new beauty has been given, he has no eye for any other woman. Nevertheless, the Lady Om has not always been a Palace beauty; she was not always the shining light of the Imperial harem. Her *amours* have made Korean history; only two of her five children belong to the Emperor; yet one of these may become the future occupant of the Throne.
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> In her maiden days she became the mistress of a Chinaman; tiring of him she passed into the grace and favour of a Cabinet Minister. He introduced her to the service of the late Queen.

We refer our readers to Mr. Hamilton's book for the subsequent adventures of this clever *fille de joie*. They are startling. Of Li Yong-ik, at present visiting Japan, Mr. Hamilton has much to say, but we have no space for a quotation here. Our author has not formed a very high opinion of the Japanese who have flocked to Korea.

> There are some twenty-five thousand Japanese in Korea, and the Japanese settlement is the curse of every treaty port in Korea. It is at once the centre of business, and the scene of uproar, riot, and confusion. In the comparative nakedness of the women, in the noise and violence of the shopkeepers, in the litter of the streets, there is nothing to suggest the delicate culture of Japan. The modesty, cleanliness, and politeness, so characteristic of the Japanese, are conspicuously absent in their settlements in this country. Transformation has take place with transmigration. The merchant has become a rowdy. The coolie is impudent, violent, and, in general an outcast more prone to steal than to work. Master and man alike terrorise the Koreans, who go in fear of their lives whenever they have transactions with the Japanese.

And again:—

> It is, perhaps, surprising that the animus of the Koreans against the Japanese has not died out with time; but the fault lies entirely with the Japanese themselves. Within recent years so much has occurred to alter the position of Japan and to flatter the vanity of these island people that they have lost their sense of perspective. Puffed up with conceit, they now permit themselves to commit social and administrative excesses of the most detestable character. Their extravagant arrogance blinds them to the absurdities and follies of their actions, making manifest the fact that their gloss of civilisation is the merest veneer. Their conduct in Korea shows them to be destitute of moral and intellectual fibre. They are debauched in business, and the prevalence of dishonourable practices in public life makes them indifferent to private virtue. Their interpretation of the laws of their settlements, as of their own country, is corrupt. Might is right; the sense of power is tempered neither by reason, justice, nor generosity. Their existence from day to day, their habits and their manners, their commercial and social degradation, complete an abominable travesty of the civilisation which they profess to have studied. It is intolerable that a Government aspiring to the dignity of a first-class Power should allow its settlements in a friendly and foreign country to be a blot upon its own prestige, and a disgrace to the land that harbours them.

Equally uncomplimentary are Mr. Hamilton's observations with regard to certain of the missionary bodies working in Korea, but our space precludes further quotation. The illustrations which accompany the text are very well-selected and give a capital idea of the beauties of a still comparatively little known land, and the design on the cover is very charming.

Regarding Mr. Rittner's "Impressions of Japan," much need not be said. The main object of the book is to induce the traveller "to penetrate beyond the modern life of the city into the remote country places, where the pristine life of old Japan still survives." In the cities, Japan has become sophisticated, and Mr. Rittner echoes the cry we have heard time and again these dozen years or so, "civilisation has not only destroyed much of its art, it has taught the nation dishonesty. Why are the Japanese a band of rogues in business, who will put their names to any document, enter upon any contract, and the next moment repudiate it and their signatures too? The answer is simple and contained in the one word 'civilisation.'" In the rural districts, our author affirms, with underlined emphasis, something of the old innocence survives, and there the *Geisha* are very different from the *Geisha* of the Treaty Ports. "The *Geisha* at Tokyo and other large towns are no real *Geisha* at all, because they look on their performances from the point of view of trade, and have ceased to be artists, as they are inland." On the whole Mr. Rittner seems to have enjoyed his visit to Japan and the pictures he prints show that he possessed an observant eye.

In "Japanese Physical Training," Mr. H. Irving Hancock sets out to describe the system of exercise, diet and general mode of living that "has made the Mikado's people the healthiest, strongest and happiest men and women in the world." He writes as an enthusiast and many of his propositions, we fear, will not bear the test of actual experience, they are all too much in the realms of fancy.

The book on Russia's advance in Asia written by the Hon. Senator Beveridge is timely and contains much food for thought. Still the impression left on the mind is that he did not take full advantage of his opportunities. He saw only what the Russian officials wished him to see, nothing more. For all that, his work is worth reading. It contains a good many facts that may help us to understand the ideals of the Russian officials and soldiers in their gigantic visionary plan of making all Asia Russian. Mr. Beveridge has been brought into contact with Pobyedonostseff, Tolstoi, Witte, Admiral Alexieff, and other great men of modern Russia, and he has faithfully reproduced their views and aims. It is a pity that Senator Beveridge could not curb his passion for "purple patches": it spoils his book, making it read in places like a "Sunday edition" of an American paper.

Mr. Watson's book we leave till another day.

FOOTBALL.

The final in the Y. C. & A. C. Association football Sixes competition took place on Tuesday in miserable weather and the attendance of spectators was not large. The match had to be re-played as no definite result was arrived at on Monday, and resulted in a win for H. W. Kilby's VI by four goals to one. Both teams appeared one man short and so it was decided not to play a substitute on either side. Below are the sides of the VI's which took part in the final round:—

Goal, J. E. Drummond; Backs, H. W. Kilby (Capt.) and H. Y. Irwine.

Forwards, F. O. Stuart, B. C. Foster and J. M. Mollison.

Goal, A. J. Correa; Backs, N. G. Maitland and W. B. Mason.

Forwards, S. R. Ford, S. Wheeler (Capt.) and W. J. Drummond.

The various matches resulted as below:—

H. W. Kilby's Six beat W. S. Moss' Six 2-0; S. Wheeler's six beat O. Strome's six 2-0; J. E. Moss' Six beat E. W. Kilby's Six 3-1; H. W. Kilby's Six beat J. E. Moss' Six 2-0; H. W. Kilby's Six beat S. Wheeler's Six 4-1.

We understand that the Y. C. and A. C. Association team in the Interport Match, to be played on Kobe on March 12th, will be composed as follows:—Goal.—W. J. Waddilove; Backs.—W. S. Moss and E. W. Kilby; Half-backs.—W. B. Mason, Jr., A. Kingdon and H. W. Kilby; Forwards.—J. F. Drummond, O. Strome, W. B. White, S. Wheeler and J. M. Mollison. The K. C. & A. C. will put in the field:—Goal.—C. H. Lightfoot; Backs.—Rankin and G. C. Allcock; Half-backs.—E. C. Jeffery, E. G. Fradgley, D. T. Weed; Forwards.—Guterres, McDougall, H. E. Green, S. R. Clarke and A. N. Other.

FIRES.

About 9.10 o'clock on Friday morning fire broke out in a kitchen of the dry-goods dealer, S. Okushi, Isezaki-cho, Yokohama. The flames spread to the next house, but were put out before much damage had been done. The cause is reported by the Isezaki-cho police to be negligence.

On the evening of March 5th, fire broke out at Kotobuki-cho, Yokohama, damaging two buildings, comprising six dwellings.

YONG AM-PHO.

THE opening of Yong Am-pho is said to have been definitely decided by the Korean Government, and the decision will be announced immediately to the Powers. We presume that Yong Am-pho is now in Russia's military possession, and as Korea is practically a belligerent, the reality of this opening must remain for some time unachieved. Morally, however, the measure is significant. It shows that the first use Japan makes of her authority in Korea is to throw the country open to the trade of the the world, thus acting in strict accordance with her declared policy, the policy of equal opportunities for all. Doubts have been cast by some publicists from time to time on the justice of charging Russia with a policy of exclusiveness. It has been contended that were she paramount in East Asia, foreign industrials and merchants would find a freer field that they could hope for under any other conditions. There would be much satisfaction in entertaining that view were it tenable. But apart from the general consideration that Russia's experience of the results of open competition does not justify her in exposing her subjects to the ordeal, there is the plain and incontrovertible fact that she has openly declared a programme of exclusiveness in Manchuria. She has actually announced that a cardinal concession obtained from China by the United States and Japan in their recently concluded commercial treaties must be withheld; namely, the concession of forming settlements at the newly opened marts of Mukden, Tatung and Antung. It is unnecessary to point out that in a country like Manchuria the privilege of carrying on trade becomes quite illusory if it be not accompanied by the privilege of establishing commercial warehouses and building residences. Russia has thus placed on unequivocal record her resolve to withhold from foreigners in Manchuria the tradal concessions already granted to them conventionally by China. Nothing could be more emphatic. That the declaration was a deliberate insult to the United States of America and Japan directly, and constructively to England and all States having favoured-nation clauses in their treaties with China, is a point requiring no elaboration. But the significance of Russia's act as a declaration of general policy does not seem to have been widely appreciated. Japan is the leader of the nations in protesting against that policy; protesting against it sword in hand, and the position of leader rightly belongs to her in this instance, for freedom of commercial intercourse with the neighbouring continent is absolutely essential to her material expansion, whereas other States, though some of them are most vitally concerned, stand in a lower rank of interest. It is becoming, therefore, that the opening of Wiju and Yong Am-pho should be among the first assertions of Japan's influence in Korea.

DESULTORY NOTES ON SPORT.

Judging from all accounts, the shooting season this winter has not been at all a good one. Quail, especially, seem to have been scarce, and many localities where they were numerous last year, have yielded hardly any birds at all this season. Every year sportsmen have to go farther and farther afield, and game seems to be getting quite exterminated in districts easily accessible from Yokohama. On the other hand, a great number of duck have been seen in the Bay, but they are difficult to approach, and no good bags have been recorded.

The commencement of training for the Spring Race Meeting this week has once more been an incentive to early rising to a number who have doubtless been enjoying the extra half hour or so in bed which the cold weather makes so desirable. The course between 6 and 7 a.m. in early March is rather a chilly place for any who are not actively engaged in training the horses, but the arrangements this year are much more comfortable for the onlookers, as the executive have thrown open for use the new tiffin room, where one can sit and watch the work on the course, and at the same time enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, sheltered from the cold winds that sweep the Negishi heights.

With a view to the approaching commencement of the yachting season, work is now progressing on several of the yachts that have been laid up in winter quarters. When anything beyond the usual work of refitting is required, owners are wise in giving the necessary orders to ship-wrights in plenty of time, as there is always a rush at the last moment, and work cannot be done so well when all the owners are in a hurry for their craft to be finished and put in the water. At Morita's yard a new boat of about 35 feet deck measurement is approaching completion.

In the departure for home by the *Gaelic* of Mr. F. T. Leak, the Yokohama Yacht Club have lost the services of one who worked long and unselfishly in the interests of the Club as Hon. Secretary.

The entries for the Grand National Steeplechase, to be run on the 23rd inst, number seventy-one, including practically all the best chasers in England and Ireland. His Majesty's horse, Ambush II., successful four years ago, the evergreen Manifesto, and several other previous winners are included in the number. Manifesto, be it noted, is now sixteen years old.

The fixed skeleton programme advertised by the Committee of the Nippon Race Club will doubtless commend itself to all owners. In the first place it removes a great deal of the uncertainty hitherto prevailing from meeting to meeting as to what races will be provided for the different classes, and in the case of horses that have won a number of races owners will not be induced to part with a good animal for fear that it should be barred by conditions excluding horses that have won more than say six or ten races. We have seen more than one case of such legislating against individual horses in the past, and good horses have been sold while yet in winning form, because their owners believed that no races would be provided in which they could run. In the second place, the fixed skeleton programme will induce owners to keep over horses that are not quite in the front rank of their class, as by the general scheme of the programme no one of the "protected" classes can be at the mercy of a horse able to gallop away with any race in which it starts.

Horses at their second meeting:—This is a class that should be encouraged as much as possible, and the three races for this class only are calculated to induce owners to give their horses a chance of showing their worth even if they have not won at their first meeting. Horses that have won will naturally be kept over; but encouragement is needed for those that have not gained winning brackets. In the first place, horses good enough to win three races at their first meeting, must go up into the "all subscription" class. Then the winner on the first day, is barred on the second, and so there must be two winners in the class, and the race on the third day is a handicap, giving all horses a chance, if they are worth it. Of course no handicap can really bring the worst and the best together, but all that can gallop at all have a chance of a win. By the bye, in the advertised programme, under the heading of the "Sydney Stakes," the winner of "Colonial Plate" is excluded. This of course should be "winner of Melbourne Stakes," and the clerical error is patent.

It is perhaps a pity that the "Champions" still finds a place in the programme. A weight for age race, with no penalties, on the third day of a meeting, is an anomaly that has been discarded in most places where the three day meeting twice a year prevails. It is seldom difficult to pick the probable winner at the close of the second day's racing, and often when a horse has won easily, in spite of penalties, in the previous races at a meeting, it is a farce to send out the same horses to be beaten by the Champion again with greater case because no penalties have to be carried. Of course, on the other hand, a winner at previous meetings may have been prevented from winning on the first and second days by penalties incurred, and the "Champions" may prove its only chance of showing superiority, but such does not often happen, and as a rule the field for the "Champion Stakes" is small, and the race itself uninteresting.

The races for "All subscription horses" are open to Country breds, whether subscription or not. This leaves it open to any one sufficiently enterprising to bring down a really good animal from one of the studs, and it has been urged that such a horse would be running at a great advantage as compared with subscription Australians carrying a heavier scale of weights, plus penalties. The Nippon Race Club does not bear the old tag about encouraging the breed of horse, which was for many years considered the correct *raison d'etre* of Racing Clubs. But still, it is just as well to encourage as much as possible the local article, and if it is possible to get really good country bred racehorses, the Club are right in giving them every chance. No really good country bred has been seen on the course for many years, and it is very doubtful if the best that have ever raced here could hold their own against the best of our present walers. A few good specimens of the product of the Government studs would be welcomed.

In giving the "Ladies' Purse" to the subscription China ponies the Committee have moved in the right direction. It is impossible to devise any scale of penalties and allowances to bring together our subscription China ponies and those privately imported, costing in many cases big sums of money. And as this race is for gentlemen riders it should be rather for the small owners than for the long purses. An amateur, beginning the game, may pick up for a reasonable figure one of the subscription ponies at auction or private sale, and ride his own nomination in the Ladies' Purse. Such a beginner would have but a poor chance of even a mount in the race if were open for all comers, and this is the one race of the year in which novices should be encouraged. As a rule they are too heavy, with the big saddle necessary for their comfort, to ever learn much of race riding on race horses. Therefore it is well to let them have one race at each meeting, and that a popular one. Much might be done for aspiring amateurs in the matter of "off days" if they would only come forward then and do their best. But unfortunately they want a deal of helping, and are apt to scorn gymkhanas, as being not the real thing.

K Sasaki, ex-head man of Tanaka village, Kida, Kagawa prefecture, who embezzled *yen* 1,500 belonging to the village office while on duty, and absconded, was arrested on March 8th in Tokyo.

SUICIDE ON THE BLUFF.

During the progress of a birthday party held at No. 26-D, Bluff, on the evening of Saturday and the morning of Sunday, a sensational occurrence took place, one of the guests, a young gentleman from New York named Daniel Bacon, junr, aged 25 years, shooting himself in one of the rooms. Dancing was going on about 2.30 a.m. when he suddenly left his companions and walking into an adjoining apartment, drew a revolver, pointed it at the right side of his head and pulled the trigger, the bullet passing downwards through his brain. Death was instantaneous. The police were summoned and Dr. Munro was sent for, but the unfortunate gentleman was, as we have said, beyond all human aid.

Several persons were present when the affair occurred but so rapid were Mr. Bacon's actions that no one had time to stop him. An inquest will be held by the police this morning.

Mr. Bacon, who is very well connected in the United States, had only been in Japan two weeks.

Further information obtained by the Bluff Police with reference to the suicide of Mr. D. Bacon, Jun., shows deceased was entertained by Miss Forrest, No. 26, Bluff, on March 5th at a dinner party to celebrate the birthday of that lady. Dancing commenced about 10 o'clock and lasted till 3 o'clock the following morning, when a lady retired to an adjoining room accompanied by a Japanese female servant, Kuni Takahashi (28). When the lady entered the room, she found the deceased gentleman standing before a toilet glass, having a revolver in his right hand and holding its muzzle close to his right temple. Both the lady and the servant were much surprised, and the lady, according to the servant, cried "What are you doing?" at which moment the revolver was fired.

Having summarized the various facts the police declare that the deceased was in the habit of drinking to excess and that he had told some of his acquaintances that he desired to die. He arrived here on February 18th by the ship *A. G. Ropes* from New York, and stayed at the Club Hotel, No. 5. His father is a wealthy merchant in New York and one of the shareholders in the Standard Oil Company. The following is the certificate of Dr. N. G. Munro:—

> March 7th, 1904.—This is to state that D. Bacon, aged about 23 years, was examined about an hour after death, by me at 4 a.m. on March 6th, 1904. He was identified in my presence by Miss Forrest of No. 26 Bluff, in whose house the deceased was lying.
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> There was a gunshot wound of the anterior temple on the right side, measuring nearly an inch by about half an inch. The brain was singed and the skin discoloured from the blast of the gunpowder.
>
> The right hand was stained with blood and there was also blood on the right side of the pistol.
>
> I am of opinion that the said D. Bacon died by his own hand and that he placed the muzzle of the pistol close to the head before firing. This is borne out by the size of the wound of entrance and the staining and burning of the tissues. As blood escaped into the pharynx I am of opinion that the bullet passed downwards through the base of the brain."

On Sunday the tragical news was telegraphed to Mr. J. W. Copmann, agent of the Standard Oil Company, No. 8, who was at Dzushi. He returned immediately and communicated with the family of the deceased and was awaiting an answer yesterday.

CUSTOMS DECISION.

The Superintendent of the Yokohama Customs gave, on March 5th, his decision on a protest lodged by Mr. A. Oestmann, No. 74, Yokohama. It seems the protestor imported rubber tubing on which the appraisers imposed 20 per cent. *ad valorem* duty in accordance with No. 412-C of the general statutory tariff. The importer held that the article should come under No. 412-B, and insisted that the goods in dispute were raw material of the nature of manufactures and could be immediately put to actual use. The protest was rejected on the ground that No. 412-B provides only for rubber sheets, but No. 412-C is for manufactures not otherwise provided for, and the rubber tubes in dispute can be employed in connection with implements.

A NEW ORIENTAL HOTEL IN KOBE.

At an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders of the Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Kobe, on Saturday, March 5th, (Mr. A. H. Groom in the chair) at which 1,192 out of 1,490 shares were represented, a proposal to empower the directors to erect a new and up-to-date hotel on a site, No. 6 Bund, recently acquired by the company was considered.

In reply to questions, the Chairman said the question of debentures might be left to the future. They had one set of plans by Mr. Shimoda, who was constructing the new premises of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank at Nagasaki, but they had not yet seriously considered the question of the building. He said that the directors had, after careful consideration, come to the conclusion that the present building was quite out of date and had decided that if the company wished to keep the first place in Kobe it was necessary to build. They had therefore carefully considered the new scheme and the result was they had come to the conclusion that it was useless to reconstruct the present premises and that undoubtedly nine out of ten would consider a fine hotel on the Bund more attractive to the public than any building on the side street. So, having an opportunity of securing a fine site on the Bund, the directors had decided that it would be advisable to acquire it. The Company would take possession of the property on April 1st and make arrangements to build afterward. Briefly, the Board had come to the conclusion that if they were to keep the first place it was necessary to secure another site and build on it a first class Hotel, a hotel second to none in the East. Of course that would involve an increase of capital to *yen* 500,000 and so far as raising funds went the Directors had no qualms. A great part of the additional stock had already been taken up and it was doubtful if it would be necessary to put any stock on the market. The company would be able to carry on their regular business without interruption while rebuilding and he was sanguine enough to believe that they would be able to earn a good profit in the present premises while the work of reconstruction was going on.

The proposition was adopted unanimously.

The Chairman said that respecting the propositions which the Directors had to make regarding finance he thought it might be well to make this statement. Certain new shares would be issued and every holder of a share at the present time would be offered one at par, viz. fifty *yen*. Already guarantees had been received for the taking up of a thousand shares. Anyone holding ten shares would be offered ten other new shares, to rank with the old ones at par. There might be a few put on the market later, otherwise he did not think there would be much change.

JAPAN ON THE LONDON STAGE.

The new play of Messrs. Long and Belasco, now being produced by Mr. Beerbohm Tree at His Majesty's Theatre, London, has given rise to widely different kinds of criticism which it is quite interesting to read. Lecturing on Jan. 17th at the Hotel Cecil before members of the Playgoers' Club on "The Japan of the Stage," Mr. Arthur Diosy thus spoke of "The Darling of the Gods":—

> In the latest production dealing with Japan of the stage the botanical wonders had been brought under our notice more strongly than ever. (Laughter.) It was quite a botanical and horticultural education to go to His Majesty's Theatre at present. (Laughter.) One saw the cherry blossom pink in colour, whereas really it was of an iridescent hue impossible to reproduce; and in one scene the peony was displayed with the wistaria, when in reality it bloomed a couple of months later. (Laughter.) Mr. Gilbert, in touching on many of our follies, chose as a medium for his play a fanciful land of Japan. He never intended that the play should be supposed to take place in Japan. *The Mikado* was nearly prevented from seeing the footlights because the Japanese Legation was much upset at the title, and tried to change it. Therefore Mr. Gilbert added, "Or the Town of Titi-pu." That fanciful Japan had exercised a very strong influence upon the Japan of the stage. If Mr. Tree was told that *The Darling of the Gods* owed a great deal to *The Mikado*, and was much influenced by it, he would probably treat the suggestion with scorn. (Laughter.) Nevertheless, it was quite true. The young ladies who ran about the stage at His Majesty's with the steps of a frightened little mouse, violently agitating little fans, were the "Three Little Maids from School" multiplied by 30. (Laughter.) As to Mr. Tree himself in his part, he was "Pooh-ba." (Laughter.) Custom seemed to compel the actors to behave in the same way, whether in the Gilbert and Sullivan opera, *The Geisha* or Messrs Long and Belasco's play. It was a regular Buddhist succession of reincarnation. *The Darling of the Gods* had brought him to the fulfilment of his ambition. (Laughter.) Anything more like stage Japan he had never seen. The costumes were, in the main, correct, and the scenery, which was very beautiful, was also in the main correct. The movements and deportment had been superintended by a Japanese painter, and yet silence was the best explanation of one's feelings. It was stage Japan smelling of the stage carpenter's glue, because the piece was hopelessly un-Japanese.

Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree has written a letter in reply to the above in the course of which he says:—

> Might I point out that Messrs. Luther Long and David Belasco have merely sought to write a play which shall hold an audience entertained and enthralled for three hours, while my modest endeavour has been to create the necessary illusion, taking every care to produce upon the stage that make-believe of reality which has drawn from many of those who are familir with Japanese life the assurance that the sense of that life is vividly reproduced upon the stage? For instance, Mr. Koike, the Second Secretary of the Japanese Legation, and an authority upon the Japanese drama, has deliberatory stated that it is his opinion that not only is it a magnificent spectacle, which is sure to be witnessed with delight by all the Japanese in London, but it is also, with the exception of *Madame Butterfly*, the only Japanese play of merit that has been produced in England, and that it is in many respects absolutely perfect. It is true, I believe, that Mr. Diosy has spent some little time in Japan, which apparently entitled him to consider himself a competent authority on all that concerns that wonderful land, but called upon therefore to decide between the opinions of a cosmopolitan globe-trotter and a scholarly native of Japan, I have the audacity to choose the latter. And I am proud to think that in the opinion of such a redoubtable authority as Mr. Koike, I am enabled to give to those who are ignorant of Japan a sense of the life of that great little nation of great little people.

Mr. J. H. Longford, who joined in the discussion, does not regard Mr. Diosy's strictures on *The Darling of the Gods* as unfairly severe or even pedantic. "They seemed to me," he says, "to be characterised by very great leniency," and then Mr. Longford proceeds to offer a few criticisms of his own.

> Mr. Tree says that he prefers the authority of a Japanese scholar and gentleman to that of a cosmopolitan globe-trotter like Mr. Diósy, who had spent some little time in Japan. I think I may very safely venture on the assertion that I have lived longer in Japan than the majority of Japanese gentlemen now in London, and I have had experience of every class of society, from the Imperial Court downwards. In no class have I ever seen anything like the gait, attitude, or gesture portrayed by Mr. Tree. I have never seen ladies scuttle about like those of his company, and never heard such extraordinary sounds from women of any class as were apparently intended to be laughter, but more resembled the whinnying of a lot of young fillies. All the movements of Japanese gentlemen of the old school were invariably characterised by the most impressive dignity and stateliness, in no way resembling the ungraceful and uneasy shuffling of the guests at the "Feast of the Thousand Welcomes" (a feast never heard of in Japan). The salutations with the swords of the Samurai about to die would not be recognised in any Japanese school of fencing. Was there no one among Mr. Tree's advisers who could have told him that, when a gentleman committed harakiri, he invariably fell forwards, never on his back; that the pronunciation "Yæ-shéa-key," "Na-guu-yah." and "Sige-yun-nara" very ungracefully misrepresents the original words; that the last is not one that would have come naturally to the lips at the moment of death; that Napoleonic addresses, in a voice elevated to the highest pitch, to Samurai, are quite contrary to Japanese custom and spirit; that fervent prayers to Shaka or Ojin (the latter as a god is called Hachiman), are as unknown as such oaths, freely indulged in by Zakkuri, as "Oh, jigoku"—a literal translation of the American vulgarism, "Oh, hell"—or, indeed, any oaths and blessings; that honorifics are only used in the second or third persons, never

applied by the speaker to him or herself? I had, unfortunately, no pencil when I witnessed the performance, and can, therefore, only quote these incidents from memory, but they are only some among many. The inaccuracies in scenery—the placing of a statue of Buddha on the shore of Lake Hakone, of a huge figure of Ojin in a gentleman's reception-room, the mixture in one scene of flowers that bloom at widely-separated period—may well be excused for the sake of the beautiful results. But will the Japanese be impressed by our knowledge of the geography of their country when they hear that Kara and his companions, who were apparently in hiding in the Hakone Mountains, were daily fed, before the existence of railways, by carp (a fresh-water fish) caught in the Inland Sea, the nearest part of which is over 300 miles away. Of 32 characters named in the bill, there are only seven whose names bear any similarity to those in ordinary use.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

The original manuscript of the first book of "Paradise Lost," together with a long autograph letter from Jacob Tonson to his nephew, was bought in at Sotheby's for £5,000.

Lord Rowton, whose estate is valued at £183,612 gross, and £103,960 net, left instructions in his will for the arranging of the Beaconsfield papers and their delivery to the person entitled to the custody of them.

The following paragraph appears in the *Times Literary Supplement*:—

"Jonson still awaits his editor," wrote Professor C. H. Herford in his life of the dramatist in the "Dictionary of National Biography." This was in 1892, and not long afterwards Professor Herford was collaborating with Mr. Nicholson in editing the best plays of Ben Jonson for Mr. Fisher Unwin's "Mermaid Series." It is now announced that the delegates of the Oxford University Press have long contemplated a standard edition of the complete works of Jonson, and that they have secured the co-operation of Professor Herford and of Mr. Percy Simpson. The edition will be printed uniformly with the editions of Kyd and Lyly recently issued from Oxford, and will probably fill nine volumes.

"We can" (writes Dr. A. Masson, in his new book, "La Sorcellerie et la Science de Poisons au 17e Siècle") "form an idea of the way in which history was written under the reign of our kings, by the manner in which the Empress of China relates in her own way to her subjects the official history of the late campaign. Even to this day the Sultan is ignorant of the tragic death of McKinley, and believes that the President of the United States died of a cerebral congestion 'while visiting the Buffalo exhibition.' In Turkey, the death of King Humbert was reported in the official papers: 'The King of Italy died suddenly while bowing to the crowd.' When the late Shah of Persia was assassinated the Turkish papers simplified the news and published the following information: 'The Shah felt slightly indisposed in the course of the afternoon, and his body was sent to Teheran.'"

It is now nearly thirty years since Gregorovius published his "Lucrezia Borgia," but Mr. J. L. Garner's translation of this celebrated biography (Appleton) is not open to criticism on the ground that the original has become obsolete. Lucrezia Borgia (the *Nation* points out) would probably have attracted little attention but for the fame of her father and brother. Gregorovius styles her "the most unfortunate woman in modern history." The innuendoes of Guicciardini, made current by Victor Hugo and a host of minor writers, are such as to blacken any character and create a zero point of moral turpidity, if only they are true. Roscoe, however, believed in Lucrezia's innocence; and Geogorovius, following up the inquiry with a much fuller grasp of the documents, acquitted her of the fatal, the damning accusations. The evidence against Alexander VI. is conclusive, but the stories most unfavourable to Lucrezia sprang from political hostility or from the unpleasant gossip of the Renaissance. She grew up in a society where epicureanism flourished and the Decalogue was neglected. Like the rest of the Romans, she had her failings and deserves reproach, but that is a very different thing from saying that she was "a moral monster."

Don Ambrogio, the learned archivist of the famous Italian Abbey of Montecassino, has just brought to light certain ancient parchments of the time of Bruno of Asti, an early Abbot of the Monastery. One of these parchments contains historical matter of importance hitherto unknown and bearing upon the period of the struggle between Gregory VII. and Henry IV., of whom Bruno was a contemporary. The Abbot appears also to have left behind him a commentary on Isaiah, which has now been brought to light.

Matters are by no means yet settled between the Abbé Loisy and the Vatican. It is true that subsequent to the decree of condemnation, he has written a statement of submission, but it is viewed by the authorities of the Curia as partaking too much of the nature of an argumentative explanation. Accordingly, acting under instructions from Rome, the Archbishop of Paris has summoned the Abbé before him, and has placed before him the following conditions: to give a simple retractation, formal and complete, acknowledging the error of his critical method, disavowing his writings, discontinuing his lectures at the Sorbonne, and undertaking to publish no theological writings for the future without the previous consent of authority.

Mr. Fredk. G. Jackson, 8A, Park Lane, Leeds, in the *Leeds Mercury*, questions a statement by Rev. A. Donovan that Norwich is the original of Eatanswill. "I have," he says, "always understood that that honour—if honour it be—rested with Ipswich. This is the more likely, because at Ipswich, Dickens, representative of the *Suffolk Chronicle* (now merged in the *Suffolk Times and Mercury*), had actual experience of an election, while he had none at Norwich. . . . . Mr. Donovan is right to this extent—that Norwich might have been the original of Eatanswill." Rev. Alex. Donovan, Garton Vicarage, Hull:—"The identity of Norwich with Eatanswill is indicated by Mr. Pickwick himself. 'In Mr. Pickwick's notebook we can just trace an entry of the fact that the places of himself and followers were booked by the Norwich Coach' (chap. xiii.), called 'The Eatanswill Coach' (chap. xii.)."

Some interesting revelations of the literary tastes of prominent American politicians are made in a recent report of the expenditure of the United States Senate. For their own convenience members of that body may order books through its "document room," the sums expended being deducted from their allowance and consequently made public later in the official accounts. "Smith's Dictionary of the Bible" was obtained in this way for Senator J. K. Jones. Senator Daniel refreshed himself during the debates—or at any rate obtained the means of refreshment—by the purchase of "Marcus Aurelius" and "The Charm of Birds." An even more remarkable selection was that of Senator Morgan of Alabama, who is reported in this list as having acquired, by way of the document room, a publication described as "four volumes, Apollo and Keats, Lanier." This book, which must surely be a rarity, cost the Senator only four dollars and eighty cents.

Many will peruse with special interest the tribute paid to Mrs. Grimwood in Brigadier-General Sir James Willcocks' new book, "From Kabul to Kumassi." Sir James joined the force that avenged the massacre at Munipore (or Manipur) in 1891. He writes:—"Among the now shattered remains of the retreating troops was a lady whose name was then on every tongue; Mrs. Ethel Grimwood, the wife of the Political Agent, knew the country and its people from a long residence with her husband at Imphal. . . . The world is ever ready to rush to extremes; first she was made a heroine, then some would cavil at her; but to all fair-minded people there can be but one opinion, and that is that she bore herself as a brave Englishwoman. I do not know her, but I do know very well what she had to endure, and, knowing that, I am glad to bear my humble testimony to her patient endurance under terrible trials. A Gurkha soldier who marched with her during that rapid retreat said to me long afterwards, 'Now I understand why you Englishmen respect ladies so much.'"

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Viscount Inouye Katsu left Shimonoseki on March 9th for Korea.

It is officially reported that Prince Pu-lung left Tientsin on March 6th for Shanghai.

The *Jiji*, *Asahi* and other leading papers in Tokyo were prosecuted on March 9th on the usual charge with regard to military affairs.

Mr. Oya, Osaka, has chartered two British steamers, the *Royal* and *Victoria*, to be employed on the line between Kobe and Hokkaido *via* ports. The line opens at the end of this month.

The Kwansei Railway Company, Osaka, will hold a meeting on March 22nd to discuss proposals to purchase the Kiwa Railway for *yen* 1,093,440 and to raise a loan of *yen* 900,000 with interest at 6 per cent. per annum to carry out the transaction.

It seems that, having recovered completely from the walking craze, London has taken up wrestling with equal eagerness. A writer in a weekly paper mentions a curious scene on a platform, where a gentleman, waiting for his train, was endeavouring to instil into a friend the difference between the Græco-Roman and catch-as-catch-can styles.

The *Asahi* states that a Korean who is suspected of being a spy employed by Russia has been found among the seven Korean refugees from Vladivostock to Hakodate. His name is Li Yeng-kin. He was to leave there on March 9th for Tokyo.

Viscount Matsudaira Nobuyasu, who was recently arrested in Tokyo in connexion with the mining frauds and removed to Utsunomiya, has been deprived of his right to be treated as a peer, in accordance with the 2nd clause of Art. 15 of the Peers' Regulations.

Forty officers and four hundred and one men of the nine captured Russian ships—Russian, 250; German, 11; Chinese, 162; Korean, 10; Norwegian, 3; and Danish, 5—who were detained at the Saseho Naval Station left on March 9th by a transport for Nagasaki, where they will be released. Besides, fifteen Japanese had been engaged on board the ships, and they were also released.

On Friday night when Mrs. H. J. Sharp was returning to No. 60 from the Public Hall, she was thrown violently from her jinrikisha, the drawer of which had turned the corner at Ewata's store too abruptly and brought a wheel up against the telegraph post. Mrs. Sharp sustained several nasty cuts and bruises. On Sunday she was, we are glad to say, progressing favourably.

A surprise, says the *Straits Times*, awaited the masters of the two vessels which arrived at Singapore from Europe on the 14th Feb. One vessel had 5,000 tons of Cardiff coal for Port Arthur, the other had a large quantity of explosives for the Russians from Germany. The position of affairs was explained to the commanders, and they decided that their voyage to the East might end at Singapore. The coal was landed, and it is probable that the explosives also will be received at Singapore.

Dr. Ironez. of the *Coptic*, attended the Jockey Club race meeting at the Happy Valley, says the *China Mail*, and got a ticket which he supposed was for the pony *Standard*, and, finding that it was for *Panjandrum*, asked to have it changed. This could not be done, as it had been stamped, and the win of *Panjandrum* was therefore looked upon by his friends as a jocular marvel. The lucky holder was alone in his fancy, and received the handsome sum of $1,264 in return for his $5. This, we believe, is the first time any dividend of the Pari Mutuel has reached four figures. Such are the vicissitudes of "having something on the race."

Deep sympathy will be felt for Lord and Lady Ribblesdale, who have suffered so sad a loss by the death of their elder son in the recent action in Somaliland. Captain Lister, while serving in South Africa, was mentioned in Lord Kitchener's despatches for "conspicuous coolness and gallantry under fire with Colonel Alexander's column in Cape Colony." Captain Lister got his rank five years after joining, two years sooner than his father obtained a captaincy in the Rifle Brigade with which he served in India and Gibraltar. The tale of heirs to British peerages who have fallen in action during the last few years has been a sad one. Among others, Lord Roberts, the late Lord Dufferin, Lord Thurlow, Lord Rathdonnell, and the late Viscount Frankfort de Montmorency have all suffered loss in this way.

THE LAW COURTS.

AH TICK v. NORTHERN ASSURANCE CO.

This case came up again in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno on March 4th, when judgment was delivered ordering defendants to pay plaintiff *yen* 9,945 and interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum from Nov. 1st, 1902, till the execution of judgment. Plaintiff may temporarily seize the property of defendants on depositing *yen* 1,500.

THE ALLEGED CHEQUE FRAUDS.

The preliminary examination in the case in which one Frenchman and five Japanese—Henry Fouque, Y. Anzai, K. Soga, Y. Mune, K. Fusamura, and S. Uwosumi—are involved, having been concluded in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Tanikawa, decision was delivered on March 5th committing Fouque and Anzai for trial and releasing the other Japanese on the ground that the evidence against them was not sufficient.

According to the decision, the accused borrowed in October last *yen* 310 for the purpose of using the money to carry out a fraud, and deposited the amount in the Russo-Chinese Bank under the false name of H. T. Bremer, receiving a cheque-book containing twenty sheets. On Dec. 6th, 1903, the accused made out a cheque for *yen* 670 payable to Mr. P. Dourille, No. 164, Yamashita-cho, Yokohama, and one of the accused received the amount from the Chinese exchange shop, No. 72. On Dec. 11th the same year, S. Uwosumi purchased a cheque for *yen* 33 from a Japanese, M. Nakamura, Motomachi, Shi-chome, who had received it from a British gentleman at No. 35 (Mr. G. G. Brady). Uwosumi transferred the cheque to Fouque and Anzai. The latter altered the cheque to *yen* 2,125 and drew the amount from the Specie Bank. Fouque and Anzai also purchased on Dec. 12th the same year a cheque for *yen* 12 from S. Uwozumi, who had received it from Mr. J. Kuhn, No. 37, on account of *bric-a-brac* goods sold to the latter. Fouque and Anzai changed the cheque to *yen* 13,500 and attempted to cash it on the 14th at the Russo-Chinese Bank, where they were found out by the staff of the bank. On the foregoing facts, they must be dealt with in accordance with the first clause of Art. 209, 1st and 2nd clauses of Art. 390, and also Arts. 397 and 394 of the Penal Code.

Viscount Matsudaira Nobuyasu was arrested on March 4th in Tokyo and removed to Utsunomiya. The charge is stated by Tokyo papers to be connected with a case of fraud which is under preliminary examination in the Utsunomiya District Court. S. Kamishimo and two others had received *yen* 24,000 from a farmer, G. Kurosaki, in the village of Takanesawa, Hoga, Tochigi prefecture, as the price of the Tabikawa silver mine, which did not belong to them, and the Viscount is alleged to have assisted them in the business.

INFRINGEMENT OF THE ELECTION LAW.

N. Ito, one of the parliamentary candidates in Yokohama at the last election, who was charged with infringement of the Election Law was sentenced on March 7th in the Yokohama District Court by Judge Hadano to one month's imprisonment with hard labour, and a fine of twenty *yen*, and also had suspended his rights of election for three years. Two others, T. Eno and M. Takashima, supporters of Ito, who were tried on the same charge were acquitted on the ground that the evidence against them was not sufficient.

The ground of the charge was that previous to the general election, the accused printed about two thousand anonymous postal cards in which he vilified S. Horiya, another candidate, and circulated the cards among the electors with the purpose of preventing the other's election.

TAMAMURA v. ALLEN.

A case instituted by K. Tamamura, photographer, against Mr. G. R. Allen claiming *yen* 97.60 and interest came up in the Yokohama Local Court before Judge Iyeiri on March 10th.

Plaintiff's counsel stated that Mr. Tamamura sold to defendant on Sept. 22nd last 2,500 collotype illustrated postal cards and 300 bromide illustrated postal cards for *yen* 50 and *yen* 45 respectively, and on the 17th of the same month 80 bromide illustrated postal cards for *yen* 9.60, and on the 3rd of the same month, 3 illustrated cards for *yen* 3, making together a total of *yen* 107.60. A discount of 2 per cent. was to be allowed on the lot of 2,500 cards and 20 per cent. on the lot of 300, which altogether amounted to *yen* 10.

Defendant contended that he did not buy the 300 bromide postal cards among the several lots identified by plaintiff, but the former received it from the photographer on consignment. Defendant sent it to his customer in America, but it was rejected by the latter which information the former received by the last Tacoma mail, about 10 days ago. Defendant refused to accept the claim of *yen* 45 for the lot of 300 cards.

Plaintiff's counsel further stated that defendant had ordered the photographer to make 300 bromide postal cards. After the work was finished, it was found that the cards differed from the specimens given by defendant, so that plaintiff made another lot which were an exact reproduction of those ordered by defendant. When all the work was finished the spoiled lot was also offered to defendant on consignment. Of course, plaintiff was not claiming for the latter.

The parties introduced their evidence, after which the hearing concluded, and judgment was reserved till March 12th.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

A few months ago Mr. Ebina Danjō's "Life of Christ" reached its seventh edition. What this may mean it is impossible to conjecture, as in this country an edition may mean anything from 100 copies to several thousands. But in the preface to the seventh edition Mr. Ebina says that the circulation of the work has been quite twice as large as he anticipated. He gives two reasons for the favour which the book has received, one being the comparative paucity of lives of Christ in this country and the other being a wide-spread feeling of dissatisfaction with existing ideals and a desire to find out wherein Christ was superior to all other men. In Mr. Ebina's "Life of Christ" we have not found anything that would be likely to be of special interest to foreign readers. It is principally historical, the details given being culled from the four Gospels. Certain controversial questions, such as the comparative authority of the four gospels, the interpretation to be put on certain passages, and the claim of the records to give the actual words of Christ, he treats in a cursory manner. His view is that Christ, though not God, is more than man. He says on p. 21 of his new preface, "Let us leave off trying to determine exactly what place Christ occupies in the superhuman world and concentrate our attention on the fact that He was in God and God in Him." The tone of this remark and of some others in the volume before us betrays a feeling of weariness caused by profitless theological controversy. The work has been pronounced unsatisfactory from a literary point of view by good judges. It abounds with names that are strange to Japanese ears. It lacks unity of purpose and so compares unfavourably with the great Lives of Christ which have appeared in Europe and America. The writing appears to us scrappy. The reader's attention is not attracted by Mr. Ebina's method of stating the events which are given to us in the Four Gospels. Neither Professor Seeley's *Ecce Homo* nor Renan's Life of Christ do more than present a certain side of Christ's character, but they do it in a most fascinating manner. In their special line these books have never been surpassed. But Mr. Ebina's work in Japanese carries no such literary charm with it. After reading the work through, a scholar observed to us a few weeks ago *Shumi nashi*, "It lacks flavour." Mr. Ebina has written many better things.

* * *

In an article on "Theological Colleges" the *Kirisutokyō Sekai* says that it is getting to be universally recognized in the United States that Christian ministers must be highly educated men. In that country for a very long time the great universities have been largely utilized for training ministers; and more than this, most of these universities had a Christian origin. In some churches it is imperative that candidates for the ministry should be graduates of a university. They are afterwards required to undergo special theological training for three years. The Methodists and Baptists were formerly rather fond of pointing the finger of scorn at high education for ministers. But in recent years their views have greatly altered in this particular. In America the Moody Institutes, which make a specialty of hasty preparation of evangelists are gradually losing their popularity, it being said that they turn out very inefficient men. Quick education is felt to be in most cases defective education. It is realized that a theological specialist should bear the marks of having been as carefully trained as a scientific specialist. Ministers can only lead public opinion when they show themselves to be thoroughly abreast of the times. An ignorant pastor brings reproach on the cause he seeks to further. Japanese Christian pastors do not receive anything like the amount of respect accorded to ministers in the West. In many cases they are held in the same contempt as ignorant Buddhist and Shinto priests. If we aim at making our churches entirely independent of foreign missionaries, says the *Kirisutokyō Sekai*, it goes without saying that the status of the Japanese Christian pastor must be raised to a higher level and this can only be done by giving him a higher education. We are now contemplating sending Japanese missionaries to China, Korea and Siam. It would be a shame to us not to send well educated men. We want a new kind of theological education here—an education that shall break away from Occidental precedents and be based on Oriental philosophical and religious notions. We do not desire to send to neighbouring countries a mere copy of the Western Christian minister, but a man who shall show signs of having been cast in an Oriental Christian mould. This it is that will give to our evangelistic efforts in the adjacent continent a guarantee of success of primary importance. Can not our churches by a judicious selection of materials and methods devise a system of theological training suited to the age in which we live and to our position in this Far Eastern part of the great world?

Writing on the war, the *Kiristokyō Sekai* says that Japan must resolve that from beginning to end this war shall be carried on in a highly civilised way. There are, says this organ, a certain class of Japanese who fail to see that Japan has anything to do but fight and win. But the moral responsibilities of Japan in this war are by no means few. Japan has always to remember that the principal reason of the friendliness shown towards her by England and America is the fact that it is fully recognised in these two countries that Japan has adopted all that is best in Western Civilization. In the present war Japan must realize that she has a mission, which is to show to the Orientals with whom she is brought into close contact what the civilisation which she has so recently adopted actually is. There will be numerous opportunities for doing this. Some people may say, continues *The Christian World*, that the Russians are Christians and we are not. In name this is so, but if actions and principles be considered, the Russians are not Christians, while the Japanese nation, though professing no Christianity, acts in a Christian way. At this serious crisis in her national life, Japan must remember above all things that she is fighting for justice and fairplay, and in the cause of humanity and enlightenment. It she is fortunate enough to establish her supremacy in the Far East, then she must be prepared to use her new position in a manner that shall win the approbation of the most advanced Western nations.

The *Kirisutokyō Sekai* is publishing long accounts of Mr. Gladstone, whose striking personality and religious zeal have attracted much attention in this country.

This organ highly approves of the attitude of Bishop Nicolai and the leading Greek Christians in the present situation. It considers that Christians of other denominations would do well to imitate the Greek Christians in refusing to mix up politics with religion. All Christians should try to allay rather than increase the hostility felt towards the Russians as a nation.

The new Christian Hymnal published by the Methodist Publishing House is reviewed at some length in the *Kirisutokyō Sekai* under the title *Kaisei Sambika wo Yomu.* The notice is still incomplete. Exception is taken to some of the changes made. But we have no space to go into the subject here.

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Several Christian organs condemn the attitude of the Socialists to the present war. The *Heimin Shimbun* and other socialist organs denounce war in the abstract as an outrage committed against humanity, and certain writers have gone as far as to say that rather than allow their children to be employed as soldiers they would subject them to any penalty that might be imposed. In a speech delivered by Mr. Ibuka on "Christian Ethics," which is published in full in the *Fukuin Shimpō* (No. 451), the attitude of modern Christians to war is discussed. Mr. Ibuka says that the Quakers are the only Christian sect that object to war *in toto* on principle. All other sects regard it as a necessary evil. As long as nations value their independence and claim certain rights, with the world constituted as it is, situations are bound to arise when questions can only be settled by an appeal to physical force, says Mr. Ibuka. To refuse to make use of physical force to put down evil on any occasion would soon mean that the world would be overrun with rogues.

In another part of the same paper, under the title *Ryōshin Dokuritsu* (An Independent Conscience) it is pointed out that the Socialists are endeavouring to establish an unbearable state of thraldom of thought. It is the teaching of the Bible, says this organ, that man's will has been purposely left free to choose what is to be believed and what rejected. The Socialists have no right whatever to interfere with the belief even of their own children. While trying to figure as the friends of liberty, they are doing their best to set up a system of despotism that savours of the middle ages.

* * *

In an article published in the February number of the *Taiyō* from the pen of Mr. Ōmachi Keigetsu on literature, there is a passage bearing on the attitude of educated Japanese to religion which is worth quoting in full. The title of this part of Mr. Ōmachi's essay is *Mushūkyō Koku no Bungei* (Literature and Art in a Religionless Country). Foreigners, says Mr. Ōmachi, when told that Japan is without a religion are very surprised and at once conclude that virtue can not have been developed among us, since in the West they regard religion as the chief means of developing virtue. Yet wisely Goethe has said:—"Those who have learning and a knowledge of art already have a religion. Religion is for those who have not these things." It is the superstitious who need religion. To those who have freed themselves from the trammels of superstition many religious doctrines appear intensely silly. To all ordinary men in most countries death has been regarded as a problem which demands thought and attention. There are in Western countries many great men even who have not been able to face death with resolution. But in Japan no education is needed to enable a man to meet death with a quiet mind. *Nihon ni oite wa hippu to iyedomo, omoikiri yoku; isshi* (一死) *chiri yori mo karoku, hotondo mondai to narazu**. The Japanese needs no religion with its promise of a future life to enable him to meat death with resignation. To him life only appears strange, and death is regarded by him as a return to a former condition. This is all the Japanese needs to enable him to pass his life in freedom from care. Religion is, however, considered necessary at his funeral. And so it comes about that priests exist, who may be regarded as "burial agents." We may if we will call them beggars, as they live on charity. They may not be able to preach, they may be profligate, they may spend their time in shooting, but nobody is unreasonable enough to find fault with them as long as they conduct funerals. Our priests live on our charity. They are a race of beggars. Our gentle-folk quietly put up with existing religious customs. They have their pleasures elsewhere. To think there can be no real goodness without religion shows no little ignorance. With no God to worship and no immortal soul to think about, educated people can pass their lives very pleasantly in the enjoyment of all that nature and art have bestowed on them. For their animal comforts there is ample provision. For the solace and diversion of their minds literature and art provide abundant material. For those who have got rid of superstition, to feel free to range about at will over the world of literature is pure delight. To study in order to get pleasure is only the first stage of the scholar's life. He passes on to seek wisdom from his teachers. He sits at the feet of the world's great thinkers. He examines with intense admiration the masterpieces of art and literature. What better teachers can he have than these? Of what use to him is the religion which satisfies the uncultured mind? He feels for the first time in his life that he is above it (*Hajimete shūkyō ijō no kōryoku ari*). On the stage in front of which he sits tragic pieces end happily and the comedies afford him perpetual delight. So writes Mr. Ōmachi Keigetsu.

* * *

An Ethical Society known as the Teiyū (丁酉) Rinrikai, founded 18 months ago, publishes every month a series of papers on ethical subjects. These papers have all been read before the Society and discussed. The small volumes of Transactions which have been issued amount to 17. Glancing over the list of subjects treated, we find that quite a number of learned speakers have discussed the question of the relation of the sexes to each other in new Japan. That woman is destined to occupy a new position in this country is generally recognized by teachers of ethics, no matter to what school they belong, but we find that few are prepared to admit that the American wife or even the English wife furnishes a suitable model for Japan to follow. The breaking down of the barriers that have divided the sexes from each other in the whole of the Eastern world, it is maintained, cannot be accomplished rapidly. Japan to-day is prepared to adopt many modifications of her old regime in respect of the social intercourse men and women may have with each other, but it is stated that great evils have resulted from attempts to force the pace in this matter. Nos. 15 and 16 of the Transactions of the Society contain two long papers on the relations of the sexes to each other—one by Mr. Nakajima Tokuzō entitled *Danjo Kōsai Ron* and the other by Mr. Shimoda Jirō entitled *Danjo no Kōsai ni tsukite.* We have no space to deal with these essays here. They advocate raising the status of women by means of education and allowing them more freedom to go out alone to visit friends during the day, and in company with male relatives or female companions at night. They also urge the importance of creating many new occupations for women in order to encourage the spirit of independence among them. But the general feeling seems to be that expressed by Mrs. Ōtsuka in No. 16 of the Teiyū Rinrikai's Transactions. She says that, with Japanese sentiment as it is to-day, the indiscriminate mixing in churches or elsewhere of young men and young women and encouraging them to talk to each other are most unwise. In its inceptive stages the new departure advocated must be marked by extreme caution, says Mrs. Ōtsuka.

Among serious-minded young men who have made a special study of religion in Japan and in Europe, Dr. Anezaki Masaharu occupies a unique position. He is deeply in earnest. He realizes fully all the dangers that attend such an age of transition as that through which Japan is now passing, and it is his desire to be a builder rather than a destroyer. Dr. Anezaki may be said to be a product of the present age, and he bids fair to become a leader of thought among a certain section of sober-minded young men, who greatly admire his talent, industry, zeal and quite aristocratic refinement of nature. For some years past Dr. Anezaki has, in articles contributed to the *Taiyō* and other magazines, frequently given indications that he has been searching for a moral ideal. He seems to have found it, if we may judge from a very interesting lecture delivered to the young men who attend the Teiyū Rinrikai meetings, published in Vol. XVI. of their Transactions entitled *Seinen-kun no Issoku* (A Maxim for Young Men); although he does not make it entirely clear what this ideal is. As I was coming to this meeting, says Dr. Anezaki, I overheard a remark made by one of the students now listening to me. On being asked the subject that I was likely to treat, this student replied, "He is a man who is fond of discussing the true aspects of an ordinary subject (*Heibon no koto wo shinmenmoku* 眞面目 *ni yaru hito da*). That is just what I intend to do, proceeded Dr. Anezaki, the outline of whose address we give below. This is an age in which men's minds are much confused by the number of conflicting ideas with which they come into contact. Some young men have no moral ideal at all. They fancy that it is enough to be loyal to their country and their rulers, or they aim at what they call "success in life," which is something very inferior in character and often disappointing when attained. Now, taking our human life as we find it, what is the proper way to look at it? It is quite certain that we must each one of us steer our own special course across the ocean of life with the help of such guidance as we can obtain. We can only adopt such of the teaching of other men as suits our special natures. There is nothing that we should set a higher price on than our own individuality—that must be developed at all costs. If we cannot find what we specially need in one religion, we can seek it in another; and if no existing religion satisfies us, we can compile a creed for ourselves. What is all important is that we should have some kind of a creed, and that we should implicitly trust that creed. An ideal which we feel we can never realize in any tolerably satisfactory degree is not of much practical use to us. Men do not succeed as a rule in pursuing any course for which they have a natural antipathy. Men must admire and have a real love for what they wish to follow. There is enormous strength to be derived from fixity of purpose. I can recommend no better model for your imitation in this respect than the career of Columbus. After much research and reflection he formed the idea that he lived to see realized. The whole world was against him, but it did not discourage him in the least. . . . In these days there is much talk about the conflict between science and religion. But in the case of those convictions which all really earnest and serious-thinking persons possess, in reference to the deeper questions of life, nothing that science teaches can affect them. That which a man's own heart teaches him he will hold to through thick and thin. Let it be your ambition before all things to have one definite object in life—to have a mission and to seek to fulfil that mission. Try to fill a place that no other man can fill so well as you. There is no joy in life like feeling that one's own special ideal has been realized.

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* "In Japan the most ordinary people meet death with resolution. They regard death as of less importance than dust, and it can hardly be said to be even a subject of inquiry."

In Nos. 13 and 14 of the Society's Transactions appears a very long essay penned by Mr. Yoshida Kumaji on "Progressive Morality." It discusses all the principal theories bearing on this subject and comes to the conclusion that according to the standard followed by the most advanced nations, morality has even in the past 50 years, to say nothing of earlier periods, made most distinct progress. The obligation to treat all human beings and even dumb animals with kindness, acknowledged in all highly civilised countries, is one conspicuous instance among many. The distinctive marks of modern advanced ethics Mr Yoshida takes to be (1) a doctrine of energy and activity; a high regard for practicality and a dislike of mere empty ceremonial. (2) A desire to regulate the relation of individuals to each other by taking into consideration the welfare of the communities of which the individuals are component parts, that is this relation becomes organic and operates so as one unit is always assisting another. (3) A tendency to establish a system of morals on a basis sufficiently broad to serve for different nations and different races and even for the professors of different religions.

* * *

In the *Kyōiku Sekai* we find an interesting article by Mr. Inagaki Manjirō, Japanese Minister in Siam, entitled "Japanese Buddhism and Siamese Buddhism," the substance of which we give below:—I am of opinion that Japanese Buddhism is inseparably connected with our life in this country just as Siamese Buddhim is connected with Siamese life. But in the position the religion occupies in the two countries there is a wide difference. Every stage in the life of a Siamese is marked by the performance of a Buddhist ceremony. When a child is born a priest is sent for to offer up prayers and read portions of scripture to the household. At the age of 12 or 13 both boys and girls are supposed to reach their majority and the priest is again called on to perform a ceremony. In the case of marriages or of entering a new house there is invariably a religious ceremony. Till this is over no feasting takes place. After death comes the solemn religious funeral. It is perhaps in consequence of all this that the priests in Siam rank even higher than the king himself. In that country even the king salutes the priests in a most humble attitude. In Siam, no matter how high a man's rank may be, he is expected to have his head shaved and to don the priest's dress for at least 3 months during his early life. Even the king is not exempt from this rule, and the present king has already complied with the requirement. Any nobleman who omitted to observe the practice would be deemed unworthy of the rank of a peer. The enormous influence wielded by Buddhism in Siam depends largely on the high position to which the customs of the country have exalted it. In order that religion may make itself felt in every department of political, business and social life it must command universal respect in the way that Buddhism does in Siam. This may be said to be the case to a large extent with both Roman Catholicism and Protestantism in the West. There, too, all the great events of human life are celebrated by some kind of religious ceremony. In the case of most of our Japanese Buddhist sects there is none of this close connection with society. With the exception of the Shin sect the tendency is all in the direction of separation. Our Buddhism makes too much of the next life and too little of this. If Buddhism aims at becoming one of the civilising and enlightening factors of the twentieth century in the country, she must adapt herself more to the present spiritual needs of society generally. Mr. Inagaki next goes at some length into schemes for commemorating the conveyance of Buddhist relics to this country, advocating a plan of his own. He then continues thus:—I have a remarriage to propose, which is no other than that of our higher classes with Buddhism. When at the beginning of the Meiji Era, at the suggestion of certain statesmen, Buddhism was relegated to a secondary position throughout the whole country, what was known as *haibutsu ron* (Anti-Buddhism) for a time carried everything before it and resulted in the severance of the connection which had previously existed between our upper classes and our Government with the Buddhist religion. In this we went too far, and I should like to see a reversion to the old order of things. An impartial review of Japan's progress in the Meiji era could not fail to notice the fact that in religion, art, literature, invention and charity we have not kept pace with the military and naval progress made. On account of our naval and military development we have won renown among the nations. But we ought not to rest satisfied with this. Is there not great danger attending a development that is so one-sided? The feeling of the nation in reference to this subject is displayed by the honours conferred on those who have died in battle or died in the service of the Government as compared to those conferred on great artists, writers, religious teachers and the like. There exists no national shrine (*shōkonsha*) where the spirits of the great, peace-loving benefactors of our country are worshipped, and it is not on these benefactors that our highest titles or decorations are bestowed. We have no Westminster Abbey where lie the ashes of our illustrious dead. Many of our greatest heroes lie buried in obscure corners of the country where their very names are in danger of being forgotten. In order to show that as a nation we appreciate the merits of the inventor, the artist, the moralist, the educationist and the author, let us collect money and erect a building worthy in every way of the noble object to which it is to be devoted, in which shall be deposited the remains of all men for whom even a state funeral would prove an inadequate token of the honour in which they are held by their fellow-countrymen. We need as a nation to rise to higher ideals in respect to the relative merits of men. The divorce of religion from the State in my view was a retrograde step and I should like to see a reunion.

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In a recent member of his organ, the *Yūai* (*Faternité*) Count Itagaki uses very strong, but none too strong, language in reference to the iniquities of the yellow press of Japan. The name these papers have received in this country is *Akutoku Shimbun*, "Newspapers that trade on Vice." This is precisely what they do. The pretence that in writing about vice they promote virtue deceives nobody, says Count Itagaki, since everybody knows that the persons who eagerly read the dirty paragraphs to be found in low-class newspapers are far more likely to be encouraged in their crooked ways by what they find recorded in these sheets than to be persuaded to reform their lives. Count Itagaki contends that the only way to stop this abuse is to educate the general community up to a higher standard. Were Japanese society as a whole to condemn the class of writing referred to, it would stop. But the fact is that even among well educated and refined people in this country there still lurks a very strong liking for scandal of all kinds, and it is constantly found that personal paragraphs which give in detail idle reports or mere conjectures of how a Mr. —— has been carrying on with a Miss —— attract more attention than columns of useful information. Till this morbidity of taste is cured the extinction of the journals which trade on vice is impossible, says Count Itagaki. He goes on to observe that a proper sense of shame has yet to be developed in certain large sections of the community. There is no compunction about dragging out to light the most revolting subjects. Napoleon's remark that a newspaper is more powerful than a regiment of soldiers is quoted, and the Count records his conviction that in a large number of cases in this country the power of the press is used for evil namely, as a means of fanning the flame of those human passions that most need repression or lawful gratification; and while this is so, concludes the aged politician, the thorough reform of society may be regarded as away in the dim distance.

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Mr. Ebina Danjō in his organ, the *Shinjin*, has for some time past been publishing carefully prepared summaries of the views of great Western theologians and philosophers. Having discussed fully and with considerable insight the views of Spinōza, Mr. Ebina has passed on to Leibnitz. In the February number of the magazine the opinions of this great man on certain selected topics are stated in a very clear and concise manner. The subjects on which Leibnitz is quoted are:—(1) The Monad. (2) The foundation of religion. (3) The relation of Christianity to other religions. (4) The essence of religion. In reference to heading 3, Mr. Ebina says, Leibnitz knew little about other religions compared to a scholar like Lessing, but he held that all religions alike are the results of the use of man's reasoning faculties, and so it comes about, says Leibnitz that where these faculties are the most highly developed there will be found the highest form of religious belief.* The foundation of religion he considers to be man's nature, which he takes to be derived from the supreme monad or primitive unity, the simple original substance, which he calls God. Men are all created monads, which approach the Divine monad in nature according to the measure of their perfection. After comparing the religious views of Spinoza and Leibnitz, Mr. Ebina goes on to show how in later ages religious development of an important kind was obtained by a combination of the two views of man's relation to God.

When writing on the state of Japanese thought Mr. Ebina, like Mr. Matsumura Kaiseki, grows very pessimistic. An article on "School Ways and Parents' Ideas" in the February number of the *Shinjin* denounces modern educatiional methods and condemns the majority of students as flippant, idle and without an object in life. According to Mr. Ebina this is not the result of the Government education imparted, but of a variety of other causes into which we cannot go here.

CORRESPONDENCE.

POSTAGE TO NORTH CHINA.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Please allow me to acquaint the public through your paper with the fact that a notification has been issued by the Communications Department to the effect that the transmission of the postal parcels destined for North China, *viz.* Peking, Tientsin and Chefoo, has been reopened since the 1st inst.

Yours faithfully,

T. AONUMA.
Supt. of Foreign Mails.
Yokohama, 4th March, 1904.

THE NEW "SAMBIKA."

(To the Editor of the "Japan Mail.")

Sir,—Although we Japanese are thankful for what is done for our church singing, and although we greatly appreciate the trouble taken by the Committee appointed to revise the newly-printed "Sambika," might I call the attention of the Committee to the fact that there are, in the new book, a large number of very serious mistakes in harmony. I might say that in looking through the book I have found that the very first, the fundamental rules of harmony, have been broken. This is so in the following hymns;—66 (2), 65, 159, *165*, *188*, 191, 311, 313, 431, 440, *442*, 444. Those in italics particularly abound in errors, in form as well as in harmony. The following have equally bad mistakes in harmony, and I find, on comparison, that this is different from the originals: 34, 48, 54, 82, 91, 126, 171, 183, 189, 195, 199, 205, 259, 260, 271, 274, 317, 321, 228, 346, 351, 418. In my opinion, also, the beauty of the original music has been lost more or less by alteration of the harmony of the following:—30, 60, 168, 175 (2), 213, 223, 264, 341, 372, 412, 419. I might add that among those so altered are "Pleyel's Hymn," "University College," and compositions by Dr. Dykes and Sir Arthur Sullivan!

I have taken some care to study music and have learnt to appreciate good harmony, and I regret these faults and changes more than I can tell. I therefore hope that more care will be taken next time the book is printed. We Japanese need education in *good* music as much as we do in other subjects.

With respect, I am, Sir, Yours truly,
Daito, March 4th. KENRI.

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* History certainly contradicts this statement. The religion of the Greeks might be quoted as a form of belief which had a very unstable rational basis.—(Writer of Summary.)

THE SIX-ASIDE FINAL.

(To the Editor of the "Japan Mail.")

Sir,—With reference to the report of the "Final in the Y. C. & A. C. Association Football Sixes," which appears under the heading of "Football" in your issue of this morning, it is very much to be regretted that the so-called "Final" of this hardly contested "six-a-side" competition should be allowed to drift into a "five-a-side" practise game, played, quite unnecessarily, in pouring rain on unfit ground.

Yours faithfully, PLAY THE GAME.

March 9th, 1904.

(To the Editor of the "Japan Mail.")

Sir,—May we be permitted to express our surprise at the appearance of such a letter as that signed by "Play the Game" in your issue of this morning. The meaning of the pseudonym employed can hardly be clear to the mind of the correspondent. Does he think that rushing into print on such a matter is compatible with the principles of the instincts of sport and fair play which have given rise to the adoption of the motto named ?.

Everyone knows how difficult it is to get even twelve men to turn up on a field at a given hour. Taking into consideration the limited time at the disposal of the individual members of the teams, the lateness of the season (the ground being, we understand, only open for football by special permission during March), the departure of certain members for Kobe at the end of the week, and the unsettled state of the weather at this period of the year, it shows, to our mind, a much better understanding of "playing the game" in making the best of existing circumstances than by falling back on the far too frequent policy of indefinite postponement.

As to playing football in pouring rain, may we suggest that the Committee provide a stock of cheap but strong umbrellas for use in next season's matches whenever the elements are unfavourable !

Yours faithfully, X.Y.Z.

Yokohama, March 10th, 1904.

THE LATE DR. HARRELL.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—The enclosed extract taken from the *Baltimore American* of January 22nd will be of interest to some of your readers. Dr. Harrell came to Japan in the year 1884 as a Missionary physician, connected with the American Episcopal Mission. In 1887, he resigned his appointment and became a teacher in the Upper Middle School in Sendai. When his contract expired, he returned to the United States and lived in the State of Washington and later in New York. He went as a Surgeon to Manila during the war and after his return thence became interested in mines in Mexico. J.T.C.

The funeral of Dr. F. W. Harrell, who died last Tuesday at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York, took place on Jan. 21 from the residence of his mother, Mrs. E. R. Harrell, 2032 Maryland avenue. The pall-bearers were Drs. Hiram Woods, Alfred R. Giles, E. W. Eilau, Herbert Harlan and Flannery, schoolmates of the deceased when studying medicine in Baltimore, and Messrs. William B. Nolting, J. R. Hagerty and Alddrich Young. Rev. J. G. Murray, assisted by Rev. D. Prescott Allison, of St. Michael and All Angels' Protestant Episcopal Church, conducted the services. Interment was made at London Park. Dr. Harrell is survived by his widow, who was Miss Carrie Elizabeth Ballagh, daughter of Dr. James A. Ballagh, of Tokio, Japan, and sister of Prof. J. C. Ballagh, of the Johns Hopkins University; two children, a sister (Miss Evlyn E. Harrell) and his mother (Mrs. E. R. Harrell). Dr. Harrell was manager and part owner of a number of silver mines in Mexico. He was taken ill on January 11 with a chill, and lived but a week, succumbing to double pneumonia, kidney trouble and heart complications. He was born in Suffolk county, Va., and was 45 years of age. He graduated from the University of Maryland and took a post-graduate course at the University of Pennsylvania. Among the floral designs received from friends of the deceased was an immense wreath from Mr. Frederick B. Rhodes, a nephew of the late Cecil Rhodes.

WAR NEWS BY MAIL.

Rome, February 11.

Admiral Candiani, who commanded, the Italian squadron in the Far East during the Chino-Japanese War, and who is considered a most competent judge of the present situation there, has given an interview to the *Giornale d' Italia*. He said:—"It is reported that Port Arthur is provisioned for eighteen months and there are no civilians there, but this is doubtful. I believe Port Arthur to be lost to the Russians, and that their fleet is destined to be gradually destroyed, excepting the few ships taking refuge at Vladivostock. I believe that Russia can bring together 150,000 men on land, but it would be difficult to increase this number, while Japan can concentrate 300,000 troops in Korea, where she would be supported by local sympathy."

London, February 11.

At Lloyd's to-day 30 per cent. was paid to insure against the risk of war between France and Great Britain within six months. Yesterday the rate was 20 per cent.

St. Petersburg, February 13.

The Finance Minister, in denying to-day the report that Russia had prohibited the exportation of grain, added that no such step was ever contemplated.

London, February 13.

All the commissioned and warrant officers of the British Navy who have been retired, but are eligible for service, have been communicated with by the Admiralty Board. Test mobilisations are being made. Gun-practice is being held in all of the gun barracks. The main idea in the minds of those who are trying to explain this move on the part of the Government is that Great Britain anticipates in the near future a possible attempt on the part of Russia to pass her Black Sea fleet through the Dardanelles, which, as has already been pointed out by Lord Lansdowne, would be a violation of the Treaty of Berlin, unless Great Britain's permission for passage were first secured. With the Russians accusing Great Britain of giving financial aid to Japan, and with France leaning toward the Russian side of the controversy, there is a feeling here to-day that such a trend of international relations is the possible prelude to a crisis, which may involve several other European Powers in the Far Eastern imbroglio. The general public views with satisfaction the determined stand that the Government seems to have taken with regard to the passage of the Russians through the Dardanelles, and the action of Egypt in prohibiting war vessels from coaling in the Suez Canal.

Copenhagen, February 13.

The British Government has enquired if the Danish Government is prepared to defend Denmark's neutrality, especially the important sea routes. Denmark replied in effect: "We will defend ourselves." The construction placed upon this inquiry here, is that Great Britain appreciates the danger of Russia occupying Danish fortresses in the event of complications between Great Britain and Russia over the Far Eastern question. In consequence of the possibility of such an outcome, the Danish War Department has ordered the Army Reserves to be ready for mobilisation thoroughout Denmark within twelve hours. All the regimental offices are open day and night.

St. Petersburg, February 14.

One of the most serious bits of news at this moment is the confirmation of the statement that aboard the Japanese vessels of war attacking Port Arthur were a number of American Naval officers. This caused something akin to a feeling of consternation among the Russian officers. On Wednesday the Tsar summoned to the Winter Palace all the officers, even down to the subalterns of the Guards regiments now in St. Petersburg, and addressed them, saying:

"As unfortunately the country is at war it is expected the Guards will do their duty nobly and share the deprivations and trials and, it is hoped, the glory of their comrades of the line."

No official publication has been made of Viceroy Alexieff's telegram in reference to the damage to the Japanese ships by the Russian fire.

The Tsar has himself issued the strongest orders that no news whatsoever be communicated through the Headquarters staff. Further, he is deeply annoyed at the attitude recently adopted by the Russian press of writing upon the political situation in a way calculated to raise enmity toward Russia by England, and also, very specially America. For instance, the St. Petersburg *Gazette* has been prohibited, not as generally is supposed for publishing false news about the war, but because of an accompanying article highly insulting to England. The Tsar wisely considers it the poorest policy to make bitter enemies at such times as these.

Grand Duke Cyril, a cousin of the Tsar, and Grand Duke Boris, the Tsar's uncle, are about to proceed to the seat of war.

In view of possible eventualities, it was resolved to place the whole country upon a war footing, so as to be able in case of need to meet any possible attack from three sides. All the Guard regiments, with the exception of those forming the First Division, have been ordered to hold themslves in readiness for active service. Parties of these have already left for the Far East and others will follow from day to day. The artillery of the guard has also received orders to move to the front.

St. Petersburg, February 15.

During the patriotic demonstration at Warsaw on Sunday, a certain Count Dembsky became insane and fired into the crowd from the balcony of his residence. He killed three persons and wounded 25. He tried to commit suicide, but was secured.

London, February 15.

The Home Secretary, Mr. Akers-Douglas, announced in the House of Commons to-day, that the British Government not only had not been approached with a suggestion that it should consent to the Russian Black Sea fleet passing out through the Dardanelles, but there was no reason whatever for supposing that Russia contemplated such a violation of her treaty obligations to the European Powers.

St. Petersburg, February 15.

An issue of 50,000,000 ruble credit notes secured by gold was made on February 15th. A comparatively small influx of circulating credit notes into the Treasury and the Imperial Bank and the increased withdrawals for the Far East are assigned as the reasons for this action. The total of the credit notes in circulation on February 14th was 680,000,000 rubles.

Captain Stephanof, who was blown up with the torpedo gunboat *Yenesei*, and who himself invented the system of laying submarine mines which is considered responsible for the catastrophe, had caused the *Yenesei* to be fitted with his device for the rapid laying of mines whereby a trolley line extended beyond the vessel's stern along which the mines slid out and dropped into their appointed places. This plan did away with the cumbersome work of laying the mines from small boats. The accident was due to the excessive strain on the *Yenesei's* anchor cables while the mines were suspended pending immersion. The two cables snapped and one mine collided with another.

St. Petersburg, Feb 16.—The departure of Vice-Admiral Makaroff, the ice breaker specialist of the Russian Navy, and until recently Commander-in-Chief at Cronstadt, to take the place of Vice-Admiral Stark (in command of the Russian fleet at Port Arthur), was marked by impressive scenes.

Voluntary contributions to replace the ships already destroyed by the enemy, are assuming large proportions, one man having given the sum of $20.000. It was through a similar movement that the present volunteer fleet was started after the Russo-Turkish War.

The text of the order of the day issued to the Russian troops by Viceroy Alexieff on Feb. 16th is as follows:—"An heroic army and fleet have been entrusted to me by His Majesty the Emperor, and now, when the eyes of the Tsar of Russia and of the world are upon us, we must remember that it is our sacred duty to protect the Tsar and the Fatherland. Russia is great and powerful, and if our foe is strong, this must give us additional strength and power to fight him. The spirit of the Russian soldiers and sailors is high. Our army and navy know many renowned names which must in this hour serve as an example to us. Our God, who has always unheld the cause that is just, is doing so now. Let us unite for the coming struggle; let every man be of tranquil mind, in order the better to fulfil his duty, trusting in the help of the Almighty; and let every man perform his task, remembering that prayer and service to the Emperor are never wasted. Long live the Emperor and the Fatherland. God be with us. Hurrah!"

Berlin, February 16.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Tagliche Bundschau* says that 600 Russian soldiers have been frozen to death while marching across Lake Baikal, Eastern Siberia. The correspondent adds that the temporary railroad across the lake it not yet completed, that a large detachment of troops was sent on a 22 mile march over the ice-covered lake, and that it is presumed that part of these troops lost their way in a snow-storm and perished.

Washington, February 17.

Rear-Admiral Evans transmitted to-day to the American Navy Department a cablegram from Commander Staunton, of the gunboat *Helena*, now in dock at Newchwang, in which he says conditions there were greatly disturbed, and that he is vigorously investigating the report that Russian officials have delayed American and British merchantmen. In the event that the American Consulate is endangered, it is stated that Commander Staunton will land blue-jackets and marines. There is every wish on the part of the United States Government not to give the slightest cause for complaint, either by Russia or Japan of intervention, but the unalterable American policy of protecting American intests at all hazards will be adhered to.

New York, February 18.

A St. Petersburg correspondent, according to a cablegram to the *World* from London, says: "I learn from official sources the news of a dramatic sequel to the Russian disaster at Port Arthur on February 9th. After the attack by the Japanese, Viceroy Alexieff summoned before him the Russian officers whose negligence was the main cause of the defeat. After cross-questioning them concerning their conduct, Viceroy Alexieff was convinced that a lieutenant among them was most culpably guilty. It is declared that he then drew a revolver and shot the young officer dead before his comrades. The lieutenant had taken a party of officers ashore on a torpedo-boat, whereas he should have been on guard outside the harbour."

London, February 18.

The belief is general in British diplomatic circles that Russia is about to defy the United States in almost a similar manner to that in which it involved itself with Japan. The note of Secretary Hay, by which it was designed to guarantee the integrity of China, has caused a profound sensation in St. Petersburg, and the charge is openly made there that for commercial purposes the United States is planning to become dominant in China. That Russia realises this, and that she will follow out her old-time diplomatic methods is shown by the intimation that she will soon send a reply to the United States note to the effect that, with certain "inconsequential" limitations, she accepts the position taken by the Government at Washington. This she did to Japan in the Manchurian and Korean negotiations, that terminated in the present war, claiming to have made concessions, while at the same time she had made none. So she will do to the United States, and hopes to hoodwink that Government. Russia will accept no line of procedure that can in any way be construed as assenting Government has any sovereignty over Manchuria. She will balk at the Hay plan, and, if necessary, will break with the United States before she will permit that nation to outline her policy in the Far East.

London, February 19.

A military correspondent of the *Times* asks whether the Russian proclamation portends a repetition of Russia's policy of 1812, and the waging of a war of exhaustion. He thinks that this proclamation can have no other meaning, unless it was concocted deliberately for deception, or written with the knowledge that the Manchurian Railroad is wrecked already. "Yet this seems madness" the correspondent concludes, "because, if the Russian army stood still while Japan was reducing the two great fortresses at Port Arthur and Vladivostock, Russia would become the laughing-stock of Europe, and the mock of Asia."

THE NEW YORK SILK CASE.

Much time was consumed on Wednesday, February 10th, at the trial of the defendants in the Japanese silk cases before Judge Thomas in the United States Circuit Court, New York, in hearing about analyses made by B. B. Bonheim of samples cut from silks imported by A. S. Rosenthal & Co. Mr. Bonheim had voluminous tabulated documents which he said showed the invoice weights of Rosenthal & Co. and the ascertained weights which he had found by analyses.

Much of the merchandise represented by Bonheim's samples had gone into consumption when the Government's analyst examined the official samples cut from the Rosenthal goods as they passed through the custom house. Former Judge Dittenhoefer, Frank H. Platt, and De Lancey Nicoll of counsel for the defence, attacked the competency of Bonheim's estimates. Examiner Bonheim's went into great detail in explaining how he had made his computations and arrived at his conclusions.

Although Bonheim was put on the stand by the prosecution as an expert witness, Judge Dittenhoefer appeared skeptical regarding the qualifications of the witness. Much of Bonheim's expert testimony was characterized by Dittenhoefer as "guesses." Judge Dittenhoefer also succeeded in bringing out the fact that many of the invoices involved in Bonheim's computations had not been introduced into the court as evidence, the invoices representing in some instances, entries made early in 1901 and also subsequent to Sept. 20, of the same year, while others, represented importations during 1902 and 1903.

It was claimed by the prosecution that it had the right to introduce invoices of the Rosenthal firm for periods not in evidence before the court, for the sake of arriving at comparisons. This, however, was denied by Judge Dittenhoefer, who told of the constant changes in styles of corded kaikas and that while the general term "kaika" applied to Japanese corded silks, it was nevertheless a fact that these goods, being intended for women's wear, were continually undergoing changes as to both styles and weights. "Therefore," said Judge Dittenhoefer, "it is not possible for the prosecution to introduce as evidence against our clients invoices of different periods."

Judge Thomas inquired of Bonheim whether the examiner was conversant with the packing of Japanese corded silks, and also whether the witness was competent to make allowance for tare in computing weights of silks from the official samples. On this point, Judge Thomas said: "A variety of things ought to be explained.

Questioned by Judge Dittenhoefer for the defence, Bonheim told how he had acquired the knowledge requisite for him to testify as an expert. According to Bonheim, he was not a dyer, nor had he, as a matter of fact, ever seen any of the corded silks dyed. After further examination of Bonheim, Judge Thomas said he would strike out the testimony of the analysis and examiner regarding the returns made on the samples of the Rosenthal silks. This ruling was regarded as favorable to the defence.

The entire afternoon session was devoted to a cross-examination of Bonheim by Judge Dittenhoefer and De Lancey Nicoll. It developed that some packages of Rosenthal & Co. had only been examined in part by Bonheim. In reply to Judge Dittenhoefer, the examiner denied he had been offered a high salaried position by J. R. Simon & Co., rivals of Rosenthal & Co., in the silk business.

The principal witness next day was W. J. Harrison of Coles, Son & Coles, commission merchants of London.

Harrison testified to transactions with the Rosenthal firm at Lyons and at New York. On the cross-examination by Judge Dittenhoefer, Harrison acknowledged that he had marked packages consigned to A. S. Rosenthal & Co., as "Chinese" silks, when in reality the witness knew the goods to be "Japanese" silks. Asked by Judge Dittenhoefer whether in his (Harrison's) opinion the marking of the packages as mentioned constituted false statements, and also whether Harrison had consented to put false statements on the cases, the witness answered affirmatively. Harrison also testified that he had advised his employers to demand $5,000 of the United States for coming to this country to testify. He said his salary was $5,000. The witness said he was living at the Hotel Spaulding, where Chief of the Secret Service Wilkie stays when in town. Replying to De Lancey Nicoll, counsel for Examiner Brown, Harrison said he regarded his trip to the United States as a "holiday excursion."

An important stipulation was agreed to by the Government, in which it was admitted that all the entries and declarations purporting to be signed by Martin L. Cohn were signed in blank and that they were filled in over Cohn's signature, and further that Cohn did not see the papers for a year after they were filled in.

After having been engaged in the presentation of evidence since Jan. 20th, the prosecution on Monday, Feb. 15th concluded its evidence. Counsel for the defence stated that the cases against their clients would be taken up separately.

Former Judge Dittenhoefer made an argument that the correspondence between G. Goudchaux & Co. of Lyons, and Coles & Co., London, introduced into the case by the prosecution, should be stricken out as evidence by the court. The counsel said the acts of the Lyons firm were done without the authority or knowledge of the defendant, Cohn. After hearing what W. Wickham Smith, the special assistant Attorney-general, had to say in opposition to Dittenhoefer's motion, Judge Thomas decided the Goudchaux letters were admissible as evidence.

THE FIRST BATTLE OF PORT ARTHUR.

On the 8th instant, at 11.30 p.m., we were lying in quarantine outside of the entrance. The Russian fleet was lying in three lines outside us, and on the eastern side of the entrance there were also a few ships, gun-boats, training ships and torpedo-boats cruising in the same line with ourselves, making a fourth line. Suddenly we felt a heavy submarine explosion, with two more in quick succession. The Russian fleet then began firing from the outer line with light guns, their drums beating to quarters, while the search-lights of every ship were turned on. Steam launches and torpedo-boats began rushing about, but in a few minutes the firing died down and we thought it was only some night manœuvre. We were about to turn in again when the firing broke out afresh. Between half-past twelve and one o'clock the two Russian battleships passed in and took up a position right across the narrow entrance, while one of the larger cruisers took up a position close to the entrance under the lighthouse. It seemed to us a strange manœuvre for such large ships at night-time, so we stayed on deck to watch further developments. As it was cold, however, and things became a trifle slow, we turned in about 2 a.m. At 2.35 a.m. we were called out again as two very excited naval officers boarded us and in a mixture of French and English asked our names, etc. We got no news from them as they left in about a minute. At 5.30 a.m. another naval officer boarded us and we learned that the Viceroy had ordered that no ship was to leave or enter the harbour until further notice. After that I remained on deck with one passenger, and at daylight we made out that one of the battleships was all down by the head and another by the stern, while the big cruiser had a heavy list to port, all of them having, we learned later, been torpedoed and now lying aground. Turning round and looking seaward, we saw outside the fleet a ring of torpedo-boats, and farther out we saw some of the Russian cruisers that we knew to the westward, while several masts showed on the horizon beyond them. These we judged to be cruisers looking for what had disturbed them the night before. Between six and seven o'clock the inner cruisers came back and took up their old positions with the fleet, and those hull down came slowly into sight (they were three two-funnelled cruisers) and lay in line, stern on, about 6 or 7 miles off. Then we noticed numbers of men on the forts overhead, looking out to sea, while the decks of the stranded cruiser were crowded with men all looking in the same direction. About 7.45 a.m. the three cruisers turned and slowly steamed across the front of the Russian fleet, to the eastward, and probably about 6 miles off. At 7.55 I saw distinctly with the telescope that the Rising Sun of Japan was flying from their mast-heads and gaffs. It was like an electric shock to us and we understood at once the meaning of the night manœuvres, though we had been looking on for nearly two hours, thinking that, as the Chinese on board said, there had been a bad collision amongst the fleet the night before. The whole Russian fleet was now weighing slowly and clumsily, and by 8.20 were under way and steaming after the Japanese cruisers, but farther in shore, towards Dalny. In a few minutes the Japanese were out of sight to the S.E.-ward and at 9.15 a.m. the Russian fleet returned to anchor, actually dropping the same great mooring anchors, although it had taken them so long to get them up before. They were perfectly certain, and said so openly, that the Japs would never dare to attack Port Arthur. Afterwards they sent a couple of cruisers out scouting in the direction in which the enemy's cruisers had disappeared. At 10.50 a.m. we were cleared from quarantine and at the same time one of the cruisers returned at great speed, firing heavily astern, the others having returned previously. We were then ordered to shift our berth for the training ship, but were not assigned to any special position. We started to weigh anchor and moved to the westward, close to the str. *Ningoota*, which had only just got in, having slipped in close in shore round the promontory, from the westward. At 10.55, or just as we took up our berth, we saw the Japanese fleet, sixteen ships in number, coming up full speed from the eastward. The battleships were leading, then came the armoured cruisers, with the remaining cruisers in the rear, all in single file. The Russian fleet were weighing anchor slowly, washing their chains and trying to get their great wooden-stocked mooring anchors fished, instead of slipping them and getting their ships under command. It was really amazing, the Japanese fleet being almost on top of them.

About 11.15 the first Japanese shell—a 12-in. one—dropped among the Russian battleships right off the entrance and close to where 17 torpedo-boats were lying together, about one-third of a mile away from us. The torpedo-boats, training ship, and a small gun-vessel wheeled and went into harbour, while those on the big ships continued washing their chains and trying to get their anchors secured, the shower of shell in the meantime beginning to thicken. We started to weigh, having for pleasant companions a three-funnelled battleship and the small cruiser *Novik*. The former, abreast of us, distant about 300 yards, was throwing beds and bedding and lumber of all sorts through her amidship gun ports as she got her headway on her, while we raced close in shore away to the westward. At first this battleship also hauled to the westward abreast of us, but about a mile further out, with the *Novik* a little ahead of her, while the forts were over our head. Thus being directly in the line of fire, the shells fell thick in the water around us, on the beach, the hill-side, and over the forts.

Looking back, the fleet were bunched together and fairly helpless, as until then, with the exception of our three-funnelled friend, only the cruisers had got properly under way, though they were all firing their heavy guns as they were able. A Russian Volunteer ship, armed as a cruiser, got under way as soon as any of them, and passing out through the battleships and half a-mile beyond, found things so hot that she turned and passed back inside them again, though how she escaped, while broadside on is a marvel.

Just then I saw a shell burst right at the stem of a battleship, when they were still washing the anchor and some twenty men were trying to drag a heavy fish-hook forward to the anchor. It blotted out everything in dense, black smoke, and before the smoke cleared away she was shut in by the next in line advancing, so we could not see the damage done. Then another battleship was struck broadside, abreast of her forward funnel, and then another on her port quarter, and the cruiser *Askold* had her after funnel and main topmast carried away. These were all heavy shells bursting on the outside and were plainly noticeable from the volumes of black smoke which they sent up. Of course we could not see those which penetrated and burst inside, though doubtless many that struck the water alongside must have hit the vessels as well. The cruisers, strange to say, fought most of the time outside the battleships and on the wing, but retired on them towards the end of the action.

All this time we were racing along the beach to the westward, while the shells were falling thickly round us, but fortunately bursting in the water. One heavy shell that burst aft covered our stern with smoke and spray, so that looking from forwards I thought our stern was blown away. A second later one burst under our bows and sent a shower up forward, and so things went on, the concussion taking away our breath and shaking the ship like a leaf. Looking ahead and astern, you could see the shells plainly going for the forts. One large shell that passed close over us must have been nearly spent, as it zig-zagged from side to side, changing its course as it went; but when it struck the base of the hill and exploded it shifted a pile of sand and stones.

It was principally owing to the cruiser *Novik* that we came in for such a hot time, as the battleship returned to the rest of the fleet shortly after the fight began, and they never went out any distance, but floundered about, it seemed very much in each other's way, under the guns of their heavy forts. The commander of the *Novik*, on the contrary, handled his ship very pluckily, having advanced far outside the others to the westward along our line of retreat. He kept dodging at great speed backwards and forwards, while his guns were served well and quickly. I am afraid, however, they were too light to have much effect on the battleships they were opposed to, and at that end of the line, towards the finish, he drew such a concentrated fire from the heavy ships that he had to retire amidst a regular storm of shell, one of which burst right at the stern, but without apparently hitting the *Novik* directly.

It was lucky for us that the range was long and the lighter guns little used, or we could never have gone through it. At 11.43 we cleared the fire zone and by 11.45 the action had practically ceased, as the Japanase fleet had turned shortly before, every ship in her own place, and steamed across the Russian front, the cruisers then leading, with the armoured cruisers next, and the battleships bringing up the rear.

It was impossible to see what damage the Japs suffered. It should, of course, have been heavier than that of the Russians, seeing that they were under the fire of so many heavy forts, as well as of the Russian fleet. Yet we saw nothing to lead us to suppose that they were badly damaged, and they left in the same perfect order as they came. Nor was any ship of the Russian fleet sunk during the time that we were present, though several sustained considerable damage. For the Japanese had failed to draw them from under the guns of the forts and the assistance that the stranded ships were able to give with their heavy guns.

The Russians had engaged: five battleships, five cruisers, and one Volunteer cruiser, and they had also the two battleships and one large cruiser aground. The Japanese fleet consisted of sixteen ships, rating unknown, but I think there were four battleships, three armoured cruisers, and nine cruisers.—*N.-C. Daily News.*

WEI-HAI-WEI.

St. Petersburg, February 11.

The *Novoe Vremya* makes the charge that Japan's attack on Port Arthur was made from Wei-hai-wei, on the northern coast of the Shantung Peninsula, and bitterly assails Great Britain.

"In allowing Japan the use of the harbour as a base of operations," says the *Novoe Vremya*, "Great Britain violated the fundamental principles of neutrality. Wei-hai-wei must be regarded henceforth as part of Japanese territory, and Great Britain has relinquished the right to participate in any deliberations over the eventual fate of the harbour."

The *Novoe Vremya* further holds that the case is analogous to that of the *Alabama*, and says that Russia is entitled to demand compensation from Great Britain for the losses she has sustained.

London, February 11.

It is said at the Foreign Office here this evening, that the assertion of the *Novoe Vremya* of St. Petersburg, that the Japanese fleet, in its attack on Port Arthur, used Wei-hai-wei as a base, is absolutely untrue.

The bitterness against Great Britain is assuming almost alarming proportions. The supposition that Great Britain evacuated Wei-hai-wei to give Japan a base, has called out the deepest indignation, which has been still further inflamed by the publication of a "blue book" on Thibet, containing the offensive language of Lord Lansdowne.

London, February 12.

Referring in the House of Lord to-day to the Russian charges on the subject of Wei-hai-wei, Lord Lansdowne declared that the report that Great Britain had given Wei-hai-wei as a base for Japanese operations against Port Arthur, was entirely unfounded, and so far as he could conjecture, was a "mischievous fabrication."

Lord Lansdowne added that he had telegraphed to the British representative there in order to ascertain if any incident had occurred to give the slightest colour to the report.

St. Petersburg, February 14.

In spite of the denial of Lord Lansdowne, it is still believed here that the Japanese fleet had its headquarters at Wei-hai-wei. A courteous yet sharp note has reached the British Ambassador here, asking him if the Japanese by some misunderstanding had been allowed to enter Wei-hai-wei. If so, England is requested to reoccupy the place; otherwise her failure to do so will be regarded as a hostile action by the Imperial Government.

Further the British Ambassador has received a note containing the formal protest of Russia against a British expedition to Thibet.

St. Petersburg, February 16.

A despatch has been received here from the Russian Minister at Peking, M. Paul Lessar, saying that upon his official inquiry, the Chinese Government informed him that Wei-hai-wei remains leased to Great Britain.

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Special Service.)

THE "DIMITRI DONSKOI."

London, March 3.

The Russian cruiser *Dimitri Donskoi* has been granted five days (at Suez) for repairs.

BRITAIN, AMERICA AND CONTRABAND.

Great Britain and the United States are conferring with a view to concerted action for the purpose of safeguarding their respective interests in regard to contraband of war.

A RUSSIAN FICTION.

March 4.

It is considered in Berlin that Russia cannot maintain the fiction of Korea's independence and neutrality after the publication of the alliance between Japan and Korea.

TORPEDO-BOAT DESTROYERS RETURN TO PORT SAID.

The Russian torpedo-boat destroyers have returned to Port Said alleging bad weather as the cause.

TROOPS GO TO MALTA.

Two hundred additional troops are going to Malta with the view, it is supposed, of proceeding to China in the event of necessity.

CRICKET IN AUSTRALIA.

Later.

England has won the fourth test match at Sydney by 157 runs.

THE DREYFUS CASE.

The re-hearing of the Dreyfus case has begun in the Court of Cassation. The French public are entirely unconcerned.

THE RUSSIAN RED SEA SQUADRON.

London, March 4.

Orders from St. Petersburg have been sent to Admiral Virenius' Squadron to remain in the Red Sea and watch for warships and capture vessels carrying contraband of war.

EGYPT AND NEUTRALITY.

The Egyptian Government decided on the 12th ult. that belligerents should not be allowed to escort prizes through the Canal.

The Russian torpedo boats, which returned to Port Said recently, have been ordered to leave again. Further coal supplies will be refused them.

RUSSIAN TORPEDO BOAT IN COLLISION.

Another Russian torpedo boat while passing through the Suez Canal collided with and sank an Egyptian revenue cutter. It is expected the Canal will be blocked for 24 hours.

EGYPT PROTESTS AGAINST RUSSIA'S ACTIONS.

The Egyptian Government protests against the Russians repeatedly overstaying the time limits.

RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR TO LONDON.

London, March 5.

Count Benckendorff, the Russian Minister to London, has returned from St. Petersburg, whither he went to bid farewell to his son, who was starting for the front.

He visited King Edward yesterday, for the purpose, it is believed, of delivering an autograph letter from the Tsar, replying to one from King Edward assuring the Tsar that despite press agitation strict British neutrality would be maintained.

ADMIRAL VIRENIUS' SQUADRON.

London, March 6.

Telegraphing from Port Said on March 5th, Reuter's Agent announced that Admiral Virenius' squadron was to sail that day, ostensibly for Cadiz, but that it will remain in the vicinity of the Mediterranean where the Baltic fleet will join it in June. The torpedo boats are in a deplorable state and remain at Port Said for repairs. The *Dimitri Donskoi* is also in a pitiable condition and the whole squadron shows a lack of efficiency.

DEATH OF COUNT WALDERSEE.

London, March 7.

The death is announced of Count von Waldersee.

BOMBARDMENT OF VLADIVOSTOCK.

Later.

A St. Petersburg telegram says that a bombardment occurred at Vladivostock at 1.25 o'clock on the afternoon of the 6th March. Five Japanese battle-ships and two cruisers took part, firing all their guns at a range of five miles. No damage was done, most of the 200 Lyddite shells fired failing to explode. The Russian batteries made no reply, awaiting a closer approach of the enemy, who retired.

THE VLADIVOSTOCK AFFAIR.

London, March 8.

As published, the telegram from Viceroy Alexieff transmitting the Vladivostock Commandant's report, ends abruptly. The words "enemy opened fire," in last night's telegram are unofficial. They estimate that the bombardment cost £2,000. The shells were mostly six and twelve inch projectiles.

AID FOR THE SUFFERERS.

The fund opened in London for the widows and families of Japanese soldiers and sailors has reached £7,600.

CONTRABAND OF WAR.

London, March 8.

Mr. A. J. Balfour, speaking in the House of Commons, said that Russia's declaration that coal was contraband of war was of great importance. The Government was taking steps to obtain precise information.

THE CASE OF MR. JOHN COWEN.

Earl Percy, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, replying to a question put by Mr. Toulmin, said that the Government approved of the action of Sir Ernest Satow in ordering proceedings against Mr. John Cowen, Editor of the *China Times*. That paper had published certain virulent defamatory articles against Russia which were unquotable.

THE SYMPATHY OF PARIS.

London, March 9.

The Paris municipality has voted 20,000 francs in aid of the Russian and Japanese wounded, and has sent to St. Petersburg an address in which it hopes that Russia will succeed.

THE VLADIVOSTOCK AFFAIR.

Further despatches from Viceroy Alexieff regarding the affair at Vladivostock say that the bombardment did not do any serious damage. There were no losses in the fortifications; in the town a woman was killed and some seamen were wounded. The enemy returned for a short time yesterday.

THE FISCAL QUESTION.

Mr. Balfour, speaking in the House of Commons, said that it was not intended to deal with the fiscal policy of the nation in the present parliament.

RUSSIA'S BEHAVIOUR IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

Mr. Lawson Walton asked in the House of Commons whether, in view of the use which Russian warships are making of the ports in Crete and in Egypt, the British Government would communicate its views to the neutral Powers concerned with reference to the duties of neutrals in regard to belligerents using neutral ports for the purpose of intercepting trading vessels of neutral Powers.

Mr. Balfour replied that this was a matter of the utmost importance and that it was receiving the attention of the Government.

AMERICANS SYMPATHISE WITH JAPAN.

London, March 10.

At a dinner of the Wisconsin Society of New York, General Wheeler referred to the Japanese naval successes as truly indicating Japanese greatness. This declaration was received with cheers.

Mr. Uchida, Japanese Consul-General at New York, declared that Japan was struggling for her national existence and only asked for fair play and straight dealing. At the end of his speech, the company rose and cheered for some minutes.

Mr. Pratt, Assistant-Attorney-General, hoped as a private citizen that Japan would continue as she had begun.

Members of Congress and others all spoke in favour of Japan.

(Received at the Legation of France.)

RUMOURS CONTRADICTED.

Saigon, March 4.

The rumours of a debarkation of Japanese troops in the neighbourhood of Port Arthur, and of a new bombardment of the place, are denied in St. Petersburg.

ATTACK ON A RUSSIAN POST.

It is reported from Newchwang that 500 Tungsuses attacked a Russian post at Haicheng but were repulsed.

THE DREYFUS CASE.

The Court of Cassation has commenced to examine the demand for the re-hearing of the Dreyfus case.

PORT ARTHUR.

Saigon, March 6.

Port Arthur reports that the Japanese squadron has remained invisible since February 25th.

THE FRENCH NAVY.

In the Budget Committee many deputies, including Vice-President Etienne and M. Lockroy, former Minister of Marine, criticised the administration of the Navy and the insufficiency of colonial defences. M. Etienne insisted on the necessity of properly protecting Indo-China.

WAR NEWS.

St. Petersburg denies the debarkation of Japanese troops in the bays of Possiet and Plaksin.

DREYFUS.

Saigon March 8.

The Court of Cassation has declared that the demand for revision of the Dreyfus affair is receivable, and will itself proceed to the supplementary instruction.

COUNT WALDERSEE.

Hanover—Marshal Waldersee is dead.

PORT ARTHUR.

Port Arthur—There is quiescence in military movements.

VLADIVOSTOCK.

St. Petersburg—Seven Japanese ships bombarded Vladivostock throwing about 200 shells, of which many did not burst. The Russians did not reply. The Japanese afterwards withdrew. No injury.

(From the "Jiji Shimpo.")

EGYPT'S NEURALITY.

London, March 4.

The Egyptian Government on February 12th prohibited the belligerent powers from taking their prizes to Suez, or into Egyptian waters or ports. Consequently Russia has released the colliers which she had captured. The Egyptian Government has presented a protest to Russia, whose ships have been lying at Suez and Port Said over the due periods of time, such actions being a breach of neutrality.

RUSSIAN TROOPS.

The troops at the forts of Sveaborg and Viborg have been despatched by train in spite of their refusal to go on service in the Far East.

JAPANESE OFFICERS COMING HOME.

London, March 6.

Twenty-five Japanese officers who left here on February 25th embarked in the United States yesterday for home.

RUSSIA AND THE DARDANELLES.

It is said that Russia has again asked Turkey for permission to pass the Dardanelles with the Black Sea squadron, but the Porte has refused on the ground that the required permission could not be granted unless the Powers consent. With reference to this matter the Italian papers hold the opinion that Japan and Turkey have a significant understanding.

REVOLUTIONISTS IN RUSSIA.

The principal offices of the revolutionists at Moscow and St. Petersburg have issued a manifesto condemning the Government. They insist that the proposals of Japan were legitimate and they are inciting to outrage. Some of them have already been arrested.

THE VLADIVOSTOCK AFFAIR.

London, March 7.

According to the Russians, the forts of Vladivostock did not reply to yesterday's challenge because their gun positions would be discovered by the enemy.

FRANCE AND WAR.

M. de Lanessan has again advised the Government to refrain strictly from interference in the war.

KING EDWARD.

The King of Great Britain entertained on the 5th the Ministers of State and diplomatic officials at a dinner party where Viscount Hayashi, the Japanese Minister, was also present.

MACEDONIAN AFFAIRS.

With regard to the proposed Macedonian Reforms, the Sultan has refused to accept the draft as to the Gendarmerie Organization.

JAPAN'S REPLY.

London, March 9.

The British papers publish the Japanese note combatting the Russian circular alleging that Japan committed a breach of International Law. The papers add that the reply of Japan is dignified and clear.

MARQUIS ITO.

The newspapers of Great Britain declare that the visit of Marquis Ito to Korea is of great importance.

RUSSIAN FORTIFICATIONS.

It is stated that Russia is incessantly labouring at the construction of fortifications at Hai-ping, Haiching, and Liao-yang.

(From the "Asahi Shimbun.")

RUSSIA'S TRANSPORTATION DIFFICULTIES.

London, March 3.

Russia's first intention was to transport provisions and other military necessities to Manchuria by the sea route. As the result of her naval defeats, however, her plans have been altered, and she has decided to carry all goods by the railway. Trains employed for this purpose are leaving St. Petersburg every day. Inasmuch as the Siberian railway is still imperfect the transportation of troops is probably delayed.

NEW RUSSIAN WARSHIPS.

The Russian authorities are urging on the completion of work on the warships which are under construction in the Baltic.

RUSSIA'S WAR PLAN.

London, March 6.

General Dragomiroff has been summoned to St. Petersburg in order to be present at the Imperial Council where he strongly condemned the present plans in the Far East and insisted on the evacuation of Port Arthur in order to avoid further defeats. His arguments were rejected by the Council.

BRITISH PAPERS ON THE RUPTURE.

London, March 4.

The *Times* laughs at the childish note of Russia and praises the reply of Japan which it declares to be right. It further states that the smart and gallant actions of Japan are appreciated throughout the world and that her hostile movements (opening of hostilities before the declaration of war) are in agreement with modern rules of war.

The *Daily Chronicle* says that the dissatisfaction of Russia appears to be a kind of terror and that her attitude is very weak so that there is not needed any reply from Japan.

RUSSIA.

An official telegram under date March 2nd from Port Arthur has been published in St. Petersburg to the effect that the Japanese squadron had not been sighted since Feb. 27th off that port, though the Russian cruisers and torpedo destroyers were reconnoitring to a distance of sixty miles from the port.

RUSSIAN PLANS.

It is said that Russia will withdraw her troops to points along the railway where she intends to overwhelm the Japanese, who will be enticed inland.

RUSSIA AND THE JEWS.

London, March 8.

The local governors throughout the Russian Empire are issuing warrants to the police to repress demonstrations of Jews showing sympathy with Japan.

The Governor of Kiev having summoned representatives of the Jews in that city requested them to bear in mind the Kishinieff affair.

The Jews throughout the Empire have been peremptorily ordered to subscribe large amounts toward the war fund.

General Kuropatkin has ordered the Jews living along the Siberian railway to retire.

FRENCH MILITARY AFFAIRS.

The scarcity of military necessities and the imperfect military administration of France have caused severe condemnation on the part of the public. The navy especially has become an object of attack.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From.	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Preussen 1	Sa. Mar. 12
America	P. M. Co.	China 2	Tu. Mar. 15
Hongkong............	C. P. R. Co	Em. of Japan 3	Th. Mar. 17
Europe	M. M. Co.	Armand Behic 4	Th. Mar. 17
Hongkong............	P. M. Co.	Korea	Sa. Mar. 19
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric 5	W. Mar. 23
Tacoma............	N. P. Co.	Lyra 6	Th. Mar. 24
Hongkong............	N. P. Co.	Victoria	Su. Mar. 27
Canada	C. P. R.	Athenian	M. Mar. 28
Hongkong............	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	M. Mar. 28
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. April 4

1 At Kobe on the 11th inst.
2 Left San Francisco on the 5th inst.
3 Left Hongkong on the 9th inst.
4 Left Hongkong on the 8th inst.
5 Left San Francisco on the 5th ult.
6 Left Seattle on the 3rd inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong............	P. M. Co.	China	W Mar. 16
Canada	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	F. Mar. 18
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Preussen	Sa Mar. 19
America...............	P. M. Co.	Korea	M. Mar. 21
Hongkong............	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Th Mar. [illegible]
Europe	M. M. Co.	Armand Behic	F. Mar. 25
Hongkong............	N. P. Co.	Lyra	F. Mar. 25
Tacoma...............	N. P. Co.	Victoria	M. Mar. 28
Hongkong............	C. P. R. Co.	Athenian	M. Mar 28
America...............	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	W. Mar. 30
Hongkong............	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. April 4

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Tartar, British steamer, 2,768, F. W. Evans, 4th March,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Sydney, French steamer, 2,077, Blanc, 5th March,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Pekling, British steamer, 2,875, Lewis, 5th March,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Khalif, British steamer, 2,219, Middleton, 5th March,—Cardiff, Coal.—Dodwell & Co.

Pleiades, American steamer, 2,932, F. G. Purrington, 5th March,—Kobe, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Robt. Dickinson, British steamer, 1,331, Blair, 7th March,—Borneo, Kerosene Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Indrapura, British steamer, 3,152, J. T. Horne, 7th March,—Hongkong via ports, General.—P. & A. S.S. Co.

Perla, British steamer, 908, A. H. Notley, 7th March,—Iloilo, Sugar.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Chetenham, British steamer, 2,415, H. Brophy, 7th March,—Rangoan, Rice.—Mitsui & Co.

Ujina, British steamer, 3,426, S. Boon, 8th March,—Rangoon, Rice, Samuel Samuel & Co.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 8th March,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Silesia, Austrian steamer, 3,340, L. Stabill, 8th March,—Trieste via ports, General.—Pollak Bros.

Ilaura, British steamer, 3,363, Kendaff, 8th March,—Rangoon via Manila, Mail and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Celebes, Dutch steamer, 1,432, J. Veen, 9th March,—Java, Sugar.—Van Nierop.

Benlomond, British steamer, 1,752, Currie, 9th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Cornes & Co.

Agamemnon, British steamer, 4,462, Hugh Nish, 9th March,—Liverpool, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Tacoma, British steamer, 1,689, W. Ridley, 9th March,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Prometheus, Norwegian steamer, 1,023, L. Briggen, 9th March,—Ampin, General—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Tydeus, British steamer, 4,800, Jackson, 10th March,—Puget Sound, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Java, British steamer, 2,632, S. Barcham, 10th March,—London via Ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Tung Shing, British steamer, 1,173, Selby, 4th Mar.,—Koce, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Foo Shing, British steamer, 1,443, Arthur, 4th March,—Yokosuka, Coal.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Daylight, British steamer, 3,599, H. A. Nickerson, 4th March,—Newcastle, Australia, Ballast.—Standard Oil Co.

Ajax, British steamer, 4,478, H. Batt, 5th March,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Roon, German steamer, 5,013, G. Meiners, 5th Mar.,—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Tartar, British steamer, 2,768, F. W. Evans, 5th March.—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, F. H. Armstrong, 5th March,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Kennebec, British steamer, 3,301, Wallace, 5th Mar.,—New York via ports, General.—Standard Oil Co.

Bengloe, British steamer, 1,933, James Potter, 5th March,—Kobe, General.—Cornes & Co

Samara, British steamer, 1,790, Lewis, 5th March,—Muroran, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Indrasamha, British steamer, 3,367, Wm. E. Craven, 5th March,—Hongkong via ports, General.—P. & A. S.S. Co.

Khalif, British steamer, 2,219, Middleton, 6th March,—Yokosuka, Coal.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, K. Sato, 6th March,—Bonin Islands, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ganges, British steamer, 2,722, Sibbold, 6th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sambia, German steamer, 3,922, Luning, 6th March,—Havre, Bremen and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Pasha, British steamer, 2,839, Elliott, 7th March,—Yokkaichi, Rice.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Indrapura, British steamer, 3,152, J. T. Horne, 8th March,—Portland, Or., General.—P. & A. S.S. Co.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archbald, 9th March,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Telena, British steamer, 3,124, Carter, 9th March,—Borneo, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Pleiades, American steamer, 2,932, Purrington, 9th March,—Tacoma, General.—Dodwell & Co.

Tacoma, British steamer, 1,689, Ridley, 10th March,—Victoria, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co.

Silesia, Austrian steamer, 3,340, L. Stabill, 10th March,—Kobe, General.—Pollak Bros.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Tartar*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mrs. M. Lilie, Mr. G. F. Curtis, Mr. W. Sharples, Mr. V. Leegebit, Mr. Victor Heller, Mr. C. Wenger, and Mr. G. Carpentier, in cabin. For Vancouver:—Mr. H. J. E. Thomas, Mr. A. K. Prain, Mr. C. M. Dyce, Mr. and Mrs. Merrill, and Mr. F. C. Williamson, in cabin; 37, in steerage.

Per French steamer *Sydney*, from Marseilles via ports:—Mr. Komaki, Mr. Corbett, Mr. Doyle Davidson, Mr. J. O. H. Hey, Mr. Y. Kuhn, Capt. W. Townsend, and Mr. Schultz, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Miss Jean Adams, Mr. Geo. Bowack, Mr. Chiyu Han, Mr. Chong Moo Hong, Mr. Franklin Clarkin, Mr. A. R. Dunlop, Mr. Robert Dunn, Mr. J. Ferguson, Mr. Hector Fuller, Mr. H. M. Harwood, Col. Webb C. Hayes, Mr. E. Horne, Mrs. Horne, Mr. H. Terrell James, Mr. John Latta, Col. Manfeld, Major K. Matchida, Mr. B. Matsuki, Mr. J. H. Means, Mr. Min Hui Cho, Mr. K. S. Otani, Mr. A. R. Parker, Dr. W. R. Parker, Mr. G. H. Scull and Mr. Seungku Ye in cabin.

Per British steamer, *Java*, from London via ports:—Mr. F. J. Abbott, Mrs. F. J. Abbott, Miss Abbott and amah, Mr. H. M. Fleming, Mr. G. H. Kingswell, Capt. Hart Segnnot, Mr. P. L. Smith and Mr. Arnold in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per German steamer *Roon*, for Europe via ports:—Mrs. G. C. Murray and child, Miss M. Braess, Mr. C. Refardt, Mr. Alex. Labin, Mr. W. Harold Leech, Mr. and Mrs. Priest, Mr. W. D. Trimnell, Mr. Carl Wilkens, Mr. W. J. Gorham, Mr. S Sawatri, Mr. A. Matsuura, Mr. John A. Pearson, Mr. E. Klocke, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. G. Howard, Mr. Birnel, Mr. R. H. Campbell and native servant, Mr. Lugebiel, Mr. Franz Woas, Mr. F. R. Daniel and servant, Mrs. Schulz, Mr. James Macbeth, Mr. T. von Houwelingen, Mr. Zan Chai Bing, Mr. M. Iwano, Mr. S. Matsuyama, Mr. E. Nakatani, Mr. V. P. Mahomed and native servant, Mr. and Mrs. Benari and children, Mr. A. G. Lepper and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Landies and children, Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Pierson, Mr. A. Oyama, Mr. K. Matsuoka, Mr. P. Ototake, Mr. K. Yoshida, Mr. S. Andreis, Mr. F. T. Leak, Mr. K. Kitamura, Mr. M. Ohazama, Mrs. Pow, Mrs. Lam and baby, Mrs. Wong, and Mr. Frank Kidner, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Coptic*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Dr. A. Anderson, Master E. Beattie, Mr. G. W. Beecher, Mr. M. Bekaert, Mr. T. Beppu, Mrs. T. Brown, Mr. C. H. Browning, Mrs. M. L. Canaday, Mr. H. Christensen, Mr. C. F. Davis, Mr. Otto Gohnermann, Mr. A. Greenwell, Mr. H. W. Houlding, Miss M. Jacobs, Mr. T. Kikuchi, Mr. K. Kubota, Capt. J. F. Lea, Dr. P. H. Lerrigo, Mrs. P. H. Lerrigo, Mr. L. D. Lindsay, Mrs. T. H. Lovejoy, Mr. Norman Menzies, Mrs. Norman Menzies, Mr. C. J. Proples, Mr. O. Pollock, Mr. E. Rogers, Miss H. Tonner, Mr. A. W. Trethewy, Mr. C. von Drathen, Mr. E. Weck, and Mr. B. Weil, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Tartar*, for Vancouver:—Mr. C. M. Dyce, Mrs. A. B. Liddy, Mr. Merritt, Mrs. Merritt, Mr. I. Nakazato, Mr. A. K. Prain, Mr. H. J. E. Thomas, Mr. F. L. Williamson, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, for Hongkong:—Mrs. H. B. Darnell, and native servant, Prof. Leon Kai Chew, Capt. Boyle, Mr. K. Yendo, Mrs. A. Y. Bryan and daughter, Mr. J. Y. Crane, Mr. A. Bezzetle, Mr. P. H. Wootton, Mr. J. Favre Brandt, Mr. A. B. Glover and native servant, Mr. R. D. Robison, Mr. T. A. Christensen, Mr A. J. Smith, Mr. J P. Mollison and Mr. J. M. Mollison in cabin; Mr. T. Fukuchi, Mr. A. N. Siebert, Mr. T. J. Mahitany, Mr. A. Mahesh and Mr. J. B. Horton in second class; 5, in steerage.

CARGO.

Per American steamer *Shawmut*, for Tacoma:—

TEA.

	Canada.	Chicago & West.	New York & East.	Pacific Coast.	Other Cities.	Total Packages.
Hongkong...	—	—	—	53	—	53
Shanghai ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kobe	—	100	102	—	—	202
Yokohama...	—	250	159	9	—	418
Total ...	—	350	261	62	—	673

SILK.

	New York.	Other Cities.	Total Bales.
Hongkong	—	—	—
Shanghai	—	—	—
Yokohama	75	—	75
Total	75	—	75

Per British steamer *Tartar*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—

TEA.

From.	Canada.	Chicago & West.	New York & East.	Pacific Coast.	Other Cities.	Total Packages.
Hongkong .	1,804	—	—	181	—	1,955
Shanghai ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kobe	335	—	—	—	—	335
Yokohama..	476	—	2,181	—	—	2,657
Total...	2,615	—	2,181	181	—	4,977

SILK.

From.	New York.	San F'cisco.	Easton.	South Man'ster.	Total Bales.
Hongkong & Canton	45	—	—	—	45
Shanghai	202	—	—	—	202
Yokohama	695	—	—	—	695
Total	942	—	—	—	942

Per British steamer *Tacoma*, for Tacoma, Wash.:—

TEA.

	Canada.	Chicago & West.	New York and East.	Pacific Coast.	Other Cities.	Total Packages.
Hongkong ...	319	—	—	120	—	439
Yokohama...	—	—	—	516	—	516
Total ...	319	—	—	636	—	955

SILK.

	San Francisco.	New York.	Easten.	Total.
Hongkong	25	—	—	25
Yokohama	159	—	—	159
Total	184	—	—	184

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

No new feature to record.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER YARD.
White Shirting—{40 yds. 36 in. 50 yds. 36 in.} ...	0.09 to 0.10
	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	Y.2.85 to 3.60
Grey Shirting—9lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.80 to 4.25
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches...	3.00 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton Italians and Satteens...	0.20 to 0.40

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	Y.0.35 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 32 in...	0.30 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches...	0.16 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.50 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 to 65 inches ...	0.90 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0.60 to 0.66
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	9.50 to 12.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches...	0.90 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches...	1.90 to 2.25
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 5lb, 24-25 yards, 32 nches...	2.50 to 3.65

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Y. 140.00 to 150.00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	—
Nos. 38/42, Singles	—
Nos. 32, Doubles...	145.00 to 150.00
Nos. 42, Doubles...	155.00 to 160.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/100, Plain...	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	245.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	295.00 to 305.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	425.00 to 435.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling...	Nominal.	33
Indian Broach...		26
Chinese		23

METALS.

The market is quiet.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward...	Y.4.05 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.30 to 4.60
Sheet Iron...	4.65 to 6.90
Galvanised Iron sheets	10.00 to 11.00
Wire Nails, assorted	5.15 to 5.75
Tin Plates, per box...	6.70 to 7.60
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.05
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1⅛ inch)	5.00 to 5.50

KEROSENE.

No change.

American	$3.47
Russian	3.20
Langkat	3.30

SUGAR.

Practically nothing doing.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	Y.6.40 to 6.80
Brown Manila...	6.40 to 7.30
Brown Daitong	5.40 to 6.80
Brown Canton...	5.90 to 7.80
White Java and Penang...	7.30 to 8.10
White Refined...	8.80 to 11.50

INDIGO.

Nothing doing.

	PICUL.
Java, Medium to best...	270.00 to 320.00
Calcutta, Medium to best	180.00 to 290.00
Madras (*Kurpah*), Medium to best ...	140.00 to 170.00
Madras (Dry Leaf), Medium to best ..	100.00 to 140.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Quiet market and quotations for such stock as is on offer have been reduced. But many lots now offering are inferior to standard and prime summer reeled filatures are still worth good money. Re-reels and Kakeda are in very small supply and good selections are practically non-existent in these classes.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra Best, Coarse ... ...Y.	—
Filatures—Extra, Fine	—
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	1,000 to 1,010
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	—
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	910 to 930
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	960 to 970
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	890 to 900
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	910 to 920
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	—
Common—Coarse	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1½	910 to 920
Re-reels—No. 2	—
Re-reels—No. 3	880 to 890
Kakedas—Extra	—
Kakedas—No. 1	920 to 925
Kakedas—No. 1½...	900 to 910
Kakedas—No. 2	880 to 890

WASTE SILK.

No change. Desirable fibre is scarce and if on hand would sell readily. The bulk of stock is mixed and inferior.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	180 to 185
Noshi—Filatures, Good	170 to 175
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Good...	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Joshiu, Best	130 to 135
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	120 to 125
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	150 to 160
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	140 to 145
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	70 to 80
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	60 to 70

TEA.

Nothing to report.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	—
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine...	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common...	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, March 10.

London silver ⅛ lower and China sterling quotations reduced ⅛ have caused local rates on China to rule higher had other rates keep steady with very little doing.

London	Bank T.T.	....	2/0 1/16
—	— Bills on demand	....	2/0⅛
—	— 4 months' sight	....	2/0 5/16
—	Private 4 months' sight	....	2/0 9/16 @ ½
—	— 6 months' sight	....	2/0 11/16 @ ⅝
Paris & Lyons	Bank sight	....	253
—	Private 4 months' sight	......	257½ @ 7
—	— 6 months' sight	......	259 @ 8
Hongkong	—Bank sight	.... per $100.	93*
—	Private 10 days' sight	do.	90*
Shanghai	—Bank sight	....	76¼*
—	Private 10 days' sight	....	79*
India	—Bank sight	....	149
—	Private 30 days' sight	....	152
America	—Bank sight	....	49
—	Private 30 days' sight	....	49⅜ @ ⅝
—	Private 4 months' sight	....	50⅝ @ ¾
Germany	—Bank sight	....	205½
—	Private 4 months' sight	....	210 @ 9½
Bar Silver (London)		....	26 1/16

* Nominal.

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, March 10.

Local Stocks.—Grand Hotels sellers at *yen* 240. Helms are obtainable at *yen* 50. Langfeldts sales at *yen* 40. Nickels sales at *yen* 35. Kirin Breweries sellers at *yen* 110. Engine and Iron Works buyers at *yen* 90. Y. U. C. Debentures buyers at *yen* 108. Brewery Debentures sales at *yen* 109. Offers Wanted for Oriental Hotel Debentures 1st and 2nd issue. Oriental Hotel ordinary shares buyers at *yen* 75.

China Stocks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks changed hands at $610. Indo-Chinas are quoted at Tls. 64½ sellers. "Shell" Transport and Trading Co. shares have been purchased at £1. Punjoms remain at $1 sales. Raub Mines have buyers at $6½. Hongkong Lands have dropped again and are now quoted at $148 sales. Humphreys estate have been sold at $10 and China Providents at $8.50. Kowloon Wharfs sellers at $95. Green Islands are obtainable at $24½. Farnhams changed hands at Tls. 140. Shanghai Lands sellers at Tls. 104.

The Raub crushing is 1,100 ounces smelted gold from 2,600 tons of ore treated the month before being only 600 ounces from 2,400 tons. Offers of shares are wanted.

	YEN.	
Brett & Co. Limited	8½	Nominal.
Club Hotel, Limited	70	Nominal.
Grand Hotel, Limited	240	Sellers.
Helm Bros., Limited	50	Sellers.
Langfeldt & Co., Limited.........	40	Buyers.
Nagasaki Hotel, Limited	35	Nominal.
C. Nickel & Co., Limited	35	Sales
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Founders...	450	Nominal.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Ordinary...	75	Buyers.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Preference.	70	Nominal.
Japan Brewery Co., Limited ...	110	Sellers.
Yokohama E. & I. Works	90	Buyers.

Telephone No. 323.

FOR BABY'S SKIN

SCALP AND HAIR

Something for Mothers to Think About

EVERY CHILD born into the world with an inherited or early developed tendency to distressing, disfiguring humours of the skin, scalp, and blood, becomes an object of the most tender solicitude, not only because of its suffering but because of the dreadful fear that the disfiguration is to be lifelong and mar its future happiness and prosperity. Hence it becomes the duty of mothers of such afflicted children to acquaint themselves with the best, the purest, and most effective treatment available, viz., THE CUTICURA TREATMENT.

Warm baths with CUTICURA SOAP, to cleanse the skin of crusts and scales and soften the thickened cuticle, gentle anointings with CUTICURA OINTMENT, to instantly allay itching, irritation, and inflammation, and soothe and heal, to be followed in the severer cases by mild doses of CUTICURA RESOLVENT PILLS (see below), to cool and cleanse the blood, are all that can be desired for the alleviation of the suffering of skin-tortured infants and children and the comfort of worn-out, worried mothers. A single set is often sufficient to cure when the best physicians fail.

Millions of Women Use Cuticura Soap

Assisted by CUTICURA OINTMENT, for preserving, purifying, and beautifying the skin, for cleansing the scalp of crusts, scales, and dandruff, and the stopping of falling hair, for softening, whitening, and soothing red, rough, and sore hands, for baby rashes, itchings, and chafings, in the form of baths for annoying irritations and inflammations, or too free or offensive perspiration, in the form of washes for ulcerative weaknesses, and for many sanative, antiseptic purposes which readily suggest themselves to women, especially mothers, and for all the purposes of the toilet, bath, and nursery.

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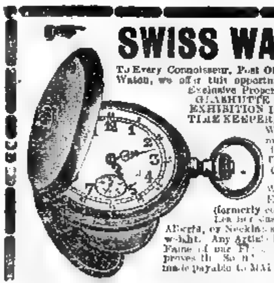

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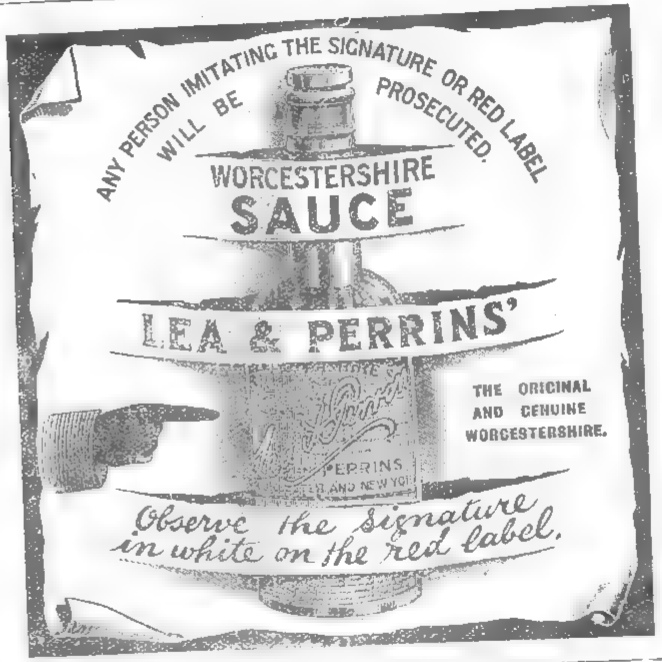

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH, 1904.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

MAJOR GENERAL SAKURAI, who has been ill for some months, died on March 12th.

MARQUIS ITO and his party were to arrive on the morning of March 17th at Chemulpo.

MR. ARIYOSHI, Consul to Fusan, Korea, left Shimonoseki on March 15th for his post.

THE Emperor and Empress donated on March 15th five thousand *yen* to the Ladies' Nursing Society.

THE *Nichi Nichi* believes that the opening ceremony of the Diet will probably take place on March 20th.

GERMAN residents of Kobe have donated *yen* 7,600 towards the fund to relieve distress among the families of soldiers going to the front.

THE Kobe Canoe and Dinghy Club has changed its name to the Kobe Sailing Club. Mr. W. W. Campbell is the new Commodore, and Mr. L. W. Moore, Vice-Commodore; with Mr. J. D. Abell as Secretary and Messrs. Summerhays, Gillingham and Schaumann as Committee.

MR. H. BRAMSEN, formerly Danish Minister of State for Home Affairs, left Nagasaki on March 15th by the steamer *Korea* for Kobe.

A RAT in which was found plague bacillus was discovered among thirty-nine which the Isezakicho police of Yokohama purchased on March 7th.

THE number of prisoners now in Tokyo Prison is 160 males and 69 females persons; and persons awaiting sentence are 1,081 males and 51 females.

MR. CHONG-MIN-YON, the new Korean Minister, who recently arrived at Tokyo, will shortly have audience of the Emperor in order to present his credentials.

DURING the week ended March 6th, seventy-seven cases of plague appeared at Taipeh, Kelung, Kagi and Tainan, Formosa, and thirty cases proved fatal.

K. TAKEHARA, who was sentenced on April 23rd last in the Nagasaki Appeal Court to death for robbery, was executed on March 7th in the Nagasaki Prison.

DR. GOTO, Director of the Bureau of Civil Affairs in Formosa, arrived at Tokyo on March 14th. He paid a visit to General Kodama, Vice-Chief of the General Staff Office.

THE Portuguese Minister and Madame J. B. de Freitas were received in audience by the Crown Prince and Princess on March 11th at 2 p.m at the Aoyama Palage.

THE nominal editor of the *Jiji Shimpo* was punished on March 12 with a fine of *yen* 20 on the usual charge of publishing unauthorised matter connected with military affairs.

MR. KANO, ex-Governor of Tottori, who was sentenced in the Tokyo District Court in connexion with the text book affair, was deprived on March 15th of his official rank.

DURING the month of February, the gross income of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha was *yen* 561,206 and the expenditure, *yen* 467,610, leaving a net profit of *yen* 93,596.

MR. R. DE B. LAYARD, on behalf of 24 members of the foreign community of Nagasaki, has sent the Governor of that Ken a cheque for *yen* 665, to be devoted to the Red Cross Society of Japan.

THE Nippon Yusen Kaisha intends to reopen this month with chartered steamers the service between Japan and Chefoo and Tientsin, as the line is considered to be safe from molestation.

A TELEGRAM from Nagano states that the school boys there on March 12th, while playing a war game in the district of Kaminouchi, killed one of their comrades who was taking the part of a Russian.

COUNTS INOUYE and Matsukata, and some high officials of the Finance Department, held a conference on March 11th at the Department to discuss questions with regard to the new taxation proposals.

ABOUT fifty, from among a hundred and seventy men, who have been dismissed from the Yokohama Docks, attacked the dwelling of a clerk of the firm on the night of March 9th but were dispersed by the police.

THE sympathy of Calcutta Hindus is with Japan. A circular was spread broadcast on February 13, calling upon all sympathisers to meet next morning on the Maidan, and thence proceed to the temple at Kalighat, to offer prayers for the success of the Japanese arms.

THE subscription to the Treasury Bonds in Kanagawa prefecture, which closed on March 10th, is reported to have reached *yen* 17,035,450. Of this *yen* 14,947,975 was put up in Yokohama and *yen* 2,087,475 in other places.

A CASE of wholesale poisoning by eating *fugu* (globe fish) is reported from Toyoshima near Kamakura. A dry-goods merchant, K. Matsumura, and three of his family died after having eaten two *fugu* on the morning of March 12th.

ACCORDING to investigations on March 10th, the stock of raw silk in Yokohama was as follows: Filatures, 14,924 bales; re-reels, 1,160 bales; Ori-kaishi, 550 bales, and sundries 15 bales. Out of them, 782 bales were sold to foreign exporters but not delivered.

ONE hundred Japanese traders were invited to the hall of the Kanagawa-ken Prefectural Assembly, by Mr. Pierre Bure, Belgian Consul-general at Yokohama, on March 15th, and received from him an account of the international Exhibition which it is proposed to open next year in Belgium.

A BETTO employed by Capt. T. Okuno, of the Pioneers, who is at Hiroshima, was killed on 16th during a struggle with the gendarmes. The betto had been drinking heavily and misconducted himself at a brothel, on which the officers attempted to remove him to the police station.

THE London *Daily Chronicle*, now under the direction of Mr. R. W. Donald, became a halfpenny morning paper on Monday, Feb. 29. It remains to be seen whether it will successfully challenge the position of the existing *Daily Mail* and *Daily Express*. The experiment will be watched with interest.

A HIGHWAYMAN armed with a large knife, on the evening of March 10th, stopped Fuji, the wife of a merchant, while she was passing Sakaitani, Nishi-tobe, Yokohama. It is reported by the police, that he took the child from the woman and menaced her and to get away she gave him all the money she had—five *yen*.

ACCORDING to information brought by the steamer *Empress of Japan*, the British battleships *Ocean*, *Centurion*, *Vengeance*, *Glory*, the cruiser *Talbot* and two others, and nine torpedo-destroyers are lying at Hongkong having made preparations for emergencies. Three German warships are also there. At Shanghai, nine American warships are stationed, including the *Albany*, *Annapolis*, and *New Orleans*.

THE steamer *Genyo Maru* (496 tons) which was floated on March 4th after having been aground in Hirato Strait, has sunk owing to a severe gale, when she was about to be taken to a port for repairs. The Nippon Marine Insurance Company, which insured the hull for forty thousand *yen*, paid the amount on March 14th. It is stated that the *Chitose Maru* (476 tons), which sank owing to fire in September last of Hakodate, was floated on March 12th.

A GUEST, T. Nakayama (25) of the Nagano-ya Hotel, Bentendori, Yokohama, was robbed on the evening of March 12th of a bag containing about four hundred *yen*, while he was in a bathroom. The thief is reported to have absconded. At the police examination, it was found that the robbed man was also a thief; that he had embezzled the money by collecting it from the customers of a saké dealer, S. Sawada, Osaka, his late employer He absconded from that city on the 2nd and arrived at Yokohama on the 10th.

PORT ARTHUR.

Friday, March 11.

The Russians are said to have bought a quantity of cattle near Shan-hai-kwan, but being unable to move them by train, they are planning some other route. It is further stated that the store of provisions in Port Arthur has been placed under guard and that no grain is allowed to be sold without official permission.

Various stories reach Japan through the medium of Chinese refugees arriving at Chefoo from Dalny and Port Arthur. These statements, coming originally from questionable sources, and being further tainted by the atmosphere of Chefoo, have to be received with great caution. They say, among other things, that kerosene oil has been poured over a store of 15,000 tons of coal at Dalny, with the intention of firing it in the event of a Japanese landing; that a train is kept in readiness for the escape of the officers; that a most unreasonable requisition for provisions and forage has been made in Kinchow, and that all householders failing to comply are threatened with imprisonment; that during a thunder-storm on the 28th of February, a number of Russian mines exploded, and that as no one remembers a thunder-storm at such a season, the people regard it as an omen of Russia's defeat.

According to the account of Lieutenant Endo, who was on board the *Hokoku Maru* when she went in and was sunk at the entrance to Port Arthur, the time from leaving the base of operations until the final sinking of the vessel was 40 hours, during which the officers and men—over ten in number—had very little to eat or drink and were exposed to piercing cold. The Lieutenant speaks with special enthusiasm of a stoker called Fujimoto, who had to take the main part in lowering the boat containing his comrades. He was wounded on the head and in the thigh, but though streaming with blood he never relaxed his hold on the tackle. Had he let go the boat must have been upset. Commander Hirose was descending the ladder to reach the boat when he recollected that he had forgotten his sword. He returned calmly through the enemy's fire and fetched the weapon. The seaman that had charge of looking after the steamer's anchor was so cool and collected that he carefully examined the cable to see whether it had not been cut by the Russian shells. He found that it had been severed, and by his timely discovery it was possible to splice the cable. Otherwise the lowering of the anchor would have been fruitless and the vessel could not have been sunk in the proper place. When the boat was cast adrift Commander Hirose stood up in the middle of the boat holding aloft a pole with a handkerchief attached. This was to indicate to the torpedoers the position of the little craft. Another man who showed much presence of mind was chief stoker Kurita, who pulled off his boot and applied himself to baling out the boat amid a hail of bullets. All behaved with the utmost coolness, even finding leisure to admire the enemy's display of deadly pyrotechnics.

It is stated that the *Retvizan* has been brought into harbour, but the report requires confirmation.

Saturday, March 12.

The Shanghai factory of Russian news announces that a strange phenomenon has taken place at Port Arthur. The *Retvisan* has spontaneously resurrected. Rising from the bottom on which she had reposed for just a month, she set her own machinery in motion and entered the harbour. That is very remarkable. We are surprised not to learn, by way of climax, that having taken up a comfortable berth inside, she quietly went to rest on the bottom once more. At all events if the factory be working accurately the Russians have now the satisfaction of having retired all their ships from the arena of immediate conflict. 'Tis a new way of conducting a war, this going into hiding, but when Vladivostock stands up chivalrously to be shot at without making any *riposte*, Port Arthur's modesty is at least consistent.

Tientsin reports that the Russians at Port Arthur and Dalny, after consultation with the Chinese local officials, have begun to purchase the forbearance of the mounted bandits. Over a thousand of these freebooters having made their appearance in the neighbourhood of Port Arthur, a sum of fifteen thousand *yen* has been promised if they refrain from all acts of violence during three months, and Dalny has bought a similar respite by disbursing a third of the amount. What neither side could sell or purchase, however, was mutual confidence. Either the bandits will have to wait for their money or the Russians for their security.

It is stated that 300 torpedoes have been placed by the Russians at Dalny and in Talien Bay.

Sunday, March 13.

There are two accounts of the operations which took place at Port Arthur and Talien on the 10th instant. One comes from Shanghai, having reached that place from Chefoo. It is dated at Shanghai on the 12th at 6 p.m. From it we learn that at dawn on the 10th instant a conflict took place in the sea off Port Arthur between Japanese and Russian torpedo-craft. It is said to have lasted several hours, and to have ended in the sinking of two Russian boats. In the forenoon of the same day the Japanese squadron commenced a vigorous attack on Port Arthur and Dalny. Details are not given, but it is stated that at Port Arthur a powder-magazine was exploded and that the docks and the fort were greatly injured, while at Dalny not a building remained intact. The Japanese fired heavy guns and nearly all their shells exploded. On the Russian side, however, although the forts kept up a brisk fire they failed to inflict any damage on the Japanese ships. It is added that the killed, wounded and drowned on the Russian torpedo-craft were very numerous. Nothing is said of the Russian war-vessels, and the presumption is that they lay quietly in the harbour throughout the attack. The torpedo-craft, however, now went out and did their duty for the first time, though not with much success apparently.

The other account is from Viceroy Alexieff. It is dated at Mukden on the 10th, addressed to the Russian Government, and contains the following report sent to the Viceroy from the officer commanding the forts at Port Arthur:—"At 1 a.m. a signal was given that several vessels resembling torpedo-craft were in sight. At 4 a.m. the various forts opened fire upon these ships. Our torpedo-boats issued from the harbour at 4 a.m. and engaged the enemy's craft on the west side of Lao-ti-shan. After some time the Japanese squadron withdrew, heading south, and our torpedo-boats returned to harbour at 6 a.m About an hour afterwards some of our torpedo-craft which had been sent out on scouting duty, returned to port reporting that the enemy's main body was approaching. At 10 a.m. the Japanese ships opened fire on our cruisers and forts. During this action the enemy's torpedo-craft squadron, consisting of 14 vessels, lay concealed behind the Laoti promontory."

That is the whole of the Russian officer's report so far as it has reached the public. He is ominously silent about the results, neither claiming to have inflicted any damage on the Japanese nor admitting to have received any himself. It must be assumed that the report, as it reached the Viceroy's hands, was much fuller, but the public is left to conjecture the contents of the portion kept from vulgar gaze. Probably before we go to press the Japanese official report will be to hand.

Later.

The official report of the operations at Port Arthur on the 10th instant was published in Tokyo on the forenoon of the 13th. It is from Admiral Togo, and was written on the 11th. It runs as follows:—"The united squadron, moving as previously arranged attacked the enemy at Port Arthur yesterday. At midnight on the 9th two divisions of our destroyers proceeded to the harbour's entrance and searched for ships of the enemy but found none. One of the divisions remained off the harbour, keeping watch, until daylight on the 10th. The other visited various previously fixed places and there laid down a special kind of mine. During these latter operations the enemy's forts fired from time to time at our craft, but did not suceed in inflicting any injury. At 4.20 a.m. the division which had laid the mines engaged a division of about 6 of the enemy's destroyers on the south of Lao-ti-shan. The fight lasted for about 20 minutes at close range. Our destroyers *Asashio*, *Kasumi* and *Akatsuki* closed up almost to actual contact with the enemy and opened a heavy fire on three or four of the Russian destroyers. Among these latter it appeared that boilers were injured, fire broke out and cries of suffering were raised, amid which the Russians retreated. Our destroyers also suffered more or less from the enemy's fire. They had 15 killed and wounded; namely, 7 killed (petty-officers and seamen), and 8 wounded including the Chief Engineer of the *Kasumi*. The *Akatsuki* suffered most. One of her boilers was struck and the escape of steam scalded 4 men to death. All the destroyers of the detachment, however, remain fit for service. With regard to the division on watch off the harbour's mouth, when about to leave its position at 7 a.m., it saw two of the enemy's destroyers making for the port. It immediately cut them off and engaged them. The fight lasted about an hour, and the enemy suffered heavily. One of his destroyers succeeded in escaping, but the other, the *Stereguschtchi*, when endeavouring to obtain shelter near the forts, was captured by the *Sazanami* under the fire of the land batteries. The *Sazanami* took her in tow, but she was making water so fast, and the sea ran so high, that it became necessary to cast her adrift. Her survivors, 4 in number, were rescued by the Japanese destroyer. The *Stereguschtchi* sank at 10.15 a.m. This division of Japanese destroyers suffered somewhat but not seriously. The *Sazanami* and the *Akebono* had two men killed; the *Akebono* had one officer and 3 men wounded. Meanwhile the Russian cruisers *Novik* and *Bayan* had come out of port and were steering for the above division of destroyers, when perceiving that the Japanese cruisers were approaching the port, they retired again into shelter.

At 8 a.m. on the same day, the main squadron arrived off Port Arthur, and a division of cruisers at once steered direct for the harbour's mouth to assist our destroyers which seemed likely to be attacked by the enemy's cruisers. The main part of the rest of the squadron closed up and took a position under Lao-ti-shan, whence from 10 a.m. until 1.40 p.m. it bombarded the harbour, the forts and the town with indirect fire. The results of this fire were noted by the division of cruisers immediately in front of the harbour, and it was observed that the resulting damage to the enemy was great. The enemy's forts occasionally answered our fire, but they did not inflict the smallest injury on our ships.

Meanwhile another squadron of cruisers proceeded to Talien Bay, and from a position near Sanshan-tao island near the entrance to the Bay, bombarded and destroyed the buildings on the island. Further, the *Takasago* and the *Chihaya* searched the coast on the west of Liaotung promontory, but saw no sign of the enemy. They observed, however, the wreck of the destroyer *Vrinshitelni*. It was lying in Pigeon Bay with the funnel and masts above water, just as it had been sunk by the Japanese cruisers on the 25th February.

At 2 p.m. the various detachments ceased their operations and returned to their rendezvous.

An officer of the squadron which bombarded Port Arthur at long range on the 25th of February says that the return fire of the forts was feebler than it had been on the occasion of the first attack. The *Askold*, the *Novik*, and the *Bayan* emerged from the harbour to fight, and a 12-inch shell from one of the Japanese line-of-battle ships burst on her main-deck. The explosion enveloped her in smoke and flame, and she immediately turned her head harbourwards and abandoned the conflict.

Monday, March 14.

The Naval Department publishes telegrams from Chefoo dated the 12th instant saying that the forts Wei-yuen and Mantze are greatly injured at Port Arthur, several of the guns being dismounted. A conflagration broke out—presumably during the bombardment—in the foreign quarter and seems to have attained very large proportions. The old town of Port Arthur is said to be wholly deserted. No soldiers are to be seen in the neighbourhood of the forts. Four Russian destroyers are lying inside the *Retvisan*, but they appear not to have steam up, and their crews are not visible. (This report sounds as though it were the result of actual inspection made on the 12th inst. If so, the conflagration was then still in progress.) The officer in command of the squadron of destroyers that fought the 6 Russian boats was Captain Asai, and the officer in command of the second squadron which sunk the *Stereguschtchi* was Commander Tsuchiya. The officers in charge of the *Akatsuki*, the *Kasumi*, the *Asashio*, the *Akebono* and the *Sazanami* were Lieutenant Suyetsugu, Captain Oshima, Captain Matsunaga, Captain Kuzumi and Captain Kondo, respectively.

The *Stereguschtchi* is a destroyer of 350 tons with a speed of 32 knots. She was built at St. Petersburg in 1902. Presumably she had a complement of at least 40 men, out of whom only 4 seem to have been saved.

The two forts Wei-yuen and Mantze are both on the west of the harbour. What damage was suffered by the big fort on Hwan-kin-shan it would be very hard to observe from the sea.

The Minister of State for the Navy addressed on the 13th instant a warm message of congratulation to Admiral Togo.

It would seem that the number of destroyers actually engaged on the Japanese side was five. During the fight on the west of Laoti-shan 3 Japanese destroyers engaged and routed 6 Russians. During the fight subsequently at the entrance to the harbour, 2 Japanese engaged 2 Russian, and sunk one of them.

Admiral Makaroff's report also has been received *viâ* Paris—his first report; a very remarkable report. He says that 6 Russian destroyers encountered several Japanese destroyers and cruisers; that the *Stereguschtchi* was so seriously injured as to be in imminent danger; that thereupon he himself, embarking in the *Novik*, went out with the *Bayan* to the assistance of the destroyer; that he was unable to save her and that she sank, all her crew being either drowned or taken prisoners. The remaining five destroyers, he adds, came safely into port the following (?) morning, having 24 killed and wounded.

This we think is a remarkable report for several reasons. First it is remarkable as suggesting, if not plainly showing, that the Russian naval commander-in-chief has only two cruisers available for extra-port operations out of his whole squadron. It is not altogether inconceivable that although he despatched a detachment of 6 destroyers into an arena where at any moment they might encounter a large force of the enemy, he nevertheless held no squadron of cruisers ready to assist them in case of emergency. That would be possible could we assume that the destroyers were merely on scouting duty. But no such assumption can be made. We have it on the authority of Admiral Makaroff himself, speaking through Viceroy Alexieff, that the approach of vessels appearing to be torpedo craft was signalled at the very outset and that the Russian destroyers were sent out to fight. Therefore every available ship should have been ready to support them. Hence it seems that only the *Novik* and the *Bayan* were available. That is strange enough. But much stranger is the fact that these two cruisers failed to succour the *Stereguschtchi*. The Admiral knew that she was badly injured; knew—we have it on his own authority—that she was in imminent peril. In fact, she was sinking before his eyes, within range of his forts. Yet he did not save her. Did he make any attempt that could be called an attempt to save her? Did he fire a shot? Did he expose the *Novik* and the *Bayan* to the smallest danger? It seems not. "All her crew were either drowned or taken prisoners," is what he tells his Government. Yet the unfortunate destroyer continued above water for two hours after the *Sazanami* had cast her off. "All her crew were either drowned or taken prisoners." She had from 40 to 50 men on board and the *Sazanami* could not take away more than four: that is easily conceivable. So some 40 wounded and dead officers and men sank with the *Stereguschtchi* within sight of a Russian port crowded with Russian line-of-battle ships and cruisers. May it not justly be called a remarkable story?

It really does appear that only two cruisers remain serviceable out of the whole Port Arthur Squadron. On the occasion of the third attack—24th and 25th February—there were three, the *Novik*, the *Bayan* and the *Askold*. But a Japanese twelve-inch shell burst on the main deck of the *Askold* and she was temporarily disabled. Well she might be, though the Russian factory of news at Shanghai endeavoured to limit her injuries to one man killed and one wounded. At all events she has not appeared at sea since then, and only the *Novik* and the *Bayan* are able to peep out and see a Russian destroyer sink miserably. Port Arthur appears to be becoming a veritable shambles.

What seems to have happened is this. The First Destroyer Division, consisting of 3 boats, the *Asashio*, the *Akatsuki* and the *Kasumi*, went on scouting duty towards the mouth of the harbour, intending, doubtless, to use their torpedoes also if an opportunity offered. Meanwhile the Third Division, consisting of 2 boats, the *Sazanami* and the *Akebono*, went off on some special mine-laying duty. In the early stages of the naval operations a division consisted of 4 destroyers, but doubtless now that the pressure of service has relaxed, Admiral Togo is giving as much rest as possible to his officers and men. Indeed we know that some of the destroyers have returned to Sasebo. After remaining off the port for a considerable time the First Division steamed seaward towards Lao-ti-shan and probably went westward of the promontory. Shortly afterwards 6 Russian destroyers moved out and headed for the sea southward of the promontory. Sighting, or being sighted by, the Japanese First Division, they moved to the attack, and there ensued that fierce twenty-minutes fight wherein the *Asashio*, the *Akatsuki* and the *Kasumi* dashed into the closest quarters, and beat back the 6 Russians, so that the latter retired at full speed. Meanwhile the Third Division of two boats, having concluded its mine-laying work, steamed towards the mouth of the harbour expecting to find the First Division. It arrived just in time to see the last two of the Russian destroyers making for port, and engaging them, it sunk the *Stereguschtchi*. This analysis of what occurred it borne out by the Emperor's message of approval to the Squadron, for His Majesty's language clearly distinguishes between the work done by the main body of the squadron, and the work done by the destroyers, fighting against superior force. It was certainly a most brilliant feat for the three Japanese boats to beat off six Russians, the quality and size of the vessels being practically identical on either side. This is the first instance of a genuine stand-up-fight between ships of the belligerents, and the result is the most signal triumph the Japanese have yet secured. Admiral Makaroff, as his writings show, is a great believer in the potentialities of torpedo-craft and advocates their use extensively. He appears to be following out his theory gallantly though not successfully. But where are his battleships and cruisers? What were they all doing during the many hours while the Japanese squadron lay quietly bombarding the forts and the town? And what were all the other Russian torpedoers doing in that interval.

Later.

Later news from Chefoo confirms the above but seems to be more or less exaggerated. The Japanese Squadron reached the Gulf of Chili, we are told, on the night of the 9th and proceeded to the neighbourhood of Port Arthur. Before dawn on the 10th a division of Japanese destroyers went in to reconnoitre. Encountering the Russian destroyers, a fierce engagement took place. Both sides suffered, but the Russians soon departed and fled, some being injured, some sunk, and some escaping. Subsequently at 10 a.m. the strongest ships of the Japanese squadron, separating from the cruisers, stood in to Lao-ti-shan, and bombarded the town and the forts on Hwan-kin-shan and Tiger's Tail Promontory. In the Hwan-kin-shan forts many large shells exploded, as also in three of the forts on the Tiger's Tail promontory. The eight forts on Hwan-kin-shan, Tiger's Tail and Lao-ti vigorously replied but failed to inflict any injury on the Japanese. Several of the Japanese shells fell in the shallow water inside the Tiger's Tail Promontory, but a large number reached the town on the other side of the Tiger's Tail and Hwan-kin-chan, setting fire to the new town and causing great damage. The ships in the harbour, the dock and the powder magazines were the principal objects of the Japanese attack and they suffered severely, but the injury done to the ships is unknown. The greater part of the Chinese workmen had already fled from the place after the previous bombardments, so that no work of any consequence could be done. All that were left have now taken their departure, as also have most of the Chinese, inhabitants. The only one of the land forts that escaped unscathed was the Kinki-tung. This is the fort lying farthest eastward on the Hwankin-shan promontory. It must have been almost completely out of the line of fire in a bombardment from the direction of Lao-ti-shan.

The correspondent of the *Daily-Mail* hired a steamer in Chefoo, a steamer named the *Chefoo*, and proceeded to Port Arthur at daylight on the 12th. His vessel went to within a mile—so he is reported to have said—within a mile of the *Retvisan*, yet no attempt whatever was made to prevent him from entering. He observed three destroyers lying inside, but no smoke was issuing from their funnels. In the new town opposite the west harbour a fierce conflagration was raging. He supposed that this was the result of the Japanese bombardment on the 10th, but closer inspection convinced him that the Russians themselves were firing the place preparatory to retreat and that the Japanese bombardment had done them fatal injury. He further declares that according to the statement of the master of the *Foxton Hall*, a British steamer which had been under detention in Port Arthur since the 8th instant but which found herself able to leave the harbour without obstruction on the 12th, two out of four ships forming the Russian Squadron were badly damaged, one was sunk and one escaped. Presumably this refers to the destroyers. The *Nichi Nichi* infers from this statement that the Russians have abandoned the administration of Port Arthur, but to us the whole story reads like an emotional exaggeration.

Another account says that the master of the *FoxtonHall* refused to say a word about Port Arthur affairs, he and two Danes on board his steamer having taken an oath to the Russians that they would keep silence. That rather takes the gilt off the other story. There are other versions of the *Daily-Mail* correspondent's account, but for how much of them he is really responsible we can not divine.

A Chinaman is reported as affirming that three Russian ships were sunk, which result he attributes to an attack by torpedo-craft, an attack existing in his own imagination only.

That great injury was done by the bombardment seems to be unquestionable, but beyond that bare fact everything must for the present be left to conjecture.

Then there is the other side's account. Again we have to compliment M. Plançon, who sends from Mukden to the Shanghai factory the usual material for weaving palliations. He says that before dawn on the 10th an engagement between torpedo-craft took place with the result that one Japanese boat was sunk and the *Stereguschtchi* was injured; that Admiral Makaroff went out in the *Novik* to join the fight but had to retire before the Japanese Squadron; that 4 officers were wounded in the combat; that the Japanese squadron bombarded the place for an hour from the direction of Lao-ti-shan but did no damage worth mentioning; that a barrister (Russian), two women, one Chinaman and one sailor were killed, and that one officer, one workman, and four soldiers were wounded. He adds that the fire of the Russian forts injured the *Takasago*.

Is it not a pity that M. Plancon neglects the precaution of consulting with the Viceroy and the Admiral before manufacturing his stories? Some semblance of similarity would so greatly increase their probability. Alexieff tells of the sinking of the *Stereguschtchi* and the drowning or capture of all her crew; Plancon returns her as merely injured; the Admiral says that he went out in the *Novik* accompanied by the *Bayan*; Plancon carefully omits the *Bayan*; the Viceroy says that the bombardment lasted till 1.15 p.m.; Plancon puts the duration at one hour; Alexieff says that 6 officers and 21 men were wounded and 3 men killed, independently of 40 or 50 that disappeared with the *Stereguschtchi*; Plancon puts the total casualties at 5 killed—including a barrister, two women and one Chinaman—and 6 wounded. Plancon is distinctly clumsy. As for the *Takasago*, she was not under fire at all, having been despatched on a reconnoitering expedition, but in her case M. Plancon merely made a bad shot.

Tuesday, March 15.

A Chinaman who left Port Arthur on the 12th and reached Chefoo on the same day, is reported as saying that the result of the Japanese bombardment on the 10th instant seemed to be only the destruction of 5 or 6 houses in the new town. He did not observe more than 50 or 60 Russian dead and wounded carried to the hospital. The *Nichi Nichi* publishes this news by way of set-off to the account given by the *Daily Mail's* correspondent, who carried away from Port Arthur the extravagant impression that the Russians were abandoning the place.

The wounded (10) and the killed (9) in the torpedoers' fight at Port Arthur on the inst., were brought to Sasebo on the night of the 13th. One of the wounded, who has been interviewed, speaks in the highest terms of the bravery of the Russians in the conflict at the mouth of the harbour. He says that the enemy's torpedoers fought with the greatest determination, watching, at the same time, so as to keep open their avenue of retreat. The Japanese, however, moved up to close quarters and poured into their opponent's boats such a shower of shells that the *Stereguschtchi* was riddled like a honeycomb and her killed and wounded lay in heaps. Several of her crew jumped overboard. The Japanese who were in the fight could not but applaud the stoutness of their opponents.

The same informant alleges that when the *Sazanami* approached within a few feet of the *Stereguschtchi*, one of the former's crew leaped on board the Russian boat, and was attacked by a man apparently of officer's rank, but the Japanese cut him down and finally pushed him overboard. It turned out that the whole crew of the *Stereguschtchi*, except 4 men in the engine room, had either been killed or had jumped overboard. Many corpses were lying on the deck.

According to that informant there were 4 Japanese destroyers engaged against the 2 Russians in front of the harbour. That seem improbable. Only 5 destroyers altogether are mentioned in Admiral Togo's official report and the names of their commanding officers are given. It is quite incredible that any which took part in the conflict would have been omitted.

Chief-Engineer Minamisawa is not dead The statement that he had died of his wounds was a mistake of the *Chuo Shimbun*. He was the engineer of the *Sazanami*, and he distinguished himself in all attacks on Port Arthur.

Moji circulates a report that with the exception of the injured vessels all the Russian ships have left Port Arthur. The number of the vessels that have put to sea is said to be three line-of-battle ships and three or four cruisers. Their plan is to try and effect a junction with the Vladivostock Squadron. That is the only chance now left for the Russians of recovering some measure of sea-power in the Far East. Certain observers, however, appear to infer that the alleged burning of Port Arthur by the Russians themselves on the 12th instant was preparatory to such a move on the part of Admiral Makaroff. That reasoning is difficult to follow. The departure of the squadron would not effect the defence of the fortress on the land side, and could not require any destruction of buildings on shore. Besides the rumour is that Makaroff steamed out on the night of the 10th. If he did it must be admitted that he chose his time well. The bombardment by the Japanese squadron lasted until the afternoon of the 10th, and the night of the same day would necessarily have found Admiral Togo's men more or less exhausted. That would be just the moment for a bold dash, and most assuredly a bold dash is the only means of partially restoring the situation. Was it made, however? We write on the morning of the 15th and we have reason to know that in the opinion of the Japanese officers at the front on the 13th instant nothing unusual was occurring, certainly nothing so momentous as an attempt by Makaroff to reach Vladivostock with three line-of-battle ships and four cruisers. If he set out from Port Arthur on the night of the 10th he must have passed Tsushima strait long ago and be even now safe in Vladivostock. We do not believe it. But whether he will essay such a manœuvre is another question. It is his one chance, for by laying inactive in Port Arthur he is merely converting his fine squadron into a dumb battery constituting a target for the enemy's shot and shell. Admiral Togo is surely prepared for the contingency of a bold rush by Makaroff, and will spare no pains to frustrate it. If the attempt is to be made it should be made soon. The great difficulty of the movement for the Russians is that neither by means of scouts nor yet by intelligence from the outside can they learn anything of the Japanese fleet's movements. They do not know, nor have they any idea, where Togo is to be looked for. Telegrams can not reach them from Japan—and who in Japan is in a position to telegraph?—, and it is impossible for them to rely on telegrams sent from China. The advantages of secrecy are becoming more and more apparent.

We still hear of the doings of the *Daily Mail's* correspondent who visited Port Arthur early on the 12th. The conjectures suggested by his observations are that after the bombardment on the 10th the garrison got out of hand; that some made their escape; that others joined the bandits to fire the town, and that, in short, a general state of pandemonium ensued. Such silly exaggerations are probably inevitable at times of crisis. There are a hundred hypothesis all more probable than the above to account for a conflagration at Port Arthur on the 12th instant, and truly with the exception of a conflagration we do not discover any basis for all this wild talk.

Shanghai seems to be divided, greatly divided, in opinion about Port Arthur. We read in the *Asahi's* telegrams of the 14th instant, and we read with regret, that the *North-China Daily News* appears to be insisting on the probability of the place having fallen, while the French journal is strenuously combating such an idea. There can not be much hesitation in endorsing the *Echo de Chine's* view. When has it been recorded that a powerful fortress was evacuated merely in the face of a bombardment from the sea without the landing of a single soldier? Such talk is mere moonshine. If Port Arthur be assuming a desolate appearance or putting on the guise of a disabled fortress, it is for the purpose of betraying the Japanese into some rash essay. The policy hitherto pursued by the Russians has been to contrive a combination of land-fire and ship-fire fatal to the enemy. They have not succeeded, but their failure is mainly due to the skill and prudence of Admiral Togo who has utilized every element of superiority possessed by his squadron and has carefully avoided venturing his ships into the area of equal, still less of inferior, potentialities. Could the Russians once draw the Japanese ships within the full range of their shore and sea defences, a new face might be put upon the position. We ourselves believe that the moment has come for abandoning that policy; the moment for withdrawing what remains of the fleet. But if Admiral Makaroff does not think so, then nothing offers except to entice the Japanese into deadly peril. The Japanese will remain wide-awake, we trust.

The fact is that Port Arthur is the key of the position in the Far East. Did Russia abandon it now, she would have to recover it subsequently or retire from the contest. Japanese officers are said to remark that the Russian forts have ceased their wild firing. Vladivostock preserved silence altogether. Port Arthur, on the 10th, showed itself comparatively reticent. Probably that is part of Makaroft's plan. He has still a fleet—battle-ships of unknown number—we speak from the point of view of sea-worthiness—; cruisers of unknown number, 12 destroyers and 16 torpedo-boats. He has also a great reputation, and he has already shown that in his rules for conducting war discretion is the better part of valour. Probably he is husbanding his resources until Kuropatkin can organize that big movement which is to make an end of Japan in three months.

Wednesday, March 16.

Shanghai learns, *viâ* Chefoo, that there were rumours of the Russian squadron having left Port Arthur on the 11th and returned on the same day or subsequently. But these statements did not seem to have any solid foundation. It is further alleged that the damage done by the Japanese bombardment was very great, not only the forts and the town suffering, but also the men-of-war and the shipping. Several big shells fell in the new town and in the height of the confusion a conflagration broke out in the military quarter. A wholesale exodus of inhabitants took place from the old town, which soon presented the appearance of being completely deserted. All the forts replied but they fired few shots and did no injury whatever to the Japanese ships. The fact that their fire was feeble is attributed to scarcity of ammunition, a fact confirmed by the *Jiji Shimpo's* Peking correspondent, who says that, according to news received in the Chinese capital from Port Arthur, the paucity of provisions is not so great as people have been led to think, but the scarcity of ammunition can not be concealed.

Japanese newspapers state that the cruiser squadron stationed off the mouth of the harbour during the bombardment signalled the results to the bombarding vessels so that the latter were able to correct their aim. That is more than probable, but it would appear that to follow such a programme intelligently the firing must have been very slow and deliberate. The officers of these cruisers are reported to have said that judging from the smoke and steam seen in the harbour either the boilers of some of the ships or the engines at the dock were struck. They also allege that a 12-inch shell was seen to fall and burst within the enceinte of the Hwan-kin-shan fort.

As to the paucity of the shells fired by the forts in reply, there is the obvious conjecture that the gunners are now well acquainted with their ranges and have consequently learned not to burn powder uselessly. It is said that on the occasion of the first attack, and especially on that of the third attack when blocking ships were sunk, the forts fired wildly and continuously. No stock of ammunition could have stood such draughts for any length of time. They are now more circumspect. That is a reasonable hypothesis. But there remains the other every probable explanation that they have been warned to husband their stock of shells since the railway has occupation more important than the transport of projectiles weighing anything from a quarter to the neighbourhood of half a ton each.

It is explained by some of our Tokyo contemporaries that since the forts and town can be cannonaded at very short range from the front of the harbour, the Russians have devoted much trouble to protecting the approaches in that direction. Moreover, the principal forts, those of Hwan-kin-shan and Kikwan, which have 12-inch guns, stand so high out of the sea that to attack them at close range strains the artillery of a ship. Hence it was that the squadron chose a position westward of Liauti-shan, although the choice entailed a long range and indirect fire. But surely the true explanation is that the ships were thus enabled to be practically outside the zone of danger? Hwan-kin-shan could fire at them over the hills, but only in a tentative, uncertain kind of way.

There continue to be rumours of the retreat of the Russians from Port Arthur, and some authorities allege that what really happened was a hasty despatch of troops to Pitsuwo where the Japanese landed in 1894, the apprehension being that a debarkation there was to accompany the bombardment. But Pitsuwo is some 80 miles from Port Arthur, and the duty of guarding it would naturally devolve on Dalny. There may have been an exodus of troops from Port Arthur, but if so it was only a temporary move to place them out of the reach of danger useless to incur.

The story that the *Chefoo*, carrying a correspondent of the *Daily Mail*, steamed to within a mile of the place where the *Retvisan* is lying has probably been received with considerable incredulity. It is understood to be now contradicted by the master and the pilot of the *Foxton Hall*, who are reported to have stated that they saw the *Chefoo* anchored fully 6 miles off Port Arthur. The fact is that Chefoo is in its element. Canard follows canard in quick succession, and everybody rejoices in the possession of a yarn of his own.

The three Norwegian steamers which were under detention at Port Arthur, are said to have been released on the evening of the 13th.

A staff-officer in Port Arthur is said to have telegraphed to St. Petersburg that Port Arthur sustained great damage in the bombardment on the 10th instant. The *Pallada* was hit by two Japanese shells, and the place was thrown into much confusion. All are determined, however, to resist to the death.

It is reported that a thousand artificers have been sent from St. Petersburg to repair the *Retvisan* and the *Tsarevitch*.

The pilot of the *Foxton Hall*, who has been so much quoted, is now said to have explained that during the bombardment on the 10th instant, several shells fell in the eastern harbour in the immediate vicinity of four Norwegian vessels anchored there, and in consideration of this danger the order for their detention was relaxed and they were allowed to put to sea. The same authority says that the entry of all foreigners into Port Arthur has been forbidden, and that a shell burst in the dining room of a Russian barrister, killing him and his wife. This man is avowedly pro-Russian, but his account nevertheless suggests that Port Arthur is very dangerously exposed from the sea. The East Port is the position of the dock, and is also the part of the unchorage on which the Russians have expended most work.

WAR NOTES.

Friday, March 11.

There is a report that the Russian Govment has sent two sub-marines by rail to the Far East, one for Vladivostock and one for Port Arthnr. The measure would be rather late in the day, but it is not inconceivable that the Russians may have obtained from French makers two of these engines constructed according to the latest designs. The only submarine belonging to the Russian navy, so far as we know, is the *Peter Kochka*, though others of the same type were thought to be proposed or in process of construction at the date of latest publications. The *Petèr Kochka* belongs to the Baltic Squadron, but there was recently an idea among British naval officers that she, or another similar boat, had been sent to Port Arthur, and at Wei-hai-wei men said that a sub-marine from the Russian station on the other side of the Bay was supposed to have poked her nose above water inside Liu-kung-tao one fine morning last summer. It must be presumed, however, that had the Russians possessed such a vessel, they would have made some attempt to employ her during the recent actions. The French have 36 submarines already in commission, and a number of them in the experimental stage. No other nation attaches the same importance to this class of craft. It is more than probable that, in view of her relations with

France, Russia will be able to obtain some submarines and despatch them overland in segments to be put together at Vladivostock or Port Arthur, where their presence might materially change the aspect of affairs.

The *Hakuai Maru* has arrived at Shimonoseki with 22 wounded Russians from Chemulpo and 82 sick Japanese. The former have gone in to hospital at Ehime. Seven of the Russians are severely wounded. Two have had their legs amputated at the thigh, and one has lost an arm. One of these men is said to have had 160 wounds, from which fact the minute shattering that a shell undergoes from the Shimose explosive may be inferred. In consideration of the kind treatment shown by the Japanese towards these wounded men, the Tsar has donated 2,000 *yen* to the Red Cross Society.

Although the steamer *Helms*, captured by the Japanese, had among her cargo a quantity of coal consigned to Port Arthur, the Japanese Government has decided to release her and restore her with all her cargo in consideration of the neutral State involved.

The *Dimitri Donskoi* left Suez on March 10th for home. It follows that there are no Russian men-of-war east of the Suez Canal.

It is stated that all the Russian scouts south of the Yalu have withdrawn to Wiju, and that they are taking steps to erect fortifications for opposing the passage of the river. These breastworks are to operate in conjunction with the forts said to have been built at Antung.

Saturday, March 12.

Concerning submarines it is thought that the two which Russia talks of sending out are probably those now in process of construction in St. Petersburg. Two others are said to be building at Port Arthur.

The Harbin journal affirms that the total quantity of cereals carried over the Trans-Asian Railway to Manchuria in 1903 was 6,834,000 poods, being 2,202,000 poods more than the quantity in 1902. The kinds of cereals were wheat, peas, beans, millet, sorghum, oats and so forth. The cause of this great increase is set down as a failure of the crops in Manchuria, but something must also have been due to the large addition made by Russia to her military establishment in Eastern Asia.

China's only method of asserting her right to preserve neutrality in the West-Liao region in to order local officials not to permit any sales of animals or foodstuffs to the Russians. She is said to have taken that step, but of what efficacy can it prove? The local officials have no means of coercing the Chinese in the face of Russian menaces which, it is tolerably certain, would be converted into practical measures did the occasion become imperative. The whole incident illustrates the futility of any attempt no China's part to assert her sovereignty in the face of a Power like Russia which acknowledges only the law of its own convenience. Besides, Russia is not to be greatly blamed in this matter. She chooses what seems in her own eyes the lesser of two evils.

On the 11th instant the *Mandjur* was stripped of a part of her armament! She is dying by sections, and has struggled hard for her life.

The *Jiji Shimpo* says that Russia has made a singular proposition. She originally declared her intention of respecting China's neutrality and she also announced her adherence to the note addressed to the Powers by the United States Government on the same subject. But she now asks that the whole district induded between a line drawn from Newchwang to Kinchow on the south, from Kinchow to Sing-min-ching on the West, and thence northward of the West Liao into Mongolia, shall be regarded as belligerent territory, the remaining area between the above boundaries and the Great Wall being neutral. This would place in Russia's hands the whole northern littoral of the Gulf of Pechili and the section of the Chinese railway between Newchwang and Kinchow, as well as the large quadrangle having at its four corners Newchwang, Mukden, Sing-min-ching and Kin-chow. It is not to be supposed for a moment that the Powers will consent to such an arbitrary arrangement. If the principle be admitted that Russia is free to assign to the arenas of neutrality and belligerence just what bounds are convenient for her own strategical purposes, there will be no finality to the process. But what will the Powers do? Nothing, of course. There is not one of them that will venture beyond the limits of a deferential protest. All are still paralysed by the Russian ogre, and well Russia knows it. If she maintains the farce of consulting them at all, it is because she understands the inexpediency of too openly parading her contempt.

Prince Napoleon, commander-in-chief of the Russian cavalry in Manchuria, has arrived at Harbin.

It is thought by experts that there will not be any difficulty in raising the *Varyag*. Two of the corpses that went down with her have come to the surface within the past few days.

Sir Claude MacDonald has conveyed to the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs a message from Sir Cyprian Bridge, Commander-in-chief of the British Squadron in these waters, in the sense that the Admiral desires to place at the disposal of the Japanese Authorities for the use of Japanese sick and wounded the British Naval Hospital at Yokohama and the services of the surgeons attached to it.

The *Novoye Vremya* of December 24th says that a vessel fitted with machinery for distilling sea-water has been sent out to the East and that another will soon follow.

Sunday, March 13.

There appears to be no doubt that the Russians have occupied Shing-min-ching. They are said to have sent thither a hundred infantry and twenty troopers, and to have seized the telegraph office without a moment's delay.

It is stated that a Russian Major-General with five regiments of infantry has arrived in the neighbourhood of Newchwang. He has with him two 5-inch siege-guns which are to be placed so as to command the mouth of the Liao River, as soon as the ice breaks up, at which time the American and British gun-boats now lying there are expected to move out. On the other hand, the *Jiji Shimpo's* latest intelligence is that the Russians are withdrawing from Yinkow and that Russian refugees from the town are daily reaching Shanghai.

Monday, March 14.

At length the *Mandjur* has been stripped of her armament. Details are telegraphically given but it is enough to say that the greater part of her weapons and material of war have been handed over to the arsenal authorities.

It is stated that the Russian troops which had crossed the Tumen and entered Korean territory in the direction of Sonchin, are now retiring for concentration at Vladivostock.

Chief-Engineer Minamisawa who distinguished himself signally during the fight on the 10th inst., has expired from his wounds. He had received the Order of the Golden Kite, together with the Fifth Class of the Rising Sun and a step of rank, these honours being conferred under the new system without a moment's delay. It is to be hoped that the brave man lived at least long enough to hear of the distinctions he had won.

It is now denied that there is any truth in the story of three disguised Japanese officers having been hung by the Russians from the Sungari Bridge. The story is believed to have been circulated for purposes of intimidation.

The two corpses that came to the surface from the sunken *Varyag* were buried by the Japanese with naval honours on the 14th instant.

Wednesday, March 16.

It is asserted that the Russians have posted a hundred men on an island called Shan-ping-tao, 20 miles east of Port Arthur, and that they have established telephonic communication between the two places. We can not identify this island. Possibly it is the little isle known as Cap Island.

Thursday, March 17.

Two Tokyo journals, the *Shogyo Shimpo* and the *Nippon*, allege that on the 15th the Russian force at Chong-fu pushed rapidly southward, as far as Kasan. They further say that 200 Cossacks approached the Chhong-chon River, and coming within view of an "obstacle"—that is to say, a party of Japanese scouts—dismounted and opened fire. The Japanese did not reply.

One of the Japanese refugees from Harbin recently arrived at Seoul where he is reported as confirming previous accounts of the shockingly cruel treatment accorded to Japanese women by Russian soldiers. When the refugees reached Tiehling *en route* for the south, they numbered 133 women and 103 men. These were subsequently separated, the women being all sent round by Newchwang, and thence to Tientsin *viâ* Shanhaikwan. That this separation was effected there can not be the slightest doubt. Innumerable accounts concur in asserting the fact. It was an act of great cruelty, for although among the women there were some who had been living on the wages of sin, there were also many wives and daughters of the male refugees, and nothing could have been more heartlessly and uselessly inhuman than to sever these from their male protectors at such a time. The sequel of the story, as told from Seoul, accords with what had previously been related, namely, that the 133 women were put every night into a species of jail where they found themselves the victims of the savage lust of Russian soldiers.

The Russian Mediteranean squadron is patrolling between Alexandria and Crete, stopping and examining merchant vessels.

It is officially announced that the disarmament of the *Mandjour* took place on the 15th instant.

THE POLES.

The Poles in America, where they number two millions, are said to have sent, through the Japanese Consul in Chicago, a message of warm sympathy to the Japanese Government. This would be credible enough were it not linked with a statement that many Poles serving in the Russian ranks in Manchuria have secretly declared pro-Japanese sentiments, and have expressed a hope that if they be taken prisoners they will receive special treatment.

BOMBARDMENT OF VLADIVOSTOCK.

Friday, March 11.

A telegram from Yuensan to the *Jiji Shimpo* gives some particulars of the Vladivostock affair. It appears that the wind was blowing half a gale and the sea running very high when Vice-Admiral Kamimura's squadron steamed for Vladivostock on the 6th instant. From 1.30 p.m. during a space of some 40 minutes, the ships bombarded the forts and the Russian vessels. These latter—how many or whether only one the ambiguity of the Japanese language as to plural etymology renders it impossible to divine from this report—were lying outside the harbour when the Japanese approached, but they immediately entered and took no part in the subsequent doings. On the 7th also they did not venture out though the Japanese squadron waited for them. Both the forts and these ships seem to have suffered. The cold was intense. All the ropes and top-hamper of the Japanese vessels were coated with ice. The crews of the Japanese ships were in excellent health and spirits.

The *Nichi Nichi's* correspondence from the same place says that Kamimura's Squadron made three attacks, and advanced, on one occasion, to within 4,500 metres of the forts. This distance (4,921 yards) being less than 3 miles, it is almost incredible that the shore batteries did not open fire. The Japanese shells set fire to the town.

Another telegram to the same journal from Takeshiki contradicts the *Jiji's* intelligence. It denies that any Russian ships were seen outside the harbour. This message alleges that great surprise is felt among Japanese naval officers on account of the failure of the Russian vessels to reply to the cannonade. The only supposition is that the Russians were hidden deep in the harbour. Perhaps the ships were so hampered by the ice as not to be able either to emerge immediately or to train their guns conveniently, though the latter hypothesis is improbable.

The position taken by Admiral Kamimura's ships remains an open question. From somewhat confused accounts published by Tokyo papers, we are inclined to think that as the whole of the inner part as well as the northern part of the Bosporus Strait are frozen, the position taken was in the immediate neighbourhood of the island lighthouse at the southern side of the strait. That, however, would have involved firing at a very long range. One thing at all events is certain, namely, that until the ice breaks up, Vladivostock is tolerably secure from attack on the sea-side.

It is suspected by Japanese newspapers that the mention of lyddite shells in Admiral Alexieff's report is intended to suggest the rendering of some undue assistance by England to Japan. Lyddite is an English invention and its use is confined to the British service. Possibly the Russians may have honestly inferred the presence of lyddite in consequence of the violent character of the Japanese explosive. It will be remembered, however, that Admiral Alexieff's reoprt about the torpedoing of the *Pallada* spoke of the wounded men being all unlikely to recover owing to the poisonous nature of the gaseous exhalations from the Japanese projectiles. Some American journals—the *Asahi* observes—concluded that melinite had been used. But melinite is a French monopoly. Perhaps the intention was to lay foundations for a subsequent charge against the Japanese. It is a curious fact, however, that an independent eye-witness, who saw some of the Russian wounded men when they were carried ashore on the 9th of February, noticed that their skin was conspicuously yellow. The cause of that phenomenon remains to be ascertained. It could not have been produced by the gas from an ordinary torpedo, nor is there in the Shimose explosive, so far as we know, anything to account for the appearance.

Seoul telegraphs that 50 Japanese fishermen have been taken prisoners by the Russians on the left bank of the Tumen River and conducted to Vladivostock. It seems to be a rather needless performance. The Russians can scarcely be afraid of fishermen.

Saturday, March 12.

Takeshiki, speaking through the mouth of an anonymous naval officer, conjectures that Vladivostock's reason for not replying to the fire of the Japanese ships on the 6th instant was very simple, namely, inability. The explanation of that opinion is that Port Arthur not being too well supplied with ammunition, and being, at the same time, the cynosure of Japanese attacks, drew upon Vladivostock's store, the result being that the latter place is either completely denuded or has such a small stock remaining that to husband it is considered essential. There is another hypothesis, namely, that the position chosen by Admiral Kamimura rendered it extremely difficult for the Russian gunners to lay their artillery on him with even approximate accuracy. The Japanese squadron had a big mark. If they threw their shells into the right quarter of the heavens they had a chance of hitting something valuable to the enemy. But they themselves may well have offered a comparatively small target.

On Saturday morning the *Asahi Shimbun* published an extra containing an account of the doings at Vladivostock on the 6th and 7th inst. There were seven Japanese ships in the squadron. Leaving an unmentioned base on an unmentioned day, they proceeded up to the east of Korea, and then standing eastward, approached Russia's maritime provinces at the Askold Islands. It was then noon on the 6th, and steering south-east, the squadron reached the entrance to the Bosporus strait at 2 p.m. on the same day. The weather was piercingly cold, the thermometer registering 21° below zero. It was dangerous to expose even the hands, and any spray that broke over the decks was frozen at once. To a distance of some 5,000 or 6,000 metres from the shore the ice extended thickly. Seen from afar the coast seemed to be encircled by white billows and viewed more closely the appearance was that of a huge lotus lake. The mountains were all white, the only dark spot on the horizon being the Askold lighthouse, which, but for this distinction of colour, would have been undiscernible. Breaking their way through the ice the ships stood slowly in. Both sides of the strait were lined with batteries, but choosing the fort known to be the weakest, the squadron held a direct course for it, and passing twice backwards and forwards in front of it, bombarded the position. No sign of mounted guns could be perceived, however, though all the other appearances of a fort were present. The enemy made no reply to the ships' fire. Soldiers were observed in the battery, but whether they imagined that the squadron was not within range, or for some other reason, they made no attempt to shoot, but confined themselves to signalling with wireless telegraphs. At 2.40 p.m. the Japanese Squadron, seeing that the Russians did not reply, withdrew. A short time afterwards a ship resembling the *Bogatyr* emerged from the port and seemed to be reconnoitering. Presently one of the Japanese vessels signalled that this cruiser was followed by 4 other ships. By and bye the squadron, deeming it unwise to expose itself to torpedo attacks during the night, withdrew to an unmentioned place and remained there until dawn. On the morning of the 7th, at 6 o'clock, the Squadron separated into two divisions, one of which steamed slowly to America Bay—at the mouth of the Suchan River northward of the Askolds—and searched it, while the other, moving rapidly, made the circuit of the forts and of the sea between the Bosporus strait and the Askolds. The two divisions re-united near the Askolds at 9 a.m., and at noon again approached the forts. These, however, gave no sign of life, neither did any Russian ship appear. Thereafter the squadron proceeded along the Russian coast westward of Vladivostock, visiting all the points of importance. At this time one of the Russian ships appeared a long distance astern, but she barely showed herself, and took care not to approach. The Squadron then steamed southward, calling at some places along the Korean coast. It may be mentioned here that one of the Japanese shells is said to have fallen in the Vladivostock dock and caused a conflagration, but this statement appears to be a mere rumour.

Sunday, March 12.

Officers who were with the Japanese squadron which bombarded Vladivostock on the 6th say that the ships lay eastward of the forts and fired over the intervening hill. This would bear out the original conjecture that the position taken by the squadron was off Cape Basarghin. These officers allege that the ships were well within range of the forts, but as the latter did not reply, the squadron received orders to move closer. It then moved up to a comparatively close range. That shells fell in the town and inflicted damage can not be doubted. The squadron lost one man. He belonged to the *Asama* and was a second-class stoker. When moving up the Korean coast on the 5th instant, one of the pipes connected with the machinery became clogged with ice and for a moment the crew were perplexed how to clear the pipe as the sea was running very high and wherever water fell on deck ice formed at once. At this juncture Hamazaki Kenzaburo came forward, and saying that to be alarmed by such trifles was not to know how to fight, he clambered down to the mouth of the pipe and broke the ice. Unfortunately just as his task was completed a heavy wave swept him away, and there was no possibility of rescuing him.

THE "NOVOYE VREMYA."

An extraordinary view is attributed to the *Novoye Vremya*. It is that, after all. the most advantageous plan for Russia might be to disregard China's neutrality, for if war broke out with China all the Powers would think it necessary to land troops for the protection of their nationals, and China would thus be so paralyzed as to be unable to cause Russia any inconvenience. It would appear, then, that the danger of China disregarding her neutrality and striking in at the right moment, is seriously regarded by the Russian journal. What would be the right moment? Evidently the moment of Russia's discomfiture. It is quite certain that should Russia be signally successful, China will lie as low as possible. Does the *Novoye Vremya* contemplate such a moment?

CHINA.

Wednesday, March 16.

It is stated that the directors of the Russo-Chinese Bank are about to sell the sites of their establishments in Tientsin and Peking.

Shanghai reports that the rouble notes put into circulation by the Russian military authorities in Manchuria do not pass current among the Chinese, and that China is not sending any hard money northward of Chili.

It is reported from Newchwang that the Russians have taken possession of the premises of an American firm's buildings and also of the buildings of several other firms. If that kind of thing commences there will be trouble.

The Russians are said to be working day and night at the fortifications of Antung and Sun-wan-chwang.

With reference to Antung, which is now supposed to be an open port, the United States Minister is said to have addressed some kind of application to the Chinese Authorities in Peking.

The people of the *Yawata Maru* report that their nationals showed supreme pleasure when the ship arrived in Shanghai, re-opening the Yokohama-Shanghai service. Rates of insurance which had previously stood at 2½ per cent. fell at once to 1 per cent. All nationals evinced satisfaction at the coming of the steamer, except the Russians and the French, whose consuls are said to be circulating various rumours with the object of fostering an unquiet feeling. Thus on the eve of the *Yawata's* departure a tale went round that four Russian war ships were lying off Woosung, and the steamer was about to postpone her sailing when it was discovered that the tale had emanated from the Franco-Russian factory. Naturally the French are helping their Russian allies.

Thursday, March 17.

The Colonel attached to the Russian Legation in Peking is said to have been much exercised by a rumour that General Ma's force, which recently proceeded towards the Manchurian frontier, included a number of Japanese officers. He followed the force to Tung-chow, in the first place, but being unable to satisfy himself there, he continued the scrutiny as far as Jehol, where he had an interview with General Ma. There the story ends.

THE LOAN.

The subscriptions to the loan totalled 452,235,625 *yen*. The amount applied for at prices over par was 33,000,000 *yen*, and the subscriptions for amounts under 200 *yen* was 4,300 *yen*.

The subscriptions made to the War Loan by Japanese subjects in foreign lands are stated to have been as follows:—

	YEN.
Hawaii	304,925
San Francisco	216,450
Tientsin	93,625
New York	80,900
Shanghai	40,000
London	17,600
Bombay	17,300
Hongkong	10,000
Total	848,875

A few proprietors of prominent silk manufacturing factories in Kyoto left on March 16th for Tokyo to oppose the proposed increase in the tax on silk goods. Their views will be submitted in the Diet through the representatives of the city.

KOREA.

Friday, March 11.

It is stated that the Korean Government has signed the concession for the Seoul-Wiju railway.

The Koreans seem to be greatly pleased at the prospect of Marquis Ito's mission. They regard it as a guarantee of the security of their Imperial throne and the preservation of the country's independence.

The latest news from Seoul is that the Russians seem to have abandoned the idea of holding Wiju. They are said to be evacuating the place, and to be burning all houses or buildings that interfere with gunfire from the defensive positions on the river.

Saturday, March 12.

It is stated that on the 8th instant Japanese and Russian scouts came within range of each other and exchanged shots between Kasan and Chonju on the Seoul-Wiju road. There do not seem to have been any casualties on either side.

It is noted that as a necessary consequence of the outbreak of hostilities all Korea's conventions with Russia cease to have binding force. This applies to Korea's engagement with reference to the non-alienation of Masampo, to the grant of coal-mining privileges at Wolmi, and to the timber-felling concession in the Yalu Valley.

The retreat of Li Yong-ik to Japan is said to have been necessitated by his opposition to the conclusion of the new Protocol and his consequent disfavour at Court. Japanese journals say that he is now doing everything in his power to induce the Korean Representative in Tokyo to influence the Emperor by wire in an anti Japanese sense.

There have been three changes of portfolios in the Korean Cabinet, not at the instance of the Japanese but because of the Emperor's desire to construct a ministry that shall be entirely sympathetic with Japan.

Major-General Yamane, who has been placed in supreme charge of railway operations in Korea, was presented to the Emperor by Mr. Hayashi on the 10th instant. His Majesty said that all his subjects, official or private, in the neighbourhood of the line, were instructed to assist the building and that they fully recognised the absolute indispensibility of railways as developers of material progress.

All the rumours about the Russians having penetrated to the neighbourhood of Sonchin from Possiet Bay seem to have been baseless. A Japanese subject who arrived at Moji on the 11th from Yuensan, says that the coast is quite clear between Sonchin and Yuensan, and that vessels are plying even to Unkwi Bay. It is added that the 20 foreigners and all the Japanese in Yuensan are in the highest spirits.

Sunday, March 13.

Concerning the collision between Russian and Japanese scouts on the 8th instant, it appears that there were 40 Russians and 4 Japanese, all mounted, and that the place of the encounter was Pak-chhon, which is about midway between Pyong-yang and Wiju. The Japanese scouts are said to have engaged the enemy in spite of his great superiority of numbers. They had one man killed. The others returned, reporting that the Russians were moving northward.

The Korean Court has been making many changes of portfolio-holders and other high officials since the new Protocol went into force, but it appears to be concluded that these changes have no genuine motive of reform, and are designed merely to curry favour with Japan. Mr. Hayashi has therefore addressed a warning to the Korean Government in the sense that such proceedings do not conduce to reform but, on the contrary, are calculated to impede it, and that he trusts the Korean Government will be guided by other considerations in conducting official organization.

The Korean Government has issued an order operative throughout the whole country that Japanese military notes are to circulate freely at a discount of from 8 to 9 per cent., this allowance being made in consideration of the cost of collecting.

On the 9th instant news reached Seoul to the effect that a body of a thousand Russian troops had arrived at a point 25 miles north of Kyong-song, on the road from the Tumen to Kilju and Song-chin. These rumours are to be received with much reserve, for if bodies of a thousand Russian troops are moving down the Korean coast from the Tumen, they must be in maritime touch with Vladivostock, and no evidence of such a line of communications was discovered when Admiral Kamimura's Squadron visited Possiet and the littoral southward of it on the 7th instant and subsequent days.

The high Korean officials appointed to receive Marquis Ito are to proceed to Chemulpo to meet His Excellency.

Tuesday, March 15.

In the year 1900 a plot was formed by certain Koreans to kill the Emperor, set aside the Crown Prince, elevate Prince Wi Hwa to the throne and form a cabinet with the refugees in Japan. The principal person in this plot was Yu Kil-sun, then among the refugees. He had been a graduate of the *Keio-gijuku*, and subsequently he held the portfolio of Education in the Kim Cabinet, when Kim was assassinated and the Korean monarch sought an asylum in the Russian Legation. Yu Kil-sun had to fly to Japan on that occasion and while here he concocted the above plot, his chief coadjutors being 15 compatriots who had graduated at the military college in Tokyo. The plot came to light in 1902, and 7 out of the 15 were arrested, the other 8 effecting their escape. It appears that these 7 lay in jail until quite recently without being brought up for final trial. Judgment was not pronounced against them until the 11th instant, when all were condemned to death. Subsequently, however, after consultation with Mr. Hayashi and Major-General Ijichi, the Emperor decided to confine the death penalty to 3, commuting the sentence of the others to transportation for life. It would seem, however, that this act of clemency was afterwards revoked, for the *Nichi Nichi's* correspondent wires that in the end all were executed, the carrying out of the sentence being as precipitate as the judicial proceedings had been dilatory.

The *Asahi's* intelligence from Seoul is to the effect that although the rumours recently received from the north have been perplexingly contradictory, the situation is now pretty clearly defined. It is this:—Between Wiju and Chhang-song on the Yalu about 3,000 cavalry and artillery are posted, and at Wiju a bridge of Chinese junks has been built. Further south, namely, in Chonju, Kasan and Thai-chhon, there are tolerably strong bodies of cavalry, and these, again, have thrown forward scouts as far as Pak-chhon and Nyong-pyon.

The above array of names will not convey much idea to the ordinary reader. We may therefore explain broadly that the Russians appear to be in partial occupation of an area in northern Korea, having a base of some forty miles on the river Yalu and extending thence 57 miles southward to the river Pak-chhon, at the mouth of which lies Kasan, with the town of Pak-chhon 10 miles higher up and the town of Thai-chon between the two. In fact they occupy the whole littoral region between the Yalu on the north and the Pak-chhon on the south.

In the north-eastern region of Korea, however, the Russians who were recently pushing southward of the Tumen appear to have withdrawn to the north of the river. Some of them are said to have returned to Vladivostock and others are concentrated at Novokievsk in Possiet Bay.

The funeral of the late Empress-Dowager took place in Seoul on the 14th instant. We read in Japanese journals that the Emperor and the Crown Prince acted as chief mourners, following the bier on foot.

It is stated that Prince Wi-yang (Li Chai-kak) will be the envoy sent by Korea to Japan by way of returning Marquis Ito's visit.

The *Yomiuri* has a statement, given on the authority of Mr. Omiwa Chobei, that the Emperor of Korea wishes to visit Japan.

Cho Pyong-sik has assumed the duties of Minister of Foreign Affairs temporarily, in lieu of Prince Li Chi-yong, who has been appointed Custodian of Imperial Tombs, an office connected with the obsequies of the Empress Dowager.

Wednesday, March 16.

Lt.-Colonel Nozu has been appointed military adviser to the Korean Government for a term of five years at a salary of 500 *yen* monthly, with 100 *yen* for house-rent.

It would appear that the idea of appointing Mr. Oye Taku to be adviser to the Court has been abandoned. Mr. Kato is expected to be transferred to that position from his present office at the Department of Agriculture.

The Seoul Government is about to bestow orders upon Japapese subjects who have distinguished themselves on Korea's behalf. Marquis Ito is to be the first recipient, and Mr. Hayashi will be decorated at the same time.

Great preparations are being made for Marquis Ito's reception. He is to ride from Chemulpo in the Emperor's state railway carriage, and the road from the landing place to the station is to be reconstructed.

The commander of the Russian scouts at Nyong-pyong is said to have addressed to the Korean Government a note threatening that if Korea violate her neutrality by supplying horses and provisions to the Japanese, Russia will regard her as an enemy. The man can scarcely be so silly. He is himself engaged in invading this so-called neutral country.

Thursday, March 17.

The Korean Foreign Office gave an entertainemnt on the 16th inst. in commemoration of the conclusion of the new Protocol.

It is stated that the leaders of the pro-Russian party, namely, Li Hak-keun and Hyong Sang-kon, have proceeded to Chemulpo, in company with Mr. A. R. Bostwick, manager of the Seoul Electric Railway Company, and have taken ship for Chefoo, whence Li Hak-keun will proceed to Shanghai to consult with Mr. Pavlow. This Li Hak-keun is the man who visited Viceroy Alexieff before the outbreak of hostilities, for the purpose, it was said, of arranging for the despatch of a force of Russian soldiers to Seoul. Mr. Bostwick is a citizen of the United States, and it is difficult to believe that he has associated himself with the Russo-phils, but such is the statement by responsible Japanese journals—the *Jiji*, the *Asahi*, the *Nichi Nichi* and the *Hochi*. It is to be noted, however, that though several newspapers make the same statement, they all seem to have obtained it from the same source.

The *Hochi Shimbun* alleges that the Korean Government has finally resolved to use its own troops for the purpose of repelling the Russian invasion. Two thousand of the Pyong-yang soldiers were to be despatched northward on the 17th instant. If this be true, we presume that it is done with the consent and approval of the Japanese, but to onlookers the measure seems worse than useless from a purely military point of view, for unless the Korean troops have undergone a radical transformation, they will suffer such a defeat as to produce a demoralizing effect.

In the same paper we find a statement that there are now thirty thousand Russian troops on the Yalu, that five thousand of them have crossed into Korean territory and that their advance guard has reached Anju. Certainly there can be no reason to complain of the variety of intelligence circulated within the past three weeks about the doings of the Russians in northern Korea.

There are said to be 150 Japanese subjects still in Vladivostock. This intelligence comes from Yuensan. It appears that the refugees are from various places in the interior of Siberia.

Our readers may remember that the Russians were recently said to have made prisoners of four Japanese subjects at Hoinyong on the Tumen near Musan. As these men were proved to be simple fishermen, three of them were subsequently released, but the fourth, who acted as interpreter, has been detained and his whereabouts can not be ascertained.

Yuensan reports that the Russians are guarding their Tumen frontier with great vigilance, and that not even Korean subjects are allowed to pass.

Chemulpo is said to be suffering greatly from the effects of the war. Some merchants who speculated in perishable food-stuff when communications were temporarily stopped, found themselves unable to dispose of the goods, and the difficulty was not solved by sending them to Chinampo and other places. Heavy loss has resulted.

NEWCHWANG.

Friday, March 11.

It appears that there are two British warships and one American lying at Newchwang, where of course they are blocked in by the ice. Should the Russians take measures to close the harbour by sinking junks these vessels will be permanently imprisoned. The *Jiji Shimpo* reports that under these circumstances the Consuls of America and Great Britain have protested against any attempt to close the port artificially. In this context the *Asahi* alleges that the Russians will blow up their gunboat as soon as the British and American vessels leave the place. The Russian gun-boat is the *Bobr*, a ship of 950 tons built in 1885.

It would seem from the latest reports that all the talk of maintaining neutrality in the West-Liao region has ended in moonshine. Russia has posted troops in Sing-min-ching, Tien-chwan-tai and Kau-fong-tz; her videttes are constantly moving throughout the whole region; no train reaches Shan-hai-kwan without some armed Russians in the carriages, and provisions as well as other warlike stores are being freely requisitioned. Moreover the Chinese have evidently weakened. Their troops are said to have been moved in much smaller number than was originally supposed, and no force has been stationed outside the Great Wall. In short the Russians have carried their point successfully. They have thus made two declarations; first, that their pretended evacuation of the West-Liao district in 1902 was pure deception; secondly, that they intend to respect China's neutrality just so far as suits their own convenience and no farther.

Saturday, March 12.

News from Newchwang dated the 10th instant says that the ice on the river had not yet begun to melt perceptibly. The Russians have made preparations for laying torpedoes as soon as the port opens, and have obtained 250 of these projectiles from Harbin. It would appear to be their plan to retire after mining the approaches, for we hear of the guards auctioning their belongings, and of other doings that seem to indicate withdrawal.

Newchwang telegraphs on the 8th instant—apparently on the authority of a Chinese observer—that Russia has 60,000 men south of Yin-kow, namely, 20,000 in Port Arthur, 20,000 in Kinchow—the Liaotung Kinchow—, 5,000 in Fuchow, 8,000 in Kaiping, 1,000 at Yin-kow and 1,000 at Niu-kia-tun. As usual these details do not tally with the alleged total, but that is a small matter. One is accustomed to it. Kinchow, Fuchow and Kaiping are all situated in the western part of the Liaotung Peninsula. Troops posted there would be intended to oppose a landing from the direction of the Gulf of Pechili.

Tuesday, March 15.

It is reported from Newchwang that there are now only 1,500 Russians there and in the vicinity, but that 4 regiments will soon arrive. In anticipation of the latter movement, steps are being taken to requisition provisions on an extensive scale. These dispositions are believed to have reference to the despatch of troops by China into the region west of the Liao.

The Chinese Minister in St. Petersburg is said to have reported to his Government that the Russians in Manchuria have issued notices in the sense that any attempts on the part of Chinese subjects living in the West-Liao region to withhold provisions from the Russian troops or to betray the latter's movements, will entail imprisonment in the case of an official and severe punishment in the case of a civilian. The Chinese Government having remonstrated against this arbitrary procedure, St. Petersburg replied that all such matters are within the sole jurisdiction of the Viceroy of the Far East and that they can not be discussed by the central authorities.

The *Nippon*, quoting from a Chinese newspaper, tells the public that there are sixteen principal bandit chiefs in Manchuria, and that the whole country is parcelled out among them. The chiefs of secondary rank are innumerable. Constant enterprises against the Russian railways and telegraphs are attributed to these men, and it is reported that Alexieff has requisitioned St. Petersburg for 100,000 troops to act as guards alone. These so-called bandits claim to be loyal subjects of the Manchu dynasty, and declare that if the Japanese army arrives in Manchuria, they will rise to a man and wreak upon the Russians the revenge they have been long meditating. This account is to be taken with reserve.

Wednesday, March 16.

There is a wild rumour that a force of Chinese soldiers combined with Japanese has attacked the Russians near Yinkow (Newchwang). There is also a story that on the 14th instant Chefoo observed a great volume of smoke about 20 miles distant in the offing, and opined that it came from steamers heading towards Newchwang, where the ice is expected to break up in about 10 days.

CENSORATE OF TELEGRAMS.

After consultation and in the sequel of experience the Government Departments concerned have drawn up rules relating to the censorship of press telegrams. They went into force on Friday week and we append the text:—

CENSORSHIP FOR PRESS TELEGRAMS.

I.—Any one desiring to despatch press telegrams shall first obtain a "censor's pass stamp" by presenting the telegram to the proper authorities under whose province the contents of such telegram appertain: *i.e.* if the contents refer to foreign relations, to the Foreign Office, or if they have any reference to military or naval matters to the General Staff or the Naval General Staff Office respectively.

II.—In case contents of a single press telegram have reference to matters appertaining to the provinces of more than one Authority, a "censor's pass stamp" shall be obtained from all the authorities concerned.

III.—Press telegrams to which a "censor's pass stamp" has been obtained from any or all the authorities concerned, shall upon presentation at the Tokyo Post Office (Central Office) of Yedobashi, be sent without delay.

IV.—Press telegrams for which the sender deems it unnecessary to obtain a "censor's pass stamp" can be presented for despatch at any branch telegraph office in the city as heretofore. In this case, however, non-delivery or delay of such message shall be entirely at the sender's risk.

N.B.—Press telegrams for which a "censor's pass stamp" is desired shall be presented to the following officials:—

At Department of Foreign Affairs:
KEIJIRO NABESHIMA, Secretary,
JUMPEI SHINOBU, Secretary.

At the General Staff:
Major BUNJIRO HORIUCHI,
Captain KUNISHIGE TANAKA,
Lieutenant SHOJIRO TANAKA.

At the Naval General Staff Office:
Captain (post) GENTARO YAMASHITA,
Captain TAKARABE TAKESHI.

LIFE ON JAPANESE TORPEDO-BOATS.

One of the officers commanding a Japanese torpedo-boat or destroyer which took part in the attacks on Port Arthur, has had some conversation with the Saseho correspondent of the *Jiji Shimpo.* He declares that this is a most dispiriting war. When the Japanese attack the Russians retire, and when the Japanese are absent the Russians emerge from their hiding places. It is like striking at dough. As for the failure of the enemy's shells to hit anything, that is no longer manner of doubt. During the third attack the Russian torpedo-boats fired into each other, and thereafter their timidity became quite incredible; at the first sight of the enemy they hastened to conceal themselves. On the other hand, the smaller vessels of the Japanese squadron have had a much more terrible foe to contend against—weather. Since the 11th of February the cold has been intense and the sea boisterous. One destroyer's crew may be said to have slept under frozen snow, so thickly did the flakes penetrate to the men's bunks, and another had its compass frozen though alcohol was used as a precaution. Nothing but the high spirit of the men enabled them to work through it all: people on shore can not form any idea of what the suffering means. Yet no one has suffered badly from frost-bite. That was because they had the experiences of 1894-5 to guide them. Very few caught cold. The officer attributes this to the fact that they did not expose themselves to variations of temperature as is the case with men in a big ship where cabins can be warmed and heat-generating processes employed. On a destroyer or a torpedo-boat the only source of artificial heat is a brazier, and braziers have two serious draw-backs; one that in a little craft pitching and rolling badly, live charcoal is a dangerous companion; the other that as all apertures have to be closed to keep out the sea, the fumes of a brazier would be perilous. There was nothing for it consequently, but to dispense with all heating appliances, and the men, living in a uniformly cold temperature, seem to have kept their health better than they would have done had means of generating artificial heat been accessible One great trouble was that the officers hardly ever got a quiet sleep. Their work was always at night, and the strain and anxiety of moving at high speed without lights, when every sense had to be keenly alert so as to avoid collisions and yet keep in touch with the other boats, were something that soon became scarcely endurable. It was not merely want of opportunity to sleep; what happened was that the long-sustained serious tension made sleep impossible. Drinking *sake* brought no relaxation of the strain, and only by taking morphine could sleep be obtained in many cases. This was much worse than the actual fighting. Provisions were another great difficulty. It is of course out of the question to have good fare on board a torpedo craft. But in very cold weather what a Japanese soldier or sailor desires above all things is plenty of *miso-shiru* (bean-sauce). Casks of this necessary were taken, but as there was no place to stand them under cover they had to be lashed on the deck, and so it happened that heavy seas constantly breaking on board carried away or smashed many of the casks, to the men's great chagrin.

THE "STEREGUSCHTCHI."

Admiral Togo's latest report explains the fact that only 4 men survived out of the whole crew of the Russian destroyer. The officer in command of the *Sazanami*, which took the *Stereguschtchi* in tow and afterwards cast her off owing to her leaky condition and the boisterous sea, states that the surviving officers and men of the destroyer seem to have leaped overboard when the *Sazanami* approached. The Japanese took two men off the destroyer and picked up two. They would have stayed to pick up a great number of those floating in the water, but their ship was under the unceasing fire of the forts and moreover the Russian cruiser *Novik* was approaching. They left none on board the *Stereguschtchi*, but they might possibly have rescued others had it not been for the fire of the forts, the approach of the *Nôvik* and the rough sea Of the 4 Russians saved, two were wounded, but these are receiving medical treatment on board one of the Japanese war-ships and are out of danger.

The above official statement renders it still more difficult to understand Admiral Makaroff's account of his own doings. He says that he went out with the *Novik* and the *Bayan* to assist the *Stereguschtchi* but that finding her surrounded by 5 Japanese cruisers, he retired without striking a blow. It appears, however, that the only craft within reach of the sinking destroyer was the *Sazanami*, and that the latter retreated on the approach of the *Novik*, after which the *Stereguschtchi* remained afloat for two hours. Admiral Makaroff showed remarkable discretion, so far as can be seen at present, but of course there may be in the story some element requiring fuller explanation.

SHOULD WOMEN SMOKE?

Madame Sarah Grand, the novelist, deals with this knotty question, in the columns of the London *Daily Chronicle*, from the point of view of a woman who once indulged in the habit but afterwards gave it up. She says:—

Among the mass of opinion, conjecture, foreboding, and prophecy, I find no single fact for our guidance—no single example of the effect of smoking on a woman's constitution and character. . . . I, personally, entered by accident upon the experiment of smoking. I was lunching with a friend at her father's house. Ourselves, her father, and two other gentlemen composed the party. After luncheon my friend suggested that we should go to the library and have cigarettes with our coffee. In the library she said to me: "Do smoke." "But I don't smoke," I answered. "Well, but just to keep me in countenance!" Of course I took a cigarette and lighted it. This was between 1893-4, just after I had published "The Heavenly Twins." Our companions were all three distinguished men; their talk was delightful, and as I listened I smoked without much consciousness of of what I was doing. The cigarette had no effect upon me whatever at the moment, either pleasurable or the contrary. But a few days later, while I was talking to one of my stepsons—who, by the way, was not smoking at the time—I was seized with an importunate craving for tobacco. "I should like to smoke," I said. "Well, smoke, then," he answered, and handed me his cigarette-case. And from that time I have smoked, more or less—generally less—my average being from two to four cigarettes a day. I smoked at first, not because I cared particularly for the act, but in order to be sociable. It became my custom to have cigarettes brought in with the coffee at dessert, and to sit and chat instead of breaking up the party and separating, the ladies to yawn in the drawing-room, leaving the men to such ideas as more wine might engender. Thus, in my mind, smoking became associated with pretty still-life pictures of dessert on the dark polish of a Chippendale table, with shaded lights and flowers, with many a brilliant mind that gave of its best, and with the close sympathy of many a loyal heart that expanded under the gentle, genial influence. At first my cigarette was the toy of the dinner-table, but soon it began to creep in at other times, and insensibly, as I came more and more under its influence, the old occupations natural to women lost their charm for me, and were set aside. . . . But I found that I could no longer smoke without inhaling, and soon also I had begun to smoke more and more, until at last it occurred to me that inhaling had made smoking a pernicious habit to which I should become a slave if I did not break myself of it at once. So I gave it up. And it was as if I had cast out an evil spirit which had been keeping all the better influences of my life at a distance. Plain sewing became a solace to me again. I delighted in my neglected embroideries. After work, it was rest and refreshment to see that my house was spick and span, my household comfortable and happy. And, best of all, my music, which had left me, came back—"the sounds that cannot lie for all their sweet beguiling, the language we need fathom not, but only hear and feel." The result of my observation of women who smoke has been very much the same as my own experience of the habit. So long as the cigarette is treated as a plaything, taken up only at odd moments, and not missed when cast aside, it does no harm; but when it becomes a necessity it is dangerous.

THE "TEIKOKU GUNJIN YENGO-KWAI."

Among all the Societies—and they may be counted by tens—that have been organized for the purpose of affording relief to the families of soldiers and sailors serving at the front, one of the latest but by far the most important is the "Association for the relief of these serving in the Army and Navy." Its promoters appear to have based their effort on the principle that a man must go for guidance in such matters not merely to his sentiment of charity but also to his sense of duty, and that if his age or his position exempt him from the necessity of actually taking his place in the fighting line, it becomes then an imperative obligation that he should assist his country with his purse. The Japanese recognise that in this war the stake is their national existence, or at any rate their existence as a nation with any expansive potentialities, and all classes are determined that nothing shall be wanting in the matter of goodwill and self-sacrifice. The association under consideration has only been a very short time in existence, yet it has already collected a sum of 661,918 *yen*, and there is every prospect of a very large amonnt ultimately reaching its coffers. Its statement of objects is as follows:—

> At this sublime moment, when our soldiers and mariners are fighting in defense of our country against one of the great neighbouring Powers, nobody can deny that we are in the face of an extremely serious crisis, the magnitude of which is unparalleled in the history of our past. It is unquestionably a moment when the whole nation ought to stand up in the cause of the public weal. The young and robust are with the flag; they have to sacrifice all their personal interests for their country's sake. They can not attend to their aged and decrepit parents, can not nurse their sick and dying wives, can not lend ear to the cries of hunger of their beloved children. Is there any one possessing the common feelings of humanity who can look with calm unconcern upon these pathetic scenes of heroic patriotism and self-sacrifice? The State must of course take steps to provide for those that sacrifice their family interests on the altar of country, and we learn with pleasure that the Government is now submitting suitable projects for the consideration of the competent authorities. But we have to take into consideration the fact that any measure of relief undertaken by the State must be subject to the restraints of rule and be governed by the general average of visible facts, so that account can not be taken of the special circumstance of each family and each member of a family. Besides, the amount thus granted in relief necessarily can not be superabundant. It might be enough for families with few members in remote village regions, but it would be evidently insufficient for large families residing in populous cities. Hence the necessity of resorting to private initiative and of supplementing these insufficiencies, correcting these inequalities, and endeavouring to meet the needs of each suffering family.
>
> Compatriots, it is our duty to look to the welfare of the weak who are dear to those that are spilling their blood and risking their all in defense of the nation. Let us at least endeavour to enable them to face death in their country's cause with peaceful hearts—assured that the spectre of starvation will not menace the loved ones they leave behind. This is at once the duty and the privilege of their fellow-country-men, and we appeal to the public to co-operate heartily in the discharge of the solemn obligation.
>
> We may add that though this Association has been founded in view of the present crisis, it may subsequently happen that the results of the work done may suggest the advisability of continuing the Association as a permanent institution.

As for the officers of the Association and its promoters, as well as the places for receiving subscriptions, the following list conveys information:—

THE FOUNDERS OF THE "TEIKOKU GUNJIN YENGO KWAI."
(Association for Relief of those Serving in the Army and Navy.)

Prince Shimazu.
Prince Mori.
Prince Tokugawa.
Marquis Y. Tokugawa.
Marquis S. Tokugawa.
Marquis Mayeda.
Marquis Hosokawa.
Marquis Asano.
Marquis Nabeshima.
Marquis Date.
Marquis Sho.
Count Matsukata.
Count Inouye.
Viscount Tanaka.
Baron Iwasaki.
Baron Mitsui.
Baron Shibusawa.
J. Yasuda, Esq.
J. Furukawa, Esq.
K. Sumitomo, Esq.
K. Okura, Esq.
Y. Akaboshi, Esq.
D. Fujita, Esq.
J. Konoike, Esq.

PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT AND OFFICERS.

President .........H.I.H. Admiral Prince Arisugawa.
Vice-President...Count Matsukata.
Vice-President...Count Inouye.
Chief Director...T. Yamamoto, Esq., Member of House of Peers, ex-Governor of the Bank of Japan.
Director ....Baron Mori, Member of House of Peers.
Director ... .T. Murata, Esq., Member of House of Peers.
Director ....M. Kato, Esq., Vice-President of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Director ....Y. Asabuki, Esq., Director of the Mitsui Company.

COUNCILORS:

Prince Tokugawa.
Marquis Hosokawa.
Marquis Y. Tokugawa.
Marquis S. Tokugawa.
Marquis Nabeshima.
Viscount Yoshikawa, Minister of State for Home Affairs.
Viscount Tanaka, Minister of the Imperial Household.
Baron Iwasaki.
Baron Mitsui.
Baron Shibusawa.
K. Okura, Esq.
S. Ohashi, Esq.
S. Takahashi, Esq., Member of House of Peers, Governor of the Credit Foncier of Japan.
J. Soyeda, Esq., Governor of the Industrial Bank of Japan.
K. Sonoda, Esq., President of the Jugo Bank.
N. Soma, Esq., President of the Yokohama Specie Bank.
J. Yasuda, Esq.
T. Masuda, Esq., Chief Director of the Mitsui Company.
K. Wumakoshi, Esq., President of the Teikoku Shogyo Bank.
D. Fujita, Esq.
R. Kondo, Esq., President of the Nippon Yusen Kwaisha.
J. Konoike, Esq.
Y. Akaboshi, Esq.
K. Sumitomo, Esq.
(Six other members have still to be elected.)

PLACES WHERE SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE RECEIVED.

NEW YORK:
The Yokohama Specie Bank.
Messrs. Morimura & Co.
Mitsui Bussan Company.

SAN FRANCISCO:
The Yokohama Specie Bank.

LONDON:
The Nippon Yusen Kwaisha.
The Mitsui Bussan Company.

SHANGHAI & HONGKONG:
The Yokohama Specie Bank.
The Mitsui Bussan Company.
The Nippon Yusen Kwaisha.

PEKIN & TIENTSIN:
The Yokohama Specie Bank.

SOUL, CHEMULPO & FUSAN:
The Dai-ichi Bank.

HANGKOW, MANILLA & JAVA:
The Mitsu Bussian Company.

We need scarcely invite the attention of charitable foreigners to the aims of this Association. It will certainly command their support.

WAR AND PATRIOTIC FUNDS.

We are asked to state that the Concert given at the Uyeno Academy of Music on Saturday last, in aid of the Ladies Nursing Association, Red Cross Society, has resulted in the satisfactory gain to the Association of *yen* 1740. Gross receipts, *yen* 1,810; expenses *yen* 70.

The Emperor and Empress have granted a sum of five thousand *yen* to the Benevolent Ladies Nursing Society, of which Princess Kanin is President. This Society is different from the Patriotic Ladies League, to which Their Majesties recently gave twelve thousand *yen*, and to which several of the Princes of the Blood have now subscribed sums varying from 500 to 150 *yen*.

The Executive Committee desire to acknowledge receipt of the following sums:—

	Yen.
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, Yokohama...	3,000
Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.	2,000
Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China.	1,000
Standard Oil Company of New York (1st Installment)	1,000
Mr. J. T. Hamilton	1,000
Grand Hotel, Ltd.	500
Mr. V. A. Cæsar Hawkins	250
Dr. C. H. H. Hall...............................	100
Mr. M. E. McDonald	100
Mr. L. Eppinger	100
Mr. W. H. Talbot...............................	100
Mr. B. C. Howard...............................	100
Mr. J. Williamson Jones	100
Messrs. E. V. Thorn and Son	100
Mr. R. J. Ward and family	100
Mr. M. Muraour...............................	100
Mr. A. G. Fischer	50
Dr. Hocken	10
Total received to date	9,710

THE LATE MR. WHITAKER WRIGHT.

Much obscurity hangs over the early career of the late Mr. Whitaker Wright. The following are the points of note as given in the *Pall Mall Gazette*:—

1847.—Born in Cheshire.
1868.—Arrived in America.
1878.—Member of New York Stock Exchange and millionaire.
1889.—Returned to England.
1894.—Founded the West Australian Financial Corporation.
1897.—Amalgamation of the West Australian Financial Corporation and the London and Globe Finance Corporation.
1900.—Failure of the company.
1901.—Winding-up proceedings.
1903.—The Attorney-General declined to prosecute Mr. Whitaker Wright at the expense of assets. Departure from Havre to New York. Mr. Justice Buckley's direction to prosecute. Warrant issued. Arrest, and return to England. Committed for fraud.
1904.—Trial, sentence, and death.

The following is a list of the companies promoted by Mr. Whitaker Wright or by the London and Globe Finance Corporation:—

Name.	Capital. £.
Abaris	125,000
London and Globe	2,000,000
British America............................	1,500,000
Standard Exploration	1,500,000
Le Roi No. 2............................	1,000,000
Le Roi	600,000
Ivanhoe	1,000,000
Caledonian Copper	750,000
Nickel Corporation	750,000
London Valley Goldfields	750,000
Rossland Great Western..............	500,000
Kootenay Mining........................	400,000
Lake View	350,000
Total	11,225,000

DOMESTIC POLITICS.

The *Seiyu-kai* held a general meeting on the 16th instant. They passed a resolution in the exordium of which they renewed their habitual declaration that the present Cabinet has not properly discharged its functions in the realm of either domestic or foreign policy, and that its acts are unconstitutional. Nevertheless, the resolution proceeded, the country being now at war, only one duty devolved on the legislature, the duty of providing ample funds, and laying aside all previous dissensions to secure in the country's cause the benefits of union. Marquis Saionji addressed the meeting much in the same sense, and declared at the close of his speech that he had entire confidence in the unanimity which the Party would show at this great crisis in the nation's destiny.

He claimed that the successes hitherto gained by the navy must be regarded as in part due to the spirit animating a people with free institutions such as the Japanese enjoy, whereas their enemy's suffered from the paralysing influence of a bureaucratic autocracy.

The Progressists also held a general meeting the same day. Their manifesto, adopted unanimously, was an elaborate document. Not its least remarkable feature was the expansion and vehement affirmation of the very doctrine that Marquis Saionji was simultaneously expounding to his *Seiyukai* followers, the doctrine that in this momentous struggle Japan has the great advantages of an enlightened and liberal polity which constitutes an asset of immense strength as against the disheartening and unnerving systems of Russia. The manifesto further undertakes to supply an alleged defect in the Government's procedure, namely, its failure to publicly proclaim the objects Japan has in view. These objects are to check Russian aggression, to insure the peace of the Orient and the safety of Japan, to obtain equal commercial and industrial privileges in Manchuria for all nations, and to join hands with the Powers in carrying true civilization into regions which otherwise be invaded by Russian barbarism. It need scarcely be said that fault is found with the Cabinet's manner of conducting the negotiations with Russia, but concerning supplies for carrying on the war the Progressists are solid.

Mr. Oishi Masami disfigured the proceedings by a speech as foolishly bombastic as it was wanting in tact and taste.

CANCER RESEARCH.

Mr. Henry Morris expressed his conviction in his "Bradshaw Lecture" that there is reasonable expectation that a real advance has been made in our knowledge of the agencies which produce cancer. His optimism would appear to be well founded. In a survey of the results of the researches under the Cancer Research Fund, presented to the Royal Society by Drs. Bashford and Murray, confirmation is found of the suggestions made in a previous paper addressed to the same Society last November by Drs. Farmer, Moore, and Walker. The latter gentlemen pointed out the resemblance exhibited between the cells of malignant growths in man and those of normal reproducing tissue. It is clearly pointed out that these observations throw no light on the cause of malignant growths. But they do indicate the direction in which fruitful researches may be undertaken. And they suggest that it is quite possible that the cause of cancer may be ultimately found in "the disturbance of the phenomena of reproduction and cell life." An excellent illustration of the probable nature of the process of cancerous growth is given in an interesting communication by "A Correspondent" in the *Times* for January 22. The ripe spores of the fern fall on the ground and grow into little heart-shaped plants quite unlike ferns, and called prothallia. On these prothallia the sexual cells appear which after fusion grow up into ferns. If the fronds are pinned down on the damp earth, around the edges of the frond appear after a time the prothallial tissue just like a cancerous growth. Taking into consideration other facts, for which we must refer the reader to the communication in question, the conclusion is reached that the malignant growths in man are an exact counterpart of the abnormal production of prothallial tissue on the fronds of the fern. When the frond is fastened down, some unknown cause forces the normal tissue to begin the reproductive phase of its career. The changes which take place in the normal sexual reduction of animals and plants are the same as those taking place in the development of cancerous tissue. The problem. then, is one in which the biologist will be able to give assistance of the highest value.

MEMORIES.

Do you remember, love, the day we met?
It seems to me the birds sang sweeter then
Than ever yet before, or yet again;
And now I know 'twere better to forget.

It seemed as though the sky must always be
As peaceful and as blue as on that day;
I little knew that clouds would come—and
stay:
I thought our love would ever cloudless be.

I little knew that storms would gather fast
To break upon us when we felt most sure;
Sure in our love that should for aye endure—
But we had only met to part at last.

So long ago it is, and yet it seems
But yesterday we wandered side by side
Through scenes where nature human speech
defied,
Where all was beauteous in our love's bright
gleams.

Do you remember, love, the crescent moon
That silv'ry rose amid the sunset glow,
And how our steps grew slower and more
slow?—
We would not hasten what must come so
soon.

And now that self-same moon no farther
seems
Than you from me—nay, nearer, for I see
The moon, while, searching through infinity,
You I may see no more save in my dreams.

X.

THE BUTCHERS' RING.

Once again within the space of two months, as a correspondent points out, the Butchers' ring of Yokohama have raised their prices, this time by 6½ per cent. and the question arises, can the foreign community stand this continued "squeeze" much longer. Speaking to a prominent Australian the other day he expressed the opinion that prices of meat in Yokohama have now reached a point when the importation of Australian beef and mutton is possible, leaving a good and reasonable profit to the importer. To establish cold storage depots, as Hongkong, Shanghai, and Singapore had eventually to do in self-defence, should not be a very serious problem for Yokohama, and we feel sure that if some one would take it up seriously the business would pay a fair profit. We append for comparison the price lists of Yokohama and Hongkong to demonstrate our point:—

YOKOHAMA.

BEEF:		
Sir Loin, Roast	per lb	¥0.34
Rip, Roast	„	0.30
Rump or Ronnd Beef	„	0.30
Corned Beef	„	0.30
Fillet	„	0.65
Soup Meat	„	0.24
Suet	„	0.22
Dog Meat	„	0.05
Tongue	Each	0.52
Smoked Tongue	„	0.60
Corned Tongue	„	0.52
Tripe	per lb.	0.05
Liver	„	0.05
Ox Tail	Each	0.14
Brains	„	0.14
Kidney	„	0.14
VEAL:		
Veal Chop	per lb.	¥0.32
Feet	„	0.08
Veal Leg	„	0.42
Liver	Each	0.26
Head	„	0.50
MUTTON:		
Mutton, Leg and Chop	per lb.	¥0.52
„ Shoulder	„	0.42
„ Kidney	Each	0.14
Sheep, Head	„	0.30
„ Liver	„	0.26
„ Feet	„	0.04
PORK:		
Pork	per lb.	¥0.20
Liver	Each	0.26
Corned pork	per lb.	0.20
Pig's Head	„	0.08
Sausages	„ „	0.24
Pig Feet	Each	0.12

HONGKONG.

Beef sirloin & prime cut	lb	¥17
„ Corned	„	17
„ Roast	„	17
„ Breast	„	13
„ Soup	„	13
„ Steak	„	17
„ Sausages,—Ngau Chaung	„	16
Bullock's Brains	per set	8
„ Tongue fresh	each	45
„ „ corned	„	55
„ Head	„	55
„ Heart	lb	9
„ Hump	„	14
„ Feet	each	8
„ Kidneys	„	8
„ Tail	„	16
„ Liver	lb	9
„ Tripe (undressed	„	5
Calves' Head and Feet	„	75
Mutton Chop	lb	24
„ Leg	„	24
„ Shoulder	„	20
Pigs' Chitlings	„	7
„ Brains	per set	2
„ Feet	„	12
„ Fry	„	12
„ Head	„	13
„ Heart	each	9
„ Kidneys	„	9
„ Liver	lb	24
Pork, Chop	„	18
„ Corned	„	18
„ Leg	„	22
„ Fat or Lard	„	18
Sheep's Head and Feet	set	50
„ Heart	each	6
„ Kidneys	„	20
„ Liver	lb	22
Sucking Pig	„	16
Suet, Beef	„	17
„ Mutton	„	22
Veal	„	18
„ Sausages	„	15

At the present moment, when the foreign house-keepers of Yokohama are seriously considering ways and means of circumventing the extortions of the local butcher's ring, the subject of frozen meat is uppermost in their minds. The question as to who invented this useful product is asked by Mr. J. F. Hogan in the current issue of the *British Australasian*. It is an industry—the exportation of frozen meat from Australia and New Zealand—that has attained vast dimensions during recent years. Mr. Hogan claims that its pioneer was the late James Harrison, a veteran Victorian journalist, who conceived the idea in the early sixties, erected expensive refrigerating works, and in the end was "financially ruined by the unfavourable and unsympathetic conditions of his time." In the sister and rival State, New South Wales, the late T. S. Mort, of Sydney, is generally regarded as the pioneer. He was a wealthy wool-king, and is said to have spent no less than £80,000 on preliminary experiments before his first cargo of frozen meat was delivered in London. We understand that the question of cold storage in Yokohama has developed almost sufficiently far as to have become one of the possibilities of the near future. It will be a happy day for the long-suffering foreign resident when cold-storage does arrive.

THE PRIZE COURT.

The Japanese Prize Court has released all goods found on captured ships when such goods were clearly shown to have been destined for private individuals. It has also released the *Hermes* and all her cargo. This is a Norwegian steamer. She was employed by a Russian firm—Messrs. Ginsberg & Co.—whose agents at Moji, the Uriu Company, put 2,100 tons of coal into the ship and started her for Port Arthur on the 6th of February. She was captured on the 9th when nearing her destination. The Court has decided that she comes under the head of a neutral ship which, though employed by the subject of a belligerent and in obvious discharge of duties undertaken for the public service of such belligerent, was discharging those duties in complete ignorance that a state of war existed and in the absence of any sufficient reason for supposing that hostilities had broken out. Her seizure was of course quite legitimate as it took place after war had commenced, as she was employed by the subject of a belligerent, and as she was carrying contraband of war.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

At Uedaya's well known warehouse, No. 15 Yariya-cho, Kyobashi, Tokyo, there will be on view until the 13th instant inclusive the magnificent piece of tapestry—representing the Mongol invasion—which has just been finished by Mr. Kawashima of Kyoto to the order of the Imperial Court. The weaving operations required four years, and there can be no second opinion that this is the finest specimen of such work ever produced in Japan. The Emperor has given his permission that the tapestry may be sent to the St. Louis Exhibition before it finally takes its place in the Palace. A visitor to Uedaya's will see, in addition to this tapestry, several examples of Japanese weaving and embroidery, the very finest of their kind. All are going to St. Louis.

The following notice has been circulated:—

> There is one common cause which all willingly assist. The foreign correspondents have chosen as their contribution to the care and comfort of the sick and wounded in the Russo-Japanese war the making of a unique volume to be called "In Many Wars." While the soldier serves in the campaigns of his own land, the correspondent, ranging the field of the globe, is an onlooker in every campaign. Men who met at Ladysmith, Santiago or Manila and again at Khartoum, the Indian frontier, or under the walls of Peking, have been stopping for weeks in the same hotel. Out of their round tables has come the idea of the book in which each contributor should embody some one of the most interesting in the range of the changing personal experiences which form the routine of his life.
>
> This volume will not only be a memento of a history-making epoch, but the circumstances under which it is produced may give it a lasting value as a curiosity of literature. No copies will be gratis. Beyond the mechanical cost of production, all the income from the venture will go to the sick and wounded. A limited and numbered edition de luxe, artistically printed and bound, with the signature of each contributor, is offered at ten *yen* a volume, payable in advance. The Mitsui Bank is acting as treasurer in behalf of the Soldiers' Relief Association (Teikoku Gunjin Yengokai) which is to receive all proceeds. Subscribers will please remit to the Mitsui Bank or any of its branches or agents throughout the East. The bank will deliver all orders to the addresses given. Members of the Tokyo Club may give their subscriptions to the manager of the Club, who will turn them over to the Mitsui Ginko.
>
> George Lynch.
> Frederick Palmer. } Editors.

These are great days for Mr. Arthur Diosy. We find one London journal writing:—Mr. Diosy, besides being an extremely pleasant and accomplished speaker, is probably the greatest authority on things Japanese in this country; he is a thorough master of the language of that country, and, what is perhaps the most eloquent fact of all, he is very highly regarded by every Japanese resident in England.

Marquis Ito left Tokyo at 12.30 p.m. on the 13th instant by special train for Kobe which he will embark on a cruiser for Chemulpo. It need scarcely be said that an immense crowd of high officials assembled at Shimbashi to see him off.

The A.D.C. of Yokohama proposes to produce the musical play of *The Runaway Girl*, provided that sufficient support is guaranteed beforehand to prevent a loss on the production. To stage a musical play as the A.D.C. always stage their work involves the expenditure of a lot of money and at the last annual meeting of the Club it was decided to follow the example of Hongkong and Shanghai and secure an adequate guarantee fund ere launching out on such an enterprise. As the Committee point out, if the play is performed four times to average audiences, there should not be any loss, but unforeseen circumstances may arise which would upset all calculations and the A.D.C. might be called upon to foot a heavy bill. The guarantee is to be limited to *yen* 100, and any guarantor putting up that sum will have a prior claim to booking eight seats before the plan is thrown open to the general public; *yen* 50 entitles, in a similar way, to 4 seats; *yen* 25 to 2. Mr. Brady, we understand, will be pleased to receive the names of guarantors.

The *China Mail* wastes no heroics in relating the details of an accident which occurred on the Off Day of the Hongkong races. It says:—

> An unfortunate accident happened during the steeplechase on Saturday afternoon at the race meeting. After going round once Rex, who had been jumping well, and The Crow fell at the hurdle at the back of the course. Both riders were thrown, but immediately remounted and finished the race, Rex winning. When Mr. Johnstone, the rider of Rex, dismounted it was seen at once that he was injured. Sir Frederick Treves, the King's Surgeon, who arrived on Saturday, and Dr. Atkinson examined Mr. Johnstone in the Jockeys' room. It was found that, in adition to breaking his collarbone, his shoulder was dislocated. After being attended to, Mr. Johnstone was taken away in an ambulance.

Mr. Johnstone has many friends in Japan. What a man, to remount and ride in a winner with a broken collar bone and a dislocated shoulder!

It is officially announced that the funds of the Church Missionary Society for the current year show no sign of falling off, but the time has not arrived for the friends of the Society to hold their hands. Last year's available income was £317,997, but this year's expenditure is estimated at £371,000, and this, added to the deficiency with which the year began, means that the total required will not be less than £406,000. The Society will, therefore, have to contract its operations unless the receipts are greater than they promise to be. The shilling subscription which has been instituted has thus far produced £4,000 actually paid in, but it will doubtless yield very much more when the accounts are made up.

On the 15th instant the Prime Minister entertained the parliamentary leaders of the *Seiyu-kai*, the Progressists and the Peers and explained to them fully the Cabinet's financial programme. To-day His Excellency adopts a similar course with regard to the leaders of all the minor parties.

At the adjourned annual general meeting of the St. George's Society of Yokohama and Tokyo, held on Tuesday afternoon at the Masonic Hall, it was moved by Mr. L. J. Healing, "That in view of the present situation, the Society does not propose giving a ball this year on the 23rd of April, St. George's Day." This was seconded by Mr. H. M. Arnould and carried unanimously.

The *China Mail* has compiled a table showing the scores made in the four test matches played between Mr. Warner's English team and the Australian elevens, and further says:—"What will the critics say when Mr. Warner's team reaches England with its magnificent record, that surpasses anything done by any team for many years? England has now won eighteen test matches in Australia out of a total of forty-one played; Australia has won twenty-one, and the remaining two were drawn. In all fifty-eight test matches have been played between England and Australia, in the old country and in the Commonwealth, and in the aggregate England holds premier position by four matches. This will probably be increased to five before the present tour is concluded." The total scores in the test matches this tour are as follow:—

FIRST TEST MATCH.

England,	first innings,	577	
,,	second innings, 5 wickets for ...	194	771
Australia,	first innings,	285	
,,	second innings,	486	770

England won by five wickets and one run.

SECOND TEST MATCH.

England,	first innings,	315	
,,	second innings,	102	417
Australia,	first innings,	122	
,,	second innings,	111	333

England won by 185 runs.

THIRD TEST MATCH.

Australia,	first innings,	388	
,,	second innings,	351	739
England,	first innings,	278	
,,	second innings,	245	423

Australia won by 216.

FOURTH TEST MATCH.

England,	first innings,	249	
,,	second innings,	210	459
Australia,	first innings,	131	
,,	second innings,	171	302

England won by 157 runs.

The current number of *Nature* contains an interesting summary of a paper on the light emitted by certain salts of uranium read before the Paris Academy of Science by M. Henri Becquerel, on January 25th. Some salts of uranium, he said, emit light continuously and with an intensity which is greater than would be expected from their radioactivity. The effects are best shown by the double sulphate of uranyl and potassium, and there is a relation between the luminosity and the phosphorescence, since different preparations of this double salt unequally phosphorescent to light are also unequally luminous in the dark. The effects observed are so small that it is necessary for the observer to be in the dark for some time before attempting an experiment. At the same meeting Messrs. Dewer and Curie dealt with the gases given off or occluded by radium bromide. According to these observers, a specimen of pure radium bromide was placed in a vacuum in connexion with a manometer; gas was found to be evolved at the rate of about 1 c.c. per month, which on spectroscopic examination proved to be hydrogen, most probably produced by the action of the radium compound upon a small quantity of water present. The same specimen, placed in a quartz tube, was heated to redness, any gases given off being removed by the mercury pump. These gases were drawn through tubes cooled down to the temperature of liquid air. The gas which passed through the tube cooled in liquid air was radio-active and strongly luminous, spectroscopic examination of the light emitted showing the three principal bands of nitrogen. The quartz tube containing the radium bromide was then sealed off with the oxyhydrogen blowpipe. Twenty days later M. Deslandres found that the tube gave the complete spectrum of helium, and no other rays could be detected.

The Italian Admiral arrived on the China station by the German mail steamer *Preussen* on March 3rd, and immediately went on board the cruiser *Elba*, then lying at Hongkong. Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge placed his launch at the disposal of Admiral Grenet, but the latter, after cordially thanking the English Admiral for his courtesy, declined to take advantage of the offer, preferring to use one of the *Elba's* launches. Admiral Grenet paid an official call on Admiral Bridge, and then returned to the *Elba*. Admiral Grenet has been in the Far East before, having held command of the China squadron for about a year some five years ago. Just prior to the Boxer rebellion Admiral Grenet left Eastern waters with his fleet, with the exception of one vessel. Had he remained at that critical period he would have been of great assistance to Admiral Seymour, when the advance on Peking was made.

Among the passengers by the P. M. steamer *China* on Thursday was Mr. Jas. W. Davidson, author of the book on Formosa which has been reviewed so favourably in all quarters, who is on his way to take up his duties as U. S. Consul at Antung, one of the newly opened ports in Manchuria.

MISS KAYSER'S CONCERT.

Miss Kayser has accustomed Yokohama concert-goers to programmes displaying a high standard of musical taste and culture, and on Saturday evening she did not depart from her policy by one jot or tittle. The Public Hall was filled with a large and keenly appreciative audience, and though the temperature was not much above the level of a *frigidarium*, despite the big fires kept going down below, the music was so good that the assembly's attention was only drawn to this uncomfortable fact during the intervals. All the performers, save Mrs. Sugiura, have been heard here frequently and we need only remark that they one and all did themselves full justice. In Mrs. Sugiura we welcome a lady who is the happy possessor of a contralto voice of great depth and purity, and we hope it will not be long before she graces a Yokohama platform again. Naturally she was heard to better advantage in the duet than in the trio. In "The Stabat Mater," (*Rossini*), she was heard to splendid effect though once or twice a slight hesitancy in attack betrayed the nervousness inherent on a first appearance. Mrs. Mollison was in beautiful voice and one regretted that her share in the programme was so slight. The *beneficiare*, who gave half of the proceeds to the Red Cross Society of Japan, was in magnificent form and went from triumph to triumph, till at the close the stage presented the appearance of a bower of flowers, so many were the floral tributes showered down by her delighted auditors. Prof. Heydrich made an ideal accompanist: indeed, we preferred him better in this than in his solo work, though that also was of a high order. Of the other instrumentalists, Miss Poole was charming as the accompanist of the violin and 'cello solos; Mr. Schmid as sympathetic and as masterly as ever on the 'cello; and Mr. H. A. Poole excellent on the violin. Programme:—

PART I.

1. Trio III Op. I.—"C. Minor" 1st Movement ....*Beethoven.*
Messrs. H. A. Poole, R. Schmid and
Prof. Heydrich.
2. Air from "Nachtlager"....................*Kreutner.*
Miss Kayser.
3. Violin Solo.—"Romance Sans Paroles"........... ...*Van Goens.*
Mr. H. A. Poole.
4. Trio.—"Elijah"..........................*Mendelsohn.*
Mrs. Mollison, Mrs. Sugiura, Miss Kayser.

PART II.

5. Duo.—"Stabat Mater" ....*G. Rossini.*
Mrs. Sugiura, Miss Kayser.
6. Cello Solo.—"Noctune" ....*Gollermann.*
Mr. R. Schmid.
7. Air from "Xerxes," Largo "G. Major"......*Händel.*
(With Violin Obligato.)
Miss Kayser.
8. Piano Solo { a. "Romance." F. Sharp Major *Schumann.*
b. "Mazurka." B. Flat....*B. Godard.*
Prof. Heydrich.
9. Songs { a. "Der Erlkönig" ....*Schubert.*
b. "Heimkehr"..................*R. Strauss.*
c. "Keine Sorg'um den Weg"......*Raff.*
Miss Kayser.

YOKOHAMA LITERARY SOCIETY.

"Siam, the Land of the White Elephant," formed the subject of a paper by Mr. T. Petrie, read before the fortnightly meeting of the Yokohama Literary Society on Friday evening. Mr. Petrie began with a description of the sacred white elephants of Siam—a specimen of the breed he said was to be seen at Uyeno Park—and then passed on to a brief historical account of Siam. He noticed the early arrival of Japanese travellers and merchants in the kingdom, spoke of their settlement in Siam and of the fighting legion which they furnished to one of the Siamese dynasties; then of their expulsion from the kingdom and their reappearance in the latter part of the nineteenth century. After a brief description of the rise of the reigning family of Siam, Mr. Petrie paid a warm tribute to the present king for the active share he has taken in raising the moral, intellectual and material standards of his country. The attempts of Louis XIV. of France to convert the King of Siam of his day, and the subsequent dealings of France with Siam right down the years to the occupation of Chantaboon also came under the lecturer's notice. Then, turning from foreign politics, Mr. Petrie described the appearance of some of the royal residences, the most famous of the many wonderful temples which stud the land; some notable religious processions which he saw; and the life of the streets and water-ways of Bangkok.

At the close of the lecture some forty lantern views were thrown on the screen, serving to bring before the audience some idea of Siamese architecture, native as well as hybrid, types of the people, etc. A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Petrie at the close.

Before the musical programme was taken up, the President announced that the Committee had fixed the date of the musical competition. It would take place on Saturday, April 9, at Van Schaick Hall, and in view of the fact that this was still a month hence, the committee were prepared to receive the names of further candidates.

The evening's programme concluded as below:—

1. Piano Solo—"Fireside Tales," Nos. 1 and 2 ......*MacDowell.*
Mrs. N. W. McIvor.
2. Song—"The Message" ....*Blumenthal.*
Mr. E. C. Irwine.
3. Recitations—(a) "Der Deutscher's Quarrel"
(b) "Dot Shpringtime" } ......*Gertrude Clarke.*
Miss Ross.
4. Vocal Solo—"A May Morning"...........*Denza.*
Mr. N. G. Maitland.
5. Violin Duet—"Concerto" ....*Dancla.*
Miss Helena Page and Mr. A. H. Poole.

TO "X."

THE SILVER LINING TO THE CLOUD.

'Tis hard to think
That though dark low'ring clouds may hide the sun,
Yet still the sun is there;
That when the raging of the storm is done,
The morn breaks bright and fair;
That though the moon and star be hid from view
Of human sight so poor,
Those clouds look silv'ry when the moon breaks through,
That were so dark before.

And so in life our sorrows ne'er would be
As crushing as they seem,
If, in our saddest moments, we could see
The fast-approaching gleam
Of happiness that comes to wipe the trace
Of mournful hours away;
To bring us naught but gladness in their place,
And turn our night to day.

SOLATIO.

THE CINEMATOGRAPH.

The Signori Dentici are to be congratulated upon the eminent success which attended the cinematograph entertainment given by them at the Public Hall on Wednesday evening under the patronage of the Italian Minister, Signor Meregalli, and H. E. Governor Sufu. There was a good attendance and the pictures were capitally reproduced. The pantomimes of "Robinson Crusoe" "The Sleeping Princess" and "Ali Baba" were greeted with mingled cheers and laughter; while a warm welcome was accorded Hans Andersen's immortal fairy-tale of "The little Match Girl." The Bible story of "Samson and Delilah" was not in such good taste as the rest, while the attack on an infantry square was too obviously "made to order." The best piece of all was the long roll of views taken from a mountain railway. Some of the landscapes disclosed in this were gems of art. We would suggest to the Signori Dentici that they would be conferring a great treat on the little folks of Yokohama if they could arrange to give their entertainment at the Van Schaick Hall one Saturday afternoon, confining themselves to the pantomimes and fairy-tales. The nett proceeds of the entertainment on Wednesday were given to the Red Cross Society.

A fire occurred on the night of March 15th in the dwelling of a painter, T. Kawachi, Ishikawa, Yokohama. It was put out before the flames had spread far. The painter, who was very ill at the time was burned to death. The cause is reported to be a defective fire-box.

THE CHEMULPO AFFAIR.

A VERY interesting account of the Chemulpo affair appears in the *Korea Review*. Several interesting accounts have appeared, for the matter of that, and it is to be feared that we shall have no such record of the things that occurred on much more important occasions at Port Arthur. There are one or two points, however, which seem either to have escaped the attention of the writers of these accounts or to have been regarded by them with indifference. The first relates to the fate awaiting the *Varyag* and the *Korietz* when they steamed out of Chemulpo at a few minutes before noon on the 9th of February. Great eulogiums have been pronounced on the bravery shown by the commanders of the two Russian ships, and we do not wish to dissent in any degree from the applause. They made a gallant choice when they decided to leave the shelter of the port and they acted gallantly on their decision. But the query is, what did they anticipate Remember that nothing whatever was known of the qualities likely to be displayed by the Japanese in a naval action. They had beaten the Chinese, it is true, nine or ten years previously, but to beat the Chinese had come to be regarded like trying the mettle of a sword on a lump of dough. To thrash the Chinese twenty times did not constitute any sort of title to be called formidable from a European point of view. Further, among all European nations it is probable that not one entertained such supreme contempt for the fighting capacity of the Japanese, nothing like such supreme contempt, as the Russians entertained. It was due of course to ignorance, but whatever the cause the fact can not be disputed. Now let us suppose that two English ships, one of them a splendid cruiser, were hemmed into Chemulpo by half a dozen Chinese vessels of sorts, and suppose that the English commanders had to choose between remaining at anchor to be cannonaded and going out to fight in the open with the road to safety open beyond the cordon of Chinese war-vessels. Does any one doubt for an instant what choice the Britishers would make? And does any one doubt for an instant that they would go out with hearts not only stout but cheerful; with a good wholesome spirit of give and take, but with a conviction that the giving would largely outbalance the taking, and that the Chinamen would ultimately be left gaping after their intended prey? We should be sorry to admit the smallest hypothesis of any other course or issue. Well, our belief is that the commanders of the *Varyag* and the *Korietz* looked forward to precisely such a prospect as the Englishmen would anticipate in the face of Chinese enemies. The notion of quailing before an Oriental foe never occurred to them, and the notion of being worsted by such a foe was even more remote from their forecast of probabilities. They went out to escape, and they looked to be safe in Port Arthur before many hours had passed.

The second unnoticed point is that if the Russians behaved bravely the Japanese behaved chivalrously. It is not yet certain exactly how many ships Rear-Admiral URYU had under his command, but we may safely assume five or six as the minimum. All accounts agree, however, that he employed only two against the Russians. It is the first business of a commanding officer to bring a big force against his enemy. The greater the discrepancy of force he can contrive, the better he has discharged his strategical duty. Had the *Varyag*, or the *Korietz*, or both, escaped through URYU's sentimental repression of his superior strength, every naval expert in the world would have ridiculed his incompetency. He took that risk rather than begin the war by a butchery.

The third point is that much stress has been laid on the superior armament of the *Asama* and on the *Varyag's* difficulty in getting within effective range of her own guns. Now the *Asama* has four 8-inch guns and fourteen 6-inch guns; the *Varyag* has twelve 6-inch. Certainly there is a discrepancy, but as to the Russian ship not being within her own effective range of the Japanese, everything goes to show conclusively that nothing of the kind was the case. On the other hand, what is to said of the *Chiyoda*? The heaviest gun on the *Chiyoda* is a 4.7-inch. If the *Varyag's* 6-inch pieces could not reach the *Asama* effectively, then most assuredly the 4.7-inch pieces of the *Chiyoda* were powerless against the *Varyag*. So, according to the showing of the accounts we are quoting, the affair resolved itself into a duel between two ships, not between one ship and a whole squadron of enemies. A duel with a very strange feature, too, for it appears that during 45 minutes' fighting, the twelve 6-inch guns of the *Varyag* never managed to hit the *Asama* once; or at any rate never managed to do her the slightest injury. Finally, the accounts in question seem to overlook the *Korietz* altogether. But the *Korietz* had two 8-inch guns; two guns as powerful as any piece on board the *Asama*. In short, the *Varyag* and the *Korietz* between them had two 8-inch and thirteen 6-inch guns against the *Asama's* four 8-inch and fourteen 6-inch; not by any means a serious discrepancy. It remains a mystery how the two Russians failed to hurt their adversaries in the smallest degree.

The last point is that the commanders of the *Varyag* and the *Korietz* can not possibly have laboured under the hallucination attributed to them; the hallucination that Chemulpo was a neutral port. It ceased effectually to be a neutral port at 4 o'clock on the afternoon of February the 8th when three Japanese transports entered the harbour escorted by cruisers and torpedo-boats, and when Japanese troops began to land. The Russian commanders were looking on. They knew perfectly well what such doings meant.

GENERAL KUROPATKIN.

GENERAL KUROPATKIN'S *aide-de-camp*, if rightly reported, is either indiscreet or simple. Were it possible to suppose that he deliberately gave away his chief's plans, the former conclusion would be necessary. But of course, unless he be colossally foolish, he did nothing of the sort. When he spoke of recalling all the Russian troops from Korea, he evidently predicted exactly what KUROPATKIN does not intend to do. For that would be a defensive measure, and the Russian commander-in-chief is not going to undertake his campaign on defensive lines, still less is he going to publicly announce any such purpose. The difficulty of forming a programme from KUROPATKIN's point of view is that as yet there are no determining data. It is by the Japanese that such data must be furnished. Until the Japanese strike, the Russians can not locate the point of danger—that is to say, so far as Manchuria is concerned. There are several schemes any one of which may be adopted by Japanese strategists. Possibly two or three different schemes may be adopted simultaneously. All these things are still in the lap of an absolutely obscure future, and until the obscurity is dispelled the Russians must defer their decision. But there is one line of action possible to them and it offers the great temptation of being the only line which, if successfully pursued, must lead to a speedily decisive result. That line is to stand strictly on the defensive along the littoral of the Gulf of Pechili and the Yellow Sea, and to strike at Korea with all available offensive strength. Could the Russians drive the Japanese out of Korea totally and wholly while preventing them from gaining any stable footing in Manchuria, the struggle would be over. Now it will be observed that KUROPATKIN'S *aide-de-camp* is reported to have spoken of withdrawing all Russian troops from Korea and yet finishing the contest within three months from May. Nevertheless he must know with absolute assurance that only by an overwhelmingly strong invasion of Korea can a quick finale be anticipated. So when he talked of retiring from Korea and yet making an end with Japan in three months, he was simple enough to suppose that the public would swallow his programme with his bombast. No profound knowledge of strategy is required to see that although the Russians have lost the command of the sea, they have not lost the capacity of invading Korea. Their invasion can be made from two bases; from the Yalu district and from Vladivostock. In other words, they can march southward by the Seoul-Wiju road, and southward and westward by the Pyongyang-Yuensan-Sonchin road. Both operations would be perilous and would require an exercise of great military force—such an exercise that the possibility of making preparations for it within the course of the next month or six weeks is almost inconceivable. But if the effort can be made on any adequate scale, it has the great advantage of being independent of maritime communications and of possessing already established bases. Unless KUROPATKIN contemplates something of the kind and believes in his own capacity to consummate it, his talk of ending the conflict by July is pure persiflage. But we have omitted one supposition, and we really believe it to be the most rational supposition after all. It is that KUROPATKIN regards Japanese military competence with just the same contempt that the commanders of the *Varyag* and *Korietz* entertained for the Japanese navy when they steamed out to meet Admiral URYU's squadron on the 9th of February. KUROPATKIN thinks that his own appearance on the scene will be closely followed by a *veni-vidi-vici* panorama, so he talks of July as the date for the end of the business. Russia has been greatly mistaken in many matters and it looks as if she meant to add to her list of errors.

FINANCE.

THE Prime Minister has informed the leaders of the House of Peers and of the political parties with regard to the Government's financial programme, which will be submitted to the Diet in the session now about to open. Speaking broadly, the official calculation is that the war will cost 576 millions of *yen*, or, at any rate, that provision must be made for that amount of expenditure. Out of the aggregate sum the outlays on account of the Army and the Navy are put at 536 millions and a reserve of 40 millions is provided for emergencies.

With regard to the means of finding the above money, 461 millions are to be obtained by issuing bonds or floating temporary loans; 68 millions will accrue from increased taxation; and 47 millions from surpluses of revenue. Such are the facts in brief. Further details are as follow :—

Last month an Imperial Ordinance was issued authorizing the diversion of certain sums from the special accounts and the floating of short-period loans. The steps taken under that Ordinance have been :—

	YEN.
Diverted from Special Accounts.....	25,000,000
Treasury Bonds	31,000,000
Short-period loan (just floated)......	100,000,000
Total..	156,000,000

Out of this total the sums actually expended up to the present, inclusive of the cost of the *Nisshin* and the *Kasuga*, have been from 50 to 60 millions, so that about 100 millions remain available for immediate needs. We may add that in this account the Army is expected to absorb 108⅓ millions and the Navy 47½ millions. A small outlay by the Finance Department rounds off the total.

Deducting the above (156 millions) from the grand estimate (576 millions), there remain 420 millions to be discussed. This aggregate is allotted in the form of 380 millions for the Army and Navy and 40 millions for the Special Reserve. As to the sources from which the money will be obtained, they are :—

Increased Taxes	68 millions.
Surplus of Revenue	47 millions.
From Special Accounts	25 millions.
Loans	280 millions.
Total	420 millions.

Of course the monies taken from the special accounts must be restored eventually. Hence it appears in fine that the total of bonds floated must be 461 millions of *yen*; namely, 100 millions already issued; 81 millions taken from special accounts or obtained by Treasury notes, and 280 millions to be further issued.

The surpluses of revenue set down in the above statement are an interesting item. Under the heading of Ordinary Revenue a sum of 35 millions appears, and under that of Extraordinary a sum of 12 millions, making 47 millions in all. The question is, may this be regarded as a yearly accruing asset. If so, then when the whole debt has been incurred, the Treasury will find itself with a sum of 115 millions yearly for the service of a debt of 461 millions. But if the surpluses of revenue be only temporary, then the sum available for the service of the debt will be simply the proceeds of increased taxation, or 68 millions. Either hypothesis shows an entirely sound position, for the interest of the debt would be only 23 millions yearly, and there would be from the outset some 45 millions to form a sinking fund.

The taxes involved and the sums to be obtained from them are these :—

	YEN.
Land Tax	25,943,918
Income Tax	5,287,315
Business......................................	5,036,199
Sake	178,484
Soy	1,138,952
Sugar	7,402,317
Mining	79,115
Tax on Exchanges	532,846
Okinawa *Sake* Export Tax	5,398
Customs Taxes............................	1 779,010
Salt Tax.......................................	2,836,791
Silk Stuffs	4 183,885
Woollen Stuffs	2,138,661
Kerosene Tax	1,115,875
Stamps	3,652,749
State Monopolies	7,061,925
Total	68,373,440

What the increase represents in each case we shall show in a subsequent table.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

Messrs. Macmillan & Co. have ready for early publication the first two volumes of Mr. Herbert Paul's "History of Modern England," which is to be completed in five volumes. It is the author's view that Modern England may be said to date from the substitution of the railway for the stage coach, and he takes as his starting point the fall of Sir Robert Peel's Cabinet in 1846. The first two volumes will carry the story down to the year 1855; the second begins with the treaty of Paris, and terminates with the close of the Palmerstonian era in 1865. The provision of a separate index for each volume will be an interesting innovation.

Dr. Magnus Maclean, whose "Literature of the Celts" received a good deal of attention last year, is now preparing for early issue, by Messrs Blackie & Son, Limited, a volume entitled "The Literature of the Highlands," which will complete his survey of literary development in the Scottish Highlands. The new volume brings into notice a branch of literature that has not hitherto received that amount of attention to which its interest and importance entitle it. It gives a brief account of the Gaelic literature of the Highlands after the '45—the golden age of Highland poetry. It will be news even to many Highlanders that their land has produced in comparatively modern times a not inconsiderate body of poetic literature.

Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge, at their auction rooms in Wellington Street, London, recently sold several interesting Shakespeare relics. Among them were an armchair and inkstand made from the wood of the mulberry tree planted by the great dramatist in his garden at Stratford-on-Avon, a casket made from the wood of the mulberry tree before mentioned, presented by the corporation of Stratford-on-Avon to George Keate, in recognition of his services to the memory of Shakespeare, and a portrait of Shakespeare carved from the wood of the same tree. The lot that attracted the most attention, however, was "The Unknown Portrait of Shakespeare, painted on a panel of oak, believed to be the identical portrait hurriedly painted when the poet was on his death-bed." Among the prices realised the "unknown portrait" fetched £131, a silver seal-top spoon £75, the casket made from the mulberry tree £120, an autograph of the Earl of Southampton (Shakespeare's great patron) £70, a copy of Shakespeare's plays from the library of Thomas Gray, the poet, sold for £120, and a rare issue of the fourth folio edition for £215.

Mr. Clinton Scollard has the following verses in the *Atlantic* :—

I love a book, if there but run
From title-page to colophon
Something sincere that sings or glows,
Whate'er the text be, rhyme or prose.
And high-perched on some window-seat,
Or in some ingle-side retreat,
Or in an alcove consecrate
To lore and to the lettered great,
For happiness I need not look
Beyond the pages of my book.
Yea, I believe that like an elf
I'd be contented with a shelf
If thereupon with me might sit
Some work of wisdom or of wit
Whereto, at pleasure, I might turn,
And the fair face of Joy discern!

I love a book—its throbbing heart!
And while I may not hold the art
That dresses it in honour scant,—
The tree-calf "tooled" or "crushed" Levant,—
Rather a rare soul, verily,
Than a bedizened husk for me!
So, though no Midas' magic bands
To gold transmute my barren sands,
Though friendly Fame deign not to lay
About my brows the vine and bay,
Though fond eyes marry not with mine,
Nor lip to lip give sacred sign,
The core of all content I know,
A blessing that is balm for woe;
On life with level gaze I look,
And all because I love—a book!

With regard to the recently published letter of Herbert Spencer about Japan, Mr. Frederick H. Balfour writes to *The Times* :—During my residence in Tokyo, more than ten years ago, I was in the frequent habit of dropping into Maruya's, the well-known book-seller of Nihon-bashi, who gets out English books on science and philosophy for the use of students at the Imperial University. One morning I made a remark to the shopman upon the very large assortment of Herbert Spencer's works with which the shelves were encumbered—regarding it, not unnaturally, as evidence of Spencer's popularity. "Ah, yes," was the unexpected reply, "Spencer is a drug in the market. We sell scarcely any of his books now, as you see. The young fellows consider that he is 'passe,' and prefer something rather more up to date."

Professor Wiesner, of Vienna University, has made an interesting communication to the Vienna Academy of Sciences regarding four MSS. which were recently discovered in Eastern Turkestan by Dr. Aurelieus Stein, and entrusted to Prof. Wiesner by the Anglo-Indian Government. It will be remembered that it was while examining some old Chinese MSS. for the British Museum that Prof. Wiesner made the surprising discovery that the Chinese, and not, as had been assumed, Arabs, were the real inventors of our paper. Three of the MSS. in question are of Eastern Turkestan origin, while the fourth is Thibetan. They furnish unquestionable proof of the fact that the Chinese manufactured paper out of the fibres of plants, with the addition of the pulp of rags, even using starch to make the paper smooth. At first they could only have used Indian ink, for ordinary ink would have run on their paper. Next, in order to prevent the ink running they must have used gypsum, then gelatine, and finally starch, which led them to the use of size. The Arabs, who learnt the art of making paper from the Chinese, added starch to make the paper stronger and purer. The four MSS. are precisely dated, and are of the eighth century (A.D.).

The production of an authoritative biography of the late Marquess of Salisbury is under serious consideration. It has, however, still to be determined whether it is not yet too early to carry such an enterprise to a definite conclusion with any hope of doing full justice to the subject. The late Prime Minister's friends and relatives, who have the bulk of the papers and data within reach, realise that the biography of a Minister of the Crown, and especially one of extraordinary long service and pre-eminence, must of necessity deal with much that is in the highest degree confidential. They, therefore, feel that, unless some little time is allowed to elapse, the biographer will be placed in the dilemma of doing injury by a breach of confidence, or rendering his work of comparatively little interest, and, perhaps, even of misleading the public in important particulars. The official Life, in this case, may not be expected until every detail can be exhaustively considered, and the biographer, given the liberty which it is now impossible to grant.

Professor W. J. Courthope has reached the fourth volume of his "History of English Poetry" and deals in it with the development and decline of the poetic drama in the space of time which we roughly call the Elizabethan age. He has much to say concerning Shakespeare which will interest all students of English literature. Within limits, says Prof. Courthope in effect, Shakespeare the man is seen in Shakespeare the poet:—

> My belief is that, in his sonnets, Shakespeare was not, like so many of his contemporaries, elaborating a cold system of poetical flattery, but was giving expression to a profound view of life, the result partly of observation and reflection about men and things, partly of personal experience and emotion; that this view took fresh form and colour at different stages of his career; that its lyrical character may be detected running, as a thread, not only through the sonnets themselves, but through his epic and dramatic work, whereby, when these different classes of composition are compared with each other, a certain insight may be obtained into his poetical motives. At the same time the expression of these general and personal feelings is greatly modified by the traditions of the poetical form which Shakespeare employed, so that, in interpreting his sentiment, we have always to keep in mind the vein of thought peculiar to the sonnet from the earliest ages, and the changes effected in its character by the altering moods of society at large.

And here is a summing-up of the poet in his maturity:—

> Other dramatists, like Æschylus, may have risen to more transcendent heights of lyric sublimity; others, like Sophocles, may surpass him in the majestic serenity and perfection of dramatic structure; but none can compare with him in the breadth of his imaginative sympathy, in the depth of his insight into the springs of human action, in his knowledge of man's relation to the world in all its aspects—moral, religious, social, and political, in his power of embodying in an ideal the operation of universal passions. His thought embraces at once the elemental simplicity of Homer and the civil refinement of Dante, and there is no nation, no language, of Europe in which the speculations of Hamlet and the sufferings of Lear are not found as interesting to-day as when they were first represented on the English stage. Moreover, the historical examination of Shakespeare's plays explains why they were necessarily the product of the English mind and of a particular period in the life of the English nation. England alone presented such social conditions at the close of the sixteen century as allowed all the great contemporary tendencies of human action to be reflected in the drama.

THE LAW COURTS.

LIBEL CASE.

The trial of K. Maejima, nominal editor of the *Yokohama Shimpo*, who was charged with having vilified the firm of Messrs. Dodwell and Company in his paper, took place on March 11th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Hadano and Public Procurator Shigyo.

At the outset of the trial, Public Prosecutor stated that accused published in his paper on December 4th, 1903, a paragraph which said that Messrs Dodwell and Company had sent abroah Japanese girls of ill-fame by their ships. Suce action on the part of the accused should bd punished under the Press Regulations and the Penal Code.

Accused stated that he did not intend to vilify the foreign firm when he reported that girls were going abroad without passports, but simply to advise the authorities to be cautious in their administration.

Mr. Yamada, employed by the defence, stated that the information appeared in the paper entirely from the point of view of public interests and did not apply to individuals. He asked for leave to examine Mr. Takahashi, a police inspector of the Harbour station, as a witness.

The Public Procurator objected to the request but the Court decided to examine the witness.

SIG. ISAACS v MAX ISAACS.

The hearing of this case, in which plaintiff claims *yen* 12,000 damages, caused by defamation on the part of the defendant, was resumed in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno on March 11th.

Plaintiff's counsel repeated the statements given at the previous hearing, which took place on Feb. 17th.

Mr. Sawada, defendant's counsel, contended that Mr. Dayet had often written to Mr. R. Isaacs, New York, about suspicious circumstances and false entries in the business books and it was to these matters that the lawyer attended in the previous proceedings. Mr. Max Isaacs, who had a doubt about such false entries in fact requested the Court to avoid such ugly imputations as they would injure the fame of plaintiff.

Plaintiff's Counsel, Mr. Masujima, introduced one of the local foreign papers as evidence. This paper published the statement referred to, and Counsel asked the Court to examine Mr. Dayet, and a Japanese as witnesses. The Court decided to examine Mr. Dayet on March 21th at 2 p.m.

INFRINGEMENT OF REGISTRATION.

K. Hirukawa (54) and his wife Kin (50) were sentenced on March 12th in the Tokyo Distrtct Court before Judge Imamura to two months' imprisonment with hard labour, a fine of *yen* 4, and six months' police surveillance each. They borrowed on March 12th, 1903, *yen* 800 from Mrs. Matsumoto offering their dwelling house as security. The transaction was registered in the Tokyo Local Court. They then borrowed *yen* 3,300 on April 14th in the same year from another person and gave the same security.

CLAIM AGAINST THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE.

The case lodged by Mr. M. Hamada, Fukuoka prefecture, against the Minister of State for Finance, claiming *yen* 1.90, which plaintiff insists he wrongly paid out on behalf of the authorities in 1874 when the land survey took place in connexion with the revision of the land tax, was rejected on March 11th in the Tokyo District Court on the ground of want of jurisdiction.

CAMPHOR MONOPOLY CASE.

The appeal in the camphor monopoly case—Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Company versus the Liquidator of the bankrupt estate of Messrs. Mourilyan, Heimann and Company—which was to have taken place on March 12th in the Tokyo Appeal Court, was postponed on the ground that the presiding Judge concerned is now present at the Prize Court. The hearing will be resumed in the beginning of April.

A CHARGE OF INCENDIARISM.

An Indian merchant, M. C. Fernandez, No. 127, Yamashita-cho, Yokohama, who is charged with incendiarism, was committed for trial on March 12th in the Yokohama District Court.

According to the decision of the preliminary examination, the accused arrived in Yokohama on Jan. 1st this year with the purpose of starting business in imports and exports. On the 26th of the same month he rented a house, No. 127, belonging to a French gentleman, and established an office there. He engaged a Portuguese, J. da Silva, and three Japanese. Subsequently he purchased from Japanese merchants furniture, silk goods, porcelain, lacquered ware, and bronzes. On Feb. 15th the accused insured the merchandise, etc., with the Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Ltd., whose Yokohama agents are Messrs Jardine, Matheson and Company, for a thousand *yen*. On the 22nd of the same month he paid *yen* 7.50 to the agents as premium. At this time the accused was in such a distressed condition that he spent *yen* 450 which had been deposited by the three Japanese employees as their personal guarantees. The accused, at 6 o'clock on the evening of Feb. 22nd, set fire to a bag of sulphur which was kept in the sample room, the result being that a part of the building was destroyed. His action should be punished in accordance with Art. 403 of the Penal Code, and he is committed for trial under the provisions of Art. 168 of the Code of Penal Procedure.

YAMADA v. SIMON, EVERS & CO.

The hearing of this case, in which plaintiff claims *yen* 546, was resumed on March 14th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno.

The case arose over a sugar contract, particulars of which have already been published in the other cases of Yamada *versus* Messrs. Simon, Evers and Co., and Messrs. Simon, Evers and Co. *versus* Yamada.

Plaintiff promised to purchase from defendants three thousand bags of sugar for *yen* 26,712. Before the arrival of the goods, he promised Watanabe, a sugar dealer, a thousand bags, and another dealer, Komiya, two thousand bags, for *yen* 9,114 and *yen* 18,144 respectively, which figures make a total of *yen* 27,258. On the arrival of the sugar the merchandise proved to be of an inferior grade to that contracted for and plaintiff would not take delivery of it, and so lost the expected profit.

Defendants' counsel repeated his former contention and added that the Tokyo Appeal Court had dismissed a similar case which arose from the same business, and which the Court decided it could not receive as the contract stipulated that any dispute that might arise must be submitted to arbitration and not taken into court. This case must also be settled by means of arbitration and not in Court.

Counsel entered on a brief discussion, after which the hearing concluded. Judgment was reserved till March 16th.

TAMAMURA v. G. R. ALLEN.

This case came up again in the Yokohama Local Court on March 15th when judgment was delivered ordering defendant to pay plaintiff *yen* 97.60, and interest at the rate of 6 per cent. from Dec. 4th last till the execution of judgment, and costs.

YAMADA v. SIMON, EVERS & CO.

This case, in which plaintiff claims *yen* 546, came up again in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno on March 16th, when judgment was delivered dismissing the claim of plaintiff, with costs.

STEWART v. STORNEBRINK.

In the Yokohama District Court, a case instituted by Mr. James Stewart against Mr. H. L. Stornebrink, claiming *yen* 1,700 and interest at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, came up before Judge Nakanishi on March 17th.

Plaintiff was represented by Mr. Ideura, and defendant was absent and not represented.

Plaintiff's counsel stated that plaintiff lent defendant *yen* 1,700 on June 1st, 1900, on security of the perpetual lease of No. 270 Bluff, together with two houses and a working factory situated on the ground. On the due date defendant did not pay back the principal though plaintiff often urged payment.

Owing to the absence of defendant, judgment was delivered in favour of plaintiff with costs.

LIBEL CASE.

Mr. Ikariyama, Superintendent of the Kagacho Police, lodged on March 17th in the Yokohama District Court a libel case against the nominal editor and publisher of the *Chuo Shimbun*, published in Tokyo. He alleges that the paper vilified him by connecting his name with Mr. Takahashi, who was recently punished for having divulged military secrets to a Russian officer.

AMERICAN TOPICS.

With the performance of "Parsifal" at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, on Feb. 11, the maximum operatic receipts in America and probably in any other country were reached. The two performances of "Parsifal" yielded approximately $38,000. The receipts of eight days were $100,000.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller has resigned from the board of directors of the United States Steel Corporation. In tendering his resignation Mr. Rockefeller wrote that "it has not been convenient for me to attend the meetings of the board." John D. Rockefeller, Jr., still remains a director of the cooperation.

Of photographs, chromos, drawings and engravings the United States sells Canada a quarter of a million dollars' worth as against forty thousand dollars' worth coming from England. And the sum-spent by Canadians on English Bibles, prayer-books, psalm and hymn books has diminished by a half in the last five years, while our own exports across our northern frontier have exactly doubled in the same time.

During January there were built and officially numbered in the United States forty-six vessels of 13,992 gross tons. The great lakes led in tonnage with 7,154 tons, made up by the *Duluth*, built at Chicago for the American Shipbuilding Company, and the *Pere Marquette*, built at Wyandotte, Mich., for the Eastern Equipment Company. The Atlantic and gulf ports showed a total construction of twenty-eight vessels. The remaining construction was on the Pacific coast and western rivers.

Regarding the population of Hawaii, figures show a steady decrease in the number of natives and a steady increase in the number of persons of foreign birth, especially Japanese and Chinese. In 1872 the number of natives was, in round terms, 50,000, and in 1600, 30,000. In 1872 the number of Chinese was, in round terms. 2,000 and 1900, 25,000. The record of Japanese among the population only begins with 1884, when the number was 126 persons. but in 1900 the number was over 61,000. The total population of 1872 is given at 56,897, and in 1900 at 154,001.

People who have suffered from the alkali dust in travelling through southern Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, find the old plague has partically disappeared. This has been accomplished by sprinkling the track with oil. The principal reason why the oiling of roads has proved more successful in the West than in the East is that the California oil has less odor, is much less volatile, and contains a larger amount of asphalt than the Pennsylvania oil, and therefore forms a more perfect crust of asphalt and sand. When this work was first taken up three years ago, many difficulties were experienced in handling the thick, mucky, crude oil, but at present it is possible to distribute it the full width of the ballast on the roadway and that, too, while running at the rate of about ten miles an hour. From four to six thousand gallons of oil are used to the mile. It has been found necessary to follow the first application of oil with subsequent sprinklings from six months to a year and a half, depending on the amount of rainfall and the character of the ballast. In sandy regions the oiling must be repeated after any extensive working on the track which breaks the gummy crust.

A law recently promulgated fixes the gold and silver of the Argentine Republic as the legal currency in Paraguay. The United States $20 gold piece is worth $20.40, and the English sovereign $5 in Paraguayan gold. The banks and exchange houses observe this law. For instance, in making a draft on the United States they will take each dollar at $1.02 when it really bears a premium of 3½ per cent. mint value in the Argentine gold. The exchange as a rule is quoted at the rate of the day on which Argentine gold is being sold. In addition to the foregoing quotations of American gold there is a bank discount and a computation of interest to be calculated. The silver pieces of 25 grams, .900 fine, will be valued at 94 cents, Paraguayan, and the fractions at their respective values accordingly.

While New York's bank clearings for 1903 were $13,000,000,000 below those of 1901, when the record was made, the clearings of London's banks in 1903 were $3,000,000,000 above those of 1901 and $500,000,000 over those of 1902. Nevertheless, New York is still far ahead of London in the grand total. While New York's clearings in the year recently ended amounted to $66,000,000,000 in round figures, those of the London banks were only $50,600,000. The American city was more than $15,000,000,000 ahead of the British metropolis in this very important activity. If the bank transactions be a fair criterion of the volume of general business, then New York is far ahead of London in the grand aggregate of its trade, reasons the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*. The proportionate extent to which checks are used in business in the two centres, of course, is a matter which has a very important bearing on these figures in making a comparison based upon them between the two cities. It is a fact, however, of great significance that London was ahead of New York in this particular until 1898. In that year, for the first time, the American city got ahead of its British rival. New York has been ahead ever since, though its lead has been shortening since 1901.

In his last annual report on the Philippines as Civil Governor, the new Secretary of War says that political conditions in the islands make the time ripe for a period of great construction, and that during the next decade railroads, canal and steamship companies should revolutionize the interior trade of the islands and have a marked effect on the export trade. He suggests, therefore, that the Philippine Commission be authorized, with the approval of the Secretary of War and the President, to enter into contracts with railroad companies to whom franchises for the construction of roads shall be granted, by which an income of not exceeding 4 per cent., and probably not more than 3 per cent., shall be guaranteed on the investment, the amount to be fixed in the law. This method of financial encouragement is declaced to be much preferable to the granting of lands, or other forms of government subsidy. He urges certain tariff reductions and the authorization of bond issues by the commision or legislature to a limited amount for permanent improvements. It is interesting to note that in his new post Secretary Taft will continue to play an importent part in the government of the islands. The very day, by the way, on which his report was transmitted to Congress witnessed his formal induction into the office of Secretary of War.

With the adoption of economies now under consideration, the cost of producing pig iron at favored plants will establish a long lead for American practice over that in any other country. Iron, according to the *Iron Trade Review*, is being produced daily at one of the largest and most modern of the blast furnace plants of the United States Steel Corporation at a labour cost not to exceed fifty cents a ton, and as low as forty-seven cents a ton has been done at times when the output has exceeded the normal. Such economies cannot be practiced where the latest appliances are not installed, but the record shows what can be done by the adoption of economizing equipment to the fullest extent, and point to the possibilities of further appliances in a country in which high wages are a constant spur to labor-saving inventions. It is also pointed out by our contemporary that one large steel concern is considering the advisability of increasing its blast furnace capacity so that in periods of great demand it can meet the requirements of its steel plant from a moderate output of an increased number of furnaces, rather than by record-breaking tonnages from its present capacity. The cost of additional furnace capacity will be great, but the economies accruing from iron conforming to the required analysis, from less fluxing material and less wear and tear on machinery, it is believed, will more than balance the initial cost and the interest on the investment.

Several lessons may be drawn from the Baltimore fire, of value to that and other cities in the future, says *Bradstreet*. Baltimore does not appear to have had the fullest physical equipment for the purpose of fire fighting. Its engines, in the words of the New York firemen, who are credited with finally checking the fire, were too light and too few to cope with a fire in a city of 600,000 inhabitants. It is reported, too, that the New York engines alone were capable of pumping salt water, though why this should be so is a mystery. Again, Baltimore's proximity to an unlimited supply of salt water does not seem to have prompted the creation of an auxiliary system of salt water mains for fire purposes. This, however, is something which New York, Brooklyn, Philadelphia and other coast cities seem to have overlookhd. Standard sizes of hose and couplings would seem to be pointed to as necessary also. The fact that, with few or no exceptions, the insurance companies will pay their losses promptly and in full shows that they have not forgotten the lessons learned from the Chicago disaster as to segregating the individual risks. It is questionable, however, whether the companies in all cases have allowed for the risk of general conflagration as opposed to the ordinary fire risk. Given a high wind, a breakdown in the apparatus and several other conditions, such a thing seems possible in any city. Hence the need of limiting any one company's liability to loss from fire in any one city. Dynamiting as a means of stopping a great fire's spread does not seem to have been a distinct success. Another reflection that comes to mind is that fireproof or rather slow burning construction is of no particular value in hindering a fire's spread if these buildings are surrounded by old and flimsy constructions. Finally, it will probably be rather easier for the companies to get a fairer price for the insurance they offer than it has been in the past few years of extreme competition and cut rate insurances. The Baltimore fire will not have occurred in vain if some or all of the lessons deducible from this fire are taken to heart and thoroughly learned.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The British warship *Phœnix* arrived at Nagasaki on March 12th from Yuen-san on her way to Shanghai.

Madame Lilian Nordica, the well-known vocalist, has obtained a decree of divorce from Mr. Zoltan Doeme.

Mr. R. Harding Davis, the well known author and correspondent, arrived in Yokohama on Thursday by the *China*.

A census of India taken recently showed that there were 500,000 fewer Hindus, and 600,000 more native Christians than there were in 1891.

The Chinese Prince Pu-lung and his party will arrive at Kobe on March 18th by the steamer *Amping*. Mr. Yang-shu, Chinese Minister at Tokyo, will arrive there on the 14th in order to welcome the prince.

The Governor of Oita telegraphed that fire took place on March 16th at noon in the village of Kamiura, Nankai district, destroying over fifty houses.

Miss Florence Hayward, whose stage name is Vera Zalene, announces her engagement to Sir John Willoughby. Sir John is said to deny the soft impeachment.

Baron Kaneko and his party are reported to have arrived on March 12th at San Francisco. They left for Yokohama on Feb. 24th by the steamer *Korea*.

A telegram from Fukuoka states that the well-known temple Temman-gu was destroyed by fire on the morning of March 13th. Only the rear temple was saved.

Captain Pescetto, commander of the Italian cruiser *Puglia*, which arrived at Yokohama on March 11th from Honolulu, paid a visit on the 15th to Governor Sufu at the Kencho.

A Belfast telegram reports that a woman, named Jane Maguire, has died in Castle Blaney Workhouse at the age of 117 years. She had spent 30 years of her life in the workhouse.

R. Cavill, the speedy New South Wales swimmer, swam 100 yards in 59 seconds on January 29, at Sydney. This is faster time than any other has swum the same distance.

Mr. M. Takei, the headman of the village of Hata, Chikuma district, near Matsumoto, was arrested on the night of March 16th. He is charged with having forged an official document.

Fire broke out on March 14th at 10.10 p.m. in the dormitory of the Kogaku-in School, Sanban-cho, Kojimachi, Tokyo, destroying the building. The cause is reported to be negligence.

Two hundred and sixteen Russians, members of the crews of the captured ships, who were released by the Saseho Prize Court, left Nagasaki on March 14th by the French mail steamer for home.

M. Yoshino, (20) formerly employed by the Seoul-Fusan Railway Company, committed suicide on the night of March 12th by drinking poison in a brothél. Heavy debt is reported to be the cause.

The *Niroku Shimpo* of Tokyo was suspended on March 16th on a charge of having published that day matter injurious to social order. The paper strongly attacked the Cabinet with regard to the issue of Treasury Bonds.

Mr. S. Noro, a member of the Miye Prefectural Assembly, and four others, who were charged with gambling, were sentenced on March 16th in the Tsu District Court to one month's imprisonment with hard labour and a fine of five *yen* each.

The Italian Minister at Tokyo, according to the *Official Gazette*, has informed the Japanese authorities that Major Caviglia is appointed Military Attaché to the Legation and that he is expected to arrive in the beginning of April.

Punch, contributes a delightful item to the discussion of the situation between Russia and Japan. "We understand," says the humourist, "that the chief difficulty which prevents Russia from giving way in the present dispute is the fear that, if she now carries out her promises as regards Manchuria, a dangerous precedent will be created."

Captain Viscount Ishiyama (40) of the First Commissariat was found dead on the morning of March 13th, having committed suicide by shooting himself in the throat with a revolver in a building at the rifle range belonging to the military college in Tokyo. Temporary insanity is said to have been the cause. His father was a *kuge*, or court noble, before the Restoration. During the troubles that ensued his father assisted the *kin-no-to* who espoused the cause of the Emperor, in consequence of which the family was promoted to the peerage. The deceased graduated in July, 1889, from the Military College when he was appointed ensign and then Lieutenant. In October, 1898, he was promoted to Captain.

Mr. Li Chong-Hong, a Korean merchant, who recently arrived at Tokyo, donated on March 12th ten thousand *yen* towards the war expenses and a thousand *yen* to the Nippon Red Cross Society. Count Matsukata, President of the Society has presented to him a medal of merit. The Korean gentleman left Tokyo on the 13th for home.

The *Singapore Free Press* of the 24th February reports:—Lieut.-Colonel Wilson, 73rd Carnatics, had an awkward experience last Thursday. He was boating in a Malay koleh at Passir Panjang, and the koleh capsizing he swam to some fishing stakes close by, where he was "marooned" from about 7 a.m. till 6 p.m., when some Chinese fishermen took him off.

According to official investigations, the following amounts of money were in circulation at the end of February:

	Yen.
New gold	9,927,951.00
Gold	8,819,546.00
Silver	59,859,882.50
Copper	17,896,104.21
Convertible notes	221,890,400.00

Tong-Yuen, a Chinese trader in Osaka, has chartered the British steamer *Tingshing* to reopen the service between Kobe and Tientsin. The steamer was to leave Kobe on March 14th carrying 2,700 tons of sundries for North China. The *Jiji* adds that about eight thousand tons of merchandise for Tientsin are still lying at Kobe and Osaka untouched since the service on the line was suspended.

From the *Autocar*:—

Wanted.—Will any wealthy, charitably disposed gentleman, enthusiastic automobilist, or large firm, give a greatly interested man of small means a second-hand car? Applicant, who would be deeply grateful, is very keenly interested in motoring, but cannot afford to buy a car. As a guarantee of good faith, he would gladly undertake not to dispose of the car at any time without the full consent of donor.

A certain bishop is supposed to have begun an episcopal charge with the expressive words, "I feel a feeling which I feel we all feel." The feeling which this advertiser feels is almost if not quite universal, and extends to many other objects besides motor-cars. How many of us are "deeply interested" in motoring, or for that matter in blue china or Italian pictures, and yet "cannot afford" to indulge our fancy! It is only the idea of advertising the sentiment that is novel.

THE WORK OF THE WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION IN AMERICA.

[A paper read before the Tokyo-Yokohama Ladies' Missionary Conference in Tokyo, Feb. 27, 1904.]

In reviewing the history of the Young Women's Christian Association in America, it is interesting to see how it grew up within the Young Men's Christian Association and not until thirteen years after the organization of the first Association did it develop a separate national life of its own. The first Association was formed in Normal University at Normal, Illinois, and it came about in this way. The young women there seeing the work the young men were doing, wondered why they might not start one similar for themselves; and so, after several meetings in a room where two were boarding themselves, six girls organized what they called the "Young Ladies Christian Association." That was in 1873, and during the next four years several others were organized independently of each other—sometimes the organizers not guessing the existence of an association similar to theirs in any other college. In 1877 Mr. Luther D. Wishard, sent out to organize Young Men's Christian Associations where he found co-educational institutions in the Middle West, organized what were called Student Associations in which both young women and young men were received as members. It was found, however, that under such conditions the young women could carry on no special work for young women neither could the young men further the special work for young men which is the aim of their Association; so Mr. Wishard was sent back to reorganize the Student Associations. This left nothing for the young women to do but to form Associations of their own, which they did with the help of Mr. Wishard with such results that in 1885 there were between eighty and ninety Young Women's Christian Associations under constitutions similar to those of the Young Men's Christian Associations, adopting the principles of the latter, pursuing their methods, attending their State conventions and receiving the gracious help of their Secretaries. Naturally enough suggested, the next step of progress was the formation of State Organizations. Michigan led in 1884 and by 1886 there had followed Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska, nine states in all.

But now a serious problem presented itself to these young organizers. There came calls from cities for work among young women similar to that being done among young men. Some of the state organizations amended their constitutions so as to admit city associations, but for most of them this was not an adequate solution. The State Committees at this time were made up of young women from the Associations and teachers and the head-quarters were liable to be moved every year. Besides a growing responsibility was being felt, not only few college women in a few colleges, but for *all* young women throughout the land. A central Committee of strong women was required to control such a work from a national standpoint. Could such women be found willing to undertake an untried-pioneer work? Could a Secretary be procured, talented and devoted to her calling? Whence would the means of her support come? were some of the questions that perplexed the early leaders. Of the character of the latter the first Secretary speaks as follows: "The organization was crude and the workers untried but their enthusiasm knew no bounds We cannot speak too highly of the personnel of those early associations. They were picked workers who had" come to the kingdom for such a "time as this" and seemed called of God to lay broad and deep the foundation of a large superstructure which God should build in his own way. Simple and humble, energetic and faithful, ready to do anything for the Master—believing firmly in the needs of the Association and seeing at least dimly its possibilities, they were deeply consecrated, warm-hearted Christian workers, winners of souls who "turned many to righteousness and will shine as the stars." For such workers the only step was a forward one, and August, 1886, saw delegates from eight states assembled at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, with three purposes regarding the National organization they wished to effect:

1. Its aim should be fourfold—the promotion of the physical, social, mental and spiritual life of young women.
2. An Evangelical basis which should affiliate it with the church.
3. A permanent executive committee to oversee and develop it.

The organization was effected, the National Committee chosen—its headquarters located at Chicago, and a Secretary called. That same summer saw the beginning of the great missionary revival that swept over our colleges and five hundred of the first two thousand Student Volunteers were members of the Young Women's Christian Associations. The first year the new Secretary gave her time to the study of the field. The work developed rapidly. State conventions were held. Secretaries began to be called for state work. Associations were organized in N. Y. and Penn. The Young Women's Christian Association Quarterly, since become the *Evangel*, was published. A second Secretary was called. Work was begun in Boston and a secretary was sent to the Pacific Coast. In 1891 the first summer school was held at Bay View, Michigan.

The Association had now spread its wings from coast to coast and the next five years were intensive. The first summer school removed from Michigan to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, became inadequate; and with Mr. Moody's consent a second conference was held for the East at Northfield, Mass. This was followed by one for the South, finally established at Asheville, North Carolina, and that by one for the far west held at Capitola, California.

The last five years 898-1903, have been called the period of specialization. The work has grown marvellously, as girls sometimes grow between the ages of twelve and seventeen. It covers so many different fields and more secretaries are being assigned to particular tasks. In student work one secretary gives her time entirely to denominational schools; another is studying conditions in large universities only.

In city work in some Associations there is a high degree of specialization. Besides the general Secretary there may be a Bible Secretary, a House Secretary, an Extension Secretary, a physical Director, a teacher of Domestic Art, of Domestic Science, an Educational Director.

The members of the National Committee are being chosen to study and become authorities in that part of the work only in which they are specially interested. The Summer Conferences are being divided in city and college conferences and in such a matter as the securing of funds even donors are asked to give directly to the support of a particular worker or a particular field. The following figures exhibit the remarkable growth of the Association :

In 1886.

Associations	93
State Organizations	9
National Secretary	1
Individual College Secretary	0
Individual City Secretary	?

Budget $830 raised with difficulty.

In '91.

First conference attendance 61

In the last two years 1592 college women have accepted Christ and there are 370 student Volunteers.

	In 1903.		Membership.
College	450	—	26,000
City	80	—	41,836

31 Organized states, 19 State Secretaries.
15 National Secretaries.
15 College Secretaries.
175 with assistants.
Over $30,000, yearly budget.

In '02.

4 conference attendances 2,025

1,450 of whom were students representing 329 institutions.

The National organization with its large secretarial force, the state organizations with their state secretaries, all exist for the sake of the individual association city and college.

What is a city Association like? In many of our large cities you find them occupying sometimes a whole building sometimes one floor not far from the business part of the town, a home where shop girls, clerks, waitresses, stenographers, teachers, any self-supporting girl, girls of leisure, every girl of good moral character, may come and go as she pleases and find help for every side of life. They differ widely according to the needs of the field, for the Association aims to be very pliable and enters its field with but one fixed idea—that of bringing the blessings of Christ's love nearer to every young woman. Not old lines of work are taken up by every Association but every Association has some of them. The Association aims to promote the physical life and more or less connected with this department are the following lines of work.

Noon Rest where a wholesome lunch is provided for women only at reasonable rates.

A Rest Room, with lounges, darkened and quiet.
Gymnasium.
Courses in Domestic Science and Domestic Art.
Summer Cottages or Summer Outings.
Boarding House Directory.
Employment Bureau.
Traveller's Aid.

To promote the social side of life there are social occasions at the rooms or in the homes of members and clubs both social and literary.

For the mental life there are lectures and entertainments and educational classes in which the following are some of the subjects taught; English, Stenography, Type-writing, Book-keeping, History, Literature, Physiology, Rhetoric, Elocution, Chorus Singing, Mandolin and Guitar, Piano; Drawing Painting, Pyrography, Venetian Iron Work: German, French and Italian. For the promotion of the spiritual life there are Bible Study classes, Devotional Meetings and Gospel Meetings and the personal work of the Secretary.

Perhaps the most popular, because the most recently developed, side of Association work is what is called Extension Work, the holding of noon meetings in manufacturing establishments and the betterment of the conditions of the workers. Thirty-seven Associations are doing Extension Work, ten have Secretaries. In 80 factories regular meetings are held touching 866 young women weekly. A letter from one of them, quoted by Miss Barnes in her report, is sufficient evidence of its value:—

"You cannot realize how we look forward to Thursday as our Sunday, to meet our Secretary, who comes one day of each week to talk about the best things of life. She tries to bring others into the light by telling them how Jesus leads and helps her. I want to tell of one instance in which he helped me. There was one morning at my work I could not see my way through and I remember our Secretary told us not to worry but to pray and trust. So I said I would not cross the bridge before I got to it, and just then our dear forewoman, whom I used to hate came and offered to help me. It seems the dear, Lord sent her to show me how true the message was received a few days before. I am sorry to say that I have not come into the beautiful light yet but expect to one of these days."

Rest rooms, lunch rooms, a recess of ten minutes in forenoon and afternoon, a matron to look out for the girls—are some of the features the Extension Work is promulgating. Again, quoting from Miss Barnes—"A vision of true solidity of character, no matter where placed, is to be the heritage that will fall to the young women themselves. We cannot give soft hands nor costly raiment to every girl, but we can help to kindle a flame in her soul that shall make these things of small account. The girl may never change her environment. She may never know luxury nor even many comforts, but she may live to a nobler purpose and struggle not in vain, for the life that Christ has entered fails never in its aim."

It is impossible to estimate all the Association means to girls compelled to work their whole lives through, yet haunted always by ideals long cherished which are through the Association placed within their grasp.

The College Association has to do with a more favoured but not less needy class of young women. The physical and mental life of college women is pretty well taken care of. Indeed, too much mental life is a danger and as much as possible there is brought to the front the Association ideal of the young woman "thoroughly furnished" in her whole being. It is the promotion of the social and spiritual life, however, that is the especial care of the College Association. In the University of Minnesota there are two functions recurring as regularly as the years go round, the Reception for Freshmen and the Past Examination Jubilee, given jointly by the Y. M. and Y. W. C. A.'s. Christmas and Valentine parties, Twilight Concerts, Serial Farewell Spreads, suggest ways in which the young women are brought together to become acquainted.

For the spiritual life there are Bible classes in which during 1902, 10,412 students were enrolled. There are Mission Study Classes and Devotional meetings held weekly.

One important feature is the Fall Campaign, instituted by the early return of old members to college in the fall to make themselves generally useful to the entering class, by furnishing a boarding house directory, an employment bureau, assisting in the intricate process of registration, in disentangling programmes, sealed by enrolling, after a thorough canvass, as many as possible of the new girls on the membership and Bible Study lists.

As for the Summer Conference, Robert Lyon has a word to say about them which will bear quoting again: "Apart from all other work which the American Committee is doing the good that has been accomplished through the summer conferences would, in my judgment, be sufficient to justify its existence and continuance. Hundreds of young women have in these conferences either begun in Christian life or taken such a forward step in it as constituted a practically new devotion to Christian tastes and Christian service. Habits of Bible Study, interest in missions, a straightforward sense of duty, new conceptions of prayer, a deeper love for Christ as personal Lord, have come through these conferences to young women from all parts of the country and from other lands. The Church at home and abroad is receiving now a wealth of truer aud more faithful service as a result of these summer conferences."

And now "A man's gift maketh room for him." What are the gifts of the Association that have made room for it? Wherein lies its strength?

1.—In its basis—the Rock on which Christ said his church should be built, and more and more is that getting to be the care of the Association. Individual Associations are coming to emphasize that their only excuse for existence is the avowed purpose of relating every girl within reach to Jesus Christ as her Lord and Master. Any organization that takes that as its definition of Christianity is sure of blessing.

2.—In its concentration. It is for and by young women. The Secretaries become experts in the problems of a certain class and less time is lost in dealing with them.

3.—In its breadth.

a. In aim, a four-fold work. No one can complain that anything is left out. It anticipates all accusations of narrowness.

b. In scope. It reaches after every young woman. There is already, there will be more and more brought about by the Association, an interest of every woman in every other woman without regard to rank or condition.

4. Its oneness. It is interdenominational and can therefore work where churches may not work.

5. Its foothold in strategic points. Notions long prevalent that only those entered Christ's work who by nature were incapacitated for any other are being revolutionized by the entrance into leadership of the strongest young women in college. It is being recognized that Christ's cause demands the most gifted. Again, the training received is a valuable preparation for Christian work after the college course.

6. It is practical.

a. In practical things, such as the extension work.

b. In spiritual things. There is no vagueness. It insists upon taking honestly the things Christ said. It demands the old-fashioned repentance and the old-fashioned forgiveness, and it demands also a real surrender, an abiding in Him. Its work has not been so much making new Christians as giving new life to old Christians.

It is hard to tell in words of mouth what the Association is doing. It is better known in the hearts of those who have through God's rich grace been brought face to face by it with the blessed reality of a living Fountain, opened for sin, a personal Friend who offers to every one an unbroken, eternal companionship.

THERESA MORRISON.

WHY AMERICANS SYMPATHIZE WITH JAPAN.

[BY J. H. DE FOREST.]

The following paper was published in Japanese in the *Kahoku Shimpo*, Sendai, in February. It is now issued as a Japanese tract by the Kei Sei Sha.

Doubtless the Japanese people know in a general way why the 85,000,000 of our great Republic, from President Roosevelt to the ordinary citizen, are a unit in their deep sympathy for Japan. But it may not be out of place at this crisis for an American who has lived thirty years in Japan to set forth some of the reasons for this attitude.

A recent magazine from the United States says that the Russian diplomats in Washington are greatly surprised at the warm feelings towards Japan, and one of them says:—"Why should America be pro-Japanese? You want peace. The Japanese people do not want peace. They are more and more urging their Government towards war. And you are backing the disturbers of peace against conservers of peace."

Naturally a Russian must talk in this style, but it makes no impression on Americans, as is seen from the recent cablegrams from the States announcing offers of service to the Red Cross Society and millions of money for Japanese war bonds. There is a true and deep enthusiasm in American hearts everywhere for Japan, and I have not heard of a single American who thinks Russia is right and worthy of victory. In my mind the weighty reasons for this are as follows:—

1.—Russia is a great despotism. The United States is a great Republic. One stands for tyranny, the other for liberty.

But some one may ask: Have not the United States and Russia always been on friendly terms? Did not the United States feel grateful to Russia when, during the war for Independence the Russian fleet appeared in United States waters and gave new courage and hope to our exhausted army? And again, did not Russia give great comfort to the United States in the civil war of forty years ago by sending her fleet to New York, while England's attitude, though professedly neutral, was really hostile to the United States?

Yes, we freely acknowledge that the friendship of Russia on these two occasions was of great value to us, and we are truly grateful for her kind services. But at the same time we know very well that Russia's sympathy for us was superficial and prompted not by any love of our Republic, but by hatred of England. It was to annoy England rather than to assist the United States that Russia was prompt in her expressions of sympathy. All the love that ever existed between the States and Russia is only skin-deep, and we are under no obligations whatever to sympathize with her so long as she stands for tyranny and hatred of liberty.

There are some splendid men and women in Russia and at the head of all is the truly noble-hearted gentleman and monarch, Nicholas III. We must not forget that he is a lover of peace and righteousness, and that he was the one who instituted the Hague Peace Tribunal in the hope that all difficulties between nations might be settled by peaceful arbitration, and wars be prevented. If he could have had his own way, it is widely believed that he would have seen the justice of Japan's claims, and would never have allowed war to begin. We all remember, too, that he entertained no bitter feelings towards Japan when that crazy policeman near Otsu, in attempting to kill the Prince, made an almost fatal gash on his head.

But the Russian nobility, who surround the Throne, are the ones, we believe, who have forced the Czar to take the successive steps that were sure to end in war. His councillors are the ones to blame, and they are those who uphold the tyrannical form of government.

There are others who love liberty and righteousness, like Count Tolstoi, but their voices have been choked. There are multitudes who have been exasperated by intolerable acts of despotism until they have become haters of all government and plan to assassinate all rulers. Hence Russia breeds what is found so much in no other nation—bands of anarchists and nihilists who are willing to throw away their lives in order to kill their oppressive ruler. A few years ago, in crossing the Pacific, I made the acquaintance of a Russian military officer and had frequent conversations with him. At last I ventured to ask him how such an educated and cultured gentleman as himself could endure the despotic condition of his country. At first he refused to entertain a question that reflected on his native land, but on my pressing it with a sincere desire to know his heart, he opened freely to me and said with deep emotion:—"If our Government does not grant a Constitution and give us our rights, before long there will be a revolution by the side of which the French Revolution will be mere child's play."

We must not forget that the love of liberty exists in many brave and suffering hearts in Russia, among students, peasants, exiles, and even in the army. With this spirit we Americans are in deep sympathy. But the real power is in the hands of the despotic party, and for them we have but one prayer—that they may be speedily overthrown and utterly defeated, by peaceful means if possible, if not, then by crushing force. This is the loud demand that Americans make to Russia:—*Give to your people from whom you have too long withheld most precious rights, political liberty, with a Constitution worthy of the twentieth century, and thus take you place by the side of nations that love progress and humanity.*

It is because Japan with open mind and heart saw the untold value of having a Constitution with representative forms of government, and with political and religious liberty that the people of the United States at this crisis are drawn in profound sympathy to her. Were it not for your glorious Constitution, were Japan back in the Tokugawa style of national life, we should never think of shouting "Banzai" for the Emperor and sending sympathetic contributions in time of war. It is because we feel that Japan now stands for the great principles of human progress and international righteousness that we deeply sympathize with and wish her Emperor long life and her army and navy speedy and decisive victories on land and sea.

2.—*Russia, being a despotism, naturally hates universal education. The United States, being a Republic, counts it the privilege of every man, woman, and child to have the fullest possible education.*

It is pitiable in the extreme to read of the dense ignorance of the 130,000,000 of Russians. Poultney Bigelow, an American writer of wide repute, said three years ago:—"Out of 100,000,000 Russians there are 99,000,000 who can neither read nor write." These ignorant millions, he says, are "on the social and intellectual level of domestic cattle." They obey officials just as dogs obey their masters. It is this that characterizes their colonial expansion—the dense ignorance of the colonists and the lack of schools. A despotic government cannot afford to have schools and universities except in quantity enough to educate the necessary officials. Japan has proportionally ten times as many pupils in schools as Russia.

Every ray of political and religious liberty is a danger to despotism. Therefore Russia has despotic press laws, and is careful to suppress all liberty-loving articles from papers and magazines and books. And lest such dreaded articles should get into Russia from other countries, all foreign papers and magazines and books are examined, and everything unfavourable to the despotic atmosphere is blotted out with great ink-blacked pads. This is a well known fact, and it was confirmed by the Russian officer above mentioned, who told me that all his foreign magazines were thus treated with abundance of black paint. He also said that the foreign books bought for the Government libraries were not thus injured, but whenever he drew one to read he was obliged to sign a paper promising that he would reveal its contents to no one, and that he would not leave it where any one could see it. Just think of such a government in this enlightened Twentieth Century!

Five years ago I visited Vladivostock with some friends and went into the interior of Siberia a few scores of miles. One of my friends in an interview with a high official asked him how he regarded the common people of Russia. His prompt reply was;—"They are made for us to rule and for our benefit." When my friend told him that in the United States it was just the opposite—that Government was for the benefit of the people—he seemed unable to comprehend it. In his training and experience, the great ignorant masses needed masters to command them, and there was no need of regarding them as fellow human beings. They were to be whipped and sent into exile and shot like dogs if they disobeyed.

How can liberty-loving America have any sympathy with a nation whose political creed is that men are to be kept in ignorance and held like cattle? Russia daubs with black ink the papers and magazines of the United States; Russia has forbidden some of our great writers to step upon Russian territory, and last year she expelled the correspondent of the London *Times* from her empire. *Russia is the great friend of ignorance and despotism, and the great enemy of free institutions and education.*

We of the United States believe that all people should have the light of knowledge. And when at the close of the recent war with Spain the Philippines fell into our hands, one of the first things our Government did was to send one thousand trained teachers there to establish the best schools everywhere. We might have annexed Cuba, but instead of that we invited two thousand of her teachers to visit the United States, to study during the summer at one of our great universities, then to examine our cities and our methods of government, and then we carried them back to Cuba in our transports without it costing them anything. In this way we desire to give to the whole world as fast as possible the blessings of knowledge.

It is because Japan is so enthusiastic for knowledge, and because her young men have gone by hundreds to our universities in the United States, and because her noble Emperor showed his grandeur of purpose in his admirable Rescript at the opening of his prosperous reign in these words:—"*Seek for knowledge throughout the whole world*," that we Americans rejoice in Japan's progress and in this crisis especially feel profound sympathy for her. We fear that victory for Russia will mean a vast extension of tyranny and ignorance, while victory for Japan will mean a check to despotism in the East and open doors for one of man's most precious rights, the right to knowledge.

3. *Russia, in accordance with despotic principles, employs religion to strengthen the chains of tyranny and ignorance. The people of the United States stand for religious liberty and believe that true religion is one of the best safeguards of the home, of society, and of the State.*

Russia is called a Christian country. Doubtless there are a great many noble, earnest, self-sacrificing Christians among her people. Her Emperor is one, a devout believer in God, the Father of all men, and a lover of the righteousness that is taught by Christ. Bishop Nicolai, whose long unselfish work in Japan shows his Christian character, is another noble gentleman and scholar. There are not a few such in Russia, and if we think only of them we may well say that Russia is a Christian country. Or, if we look superficially, we shall see that the Russians have the same Bible and worship the same one God and believe in the same Christ that all Western nations do, and therefore we may call Russia Christian.

But in reality the Russian Government uses Christianity as an aid to despotism and ignorance. Religious liberty is one of the most precious of human rights, yet we may say there is no such thing as religious liberty in Russia. It is true there are Jews and Armenians and many kinds of Protestants, altogether amounting to 15,000,000, but they suffer all kinds of repression and open persecution, and even death. They live in fear of revolt, and are a constant source of anxiety to the public peace.

Christianity is the State religion, and of course has many educated bishops and priests in the upper circles, but the majority of priests are ignorant and superstitious, and can be of no use except in an ignorant and despotic environment. Instead of arousing the people, they act as a kind of anaesthetic to keep the people from waking up. I need only quote what two recognized authorities say of them:—

Wallace, an Englishman, who spent many years in various parts of Russia and was made a member of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society, on his return to England in 1877, published a large book on Russia, in which he says of the ordinary priest;—"He is expected to perform punctiliously the rites and ceremonies prescribed by the Church. He rarely preaches or exhorts, and has no moral influence over his flock. I have occasionally heard of Russian priests who approach to the Protestant ideal, but I confess I have never seen any of them, and I venture to assert that their number is comparatively small. The Protestant clergy have in all countries rendered valuable service to the cause of popular education. But to be a good member of the Greek Church, ability to read is not necessary, and education in the eyes of the Greek priest has not the same importance it has in the eyes of Protestant pastors."

Bigelow, the American quoted above, says in a recent article:—"The ordinary parish priest is very much like the ordinary peasant. He performs clerical ceremonies and gets a few fees for squirting holy water over pigs and cows to prevent disease. For more than a century the Czar has maintained at Peking a mission consisting of ten priests who have carefully abstained from mission work, but have furnished their Government with information on what was going around them."

Russian Christianity on the whole is a sham and disgrace to the Christian name. It consists too much in useless ceremonies and empty form. It fosters ignorance and superstition. It is the servant of despotism instead of being the moral and spiritual power to elevate the people. If this be Christianity, the less the civilized world has of it the better, for it is in reality the enemy of human progress.

The United States also is called a Christian nation. And though there are in our wide domains many evils of which we are deeply ashamed, yet the Christian Church with all its sects is active in fighting these evils and in trying to better the condition of all. Especially does our Christianity encourage education, and millions of dollars are yearly given for private and public schools and universities. There is no nation in the world that spends so much on education. Our Christian ministers are well educated. They not only preach, but they lecture and write for the press and work in every form of benevolence among the poor and unfortunate. Moreover we grant religious liberty, so that a Jew or Mohammedan or Buddhist can openly and without fear practice his religion. Besides this, the Government is wholly separate from any interference with religion and can never use it for political purposes. Christianity is the strongest moral and spiritual power that gives life and hope and joy to our homes and to society. The large majority of our thoughtful adults, from our beloved President down, are believers in God and in Christ whose teachings stand as the foundation of all our priceless liberties.

We cannot sympathize with a nation like Russia where there is no religious liberty and where Christianity is degraded into a tool of ignorance and despotism. But we do profoundly sympathize with Japan whose Constitution has that invaluable 28th article which recognizes the same religious liberty for which our ancestors fought, and for which tens of thousands of them perished in prisons, at the stake, and on bloody battle fields. Ever since Japan's Constitution was promulgated, this 28th Article is the one that has made the whole Anglo-Saxon race warmly sympathetic with Japan.

There is no need of writing more in order to show why Americans side with Japan. It is no shallow and temporary feeling, such as would arise from the friendly manner in which Commodore Perry opened Japan. Nor does it come from the fact that our diplomatic relations have always been pleasant and mutually helpful. If that were all there would be no such enthusiasm for Japan as is now seen in America. *But it is because Japan stands for those great liberties, of constitutional government, of universal education, of equal justice, of religious faith, that we are attracted to her in this crisis. It is because her international intercourse has been honourable. We feel that the battle Japan is now fighting is not for humanity. If Russia should win the victory, all these precious liberties would be lost in the East and the progress of the whole world set back. If Japan wins, the light of political and religious liberty will flood the whole East and will aid the salvation of China and also the final reformation of Russia.*

As a missionary of Jesus Christ I deeply regret that there should ever be war between two nations. For I believe all the human race are children of one Almighty God and All-loving Father. We therefore are all brothers, whether born in Japan or Russia, or Africa or America, whether black or yellow, or white. But in this imperfect stage of development, where language and morals and religion differ, there will be misunderstandings, and also wars. And when as a last resort war breaks out, the true Christian should take his sword and fight for righteousness and for humanity and for liberty. I say this because I with my three older brothers fought for the Union and for the abolition of slavery in our Civil war of forty years ago between the North and South. I daily pray, as Christ taught us, "Thy Kingdom come: Thy will be done on earth as in heaven." The Christian principle is for universal peace and true brotherhood. But when a nation tries by injustice and tyranny to prevent the good of the world, it is right and noble to resist, and to pray that God will defeat all injustice and inhumanity.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SIX-ASIDE FINAL.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—With reference to the communication dated the 10th inst. signed by "X.Y.Z." commenting on my letter which appeared in your paper of the 10th inst., I am quite aware of the difficulty of getting twelve men to turn up on a field at a given hour, as I happen to know that Mr. Wheeler's team has been waiting some time to play the "Final."

With regard to the state of the weather at this period of the year, it appears to me poor appreciation of the special permission for football during March, referred to by "X.Y.Z." to rush play through on a day calculated to do considerable damage to the cricket pitch, *when the rest of the month is available.*

My letter of the 9th inst. was merely intended as a public comment on an announcement of the "final" which appeared in your columns and which was no doubt received by you from the proper quarter.

In conclusion I should like to repeat that it is a pity that the so-called final should take the form of a five-a-side practibe game.

Yours faithfully, "PLAY THE GAME."

March 11, 1904.

THE BEEF AND BUTCHER'S RING.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Again a rise! what I want to know is when by way of a change we shall see a notice of a fall in price.

Is the rise justified? Are cattle becoming scarce, or is it the effect of the ring formed by the butchers in Yokohama, who seem to have the matter entirely in their own hands and are screwing the price up at every opportunity.

Can nothing be done? At what price does Australia come in with Australian beef and mutton and cold storage? Surely the margin must be near at which there is a profit.

I remember when beef here was cheaper than bread, but now soon we all will have to turn vegetarians.

How would it do to try a strike and rigidly keep Lent, it might bring the butchers' trust to reason,

E.J.M.

THE INTERPORT FOOTBALL MATCH.

The Interport Association Football match played in Kobe on Saturday afternoon was one of the most interesting seen on the local ground for a couple of years, says the *Kobe Herald.*

In the first half play was not at all fast, but in the second period some very exciting play took place, and the result—a draw—was a correct index of the strength of the opposing teams. The teams were as follows:—

Yokohama:—W. S. Moss, J. Waddilove, E. W. Kilby, W. B. Mason, H. W. Kilby, A. Kingdon, J. F. Drummond, O. D. Strome, W. J. White, S. Wheeler, J. M. Mollison.

Kobe:—Guterres, H. E. Green, Crane, McDougall, S. R. Clarke, D. Weed, E. C. Jeffery, E. G. Fradgley, H. Rankin, G. C. Allcock, C. H. Lightfoot.

Kobe kicked off and after desultory play the ball went out to Yokohama. On the throw in by Weed the ball was secured by White who looked dangerous till stopped by the Kobe backs. After give and take play, Strome secured and made a good shot at goal which was cleared by Lightfoot. Yokohama were now pressing and after several throws in Allcock cleared well for Kobe. Mollison secured and made a rather poor shot, the ball going wide of the goal. Kobe then took the ball up the field and a splendid shot by Crane was finely saved by Waddilove.

After the goal kick Yokohama took the ball down the field, some good play being brought to a conclusion by a fine clear by Rankin. More desultory play ensued and Strome securing the ball made a dash for Kobe's goal, but was nicely stopped by Jeffery. Mason secured almost immediately and made a good run, but kicked out when attempting a shot at goal. Fradgely cleared by kicking out. Yokohama, who had the advantage of a strong wind, were keeping the ball in Kobe's territory. Drummond then made a nice run, Crane for Kobe duplicating immediately after. A goal given against Green was taken by Jeffery who made a fine kick into the goal, Waddilove turning the ball over the bar at the expense of a corner. Weed took the corner, placed fairly well, Yokohama managing to clear. Clarke secured and made a neat run, but the ball was again cleared by Yokohama.

Strome and Drummond each had fruitless shots at goal, and then a good deal of even midfield play resulted. Yokohama then pressed and Allcock cleared and the Kobe left wing secured and made a fine run down, and when dangerous were pulled up by E. W. Kilby at back.

After some very even play in midfield Jeffrey made a nice run but was cheated by the Yokohama backs, and in a melee Green had his ribs and back hurt, but resumed in a short time.

On the bounce off Yokohama secured, but Drummond who looked dangerous was brought up by Rankin. Yokohama pressed, however, and Jeffrey headed behind, giving a corner which was well cleared by Kobe. Drummond secured but his shot went wide. Green then made a nice run but was checked by the Yokohama halves. Guterres secured and running up passed to Green, who passed to Clarke, the prettiest combined forward run up to the moment resulting in a corner, which was wisely taken by Fradgley but was fruitless. Kobe was still pressing and a really splendid clear by E. W. Kilby was duly appreciated by the spectators. White secured and made a fine shot which was well cleared by Lightfoot. H. W. Kilby secured and running right though, shot splendidly from a very difficult angle, but Lightfoot cleared admirably. After a foul against Yokohama, Moss and Mollison kicked out in quick succession. Yokohama then started to press, Fradgeley clearing, but Yokohama were not to be denied and a fine shot from White was well fisted away by Lightfoot. MacDougall now secured and made a fine run but holding the ball too long was despoiled by a Yokohama half-back. After some long kicking Drummond secured and made a fine centre and Allcock in attempting to clear gave a corner which was kicked by Mason, and H. W. Kilby securing made a good attempt at goal. Yokohama then gave another corner, which was taken by Kingdon, who kicked behind. Kobe secured after the goal kick and Waddilove was tested and made a fine save. Clarke then secured and, running down, centred well, and the ball going out to Guterres was kicked wide. After some even play, Kobe rushed down and E. W. Kilby made a splendid clear, the whistle then going.

The game was resumed at 4.15, and Kobe securing forced a corner which was finely placed by Fradgley, but Moss clearing well, Drummond secured and mis-kicked back into centre and Kobe were looking dangerous till the ball went behind. Yokohama passed after the kick out and Allcock in saving gave a corner which was taken by Kingdon, but did not result in anything. After some mild play Kobe pressed but E. W. Kilby headed out finely. Wheeler secured and running down shot nicely, but the ball was easily cleared by Lightfoot. Give and take play then took place and Waddilove cleared nicely when pressed. Yokohama then got a free kick for a foul, which did not result in anything, and the play which had been fast slowed down for a time. Yokohama then received a corner which was kicked behind by Kingdon. Rankin cleared nicely when pressed and soon after play was stopped for a while, Jeffrey having a bad spill. On the bounce off Kobe pressed and E. W. Kilby was again called upon to clear, and Yokohama made a return visit but were pulled to by Rankin. Macdougall made a nice run down the field but his shot was easily cleared by Waddilove. Kobe were now pressing continuously and took the ball down but Crane's shot was cleared by Waddilove. Crane returned again, however, but was "spilt" by Kilby at back when shooting and the ball went wide. White for Yokohama broke away but was not supported and the Kobe right wing then pressed, E. W. Kilby again spoiling the attack.

Kobe, not to be denied, tried again, and Kilby at back made a splendid clear. Crane made a run but his shot went wide. Yokohama then pressed and Lightfoot cleared a long shot, and Yokohama coming again Lightfoot made a fine fist out. Kobe then mated Yokohama and Waddilove was hard pressed but cleared finely. Kobe still pressing kicked wide.

After the goal kick Green secured and made the best shot of the match, a long and powerful kick, which was brilliantly saved by Waddilove. Drummond made a good run and when very dangerous was spilled by Rankin. Jeffery clearing kicked out and H. W. Kilby made a good run but shot wide.

The ever-ready Kilby at back again saved for Yokohama. Kobe pressed, but the Yokohama halves relieved the pressure, and Strome secured but was pulled up for off-side rather unluckily, being in a good position for a dash at goal. Drummond made a fine run down the wing and centred nicely, but Wheeler who was in a fine position to score kicked wildly over the bar. Kobe then started pressing, Green being knocked over while shooting. After a further rush by Kobe, Green attempted a long shot which went over the bar. A corner to Yokohama was kicked by Mason and Kobe conceded another which was badly placed by. Mason, and the Kobe forwards secured and rushed down the field, but were pulled up by Kilby at back. Crane made a wide shot at goal. Kobe was awarded a free kick just outside the 18 yards line and a good kick into goal by Green was well saved by Waddilove. Midfield play then ensued and time was called with the ball in Kobe's territory.

E. W. Kilby, Yokohama's left back, deserves special mention, his play being brilliant throughout. Kobe's forwards were slightly faster than Yokohama's but the latter's long and accurate passing evened matters up. The Halves and Backs on both sides were very good and the goal-keepers played splendidly, and at times were brilliant.

HOW WAR BEGAN AT VLADIVOSTOCK.

FROM AN EYE-WITNESS.

The first sign of anything unusual in Vladivostock was the arrival of the *Afridi* on Feb. 2nd, fitted up to take large numbers of Japanese away. On her arrival the Japanese Commercial Agent telegraphed to the various outlying districts and the Japanese began to stream in. Some, however, asked the Russian officials in the various towns who told them that there was no danger of war at present and that the whole affair was obviously a commercial speculation on the part of the Japanese Commercial Agent. When one considered the charter party, the fittings and the sanitary arrangements, as well as the 200 tons of food on board, it was difficult quite to see where the profit of such a speculation would be obtained.

In three days time some 2500 Japanese had collected and embarked, and the Japanese Commercial Agent's wife also went by the *Afridi.* All the other Commercial Agents and many high officials came to see her off and the Governor inspected the boat, then made a speech saying how foolish it was to run off in such a manner, that in a month they would all be back, but that he would do what he could to fill their positions for them, so that on their return they would fine no situations vacant. Easier said than done, when the respective merits of Japanese and Russian artisans and servants are considered.

On the morning after the *Afridi* left, that was Sunday, the 7th, the Japanese Commercial Agent sent a notice round saying that he had been instructed to withdraw. This fell like a bombshell among the Officials, and was met by blank incredulity, but was only too soon supported by the attack on Port Arthur. Martial law was proclaimed and a scene of the wildest confusion and panic ensued. All the Japanese and English were ordered out in three days, this order including the British Vice-Consul; horses were commandeered and the exodus began. Every house in Nicolsk and Khabarovsk was taken by telegram and the civilians began to leave. The railway was taken over by the military authorities, all the waggons were sent to Manchuria, and only one train left every three days; tickets were all bought up days before and as no baggage but a hand bag was allowed to be taken away, it was impossible to find sitting accommodation in the cars, as every corner was filled with the so-called hand-bags!

On the 9th the Commandant of the fortress, Major General Voronetz, who had taken supreme command of the town, thus superseding the Governor, called on the British Vice-Consul and Commercial Agent and informed him that owing to a change in his orders English subjects might have eleven days' grace in which to betake themselves forty versts from the town. As there was neither accommodation nor food in the surrounding district this order was equivalent to leaving the country.

In the meanwhile a heavy snowstorm raged, covering the ground with two feet of snow and forming drifts of 6 and 8 feet. This greatly impeded the traffic and the departure of the people; it brought, however, a rise in temperature, and this was utilised by the fleet to don their war paint. The cruisers *Gromoboi*, *Rossia*, *Rurik* and *Bogatyr* had their search lights going all night and in the morning the greater portion was dark gray, their funnels and parts of their bows being yet unfinished presenting a dazzling contrast. They were all finished by the evening, as well as the large transport *Lena.* This *Lena* used to be the Volunteer Fleet boat the *Moscow,* but her engines are not in good repair and her chief engineer expressed grave doubts as to whether she could go to sea or not. It seems extraordinary how these ships could have been left apparently forgotton up till the last moment.

The ice breaker amused herself breaking all the ice in the harbour and towing it out so that the ingress and egress of vessels could be managed with the greatest celerity and easiness.

The Japanese Commercial Agent left in the S.S. *Batavia* on the 13th instant, but before this the food question had become most pressing. Nothing could be bought. There were only 17,000 sacks of flour in the town for the civil population, very little sugar and that at 32 cents a Russian lb., whereas it had been 16 cents the day before.

The panic increased greatly at a notification of the Commandant that only those civilians who had 8 months' provisions might stay, and those provisions were liable to be commandeered at any moment. Then indeed did the rush begin. The scenes at the railway station were most heart-rending, families got separated and people fought for seats.

The fleet in the meanwhile had left for Hakodate, but on approaching that fortress decided to return, on account of the roughness of the sea and a snow storm. On their way back they fell in with two Japanese merchant vessels, one of which escaped and one of which they fired on, killing two of the crew and transferring the remainder to the *Gromoboi,* where they were fed and clothed warmly. They then sank the merchant vessel which had a cargo of rice. On their return to Vladivostack these prisoners were paraded under a guard through the streets amid the mingled derision and execrations of the populace—they consisted of two old women, four children and thirty-five sailors, all of them wearing felt boots and Chinese hats and coats given them by their captors.

The morning that the fleet left, some very sad scenes were witnessed on the admiral's wharf. The wives and betrothed of many of the officers, watching the departure of the ships, saw the four black vessels slowly leaving the harbour under salute from the fortresses, and their feelings became too much for them, so that crying and sobbing they clung to each other, while some fainted and had to be carried to their homes.

The next blow to the inhabitants who were left was a rumour that the banks were closing. The Russo-Chinese Bank was unable to meet its calls and so closed, hoping to receive a large remittance from the Harbin branch. This did not arrive, so they obtained a loan from the States bank and had their cash department open for three hours each day. Much greater consternation was, however, caused when the States bank itself closed and departed with its money and staff to Khabarovsk—only those who are conversant with Russian business methods can realise what a blow this would be. One of the directors of the Russo-Chinese Bank had in the first panic rushed off to Khabarovsk and he secured rooms there for the bank and sent urgent messages that they should come to join the branch of their bank there. Eventually summoning up sufficient courage he returned to Vladivostock and secured three waggons with which to transport the staff of the bank, its money, and books. Starting at six in the morning and trudging through the snow this was accomplished, but owing to a delay the staff settled down to some breakfast at a neighbouring house. In the meanwhile the Custom House also had settled to leave on that day, so they unloaded the bank's effects and piled themselves and their luggage into the waggons. On the Bank's staff reappearing the scene may be better imagined than described! It eventually ended in the two parties going off together, sitting on each other's knees, and on boxes and bales, a most amusing and undignified assemblage.

For some days no meat was obtainable and the soldiers were sent out to the outlying islands of Popoff, Askold, and Putjatin to bring any cows and horses there might be there and to kill all the deer—Askold alone having some hundreds on it. Putjatin belonged to an old Tientsin resident, the late Mr. A. D. Startseff, and a clean sweep was made of everything on it. On the arrival of the carcasses of the deer, they were met by crowds of people on the beach, each laying hold of a haunch or shoulder, paying what was asked and running off to their homes with it. Most of the cows were reserved for the military but a few fortunate civilians got some for eating purposes at about 300 roubles a piece.

A few of the staff of the Russo-Chinese Bank remained in Vladivostock to look after the godowns which contained many valuable things sent there by the refugees, and to transact the urgent business, but the thing that did more than anything to reduce people to a state of helplessness was the fact that on the 15th, under orders from the Viceroy, the telegraph office was closed indefinitely for receiving telegrams, so that people could not communicate with their relations or friends—a truly paralyzing arrangement. The British Vice-Consul had received the approval of his Government to leave with the rest of the British inhabitants for Japan and most of the British left on the *Stollberg* on the evening of the 16th. On board were the prisoners of war, some Japanese and 1500 Chinese—near the mouth of the harbour she ran into some mines that were being laid and reversing her screw she only just backed in time to avoid being blown up. She then kept to the right near Russian Island when a gun was fired to stop her departure; at the some moment she ran on a rock and a quivering shock ran through the ship causing much commotion on her crowded deck, and she was ordered to return immediately to the wharf, where she disembarked all her passengers on the following morning. The wildest rumours were of course prevalent as to the reasons for this procedure, but on the 19th she again left, the Chinese and Japanese were battened down under hatches and the first class passengers were locked up in the saloon with the blinds drawn. A Russian Naval crew and two officers navigated the boat out of the harbour and when outside the passengers were allowed on deck, where, in spite of the above precautions, they could see perfectly the track by which they had come through the thin ice!—*China Times.*

THE VENEZUELA ARBITRATION.

MURAVIEFF'S COMMENTS.

The Hague, February 22.

The arbitration tribunal, which has been considering the claims of the blockading powers for preferential treatment of their claims against Venezuela, has decided unanimously that the three blockading powers, Great Britain, Germany and Italy, have the right to a preference of the customs duty at La Guaira and Puerto Cabello, the litigants to pay their own costs in the procedure and divide equally the costs of the tribunal. The United States is commissioned to carry out the decision of the tribunal within three months.

In giving judgment the tribunal points out it has been guided by international law and the equity of the case, and that the protocols signed at Washington since February 13th, 1903, and particularly the protocol of May 7th, whereof the obligatory nature cannot be doubtful, form the legal basis of its sentence; that the tribunal is not competent to question the jurisdiction of the mixed commissions at Caracas, nor to judge their action or the character of the warlike operations of the blockading powers, nor to decide if the three blockading powers exhausted all pacific means to prevent the necessity for employing force. The tribunal decides that since 1901 Venezuela refused arbitration proposed on several occasions by Germany and Great Britain, that after the war no formal treaty of peace was concluded, that the operations of the blockaders were stopped before they had received satisfaction for all their claims, and further that the question of preferential treatment was submitted to arbitration.

The tribunal declares that it found and recognized in these facts precious evidence in favour of the great principle of arbitration in all phases of international conflict.

In addition to the protocols the blockaders could not have intended to renounce their acquired rights nor their privileged *de facto* position. The government of Venezuela itself had recognized in principle the justice of their claims, while it had not recognized those of non-blockading Powers and until the end of January, 1903, made not the slightest protest against the claims for preferential treatment. Throughout the diplomatic negotiations Venezuela constantly distinguished between the allied Powers and the neutrals. These latter, not having protested against preference of the blockading Powers either at the time the war stopped nor immediately after the signature of the protocol of February 13th, the government of Venezuela only agreed in respect to allied Powers to offer special guarantees for the fulfilment of its engagements. The good faith which should direct international relations impose the duty on the tribunal that the words "all claims" employed by the Venezuelan representatives in the negotiations with the representatives of the allied powers could relate only to the latter Powers. Neutrals should in some respect profit by the circumstances created by the operations of the war without acquiring new rights, the rights already acquired remaining absolutely intact.

In the decision the United States is charged merely to supervise the carrying out of the decision regarding costs.

After the delivery of the decision, President Muravieff, the Russian Minister of Justice, in a short speech, declared that the findings had been reached after a most minute and most impartial investigation. "Like all human acts," he added, "the decision was susceptible to criticism, but now it was made everyone should accept it. The arbitration, begun in time of peace, had ended amidst acts of war, which was a terrible obstacle in the path of light and progress. In spite of all goodwill, alas, no one was secure against an unexpected hostile attack. A nation was obliged to accept a war when the legitimate defence of honour and liberty was involved. The just Providence which ruled over battles will distinguish between right and unfounded pretensions. At the end of this war between a European and an Asiatic people the right will shine out afresh."

The President concluded with saying that The Hague arbitration tribunal remains always the rampart of justice, truth and reason, and the sublime hope of the future.

BRITISH TRADE WITH MANCHURIA.

The following is a copy of the memorial of the incorporated Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool, drawn up for presentation to Lord Lansdowne:—

(1) That the port of Newchwang, situated in the Liaotong or Mukden Province of Manchuria, on the right bank of the river Liao-ke, 15 miles above the bar, was opened by the Government of China, as a Treaty Port, in the year 1861, in accordance with the terms of Article XI. of the Treaty of Tientsin.

(2) That Newchwang ranks about the sixth amongst the 33 Chinese Treaty Ports as shown by the Trade Returns of the Imperial Maritime Customs of China.

(3) That this position is owing chiefly to British enterprise, energy, and capital, that the great part of the property in the foreign settlement is British, that 35 per cent. of the shipping frequenting the port is British, that the foreign trade with the port was in 1902 of the value of £6,130,000, including treasure, of which the British share was estimated at £2,500,000; and that this country also derives further industrial and financial benefits by building ships for the trade, both for British and Japanese shipowners, and by manning and supplying the former.

(4) That the port of Newchwang is a Treaty Port of China, as already said, and open to the trade of all nations, and it is the principal southern outlet for the trade of Manchuria, which has an area of about 400,000 square miles, population estimated at 15,000,000 of inhabitants, and fertile soil producing wheat, oats, barley, millet, buckwheat, maize, rice, beans, tobacco, silk, and opium, and which, moreover, is rich in cattle and horses, gold and silver, iron and tin; and that Newchwang, being already a great trade centre, must benefit greatly by the further development of Manchuria, if left under Chinese control.

(5) Since the year 1900, when the Boxer rebellion took place in China, merchants of Newchwang have felt that their position and privileges were being unfavourably affected by the action of Russia, who was permitted by the Allies to undertake alone the protection of the port, and who has since placed its flag over both the western and eastern Custom-houses of Newchwang, collected the Customs duties, and even regulated the tariff. That Russia also temporarily seized the Niu-chwang and Shan-hai-kwan Railway in the direction of Tientsin, and only retired on receiving a payment of claim, for costs of administration, of two or three million roubles, and after much disturbance and considerable diversion of trade.

6. That British traders deprecate a continuance of this Russian occupation of a Chinese Treaty port, and the interference of Russia in the management of matters which concern trade, and which devolve by right upon the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs. They foresee that, should the port pass more fully under Russian control, British trade would become restricted and the present "open door" be closed. Moreover, both the merchants of Newchwang and Tientsin are under great apprehension of a still further Russian advance in the direction of Peking.

7. That the independence of Manchuria has been very fully recognised by Russia in the following manner, viz.:—

(a) By the leasing, by Russia, from the Chinese Government for a term of 25 years from March 15, 1898, of the Liao-tung Peninsula, wherein now lie Dalny and Port Arthur.

(b) In regard to the Chinese Eastern Railway, by contract of Aug. 27, 1898, that China shall have the option of purchasing that railway at the end of 36 years after its completion, on certain fixed terms; and,

(c) By also agreeing in the same contract that the Eastern Chinese Railway shall revert to China at the end of 80 years from the date of its completion, if not previously bought by the Chinese Government.

8. That this Chamber has already supported the recent representations of the Chinese Association on the subject, and received the assurance of your lordship's sympathy, and the promise that due weight would be given to the considerations then urged, and which have since been brought again to the attention of this Chamber by other interests directly concerned in trade with Manchuria.

9. Your memorialists therefore most urgently pray that your lordship will bring the matter of the preservation of British trading rights, with the port of Newchwang and the country of Manchuria before His Majesty's Government, and urge, as indicated in your lordship's letter to this Chamber, dated Nov. 5 last, that he will take steps, if possible in conjunction with other Powers concerned in trade with Newchwang, to secure the fulfilment by Russia of its treaty obligations to China and other nations in respect to trading privileges.

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

AMERICANS SYMPATHISE WITH JAPAN.

London, March 10.

At a dinner of the Wisconsin Society of New York, General Wheeler referred to the Japanese naval successes as truly indicating Japanese greatness. This declaration was received with cheers.

Mr. Uchida, Japanese Consul-General at New York, declared that Japan was struggling for her national existence and only asked for fair play and straight dealing. At the end of his speech, the company rose and cheered for some minutes.

Mr. Pratt, Assistant-Attorney-General, hoped as a private citizen that Japan would continue as she had begun.

Members of Congress and others all spoke in favour of Japan.

THE TZAR AND VLADIVOSTOCK.

London, March 11.

The Tzar has congratulated the garrison at Vladivostock on its baptism of fire. His Majesty says he is convinced all will make a rampart of their bodies to protect Russia's stronghold against the enemy.

THE BRITISH FISCAL QUESTION.

London, March 11.

In the House of Commons the motion of Mr. Pirie, condemning the continued agitation in favour of preferential and protective tariffs. which, he said, is encouraged by the language of certain Ministers, has been rejected by 289 to 243 votes.

Twenty-six Unionists voted with the minority. The above vote is regarded as hastening the general election.

RUSSIAN DESTROYER LOST.

A Russian torpedo-boat-destroyer has been lost between Crete and Port Said. The crew were saved.

BALTIC SQUADRON AND THE N. E. PASSAGE.

The Temps correspondent at St. Petersburg states that the Russian Baltic squadron will probably leave for the Far East in July next. It will attempt to force the north-east passage.

RUSSIAN HORSES.

London, March 12.

The exportation of horses from Russia has been prohibited.

THE "DMITRI DONSKOI" GOES HOME.

The Russian warship *Dmitri Donskoi*, which has been repairing at Suez, has entered the Canal.

A BRITISH DEFICIT.

Later.

The Times computes this year's deficit at two million pounds sterling and next year's expenditure at 141,876,067 pounds sterling. The prospect for the taxpayer is not cheerful.

THE SULTAN OF JOHORE.

The Sultan of Johore has called on the Hon. E. J. Lyttleton, British Colonial Secretary, at the Colonial Office.

THE LAST ATTACK ON PORT ARTHUR.

London, March 13.

Viceroy Alexieff reports that in the course of a reconnaissance before dawn on the 10th of March, six Russian torpedo boats encountered some Japanese torpedo-boats and cruisers outside Port Arthur. A hot action ensued. The Russian torpedo boat *Stereguschtchi* and one Japanese torpedo-boat were sunk. Four of the former's crew were captured. Admiral Makaroff went to the rescue with the *Novik* and *Bayan*, but as the *Stereguschtchi* was surrounded by five Japanese cruisers, he was compelled to retire. The enemy bombarded the ships and fortress with their heavy guns at long range until 1.15. The Russian losses in the night engagement and the bombardment together totalled six officers and 31 men wounded and three men killed.

BARON SUYEMATSU IN ENGLAND.

London, March 14.

Baron Suyematsu has arrived at Liverpool. It is believed he has some mission.

GENERAL KUROPATKIN DEPARTS.

General Kuropatkin had a magnificent send-off at St. Petersburg when starting for the front. He will probably make a railway train his headquarters.

His aide-de-camp, on being interviewed, said that General Kuropatkin would first recall all troops from Korea and begin operations in May. He thinks that he will have done with Japan by the end of July.

PRAISE FROM BERLIN.

Military and naval critics in Berlin admire unreservedly the manner in which the Japanese are using their fleet to support their military operations, the mobility of the fleet, and the consummate skill of its commanders.

RUSSIA PATROLS THE MEDITERRANEAN.

Later.

The *Dimitri Donskoi* is patrolling the North Egyptian coast. She stopped the German liner *Stuttgart* and the British steamer *Mortlake*, the latter bound from Batoum to India. The *Dimitri Donskoi* fired across the *Mortlake's* bows and inspected her papers.

BARON SUYEMATSU INTERVIEWED.

London, March 16.

Baron Suyematsu has been interviewed by a representative of Reuter. He said he wished the world to understand that Japan was not waging war for the purpose of material gain or of enlarging her territory. What was called the Yellow Peril was a kind of nightmare. Japan would do her work in such a way as to secure peace for some decades.

A GOVERNMENT DEFEAT.

Later.

On a motion by Mr. Redmond to reduce the Irish Education vote the Government was defeated by 141 to 130 on a scratch division.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND THE CLERICALS.

London, March 17.

The French Government was defeated yesterday by a majority of eleven, the figures being 282 to 271, on an amendment making the period for suppressing clerical teaching ten years instead of five as proposed by the Government.

THE FRENCH NAVY.

M. Pelletan, replying to recent attacks upon him, said that since taking office, he had re-inforced the squadron in the Far East, which would be completed by a torpedo destroyer division.

He had also provided for the safety of the Colonies by the organization of mobile defence in the shape of destroyers and submarines [wherein nothing previously done construction ships due improvement besiegers' personnel was fairly satisfactory.]

THE SQUADRONS.

He said the Channel and Mediterranean Squadrons could sail at a moment's notice.

(Received at the Legation of France.)

KUROPATKIN STARTS.

Saigon, March 16.

General Kuropatkin has started for the scene of the war. He was loudly cheered on leaving St. Petersburg.

THE PORT ARTHUR SQUADRON.

The Russian squadron in Port Arthur went out of the harbour on March 11th but did not see anything of the enemy. All is tranquil.

FRANCE AND THE FAR EAST.

Saigon, March 17.

M. Pelletan, French Minister of Marine, replying to the adverse criticism lately pronounced against his administration, said that he was going to increase the mobile military force at Saigon, and that he would send two submarines and some torpedo boats to Cochin-China.

THE WAR.

All is calm at Port Arthur. There have been some cavalry skirmishes in the north of Korea.

The ice is beginning to break in the Yalu.

INTERPORT FOOTBALL.

(From our Correspondent.)

Kobe, March 12.

The Interport Association Football match, played here this afternoon, proved a draw, neither side scoring. A good, hard game was played throughout. Kobe in the second half was most determined, but their forward line was not strong enough and could not get past Kilby and Waddilove, who practically saved the day for Yokohama.

(From the "Jiji Shimpo.")

JAPAN'S REPLY.

London, March 9.

The British papers publish the Japanese note combatting the Russian circular alleging that Japan committed a breach of International Law. The papers add that the reply of Japan is dignified and clear.

MARQUIS ITO.

The newspapers of Great Britain declare that the visit of Marquis Ito to Korea is of great importance.

RUSSIAN FORTIFICATIONS.

It is stated that Russia is incessantly labouring at the construction of fortifications at Hai-ping, Hai-ching, and Liao-yang.

THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA.

London, March 10.

Russia has published in American papers a statement believed to have been prepared by her Government. It criticizes the attitude of Mr. Hay, Secretary of State, and says that he is considered to be exciting the active opposition of the United States towards the purposes of Russia. (The rest of the message is mutilated.)

THE USE OF SUB-MARINES.

London, March 11.

The report of the umpires in the last British Naval Manœuvres, say that a sub-marine vessel might have torpedoed four battleships.

RUSSIA'S CAUTION.

Russia has proclaimed a state of siege on the railways to the east of Lake Baikal.

KOREAN STUDENTS.

Russia has engaged five Korean students of the Kazan School as interpreters.

BLOCKING NEWCHWANG.

According to a correspondent of the *Standard*, Russia intends to sink the gun-boat, *Sivootch* at Newchwang with the idea of blocking the Liao River.

ANOTHER PORT ARTHUR ENGAGEMENT.

London, March 12.

It is officially announced in St. Petersburg that the Russian torpedo-boats attacked the Japanese squadron early yesterday (?) morning off Port Arthur, in which engagement the Russian torpedo-destroyer *Stereguschtchi* of 350 tons and a Japanese torpedo-boat were sunk.

On the 10th, the Japanese Squadron bombarded Port Arthur with two hundred shells through the rear part of Lao-ti-shan, the result being that the buildings in the town were damaged.

THE RUSSIANS ON THE YALU.

The condition of the Russian troops in the vicinity of the Yalu river shows much defect in organzation.

PORT ARTHUR.

The following telegram was received on March 13th by the Naval Department:—

The two forts at Ye-yuen and Hwong-tsi-yen have sustained severe damage and the guns were dismounted.

The European part of the town was destroyed on the morning of the 10th by fire, which was caused by the Japanese shells. The old town was deserted, the residents, it is believed, having left before the bombardment.

No troops were seen on the forts.

Four Russian torpedo-destroyers were lying inside the *Retvisan*. No smoke was seen from them. No one was seen on board the ships.

The following telegram was received in a certain quarter on the 13th from Chefoo:

A German steamer chartered by the London *Daily Mail*, proceeded on the morning (? of the 12th or 13th) to the entrance of Port Arthur where no one attempted to stop her. She went near the *Retvizan* on which nobody was seen. A great conflagration was however seen on land.

The foregoing information combined with that given by the men of a junk which came from Dalny, shows that a severe engagement continued from the night of the 9th to the following day at Port Arthur, and that the Russians abandoned the fortress setting fire to the buildings.

The British steamer *Foxton Hall*, which had been detained at Port Arthur since Feb. 8th, got out herself from the port and arrived at Chefoo. She does not seem to have seen anything at Port Arthur.

RUSSIAN REINFORCEMENTS.

London, March 14.

It is stated in St. Petersburg that the Tenth Division of Kharkov and the Fifteenth of Moscow will shortly leave for the Far East.

DAMAGE AT PORT ARTHUR.

According to information from a Russian source at the naval engagement on Thursday (the 10th), a hundred and forty Russians were killed or wounded. The fort on Tiger's Tail was severely damaged. Five shells of the enemy burst on the *Retvisan*.

GENERAL KUROPATKIN.

Last night, General Kuropatkin left Moscow.

(From the "Asahi Shimbun.")

RACE RIOTS IN AMERICA.

London, March 11.

A negro having been executed at Springfield, Ohio, his brethren rose in riot and committed an outrage. Two thousand whites then set fire to the town inhabited by the coloured men. Troops were sent to the scene to put down the disturbance.

A ROYAL NURSE.

London, March 14.

It is expected that the Grand Duchess Olga will leave for Manchuria to supervise the Red Cross Society's operations.

THE BAIKAL RAILWAY.

The Russian Government has decided to spend 756,000 roubles additional to complete speedily the construction of the Baikal Railway.

ADMIRAL MAKAROFF.

After the arrival of Admiral Makaroff at Port Arthur, the spirit of the fleet is reported to have revived. According to information from the Admiral, they calmly attend to their duties even in serious engagements.

THE "VARYAG" AND "KOREETZ."

The Tzar has decorated the officers and men of the sunken ships *Varyag* and *Koreets*.

(From the "N.-C. Daily News.)

RUSSIA PREPARING TO RETIRE.

London, March 5.

It is stated that the Russians are preparing to retire on the main railway, and depend on an engagement inland to arrest the Japanese advance.

The headquarters of General Kuropatkin and Viceroy Alexeieff will be at Moukden.

SOMALILAND.

Reuter's correspondent at Aden reports that a new Mullah, of the Ogaden tribe, has raised the standard of revolt.

NEW BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO RUSSIA.

The Hon. Charles Hardinge, C.B., has been appointed Ambassador at St. Petersburg, in consequence of the retirement of the Rt. Hon. Sir C. S. Scott, G.C.B.

TROUBLE BREWING IN MANCHURIA.

Peking, March 3.

Several hundred Chinese coal-miners at Wushan near Hêngtien have gone on strike against the Russians.

A secret organisation composed of Polish Jews, refugees from Harbin, and fugitive convicts from Siberia is projecting a movement against the Russians. Its leader is energetically collecting twenty-five thousand foreign desperadoes and Chinese miners and bandits for this purpose.

JUSTIFYING JAPAN.

London, March 3.

The Times, commenting on the Japanese reply to the Russian notes, says it is small wonder that Japan announced on the 6th of February that she must resort to independent action. The Japanese statement has no difficulty in disposing of Russia's childish suggestion that she (Russia) should be allowed a further comfortable period in which to wait. Our ally put her navy in motion with a promptness and courage that extorted the admiration of the world. Her action accorded with the practice that has prevailed in most modern wars.

The *Daily Chronicle* considers Russia's complaints peculiarly flimsy. Her contention is so weak that a reply was scarcely necessary.

BRITISH PREPARATIONS.

London, viâ Bombay, March 3.

A draft of the Army Service Corps and 152 Sherwood Foresters for Hongkong, and 295 men of the second and fourth Manchesters for Singapore, are to embark on the P. & O. S. *Manila* on Saturday.

Later.

It is stated that 2,000 additional troops are going to Malta, it is supposed with a view of proceeding to China in the event of neccessity.

RUSSIAN REPORTS OF JAPANESE MOVEMENTS.

London, March 4.

General Flug, Chief of Staff at Port Arthur, reports on the 2nd instant that 6,600 Japanese with 200 cavalry are occupying Pingyang, which is fortified, and is being daily reinforced by troops bought from Fusan to Chinnampo by sea.

The dispatch adds that 2,500 Japanese without artillery have landed at Songchin in Plaksin Bay, and are marching on Maoourchan in Southern Manchuria, and Port Arthur.

RUSSIAN PATRIOTISM.

London via Bombay, March 7.

A considerable number of men are volunteering at Vladivostock. One man has been selected from every two farms, and a corps of irregulars is being formed.

RUSSIAN SURVIVORS FROM CHEMULPO.

Hongkong, March 7.

The M. M. steamer *Australien* takes the Russian refugees to join at Saigon those brought down by the *Pascal*. They will all then proceed to Colombo, whence they are to be sent to Russia on parole.

DISSATISFACTION IN FRANCE.

London, March 7.

A heated controversy is going on in France owing to revelations of deficiencies in personnel and equipment, and administrative inefficiency.

The navy is being especially attacked.

THE DREYFUS CASE.

The Court of Cassation has granted Dreyfus's demand for a revision, and has ordered the necessary proceedings.

The enquiry has revealed further forgeries on the part of Generals Mercier, Gonse, and others.

MURDER OF A BRITISH AGENT,

London, March 8.

An Arab in the Aden hinterland has shot and killed Captain Warneford, Assistant Political Agent.

VLADIVOSTOCK.

London, March 9.

Most of the inhabitants of Vladivostock are sending their families inland whither the schools are also being removed.

The price of foodstuffs has risen exorbitantly.

MR. WALKER'S TEAM IN AUSTRALIA.

Australia won the fifth test match by 218 runs.

NEWCHWANG.

London, March 10.

Reuter's agent at Yinkow (Newchwang) says that the Russians landed at Newchwang yesterday from the train two five-inch siege guns and two six-pounder howitzers. The neutral warships are leaving Newchwang. The British Consul is urging the women and children and British subjects to leave the port.

HONGKONG CHARITY.

Hongkong, March 10.

A Committee of Europeans and Chinese has been formed, under the presidency of Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., to invite subscriptions to provide additional hospital comforts for all the sick and wounded, also to aid the families of the Japanese killed in the war.

(From the "S.-China Morning Post.")

NEW BRITISH TRANSPORT CONTRACT.

London, March 1.

It is announced at Ottawa that the British Government has effected a new contract with the Canadian Pacific Railway for the transportation of troops to the Far East in case of emergency.

RUSSIAN TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES.

London, March 2.

It is reported from St. Petersburg that owing to the dangerous inadequacy of the supplies to the army in Manchuria, trains are being heavily laden with stores which were originally intended to be sent by sea.

These provision trains are leaving Russia daily for the front, but they are seriously increasing the already congested traffic on the lines and delaying the forwarding of troops.

WAR RISKS.

London, March 1.

The Russian declaration that steamers besides coal cargoes are liable to confiscation has caused great consternation in Cardiff. The heads of the coal exchange propose making recommendations on the matter to the British Government.

FOOD SEIZURES.

The United States Government has expressed the opinion that foodstuffs must not be seized without payment unless they are intended for the forces of the opponents.

FEVERISH HASTE.

London, March 2nd.

Russia is feverishly hastening the completion of the new warships which are being constructed in the Baltic.

GENERAL IAN HAMILTON TO ACCOMPANY THE RUSSIAN ARMY.

London, February 9.

General Ian Hamilton will, in the event of war, be appointed British Attaché to the Russian forces, and on conclusion of hostilities, he will probably proceed to South Africa to command the forces there.

Later.

General Sir Ian Hamilton has started to join the Russian forces.

OBITUARY.

London, February 3.

The death is announced of Sir Edward Braddon.

The death is announced of Mr. Pickard, the Member for Normanton.

London, February 7.

The death is announced of the Right Hon. Joseph Powell Williams, Member for South Birmingham.

AN EXTRAORDINARY REPORT.

London, March 3.

It is persistently stated in St. Petersburg that a squadron, including the new ironclads, will sail for the Far East in June.

The squadron will be accompanied by twelve colliers, but as these will hamper the progress of the fleet it is suggested that France be asked to cede to Russia a point in the Red Sea and an island off Saigon as coaling stations.

(From the "Shanghai Mercury.")

AFFAIRS IN RUSSIA.

London, March 8.

Russia has ordered from an American firm, a complete trolley apparatus for the rapid coaling of warships at sea.

A million and a half sterling has already been subscribed in Russia for the increase and repair of the fleet.

H.M. the Czar has announced that he will replace the cruisers *Varyag* and *Koreets* at his own expense.

(From the "Der Ostasiatishe Lloyd.")

FIRE AT PENANG.

Hongkong, March 9.

A block of buildings was gutted in Beach St., Penang, on the 8th. Damage, $350,000.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer	Date.
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Korea 1	Sa. Mar. 19
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric 2	W. Mar. 23
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Lyra 3	Th. Mar. 24
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hamburg	Sa. Mar. 26
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Victoria	Su. Mar. 27
Canada	C. P. R.	Athenian 4	M. Mar. 28
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	M. Mar. 28
Europe	M. M. Co.	Salazie	Th. Mar. 30
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. April 4
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co	Em. of China	Th. April 7
America	P. M. Co	Siberia	Su. April 10

1 Left Nagasaki on the 15th inst.

2 Left San Francisco on the 5th ult.

3 Left Seattle on the 3rd inst

4 Left Vancouver on the 7th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Preussen	Sa Mar. 19
America	P. M. Co.	Korea	M. Mar. 21
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Th Mar. 24
Europe	M. M. Co.	Armand Behic	F. Mar. 25
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Lyra	F Mar 25
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Victoria	M. Mar. 28
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Athenian	M. Mar. 28
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	W. Mar. 30
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. April 4
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Siberia	M April 11
Canada	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	F. April 18

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Puglia, Italian cruiser, 2,538, Captain Pescetto, 11th March,—Honolulu.

Preussen, German steamer, 3,278, Prehn, 13th March,—Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Heathdene, British steamer, 2,277, W. J. Milburn, 14th March, — Muroran, General. — Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Labor, Norwegian steamer, 949, J. Jensen, 14th March,—Nagasaki, Coal.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Mogul, British steamer, 2,354, Bailey, 14th March,—New York via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Babelsburg, German steamer, 1,378, Wendt, 15th March,—Hongkong, Sugar.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Menelaus, British steamer, 3,006, H. W. Evans, 16th March,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Knight Errant, British steamer, 4,779, Kendall, 16th March,—Norfolk, Coal.—A. Weston.

Rajah, British steamer, 3,634, J. Clingen, 16th March,—Rangoon, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Brisgavia, German steamer, 4,166, Schülcke, 16th March,—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Armand Behic, French steamer, 2,819, Flandin, 16th March,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Itola, British steamer, 3,362, W. Robertson, 16th March,—Rangoon, Rice and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Rhipeus, Dutch steamer, 1,958, Husband, 16th March,—Kobe, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Ikhona, British steamer, 3,383, H. J. Willsher, 16th March,—Rangoon, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

China, American steamer, 3,186, D. E. Friele, 17th March,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, E. Beetham, 17th March,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Heathdene, British steamer, 2,277, W. J. Milburn, 17th March,—Muroran, General.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Sydney, French steamer, 2,077, Blanc, 12th March,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

A. G. Ropes, American ship, 2,303, Rivers, 12th March,—Kalni, Ballast.—Standard Oil Co.

Perla, British steamer, 908, A. H. Notley, 13th March,—Kobe, Sugar.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Benlomond, British steamer, 1,752, Currie, 13th March,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Agamemnon, British steamer, 4,462, Day, 14th March,—Victoria, B.C., Seattle, Tacoma, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Itaura, British steamer, 3,363, Kendall, 14th March,—Kobe, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Prometheus, Norwegian steamer, 1,023, Larbriggen, 14th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Java, British steamer, 2,632, S. Barcham, 14th March,—London via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Tydeus, British steamer, 4,800, M. H. F. Jackson, 15th March,—Hongkong via Kobe, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Pakling, British steamer, 2,875, Lewis, 15th March,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire

Dolores, American schooner, 128, Herren, 17th Mar.,—Guam, General.—MacArthur & Co.

Robt. Dickinson, British steamer, 1,331, Blair, 17th March,—Kobe, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Ujina, British steamer, 3,426, S. Boon, 17th March,—Karatsu, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per French steamer *Armand Behic*, from Marseilles via ports:—Mrs. Kann, Mr. E. Wallach, General Hamilton, Mr. W. M. Mottley, Mr. R. Kann, Mrs. S. Anatolie Lannoy, Mrs. S. Guillaume Michet, Mr. Maurice Laubie, Mr. and Mrs. Francisco Anchorena, Mr. Alfredo Bustamente, Mr. H Muray, Mr. H. M. Davern, Capt. Liddle, Mr. F. R. Cornish, Mr. Shaw, Mr. R. E. Gill, Mr. F. H. Bugbird, Mr. Chandler Gibbens, Mr. Gysin, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. H. Aubert, Mrs. Naitow, and Mr. Tallers, in cabin.

Per German steamer *Preussen*, from Europe via ports:—Baroness V. Katze, Mr. P. Sticklen, Dr. Reipen, Mr. A. Seekamyr, Major Shokei Yoda, Mr. T. Saito, Mr. L. Barzini, Sir G. Errington, Lady Errington, Mr. T. S. Oesteneicher, Mr. S. H. Grayen, Mr. Wm. Cowan, Mr. Edwards, Mrs. Edwards, two children and two amahs, Mr. W. Schoflocher, Mr. V. H. Sale, Mr. C. Refardt, Com. Rath, and Mr. R. Simen, in cabin; Mr. McMillan, Mr. L. Lum Felde, Mr. M. Franco, Mr. S. Regis, Mr. Sun Tse Chong, Mr. W. W. P. Harty, and Lady Errington's maid, in second class; 10, in third class.

Per American steamer, *China*, from San Francisco, via Honolulu:—Capt. W. A. Adams, Mr. T. Akashi, Mr. I. C. Balet, Mr. Paul Cowles, Mr. J. W. Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Harding Davis and maid, Mr. R. V. de Laguerie, Mr. M. H. Donohue, Mr. John Fox, Jr., Mr. C. D. Hagerty, Mr. Wm. Munro and Valet, Mr. L. E. Hinrichs, Lieutenant Comd, W. S. Hughes, Mr. K. Ito, Mrs. K. Ito and maid, Mr. O. Kai, Dr. Katsunuma, Mr. T. Onodera, Capt. J. B. Milton, Mr. H. Shimomura, Mr. T. J. Smith, Mrs. T. J. Smith, and Mr. S. Tachi. For Kobe:—Mrs. E. G. Delano, Mrs. M. S. Porter, and Mr. W. C. McOsborne. For Shanghai:—Mr. J. H. N. Beddoes, Hon. F. D. Cheshire, Mrs. G. L. Dudley, Mr. L. E. Johnson, Miss M. Kelly, Mr. C. Kliene, Mr. P. W. Massey, Mr J. F. Millard, and Miss L. Moon. For Hongkong:—Mr. O. L. Babcock, Mr. E. A. Bartlett, Mr. C. E. Beaty, Mr. D. W. Britting, Mr. A. M. Glover, Mr. Amos Gotting, Mr. A. H. Davis, Mr. A. M. Green, Mr. A. G. Hale, Mr. W. C. Hartridge, Mr. P. E. Hemmett, Miss B. Irwin, Miss M. Jamison, Miss L. M. Kooken, Mrs. A. M. Green, Mr. Chow Yu Kwan, Mr. H. Hugo, Lt. Comm. Hugh Rodman, Mr. H. F. Labelle, Mr. L. F. Lawton, Miss M. McCann, Mr. D. Q. McComb, Mr. I. B. Nutter, Mrs. L. L. Ormsby, Mr. John G. Remey, Mr. Geo. F. Richmond, Mrs. M. C. L. Sherwood, Capt. H. K. Struve, Mr. V. E. Towles, Mr. J. U. Van Senden, Mr. E. L. Watson, Mr. C. D. Whipple, Mr. N. H. Whitford, Mr. F. Whiting, and Mr. R. P. Yates, Jr. For Nagasaki:—Dr. E. A. Sturge, and Mrs. E. A. Sturge, in cabin; 13, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. T. H. Allen, Mr. C S. Schultz, Mr. H. T. Rice, Mr. Smith, Mr. Absell, Mr. T. Baddeley, Mr. and Mrs. Pearson, Mr. C. H. Thorn, Mr. J. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Gray and child, Mr. E. L. D. Bayle, Mr. J. P. Mollison, Mr. J. M. Mollison, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Calver, Mr. J. B. Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Lee, Mr. Paul, and Mr. Barton, in cabin; Mr. Chin Ty Pun, and Mr. Ogurusu, in intermediate. In Transit:—Rev., Mrs. and Miss Thaburn and 2 children, Miss Blackstock, Miss Maxey, Mr. A. C. Rae, R.A., Miss O'Hagen and maid, Miss Hooper, Mr. Mand, Surgeon E. R. Gragebrook, Mr. Mrs. and Miss McGay, Mr. A. R. Ireland, R.N., Mr. T. B. Shettle, R.N., Miss Burton, Bishop Thoburn, Mr. Chas L. Carter, U.S.N., Mr. Wong He Chong, Mr. J. Laughlin, Mr. H. Frosh, Mr. W. Brand, Miss Ethel Forester, Mr. A. J. Carlil, Mr. L. G. French, and Mr. J. S. Scott, in cabin; Mr. Lenie Jung, Mr. Mak Kee Hin, Mr. W. G. Hunter, Mrs. Maud Calson, child and infant, Mr. E. C. Hunter, Mr. H. R. Palak, Mr. G. W. Kirwin, Mr. Fujimori, and Mr. Cooper, in intermediate; 1 Korean, 5 Indians, 90 Chinese, and 21 Japanese, in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Sydney*, for Marseilles via ports:—Mr. W. B. Mason, Jr., Mr. A. Kingdon, Mr. A. Rizzelti, Mrs. G. B. Fiske and amah, Mr. W. S. Moss, Mr. James Waddilove, Mr. E. W. Kilby, Mr. H. Aubert, Mrs. N. Naitow, Mr. W. B. White, Gen. Moose, Mr. C. F. Cox, Mr. Chandler Gibbens, Mr. F. H. Bugbrid, Mr. W. Harris, Mr. S. Wheeler, Mr. M. Devandass, Mr. E. C. Baugher, Mr. Chew Ket Sum, Mr. Wong Sing Ching, Mr. Yen L. Sung, Mr. V. H. Cheng, Mr. Yen Cheung fu, Mrs. O. Ney, Mr. and Mrs. A. Raza and 3 children, Mr. Attilie Alfonsi, Mr. J Finchett, Mr. H. Parker, Mr. D. Ishii, and Mr. K. Yamamura and boy, in cabin; one sailor, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Java*, for London via ports:—Mr. F. A. Oldis, Mr. J. L. Kimmins, Mr. F. J. Blake, Mr. B. Ikeda, Mr. K. Kunishima, and Mr. K. Yamashita, in cabin.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw & Waste silk shipped per steamer *Sydney*:—

	RAW.				WASTE.			
	Marseilles	Option.	Lyon.		France.	Bale.	Russia.	
Ulysse Pila & Co...	—	—	41	—	—	—	—	—
Nabholz & Co.......	39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sieber & Co.	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sulzer Rudolph & Co.	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
P. Dourlle	11	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Cl. Eymard	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—
Siber Wolff & Co....	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Otto Streulli.........	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—
Varenne & Co.......	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—
Jardine, Matheson & Co..................	—	—	—	—	48	—	—	—
Bavier & Co..........	—	—	—	—	130	—	—	—
Herbert Dent & Co.	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Total...........	93	—	70	—	180	—	—	—

Per British steamer *Java*, for London via ports:—Raw Silk for Europe, 58 bales; Waste Silk for Europe, 93 bales.

VESSELS TO ARRIVE.

STEAMERS

NAME.	FROM.	REPORTED	
Ardandearg	New York	Passed Canal	Jan. 25
Arabia	New York	Left	Feb. 14
Artemesia	Hamburg	Left	Feb. 16
Asama	London	Passed Canal	Feb. 11
Athenian	Vancouver	Left	Mar. 7
Ballarat	London	At S'hai	Feb. 17
Bencleuch	London	Left H'kong	Mar. 11
Braemar	New York	Left H'kong	Mar. 9
Caithness	London	Passed Canal	Feb. 29
China	San F'cisco	Left	Feb. 27
Claverly	New York	Left	Feb. 4
Doric	San F'cisco	Left	Mar. 5
E. F. Ferdinand	Trieste	Passed Canal	Feb. 5
Em. of Japan	Hongkong	Left	Mar. 9
Gaelic	Hongkong	Left	Mar. 3
Glenlogan	London	Passed Canal	Jan. 21
Glenesk	London	Passed Canal	Feb. 29
Glenturret	London	At S'pore	Mar. 1
Hamburg	Hamburg	Passed Canal	Feb. 25
Handandine	New York	Left	Feb. 15
Idomeneus	Livespool	At S'hai	Feb. 22
Indrawadi	New York	Due Kobe	Mar. 12
Kanagawa Maru	London	At Malta	Feb. 7
Korea	San F'cisco	Left	Mar. 15
Laos	Marseilles	Passed Canal	Feb. 2
Lyra	Seattle	Left	Mar. 3
Machaon	Liverpool	Left S'pore	Feb. 27
Macquarie	Sydney	Left	Mar. 5
Malacca	London	Left S'pore	Mar. 3
Menelaus	Liverpool	Left Kobe	Mar. 15
Mogul	New York	Leaves Kobe	Mar. 12
Nithsdale	Phila.	Passed Canal	Feb. 8
Ningchow	Liverpool	Left	Feb. 4
Okhla	Rangoon	Left Manila	Mar. 16
Palawan	London	Passed Canal	Feb. 22
Richmond Castle	New York	Left	Mar. 1
Roseley	Cardiff	Passed Canal	Feb. 22
Salazie	Marseilles	Passed Canal	Feb. 29
Satsuma	New York	Passed Canal	Feb. 8
Saxonia	Hamburg	Left H'kong	Mar. 11
Shimosa	New York	Left	Jan. 23
St. Bede	New York	Left S'pore	Feb. 29
St. Nicholas	New York	Passed Canal	Feb. 4
Strathnevis	London	Passed Canal	Feb. 8
Suevia	Hamburg	Left	Jan. 30
Telemachus	Liverpool	Left S'pore	Mar. 3
Tiberius	New York	Passed Canal	Feb. 4
Verona	New York	Left	Feb. 15
Wakasa Maru	London	At H'kong	Mar. 9
Willowdene	Hamburg	Passed Canal	Feb. 4

UNDER SAIL.

Acme	New York	Jan. 24	Y'hama
Bretagne	Phila.	Nov. 14	Hiogo
Cannebiere	Phila.	Oct. 2	N'saki
Duguesclin	Phila.	Nov. [illegible]	N'saki
Houdoudin	New York	Jan. 6	Japan
Italia	Phila.	Jan. 20	Loading
Mabel Rickmers	Phila.	Nov. 21	N'saki
Regina Elena	New York	Nov. 12	Y'hama
Renee Rickmers	Phila.	Nov. 5	Hiogo
Rickmer Rickmers	Phila.	Oct. 26	Hiogo
Steinbek	Phila.	Aug. 24	N'saki
S. Margherita	Phila.	Sept. 6	Kobe
S. P. Hitchcock	New York	Aug. 12	Y'kaichi
Tourville	New York	Sept. 11	H'date

SAILING VESSELS.

Marechal de Gontant French bark, 1,743, Donniere, 22nd Feb.,—New York, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

MEN-OF-WAR.

Amagi Kan (10 guns), Japanese gunboat, 920, Com. Minami Yoshitaka, 21st Jan.,—Yokosuka.

Puglia, Italian cruiser, 2,538, Captain Pescetto, 11th March,—Honolulu.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Practically nothing doing.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER YARD.
White Shirting—{ 40 yds. 36 in. 50 yds. 36 in. } ...	0.09 to 0.10
	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	Y.2.85 to 3.60
Grey Shirting—9 lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.80 to 4.25
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches...	3.00 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton Italians and Satteens...	0.20 to 0.40

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	Y.0.35 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 32 in....	0.30 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches...	0.16 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.50 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 to 65 inches ...	0.90 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5 lb per lb	0.60 to 0.66
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	9.50 to 12.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches...	0.90 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0 lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches...	1.90 to 2.25
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 5 lb, 24-25 yards, 32 nches...	2.50 to 3.65

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Y. 140.00 to 150.00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	—
Nos. 38/42, Singles	—
Nos. 32, Doubles...	145.00 to 150.00
Nos. 42, Doubles...	155.00 to 160.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/100, Plain...	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	245.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	295.00 to 305.00
Nos. 2/100 ,Gassed	425.00 to 435.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling...	Nominal.	33
Indian Broach...		26
Chinese		23

METALS.

The market is quiet, but a little business has been done lately.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ⅝ inch and upward...	Y.4.05 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.30 to 4.60
Sheet Iron...	4.65 to 6.90
Galvanised Iron sheets	10.00 to 11.00
Wire Nails, assorted	5.15 to 5.75
Tin Plates, per box...	6.70 to 7.60
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.05
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1¼ inch)	5.00 to 5.50

KEROSENE.

The market is weak.

American	$3.47
Russian	3.20
Langkat	3.30

SUGAR.

Prices have advanced all round.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	Y.6.70 to 7.00
Brown Manila...	6.80 to 7.40
Brown Daitong	5.40 to 6.80
Brown Canton...	5.90 to 7.80
White Java and Penang...	7.50 to 8.40
White Refined...	9.10 to 11.70

INDIGO.

The market continues very dull.

	PICUL.
Java, Medium to best...	270.00 to 320.00
Calcutta, Medium to best	180.00 to 290.00
Madras (*Kurpah*), Medium to best ...	140.00 to 170.00
Madras (Dry Leaf), Medium to best ..	100.00 to 140.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Very little business has been done and most buyers have withdrawn from the market.

QUOTATIONS.	
Filatures—Extra Best, Coarse ... ...Y.	—
Filatures—Extra, Fine	—
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	1,000 to 1,010
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	—
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	910 to 930
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	960 to 970
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	890 to 900
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	910 to 920
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	—
Common—Coarse	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1½	910 to 920
Re-reels—No. 2	—
Re-reels—No. 3	880 to 890
Kakedas—Extra	—
Kakedas—No. 1	920 to 925
Kakedas—No. 1½...	900 to 910
Kakedas—No. 2	880 to 890

Skin-Tortured Babies
AND TIRED MOTHERS
Find Comfort in Cuticura

INSTANT RELIEF and refreshing sleep for Skin-tortured Babies and rest for Tired Mothers in warm baths with CUTICURA SOAP, and gentle anointings with CUTICURA OINTMENT, the great skin cure and purest of emollients, to be followed in severe cases by mild doses of CUTICURA RESOLVENT PILLS, to cool and cleanse the blood. This is the purest, sweetest, most speedy, permanent, and economical treatment for torturing, disfiguring, itching, burning, bleeding, scaly, crusted, and pimply humours, eczemas, rashes, irritations, and itchings, with loss of hair, of infants and children, yet compounded.

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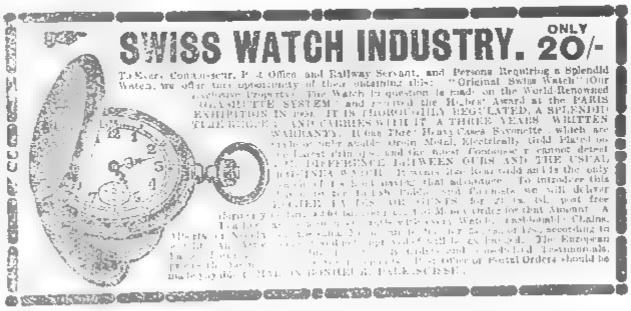

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Noshi—Filatures, Good	170 to 175
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Good...	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	—
Nsohi—Joshiu, Best	130 to 135
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	120 to 125
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	150 to 160
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	140 to 145
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	70 to 80
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	60 to 70

TEA.

No transactions.

QUOTATIONS.	
Choicest	—
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine...	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common...	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, March 17.

London silver ⅛ higher, but no change in sterling quotations from China and local rates close for the mail per steamer *Empress of Japan* as under.

London—Bank T.T.	....	2/0 1/16
— — Bills on demand	....	2/0⅜
— — 4 months' sight	....	2/0 5/16
— Private 4 months' sight	....	2/0 9/16 @ ⅝
— — 6 months' sight	....	2/0 11/16 @ ¾
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	....	253
— Private 4 months' sight	......	257½ @ 7
— — 6 months' sight	......	259 @ 8
Hongkong—Bank sight	............per $100.	91½*
— Private 10 days' sight	do.	88½*
Shanghai—Bank sight	....	77⅝*
— Private 10 days' sight	....	80*
India—Bank sight	....	149⅝
— Private 30 days' sight	....	152⅝
America—Bank sight	....	49
— Private 30 days' sight	....	49¾ @ ⅞
— Private 4 months' sight	....	50⅛ @ ⅜
Germany—Bank sight	....	205½
— Private 4 months' sight	....	210 @ 9¾
Bar Silver (London)	....	26¼

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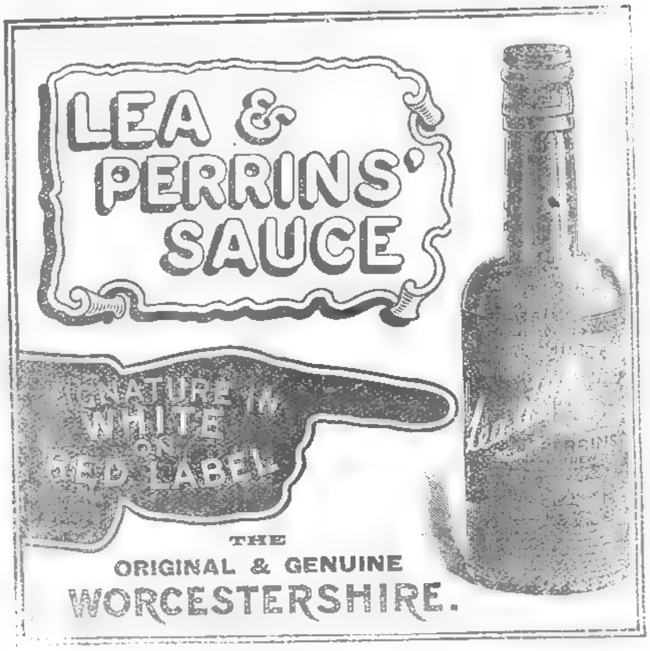

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每土曜日 A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART. 一回刊行

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MARCH 26TH, 1904.

BIRTHS.

On the 18th March, at Yokohama, to Mr. and Mrs. S. KUHN, a Daughter.

On the 23rd March, at 63-A Bluff, the wife of W. F. HARLEY, of a Son.

DEATH.

On 17th March, at Tewkesbury, England, WILLIAM GRAFTON HEALING, aged 70. (By cable).

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

A JINRIKISHAMAN was run over at Hiranuma station on Monday morning.

A CASE of dysentery is reported in Tokyo, the patient being a boy of seven years of age.

LI YONG-IK, ex-Korean Minister for Finance, had audience of the Emperor on March 18.

THE steamer *Goshu Maru*, which went ashore off Ohata, Yamaguchi prefecture, is believed have been refloated.

THE mother of Viscount Aoki died on March 20th at her villa at Nasuno. She had been ill for some months past.

NINTY-FOUR Russians from captured ships who were recently released at Sasebo left Nagasaki on March 22nd by the German Mail steamer for home.

OWING to a gale, a sailing vessel the *Inari Maru*, was wrecked on March 21st at 6 p.m. off Ashigara, Sagami province. The crew of five were saved.

FIRE broke out on March 20th at Miyazaki, destroying five houses, including the office of the *Miyazaki Shimpo*.

A SAMPAN-MAN got his craft in the way of the *Korea* just as the big steamer was leaving Yokohama on Tuesday, with the result that he lost his life.

THREE Russians captured off Port Arthur in the fourth naval engagement were conveyed on March 19th to Matsuyama. They were placed in the Buddhist temple Dairinji.

ACCORDING to a telegram from Nagasaki, a steam-launch employed by the post office was wrecked on March 20th off Hirato. Two of the *sendo* were drowned.

A MAN, about twenty-seven years of age, committed suicide on March 21st at 3 p.m. on the railway near Shinagawa by placing himself before the down-train from Yokohama.

A TELEGRAM from Kobe states that the Osaka Shosen Kaisha has re-opened the Kobe-Yuensan service. The steamer *Tedori Maru* left Kobe on March 20th carrying provisions for the Korean port.

JAPANESE gold coins amounting to *yen* 4,950,000 were exported on March 21st by the *Korea* to America. Since the first shipment in January this year it is calculated that exports of gold amount to *yen* 19,038,357.

Y. SATO, a barber, attempted to murder his wife at Oiso, on the night of March 19th by inflicting servere injuries on her with a razor. He gave himself up at a police station. The cause is said to have been jealousy.

ACCORDING to information brought by a steamer of the Ocean Steamship Company, which arrived on March 20th at Nagasaki, the Company's steamer *Patroclus* was detained by a Russian warship in the Red Sea for three days.

THE Toyo Kisen Kaisha has decided to re-open the service of the American line. For the present, the steamer *America Maru* only will be employed. It is expected to leave Yokohama on April 6th for San Francisco.

Y. HAGIWARA and K. Kimura, two bailiffs belonging to the Omachi Local Court, Nagano prefecture, were convicted on March 21st and sentenced to seven years' minor confinement on a charge of having forged official documents.

THE *Wakasa Maru* arrived in Kobe on Tuesday. It is interesting to read in Hongkong papers that when she left Colombo she was bound for Durban, there to land her cargo, preliminary to returning to England for some Cardiff coal.

MR. SUGIMURA, Japanese Minister in Mexico, telegraphs to the Foreign Office that the Mexican Government has abolished the disinfecting treatment of Japanese emigrants and ships as to which the Japanese Government had presented a protest.

THE Mitsui Bussan Kaisha received on March 17th a telegram from its London branch to the effect that the four-per-cent. Japanese Bonds were quoted at £65½. The price shows that they have risen £2 since the previous report.

TELEGRAMS from Fukuoka report that on March 19th, two explosions occurred at the Mitsui Coal Mine, Tagawa district, with the result that fifteen men were more or less injured and six killed. On the following night, a gas explosion took place at another coal mine in Kurate district. Sixteen men were killed, fourteen injured and thirty are missing.

THE Yokohama Specie Bank received a telegram on March 17th, from its London branch to the effect that the funds for relieving distress among the families of soldiers and sailors at the front collected in that city, amounted to a hundred and ten thousand *yen*.

A SAILOR of the Dutch steamer *Celebes* was arrested on March 17th by the Bluff police and is undergoing examination in the Court. The charge is that he stole money belonging to one of the patients in the General Hospital while he was under treatment there.

THE foreign silk traders of Yokohama, according to the *Yokohama Shimpo*, have organized an association to guard the interest of the business in raw and waste silk. They elected nine as an executive committee, and Mr. R. D. Robison was appointed President, and Mr. H. Abbegg, Vice-President.

THE *Yokohama Shimpo* states that the house tax question, which is now under examination in The Hague, Arbitral tribunal will be settled in December this year. Mr. T. Miyaoka, an official of the Department of Foreign Affairs will be present at the Court, leaving Yokohama in the middle of April.

THE German steamer *Abyssinia* collided on March 18th with the Japanese steamer *Heijio Maru*, which was lying in Shimonoseki Strait while the former was entering. The Japanese steamer sustained damage for which she lodged a claim against the owners of the German steamer.

Two Russians arrived on March 17 at Yokohama from Yamada, Iwate prefecture, and applied to the French consulate for protection as they had no money to return home. It is believed that the men landed at Yamada after shipwreck. The Governor of Iwate sent the men to Yokohama so that they might find a steamer to return home.

THE Toyo Kisen Kaisha held a meeting on March 20th at 2 p.m. when the accounts for the last half year were submitted to the shareholders. The net income was *yen* 202,657.77 to which the balance, *yen* 74,496.27, brought forward from the previous account, was added, making a total of *yen* 277,154.04. Of the total, *yen* 10,132 was set apart as reserve; *yen* 195,000 as dividend at the rate of 6 per cent.; and the remainder was carried forward to the next account.

A TELEGRAM from Nagasaki states that the British steamer *Willowdene* arrived there on the 19th inst. with Cardiff coal. She immediately left for a certain port to land the cargo. Other British ships the *Telemachus* and *Tantalus* carrying 4,500 tons and 1,000 tons of coal respectively from England were expected, also to arrive there on the 20th. The *Asahi* states that the coal of the latter two steamers is for the use of the British fleet.

THE British steamer *Bengloe* has been chartered by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha to take the place of the steamer *Yawata Maru*, which was the first steamer that re-opened the Shanghai line, as the latter has again been taken off the schedule. The *Bengloe* will leave Yokohama on March 31st for Shanghai via ports. It is added by the *Asahi* that the other British ships *Wing-sang* and *Tai-sang* chartered by the same company will be employed on the same line. The former left Kobe on the 19th and the latter will leave on the 26th.

WAR NOTES.

Friday, March 18.

There continues to be a great deal of talk about the results of the last bombardment of Port Arthur, but the only sources of authority are the crews of the three Norwegian steamers which were allowed to escape after the event. They do not appear to know much, or even to be willing to tell what they do know. The only important allegations made by them, so far as we can see, are that no scarcity of provisions or ammunition is felt at Port Arthur and that Admiral Makaroff is showing much zeal and resolution. The fact is that a bombardment by ships, especially when the fire is indirect, can not produce much effect, and can not be in any sense a conclusive operation. It is a mere preliminary.

These Norwegians allege that, when they left Port Arthur. the *Retvisan*, the *Tsarevitch* and the *Sevastopol* were in dock. There is no dock at Port Arthur that could admit even one of these ships, much less three.

They further allege that they saw the Russians take measures to sink, in line with the steamers sunk by the Japanese, an old vessel laden with stones. What on earth would have been the object of such a manœuvre?

They also allege that when they left the port on the 12th instant, there were only the three iron-clads in the harbour. That tallies with the report sent from Paris that on the 11th the Russian squadron put out of the port. But the ships did not go very far, nor did they make any very animated search for Admiral Togo. There is good reason to believe that they are lying once more under the guns of the shore batteries. However, that they are able to put to sea at all is a very important fact. Admiral Makaroff has revitalized them.

According to Newchwang, the Russian *Official Gazette* alleges that Russian scouts have ascertained the presence of four bodies of Japanese troops, each one thousand strong, on the banks of the Chhyong-Chhon River.

Reuter's representative in Newchwang reports that according to statements circulating among Russians in Port Arthur and also in Newchwang, the St. Petersburg authorities have decided not to assume the offensive until an army of 300,000 men has been assembled.

It is expected that the ice on the Liao will break-up about the 23rd instant, and that the British and American gun-boats lying at Newchwang, will leave their moorings early in April.

From Newchwang comes news that the Russian guards there are few in number. They are not quartered in the town, but they march in daily from New-kia-tung.

People in Newchwang are said to expect that the break-up of the ice will be quickly followed by a Japanese attack, and they say that the bandits are all awaiting that event to rise against the Russians.

The Chinese authorities are said to be taking steps to convey inside the wall all food-stuffs found in the region of disputed neutrality on the west of the Liao River, except, of course, such provisions as may be necessary for the sustenance of the inhabitants.

General Ma is said to have sent two aides-de-camp to Mukden and one to Kirin for the purpose of arranging a concerted plan of action.

Mr. Segawa, Japanese Consul at Newchwang, who has just returned to Shimonoseki, reports that the Chinese are all for Japan, and that the news of her successes at sea is received with acclaim. The Russians are now endeavouring to win the goodwill of the people by conciliatory methods, but it is too late. The Liao is still frozen, and it is untrue to say that any attempt was made to get the Russian gunboat out of the river. Neither is it true that the Russians are taking steps to block the Liao: that would be a very difficult operation.

The *Asahi Shimbun* attributes some remarkable statements to Captain Troubridge who has just returned—it is said—from Port Arthur to Shimonoseki. We question the correctness of the *Asahi's* version, but at any rate it represents Captain Troubridge as affirming that the bombardment did great damage, most of the Japanese shells reaching their mark. He further staets that one of the Japanese men-of-war was attacked by a Russian destroyer, and that she barely escaped being torpedoed. There are other assertions but they need confirmation.

There is a rumour that the Russian destroyer *Skori*, when entering the harbour at Port Arthur on the 16th instant, struck an unbuoyed torpedo and was blown up, only four of her crew being saved.

General Kuropatkin is expected to reach Mukden on the 26th and Liao-yang on the 28th instant.

On the 17th instant the Emperor gave audience to several officers—numbering 262—of a certain Division which is on the point of proceeding to the front. On the following day another audience of a similar character was granted to 235 officers of another Division.

Lieutenant-General Uyeda has been appointed to the command of the Fifth Division vice Lieutenant-General Yamaguchi, who becomes a member of the High Martial Council. The Fifth Division has its headquarters at Hiroshima.

Saturday, March 19.

There have been wild rumours in Tokyo to the effect that the Vladivostock squadron put to sea in a blinding snowstorm, and having successfully navigated the Tsugaru Strait, reached Port Arthur safely. We can not find any confirmation of the story.

On the 17th and 18th a violent gale blew in the Sea of Japan. Takeshiki reports that a tremendous sea was running on the latter day.

There are again reports that Viceroy Alexieff has been wounded, but if so the hurt must be very slight for His Excellency is said to be able to move about.

General Tseng is alleged to have yielded to Russian menaces and to be assisting Viceroy Alexieff in many ways. The General laments, so the story runs, that having a mother alive he is unable to die for his country.

Vivid stories are circulated as to the violence and lawlessness of Russian soldiers in Manchuria. Probably the smoke is out of proportion to the fire.

It is stated that Viceroy Alexieff's last proclamation has produced the greatest consternation among the Chinese. Nearly all those living in the vicinity of the railway have fled through fear of being held responsible for any injuries it may suffer. The few that remain are those who can not afford to leave their sole means of sustenance. When we remember what friendly relations existed between the Japanese troops and the Chinese inhabitants in 1894-5, it is impossible not to be struck by the contrast.

Viceroy Yuan is said to be insisting that if Russian troops enter the West-Liao district, China must regard it as an act of war, but the Peking Government adheres to its attitude of do-nothing. Besides, unless rumour be very misleading, Russian troops are already in the district.

The War Office announces that the whole of the Russian squadron in Port Arthur left the harbour for a trial trip on the 16th, and that the ships did well.

On the same authority it is stated that the Russian Government has decided to prepare the best ships in the Baltic Squadron by the beginning of May and send them eastward.

It is stated that the ice on Lake Baikal broke under a military train on the 15th instant, and that 770 soldiers and 60 men of the land transport were drowned.

Eleven Russian soldiers are reported to have died suddenly at a place 22 kilometers from Mukden The cause is unknown.

The mounted bandits of south-eastern Manchuria are said to have crossed into north-eastern Korea on the 7th instant and carried off 60 oxen, the property of Korean guards.

Mr. Kurino left Genoa for Japan on the 16th instant.

The Russian Government has constituted four naval prize courts, one at Vladivostock, one at Port Arthur, one at Libau and one at Sebastopol.

Sunday, March 20.

Viceroy Chang Chih-tung is said to have started for his post in the Yangtse Valley.

London telegraphs from St. Petersburg that every part of the Liaotung Peninsula has been put in a condition of thorough defense, and quotes General Kuropatkin as alleging that there are 230,000 Russian troops between Harbin and Port Arthur. If Kuropatkin has made such a statement, he is drawing too long a bow. Other authorities estimate that the whole Russian force eastward of Lake Baikal does not exceed 150,000.

It is stated that the officers of a balloon corps reached Port Arthur on the 3rd instant.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun's* Chefoo correspondent makes himself the mouthpiece of some Chinese who recently arrived at that place from Port Arthur and Dalny. Probably not much credence can be attached to their stories, but they have a certain interest. One left Port Arthur on the 2nd instant, and, travelling by rail to Tongku, took steamer thence to Chefoo. All the Chinese, he says, went up to the top of a hill and witnessed the Japanese attack on the 25th February. They observed that the Russian ships made their escape into the port and that, presently, a destroyer coming along at full speed, blew up in a cloud of steam near the *Retvisan* and sunk. It is supposed that her boiler burst. More than one half of the carriages in Port Arthur have gone north, and the Russian drivers of those remaining have been drafted into the ranks, their places being taken by Chinamen. There were some twenty thousand coolies at work, many of them being engaged repairing the forts and others restoring the parapet along the canal. This parapet is about 3 feet high and has a length of 2 miles. It was constructed about 2 years ago, but suffered to fall into disrepair, and work is now going on day and night to strengthen it. Embrasures are pierced at intervals. Up to the end of February the coolies were receiving 60 *sen* daily and an allowance of 2 lbs. of rice, but thereafter the sum was reduced to 50 *sen* and the rice was replaced by barley. There are not more than 30,000 Russian troops in the place and they are mostly very old or very young, the best soldiers having gone north. Probably for that reason they showed remarkable alacrity in getting under cover during the attack by the Japanese.

Another Chinaman who left Dalny at the same date, says there were then 200 Russian troops in Dalny and 300 Russian residents, with about ten thousand Chinese. There was constant expectation of a Japanese attack, and preparations were made to retire at once in the event of such a contingency, a train being kept always ready for the purpose. The fort Nan-kwan, 6⅔ miles west of Kinchow, was not yet ready, only 20 mountain guns being in position. At the site of the Shen-tza fort some levelling of the ground was all that had been done. The mines laid at the base of this fort were all exploded by a thunder storm in February.

Another Chinaman who left Port Arthur on the 4th says that between that place and Yinkow he saw a Russian notification which declared that although few Russian troops were in the neighbourhood, Russia had obtained a hundred thousand Chinese braves, who would soon arrive to preserve order and afford protection. Every one was therefore advised to continue his ordinary occupation in peace and security.

In the *Novo Krai* of the 12th and 13th instant, it is stated that in addition to the sinking of the *Stereguschtchi* and the loss of 49 officers and men that formed her crew, the destroyer *Ryeshitelni* blew up in the harbour after the fight. How it fared with her crew we are not told. Our contemporary also says that the destroyer *Vlastnyi* had 4 officers wounded, 2 men killed and 12 men wounded.

Monday, March 21.

The *Kolnische Zeitung's* St. Petersburg correspondent says that the Russian Government contemplates putting an armoured train on the Manchurian railway, and that the train will be ready by May.

Tuesday, March 22.

It is stated that M. Lessar has communicated to the Chinese. Foreign Office in the name of Admiral Makaroff, a message that as the Russians consider it necessary to place mines all along the coast of Manchuria for purposes of defense, Chinese vessels should not approach to within a distance of five miles without obtaining the assistance of a pilot. If they neglect this precaution it will be at their own risk.

It is a large order, the laying of torpedoes all along the Manchurian coast. And the question is: can it be carried out? What facilities has Admiral Makaroff for laying mines along the shore of the Yellow Sea and the Gulf of Pechili? One would suppose that he had command of the sea, whereas in point of fact his cruisers and torpedo-craft do not at present venture to steam eastward or westward of Liaotung.

The fact that the above intimation was conveyed in the name of Admiral Makaroff and not in that of Viceroy Alexieff is considered significant. But we do not ourselves see that much importance of that kind attaches to it.

It is stated that the Chinese residents of Port Arthur and Dalny, being much distressed for provisions, applied to the Taotai at Chefoo to send á steamer to carry them away. The Taotai asked the Russian Consul at Chefoo for a safe permit for the steamer, but the Consul declined to grant it. If Admiral Makaroff can carry out his wholesale project of mine-laying, the over-sea arrival of food-stuffs in Manchuria will be reduced to nothing.

The Chinese Northern Squadron, consisting of 4 cruisers, left Woosung on the 19th instant and reached Chefoo on the 21st.

A telegram to the *Asahi* from Shanghai says that the Russians are vigorously pushing on the defences of Newchwang. Two squadrons of cavalry have arrived, escorting artillery of various calibres, and the guns are being rapidly placed in position. Rumour alleges that there are 15,000 Russian troops in the vicinity.

Dr. Morrison, Peking correspondent of *The Times*, is reported to have reached Shanghai on the 20th. He is represented as saying that when passing Tung-chow he saw a Japanese squadron in the offing. Tung-chow is the city in Shangtung, westward of Weihaiwei, which the Japanese bombarded by way of feint during the war of 1894-5

An account is given by an officer engaged in the fight of torpedo-destroyers on the 10th instant off Liauti-shan. It appears that the Japanese squadron consisted of 4 boats, the *Asashiwo*, the *Shirakumo*, the *Kasumi* and the *Akatsuki*. When the Russian squadron of 6 destroyers came in sight, the commander of the Japanese squadron signalled to his boats to steam at full speed in a direction which would have cleared the Russian line. But owing to the state of the weather this signal was not intelligible on board the *Kasumi* and the *Akatsuki*. Thus only the *Asashiwo* and the *Shirakumo* succeeded in getting out of the zone of danger. It was a little later that the *Akatsuki* received a shell which burst a steam-pipe, and caused the death of 4 men by scalding. Finding herself surrounded by the enemy she concluded that it was all over, and that nothing remained but to die hard. Her gunners worked vigorously, and poured such a storm of shot and shell into the nearest Russian destroyer that the latter, in turn, seems to have become desperate. She steamed at full speed for the *Akatsuki*, apparently intending to ram or at any rate to torpedo. But she missed the *Akatsuki* by about 4 yards, and the torpedo she discharged was equally unsuccessful. As she passed, the *Akatsuki's* gunners gave her such a dose that she never made another effort to fight but steamed away at top speed. At this moment two other Russian boats were within 200 yards of the *Akatsuki* and a fierce fire was interchanged. Just then three Russian cruisers emerged from the harbour, and the enemy's destroyers seem to have engaged them by mistake, affording the *Akatsuki* an opportunity to escape. She had 5 men killed and 2 wounded, so that the Russians' fire was of poor quality after all. The episode closed at 5.30 a.m. so far as concerned the *Akatsuki*.

It is alleged that since the Japanese bombarded Vladivostock on the 6th instant the Russian cruisers in that port have not once put to sea. The ice is expected to melt about the 10th of April.

Wednesday, March 23.

Shanghai and Tientsin send some items of news. One is that the Russians have fifty thousand men concentrated at Harbin; another, that the intendance corps (Russian) has withdrawn from Kinchow to a more convenient situation; and yet another is that Japanese women forcibly detained by the Russians, are compelled to act as nurses in the field hospital at Mukden. These statements do not sound easily credible. Least of all the last. About six weeks ago when the exodus of Japanese subjects from Manchuria was beginning to be considerable, rumour said that several Japanese women whose relations with the Russian officers were of a peculiar nature, had decided to remain with their employers. It is very possible that these women are performing duty as nurses, and that, so far from being detained against their will, they are thus securing permission to remain as well as immunity from danger.

Russia is said to be sending eastward from St. Petersburg materials for 10 torpedo-destroyers of the finest type. Each destroyer's materials will require two trains to carry them. This we learn from a London telegram in the *Asahi Shimbun*. The destroyers are to be put together at Port Arthur. It must be confessed that the demands made upon the capacity of the Trans-Asian Railway grow more and more onerous.

It is stated (*Nichi Nichi Shimbun*) that Russia is employing the lamas in Mongolia to observe and report upon the movements of Chinese troops, and also to collect supplies. Among the latter horses are included. Three thousand animals are said to have been already obtained in this way.

The *Novoe Krai* of the 27th February, as translated by the Foreign Office, says that an announcement was published in Port Arthur in the sense that any Russian families desiring to leave the place and not having means to do so, would receive free tickets to Irkutsk, on application to the police, together with a sum of 10 roubles each.

On the 1st of March the same journal contained a notification the gist of which was that a volunteer force had been organized at Port Arthur and recognised as a force of regulars on the 21st of February.

A notification issued by Lieut.-General Stessel, commandant of the forts, stated that whereas, at the first sound of guns all the officials and others had at once closed their doors and fled for safety, not towards the forts but in some other direction, without regard to the convenience of the defenses but thinking only of their own persons, it was now forbidden to close offices on any occasion before the fixed hour, and any violation of this veto would be severely punished.

Viceroy Alexieff's departure from Port Arthur on the 21st of February seems to have been a very solemn affair. His Excellency received from the hands of the Mayor a piece of sculpture representing apparently the Virgin Mary and the Twelve Apostles, and having a legend to the effect that the people prayed heaven to bring destruction on the crafty enemy. The Viceroy, who was accompanied by a strong guard of honour, doubtless made a suitable acknowledgement of this ceremony, but his reply seems to have been chiefly devoted to urging upon the Mayor the necessity of procuring ample supplies of food-stuffs. The Viceroy started amid a chorus of huzzas, which are described by the Port Arthur journal as having been more impressive than vehement.

Viceroy Alexieff is now said to have officially informed the Chinese that mines have been laid everywhere along the coast of Manchuria at a distance of five-miles seaward. Yesterday it was to Admiral Makaroff that rumour attributed this silly bit of bombast. We do not believe it of either officer. It is just a bunder. The Chinese in Peking are said to be laughing at it, as well they may.

PORT ARTHUR.

Saturday, March 19.

Reports continue to arrive from Chefoo concerning the bombardment of Port Arthur on the 10th instant. The latest informant is the master of a Chinese junk said to have left Su-yueh-tao on the west of Liauti-shan on the 15th instant. The gist of the statement is that the forts suffered greatly, but we are now told that some of the damage was caused by their own defective construction. The Chinaman says further that out of 8 torpedo-destroyers which left the port only 4 had returned up to the 15th, the other four having disappeared, but the nature of this allegation renders it difficult to credit such testimony. As for the Russian vessels injured previously, they have received temporary repairs but are not fit to put to sea. During the attack two Japanese dressed in Chinese costume and four Chinese were executed. Concerning the position taken by the bombarding ships, the Russians have taken care that it shall no longer be out of the range of fire, for they have mounted 12-inch guns on the top of the hill. It will be observed that this Chinese junkman talks of 12-inch guns as though they were mountain artillery, which could be run up a hill 800 feet high at a moment's notice.

All accounts agree that the bursting force of the Japanese projectiles was great. It is alleged that the gunboat *Giljak* (1,300 tons) and a dredging ship were sunk during the bombardment and that about 12 shells fell in the dock. It is evident that if the Japanese ships fired from a position under the cover of Liauti-shan the eastern harbour and the dock would have been directly in their line of fire, and it is also evident that if a dozen, or half a dozen, 12-inch or 10-inch shells fell in the dock its capacity for work must have been reduced to cipher.

There is other talk about injuries but it is all talk, and we have no means of separating the grain from the chaff. Japanese officers remain silent. Throughout the whole war up to the present their reticence has been most praiseworthy. They have never shown the least disposition to magnify the enemy's losses or their own exploits. Possibly they have information as to the precise losses caused by the bombardment but as their own direct observations must necessarily have been very limited, they say nothing.

Again the assertion is renewed that the Russians have sunk two vessels at the mouth of the harbour. The names of the ships are now given—the *Harbin* and the *Hailar*—and it is alleged that the entrance has thus been reduced to 300 feet. It is 350 yards under ordinary circumstances. Unless the Russians apprehend an attempt by Japanese torpedo-boats to enter the harbour, the object of this measure is not apparent; and if that be their idea, a passage of a hundred yards is still dangerous.

Admiral Makaroff is said to be very active. Rumour attributes to him the design of synchronizing the exits of the Vladivostock and the Port Arthur squadrons, so as to take the Japanese between two fires. We do not see what else is left for him unless he decides to await the very apocryphal reinforcements now said to be preparing in Russia.

The prisoners at Saseho are represented as saying that the stores in Port Arthur are overflowing with biscuits and flour, and that the garrison has fully a month's provisions.

It is not surprising to learn that hard as the Russians are working to repair their ships in Port Arthur, want of materials cripples them. Unless they have a stock of iron plates they can do nothing considerable for the wounded line-of-battle ships and armoured cruisers.

It is stated that the torpedoes sunk at Dalny on the 4th instant drifted to Talien Bay in a heavy gale and were considered so dangerous that the Russians exploded them all on the following day.

The Port Arthur newspaper states that on the 7th instant the *Retvisan* was successfully towed into the western harbour. There have been repeated statements in this sense and it is probably true.

On the 15th instant the *Novo Krai* of Port Arthur took the form of a little sheet, to be thenceforth issued at uncertain intervals. The explanation given by the editor is that his staff of printers and compositors have been withdrawn for service in the field.

The *Hochi Shimbun* conjectures that the destruction of the destroyer *Skori*,—which seems to be a fact—was probably due to the mines laid by Japanese destroyers during the night of the 9th,-10th instant. But the *Skori* is said to have suffered when attempting to enter the port, and certainly the accounts given at the time did not suggest the mouth of the harbour itself as the place of the minelaying enterprise. Besides, it is tolerably certain that the Russian squadron, or at least a part of it, put to sea on the 11th and the 12th, and returned safely. What seems more probable is that the results of the destruction of the *Yenisei* are felt even at Port Arthur; in other words, that torpedoes are drifting around.

The *Asahi* reports, on the authority of Takeshiki, that the Russian squadron which left Port Arthur after the bombardment consisted of the *Petropavlovsk*, the *Pobieda*, the *Peresvict*, the *Sevastopol* and the *Askold*—four line-of-battle ships and an armoured cruiser. Their intention was to effect a junction with the Vladivostock cruisers, but they fell in with Japanese scouting vessels and put back to Port Arthur.

Monday, March 21.

Chefoo reports a rumour that another attack was made by the Japanese squadron on Port Arthur during the night of the 18th and the forenoon of the 19th. But nothing is stated about the results, and indeed it is not certain that any attack was made. Those that look carefully over the field of operations, however, must think such an event very probable.

A Chinese subject who left Dalny on the 9th instant, reports that there are very few Chinese troops there, and that preparations have been made to fire an enormous heap of coal which lies near the railway station. A great number of carts and horses were requisitioned at Dalny, but they have all been sent to Kiulien-ching (on the Yalu) and to Tashikiao (the junction of the Newchwang and the Mukden lines). This Chinaman further states that, according to his observation, the Russians are disposed to withdraw into the interior, and that they have a large force, probably ten thousand men, at Tashikiao.

The *Novi Krai* is quoted as saying that all the Japanese have been removed from Blagovestchensk, and that the Vladivostock police have offered rewards for any information as to the whereabouts of Japanese subjects, threatening at the same time to punish any concealment.

Another Chinaman says that at intervals along the line from Dalny to Port Arthur beams of wood are erected, carrying bundles of cotton and straw soaked in kerosene. The Chinese seem to be making a great many strange discoveries.

It appears that the recently reported death of eleven Russian soldiers at a point 22 kilometres north of Mukden was due to a party of bandits. They had wrecked the line just before the passage of a train full of troops, and there resulted an accident in which eleven lives were lost and many were wounded.

The *Jiji Shimpo* says that according to investigations by good authorities the Russian forces now in Port Arthur are three full regiments and one weak regiment of infantry, five thousand garrisen artilley, and a small force of cavalry and artillery. At the rear of the fortress work is vigorously pushed on for defensive purposes, palisades being erected and barbed wire fences put up.

Wednesday, March 23.

Rumours are again reaching Tokyo about another attack on Port Arthur. It is interesting to note that every cardinal incident at that place has been reported in this vague manner in Japan many hours before the receipt of official intelligence. On the present occasion there comes from the Russian side a story that a large part of the Japanese squadron has been sunk. That is totally incredible. Ships are not sunk in bombardments or in attacks planned and carried out as Admiral Togo has been conducting his operations hitherto, unless they are ships intended to be sunk as was the case on the 24th Feb., and we may note that on that occasion also the first story circulated was a statement that four Japanese war-ships had been sent to the bottom. If there has been any new enterprise we ought to hear of it officially within the course of the next day or two, but the fact is that we in Japan are almost the last to hear of anything, happening at the seat of war. Thus the main facts of the first attack at Port Arthur, which was made during the night of February 8th and 9th, were published by *The Times* in London on the morning of the 10th, whereas the official report did not reach Tokyo until the afternoon of the same day. We have alluded to this matter before, and have noted that Tokyo must always expect to be tardily served with news so long as the seat of war is not in direct telegraphic touch with Japan. The Russian military authorities can communicate direct with St. Petersburg, and that is what Viceroy Alexieff did with regard to the torpedo attack at Port Arthur on the night of the 8th-9th and the naval engagement on the 9th. The Viceroy showed on both occasions a degree of manly frankness which was duly applauded in Europe, but unfortunately his subordinates do not equally appreciate the value of veracity, as is shown by the working of the Mukden-Shanghai factory. It may be expected that the intelligence of this fifth attack—if there has been one, which we think more than probable—will reach us first from Europe, and very likely it will speak of the sinking of Japanese ships, as did the opening story of the affair on the 24th of February, for there is reason to think that Admiral Togo has repeated his blocking tactics, though with what degree of success we can not yet say.

The German newspaper of Shanghai publishes a letter from Port Arthur dated the 17th instant, saying that the garrison has 850 oxen and many thousands of pounds of meat, constituting an ample store of provisions. We presume that letter was in reply to some commercial proposal in the sense of forwarding a supply of food-stuffs, for the writer adds that no such supply is now needed.

A telegram to the *Kokumin Shimbun* from Moji alleges that a fight occurred between the Japanese and Russian squadrons outside Port Arthur on the 18th instant, and that a Russian line-of-battleship was blown up and sunk—presumably struck by a torpedo. The Japanese had 7 engine-room hands killed or wounded. No official intimation whatever regarding such an attack has been received in Tokyo. If it had taken place on the 18th, as alleged, news of it would have been received officially by now.

With regard to the recent rumour that the Russians had sunk two vessels at the mouth of the harbour of Port Arthur, it is said to conjectured in naval circles that this measure is designed to break the force of the current, which is so strong that torpedoes can not be kept in position. Concerning this theory there is a story that when the last attack was made, one of the Japanese cruisers lying off the port, observed something like a torpedo drifting towards her. A marine fired at it with a rifle and it exploded. It seemed to have broken away from its moorings, and as similar accidents are frequent, Admiral Makaroff may have ordered the sinking of vessels, which, though they narrow the entrance to 100 yards, have the effect of lessening the force of the current.

It appears to be altogether untrue that the French Representative in Tokyo entered a protest against the bombardment and destruction of the Russian sanatorium on the island San-shan-tao. Reuter forwarded the news on the strength of a statement made in the *Temps*, but leading Tokyo journals have ascertained by inquiry in official quarters that no such protest was entered and that no sanatorium has been destroyed. As to San-shan-tao, our readers doubtless remember that the island was attacked by one of Admiral Togo's cruiser squadrons and that the light-house and other Russian buildings on it were destroyed, but whether they included a sanatorium is a question not hitherto considered. Evidently not.

Thursday, February 24.

Moji appears to be the origin of the rumour that an engagement took place outside Port Arthur on the 18th instant. The story reached other journals as well as the *Kokumin*, the *Jiji* among the number. But the *Jiji* refrained from publishing it as there was evident reason to query the truth of a statement involving the hypothesis that an event so important had remained for nearly five days entirely outside the range of official intelligence. The most circumstantial form given to the tale is that three Russian ships were engaged and that one of them was sunk, and that the Japanese had 7 killed or wounded, including an engineer. On the top of this comes Reuter's intelligence that, according to St. Petersburg, an engagement, or attack of some kind, commenced on the 22nd. The latter appears to be much the more probable version. There is no difficulty in imagining that an event happening on the 22nd at Port Arthur was known in the Russian capital on the same day, or even at the same if not an earlier hour, due allowance being made for difference of longitude. The Russian wires are not congested as are those available between Japan and Europe.

A Chinese despatched by the Chefoo correspondent of the *Asahi* to investigate the state of affairs at Port Arthur, reached on the 10th instant a point within 7 miles of Pigeon Bay. He there learned that in the attack on the 25th ultimo two Russian destroyers had been put *hors de combat*: one the vessel already reported as having been sunk in Pigeon Bay by Japanese cruisers; the other a boat that went down between Pigeon Bay and Port Arthur. The crew of the Pigeon Bay destroyer escaped, with the exception of two men, but as to the crew of the other boat nothing is stated. Proceeding to a village called Liukia the Chinaman observed a battery of 8 guns at a distance of one third of a mile on the sea shore, but not a solitary Russian soldier was in sight. He saw only one officer on a neighbouring hill.

It would appear from this account that the Chinaman made his way round the coast westward from some point on the east of the Liauti-shan promontory, and having reached Pigeon Bay, turned inland, crossing thence to Port Arthur viâ Liukia-tung.

In the last-named town he found 300 artillery-men who seemed to man the shore batteries during the day and to retire to the shelter of the town during the night. Everything in the way of an animal or of food stuff had been seized by the Russians whose conduct, the informant alleges, was of the most disorderly nature.

Proceeding on his way he passed through Kinkia, and learned from the inhabitants that whereas articles of wearing apparel were cheap in Port Arthur, a poud of kerosene oil, procurable in Chefoo for 4 *sen*, was sold at 30 *sen*. Flour was selling at 4½ *yen* per bag, the Chefoo price being 2.20 *yen*. Bread purchasable in Chefoo for .06 *sen* was not to be had under 5 *sen*. The Russians were requisitioning fowls at from 5 *sen* to 10 *sen*, pigs at 1½ roubles each and oxen at 5 roubles, while the services of mules were taken without payment, and unless the owners went with them, they never saw the animals again. On the other hand, if they went they had to find provender. The entry of junks was interdicted, and the people declared that if the Japanese did not arrive soon, all the inhabitants from Port Arthur to Kinchow would be reduced to the direst straits. The Russians were said to be less skilled in the use of their weapons than even the Chinese, and it was alleged that if the latter had rifles they could give a good account of themselves. A junior Russian officer declared that in the fight on the 9th of February, all the batteries at Port Arthur were short of ammunition.

In the fight on the 10th instant, five Russian destroyers had gone out of port but only two had returned. The repairs of the wounded men-of-war had been effected in a most temporary manner with wood only. Not more than 7 or 8 vessels and 10 destroyers were fit to leave the harbour. According to what this Chinaman himself saw, there was one vessel—a long, low ship—lying in the dock, and he was informed that her repairs would occupy about a month. In the east harbour there were two large ships which, it was expected, could be repaired with comparative ease. When the Russian Squadron put to sea on the 12th instant, the *Askold* did not go out, though she was lying in deep water, and it was therefore conjectured that she had suffered some superficial injury. On the shore of the Tiger's Tail a steamer of the East Chinese Railway Co. was lying under water, her decks just awash. On the inward point of the Tiger's Tail a big war-ship was lying aground. (Probably the *Retvisan*, which had been dragged to that position from her original resting place. Ed. *J.M.*). On the other side of the same promontory lay a large four-funnelled war-ship which had lost all her masts, owing, it was said, to fire from the forts. At the middle of the same spit, that is to say, on the east of the West Harbour, four vessels and the big dredger lay awaiting repairs. All the other ships were apparently at sea. Their smoke could be seen in the south. (This account would indicate that 10 war-ships were awaiting repairs, including the *Askold*—Ed. *J.M.*) The squadron did not go more than about 4 miles seaward, returned to the harbour at night. It was stated that on the east of the ships sunk by the Japanese at the entrance there was a boom, and moreover the Russians themselves had narrowed the entrance by sinking two vessels. One of the Japanese ships was said to have been sunk in a position which greatly impeded ingress and egress.

As for the land forces, this informant estimated them at about 2 regiments of infantry and 2,000 cavalry and artillery. A band of Chinese subjects had been organized by the Russians as detectives at a salary of 40 roubles, and whenever they arrested a suspicious character they received a handsome reward. A number of Chinese who had left Port Arthur by permission on the 3rd instant. and had entrained for Newchwang, were compelled to alight at Kinchow, and were set to work at the Sukia fortifications. Provisions were said to be plentiful in Port Arthur. Some further details are given as to the distribution of troops but they are not intelligible.

Returning to Port Arthur on the 15th from Dalny, this Chinaman learned that on the 14th three junks carrying Chinese fugitives had put off from Liauti-shan, but when the fact was signalled to Port Arthur, torpedo-destroyers were despatched from the latter place in pursuit. One of the junks escaped, but four of the passengers in the other were killed and the rest taken prisoners. (Can these things be true?) Since the 14th instant vigorous measures had been in progress to construct a fort on Liauti-shan so that the Japanese ships might not be able to repeat their manœuvre of the 10th instant. Some 300 Chinese and as many Russians were daily employed upon this battery. At the railway terminus some 700 waggons were collected, apparently as vehicles for escape in time of emergency. An order had been issued that all large junks should be drawn inland to a distance of 50 yards from the shore, and all small junks to a distance of several hundred yards. The order had not yet been strictly enforced, but practically all the junks had been rendered unfit for sea.

As usual the first news of operations at Port Arthur reaches us from Russia, in the shape of a report by Viceroy Alexieff to his Government and telegraphed subsequently to the Foreign Office in Tokyo.

The main facts only seem to be given. They are these:—At midnight on the 21st instant two Japanese destroyers appeared off the harbour's mouth, but being sighted by the forts and by the *Bobr* and the *Otvazny*, and being brought under fire, they retired. At 4 a.m. on the 22nd three Japanese destroyers again made an essay but again retired under fire. At 7 a.m. the Russian squadron began to leave the harbour, led by the *Askold*. (Whether it actually left the harbour or not the report does not say). Japanese line-of-battle ships now approached Liaoti-shan and opened fire. The *Retvisan* replied, her guns being trained so that the shells crossed the hill. At 10 a.m. one of the Japanese war-ships was hit by a shell from the forts and retired. Thereafter the Japanese slackened their fire, and the squadron re-assembling, steamed away slowly to the south, all sign of them having disappeared by 12.30 p.m. The Russians had 4 killed on shore and 9 wounded, and one received a contused wound.

Paris sends another version of the same report, namely, that at 9.20 a.m. the *Retvisan* opened fire on 18 Japanese vessels, and that at 11 a.m. the engagement ceased. The Russians had 25 killed and wounded.

These are curiously curt statements. The Japanese official account will probably be more interesting. Perhaps the least explicable item is the behaviour of the Russian squadron which "began to leave the harbour, led by the *Askold*." What became of it. Did it ever consummate its harbour-leaving movement, or did it put back again on sighting the Japanese? Some very exultant telegrams have been reaching us about the squadron's resumption of a sea-going role but if its recovered powers of locomotion are to be limited to "beginning to leave the harbour," and scuttling back again at the aspect of danger its last state seems to be less glorious than its first.

MARQUIS ITO IN KOREA.

Friday, March 18.

The *Nichi Nichi's* Seoul correspondent says that although the Russo-phil party in Korea ceased to be visibly active after the departure of Li Ha-keun and Hyong Sang-kon, there remain among the Emperor's immediate entourage a number of diviners and necromancers who employ all their influence to prejudice him against Japan. These people have been telling His Majesty that though the visit of Marquis Ito is ostensibly friendly, its real purpose is to induce the Court to permit the passage of the Prince Imperial to Japan, where he will be virtually a prisoner. Thus the coming of Marquis Ito is regarded with ill-concealed apprehension. The Marquis will find means to dispel these foolish fears, and it is probable that his visit will have a very material influence upon the relations between Japan and Korea.

On the 17th at 11 a.m. the Marquis arrived in Chemulpo. The Korean and Japanese officials sent to meet His Excellency repaired to the *Hongkong Maru* and lunched with the Envoy. At 3 o'clock the landing was made and at 5 p.m. the Marquis and his suite reached Seoul. They were received at the station by all the Korean Ministers and by many high dignitaries, as well as by an enormous crowd of Japanese and Koreans. A guard of honour attended. It need scarcely be said that the distinguished envoy rode to Seoul in the Emperor's state coach. His Excellency proceeded to a building next door to the French Legation where quarters had been prepared for him.

Saturday, March 19.

Marquis Ito was received by the Emperor of Korea on the 18th instant. Subsequently the Marquis visited the acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cho Pyong-sik.

Sunday, March 20.

On the 19th inst. one of the Korean Imperial Princes visited Marquis Ito. The Emperor being in mourning was unable to make a visit in person. On the same day the Marquis was waited upon by the various Korean Ministers, and in the afternoon he proceeded to the Foreign Legations. On the 20th a party was to be given at the Court in honour of the Ambassador.

It is stated that the Government officials are entirely engrossed with visits and entertainments in honour of the Japanese Ambassador and that administrative business is virtually suspended. Meanwhile the Court and the Cabinet are said to be altogether undetermined as to the policy to be pursued towards the Marquis. Several promoters of progress have been eagerly awaiting the coming of Marquis Ito. The Seoul newspaper has published a programme of 55 articles, which have provoked some ridicule as an evident attempt to curry favour with Japan. It is expected that Marquis Ito will have several interviews with the Emperor, not in his capacity of ambassador, but merely as a Japanese statesman.

Monday, March 21.

Marquis Ito, as arranged, was received in private audience by the Emperor of Korea on the 20th instant. The length of the interview and the nature of the subjects discussed are not stated.

The Koreans seem to have been much perturbed by anticipations as to the issue of Marquis Ito's visit. They are said to have imagined the Marquis would require the Emperor to make a trip to Japan; that he would demand a cession of Korean territory; that he would ask for the pardon and return of the exiles now in Japan; that he would insist on the adoption of a system providing for Japanese interference in the empire's administration, and so forth and so on. But the Marquis has not asked for anything at all or preferred any inconvenient requests. He has merely assured the Emperor that Japan has no intention except to preserve the territorial integrity and the independence of the empire; that she desires to see Korea's finances placed on a sound basis; that she will lend a sum of 5 millions of *yen* to promote that end, and that she offers to Korea the services of competent advisers. In view of these generous and magnanimous declarations the Korean nation has drawn a long breath and broken into smiles.

Tuesday, March 22.

The Emperor of Korea has conferred the highest Order in his gift on Marquis Ito. On the 20th the Marquis had his first private audience. It is stated that all officials, except an interpreter, were required to leave the room, and that a long and intimate conversation ensued between the Sovereign and the Ambassador. What passed is not known publicly, but rumour says that the Emperor places entire confidence in Marquis Ito and expresses a desire that his sojourn in Seoul may be as protracted as possible.

On the evening of the same day the Court entertained the Ambassador and his suite together with the leading Japanese officials. There were uninteresting but cordial exchanges of toasts.

A later telegram says that during the above interview Marquis Ito deprecated any heroic programme of reforms, and also advised His Majesty against changing the organization of the army or largely increasing its establishment. For the rest the conversation is said to have turned chiefly on the relations between the two Courts and not to have taken a political complexion. It goes without saying that the senders of these telegrams append an expression of the Korean monarch's admiration for Marquis Ito's ability, tact and experience.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun's* Seoul correspondent shows the obverse of this pretty picture. It says that not a few Korean officials are endeavouring to make selfish capital of the Ambassador's presence. The natural accessibility of Marquis Ito and their own adroitness in gaining access to him under various pretexts—this is especially true of the officials happy enough to belong to the reception committee—enable them to depict themselves as having gained the full confidence of the celebrated statesmen; a position which they utilize by representing to the Emperor that in the relations they have thus established, and above all in their own continued conduct of them, lies the only hope of serving the State. Self-aggrandisement and personal ambition are the ruling motives of human procedure the world over, but Korean humanity seems be more affected by this leaven than any other section of mundane beings. There is also a party whose units are clever enough to construct a footstool by ridiculing the doings and denouncing the want of patriotism shown by these self seekers, so that, on the whole, Marquis Ito's arrival in Seoul has brought to the surface many unsightly dregs. As for the Court itself, the sentiment by which it is chiefly pervaded seems to be one of relief. The Sovereign and his immediate *entourage* are reported to be saying in the words of the old Japanese proverb: "Tis not so very big, this Fujiyama, when one comes to view it," and finding that all their perturbed anticipations about the uprooting of ancient ways and the cleaning of Augean stables, have no foundation of fact, they are less than ever disposed to put their hands to the plough. Finally this analysis descends to the people. They, we learn, having no private axes of their own to grind and not having been brought under the direct spell of Marquis Ito's personality, regard his forbearance with apprehension and his moderation with suspicion. There is armour, they think, under the velvet surcoat, and one fine morning the country will wake up to learn that its fancied security was the calm before the storm. But, after all, Marquis Ito is not to remain longer than ten days in Seoul, and during such a brief sojourn there can not be much opportunity for him to adopt a new route, still less to undo the re-assuring results his declarations and his mien have produced. It may really prove—the Koreans are alledeg to be saying—that, after all, their country is not to be a dependency of Japan, and that no serious shock will be given to the pleasant and exciting game of intrigue and corruption that has so long absorbed the attention and engrossed the abilities of Korean officialdom.

Wednesday, March 23.

The *Shogyo Shimpo* publishes the alleged gist of what passed between the Emperor of Korea and Marquis Ito at their first private meeting. Previous intelligence is little augmented by this account. It appears that the Emperor expressed profound admiration for the successful progress of Japan, and for the unfailingly able statesmanship that has guided her course, this latter remark being specially addressed to Marquis Ito, of whose services the Monarch spoke in terms of warm appreciation, adding that he trusted the Marquis would assist Korea with his advice. Marquis Ito replied that heroic reforms would seem to be unsuited to a time like the present, when Japan and Russia were at war, and that he ventured to recommend deliberate steps of progress. Above all it appeared unadvisable that any expansion of armaments disproportionate to the national strength should be attempted. The wisest plan would probably be to develop educational facilities with a view to the enlightenment of the people at large and the growth of the country's resources. The Marquis concluded by earnestly hoping that the relations between the two empires would grow constantly closer.

From the same source we learn that the autograph letter of the Emperor of Japan which Marquis Ito presented to the Korean Sovereign, opened with an expression of satisfaction that the recent Protocol marked the commencement of an era of increased friendship between the two empires. His Majesty then said that he was sending Marquis Ito to convey a full statement of his views to the Korean Monarch, and that it would give him much satisfaction to learn that the Marquis had been honoured with an audience and had been interrogated fully by the Emperor of Korea.

Mr. Hayashi gave a brilliant party in Seoul on the 21st instant, in honour of Marquis Ito.

Thursday, February 24.

At a banquet given by the Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs on the 22nd instant, Marquis Ito is said to have made a speech insisting that, according to the most enlightened ideas of the time the essentials of a successful national polity are loyalty on the part of the ruled and benevolence on the part of the ruler. In Korea nothing was more to be deprecated than heroic reforms unsuited to the disposition of the people, and above all it was desirable that squabbles for office and power should cease. The first desideratum was to develop the qualities of loyalty and benevolence without which there could be no such thing as a sound State.

The high Korean officials who heard this speech are said to have been much impressed. Altogether Marquis Ito's sayings and doings seem to be winning golden opinions in Korea.

Marquis Ito is to have his second private audience on the 25th. The Emperor is said to be very anxious that he should remain a long time, but he is determined to leave on the 27th.

KOREA.

Friday, March 18.

The Russians continue to publish in Korea manifestoes warning the inhabitants and the officials that Korea being now under compulsory control by Japan, no orders or ordinances issued by the Seoul Government will be considered to have binding force, and that should the Koreans show any disposition to assist the Japanese, the Russians will treat Korea as a hostile country and inflict due punishment. A document in the above sense is said to have been issued to the local authorities in Hamyong-do. Possibly the Russians may gain something by these intimidations, but to outsiders they look rather ridiculous.

The talk of despatching Korean troops to the northern frontier seems to be replaced by apprehensions that were they sent they would melt away *en route* and that the force reaching the Yalu would be a cipher.

Japanese newspapers say that ex-President McKinley's son has arrived at Chemulpo *en route* for the front. His mission is apparently one of observation.

It is said that there are 1,750 Russian cavalry in Chongju and that they have pushed a strong outpost as far as the Chhong-chhon River. This outpost is within 45 miles of Pyong-yang.

Chemulpo seems to have now an ample supply of provisions. There have been serious losses on the part of speculators who carried great quantities of food-stuffs to the place expecting to find something like a famine. Doubtless for a moment some scarcity existed, but it was quickly remedied; not so quickly, however, as to prevent the circulation of wild newspaper reports.

The newspaper correspondents who proceeded to Pyong-yang on their own account without obtaining military permits, have been ordered to return to Seoul or Chemulpo.

The Seoul correspondent of the *Nippon* alleges that an investigation made on the 4th instant showed an unexpectedly large force of Russians in Wiju, namely, 2 brigades of infantry and 2,400 cavalry with 8 guns. On the same authority it is stated that at Hoi-nyong, a little south of the Tumen, there are over a thousand troopers, but this latter estimate is open to doubt. Tientsin's story that twenty thousand Russians had crossed the Yalu is considered unworthy of credence, but if there be two brigades at Wiju, then rumour has not exceeded its proverbial margin of exaggeration.

Saturday, March 19.

Reports continue to reach Seoul from Chonju and Kasan that a considerable force of Russian cavalry is in the region immediately north of the Chhong-chhon River, that is to say, about 60 miles north of Pyong-yang. If the Russians can induce the Japanese to march direct from Pyong-yang to the Yalu, it will suit their convenience. And unless some turning movement be effected, a battle in the neighbourhood of Anju seems not improbable.

The talk of despatching Korean troops northward to repel the Russian invasion, has not materialized. Seoul telegraphs to the *Shogyo Shimpo* that the mere prospect of going to the front has caused desertions to the number of some 400.

It is again stated that Prince Li Chi-yong will be sent as special envoy to Japan.

Monday, March 21.

The *Nichi Nichi* has a telegram from Seoul saying that the incursions made by Russian troops into northern Korea are partly to obtain provisions, Manchuria having been almost depleted, and partly to exhaust the store of provisions available for the Japanese. It results that there are virtually no cattle or horses left in the district north of Anju.

It is well known that Messrs. Mitsui & Company have a five-years' contract with the Korean Government for farming the ginseng monopoly. There is a report that the Court, or some official of the Imperial Household, has concluded an independent agreement with a French firm, and that Mr. Hayashi has made a representation to the Korean Government urging due protection for Messrs. Mitsui's rights.

On the 21st instant Mr. Hayashi was to give an evening party in honour of Marquis Ito. This is to be followed by a party at the Foreign Office on the 22nd, and a party will be given by Marquis Ito on the 23rd. Other parties also are spoken of.

The *Jiji Shimpo* says that there is a palpable increase in the number of students who have applied to learn the Japanese language in the Government Languages School this year. The figures given are: Japanese language 30, English 20, Chinese 3, French 3, German 1, and Russian 10. Our contemporary's correspondent thinks that these figures indicate the order of influence enjoyed by the Powers.

A telegram from St. Petersburg says that the view as to Korea being a belligerent is gaining vogue in Russia. The Russian Government finds Korea's action inconsistent with neutrality.

Tuesday, March 22.

It appears that there are Japanese troops in Hamyong-do. News comes that a band of insurgents numbering about 300 created a disturbance at a place called Ham-heun, some 45 miles north of Yuensan, along the north-east coast. A party of Japanese were sent from Yuensan to quell them, and there resulted a kind of engagement, in which 8 of the Koreans were killed, 20 wounded and 36 taken prisoners, the Japanese having no casualties except one wounded. Among the Korean prisoners there were some leaders of the movement and from them it was learned—or, at least, they pretended—that they had been acting at Russian instigation.

On the 21st instant it was finally decided to open Yong Am-pho to foreign trade; that is to say, Yong Am-pho is to be regarded as included in the region associated with Wiju, which was opened some time ago.

Wednesday, March 23.

The insurgents whose discomfiture at Ham-heun in Hamyong-do was yesterday reported, are now stated to have been the familiar Tonghaks, whose motto is the extermination of all foreigners including Japanese. The Japanese retained the two ringleaders and released the other 34 prisoners taken by them. It is evident from this incident that Yuen-san has not been left unprotected by the Japanese. Probably the Russian movement originally reported as taking place from Possiet southward of the Tumen ceased its advance because of the discovery that "an obstacle" stood in the way.

It is now stated that Russian instigation had nothing to do with this petty insurrection. The probable cause was discontent with the proceedings of Korean officials.

It is stated that the Russians have a line of videtto posts from the neighbourhood of Kazan all the way to Wiju. They are seizing all the forage procurable in Korea and it does not seem to be enough for their purpose. At Kasan they are said to number some two thousand troopers.

Thursday, February 24.

It appears that the detachment of Japanese recently engaged with the Tonghaks near Yuensan, was under the order of Captain Okuda. The distance from Yuensan to Hamheun is 45 miles by road, but the detachment proceeded by boat along the shore as far as a point 10 miles from Hamheun, which they reached at 10.40 a.m. on the 20th. The same evening at 5 p.m. they arrived in the neighbourhood of Hamheun. Nothing was seen or heard of the Tonghaks until nearly midnight, when intelligence arrived that an attack was about to commence. The Japanese at once divided into two parties and took the initiative, routing the Tonghaks without any difficulty. These were armed only with pistols and matchlocks, which were seized, together with their camp and their leaders.

The *Nichi Nichi's* Seoul correspondent states that although things seem quiet in Korean political circles, there is a bitter struggle going on between the party of the Crown Prince's mother and the Lady Om. Both sides have endeavoured strenuously to win the support of Marquis Ito, but he has treated each alike with studied impartiality. Their feud continues to be none the less vehement, and after the Japanese Ambassador departs, a *coup* of some kind is expected, having for object the elevation of Lady Om to the rank of Empress.

NEWCHWANG.

Newchwang seems to be in great straits for flour. The British and American consuls have telegraphed to Tientsin asking for a supply, however small, and it has been decided that 280,000 lbs. shall be sent forward under escort of British troops, to be delivered to the two consuls and by them alone distributed.

It need scarcely be said that no credence whatever is attached in Tokyo to the story telegraphed from Newchwang *viâ* Paris that a detachment of Japanese landed at the former place and, having made a reconnaissance, re-embarked. That would have been one of the most extraordinary military manœuvres ever heard of. It seems astonishing that such tales should be sent along the wires round the world, but we conclude that current events in the Far East have proved too exciting for the moral equilibrium of some intelligence agents, or that, in the rush of competition, they can not pause to discriminate between the possible and the inconceivable. The Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, unless all accounts be incorrect, has occupied itself during the past month or six weeks with tales of a very wonderful character, one of them being that the Port-Arthur and Vladivostock squadrons emerged from their respective harbours of refuge during a pre-arranged snow-storm and affected a junction without mishap.

Tientsin telegraphs that the Russians are vigorously pushing the defenses of Newchwang and that the foreign and Chinese residents of the place are withdrawing in great numbers. Every train going westward is full of people. Probably because they are wholly engrossed with military matters the Russians seem to be paying no attention to the bandits who are said to rob and murder without let or hindrance. So long as they leave the railway unharmed the bandits may perhaps count on immunity from molestation.

With reference to these defenses of Newchwang the Russians are reported to have effected the purchase of 10 Chinese junks at a high price. These they are about to sink at the entrance to the Liao River. All these doings spell ruin for the foreign trade of Newchwang, but apparently the Powers, still under the spell of Russia's might, shrink from whispering a word of protest.

The Foreign Office in Tokyo is informed from Peking that the United States Consul at Newchwang reports to his Minister in Peking in the sense that the two Japanese subjects recently apprehended by the Russians on suspicion of being spies have been released, and have left for Tientsin, together with four Japanese women.

THE LATE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE.

A very long link with the past is severed by the death of George William Frederick Charles, Duke of Cambridge, Field Marshal, K.G., K.P., G.C.M.G., G.C.H., G.C.S.I., etc. The eldest son of the first Duke of Cambridge, he was a first cousin of the late Queen Victoria, and saw the light on March 26th, 1819, two months before his more famous relative. Though he spent the greater part of his long life in England he never shook himself free from the ways of thought, habits, and manners, of the class into which he was born, the Prussian aristocrat of the olden school. This Teutonic *flair* undoubtedly gave offence to the great mass of the English nation, though singularly enough he was popular with the rank and file of the army. At the age of 18 he received a commission as Colonel, from his cousin, Queen Victoria, who had ascended the throne some six months previously, but he had to wait till the outbreak of the Crimean war before he saw active service. He was then advanced to the rank of Major-General and appointed to command the two brigades of Highlanders and Guards, united to form the first division of the army sent to the Crimea. At the battle of the Alma the Duke led his division in a manner that won the confidence of his men and the respect of the veteran officers with whom he served. At the battle of Inkermann he had a horse shot under him. His health broke down soon after this, the trying climate and the rigours of the campaign proving too much even for his vigorous constitution. The Royal Duke tried a change to Pera, but this not answering he proceeded to Malta, and thence by easy stages home. He received the Crimean medal with four clasps for the engagements he had passed through. In 1861 he was promoted Colonel of the Royal Artillery and of the Royal Engineers, and in November of the following year he received the rank of Field-marshal. Before this, however, he had succeeded Viscount Hardinge as Commander-in-chief of the British Army. This was in 1856. From that date on till the autumn of 1895, he held that high position, the appointment being perpetuated by the issue of enabling Royal Warrants. Public opinion, however, was gathering head and at last the Government had to bow to its demands and accordingly, in 1895, a new scheme of Army reform was submitted in the sequel of which the Duke of Cambridge retired. It was no secret that Queen Victoria did not approve of the shelving of her cousin, but she had learned her lesson well and bent before the storm. To the aged Duke this deposition was a bitter blow, and he missed no opportunity of telling an ungrateful country what it had lost. It was only natural, the Duke being but human, as are we all. Consider for a moment his position. Entering the army when the purchase system was in full vigour, with the traditions of the Peninsula War still paramount, and like all his race a firm believer in the divine right of Kings and of those immediately connected with them, the Duke of Cambridge could not have been expected to have believed anything but that the Army must now go "to the dogs." Like his royal and Queenly cousin he saw with distrust the increasing power of the middle and manufacturing classes, but of course could do nothing to stem the rising tide.

There can be no shadow of doubt that as Commander-in-chief the Duke of Cambridge was in his element. He revelled in the minutiæ of buttons, stripes, gold braid, and military millinery generally. His conversation, says one who knew him intimately, was limited to two subjects, the army, and the day's shooting. When other topics were started the Duke lapsed into taciturnity. A man of kindly instincts, despite his brusqueness, slow in intellect perhaps, and slower to grasp the trend of public sentiment, while entirely lacking in the tact which has carried King Edward through many slippery places, he represented a type which will die with him. The late Duke drew an income of £12,000 a year from the British people, besides his pay as Commander-in-chief, and the allowances of the many Colonelcies which he held. To the children of the later generations, he will be principally remembered as the Ranger of the Royal Parks. In this connection readers in the Far East will doubtless remember the controversy in which the Duke came off second best with the *Spectator* over the opening of part of Windsor Forest for the drill of a Volunteer corps. The Duke contended that the drill would disturb the deer, an echo from Norman days quite consistent with the character of the man, but in the end a hint from high quarters caused him to recede from his position, and the Volunteers got their drill-ground. With him dies the title, for he was only married morganatically to a once beautiful star of the English stage—unless the King cares to revive it in the person of a son of the Prince of Wales. In view of his advanced age it is interesting to recall that he came of a long lived stock, his mother dying at the ripe age of ninety-two years, while his cousin's reign was the longest of any British Sovereign.

During Tuesday forenoon the warships in harbour, led by H.M.S. *Leviathan*, fired minute guns in recognition of the obsequies of the late Duke of Cambridge and the flags of the various consulates and ships were half masted.

THE "HERMES."

We observe that the *Kobe Chronicle* describes the action of the Naval Authorities in the case of the *Hermes* as "arbitrary," and by giving a most imperfect statement of the facts, endeavours to show that a great wrong was done. The Kobe journal's editorial account is that the *Hermes* was a Norwegian steamer "sailing under the flag of a neutral Power on the most friendly terms with Japan," and that she "cleared from Moji with a cargo of coal for Port Arthur, her papers being all in order and duly passed by the Customs of that Port." It may be observed *en passant* that this assertion about the steamer's papers being in order is quite irrelevant, and seems to have been introduced merely for purposes of effect. What is omitted, however, is really important, namely, that the *Hermes* was chartered by a Russian firm to carry coal to Port Arthur. Hence when captured by the Japanese off Port Arthur on the 9th February, she was a ship in Russian service carrying contraband of war to a Russian naval port. Her arrest under such circumstances was absolutely legitimate, and it became a very delicate matter to determine whether the plea of ignorance advanced on her behalf should be allowed to have any validity, and whether, even if the ship herself were released, her cargo of coal should not be confiscated. What course would finally have been adopted by a Western Power in the premises we can not be sure, but there is reason to believe that the charterers of the *Hermes* were very greatly surprised when they learned that not only the vessel but also her cargo had been released. We may mention that the delay was 23 days—from the 13th of February to the 7th of March,—not a month as the *Kobe Chronicle* alleges.

The interim dividend of the Kwansei Railway Company for the last half-year is believed to be 2½ per cent. or a little more.

THE INCREASED TAXES.

Saturday, March 19.

The increased rates of taxes which the Government proposes to impose for war purposes will be understood from the following:—

	Increase.	Final Rate.
Land Tax—		
Urban building lands	$\frac{5.5}{100}$	$\frac{8}{100}$
Rural building lands	$\frac{3.5}{100}$	$\frac{6}{100}$
Other lands	$\frac{2}{100}$	$\frac{4.5}{100}$
Hokkaido Land Tax—		
Urban building lands	$\frac{5.5}{100}$	$\frac{6.5}{100}$
Rural building lands	$\frac{3.5}{100}$	$\frac{4.5}{100}$
Other lands	$\frac{2}{100}$	$\frac{3}{100}$
Business Tax—		
Seven-tenths to be added to present rates in every class.		
Income Tax—		
Class I. (Legal persons)	$\frac{2}{10}$	
Class II. (Public Securities)	No increase.	
Class III. (Other Incomes)	$\frac{1}{10}$ in every case.	
Sake—	per *koku*.	per *koku*.
Class I.	1.50 *yen*	16.50 *yen*
Class II.	1.50 *yen*	17.50 *yen*
	per degree of proof.	
Class III.	2.5 *sen*	77.5 *sen*
	per *koku*.	per *koku*.
Beer	50 *sen*	7.50 *yen*
Sugar—	per picul.	per picul.
Class I.	1.00 *yen*	2.00 *yen*
Class II.	1.40 *yen*	3.00 *yen*
Class III.	3.80 *yen*	6.00 *yen*
Class IV.	4.20 *yen*	7.00 *yen*
Soy—	per *koku*.	per *koku*.
Shōyu (made for sale)	50 *sen*	2.50 *yen*
Tamari (made for sale)	50 *sen*	2.50 *yen*
Shōyu (made for private use)	25 *sen*	1.25 *yen*
Tamari (made for private use)	25 *sen*	1.25 *yen*
Exchanges—		
Merchandise and negotiable securities	$\frac{3}{10,000}$	$\frac{9}{10,000}$
Public Bonds	$\frac{2}{10,000}$	$\frac{5}{10,000}$
Shooting Licenses—		
Class I.	10 *yen*	30 *yen*
Class II.	5 *yen*	15 *yen*
Class III	1 *yen*	3 *yen*
Custom Duties (import)—		
Confectionery	per cent	per cent.
a. Cakes	10	50
b. Things preserved in sugar	5	30
Table Salt—	per picul.	per picul.
a. Class	41.8 *sen*	50 *sen*
b. Class	73.2 *sen*	1.50 *yen*
Clothing and Accessories—		
Silk stuff or stuffs containing silk.	20 per cent *ad val.*	45 p.c. *ad val.*
Alcohol—		
	3 *sen* per litre.	45 *sen* per litre.
Kerosene—	p.c. *ad val.*	
a. (in tins)	20	3.3 *sen* per gallon. 20 p.c. *ad val.*
b. (in bulk)	20	2 *sen* per gallon. 20 p.c. *ad val.*
	per cent.	per cent.
Crude Sugar	25	30
Molasses	20	30
Syrup	20	30
Embroidered cotton stuffs	10	35
Other cotton stuffs	10	30
Manufactured Tobacco	100	250
Chinese *Samshu*	20	120
Refined *sake*	20	120

New Taxes.

Salt—60 *sen* per *koku* or 66 *sen* per picul.
Silk stuffs—15 per cent. *ad valorem*.
Woollen stuffs—15 per cent. *ad valorem*.

It is expected that all these changes will be voted without difficulty. But some controversy is anticipated with regard to taxation bills which the Government intends to introduce though their proceeds are independent of the war taxes, namely, the bills providing for State monopolies of tobacco and salt manufactures. Much agitation was caused by the proposal, formulated last year, to establish a monopoly of tobacco manufacture, criticism being specially directed against the project of paying only one year's income to the present manufacturers by way of *solatium*. The Government has apparently been influenced by that criticism, for it now proposes to pay three years' income in the form of public bonds bearing 5 per-cent. interest and redeemable in 7 years. It is also pointed out that since the machinery for official manufacture can not be in full working order for three years, the present manufacturers will find employment during the interval. Some of the party politicians are understood to object, however, on the ground that no reason for haste offers in the case of these monopolies, and others contend that every undertaking which calls for an immediate outlay of capital should be deferred. As to the former point, it is of course a matter of opinion, but as to the latter, the official answer is that although, with regard to the monopoly of manufactured tobacco, a capital outlay of 3 million *yen* is required in the first year, there will be a net profit of 4 millions, and that in a few years the revenue accruing will be 30 millions.

Monday, March 21.

It appears probable that there will be some differences of opinion between the Cabinet and the political parties with regard to the war taxes. Both the *Seiyu-kai* and the Progressists are opposed to the establishment of a salt monopoly—for the present at all events—and they disapprove of the imposition of any consumption tax on salt pending the establishment of the monopoly. They further agree in condemning the projected tax on silk fabrics and the issue of debentures of petty small denominations by savings banks. Thus far the two parties are in unison. But they differ as to the land tax, the business tax and the income tax. In the case of these three taxes the *Seiyu-kai* approve the Cabinet's programme, but the Progressists desire to limit the increased rates to 50 per cent. The *Seiyu-kai* further think that instead of making several additions of various kinds to the statutory import tariff, the better plan would be to raise the rates all round by 5 per cent. Whatever reduction of projected income would result from the amendments proposed by the *Seiyu-kai*, they wish to compensate by administrative economies, their view being that these outlays may be diminished by 5 millions, and that further the salaries of all officials who are in receipt of 2,000 *yen* annually or upwards should be cut down by 20 per cent., those of smaller amount being reduced by 10 per cent. On the other hand, if the amendments of the Progresssits be adopted there will be a diminution of 20 millions in the Government's programme. This the Progressists desire to compensate by administrative economies and by floating loans, Count Okuma being convinced that the floating of loans is the sound way to defray war outlays.

Another important point of difference between the Government and the *Seiyu-kai* is that the latter have resolved to withhold their *post facto* assent to Imperial Ordinance No. 291. This is the Ordinance issued last December authorizing the deflection of the Special Account funds to war purposes and the issue of short-period loans. The effect of the House's withholding its consent would be limited to steps not already taken under the Ordinance. The funds have been actually deflected and the short-period loan (100 million *yen*) has been issued. These measures, therefore, would stand. But further outlays on account of the Seoul-Fusan Railway would be impossible.

Tuesday, March 22.

The leaders of the two principal political parties held a joint meeting on the 20th instant, and having agreed among themselves, sent delegates to confer with the Cabinet. It is believed that a basis of arrangement was elaborated, but what precise form it took we do not know, further than both sides show a mutually conciliatory mood, the Government not professing any resolve to adhere rigorously to its proposals, and the parties being disposed to yield on all the main counts, except the salt and silk-stuffs taxes, provided that the Cabinet omits from its programme all the increases of taxation which, while involving trouble and confusion, yield only small increments of revenue. It appears that the chief objection to the silk-fabrics tax is that great difficulty would be experienced in collecting it. Of course if that be true of silk fabrics, it is true also of woollen stuffs, and should both of these items be expunged, the corresponding reduction of projected revenue will be 9¼ million *yen* in round figures. The Tokyo Chamber of Commerce appears to entertain some apprehension about the effect of the proposed sugar tax also. It is the Chamber's idea that if the taxation of raw sugar be raised from 25 to 30 per cent., a blow may be given to the refining industry which is just beginning to raise its head. As for the Kyoto manufacturers of silk stuffs they claim that the intended tax would kill their industry. A memorial prepared by them on the subject contains an unexpected statement, namely, that silk stuffs being articles of luxury, the demand for them has shown a palpable diminution since the China-Japan war, and if now a tax be imposed the enterprise will probably perish, the Government thus losing its anticipated revenue and the weavers their bread.

It appears, in fine, that the taxes doomed are:—

	Yen.
The salt consumption tax (which the Government proposes to levy pending the establishment of a monopoly)	2,836,791
Silk Fabrics	4,183,885
Woollen Stuffs	2,138,661
Total	9,159,337

This deficit the *Seiyu-kai* propose to make up by administrative economies representing 5 millions, and by docking the pay of officials, on a sliding scale, all salaries of and above 2,000 *yen* annually to be reduced by 20 per cent., and those under 2,000 *yen* by 10 per cent.

Evidently the Government's project for a monopoly of salt manufacture will not be endorsed by the Diet this session, at all events, but, on the other hand, there seems to be some prospect of the monopoly of tobacco manufacture being favourably received. The latter is of much importance, for the Treasury anticipates from it ultimately a yield of 30 million *yen* annually, and as we explained in a recent issue, the hardships that the original scheme would have imposed upon manufacturers are greatly mitigated, if not altogether removed, by the modifications now introduced.

Wednesday, March 23.

After a great deal of discussion and many conferences the Government and the parties have at length come to an agreement on the subject of the financial programme. The most important concession made by the Government is that the special war taxes shall cease to be levied one year after the conclusion of the war. That is radical. For the destination of the taxes is thus completely changed. Instead of being devoted to the service of the debt of 461 million *yen* which the Treasury contemplates floating for war purposes, the increased taxes assume the character solely of additions to the war chest, and, inasmuch as they will cease to be levied almost immediately after the war, no means are apparently provided for paying off the debt.

With regard to the various increments of taxation, various changes of programme have been agreed to. Both of the parties consent that urban building land shall bear the additional burden suggested by the Treasury. But whereas the *Seiyu-kai* are disposed to endorse the projected rate (4½ per cent.) in the case of agricultural lands, the Progressists maintain that the rate should not exceed 4, and a compromise has consequently been effected at 4.3. The taxes on business, incomes, *sake* and soy are to be passed as officially proposed, but in the case of sugar, although the total amount raised is to be as projected, the method of levy will be different. Further, the Government consents to withdraw its proposal for abolishing the system of return duties on refined sugar for export. The tax (consumption) on salt and the salt-manufacture monopoly will not be put forward by the Treasury, and neither will the tax on silk fabrics. Woollen stuffs and kerosene are not disturbed, the Government's rates being accepted. As for the statutory tariff, it will be raised by 5 per cent. all round.

Contrary to expectation the Parties agree to the Government's bill for the monopoly of tobacco manufacture, but they insist that the commutation must be on the basis of 4 years instead of 3. The system will go into force in the case of cigars from the 1st of July; in the case of cut tobacco from April 1st, 1905.

There is a trifling change with regard to the stamp tax, but the Parties agree to the proposal for issuing small-denomination (5 *yen*) premium-bearing notes by the Savings Bank, provided that the operation be postponed until August next.

The Parties further agree to give post-facto approval to Urgency Ordinance No. 291 (relating to war finances and the Seoul-Fusan Railway).

Concerning the *Seiyu-kai's* demand that economies to the extent of five million *yen* should be made in administrative outlays, the Government have promised to do what they can but they have declined to bind themselves to any special sum.

Finally, with regard to the proposal for cutting down salaries, it is agreed that the question had better be deferred.

These various changes are not yet expressed arithmetically, and it is uncertain whether the Treasury will amend the figures in its bills or leave the House to amend them.

The *Kokumin* calculates that the following approximate losses of revenue will result from the compromise:—

	Yen.
From altering the rate on agricultural lands from 4½ to 4.3	2,760,000
From expunging the salt-consumption tax.	2,830,000
From expunging the silk-fabrics tax	4,180,000
Total	9,710,000

On the other hand, by adding 5 per cent. to the import duties under the Statutory Tariff—a change which can not be effected before six months—, a revenue of 2½ millions will be obtained. This, however, may be set against the increased outlay on account of extending the commutation basis of the tobacco-manufacture monopoly from 3 years to 4. How, therefore, the deficit is to be met, no one pretends to see.

All the newspapers roundly condemn the political parties. They ask how it is possible to reconcile their persistent resolve to cut down all the taxes proposed by the Government with this sudden readiness to burden the State to the extent of over 3 millions on account of the tobacco-manufacturers. Evidently there prevails a wide-spread belief that all is not square and above-board. "Nicotine" has been circulating—golden mixture—is the cry. Further, there is the inconsistency shown by the Progressists towards the land tax. Hitherto they have openly advocated the doctrine that the land-tax is essentially an impost to be drawn upon in time of war, yet they now refuse to endorse the Government's proposed draught on it. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* recalls the fact that a few years ago Count Okuma figured as an ardent advocate of tax upon silk-fabrics, yet his Party now oppose the tax.

Thursday, March 24.

The *Seiyu-kai* have apparently agreed that the Tobacco Monopoly Bill should be accepted, so far as they are concerned, in the form proposed by the Government; namely, on a commutation basis of 3 years' profits. Both of the political parties show marked anxiety to be acquitted of having proposed the four-years' amendment, and the curious thing is that whereas the leaders declare themselves precluded by mutual promise from disclosing any details of their conferences, the *Seiyu-kai* nevertheless unhesitatingly deny that the proposal came from them, and the Progressists make a similar denial. The result is that the proposal must have been spontaneously generated.

It is stated, with regard to the scheme of commutation, that Messrs. Murai & Company claim to be making a yearly profit of 1,360,000 *yen*; Mr. Iwaya a profit of 890,000 *yen* and Mr. Chiba a profit of 390,000 *yen*, while the total profits of other firms are estimated at 2,340,000 *yen*. On these bases the sum paid by the Government for buying out the manufacturers would be about 15 million *yen*. We wonder what measure of agreement appears between the income taxes and the business taxes paid by these companies, compared with the profits they now allege.

THE NAVY'S CASUALTIES.

The *Asahi* says that the health of the squadrons engaged in warlike operations has been extraordinarily good up to the present. Eash ship has had only 5 men sick on the average, and the figure over all has been .06 per cent. or 6 per 1,000. Strange to say there have been practically no men incapacitated by frostbite, although the operations have been conducted in extraordinarily cold weather. That is probably because the experiences garnered in 1894-5 have been well utilized. The chief cause of temporary casualty has been hurts received in the discharge of duty; not wounds received in action but trifling injuries otherwise suffered. Our contemporary then gives the following list of casualties:—

First Engagement, February 8th and 9th.

Total Casualties 72.

DETAIL.

Killed	3
Hurt (not by the enemy's fire)	3
Wounded and died before entering hospital	2
,, ,, while under treatment on board	1
,, ,, while *en route* for hospital	1
,, ,, after admission to hospital	3
Recovered	30
Under treatment in hospital	20
,, on board	9

Regrouping these figures, the net result is 10 deaths, and 62 wounded (in action), of whom 30 have recovered and 29 are under treatment. N.B.—The three men hurt in the discharge of their duty are excluded.

Second Action, Feb. 14th (Torpedo Attack).

Total Casualties 4.

DETAIL.

Killed	1
Under treatment in hospital	2
,, on board	1

Third Attack, February 25th (Sinking of Blocking Steamers).

For some unexplained reason no figures are given relating to this attack. It will be remembered that the official account gave 2 killed and 3 wounded.

Fourth Attack, March 10th.

Total Casualties 22.

DETAIL.

Killed	7
Hurt (not by the enemy's fire)	1
Wounded and died after admission to hospital	2
Under treatment in hospital	7
,, on board	5

One noteworthy point connected with the last action was that arrangements had been made for placing the wounded men in a hospital ship immediately after the action. Thus they received the best treatment while *en route* for Saseho, and the consequence was that everything in the nature of inflammation was averted.

GUNJIN IZOKU SHIMPO.

In a recent issue we invited the attention of our readers to a powerful association formed under the presidency of H. I. H. Prince Arisugawa, and having for object the succour of the families of soldiers serving at the front. The Association is called the *Teikoku Gunjin Yengo-Kai*, and already in the very short period of its existence it has collected nearly three quarters of a million *yen*. We are now asked to speak of another Society working in the same cause but having already existed for several years. It is the Society for Assisting the Families of deceased Soldiers (*Gunjin Izoku Kingo-kai*) which was organized in 1888 under the Presidency of Count Bojo, and has for Vice-President Count Ohara, its committee being Mr. Ozaki Yukio, Count Itagaki, Prince Nijo, Count Okuma, Baron Kaneko, Count Soyejima, Marquis Kuga, Viscount Yenomoto, Baron Kioura, Marquis Oyama, Marquis Yamagata and seventy-four others. This society has about 45,000 members, in all parts of the empire, and since the China-Japan War it has given assistance to some two thousand families which would otherwise have been reduced to indigence. It publishes a periodical called the *Gunjin Izoku Shimpo*, in which the names of all contributors are inserted as well as statements of accounts and of the manner of spending the funds. As Japan is likely to have fully 300,000 soldiers in the field before this war is over, there is ample room for all these charitable associations, and they will doubtless enlist the sympathy of many of our fellow-residents.

PRINCE PU LUN.

Prince Pu Lun reached Tokyo on the 21st instant, at 12.14 p.m., and drove to the Shiba Detached Palace. Among his suite are three officials who have previously visited this country. The Prince will be received in audience by the Emperor on the 24th. He goes to Nikko on the 27th and leaves Japan for America on the 30th.

THE "MANDJUR."

The *Mandjur's* case is not yet fully settled. Her steering gear is now the bone of contention, the Russian authorities insisting that it shall not be removed, and alleging that the presence of a Japanese man-of-war, the *Akitsushima*, at Woosung is a violation of Chinese neutrality. It would scarcely be possible to reach a higher level of pettiness than that reached by the Russian officials in this matter. Some of them seem to be incapable of conducting a simple transaction in a straightforward manner. Either the *Mandjur* is to be disarmed or she is not. If the former, then what on earth is the use of raising difficulties about her steering gear or some other part of her equipment? A needless air of bad faith is thus imparted to the whole transaction. As for the *Akitsushima's* lying off Woosung, she is not in a Chinese port, and her presence there is in no sense a violation of neutrality.

THE DIET.

Before the Houses met on the 18th instant, the *Seiyu-kai* and the Progressists had agreed that Mr. Matsuda Masahisa of the former party should be elected President, and Mr. Minoura Katsudo, of the Progressists, to the Vice-Presidency The *Seiyu-kai* leaders in the Lower House are to be Messrs. Matsuda and Hara, and the Progressist leader, Mr. Inukai.

The balloting for the election of President followed the above lines. Two ballots for the presidentship resulted as follows:—

FIRST BALLOT.

Mr. Matsuda Masahisa	212
„ Hatoyama	177
„ Kono Hironaka	24
„ Ebara Soroku	18

SECOND BALLOT.

Mr. Hatoyama	283
„ Ebara	213
„ Kono	94
„ Hara Kei	64

The names of Messrs. Matsuda, Hatoyama and Ebara were therefore sent up to the Emperor.

For the vice-presidentship Mr. Minoura obtained 268 votes.

His Majesty has duly approved the selections of the Lower House, namely, Mr. Masuda Masahisa for President, and Mr. Minoura Katsudo for Vice-President.

The House of Representatives met on the 19th and Mr. Matsuda took his seat as President. In a short speech he announced his resolve to be guided in all his decisions by a spirit of fairness only, but he asked the forbearance of the House as he could not claim any accurate acquaintance with the rules, and might possibly commit errors.

Mr. Minoura also expressed his thanks for the honour paid to him in electing him to the Vice-Presidency.

The oldest member, Mr. Iwamoto Sei-noshin, then briefly congratulated the two nominees, and the House, having organized its sections, rose.

Yesterday the official opening of the Diet took place. His Majesty left the Palace at 10.30 a.m.., Prince Iwakura acting as Chief Chamberlain, and the Sovereign's cortege consisting of Viscount Tanaka, Baron Hanabusa, Baron Okazaki, Baron Saunomiya, and Count Toda. At the House of Peers the Prince Imperial was waiting, and after a short rest the Emperor and the Prince proceeded to the Chamber where His Majesty read the following speech:—

We hereby open the Imperial Diet and inform the members of the House of Peers and of Representatives that

It gives us profound satisfaction that Our relations with the Treaty Powers are steadily growing in cordiality and good understanding.

Prompted by a desire to maintain permanent peace in the Eastern Orient, Our Government, by Our command, entered into negotiations with Russia, but We regret that, owing to a want of sincerity on the part of Russia in her peaceful professions, We have been compelled to appeal to arms. That step having been taken, there can be no pause until the object of the war is achieved. Our forces in the presence of hardship and suffering, are displaying loyalty and valour and we trust that all the people of Our Empire will cooperate in perfect unity to enhance the country's glory.

We have directed Our Ministers to submit certain urgency ordinances and drafts of law having reference to the situation, and we look to you to comply with Our purpose by bringing to your deliberations a spirit of harmony and conciliation.

The House of Representatives has adopted a course which will effectually avert any danger of a repetition of such *coups* as that made by Mr. Kono Hironaka last session, when he so greatly abused his position of President by introducing a reply of his own composition to the Speech from the Throne. Mr. Kono himself has now received a tolerably plain intimation of the House's sentiment towards him, since in the balloting for president he obtained no votes except those of his own immediate followers, 22 disgruntled members. What the House has done is to change its procedure, so that whereas formerly the reply to the Speech was composed by the Chief Secretary and the President and merely read to the House, it has now to be scrutinized by a special committee of 9 elected for the purpose. Thus prepared the reply took this form:—

We, Your Majesty's Servants of the House of Representatives with all humility tender our thanks for Your Majesty's condescension in opening the Diet in person and in honouring us with a gracious Speech.

It is the steadfast aim of the Empire to preserve peace in the Far East. But Russia has shown herself deficient in any sincere respect for peace, and has violated the solemn pledges given by her to China as well as the assurances she repeatedly addressed to the Powers. We are thoroughly satisfied that Your Majesty has declared war against Russia. The Empire's expeditionary forces are winning success in battle after battle, and are operating with loyalty and valour. That is due to the virtues of Your Illustrious Majesty.

We, Your Majesty's servants, will respectfully endeavour to discharge our legislative duties in conformity with Your Majesty's instructions."

The reply made by the Peers to the Speech from the Throne is almost identical with the reply of the Representatives. They repeat the formula that Russia showed lack of any sincere respect for peace, and they declare that war was inevitable in the circumstances. This reply was read to the House on Monday forenoon and approved by it.

The Imperial Navy, braving innumerable difficulties and going out to meet cold and hardship, is valiantly and zealously winning great victories, and we believe that the time is near when it will secure the power of the sea for this empire. Its loyalty, courage and spirit invite the utmost admiration. We, members of the House of Peers, applaud the achievements of the Imperial Navy and desire to exalt its glory.

Before rising, the House, on the motion of Marquis Kuroda, passed a resolution warmly lauding the conduct of the Navy. The resolution ran thus:—

Our intrepid and dauntless Navy is winning victories wherever it turns and has carried terror among our enemies. By brilliant prowess it has quickly swept the foe from the sea and has won the profound admiration of the nation. We members of the House of Representatives hereby proclaim our sincere admiration.

A similar resolution awaits discussion in the Lower House. It has been introduced by Dr. Hatoyama, Mr. Hara and Mr. Ozaki, and it bears the signatures of 243 members.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 1.10 p.m. on the 23rd instant. The Prime Minister spoke as follows:—

GENTLEMEN,—I deem it a great honour to share with you on such an unprecedented occasion the privilege of cöoperating to carry out the plans of His Imperial Majesty. It is the policy of this empire to cement close relations with the Treaty Powers, to respect the due rights of other nations, and thus to promote the maintenance of permanent peace in the Far East, as well as to strengthen the position of the country. But the proceedings adopted by Russia in Manchuria and Korea are incompatible with such a policy, and consequently the Government, in obedience to His Majesty's will, opened negotiations with Russia last July and continued them for several months. Russia, however, showed no sincerity in her manner of treating our proposals, on the contrary, she did not hesitate to follow a course prejudicial to our national rights. Thus it became inevitable that this Empire, from considerations of self-protection, should break off the negotiations and take such steps as its interests seemed to dictate. I believe that all the nations of the world fully appreciate the patience and forbearance shown by this Government, and the sincere desire it had to avert the horrors of War and conduct the conferences to a pacific termination. Gentlemen, it can not be doubted that the desire of the whole nation is to apply its united strength to the consummation of the Sovereign's purpose and by carrying the war to a successful termination, to restore the blessings of peace. The Government, in compliance with the Imperial instructions, has presented to the Diet such budgets and projects of law as are required to meet the demands of a belligerent state. With reference to the course of foreign affairs and to the financial programme the Ministers within whose province these matters fall will address you. I earnestly trust that you will give your consent to these measures after impartial and careful investigation. Gentlemen, I heartily join with you in rejoicing at the happy intelligence we have received of victories won by the country's valiant and loyal sailors since the war began. You have had the honour to be addressed in gracious words by His Majesty, and you will join with me and my colleagues of the Cabinet in devising and carrying out measures suitable to the situation and in accordance with the Imperial will.

His Excellency Baron Komura then ascended the rostrum and explained in detail the progress of the negotiations with Russia, which had unfortunately ended in a rupture. We hope to give a full translation of the Minister's speech in a future issue. Its gist may be gathered from the documents submitted by His Excellency to the House and re-produced elsewhere in our columns.

H. E. Baron Sone, Minister of State for Finance, spoke briefly. He said that the House was asked to consider financial projects necessitated by the situation, and also to give *post-facto* consent to various Ordinances. He felt that the House would understand, without any words from him, the imperative character of the expenditures which it was now asked to sanction, and he would merely say that he left the matter confidently in the hands of the members. The requisite explanations of the various measures would be given in full detail by the Ministers and Government Delegates in the Committee rooms, and he earnestly trusted that the House would give its consent. It was as regrettable as it was unavoidable that a situation should have arisen demanding such heavy sacrifices from the people, and he begged the House to be assured that no effort would be spared by the Government to make the burden as light as possible.

One or two questions were asked by the House and the Premier and Baron Sone signified their desire to answer them when the Committees met.

When the House was about to proceed to the Order of the Day, Mr. Ogawa moved that the order be changed for the purpose of taking suitable steps in the case of a member suspected of being a Russian spy.

(We may explain that the member is Mr. Akiyama, proprietor of the *Niroku Shimbun*. The editor and publisher of that journal was lately sentenced by a tribunal of first instance to four months' minor imprisoment and the newspaper was ordered by the Court to be suppressed, in consequence of a leading article which was regarded as highly prejudicial to the country's interests.

An appeal has been taken. During the trial, the public procurator openly charged the journal with acting in Russian interests, and it has come to be felt that the proprietor, Mr. Akiyama, must be required to clear his reputation).

Mr. Ogawa said that he sincerely regretted to bring forward such a motion, but that the evidence offering was too strong to be dismissed without careful consideration, and while he did not venture to make any explicit accusation, he felt that the House must inquire into the matter, not only on its own account but also on account of Mr. Akiyama.

A Committee of 18 was appointed to examine into the matter.

The House then handed 22 Government bills to special committees and rose at 2.45 p.m.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

An interesting interlude in the War drama is furnished by the arrival of Mr. F. D. Cheshire and Mr. J. W. Davidson for the purpose of assuming the duties of Consul at Mukden and Antung respectively. Their instructions, we believe, are to proceed to Shanghai in the first place, and should no convenient means of travel be available from that place, they will go on to Chefoo and be sent to their destinations in gun-boats, or, at any rate, as far on the way as a gun-boat can take them. Mr. Davidson will reach his destination first and, unless all accounts be incorrect, he will find the Russians fortifying Antung which they regard as part of their scheme for defending the passage of the Yalu. They will not object, it may be presumed, to the presence of a United States Consul. Indeed they can not object without involving themselves in a troublesome complication. But if, as is not improbable, they have delared a state of siege at Antung, their commanding officer will be entitled to exercise discretion of a very far-reaching character. As for Mr. Cheshire, his way to Mukden will probably be *viâ* Taku and Newchwang. Both officials will be privileged to make very interesting observations.

Japanese securities have taken an upward bound on the London market. The four-per-cents are now quoted at £65.10s., showing a rise of £3.

The Emperor is expected to leave Tokyo on the 31st instant, so as to worship at the Ise Shrines on the 3rd proximo, which is the anniversary of *Jimmu Tenno's* death. His Majesty will then proceed to take up his headquarters either at Kyoto or Osaka.

The *Goshiu Maru*, ran on a rock in Yanazu Strait at 6 a.m. on the 19th. All her crew were saved, but her cargo of 3,000 bags of rice was lost. She was a small steamer of 235 tons, the property of the Osaka Teikoku Kabushiki Shosen Kaisha.

Lieut. Loftus C. O. Mansergh, who was in command of the submarine that sank with all on board off the Nab, was appointed naval cadet in 1886 and lieutenant in 1895. He was, with many other officers, attached to the *Thames* cruiser for duty on submarines, having been gazetted to that service in January, 1903. Sub.-Lieutenant John Preston Churchill was also among the junior officers of the *Thames* having been appointed on Dec. 23rdlast for an additional six months' course of instruction in submarines.

The S.S. *Manchuria*, declared a prize of war, she having been under repair at Nagasaki when hostilities broke out, is a vessel of 2,936 ton gross (1,627 net), and from what Mrs. James Walter told the Yokohama Literary Society a little while ago, from personal experience as a traveller on her, she is beautifully fitted for passenger accommodation. Her value is said to 1,200,000 *yen* at ruling rates.

We learn from a statement of accounts which has been circulated that the net profits in connection with the Cinematograph Entertainment at the Public Hall on March 15th, in aid of the Red Cross Society of Japan, amounted to *yen* 375.94 which sum has been handed over to the officials of the Society.

That the days of "infant prodigies" in the world of music are not over is proved by the extraordinary skill with which Max Danewski, the eight-year-old Polish musician, conducted the municipal orchestra at Bournemouth last February. It is just sixty years since Londoners were reading the announcement: "The celebrated Hungarian boy, Master Joachim, will make his first appearance before an English public, and perform grand variations for the violin on a theme from Rossini's 'Otello.'" At this time "Master" Joachim was thirteen years old; but before he was eight he was creating a sensation in Europe by the magic of his violin-playing. Madame Normann Neruda (Lady Hallé) was little over six when she made her first bow to the public, and appeared in London at one of the Philharmonic Concerts when she was barely eight. But no child has ever rivalled the precocity of Mozart, who could play cleverly on the harpsichord at three; delighted the Emperor Francis I. of Austria with his rendering of a difficult concerto at six; and at eight was playing his own symphonies before King George III. At seven years Schubert was able to teach his own master, Michael Halzer; Vieuxtemps began to scrape a baby fiddle at two, and at eight was assisting his master in a concert tour through Belgium; and, as a child of seven, Samuel Wesley heard the band of a regiment of Guards play a spirited march of his own composition.

A QUARTER OF A MILLION FOR LONDON HOSPITALS.

Mr. Edmond Dresden, of 36, Curzon-street, Mayfair, London, who died at Wiesbaden on December 17 last, has left estate of the gross value of £339,500 12s. 1d. and of the net value of £321,682 17s. 1d. and probate of his will with two codicils, the last made September 29, 1903, has been granted. The testator bequeathed all his pictures and portraits to the Children's Hospital at Great Ormond-street, to be hung in the wards, he bequeathed his laces, his collections of Oriental silver ornaments and ivory carvings, &c., to the South Kensington Museum. He bequeathed £25,000 to the Children's Hospital at Great Ormond-street, for the maintenance in perpetuity, of beds to be called the "Dresden Cots," which are to be contained—if possible—in one ward, such ward to be called the "Dresden Ward," and he bequeathed £5,000, or if the executors should think necessary, £6,000, to the National Lifeboat Institution for the building and maintenance of a lifeboat of the latest and most approved pattern, such boat to be called the "Edward Z. Dresden," in memory of the testator's late father. He bequeathed £5,000 each to the Middlesex Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn-road, the Hospital for Consumption at Brompton, and Queen Charlotte's Lying-In Hospital, but these legacies and all other legacies bequeathed by him are to be for the benefit of the patients, and no part thereof is to be expended for building, furnishing, or decorating. After other legacies he left the residue of his property as to one-fifth each for the said Middlesex Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, the Brompton Hospital for Consumption, the Royal Free Hospital, and Queen Charlotte's Lying-In Hospital, but on condition that such legacy is in each case to be held in trust to create a fund to be called the "Dresden Assistance Fund," and the income thereof is to be applied for the benefit of needy and deserving in-patients of the hospital on their being discharged. The testator left his share of the reversionary interest in his sisters' settlement in equal shares to the Middlesex Hospital, the London Hospital, and the Cancer Hospital at Brompton, for the purpose of providing beds to be called the "Dresden Beds," and for the benefit of the patients, but in no case to be applied for the purpose of building or furnishing. The amount available for Mr. Dresden's bequests for hospitals seems likely to exceed £250,000. The testator directed that his tombstone should bear the following inscription: "Here lie the remains of Edmond Dresden, who believed in no religion but that of being charitable to his fellow-man and woman both in word and deed."

POPULAR CONCERT.

Friday was one of those raw, unpleasant days, with snow falling all through the morning, and a shrill breeze soughing and biting all through the afternoon, that seldom occur in this part of Japan at so late a season of the winter,—or is it early spring? But towards evening conditions improved somewhat, and the attendance at the popular concert in the Public Hall, arranged by Miss Lloyd Thomas to aid the Factory Girls' Fund, was better than had been expected. The concert was a little different in some items of the programme to that advertised during the past week, owing to several disappointments, due to colds and ill-health, but it nevertheless was of very high merit and many of the numbers were warmly re-demanded. Miss Lloyd Thomas received a hearty welcome back to the Yokohama concert platform, her contributions proving most delightful. We append the full programme:—

PART. I.

1. Piano Solo, "Kreisleriana" Nos. 6 and 7 *R. Schumann.*
Miss Ida Orth.

2. Song, "She is Far from the Land" *Frank Lambert.*
Mr. A. H. Atkinson.

3. Violin Solos, (*a*) "Regrets" .... *Vieuxtemps.*
(*b*) "Madrigal" .... *Simonetti.*
Miss Helena Page.

4. Songs, (*a*) "Swallows" .... *Cowen.*
(*b*) "Madrigal" .... *Chaminade.*
Miss Lloyd Thomas.

5. Vocal Duet, "O, that we two were maying" *A. M. Smith.*
Mrs. W. T. Payne and Mr. N. G. Maitland.

PART II.

6. Song, "What the Chimney Sang" *Gertrude Gillond.*
Mr. B. C. Foster.

7. Piano Solo, "Valse" .... *Chopin.*
Miss Amy Mendelson.

8. Song, "Old English Song," 17th Century *Purcell.*
Mr. N. G. Maitland.

9. Air from "Carmen," "Habenera" *Georges Bizet.*
Miss Lloyd Thomas.

10. Violin Duet, "Concerto" .... *Dancla.*
Miss Helena Page and Mr. H. A. Poole.

The Omiya Commercial Bank, Urawa, found on March 23rd that three thousand *yen* was missing. The same night a clerk, T. Arai, was also missing. The police are searching for him.

A STRANGE BLUNDER.

In the *Kobe Chronicle* of the 13th instant there appears a leading article which calls for comment, the subject discussed being of much importance and the extraordinary mis-statements made by the Kobe journal, with all the assurance of absolute conviction, being of a nature to engender mischievous errors. We quote the article at some length with its heading,

> THE PRISONERS OF SASEHO.
>
> It will have come as a surprise to most people to learn that the passengers who were on the Russian merchant steamers taken by Japan at the outset of the war have during all this time been detained on board the vessels at Saseho, and have only just been released. Those vessels were seized between the 6th and 10th of February, and the crews and passengers were released apparently on the 10th March, so that they have been detained for a whole month as prisoners. Now while there may be some excuse for a belligerent detaining the crews of merchant steamers seized on a charge of carrying contraband of war, it seems to us that there is no particle of justification for the detention of passengers, some of whom were women and children. Our vernacular contemporaries have been commenting on the magnanimity shown by the Japanese in the release of the Norwegian steamer *Hermes*. We shall come to that case presently. Meanwhile we should like to ask our Japanese contemporaries how they regard this detention of men, women, and children whose sole offence was that they were travelling in a Russian vessel, and had taken their passage before either war broke out or the rupture of diplomatic relations had occurred. * * * Whether the two countries were or were not at war makes really no difference to the case. It is not an offence for a person to take passage in the mercantile steamer of a belligerent nation even if that steamer should have contraband of war on board, and we deny that the Japanese authorities had any justification in international law for detaining these passengers who should have been liberated at the earliest possible moment after the vessel had been seized. It is absurd to suppose that it took four weeks to distinguish between passengers and crew, or to complete an investigation into the responsibility of the missionaries or the women and children on board regarding the fact that these Russian vessels carried contraband of war. Such action is not only far from magnanimous, but it falls below the most ordinary standard of justice. * * * It is perfectly clear that even if the vessels were legally seized it was the duty of the Japanese authorities, in accordance with the principle of international law that as little injury should be done to non-combatants as possible, to release the passsengers on board, whether men, women, or children, at the earliest possible moment. * * * We understand that during the whole time these people were detained they were prohibited from sending or receiving communications—a fact which, if true, must have made the detention all the more trying, as it, was impossible for them to assure their friends or relatives that they were safe, while from a business point of view such a prohibition was calculated to do most serious injury to private interests.
>
> * * * We had hoped that Japan would set an example to the other Powers and advance those precedents of international law which go to minimise the injury which war inflicts upon individuals who are non-combatants, or the damage done to neutrals. It is therefore regrettable to find that instead of progress there is a retrogression to the arbitrary methods of bygone days.

It will be observed that the chief accusation preferred against the Japanese authorities by the *Kobe Chronicle* relates to the passengers of the captured ships. These passengers were held, it is alleged, from some time between the 6th and the 10th of February until the 10th of March; they are declared to "have been detained a whole month as prisoners;" and the Japanese are denounced as having violated international law in thus detaining them; as having neglected the duty plainly imposed by that law and as having "retrograded to the arbitrary methods of bygone days."

One readers will be surprised to learn that the whole of this sweeping charge is based upon a falsehood. So far from any such detention having taken place, the fact is that the eighty-three passengers travelling in the captured ships were brought to Nagasaki by the S.S. *Nagato Maru* on the 9th of February, under the orders of the Saseho Port Admiralty, and were then and there liberated. On the very day that the seizures were made, or at latest a day subsequently, the passengers were all set free. A few of them preferred to remain for a time on board the ships and were allowed to do so, but that was solely their own option. Thus the *Kobe Chronicle's* allegation that it "took four weeks to distinguish between passengers and crew," and all its arguments about the duties prescribed by international law and the harmlessness of taking passage in the mercantile steamer of a belligerent nation, are founded on false information. Our contemporary, *more suo*, professes to have been hopeful of Japan setting an example to other nations and pretends to regret that she has shown herself retrogressive. There is some difficulty in reconciling these professions of goodwill with hasty credence of injurious and unverified testimony, and with indecent alacrity to make it the text of an elaborate and sweeping libel.

The *Kobe Chronicle* further writes:—"We understand that during the whole time these people were detained, they were prohibited from sending or receiving communications." In the term "these people" our contemporary includes "passengers and crews," but inasmuch as the passengers were not detained at all, the allegation becomes imaginary in their case. As to the crews, the *Kobe Chronicle* is guilty of a second misstatement in this instance. We have ascertained by inquiry at the Naval Department that the crews were by no means "prohibited from sending or receiving communications." They were allowed to send or receive just as many communications as they pleased, subject of course to the ordinary rule of censorship invariably enforced under such circumstances. Here again the *Kobe Chronicle's* giddy talk about it being "impossible for them to assure their friends or relatives that they were safe," and about "such a prohibition being calculated to do most serious injury to private interests from a business point of view," must be characterized as pure slander.

Another statement made by the *Kobe Chronicle* shows either singular ignorance or a blind desire to seize any pretext for adverse criticism. It is that during four weeks' detention at Sasebo, "the captain and crew of the *Hermes* were confined to the vessel." What else could have been done with them? Does the *Kobe Chronicle* seriously claim for itself the silliness of imagining that foreigners should be allowed to land freely and enjoy full liberty of motion at a belligerent Power's naval station where martial law is in force? Even the men serving before the mast on the Norwegian steamer had a clearer conception of international usage than the *Kobe Chronicle* seems to have, for not one of them, we are informed, applied for permission to go ashore during the time of the vessel's detention.

The only semblance of palliation we can find for the Kobe journal's singular hallucination is that some women and children did actually remain on board the captured vessels until the end, and it may have been ignorantly supposed by outsiders that they were under detention. But in fact they were the families or servants of members of the crews, and to stay on board so long as the latter did was their own wish.

It would be superfluous to comment on the character of this slander, aggravated as it is by the offensive heading "The Prisoners of Saseho," and still further aggravated by the unctuous pretence of solicitude for Japan's reputation which the *Kobe Chronicle* parades in the forefront of its accusations.

THE BOOKSHELF.

China's Business Methods and Policy, by T. R. JERNINGHAM; Shanghai, Kelly and Walsh, Ltd.

MR. JERNINGHAM has spent many years in Shanghai, first as Consul-General of the U.S.A., and then as an attorney-at-law, in which he has had largely to do with commercial questions, and he therefore approaches his task with peculiar qualifications. His book runs to 407 pages, and in the course of some 23 chapters he deals with such diverse subjects as the Administrative System, Land Tenure, Sources of Revenue, Law Courts, Money, Banks, Guilds, Imperial Household, Family Law Commercial Trend, Interior Trade Routes, Educational System, Extraterrioriality, Strategical Positions, Consuls and a Consular System, Missionaries, Pacific Ocean—the arena, Western nations in China, Policy, The Emperor—powers and restraints, Other Methods, Shanghai, and an Incident of the China-Japan War. Mr. Jerningham's book consists of a series of detached papers, rather than of a connected narrative, and so it is possible to take up his different subjects seperately and as one desires, without destroying the effect or the continuity of his arguments. His matter, though not novel, is very interesting, and very well written. He has drawn on many authorities—a list of their names and writings printed at the beginning of the volume, requiring a whole page to itself. They include most of the men who have made China their study during the past hundred years. Mr. Jerningham's historical retrospect of the treaty-port of Shanghai makes pleasant reading and recalls to memory many of the stirring scenes which the Model Settlement has passed through in its brief span of sixty years. Needless to say, like all who have sojourned within her borders, he is an enthusiast regarding Shanghai, and towards the close declares that justification is to be found for "the Model Settlement's claim to be considered, commercially, the Empress of the Far East." One or two corrections might be made in a second edition, Mr. Jerningham spelling Shimonoseki in a way we have never seen before; while Koxinaga is also unrecognisable. We thank Mr. Jerningham for his book, and more particularly for having brought within its covers such a large amount of useful information which before he sat down to write, was scattered over a vast area of bookland, and hidden away in many a well-nigh inaccessible corner.

A Sketch of Chinese History, by the Rev. F. L. HAWKS POTT, D.D., Shanghai, Messrs. Kelly and Walsh. Ltd.

DR. HAWKS POTT is the President of St. John's College, Shanghai, and the author of "The Outbreak in China." His present volume, he tells us, is written to meet a practical need. "Of large histories and of monographs treating fully of some one period, there is no lack, but a concise outline of Chinese history accenting the turning points in the life of the nation had yet to be produced." Mr. Hawks Pott has carried out his plan excellently well and at the same time has been able to clothe the bare facts of history with a literary mantle attractive to the eye and ear. His little book, we feel sure, will serve a wider purpose than he anticipates. It will be more than the text-book he modestly sets it down to be—it will be for many a pleasant inducement to go more deeply into the absorbingly interesting history of the world's most ancient and, in many respects, peculiar race. We note that in referring to the great warrior and statesman famous in Japanese annals as the *Taikô*, our author spells his name Fideyoshi, instead of the more generally accepted form we are used to. Incidentally we might also remark that Hideyoshi did not accompany the Japanese army which he sent to Korea, as the writer seems to infer. Mr. Pott also omits all reference to St. Francis Xavier's visit to Japan when referring to that remarkable missionary's travels in this quarter of the globe. We must also emphatically dissent from his statement on page 186, wherein he says that the fourth reason for the Japan-China war of 1894-95 was "an earnest desire on the part of the Japanese Government to divert attention from domestic affairs on account of a civil revolution threatened by the military classes. She was anxions to divert this restless military energy into another channel, and so took the opportunity of allowing it to expend itself upon China." These things Mr. Pott can correct in a second edition, for on the whole he has written the story of China's relations with the outside world with a commendable absence of bias. The maps which accompany the text are excellent.

A Guide to Peking, by MRS. ARCHIBALD LITTLE; Tientsin, the Tientsin Press.

MRS. ARCHIBALD LITTLE, whose contributions to literature about China have been many and interesting, is the author of a *Guide to Peking* which should prove of the greatest value to foreigners generally. Not only does she describe the capital, the Forbidden City, the various temples and other public buildings, but she also takes the reader away to the Ming Tombs, the Summer Palace, the Great Wall, the Western Tombs, Peitaiho, Ching-wantao, and Shanhaikwan. There is a good deal of additional information with regard to official and military departments, and there are two good maps, one of Peking and the other of the Capital and surrounding country. The little work is published by the Tientsin Press and is a very creditable production.

Japan: Aspects and Destinies, by W. PETRIE WATSON: London, Grant Richards.

MR. W. PETRIE WATSON has written a clever book, an interesting book, a thoughtful book; a book, in fact, well worth the writing, and one which old residents of Japan will enjoy reading. His publisher announces it in these terms:—

> This book is a study of Japan of the moment—of its social, industrial, and political conditions—from what is, perhaps, a rather novel standpoint. It gives the views of leading Japanese personages on some of the large questions—such as that of the "Yellow Peril"—which the crisis in the Far East has recently brought into peculiar prominence. The future of Japan is discussed in certain aspects which possibly have not had the attention they deserve in Europe. The writer was for several years, and up to a recent date, in a journalistic position in Japan, which afforded abundant opportunities for the study of present-day conditions there.

Mr. Watson, as many of our readers are aware, was for some years on the staff of the *Kobe Herald*. He has studied his subject, therefore, at first hand, and writes himself down as a frank admirer of the land and its people, though fully aware of the many shortcomings, national and otherwise, which have caused it to fall short in achieving all the high ideals which the governing oligarchy—we use Mr. Watson's phrase—set before them in the early days of the Restoration. And he gives it as his deliberate opinion that Japan as a nation comes by its salvation solely through its "governing men," or, to quote Mr. Watson's words in the chapter headed "A Fantasy of Mystery,"

> You find on examination that the country is saved from the penalties of this chaos by its governing men. Under them are forty-four and a half millions of people whose minds are not made up between the old gods and the new; who, in their perplexity, worship under both hierarchies or under none; who molify their dryads with peace-offerings bought with the wages of service given to alien deities. The commercial class, for one instance, does not yet know whether to succeed with Oriental cunning or with the European strong hand and straight dealing. But the governing men know what they must do. They know that with the nation's affairs it must be the European strong hand, as far as the country is able, and European straight dealing whether the country is able or whether it can't—this or nothing. Therefore the strong hand and the straight dealing it is; as witness a great navy and formidable army, and the Alliance with England which was born in straight dealing and must prosper in it. This keeps the country right with the world—its governing men know what has to be done. They ride upon the chaos. The world see them; not the Japanese people. As much as is seen of this people is still a mystery.

The above extract will give a fair idea of Mr. Watson's style. He runs to epigrams occasionally, though never in the wearisome style which makes Mr. Percival Lowell's books a head-aching business, even to the fairly well-balanced and alert mind. With a keen eye to the thousand and one paradoxes to be met with in this land of paradox, he brings before our mind very vividly the many strange contrasts which meet one in the course of the day's work in this land. He had an opportunity of seeing the modern High School Girl as she is to be seen in Tokyo, on an Exhibition Day, and he is struck with the anomaly which she presents:

> She wore, as she nearly always does now—even from the time when she is only an elementary school-girl—a maroon skirt, coming to a little below the knee, and a blouse-bodice of white, or mauve, or dove-grey, or any not too garish tint; also laced boots and stockings * * * On the whole she is, as to her dress, a cross, a hybrid; not ungraceful, not at all the last word on female attire. As to her face, figure, deportment, manner, what are they, what do they express? Something extraordinary! She is tall and big for her age; her cheeks are full and plump, and the hybrid skirt permits a glance at well-rounded calves. She is, I am persuaded, as tall as our High School girl, but plumper. This alone is remarkable, extraordinary; for the full-grown Japanese race, especially its women-folk, is smaller by half a head than we are. Then her complexion, oftener than not, is clear almost to white; pigmented, as often as not, with a delicate, finely-graded peach-bloom. This too is remarkable, extraordinary; for the grown Japanese man is yellow or copper brown; the Japanese woman yellow like parchment. * * * * But more; this High School girl is lithe, active, you would say, seeing her on the streets of Tokyo, almost athletic; athletic without qualification, you would say, on Exhibition Day at the Woman's University in Tokyo. She talks with animation; almost she chatters; and in these University grounds she runs, and bobs, and darts. It is remarkable, extraordinary; for the Japanese wife is a study in passivity, almost a study in still life, she speaks when spoken to, not else. Clearly there is a mystery somewhere. This Japanese High School girl, tall, plump, romping, glib, coquettish, eupeptic, behold her and, remembering the Japanese wife, agree with me that she is something extraordinary—she or the wife.

Though Mr. Watson in his preface declares that he "does not understand Japan," he, by his work, shows that he took every opportunity to fathom the mystery of the land, and in the Chapter headed, "The Pyschic Link," he comes very near to the heart of the secret—the national cult of ancestor worship. Indeed, he asks the question, is this not the golden, necessary bridge between Japan's Past and Japan's Future? We would that we had space for quotation from this chapter, but the exigencies of the printer's circumscribed page drive us on. Mr. Watson expresses delight, as an Englishman, at the conclusion of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, and finds much to say in support of it. We have only room for one more quotation from his pages. It comes from the chapter headed "The Climax and its Parable," and he is writing of the Anglo-Japanese alliance.

> I like to think also that the Alliance is sponsor to a great ethical experiment. Why not? Europe is near two thousand years old in the use of governments which at least profess to find inspiration, direction, nay, even authority, in the canons of a revealed theology. Some say Europe is a success by reason of it reception, admission, profession of this revealed theology. Some say not. There is, at least, an element of doubt in the matter and, anyhow, our systems are often a hideous mockery of the theology we accept as revealed. Here, however, is a state that professes only reason, a state that glories in its stoic acceptance of the dread verdicts of unaided, uninspired Reason. May we not then keep a space clear, so to speak, for this great ethico-political experiment? There being a certain doubt—proven by many unlovely hypocrises in the very midst of our systems—of the final sufficiency, the complete authenticity, of our real or quasi-theological canons, shall we not give room, opportunity, and time for the Japanese experiment with Reason, if only to see what comes of it, what its issue may be? Let me offer the most sordid of pleas: let us take a little trouble merely for the satisfaction of our curiosity. Let us note whether this experiment, which ignores theologies, resolves any of the hard problems which theologies have failed to illumine for us. It may be that some critical principle of life, of experience, of death, waits to be discovered by some such experiment as this.

In taking leave of Mr. Watson's book, we would point out, for his benefit should a second edition be called for, that here and there he displays a tendency to repeat a phrase too often, not for the sake of emphasis, but through pure forgetfulness we imagine. Thus three times within the limits of as many pages he writes, "Asakusa, Tokyo's Battersea Park"; this reiteration leads only to needless irritation. Again, he could leave out with advantage the rather commonplace illustrations which find space within his covers. Surely he could have chosen something more worthy of his letter-press? And in conclusion we sincerely hope his publisher will never again use such a garish cloth as that which he has chosen to cover this book. It is enough to put one off from taking up the volume at all.

We acknowledge receipt from *The Engineering Magazine*, London, of a handbook for Japanese engineers which we should imagine would be of considerable value to both foreign and Japanese importers and manufacturers agents.

The returns of the Bank of Japan for the year 1903, which were presented at the half-yearly meeting of shareholders on Feb. 20th, are issued in printed form. We have already dealt with the report and accounts of this institution.

A copy of the paper read by Mr. C. A. Hanscom at the eleventh general meeting of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers in New York on Nov. 19th and 20, 1903, has reached us. It is, as most of our readers are aware, descriptive of the construction of the two great ships which Mr. Hanscom has built for the Great Northern Railway Co. These gigantic vessels, the *Minnesota* and *Dakota*, are 630 feet in length, 73½ feet in beam and have a total cargo capacity of 30,000 tons.

MR. HERBERT SPENCER ON THE JAPANESE CONSTITUTION.

To the March number of the *Taiyō* Baron Kaneko Kentarō contributes an interesting article entitled, "The late Mr. Herbert Spencer and the Japanese Constitution," the substance of which is given below :—As a teacher of philosophy Mr. Herbert Spencer has many admirers and not a few followers in this country.* But the connection of this great philosopher with our Japanese Constitution is a subject of which the world knows nothing and which I myself was not at liberty to refer to in public during Mr. Spencer's life. First let me say a few words concerning my own connection with our Constitution. About the year 1875, when I was studying in America, I was greatly attracted by Spencer's works. His writings on Sociology especially interested me,† and subsequently when I was studying Law in Harvard University I was greatly struck by the connection of sociology with all the deeper questions of law, and I perceived that the development of law cannot be properly understood without a study of the social conditions which bring certain laws into existence. I observed that the improvement of Law invariably was brought about by the improved state of the social relations of various people. When subsequent to that I finished my course, returned to Japan, became connected with various Government offices, and set about preparing new Laws for this country, I realized the importance of basing all changes made on actually existing social conditions. After the promulgation of the Constitution in 1889 I was ordered by Marquis Itō to go abroad to collect information likely to be useful to us in commencing parliamentary government. In August of that year I went to Harvard and called on my old friend Professor John Fiske, the historian and philosopher. Professor Fiske has been called the American Spencer, so ardent an admirer and follower was he of the great English philosopher. I begged him to supply me with a letter of introduction to Mr. Spencer. At first he refused on the ground that Mr. Spencer objected to see many people and that former letters of introduction had proved to be of no use. But he was eventually prevailed on to furnish me with the letter. I went to London in February of the following year and presented my letter, and Mr. Spencer at once made an appointment with me. When I told him how greatly we had been assisted in framing our Constitution by his works on Social Evolution, he replied that he was well aware that in various European countries legislation had been materially influenced by the facts which he had collected and arranged bearing on social development, but it was no less a surprise than a source of pleasure to him to find that a nation situated away in the distant East, consisting of people belonging to an alien race, should find his theories capable of practical application in the Constitution they had framed. On that occasion I handed Mr. Spencer an English copy of our Constitution and Marquis Itō's Commentary thereon, and asked him to give me his opinion on the subject. He promised to state his views to me later on. But he said that he had serious doubts whether satisfactory constitutions could be framed in the way we proposed to compile ours. They had hitherto grown out of a variety of pressing circumstances and not infrequently been purchased by bloodshed. Hence their stability. Was not constitutional Government in Japan quite foreign to the essential nature of the country's existing institutions, etc? Baron Kaneko then goes on to relate how he explained minutely to Spencer the change that had come over the Japanese nation and how the minds of the people and the feelings of His Majesty the Emperor even had been prepared for the radical reform proposed. Spencer expressed himself satisfied on this point, continues Baron Kaneko, and subsequently on March 3rd, in one of the rooms of the Athenæum Club, of which he was a member and of which he made me an honorary member, he gave me his opinion of our Constitution. But he made me promise that his views on this point should not be published during his lifetime. I made a record of what he said to me on this occasion in my Diary at the time, in order to be sure of strict accuracy. Here is Mr. Spencer's criticism as recorded by me at the time‡—"Unless the Japanese Constitution and the Laws connected therewith are in spirit and character in thorough agreement with the body politic of history, enormous difficulty will be encountered in carrying this Consitution and these Laws into practice, eventually making the realization of the principal objects of Constitutional Government impossible. In reference to this, some little time ago I took occasion to speak to your Minister, Mr. Mori Arinori. In framing the Japanese Constitution the guiding principle should be conservatism combined with gradual progress. Your constitution must be based on history and national customs. Western Constitutions may serve as guides, but what material is taken from them must be made to harmonize with your traditional system of government. I trust there will be no attempt to sweep away the old system and replace it with something quite new. For it is in politics as in botany, plants and trees that are imported into a new country cannot be made to bear fruit precisely in the some way that they have done on their native soil. The Constitutions of the West have grown out of the special conditions and customs of various countries, and it would be a mistake to think that these Constitutions when translated and adopted by some foreign country could be made to work in the same way as they had done among the peoples who brought them into existence. But in examining your Constitution and Marquis Itō's Commentary thereon, I find plain proofs that the above named principles have been duly observed and therefore I highly approve of your Constitution. But what I wish your Government to specially bear in mind is that the framing of a Constitution is a much easier task then putting it into operation. The drawing up of a Constitution is a work that may be accomplished by a few industrious scholars, but when it goes into operation a whole nation is concerned and the task of making it work smoothly is seen to be gigantic. Compared with those encountered by the mere compiler, the difficulties met with by the administrators of a new set of laws are enormous. Take as an illustration of what I mean, the case of America. In that country according to its Constitution all subjects are on an equality; high and low have the same rights. In the free expression of opinion and in the participation in the government of the country all citizens occupy the same position. So says the Constitution. But as a matter of fact it is not so. Some decades after the framing of the Constitution, by degrees it became apparent that Constitutional Government had changed into Party Government, And the parties to whom the carrying out of the Constitution was entrusted consisted of men who were working in their own exclusive interests. The Constitution was perverted by these administrators, and upright citizens began to perceive that the equality of rights which the written Constitution guaranteed was a principle which in practice was violated in a most flagrant manner.

"According to my political creed, it should be a fundamental principle with every Government to entrust the control of various necessary enterprises to private individuals or bodies as soon as possible. But though a state of non-interference on the part of the authorities must ever be regarded as the ultimate aim of all government, society is not at present sufficiently advanced to allow of this principle being put into immediate operation. The theory that Government interference is unnecessary implies a state of perfection that does not actually exist in the world to-day, but it is a state to which we must look forward and for which we must strive.* The steps which must be taken in order to lessen the duties of Government are the cultivation of an independent and enterprising spirit among private citizens, the creation of a state of readiness on the part of the people to discharge all their duties without Government superintendence, and the bringing into existence of a deep regard for the rights of others. When this has been done, then and then only can the Government with safety withdraw and refrain from interference with the general business of citizens. When, though speech and action may be free, citizens can be trusted to act so as not to trample on the rights of others and not to disturb the public peace or endanger public safety, the functions of government will be narrowed to a very small compass. When this comes about the day will have dawned when the highest of all political principles will have been realized. The erection of political structures resembles the building of the Egyptian pyramids. In order to insure safety the work must proceed gradually. Chamber must be raised over chamber till the top is reached. The rapidity with which political edifices may be reared depends largely on the amount of intelligence possessed by the units of the nation for whose use the building is being prepared. It is for Japanese statesmen to consider what storey in the political pyramid they have now reached. How far has the nation advanced. To hurry the work would mean subsequent instability. To skip over necessary intermediate steps in the development of political institutions only involves subsequent difficulty.

"In parting from you there is just one word more I wish to say, which is, that your Government will do well to make sure that the qualifications of the members of your Lower House are what they ought to be. Taking our Western Constitutions as a guide, the fundamental principle on which they rest is that expressed in the Declaration of American Independence, namely, that those who are under an obligation to pay taxes have a right to participate in government. This is one of the most fundamental and important of political principles, and it has never been violated without leading to numerous abuses. But it has been ignored in numerous instances during the past 100 years. The right of legislating has been claimed by numbers of persons on other grounds than tax-paying and so we have had, for instance, in our English parliament a number of Irish members elected, who are not men of property at all, whose tax-paying capacity is extremely limited and who have little knowledge of practical affairs, but who nevertheless have had granted to them the right to sit in parliament and deliver flippant, irresponsible and idle speeches. We live in a day in which Governments cannot insist too strongly on the carrying out of the principle that participation in governing shall be proportionate to the tax-paying capacity of candidates for election. This is the only way to obtain a solid and serious body of legislators. I trust that your Government will not fail to recognise this in future."

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* This is largely owing to the fact that the late Dr. Toyama, with great earnestness and ability, expounded Spencer's system of philosophy at the Tōkyō Imperial University some years ago. Many of the students who listened to those lectures devoted much time to further study of Spencer's teaching aftear leaving the University.

† The reference is evidently to Spencer's work entitled, "The Study of Sociology," one of the International Scientific Series of books issued in 1873, and to Vol. I. of the "Principles of Sociology," which appeared in 1874. The first-named book is one of the most popular of Mr. Spencer's works. This volume, his treatises on Education, and the Data of Ethics, and his Essays on general subjects are free from many of the technicalities of his larger works and consequently have commanded a wider circulation among general readers. The third and last volume of "Principles of Sociology" did not appear till the autumn of 1896. The delay was caused by failure of health.

‡ The importance of the subject and the great weight naturally attached to Mr. Spencer's opinion seems to call for a literal translation of his words, as expressed in Japanese by Baron Kaneko. This we have given in the text.

* Mr. Spencer, it will be remembered, wrote against over-legislation throughout most of his life.

The reason for Mr. Spencer's objecting to the publication of his opinion on the Japanese Constitution during his lifetime is not apparent.† Baron Kaneko says that he was treated in the most handsome manner by the great philosopher, who evinced the keenest interest in Japanese affairs. Mr. Spencer introduced Baron Kaneko to a number of noted people in the Athenæum Club and showered all the honours he could on this worthy representative of the Oriental pioneer of Western Civilisation.

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† Since the above was in type we have come across an article in the *Spectator* referring to a letter addressed by Mr. Spencer to Baron Kaneko, dated Aug. 20th, 1892. This letter Mr. Spencer asks the Baron to keep secret till after his death. It would seem that the Baron understood by this that Mr. Spencer wished none of his views on Japanese affairs and institutions to be published during his lifetime. On the reticence enjoined by Mr. Spencer the *Spectator* justly remarks: "The letter would have roused no animosity, the philosopher mistaking the character of his countrymen, who allow philosophers *as they allow the clergy*, to say, and even teach, a great many things in which their audience, outwardly reverential and really respectful, *do not in the least believe.*"

THE FRENCH PLAYS.

A large and enthusiastic audience assembled on Wednesday evening to witness the production by the Société Dramatique Française représentation of the vaudeville-comedies which had been promised to the community. As has already been intimated the money netted is to be presented to the funds of the Red Cross Society of Japan, and it is highly satisfactory to know that this object has been greatly furthered. The performance was under the distinguished patronage of Madame Harmand and His Excellency the Minister for France, and among the other important personages present were H. E. the British Minister and Lady MacDonald, Governor Sufu, and Mayor Umeda, and it proved a complete success. To this happy result it will doubtless be admitted on all sides that the share taken in the evening's entertainment by the Bijou Orchestra greatly contributed. This excellent combination of amateurs, consisting of eleven members, and equipped entirely with string instruments, played as an overture Sousa's "King Cotton" March, the "Valse Bleue" of A Margis, and the "Anona" Two-step of Vivian Grey during the intermission; as an extra the popular "Haiwatha," with, of course, "La Marseillaise," and a capital innovation was that of playing a line or two by way of "curtain-raiser" before each of the two pieces. Of the general appreciation which the performance won it may be enough to say that the applause and laughter were frequent indicators of unqualified success. The ladies taking part in the piece were the recipients of many floral gifts. Of the two pieces, both in one act, by Eugène Labiche, that were staged, it may be at once said that the second, in some part because of the circumstances under which Mr. G. G. Brady agreed to participate, of the success with which he acted and also of the facilities which the play offered for the exercise of the abilities of the various actors, was the more successful of the two.

"La Grammaire" with which the evening's entertainment opened deals with the troubles of a pretentious "ancient negociant" who though absolutely ignorant of the fundamentel rules of his language has been enabled by the assistance of his daughter to achieve such a reputation for learning that he has been nominated for mayor of his own town and as member of a distinguished society, the President of which, in the belief that Roman antiquities are to be found in the other's garden, causes much laughter by the production of various fragments of household crockery to which he attaches the merit of extreme old age. The blunders that ensue furnish the most mirth-provoking situations and all ends well when the happiness of a young couple is secured. As *Poitrinas*, President of the Academie d'Etampes, M. M. J. Dayet was excellent, at once making a favourable impression on an audience which had hitherto been denied the pleasure of seeing and hearing him; as *Francois Caboussat*, M. L. Cherfils acted with much force and appreciation of the part. The character of *Blanche*, daughter of *Caboussat*, was taken by Mdlle Joubert, who gave a charming rendering; and the comparatively unimportant rôles of *Machut*, and of *Jean* were done good justice to by MM. Cl. Eymard and G. La Roche.

"L'Affaire de la Rue de Lourcine" concerned itself with the doings of *Lenglumé*, a "rentier" admirably impersonated by M. Dayet and *Murphy* (Mr. Brady) whom he has brought home with him in the sequel of an unduly prolonged festivity. *Lenglumé* awaking in his own bedroom from sleep after his dissipation hears snoring under circumstances which create in his mind anxious fears as to the character of the person who has evidently accompained him home, and when later *Murphy* (a personage really invented for the purpose of facilitating Mr. Brady's assumption of a part and so of the movement of the plot) proves to be the sleeper whose snores in his alcove had aroused in *Lenglumé's* mind the liveliest apprehensions as to domestic trouble, makes his appearance, and it becomes evident that neither of them has the remotest idea of what he was doing the previous night. A declaration by *Polard* that he had seen both in the Rue de Lourcine conducting themselves with extreme violence, and the reading of a very old paper which reports a murder there and speaks of a green umbrella bearing initials which correspond with those of *Murphy*, convince the pair of repentant roisterers that they are the murderers, the date of the newspaper being left unmentioned, and, moreover, their hands are begrimed, in their pockets there are lumps of coal (the victim of the newspaper murder was a coal merchant), and in short the evidence in sight convinces them of their guilt. Their efforts to elude detection give rise to the most laughable events and in the end all is cleared up by the discovery that the murder story does not refer to the goings-on of *Lenglumé* and *Murphy*. In the progress of the plot a considerable share is taken by *Norine*, the wife of *Lenglumé* (a rôle admirably undertaken by Mme. Barmont), but undoubtedly the most conspicuous characters were *Lenglumé* and *Murphy*, upon the rendering of which Messrs. Dayet and Brady are respectively to be heartily congratulated. That the latter gentleman should have essayed and with such success at a few hours notice, the part that he undertook, is little short of marvellous. The characters of *Polard* and *Justin* were painstakingly filled by Messrs. G. La Roche and L. Cherfils.

H.M.S. "CENTURION."

In the House of Commons on Feb. 9th, Mr. R. Lucas asked the Secretary to the Admiralty whether H M.S. *Centurion* was recently commissioned with some of her guns wrongly sighted; and, if so, what steps had been taken to remedy their defects.

Mr. Pretyman: All the *Centurion's* guns have correct sights. Some difficulty was experienced in fitting the old pattern mountings of the 10 in. guns with duplicate sights of a new design; it is hoped to rectify this shortly. The original sights are still fitted to the guns, and are quite accurate.

Mr. Lucas: As this matter is of considerable importance, I should like to ask what prospect there is of the sights being definitely corrected within a short time?

Mr. Pretyman: I cannot say exactly how long it will take. It is a scientific question, but, if the hon. gentleman will give me notice, I will answer the question.

Mr. Gibson Bowles: Is it to be understood that this vessel is going to sea with incorrect sights?

Mr. Pretyman: No, Sir; the original sights are correct, and are still fitted to the guns. A new pattern sight is fitted in duplicate, which is not absolutely correct.

Mr. Gibson Bowles: Then are we to understand that the sights that are to be used are incorrect, and that the correct sights are not to be used? (Laughter.)

No answer was returned.

DEATH OF AN OLD JAPAN RESIDENT.

The *Kobe Herald* learns with sincere regret that news was received by the American mail of the death in New York, last month, of Mr. W. H. Morse, who was one of the original partners in the well-known firm of tea merchants, Messrs. Smith, Baker and Co., of Kobe and Yokohama. Death was due to an attack of pneumonia. Mr. Morse succumbed at the comparatively early age of sixty-four, after a short illness. The deceased gentleman, who was a native of Boston, came to Japan in 1860 and joined the firm of Walsh, Hall and Co. After several years' service with the then leading American house in this country, Mr. Morse in 1868 joined the late Mr. Colgate Baker and Mr. R. B. Smith and commenced business in the name of Smith, Baker & Co. He first came to Kobe in 1869 or 1870 and was one of the original members of the K. R. and A. C. He took a keen interest in various forms of sport and was for a time Clerk of the Course in the Race Club here. Mr. Morse last visited Japan in 1891, we believe, and has not been actively connected with business for some ten or twelve years. He leaves a widow and three children, to whom the sympathy of all old residents here and in Yokohama will be extended. His removal breaks one more of the few remaining links connecting the early days of foreign intercours here.

YOKOHAMA GENERAL CEMETERY.

The annual meeting of members of the Community to receive the report and accounts of the Yokohama General Cemetery Committee for the year ended Dec. 31st, 1903, was held on Thursday in the Board of Trade Room.

On the motion of Mr. B. Gillett (Hon. Secretary and Treasurer), Mr. J. C. Hall, H.B.M. Consul-General, took the chair. The others present were Messrs. Jas. Dodds, J. P. Mollison, J. de Cuers de Cogolin, A. Morey Weale, R. T. Bell, N. F. Smith, L. J. Healing, James Walter, Fr. Retz, J. Griffin, E. Powys, H. J. Sharp, N. W. McIvor, etc.

The Chairman said he did not know whether those present had had time since they came into the room to examine the report and accounts but to make sure that they would have time he proposed to wait a few minutes while gentlemen glanced through them.

After a short wait Mr. Gillett, at the Chairman's request, read the reports and accounts as follows:

The Yokohama General Cemetery Committee beg to place before the Foreign community of Yokohama the Annual Report, and Treasurer's Statement of Account for the year which ended on the 31st December, 1903.

From the Treasurer's Statement of Account, it will be noted that the Committee have received *yen* 450 from the Trustees of the "Yokohama General Cemetery Trust Fund," being one year's interest at 5 per cent. on *yen* 9,000, which sum, was standing in the credit of the Trust fund on the 31st December 1902. It will also be further noted, that in accordance with a special Resolution passed at a meeting of the Foreign community held on 30th March 1903, the Committee have paid over to the Trustees *yen* 3,000 out of the accummulated Cemetery funds, thereby increasing the amount in the hands of the Trustees to *yen* 12,000, the interest alone on which, is to be annually paid over to the Cemetery Committee, and to be applied by them to the permanent maintenance and preservation of the present Cemetery grounds. As called for by the special Resolution above referred to, a copy of said resolution has been endorsed on the original trust deed. Beyond these observations there is nothing specially for the Committee to allude to in connection with the Accounts. The respective items will speak for themselves.

The interments during the year 1903 numbered 40, as against 49 in 1902.

7	Who were Visitors, temporarily residing in Yokohama, as against.........	3 in 1902.
10	Who were Seamen, connected with Vessels lying in the Harbour, as against	15 in 1902.
20	Who were bona fide Yokohama residents, as against	31 in 1902.
3	Unclassifiable interments, as against..	0 in 1902.
—		—
40	as against	49 in 1902.
—		—

And their respective nationalities were:

17	British	as against	19	in 1902.
4	American	,,	12	,,
5	German	,,	9	,,
2	French	,,	2	,,
1	Dutch	,,	0	,,
3	Austrian	,,	0	,,
1	Italian	,,	1	,,
1	Russian	,,	0	,,
2	Portuguese	,,	1	,,
1	Indian	,,	0	,,
0	Swede	,,	1	,,
0	Dane	,,	1	,,
0	Spaniard	,,	1	,,
0	Finlander	,,	1	,,
0	Mexican	,,	1	,,
3	Unclassifiable	,,	0	,,
40,	Total.		49	in 1902.

From returns collected by the Kanagawa Prefecture Police authorities, there were resident in Yokohama (exclusive of 4,065 Chinese) on the 31st December, 1903, 2,777 Foreigners of various nationalities. Accepting these figures as a basis of calculation, and the 20 interments in the Cemetery during the year as indicating the number of deaths from amongst the Foreign population, it would appear that the death rate for Yokohama in 1903 was 7.202 per mille, as compared with 12.66 per mille in 1902 and 8.75 per mille in 1901.

The Committee are still without any official information from the Japanese authorities in connection, with the ground set apart for the future Cemetery at the end of the old Rifle Range.

The present Committee, consisting of Messrs. James Dodds, N. F. Smith, J. de Cuers de Cogolin, Fr. Retz, and B. Gillett, beg to tender their resignations.

IN ACCOUNT WITH B. GILLETT, HON. TREASURER, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1903.

Dr.	Yen.	Yen.
To M. Jarmain, Salary 12 months	147.00	
To Labor account 12 months	347.70	
		494.70
To Repairs		24 93
To Laying out Ground, Relaying Paths, Turfing Graves, etc. ...		72.50
To Stone Mason for Stone Wall, new Stone Steps		84.79
To Tools		.90
To Postage and Sundries..........		3 45
To Books, Stationery, Advertisements		6.30
To Fire Insurance premium on Buildings *yen* 1,200.00		11.44
		699.01
To Amount transferred to the Trustees of the Yokohama General Cemetery Trust fund, in accordance with the Resolution passed at the meeting of the Foreign Community held on 30 March, 1903		3,000.00
		3,699.01
To Amount on Fixed deposit with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank at 5 per cent	1,000.00	
To Balance in the hands of the Hon. Treasurer on 31 December, 1903	191.28	1,191.28
		4,890.29
Cr.		Yen.
By balance brought down from previous account 31 Dec. 1902		3,242.05
By Interment fees 12 months	660.00	
By Fees for erecting Headstones and enclosing Graves	415.00	
By Fee for Exhuming	25.00	
By Fees for Certificates	6.00	1,106.00
		4,348.05
By amount received from Hongkong and Shanghai Bank for Interest on yen 1,400, 28 Mar. 1902-1 April 1903, 369 days...	70.76	
By amount received from Hongkong and Shanghai Bank for Interest on yen 1,600, 24 Dec. 1902-1 April 1903, 98 days ...	21.48	92.24
By amount received from the Trustees of the Yokohama Cemetery Trust fund. Interest on yen 9,000 at 5 per cent.........		450.00
		4,890.29
By balance brought down from 31 December, 1903		1,191.28

E. & O. E.

Yokohama, January 2, 1904.

B. GILLETT,
Hon. Treasurer.

I have examined this account together with the vouchers relating thereto, and found the same correct.

P. E. FRED. STONE.

TRUSTEES REPORT OF THE YOKOHAMA GENERAL CEMETERY TRUST FUND FOR THE YEAR 1903.

From the account accompanying this Report, it will be seen that the Trustees have handed over to the "Yokohama General Cemetery Committee" *yen* 450, being one year's Interest at 5 per cent. on *yen* 9,000 standing to the credit of the Trust fund on the 31st December 1902. Subsequent to this date, viz. on the 1st April 1903, the "Committee of the Yokohama General Cemetery" placed in the hands of the Trustees a further sum of *yen* 3,000, making in all *yen* 12,000, the Interest alone on which is to be paid over annually to the General Cemetery Committee, to be applied by them to the permanent maintenance and up keep of the present Cemetery grounds, in accordance with the conditions named in the Trust deed, dated 21st April, 1899, which Trust Deed for security sake, is placed in the custody of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at Yokohama.

JAMES DODDS.
N. F. SMITH.
J. DE CUERS DE COGOLIN.
FR. RETZ
B. GILLETT.
Trustees of the Yokohama General Cemetery Trust fund.

The Foreign Community of Yokohama, in account with the Trustees of the Yokohama General Cemetery (*yen* 12,000) Trust fund for the year 1903, inclusive.

Dr.	Yen.
To amount paid to General Cemetery Committee, 1 year's Interest on yen 9,000 at 5 per cent.	450.00
To balance carried down to new account placed on Fixed deposit with the H. & S. Bank at 5 per cent. interest..............	12,000.00
	12,450.00
Cr.	
By amount brought down from previous account 31st December, 1902...........	9,000.00
By amount received from H. & S. Bank, 1 year's interest, 5 per cent. on yen 9,000.	450.00
By amount received from General Cemetery Committee, to be added to the amount of Cemetery trust fund, 1st April, 1903.	3,000.00
	12,450.00
December 31, 1903.	
By amount brought down from previous amount	12,000.00

E. & O. E.

Yokohama, 1st January, 1904.

I hereby certify to having seen the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank fixed deposit note for yen 12,000 mentioned in the above account, all in order.

P. E. FRED. STONE.

On the motion of Mr. Griffin seconded by Mr. A. G. M. Weale the report and accounts were adopted.

Before the meeting proceeded to the next business, Mr. Gillett begged to announce with regret the approaching departure of their friend Mr. James Dodds and he said this because as they were aware Mr. Dodds for many years had been a leading spirit in connection with the affairs of the Cemetery. Not for one, nor two nor three but for twenty years he had been connected with the Cemetery Committee. He (Mr. Gillett) supposed he knew as much as any of the Committee of the value of the services that had been called on for counsel and advice and the attending of meetings, and he was always available. He asked Mr. Dodds whether they must lose him and the reply being firm they had to bow their heads to it. He asked them to listen while he read a resolution that he had framed and which ran as follows:

> "That this meeting desires to place on record its sincere regret felt at the approaching departure of Mr. James Dodds from Yokohama and his consequent resignation from the Committee of the Yokohama Cemetery. It would further wish to express the very high appreciation of the valuable services he has rendered to the Yokohama Community in connection with the management of the cemetery for a considerable number of years, and sincerely trust that on his retirement together with the members of his family to dear old England he may with them during many years to come continue to live in good health and happiness, reaping to the full in every way all that he can wish for himself the fruit of his many years of labour and energy spent in Yokohama."

Messrs. J. P. MOLLISON and N. W. MCIVOR both associated themselves with the resolution as seconders and it was at once adopted.

The CHAIRMAN said it gave him a pleasant duty to convey this resolution passed at this public meeting to Mr. Dodds and remarked that he should be wanting in his duty if he failed to express his own hearty and sincere concurrence with the terms of the resolution. His own memory in connection with Mr. Dodds' presence in Japan extended over a quarter of a century and during all that time Mr. Dodds had occupied a prominent and honourable position in the commercial activity and the social and public life of the port. He was perfectly certain that every word of the resolution came from the hearts of Mr. Dodds' friends in Yokohama, and he could assure him that he carried the best wishes for himself and family from the many friends he had attached to himself in this land which he had made the centre of his life's activity.

The resolution was carried by acclamation.

Mr. DODDS, in acknowledging the resolution, dwelt upon the services of Mr. Gillett and said the Committee were merely a body to consult and advise with that gentleman. He added that he felt deeply and more deeply every day the having to leave Yokohama because during his long residence he had taken a great interest in all local affairs.—(Applause).

It was decided to re-elect the previous Committee with the substitution of Mr. P. S. Bent's name for that of Mr. Dodds, his father-in-law, a compliment which, proposed by Mr. Gillett, was cordially seconded by Mr. McIvor and Mr. Jas. Walter and heartily echoed by the Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN remarked upon the good representation of the community at that meeting and expressed the belief that it might be taken as a compliment to Mr. Dodds; and Mr. McIvor for himself and as in some degree representing Americans, spoke of the high services rendered to Yokohama by Mr. Dodds.

A vote of thanks, on the motion of Mr. Gillett, to Mr. Hall for presiding and to the Board of Trade for giving the use of its rooms closed the proceedings.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

The title of Mr. Hall Caine's next novel is to be "The Prodigal Son." It is to appear serially in the Manchester *Sunday Chronicle*.

Mr. John Murray's doctors having advised him to be wise in time, and, after twenty-two years of almost incessant work, take a rest, he has left London for a six weeks' sojourn at St. Moritz.

We are to have yet another life of the Duke of Wellington. The author is Judge O'Connor Morris, and the volume will be added to the "Heroes of the Nation" series, to which will also be added shortly a volume on Constantine the Great and Julius Cæsar.

While on a visit to Teneriffe some years ago, the late Marquis of Bute heard of the existence there of an extensive collection of original MSS. relating to the Inquisition. He acquired it, and a two-volume book, giving its contents and throwing much light on the Inquisition in the Canary Islands, is now appearing through Messrs. Blackwood. The work has been prepared, under the direction of the present Marquis of Bute, by Dr. Birch, of the British Museum.

A history of the Indian Mutiny, written from original documents, is in preparation. The author is Mr. G. W. Forrest, himself the son of a Mutiny hero, Captain George Forrest, V.C. As Director of Records to the Indian Government, Mr. Forrest in 1890 began a systematic examination of all the State papers bearing upon the Mutiny. The present history is based on them, with additional material from personal resources. It will be published by Messrs. Blackwood.

An effort is being made to complete the rebuilding of the church of Lower Brixham, Devon, which was commenced thirty years ago in memory of Henry Francis Lyte, its first vicar. £2,000 is still required to complete the work, and surely there should be no difficulty in collecting this sum from those who have found consolation in "Abide with Me," which was written by Lyte on the last evening he spent at Brixham.

Mr. G. B. Burgin has a real grievance. "Hazell's Annual" has inadvertently ranked him with the immortals in its obituary list, and Mr. Burgin can now revel in the gloomy excitement of reading the letters of condolence addressed to his "widow" on the "premature death" of "a writer of great promise." Like "Mark Twain," in kindred case, he has taken the "sympathy" in excellent part, and jests cheerfully at the anticipation of an event that all lovers of good humour must trust will be long in being realised.

Commenting on the late Sir Leslie Stephen, the *Times of Ceylon* says:—Sir Leslie Stephen came of a learned stock and he himself was one of the most accomplished writers of the day. His share in the "Dictionary of National Biography" will always be fondly remembered. He married the youngest daughter of W. M. Thackeray. As a critic the late Sir Leslie Stephen was profound and lucid, and he made his points with remarkable effect. He has latterly been publishing his literary reminiscences, which have proved delightful reading. He will be remembered, apart from his own well-balanced brain and facile pen, as the brother of the author of the Indian Penal Code, and father of the deeply mourned "J.K.S." that brilliant young genius who, like Marlow, has been described as one of our greatest "might have beens"

Although the British Museum was not able to secure the manuscript of "Paradise Lost" which was offered for sale a few days since, the *Scotsman* recalls that the Department of Manuscripts acquired a year or two ago a very interesting relic of John Milton in the shape of the poet's commonplace book, most of which is in Milton's own hand, while the "Paradise Lost" manuscript is, of course, in the handwriting of an amanuensis. The commonplace book was discovered in 1874 among the papers of Sir Frederick Graham, and a photographic facsimile of it was published in 1876.

In a recent lecture on the growing distaste on the part of the many for the higher kinds of poetry, Mr. Alfred Austin complained that novels had ousted the best poetry from its proper place as the chief literary pabulum of the average man. But he is surely mistaken, thinks the *Globe*, in supposing that really classic poetry, such as the works of Milton and Shakespeare, is less read nowadays than it was in the days of our ancestors. The people who do not read poetry are the people whose ancestors could not read at all. There can be no doubt that poetry is bought, at any rate, as freely as ever. It is impossible to say whether the buyers also read.

Ireland has lost her greatest scholar by the death of the Rev. George Salmon, Provost of Trinity College, Dublin. By British and Continental mathematicians he will be remembered as the author of four text-books, of which three at least have long held their place as classics. His "Conic Sections," which made its appearance in 1847, has been translated into most European languages, and holds its own with ease as the best book on the geometry of curves of the second degree. The best edition, largely extended and enriched by additions, is the "Analytische Geometric der Kegelschnitte," edited by Dr. Wilhelm Fiedler, a Zürich Professor, and published in two volumes by the well-known firm of Teubner, of Leipzig.

The destruction by fire of the Turin Library is an international loss; scholars will mourn the destruction of many valuable Latin MSS., including a palimpsest of Pliny's Natural History, and a splendid collection of Oriental MSS. As with the recent theatre fire in America, the disaster in Turin will probably raise doubts in many minds as to the safety of other public and private libraries. Books are not easy to burn, and if the buildings in which they are stored are reasonably fire-proof there need not be much risk. But are the buildings of, for examples, the British Museum, the Bodleian, and the Vatican reasonably fire-proof? Are due precautions taken against fire and proper provisions made for its rapid extinction if it should occur?

With the name of Mr. Charles H. Clarke, the publisher, whose death has occurred in his 82nd year, will always be associated one of the great successes of the business he followed for so long a period. It was in 1852 that he brought out "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and sold a million and a quarter copies within the year. He was the first English publisher to recognise what at that time was only a moral obligation to share profits with an American writer; he sent Mrs. Stowe a thousand guineas. Mr. Clarke, who founded one of the first magazines for ladies, and also one for boys, was the youngest son of the Captain J. Clarke, who fought with Nelson at the Battle of Copenhagen and was Equerry to Queen Caroline.

An interesting ceremony took place recently in Grasmere Churchyard, when a memorial stone was unveiled by Mrs. Fisher Wordsworth, of Rydal Mount, to commemorate Capt. John Wordsworth, who on February 5, 99 years ago, perished in the calamitous shipwreck of the *Earl of Abergavenny*. He was the favourite brother of William and Dorothy Wordsworth, and himself a passionate lover of the Grasmere Valley, to which he had intended to retire. Wordsworth's poems referring to his brother John are "The Brothers," a passage at the end of "The Prelude," "The Fir Grove Path," "Elegiac Stanzas suggested by the picture of Peel Castle in a storm." "The Daisy," "Elegiac Stanzas in memory of my Brother," and "The Character of the Happy Warrior."

In spite of the labours of Gifford, who first supplied a tolerably correct text, a thoroughly satisfactory edition of the works of Ben Jonson has always been a pronounced literary want. The statement is now made that the Delegates of the Oxford University Press have decided to undertake a new complete edition of the great Elizabethan—to be contained probably, like Gifford's in nine volumes—and that the services of Professor Herford and Mr. Percy Simpson have been secured for the task. The first noteworthy edition of Jonson was published in many noble volumes by the learned Northampton antiquarian Peter Whalley in 1756, but Whalley, in spite of great claims, did not do much towards perfecting the poet's text, which remained in a sad condition until the time of Gifford, many of the dramatic speeches being mixed, with quite unintelligible results. It may be recalled that Gifford's edition—which, as it was republished by Routledge in a single stout volume, will not be driven out of demand by the new one—opened a controversy between Sir Walter Scott and its editor on the subject of the unlovely personal character of Ben, which Gifford, in his enthusiasm, sought to screen.

Although his life's work was handicapped by a delicate constitution, Canon Ainger, whose death occured on February 8th, managed to maintain an intimate connection with many spheres of activity. To literature he gave more of quality than quantity, including that admirable life of Charles Lamb in the "English Men of Letters" series, and the life of Tennyson in the "Dictionary of National Biography." In editing "Hood's Poems" he undertook a particularly congenial task, for he followed Hood and Lamb in being a quite incorrigible punster. His facility for punning vied with that of Sir F. Burnand, his personal friend; and many of his efforts found their way into the pages of *Punch*. With a man so full of high spirits, so gentle of disposition, and of powers of wit so delightful as the Master of the Temple, it is only natural that many stories should be told. One of the best, and not the least familiar, has to do with his promise to assist at a children's party. Reaching the house and hearing voices in the drawing-room he said to the servant, "Don't announce me." He intended to amuse the children, and so ruffled his hair, turned up his coat collar, and proceeded to crawl into the room on his hands and knees, growling in imitation of a bear. In the room stood two startled spinsters! He had gone to the wrong house. We confess, however, that we have heard the same story told of Lewis Carroll.

YOKOHAMA AND TOKYO FOREIGN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE RELIEF OF SUFFERERS BY THE WAR.

The Yokohama Executive Committee beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following sums:—

	Yen
Already acknowledged	9,710
American Trading Co.	1,000
W. M. Strachan & Co., Limited	1,000
Siber, Wolf & Co.	500
Heller Bros.	100
Mr. L. Mottet	100
Mr. H. C. Gulland	100
Mr. Ernest Ruse Mr. Starke	50
Mr. A. J. McClure	25
Mr. E. M. H. Hampden	50
H. & S. B. C. Compradore Ah Fai	200
Soon Ho Chan	200
Wing Yee Woh	200
Kwong Man Tai	200
Chartered Bank Compradore Chun Shun Shüe	100
Kwong Sing Wo	100
Tseng Chuck Hin	100
Tung Tong Tye	100
Cheat Yue	100
Yee Hing Wo	100
Cheong Wo Tai	80
Tong On Lung	60
Tung Yu Wah	60
Tai Tuck Tong	50
Pow Chee Low	50
An Shing	35
Mang Fook & Co.	30
Kon Van Sang	30
Tuck Lung	30
Cheong Kee	30
Sun Sung & Co.	30
Quong Sing Lung	20
Ah Sang	30
Sun Hing Tai	25
Sun Nam Shing	20
Li Chon Hon	20
C. Kwong Chee	20
Ming On & Co.	20
Wing Tai Loong	20
Soon Kee	20
Che San Bros.	20
Yeong Fu Sam	20
Wa Sing	20
C. Tom & Co.	20
Mang On Lung	15
Y. Ving Nam	15
Hang Tai	15
Kwong Man Wing	10
Kwong Wing On	10
Chung Jack Kuen	10
Chui Tai Fong	10
Lai Bing Woon	10
Wong Why Mok	10
Yuen Kew Sing	10
Chong Chee Tong	10
T. Yong Tai	10
Van Tai	10
Kwong Shing Tai	10
Hep Ta Yuen	10
S. Bai Tien	10
Don Yuen Tai	10
Tung Shing Chong	10
Low Ke Tong	10
Yee Wah On	5
Fook Sung Tai	5
Yuen Tai	5
Y. S. Chong	5
Lee Loong & Co.	5
Sing Tai	5
Tong Cheong	5
Shun Loong	5
Ah Hep	5
Chang Fai	5
Chang Lan Hin	5
Kung Chuk Pow	5
Leung Shunam	5
Chan Tsze Kai	5
Pow Fin Son	5
Total received to date	15,090

THE LAW COURTS.

HAIM v. BRETSCHNEIDER.

The hearing of a case filed by Mr. Albert Haim, representative of the Turkish merchants, Messrs. D. Messulam and A. Haim, No. 246, against Mr. C Bretschneider, Yokohama, claiming *yen* 1,413.25 with interest, began in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno on March 18th.

Plaintiffs were represented by Messrs. Akiyama and Ikeda, and defendant by Mr. Ideura.

Plaintiffs' Counsel stated that the Turkish trader received in August last an order for 450,000 porcelain cups to be packed in 300 cases, from Messrs. Palacci, Menasce et Cie, Cairo, Egypt, and they requested defendant to furnish them with the earthenware. On October 2nd the parties concluded a contract that defendant should supply the cups at *sen* 08 per piece and that delivery should be executed within 360 weeks—50 cases containing 1,500 pieces to be delivered in every six weeks—and the first delivery to be made at the end of November or the beginning of December. Defendant however failed to carry out his promise and owing to this breach of contract plaintiffs sustained damage.

Defendant's Counsel held that defendant forwarded to plaintiffs on December 7th, 50 cases as the first delivery stipulated in the contract, but the latter refused to take delivery on the pretence that the goods were inferior to the samples which had been furnished and they also refused to pay for the cups. Defendant considered that the contract was thus rendered null and void.

Mr. Akiyama, Plaintiffs' Counsel, further stated that before the due date of the first delivery of the goods, defendant intended to transfer the contract to a Japanese porcelain dealer as he was unable to execute the order, but plaintiffs did not consent to this. To prove his facts, Counsel asked the Court to examine a Japanese, C. Kitagawa, an earthenware broker. As to the fact that plaintiffs refused to take delivery, defendant's counsel also asked the Court to examine another Japanese, K. Takagi. The Court granted consent to both requests.

The case was adjourned till April 5th.

SELIOUS CHARGE AGAINST RUSSIAN SAILORS.

Two Russian sailers who were convicted in the Morioka District Court on a charge of having attempted to murder the Captain of their ship, before arriving at Yamada Iwate prefecture, and who had appealed against the sentence, were acquitted on March 16th in the Miyagi Appeal Court.

According to the decision, the accused were prosecuted as attempted murderers and also as attempted robbers, and this uncertain accusation did not furnish grounds to deal with them in the Court. Moreover the evidence as to whether their action was performed in Japanese waters was insufficient.

They have been handed over to the French Consulate, Yokohama, by the police of Sendai.

LIBEL CASE.

Yuen-si Song, ex-Chinese Compradore of the Russo-Chinese Bank, who is now in Kobe, has begun in the Court a libel case against the bank. According to the complaint, the bank injured his reputation by prosecuting him in Shanghai without any ground. The officers attempted to arrest him, but he escaped arrest by staying on board a Japanese steamer at Shanghai.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The U.S. transport *Sheridan* arrived on March 20th at Nagasaki from Manila.

Baron Suyematsu, who arrived in London on March 14th, will shortly have audience of the King.

Forty-seven Japanese refugees from Newchwang arrived ■ Moji on March 17th by a Dutch tseamer.

The Crown Prince and Princess have donated a thousand *yen* to the Red Cross' Ladies Nursing Association.

Twenty-two war correspondents left Ujina on March 23rd for the front.

Baron R. Kaneko and suite arrived at Washington on March 16th where they were warmly welcomed.

It is telegraphed that a Russian who was under surgical treatment in the Matsuyama hospital, Iyo province, died on March 15th.

The steamer *Miyajima Maru* which was stranded off Yorishima, Bingo province, was floated on March 23rd.

A telegram from Shidzuoka states that owing to a severe frost which prevailed on the morning of March 23rd, damage was caused to tea and mulberry leaves.

The *Official Gasette* states that during the absent of the Chilian Consul from Kobe, Mr. Miguel Vendrelli will temporarily take charge of the consular business.

England has beaten Ireland at Association football by 3 goals to 1. Scotland and Wales drew at 1 goal all. Ireland beat Wales at the Rugby game by 14 points to 12.

The Industries Bank will liquidate in this month seventy-five thousand *yen* of its first and second debentures. The drawing of lots will take place on March 24th.

The interim dividend of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha for the last half-year will be six per cent. The general meeting was to be held on March 20th at the Bankers' Club, Tokyo.

The U.S. Consuls for Antung and Mukden arrived at Kobe on March 19th at 3 p.m. They paid a visit to the U.S. Consulate, after which they left for Shanghai.

A telegram from Sapporo states that T. Kazawa and his wife committed suicide on March 17th by drinking sulphuric acid. Pecuniary embarrassment is reported to be the cause.

A member of the crew of the steamer *Itola* was badly injured while working cargo on Thursday afternoon. He has been removed to the Yokohama General Hospital.

A jinrikisha coolie I. Nagano (40) strangled his child on the night of March 17th in Uyeno Park, Tokyo, and committed suicide by hanging himself. The cause is believed to be poverty.

Mr. T. Okazaki, Kobe, has purchased the Dutch steamer *Celebes*, which was lying at Yokohama, and renamed her the *Nichiyei Maru.* She left Yokohama on the evening of March 19th for Kobe.

The mail steamer *Kiautschau*, twin-screw, 10,880 tons, belonging to the Hamburg America Line, has been acquired by the Norddeutscher Lloyd, and will in future be known as the *Prinzess Alice.*

A Chinese passenger by the steamer *China*, which arrived on March 17th at Yokohama, committed suicide by drowning himself before the vessel reached her mooring. The body was not found. The cause is not known.

The blood-stained stretchers employed to carry the wounded officers and blue-jackets of the Russian warships *Varyag* and *Korietz* were brought on March 18th to the military museum, Yushu-kwan, Kudan, Tokyo, where they are now exhibited.

Y. Magome, manager of the Gumma Commercial Bank was arrested on March 23rd in Tokyo. The charge is alleged to be that he obtained money amounting to 13,000 *yen* from the Third Bank and nine others by means of fraud.

T. Tanaka, formerly an employee of the Mitsu Bishi Bank, who was charged with having stolen thirty thousand *yen* belonging to the bank while in its employ, was sentenced on March 23rd in the Tokyo District Court to three years' imprisonment with hard labour, a fine of forty *yen* and ten months' police surveillance.

About twenty coolies, on the night of March 22nd attacked the Greek Church, at Odawara. destroying the furniture and also breaking into the dwelling of a missionary. No one, however, was injured. The rioters do not appear to have been arrested.

The marriage of Colonel Marchand with Mme. Hériot, the announcement of which has aroused much popular interest in Paris, will take place early in May in the picturesque commune of Cabbe-Roquebrune, in the south, away from the turmoil of fashionable society.

The cinematograph show at the Van Schaick Hall on Tuesday evening was a huge success, the hall being crowded to its utmost limits by an enthusiastic audience of little folks. Mr. Clarence Griffin and the Signori Dentici deserve the hearty thanks of the community for this excellent treat.

Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge arrived at Yokohama on H. M. S. *Leviathan* on Sunday, and the customary salutes were exchanged; after paying some official calls, the Admiral left for Miyanoshita. Admiral Noel, the new Commander-in-Chief, is expected here shortly.

The *Moscow Gazette* has started a subscription list to present a battleship or cruiser to the Russian Government. The idea began with a flourish of patriotism about the middle of January, and up to Feb, 12th something like fifty or sixty roubles had been collected—five or six pounds sterling.

It is believed, says a London paper, that a Scottish descent can be claimed for Rear-Admiral Stark, who commands the Russian fleet at Port Arthur. Many officers in the Russian service trace their descent from Scotsmen who arrived in Russia during the time of Peter the Great and the Empress Catherine.

A telegram from Hakodate states that a Russian crown to be fixed on a flag-staff was found on March 20th washed ashore near Matsumae. It is believed that the Russian squadron from Vladivostock lost it in the attack on the Japanese steamers *Nakonoura Maru* and *Zensho Maru.* The crown measures about seven inches in height.

The Saseho City authorities have decided to establish gas-works and to borrow eighty thousand *yen* as capital for the enterprise from the Industry Encouragement Bank, for which purpose the Ministers for Home and Finance have granted the usual permit. The local authorities intend also to establish water-works.

The Central Tea Guild has established a society under the name of *Seicha Yushitsu Domei-Kai* (Tea Export Union Society). The aim of the society is to enable manufacturers to regulate their output according to the taste of customers abroad, with which purpose several members will be sent to investigate conditions in foreign countries.

Mr. O. A. Zemenkoff (39) second mate; his wife (35), and K. E. Ferber (50) fireman, of the captured Russian ship *Kotik*, who were released at the Yokosuka Naval station, arrived in Yokohama March 22nd at 9 a.m. under escort of the police. At the Kencho, the Russians, except the woman, took an oath not to join in hostile service during the war.

K. Hadano (22), a farmer in the village of Magome, district of Ebara, near Tokyo, murdered his mother on March 18th by inflicting injuries on her with a short sword. He then gave himself up at a police station. The crime is attributed to brain illness from which the murderer has been suffering for some months past.

Mr. Oura, Minister for Communications, according to the *Official Gazette*, notified on March 24th that all applications to the Customs for postal parcels to be sent to Russia must describe the gross and net weight, the nature of the contents, and their value, numbers and size, and that the weight and value must be in accordance with the French scale and Russian money respectively.

The proprietors of the new Gin which is advertised in our columns claim for it some characteristics which can hardly be attributed to other gins now on the market. They say that it is doubly distilled and matured by age, that it is more palatable than them and that it is a desirable digestive stimulant. It is strongiy recommended as a liqueur after meals and on the whole appears to fill a useful place in the market.

A fireman of the Russian steamer *Kotik*, which was seized on Feb. 10th, by the gunboat *Amagi* and removed to the Yokosuka Naval station, was released on March 19th and removed to the French Consulate, Yokohama, where he took an oath in the presence of Governor Sufu and the police authorities, not to join in hostile service during the war. He will leave for Shanghai by the first mail.

A London telegram dated 27th ult. states:—The election for the South Birmingham seat rendered vacant by the death of Mr. Powell Williams has resulted in the return of Viscount Morpeth, the Unionist candidate, by a majority of 3,076 over Mr. Hollowell, the Liberal candidate, who polled 2,223, whilst Viscount Morpeth polled 5,299 votes. The election was fought largely on the question of Chinese labour in the Transvaal.

So much attention has been paid recently to Russian politics in relation to the Far East, that the gravity of the financial and industrial crisis with which the country is confronted has not received the attention which it deserves. It is undeniably serious, all the same, and, as explained in a recent statement of the Controller of State to the Czar, it results from the over-stimulation of domestic industries by State grants.—*Engineering.*

During ten days of March ended the 20th, the foreign trade of Japan amounted to: Exports—*yen* 6,933,988 in commodities; *yen* 2,850,136, gold coins and bullion; and *yen* 8,221 silver coins and bullion. Imports.—*yen* 8,869,641 in commodities; *yen* 54,672, gold coins and bullion; and *yen* 32,992, silver coin and bullion. It is remarked that during the period, gold bullion valued at *yen* 54,000 was brought from Korea to be cast at the Osaka Mint.

AMERICAN TOPICS.

A spacious $250,000 site for a new athletic field adjoining the Armour Institute of Technology at Chicago, is the latest gift of Mr. J. Ogden Armour to the school. The announcement was made by Dr. Frank W. Gunsalus, president of the institution. The site is bounded on the south by Third Street, on the west by Armour Avenue, on the east by Dearborn Street and extends north for 385 feet.

What is believed to be a mine of pure glass has been found in the neighbourhood of Tampico, Mexico, according to mining men who have recently returned from that section. Tests have demonstrated that with simple melting and running into moulds the product comes out as clearly as the best manufactured glass. The component parts of the glass are the same as enter into commercial glass, though in places it is said to be discoloured from admixture of mineral salts.

It is said that the new subway in New York will be opened early next summer—perhaps in June or July. The work completed is as follows: From Park Row station to Canal street, tracks laid, but not ballasted; from Canal to Forty-second street, all four tracks laid and ballasted; Forty-second to Forty-seventh street, rails down, but ballasting not complete; Seventy-first to One Hundred and Third street, rails all down, but ballast not finished; upper west side, from One Hundred and Third as far as One Hundred and Thirty-ninth street, tracks laid, but not ballasted; Ninety-seventh to One Hundred and Twelfth, on each side, double track laid, but only partially ballasted. The rock work at Fort George is giving trouble to the men working southward because of frequent caves-in.

Embezzlements and defalcations in the United States during the year 1903, as collated in the current issue of the *Monthly Bulletin* of the Fidelity & Casualty Company, aggregated $10,312,793, an increase of $3,379,277 over 1902. This aggregate was divided as follows, the table also showing the increase in the several items over 1902:

Banks	$2,005,175	$295,874
Benevolent societies, etc.	208,050	38,275
Building loan concerns	341,717	79,276
Court trusts	940,676	135,869
Federal and state	357,086	*271,271
Firms and corporations	4,188,596	1,858,027
Insurance companies	66,322	*50,647
Municipal	558,822	119,390
Transportation companies	259,577	90,352
Miscellaneous	1,395,771	1,084,132

* Decrease.

Baltimore's fire loss has by the latest estimates been reduced to $85,000,000, "or less," three-fourths insured. There are those, however, who stick to the higher estimates running up to $150,000,000, the great disparity in the figures given being due in part to the fact that in some cases only actual losses are given, while others lump actual and collateral and incidental losses, such as stoppage of businees, all together. The city began its rehabilitation before the ashes of its business district were cold; there has been little time wasted in bewailing the catastrophe, all the energy of the city being spent in making plans for replacing the buildings destroyed and in restoring business machinery to its normal condition. Indeed, the manner in which the calamity has been borne could not have been more admirable.

According to a bulletin issued in Washington on Feb. 19 by the Interstate Commerce Commission, showing the railroad accidents that occurred in the United States during July, August and September, 1903, 60 passengers and 220 employees were killed, and 1,668 passengers and 1,914 employees injured, making in all 280 persons killed and 3,582 injured in train accidents. Other accidents to passengers and employees not the result of train accidents make the total number of casualties 15,187; 109 passengers 916 and employees killed, and 2,688 passengers and 11,474 employees injured. The total number of persons killed during the quarter shows an increase of 181, and the number killed in train accidents 280, as against 230 for the preceding quarter, an increase of 50. Seventy employees were killed in coupling and uncoupling cars, an increase of eight over the number of fatalities from this cause in the preceding quarter. The total number of collisions and derailments was 3,603 (1,765 collisions and 1,298 derailments), of which 251 collisions and 251 derailments affected passenger trains.

It is extremely difficult for the ordinary mind to realize the full significance of what a million dollars means, and when it becomes a question of one million multiplied a thousandfold, the task reaches the stage of impossibility. Yet it is necessary to use such figures to show the rapid growth of life insurance in the United States. During last year the total amount of life insurance in force was increased over that of 1902 by about $1,500,000,000. The total amount of life insurance now outstanding in America is $10,500,000,000. It is estimated that, if to these colossal figures the industrial, assessment and fraternal insurance be added, the grand total would be in excess of $20,000,000,000. The extent to which life insurance promotes the social, industrial and commercial well-being of a nation cannot be over-estimated.

An economic discovery which may be of considerable importance is reported by the Colorado College botanical department. This is that a variety of picradenia which grows in the region around Buena Vista, Colo., contains considerable quantities of rubber in its roots. The Picradenia floribunda has been known to botanists a long time, but this variety of it, called P. floribunda utillis, is comparatively new. Inasmuch as it may be cultivated commercially, it has possibilities in an economic way which may make it worthy of general study by the agricultural colleges. It is not probable that it will take the place of the rubber tree of South America for a long time, but the "Colorado rubber plant," as it is commonly known in the West, may be considered a worthy addition to our natural resources, and its discovery justifies the attention given to economic botany in American colleges.

According to advices received from Amsterdam, Antwerp and London by New York diamond importers, the De Beers' diamond selling syndicate has advanced the price on all grades of diamonds 5 per cent., to go into effect immediately. This is the fourth advance in the last year. The De Beers Co. handles more than 90 per cent. of all the diamonds mined in the world. About 60 per cent. come to the United States. Though diamonds are now selling at about 20 per cent. more than at any time since the consolidation of the De Beers mines of South Africa in the '70s the present advance was not a surprise to New York diamond importers. Their brokers in Amsterdam and Antwerp had been cabling them that the European market was almost devoid of diamonds. American diamond buyers who have been in Europe in the last few weeks, declare that they never encountered a more broken market or found goods so scarce in the history of the trade. Hardly a diamond importer has been able to obtain more than half or his usual quantity of stones. The figures of General George Mindl, jewellry examiner for the port of New York, bear out the importers. According to General Mindl $725,000 worth of diamonds were imported in January, 1904, less than during the same month last year. In two years the total advance on small stones has been 25 per cent, and oh large stones 30 per cent.

The fortune left by the late Senator Hanna is variously estimated at between $3,000,000 and $7,000,000. He was a man of wealth, with his investments carefully placed and well cared for in every way, but his investments are so widely scattered that it would be exceedingly difficult to estimate their total value. He was one of the heavy holders of stock in the Pittsburg Coal Co. and had besides immense amounts of coal property through Ohio and lands and mines elsewhere, the total value of which reaches a very large figure. His ore mines and iron interests were very heavy and valuable and his ship interests were also of great value. He owned a large amount of valuable real estate in Cleveland, among his investments being the opera house in Euclid Avenue. He was a heavy holder of stock in the Cleveland City Railway Co. and is said to have owned nearly $1,000,000 of the stock of the Cleveland Electric Railway Co., besides a very large block of the bonds of the former Consolidated company. He was, in addition, a large holder of stock in the Union National Bank and owned blocks of stock in the Guardian Trust, People's Savings & Loan and other stocks in the strong financial houses of the city. His financial affairs are in good condition. For years he gradually unloaded his business cares, and the heavier duties of all the departments of the interests he controlled have been placed in the hands of men whom he selected for that purpose. During the past year he put his business affairs almost wholly off his shoulders. Friends say that he made his will a long time ago.

The building of the Alaska Central line is now assured, six Chicago capitalists having agreed to furnish the necessary money, and it is expected that work will begin as soon as the spring weather will permit. The road will be built to Kenai Lake during the coming summer, and perhaps to a more distant point. The route already surveyed is from Seward, on Resurrection Bay, to Atwood, a distance of 413 miles. Work will begin on the Seward end this spring. The engineers say the first 25 miles of the road from Seward will be the hardest of the line to build, and even this stretch offers no unusual obstacles. The road leaves the Pacific ocean by easy grades, and the grade over the entire 413 miles will not exceed more than 2 per cent. The 20 per cent. grade is only for four miles. Dowdell & Co., one of the largest contracting firms of Chicago, has taken the contract to build the entire line. Rails and other material will be shipped from Seattle to Seward just as fast as the mills can turn them out. The men who have made a study of the route have figured it out that each section of 20 or 30 miles will open up a new and independent field, which will put the road on a paying basis from the start, without waiting for the entire line to be completed. Resurrection Bay was chosen as the southern terminus, for the reason that it is open to navigation the year around. The Alaska Central will tap some of the richest country in Alaska. The forests of fir, spruce, hemlock and maple are very extensive and the mineral resources are vast. Once the trunk line is built, a number of branch lines to reach the various mining camps are in contemplation, and ground that can not now be worked because it costs too much to pack in supplies, will be developed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FALL OF A POWERFUL FORTRESS.

(To the Editor of the "Japan Mail.")

Sir,—Will you kindly allow me to correct a slight error into which you appear to have, inadvertently, fallen in your issue of Wednesday, 16th inst.

You say, in your article under the caption "Port Arthur:"—"When has it been recorded that a powerful fortress was evacuated merely in the face of a bombardment from the sea, without the landing of a single soldier." May I beg to recall to your recollection that, as a matter of history, the powerful modern fortress of Alexandria, was, in the face of the British bombardment from sea, in July, 1882, completely evacuated and abandoned by its defenders, without the landing of a single man from the Fleet, (soldiers there were none nearer than Cyprus). When the Marines landed the next morning, they found the forts completely deserted.

Yours truly, HISTORICUS.

THE SHOHEI-GI-KWAI.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—So many questions concerning the working of the "Shohei-gi-kwai," or "Society for the Relief of the Families of Soldiers," have come to me, that I think a statement in your columns may be of interest.

This Society, whose President is Mrs. Watanabe, of Motohamacho, Itchome, Yokohama, has divided the city into five sections. In each section a meeting has been held, and a committee of thirty appointed; this committee subdivides its own section, and each one visits every soldier's family in her portion to find out whether or not help is needed. I was present at the meeting held in the Aizawa section, and was very much pleased with the enthusiasm and thoroughly business-like manner is which everything was done. I have just been informed that reports to date show two hundred destitute families of soldiers—six hundred persons altogether.

The plan is to supplement the best the family can do, so as to prevent actual suffering. Not more than *yen* 2.50 per month will be given to one person.

The Society is happy in having Mrs. Watanabe for its President. Her long connection with the Jizenkai and the orphanage, has shown to all her associates her especial fitness for the position.

I have been informed that if one wishes to contribute to the comfort of the *soldiers*, the money should go to Madame Sufu; if to their *families*, to Mrs. Watanabe.

Besides these two societies, the *Jisenkai* has undertaken to care for the sick in the soldiers' families free of expense to them, in the Negishi Hospital. Mrs. James Walter is Hon. Treasurer of the foreign section of that Society.

The *Orphanage*, in Nogeyamn, whose nice, new building is not yet full, will take any little children whom the war may send there, so long as there is room. Mrs. Watanabe is Treasurer of the orphanage.

The Shohei-gi-kwai is working with great care, and can relieve more suffering with the same amount of money than we could do, by personal distribution, because they can investigate as we cannot. I make this statement in answer to repeated questions.

The suddenness of the need and its urgency, taxes the Societies to their utmost, but the response from poor as well as rich, is gratifying; this first month or two is likely to be the hardest.

Blankets and sheets are much needed in the Negishi hospital, to accommodate the increasing numbers; also any cloth, new or old, of which futons could be made.

Yours very truly, C. W. VAN PETTEN.

March 18th, 1904.

JAPANESE SCIENTISTS.

In the course of an interesting article in *The Academy and Literature*, Mr. C. W. Saleeby draws attention to the additions made to science by such experimenters as Dr. Kitasato—the discover of the tetanus bacillus—and Mr. Shiga—the bacteriologist who has discovered a serum for dysentery—and then proceeds:—

The third discovery is really more interesting, because it raises newer problems. There is in the body of each of us a pair of organs known as the adrenal glands: yet unknown to the public, though life could not continue without them. It is a curious fact, by the way, that the public has heard of the stomach—which is the least important of the digestive organs, and which many people are now living without in perfect comfort—yet has never heard of the pancreas, which is the digestive organ par excellence, and which is essential to life quite apart from its digestive function. Occasionally we consume, as a dainty, an animal's pancreas, which we call a "sweet-bread," but we never suspect that without our own sweetbread we could not live for more than three weeks. Similarly the adrenal glands, without which we would die in an even shorter time, are not known to public fame. It was a Japanese chemist, Takamine, who isolated from these glands the invaluable substance which they produce for the benefit of the rest of the body. It is known as adrenalin, and nearly every sample of it, if prepared by a good firm, bears upon it the name of that distinguished Japanese. I have not space here to discuss the normal *rôle* of adrenalin. I would only say that if there were none in your blood just now, you would not have the muscular strength to sit in an easy chair, far less stand or walk. But the most remarkable influence of adrenalin is on the blood-vessels. A solution containing one part of it in a million will contract the microscopic blood-vessels in the foot of a frog so that you can no longer see them. Hence it is the most powerful of all chemical agents for stopping hæmorrhage. It will arrest bleeding from the nose when everything else has failed: not that that much matters for the nose is accessible to mechanical means; but adrenalin has already saved many lives that were oozing away in a thin red stream no surgeon could reach. I wonder how many Russian soldiers' lives will be preserved by it during the present war, to enable them to fight against Takamine's fellow countrymen? Not that they will know their saviour's name or race.

CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

No. 1.

Baron Komura to Mr. Kurino.

Telegram.) Tokio, July 28th, 1903.

The Japanese Government have observed with close attention the development of affairs in Manchuria, and they view with grave concern the present situation there. So long as there were grounds for hope that Russia would carry out her engagement to China and her assurances to other Powers on the subject of the evacuation of Manchuria, the Japanese Government maintained an attitude of watchful reserve. But the recent action of Russia in formulating new demands in Peking and in consolidating rather than relaxing her hold on Manchuria compels belief that she has abandoned the intention of retiring from Manchuria, while her increased activity along the Korean frontier is such as to raise doubts regarding the limits of her ambition. The unrestrained permanent occupation of Manchuria by Russia would create a condition of things prejudicial to the security and interest of Japan. Such occupation would be destructive of the principle of equal opportunity and in impairment of the territorial integrity of China. But, what is of still more serious moment to the Japanese Government, Russia stationed on the flank of Korea would be a constant menace to the separate existence of that Empire, and in any event it would make Russia the dominant power in Korea. Korea is an important outpost in Japan's line of defence, and Japan consequently considers the independence of Korea absolutely essential to her own repose and safety. Japan possesses paramount political as well as commercial and industrial interests and influence in Korea, which, having regard to her own security, she cannot consent to surrender to, or share with, any other Power. The Japanese Government have given the matter their most serious consideration and have resolved to approach the Russian Government in a spirit of conciliation and frankness with a view to the conclusion of an understanding designed to compose questions which are at this time the cause of just and natural anxiety; and in the estimation of the Japanese Government, the moment is opportune for making the attempt to bring about the desired adjustment.

The Japanese Government, reposing confidence in your judgment and discretion, have decided to place these delicate negotiations in your hands. It is the wish of the Japanese Government to place their present invitation to the Russian Government entirely on an official footing, and you are accordingly instructed to open the question by presenting to Count Lamsdorff a Note Verbale to the following effect:—

> "The Imperial Japanese Government, believing that the Imperial Russian Government share with them the desire to remove from the relations of the two Empires every cause of future misunderstanding, would be glad to enter with the Imperial Russian Government upon examination of the condition of affairs in the Extreme East where their interests meet, with a view to a definition of their respective special interests in those regions. If, as is confidently hoped, this suggestion meets approval in principle, the Imperial Japanese Government will be prepared to present to the Imperial Russian Government their views as to the nature and scope of the proposed understanding."

In presenting the foregoing note to Count Lamsdorff, you will careful to make him understand that our purposes are entirely friendly, but that we attach great importance to the subject. You will present the note to Count Lamsdorff as soon as possible, and keep me fully informed regarding the steps taken by you under this instruction; and immediately upon the receipt of an affirmative reply from the Russian Government, the substance of our proposals will be telegraphed to you.

No. 2.

Mr. Kurino to Baron Komura.

Petersburg, July 31st, 1903.
Received, August, 2nd,

(Telegram.)

Your Excellency's telegram of the 28th instant, was duly received. In accordance with the instructions contained therein, I saw Count Lamsdorff to-day and, before handing to His Excellency the Note Verbale, I stated substantially as follows:

> The condition of affairs in the Far East is becoming more and more complicated, and unless something be done at present with the view of removing all cause of misunderstanding between Japan and Russia, the relations of the two countries will increase in difficulty, entailing nothing but disadvantages to both countries. Under the circumstances, the Imperial Government, fully animated by a spirit of frankness and conciliation, have decided to approach the Imperial Russian Government with a view to arrive at an understanding.

I then handed to him the Note Verbale, saying that I was so instructed. After he had seen it, I expressed my ardent hope that the Russian Government would share the above view in the same spirit. Count Lamsdorff said that he was perfecly satisfied with the decision of the Japanese Government, for, as he had said to me very often, an understanding between the two countries is not only desirable, but is the best policy; should Russia and Japan enter into full understanding, no one would in future attempt to sow the seeds of discord between the two countries. So far as he was concerned, he was, he said, in perfect accord with the view of the Japanese Government; but he wished to see the Emperor on the subject before a definite answer was given. He expects to see the Emperor next Tuesday, and promised to give me an answer on the following day. He added that the Emperor would surely approve the matter.

No. 3.

Baron Komura to Mr. Kurino.

(Telegram.) Tokio, August 3rd, 1903.

In reference to my telegram of the 28th July, the Japanese Government, after giving most serious consideration to the condition of affairs in those centres where the interests of the two Powers meet, have decided to propose the following as the basis of an understanding between Japan and Russia.

"1. Mutual engagement to respect the independence and territorial integrity of the Chinese and Korean Empires and to maintain the principle of equal opportunity for the commerce and industry of all nations in those countries.

"2. Reciprocal recognition of Japan's preponperating interests in Korea and Russia's special interests in railway enterprises in Manchuria, and of the right of Japan to take in Korea and of Russia to take in Manchuria such measures as may be necessary for the protection of their respective interests as above defined, subject, however, to the provisions of Article I of the Agreement.

"3. Reciprocal undertaking on the part of Russia and Japan not to impede development of those industrial and commercial activities respectively of Japan in Korea and of Russia in Manchuria, which are not inconsistent with the stipulations of Article I of this Agreement.

"Additional engagement on the part of Russia not to impede the eventual extension of the Korean railway into southern Manchuria so as to connect with the East China and Shan-hai-kwan-Newchwang lines.

"4. Reciprocal engagement that in case it is found necessary to send troops by Japan to Korea, or by Russia to Manchuria, for the purpose either of protecting the interests mentioned in Article II of this Agreement, or of suppressing insurrection or disorder calculated to create international complications, the troops so sent are in no case to exceed the actual number required and are to be forthwith recalled as soon as their missions are accomplished.

"5. Recognition on the part of Russia of the exclusive right of Japan to give advice and assistance in the interest of reform and good government in Korea, including necessary military assistance.

"6. This Agreement to supplant all previous arrangements between Japan and Russia respecting Korea."

In handing the foregoing project to Count Lamsdorff, you will say that it is presented for the consideration of the Russian Government in the firm belief that it may be found to serve as a basis upon which to construct satisfactory arrangements between the two Governments, and you will assure Count Lamsdorff that any amendment or suggestion he may find it necessary to offer will receive the immediate and friendly consideration of the Japanese Government. It will not be necessary for you to say much in elucidation of the separate items of the project as they are very largely self-explanatory; but you might point out that the project taken as a whole will be found to be but little more than the logical and essential development and extension of the principles already recognized by the two Governments, or of conditions embodied in the engagements which the project is designed to supplant.

The foregoing instruction is sent to you in anticipation that the answer to the Note Verbale presented by you will be favourable; but you will not act on that instruction until you receive further instructions which will be given after you have communicated to me the answer to the Note Verbale.

No. 4.

Mr. Kurino to Baron Komura.

(Telegram.) Petersburg, August 5th, 1903.
Received, „ 6th, „

Count Lamsdorff says he is authorized by the Emperor to open negotiations with me on the subject of the Note Verbale.

No. 5.

Baron Komura to Mr. Kurino.

(Telegram.) Tokio, August 6th, 1903.

In reference to your telegrams dated the 1st and 5th instant, you will state to Count Lamsdorff that the Imperial Government fully appreciate the friendly spirit with which the Russian Government received the proposal of the Japanese Government to enter upon negotiations with regard to an understanding between the two countries, and then present at once the project to the Russian Government in accordance with instructions contained in my telegram of the 1st instant.

No. 6.

Mr. Kurino to Baron Komura.

(Telegram.) Petersburg, August 12th, 1903.
Received, „ 14th, „

Count Lamsdorff, being now very much occupied, could not receive me until to-day, when I handed to His Excellency the proposed project in English in accordance with your instructions. I added that the longer the conclusion of an accord is postponed the more difficult will it become, as the condition of affairs in the Far East is now getting more and more complicated. I asked him to hasten the matter as much as possible. He said he would examine the project with care.

No. 7.

Mr. Kurino to Baron Komura.

(Telegram.) Petersburg, August 24th, 1903.
Received, „ 25th, „

Count Lamsdorff received me yesterday by special arrangement, and I asked his views as well as the attitude of the Russian Government regarding our proposals, adding that the Japanese Government are now impatiently waiting for a reply. He said that he had studied the project seriously, but that the Emperor having been absent over a week on account of the manœuvres, he had been unable to take any steps in the matter; but he asked my opinion about transferring the negotiations to Tokyo as there were many details which would have to be referred to Admiral Alexieff. I said to him that the Japanese Government having confided the matter to me, I should prefer to proceed with it, but that I was willing to communicate his opinion to you.

He stated that he has already sent copy of our project to Port Arthur with the view of obtaining the opinion of Admiral Alexieff. After such conversation, he said the question of Japanese railway enterprise in Manchuria would be difficult, but upon all other points perhaps the Russian Government would be able to come to an understanding. I said that in order to arrive at a satisfactory understanding, mutual concessions as well as a spirit of conciliation are necessary and that the Japanese Government would be prepared to give favourable consideration if any suggestions should be made by Count Lamsdorff.

No. 8.

Baron Komura to Mr. Kurino.

(Telegram.) Tokio, August 26th, 1903.

In reference to your telegram of 24th instant, you will say to Count Lamsdorff that the Japanese Government would prefer to continue negotiations in St. Petersburg, believing that by so doing, the work will be greatly facilitated. You can add that there are no details to be considered in connection with pending negotiations, which require local knowledge, and that the Japanese Government, having placed the negotiation in your hand would dislike to make any change. You will say to Count Lamsdorff that the Japanese Government are anxiously awaiting a definite reply from his Government to their proposals, and you will continue to use every endeavour to obtain from him such a reply as soon as possible.

No. 9.

Mr. Kurino to Baron Komura.

Petersburg, August 27th, 1903.
Received, „ 28th, „

(Telegram.)

I saw Count Lamsdorff to-day on the subject of your telegram dated the 26th instant. He said he had audience of the Emperor last Tuesday, and was told that His Majesty desires very much the early conclusion of an *entente* satisfactory for both countries, and expressed his wish to conduct the negotiations at Tokio so as to expedite the matter. Then Count Lamsdorff added that the Emperor is to leave here for the country next Monday, and then for foreign countries for some time, and at the same time the Ministers concerned would be absent from St. Petersburg. Consequently, negotiations in Tokio would be much the easier and quicker way of concluding the matter. I said, referring to my conversation with Count Lamsdorff of the 23rd instant, that the proposed understanding involved mostly questions of principles and politics rather than details, and consequently that the continuation of negotiations at St. Petersburg would be proper and at the same time the quickest way to arrive at a satisfactory understanding. He repeated what he had just said and insisted upon his proposition.

Under the circumstances, I think it hardly possible to change the course now proposed by Count Lamsdorff under authority of the Emperor. I also think that negotiations at Tokio would entail many disadvantageous consequences; and definite instruction for the further course is awaited.

No. 10.

Baron Komura to Mr. Kurino.

Tokio, August 20th, 1903.

(Telegram.)

In reference to your telegram of the 27th instant, you will say to Count Lamsdorff that the Japanese Government still think that negotiation will be facilitated if continued in St. Petersburg since the negotiations relate to principles and not details; and you will add that he and you having been duly authorized in the matter and the proposals of Japan having been presented to him, the Japanese Government had supposed that the seat of negotiation had been agreed to. You will accordingly urge upon Count Lamsdorff the desire of the Japanese Government to continue the negotiations in St. Petersburg, and express a hope that his Government will reconsider the question. You will also say that the Japanese Government presume they are justified in assuming from the proposal to transfer negotiations to Tokio, that our proposals are in principle acceptable to the Russian Government as the basis of negotiations.

No. 11.

Mr. Kurino to Baron Komura.

Petersburg, August 31st, 1903.
Received, September 2nd, 1903.

(Telegram.)

I saw Count Lamsdorff to-day and explained fully the purport of your telegram of the 29th instant. The substance of his reply is as follows:

He said that the negotiations relate to principles, but principles must be decided upon examination of local and practical questions. Accordingly the Russian Government desired to transfer the discussions to Tokio on account of the necessity of consultation with Admiral Alexieff, and also to manifest a sense of deference to Japan as the proposal had been made by her, and that the acceptance of the proposal at St. Petersburg does not signify that the seat of negotiations should be at the same place. He added that the proposal to transfer the negotiations to Tokio does not necessarily mean that our proposals are acceptable to the Russian Government, as bases for negotiations could not be determined without reference to practical questions concerning which Baron Rosen and Admiral Alexieff have much better knowledge than he himself.

I urged as my opinion that this being the most important question of high politics between our two countries, perhaps the Emperor had much to decide, and consequently it would be very convenient if the negotiations were conducted at St. Petersburg, and wished his serious reconsideration of the question of transfer as such reconsideration is much desired by the Japanese Government. I objected also to the suggestion of transfer on the ground that the question relates to principles as well as to the direction of international political concerns which may not be within the powers conferred upon Admiral Alexieff. If I remember rightly, I said, I understand that his authority is limited to mere questions of local administration. He said that on this question Admiral Alexieff would only be consulted and decide nothing and added that he, Count Lamsdorff, is also desirous to settle the question as quickly as possible, and that is the reason why he suggested the transfer. The Russian Counter-proposals are being prepared by persons having local knowledge, consequently the transfer of negotiations to Tokio would expedite the matter. Should the negotiations be conducted at St. Petersburg, he would be obliged to attend to the matter personally with me; but this autumn he has to be long absent from the city on account of his attendance upon the Emperor. In case of his journey to Vienna and Rome, he may also visit a certain foreign country and would be liable to be frequently interrupted in the negotiations. But in case of negotiations at Tokio, he could direct them by telegraph, and telegrams from Tokio could always follow him wherever he might happen to be; besides, he said, as we know very well, the Russian way of conducting business here is not very expeditious. At the conclusion, he said he is to have audience of the Emperor to-day, and will explain to him the reasons why an early understanding between the two countries is desirable as mentioned by me; and he promised to repeat to His Majesty the special desire of the Japanese Government to conduct the negotiations at St. Petersburg; but he added that no change of view on the subject could be expected.

No. 12.

Baron Komura to Mr. Kurino.

Telegram.) Tokio, September 2nd, 1903.

In reference to your telegram of the 31st ultimo, you will say to Count Lamsdorff that it being the acknowledged desire of both Powers to arrive at an understanding as soon as possible, the Japanese Government fear that discussions would be greatly protracted if the negotiations were now to be transferred to Tokio without some accepted basis for negotiation; and you will add that the Japanese Government, having presented their proposals in concrete form to the Russian Government, believe that negotiations, wherever conducted, would be greatly facilitated if the Russian Government were primarily to announce whether such proposals can in principle be accepted as the basis for negotiations. The Japanese Government do not understand that the acceptance of those proposals as such basis would exclude amendments that might be regarded as necessary. On the contrary, such acceptance would merely fix a definite point of departure which is desirable in all negotiations and very important in the present case. You will use every endeavour to secure the desired announcement from the Russian Government.

No. 13.

Mr. Kurino to Baron Komura.

St. Petersburg, September 5th, 1903.
(Telegram.) Received, „ 6th, „

I saw Count Lamsdorff yesterday. With the view of preventing any misunderstanding about the sense of the instruction contained in your telegram of the 2nd instant and also with the view of impressing upon the Russian Government the feeling of importance placed by the Japanese Government on the matter, I prepared a Note Verbale which I handed to him. We then had a rather prolonged discussion on the question. The substance of his remarks is as follows:—

According to his experience of 40 years in the Foreign Office, negotiations of an international character had always been conducted on the proposals of one Power together with the reply of the other, and it was not usual to accept the proposition of one as the sole basis of negotiations. Baron Rosen had already been commanded by the Emperor to study seriously the proposition of the Japanese Government, and at the same time to prepare and elaborate Counter-Proposals in consultation with Admiral Alexieff, and, if the Japanese Government were willing to enter into negotiation, to commence immediately the *pourpalers* adopting the propositions of the Japanese Government and the Russian Counter-Proposals as the basis of negotiations. I said during the discussion that if the Russian Government were really animated by a desire to enter into a satisfactory arrangement with Japan, I should deem it highly necessary that the Russian Government should instruct their negotiators to adopt as the basis the Japanese proposals, or at least the essential principles thereof so as to facilitate the attainment of the object of the negotiation, for I am inclined to doubt if Admiral Alexieff is disposed to enter into negotiations with Japan in a spirit of conciliation which is of prime necessity in order to arrive at a satisfactory understanding. He said that when he received our project there were only two courses open for Russia to take, either to reject our proposals or to enter into negotiations on them. The Russian Government have adopted the latter course; this does not, however, signify acceptance of our project in its entirety or in principle; but having agreed to the proposition to enter into an *entente*, they have decided to examine the propositions and to prepare Counter-Proposals so that the two might be used as the basis of negotiations. Besides, he said that in our project there are certain clauses which could not be reconciled with Russian interests, and others which require modifications; and he could not say that the Russian Government accepted our proposals even in principle as basis, but only in conjunction with their Counter-Proposals.

Having exhausted every effort for the attainment of the desire of the Japanese Government, I am now fully convinced that it will not be possible to change the course proposed by Count Lamsdorff; and I think that there is no other way for Japan but to agree to his suggestion. Count Lamsdorff is to leave here on the 10th instant for Darmstadt to attend the Emperor of Russia.

No. 14.

BARON KOMURA TO MR. KURINO.

(Telegram.) Tokio, September, 9th, 1903.

In reference to your telegram of the 5th instant, you are hereby instructed to inform Count Lamsdorff that the Japanese Government consent to transfer negotiations to Tokio, and you will add that the Japanese Government trust that instructions to the Russian Minister at Tokio are of such a character as to enable him to present the Russian Counter-Proposals without delay and to proceed immediately with the negotiations.

No. 15.

MR. KURINO TO BARON KOMURA.

(Telegram.) Petersburg, September 9th, 1903.
Received, „ 10th, „

I saw Count Lamsdorff to-day. He said Baron Rosen and Admiral Alexieff have already been instructed by telegraph, by order of the Emperor, to prepare the Counter-Proposals as quickly as possible and to commence negotiations at the earliest date, and he does not think it necessary to repeat the same instruction.

No. 16.

BARON KOMURA TO MR. KURINO.

(Telegram.) Tokio, September 24th, 1903.

Baron Rosen left Tokio on the 22nd instant for Port Arthur. Proviously to his departure, he called on me and told me that he had been instructed under Imperial order some time ago to hold himself ready to start at once for Port Arthur, whenever necessity might arise to do so, in order to expedite the preparation of the Russian Counter-Proposals between Admiral Alexieff and himself, and that he had just received from the Admiral a request to repair to Port Arthur for personal consultation on the subject. He added that he expected to come back within about eleven days.

No. 17.

BARON KOMURA TO MR. KURINO.

(Telegram.) Tokio, October 5th, 1903.

Baron Rosen came back to Tokio on the 3rd instant. He called on me on the same day and handed to me the following as the Russian Counter-Proposals, which, he said, was sanctioned by the Emperor of Russia, upon joint presentation by Admiral Alexieff and himself:—

1. Mutual engagement to respect the independence and territorial integrity of the Korean Empire.

2. Recognition by Russia of Japan's preponderating interests in Korea and of the right of Japan to give advice and assistance to Korea tending to improve the civil administration of the Empire without infringing the stipulations of Article I.

3. Engagement on the part of Russia not to impede the commercial and industrial undertakings of Japan in Korea, nor to oppose any measures taken for the purpose of protecting them so long as such measures do not infringe the stipulatious of Article I.

4. Recognition of the right of Japan to send for the same purpose troops to Corea, with the knowledge of Russia, but their number not to exceed that actually required, and with the engagement on the part of Japan to recall such troops as soon as their mission is accomplished.

5. Mutual engagement not to use any part of the territory of Korea for strategical purposes nor to undertake on the coasts of Korea any military works capable of menacing the freedom of navigation in the Straits of Korea.

6. Mutual engagement to consider that part of the territory of Korea lying to the north of the 39th parallel as a neutral zone into which neither of the Contracting Parties shall introduce troops.

7. Recognition by Japan of Manchuria and its littoral as in all respects outside her sphere of interest.

8. This agreement to supplant all previous Agreements between Russia and Japan respecting Korea.

No. 18.

BARON KOMURA TO MR. KURINO.

(Telegram.) Tokio, October 8th, 1893.

In reference to my telegram of the 5th instant, I have begun discussion with the Russian Minister to Japan taking our proposals and the Russian Counter-Proposals as the basis and with a view to secure, if possible, the recognition by Russia of the fundamental principles laid down in our proposals.

No, 19.

BARON KOMURA TO MR. KURINO.

(Telegram.) Tokio, October 16th, 1903.

In reference to my telegram of the 8th instant, negotiations are now going on between Baron Rosen and myself regarding the following proposals, which I had presented as amendment to the Russian Counter-Proposals:—

Article II. Insert the phrase "including military assistance" between "assistance" and "to Korea." Change the word "civil" into "internal."

Article III. Insert the phrase "the development of" between "impede" and "the commercial." "Undertakings" to be changed into "activities," and "taken" into "to be taken" and "them" into "those interests."

Article IV. Recognition of the right of Japan to send troops to Korea for the purpose mentioned in the preceding Article or for the purpose of suppressing insurrection or disorder calculated to create international complications.

Article VI. Mutual engagement to establish a neutral zone on the Korea-Manchuria frontier extending.........kilometres on each side, into which neutral zone neither of the Contracting Parties shall introduce troops without the consent of the other.

Artile VII. To be struck out and replaced by the following three Articles:—

VII. Engagement on the part of Russia to respect China's sovereignty and territorial integrity in Manchuria and not to interfere with Japan's commercial freedom in Manchuria.

VIII. Recognition by Japan of Russia's special interests in Manchuria and of the right of Russia to take such measures as may be necessary for the protection of those interests so long as such measures do not infringe the stipulations of the preceding Article.

IX. Mutual engagement not to impede the connection of the Korean railway and the East China railway when those railways shall have been eventually extended to the Yalu.

Article VIII of the Russian Counter-Proposals to be numbered Article X.

No. 20.

BARON KOMURA TO MR. KURINO.

(Telegram.) Tokio, October 22nd, 1903.

The result of discussions between Baron Rosen and myself on our amendments to the Russian Counter-Proposals is as follows:—

Amendments to Articles II and VI accepted *ad referendum*, Article III accepted, and Article IV reserved for further discussion. It is in Article VII of our amendment to Article VII of the Russian Counter-Proposals that no agreement could be reached, each insisting on the impossibility of accepting the other's proposition. The contention of the Russian Minister is:—1st, that the Russian Article VII is the only compensation to Russia for the concessions to be made by her in respect of Korea; and 2nd, that admission of the Japanese amendments on this point would be contrary to the principle always insisted on by Russia that the question concerning Manchuria is one exclusively for Russia and China admitting of no interference on the part of any third Power.

Our contention is:—1st, that Japan does not ask for any concession from Russia with respect to Manchuria, her proposal being simply to have confirmed in the Agreement the principle which has been voluntarily and repeatedly declared by Russia; and 2nd, that Japan possesses in Manchuria her treaty rights and commercial interests, and she must obtain from Russia a guarantee for the security of those rights and interests as well as of the independence of Korea which would be constantly menaced by Russia's definitive occupation of Manchuria.

No. 21.

BARON KOMURA TO MR. KURINO.

(Telegram.) Tokio, October 29th, 1903.

In reference to my telegram of the 22nd instant, as the result of further discussions, the amendment on Article IV was finally accepted *ad referendum*. Regarding Article VI, my proposal of fixing the extent of the neutral zone at 50 kilometres on each side of the frontier was accepted *ad referendum*. As to Article VII, no agreement could yet be reached.

No. 22.

BARON KOMURA TO MR. KURINO.

(Telegram.) Tokio, October 30th, 1903.

I presented to Baron Rosen on the 30th instant the following as definite amendments of the Imperial Government to the Russian Counter-Proposals:—

1. Mutual engagement to respect the independence and territorial integrity of the Chinese and Korean Empires.

2. Recognition by Russia of Japan's preponderating interest in Korea and of the right of Japan to give to Korea advice and assistance, including military assistance, tending to improve the administration of the Korean Empire.

3. Engagement on the part of Russia not to impede the development of the commercial and industrial activities of Japan in Korea, nor to oppose any measures taken for the purpose of protecting those interests.

4. Recognition by Russia of the right of Japan to send troops to Korea for the purpose mentioned in the preceding Article or for the purpose of suppressing insurrection or disorder calculated to create international complications.

5. Engagement on the part of Japan not to undertake on the coasts of Korea any military works capable of menacing the freedom of navigation in the Straits of Korea.

6. Mutual engagement to establish a neutral zone on the Korea-Manchurian frontier extending 50 kilometres on each side, into which neutral zone neither of the Contracting Parties shall introduce troops without the consent of the other.

7. Recognition by Japan that Manchuria is outside her sphere of special interest and recognition by Russia that Korea is outside her sphere of special interest.

8. Recognition by Japan of Russia's special interests in Manchuria and of the right of Russia to take such measures as may be necessary for the protection of those interests.

9. Engagement on the part of Japan not to interfere with the commercial and residential rights and immunities belonging to Russia in virtue of her treaty engagements with Korea, and engagement on the part of Russia not to interfere with the commercial and residential rights and immunities belonging to Japan in virtue of her treaty engagements with China.

10. Mutual engagement not to impede the connection of the Korean railway and the East-China railway when those railways shall have been eventually extended to the Yalu.

11. This Agreement to supplant all previous Agreements between Japan and Russia respecting Korea.

No. 23.

BARON KOMURA TO MR. KURINO.

(Telegram.) Tokio, November 1st, 1903.

Baron Rosen called on me October 31st and stated that the definite proposals which I presented to him as amendments to the Russian proposals as reported in my telegram of the 30th October were beyond his instructions and that he would, November 1st, telegraph the full text of the said proposals to his Government and ask for further instructions. Accordingly you are instructed to see as soon as possible the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs in the absence of Count Lamsdorff, and say to him that in preparing the proposals in question, the Japanese Government did not fail to take into full consideration the wishes of the Russian Government. You will inform him that in proposing a joint engagement to respect the independence and territorial integrity of China equally with Korea, the Japanese Government were merely asking a reaffirmation of declarations already spontaneously made by Russia, and when it is considered that Russia is prepared to make such an engagement respecting Korea, the reason for excluding China is not understood. The Japanese Government are prepared to admit that the Manchurian question, so far as it does not affect their rights and interests, is purely a Russo-Chinese question; but Japan has extensive and important rights and interests in that region, and the Japanese Government think that in declaring that Manchuria is outside their sphere of special interest, they are at least entitled to ask for a correlative engagement on the part of Russia not to interfere with the commercial and residential rights and immunities belonging to Japan in virtue of her treaty engagements with China. You will in addition point out that the invitation of the Japanese Government which originated the present negotiations, had in view a definition of the special interests of Japan and Russia in those regions of the Far East where the interests of the two Powers meet. The Japanese Government could not have anticipated that the Russian Government, in accepting that invitation, would wish—as might be inferred from Article VII of their Counter-Proposals,—to restrict the proposed definition exclusively to the region in which Japan possesses special interests.

No. 24.

Mr. Kurino to Baron Komura.

Petersburg, November 3rd, 1903.
(Telegram.) Received, „ „ „

I saw the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 2nd November. He said, as his personal opinion, that Japan is making the same demands only in different form and that those demands are too great. I asked in what respects the Japanese Government are considered to be demanding too much, and I added that we do not ask anything more than the recognition of existing treaty rights and immunities of Japan in Manchuria. He then stated that Baron Rosen had said nothing on the subject. The only difficulty, he said, is the connection of the Korean and Manchuria railway. To my question whether there are no other difficulties, he answered that the railway question is the only difficulty, although it had been accepted *ad referendum*; and in conclusion I asked him to use his best influence for the satisfactory solution of the question, as the Japanese Government are fully animated by the spirit of conciliation, and I urged him to advise Count Lamsdorff in the same sense and if possible, to approach the Emperor of Russia on the question. He said that he was willing to do so, and added that Count Lamsdorff will return at the end of this week.

No. 25.

Mr. Kurino to Baron Komura.

(Telegram.) Petersburg, November 13th, 1903.
Received, „ „ „

I saw Count Lamsdorff November 12th, and asked whether he had received a copy of the telegram which I had handed to Prince Obolensky and whether any action had been taken in the matter. He answered that he had submitted the telegram to the Emperor, and that before his departure from Darmstadt, he sent under an Imperial order instructions to Baron Rosen to continue negotiations with the Japanese Government. I asked him whether it is on the basis of our last proposal that Baron Rosen was instructed to go on negotiating. Count Lamsdorff said that Baron Rosen had been ordered by the Emperor to examine our last proposal with Admiral Alexieff and to make modification if necessary, and added that at this moment Baron Rosen and Admiral Alexieff must be engaged in the preparation of Counter-Proposals. I remarked to Count Lamsdorff that according to the view of Prince Obolensky, the connection of Korean and Manchurian railways is the question that divides the two Governments; but the Japanese Government having subsequently modified the article relating to the question, I cannot believe that it is the principal point on which an agreement can not be established. Count Lamsdorff replied that he thinks for his part that it is the Manchurian question which divides the parties, as he had said from the very beginning the Russian Government consider always that this question is a question exclusively between Russia and China, and it must be reserved to his Government to take all proper measures to safeguard their very considerable interests in Manchuria by means of an arrangement with China. I explained to him that Japan is ever ready to recognize the special and considerable interests which Russia has in Manchuria, and that she has no intention whatever of trespassing upon them, but that Japan has a perfect right to demand that the independence and territorial integrity of China shall be respected and the rights and the interests of Japan in that region shall be formally guaranteed. Count Lamsdorff answered that the objection relates to the form rather than the substance of the proposal. In Manchuria other Powers also have rights and interests, and Russia cannot enter into special arrangement with each of those Powers regarding Manchuria. I observed that should the Russian Government be in accord with Japan in principle, it is deeply to be regretted that an understanding cannot be reached, merely because of failure to find a suitable formula by which to bring the two Governments to an arrangement, and that I could not but ardently ask him to use his influence to bring about a satisfactory solution according to the principles already admitted by Russia.

No. 26.

Baron Komura to Mr. Kurino.

(Telegram.) Tokio, November 21st, 1903.

Baron Rosen informed me November 20th, that he received a telegram November 14th from Admiral Alexieff to the effect that Admiral Alexieff had already forwarded the Counter-Proposals to St. Petersburg. Baron Rosen added that he had not yet received any instructions on the subject of the Counter-Proposals. Consequently you are instructed to see Count Lamsdorff as soon as possible, and after explaining to him Baron Rosen's statements as above, you will say that the Japanese Government are anxious to proceed with the negotiations with all possible expedition; and you will urge him to exert his influence to secure the early dispatch of instructions to Baron Rosen in order that the negotiations may be resumed and concluded without delay.

No. 27.

Mr. Kurino to Baron Komura.

(Telegram.) Petersburg, November 22nd, 1903.
Received, „ 23rd, „

I saw Count Lamsdorff on the 22nd November. He said that the modifications are already in the hands of the Emperor; but on account of the illness of the Empress, the former does not attend to any business affairs; hence the delay. I asked him to use his best endeavours to obtain the earliest possible Imperial order on the question. He said in reply that it will be better for me to write him a note giving the purport of instructions I have received from you; then he will immediately send it to the Emperor. At the end of the conversation I asked whether [illegible] is not possible for me to get some information about the modifications proposed by Admiral Alexieff. He seemed rather puzzled to give a direct answer; but he said that the Russian Government are ready to enter into immediate agreement with Japan regarding Korea, even making large concessions, but as to Manchuria, Russia once took possession of the country by right of conquest; nevertheless, she is willing to restore it to China, but with certain guarantees assuring security to the enormous interest which Russia has in Manchuria. While China is still insisting upon her refusal to give such guarantees, it is not possible for Russia to come to any arrangement with a third Power respecting Manchuria, as the question is exclusively between the two countries concerned. Then I said that if I accurately judge the nature of our proposition, it is not the intention of the Japanese Government to interfere with direct negotiations between the two Governments concerned, as may be seen from the first part of Article VII of our last proposition; but we only wish the independence and integrity of China as repeatedly declared on the part of Russia and security for our important interests in that province. This is not for the purpose of interfering with the affairs of the two Powers concerned, but only to prevent misunderstanding between Russia and Japan regarding the province where both Powers have some interest; and I added that if in principle such an *entente* could in some form or other be arrived at, perhaps even negotiations between Russia and China might be more easily carried out. He thereupon repeated his request for me to write him a note as above mentioned, and that I should add my own opinion in it, and that he would immediately send it to the Emperor. He told me that he expects to have audience on the 25th November at Skernevice and that the note could be sent to him towards this evening. I judge from the tone of Count Lamsdorff's conversation that the modifications proposed by Admiral Alexieff will not be favourable to our proposition regarding China and Manchuria.

No. 28.

Baron Komura to Mr. Kurino.

(Telegram.) Tokio, November 28th, 1903.

You report in your telegram of November 22nd that Count Lamsdorff expected to have audience of the Emperor on the 25th instant. Accordingly you are instructed to see Count Lamsdorff as soon as possible and ask him what action has been taken regarding further instructions to Baron Rosen.

No. 29.

Mr. Kurino to Baron Komura.

(Telegram.) Petersburg, November 27th, 1903.
Received, „ 28th, „

Count Lamsdorff told me he did not see the Emperor November 25th, on account of the sickness of the Empress. Interior inflammation of her right ear has necessitated an operation. He said that he immediately despatched to the Emperor my note mentioned in my telegram of November 22nd.

No. 30.

Baron Komura to Mr. Kurino.

(Telegram.) Tokio, December 1st, 1903.

The Japanese Government have from the first attached the highest importance to a speedy solution of the questions which form at this time the subject of negotiations between Japan and Russia. It seemed to them that in a matter of such vital moment as that which engages the attention of the Cabinets of Tokio and St. Petersburg, a quick conclusion was only second in importance to a satisfactory conclusion. Consistently with that view the Japanese Government have at all times during the progress of the negotiations made it a special point to give prompt answers to all propositions of the Russian Government. The negotiations have now been pending for no less than four months, and they have not yet reached a stage where the final issue can with certainty be predicted. In these circumstances the Japanese Government cannot but regard with grave concern the situation for which the delays in negotiations are largely responsible. You are instructed to see Count Lamsdorff as soon as possible and place the foregoing considerations before him in such form and manner as to make your representations as impressive as possible. You will add that the Japanese Government believe they are rendering service to the general interest in thus frankly explaining to the Russian Government the actual state of things.

No. 31.

Mr. Kurino to Baron Komura.

(Telegram.) Petersburg, December 2nd, 1903.
Received, „ 3rd, „

I heard that the Russian Government are still repeatedly communicating with Admiral Alexieff.

No. 32.

Mr. Kurino to Baron Komura.

(Telegram.) Petersburg, December 4th, 1903.
Received, „ „ „

Count Lamsdorff received me on the night of December 3rd. I handed him a French translation of your telegram of December 1st together with a letter which I addressed to him expressing fully the situation under which the Japanese Government are now labouring. He said that the question requires consideration still, and he is in communication with Admiral Alexieff; but the Emperor is to return December 5th, and he said that he will fully explain the urgency of the matter on the occasion of his audience on the following Tuesday. He thinks he will then be able to send instructions to Baron Rosen. To my question whether it is not possible for him to have audience at an earlier date, he said that Saturday is the fête of Crown Prince, no business is transacted on Sunday, and he will be occupied with other affairs on Monday. He promised to let me know the result of his audience next Wednesday.

No. 33.

Mr. Kurino to Baron Komura.

(Telegram.) Petersburg, December 9th, 1903.
Received, „ 10th, „

Count Lamsdorff told me December 9th that an Imperial order had been sent yesterday to Admiral Alexieff and Baron Rosen to continue the negotiations in accordance with the Counter-Proposals of Admiral Alexieff, but that the Japanese propositions have been fully considered. I asked whether he could inform me of the nature of the propositions on which Baron Rosen is authorized to continue the negotiations. He said that they will be officially communicated within two or three days through Baron Rosen to the Japanese Government.

No. 34.

Baron Komura to Mr. Kurino.

(Telegram.) Tokio, December 12th, 1903.

Baron Rosen called on me December 11th and under instructions of his Government, officially presented to me the following Counter-Proposals of the Russian Government in reply to our definitive amendments as stated in my telegram of October 30th:—

1. Mutual engagement to respect the independence and territorial integrity of the Korean Empire.

2. Recognition by Russia of Japan's preponderating interests in Korea and of the right of Japan to assist Korea with advice tending to improve the civil administration.

3. Engagement on the part of Russia not to oppose the development of the industrial and commercial activities of Japan in Korea, nor the adoption of measures for the protection of those interests.

4. Recognition by Russia of the right of Japan to send troops to Korea for the purpose mentioned in the preceding Article, or for the purpose of suppressing insurrections or disorders capable of creating international complications.

5. Mutual engagement not to make use of any part of the Korean territory for strategical purposes and not to undertake on the Korean coast any military works capable of menacing the freedom of navigation in the Straits of Korea.

6. Mutual engagement to consider the territory of Korea to the north of the 39th parallel as a

neutral zone, within the limits of which neither of the Contracting Parties shall introduce troops.

7. Mutual engagement not to impede the connection of the Korean and East China Railways, when those railways shall have been extended to the Yalu.

8. Abrogation of all previous Agreements between Russia and Japan respecting Korea.

No. 35.

Baron Komura to Mr. Kurino.

(Telegram.) Tokio, December 21st, 1903.

In an interview with the Russian Minister, December 21st, I pointed out the fundamental difference in territorial compass between Japan's original proposals and Russia's new Counter-Proposals, and after fully explaining the reasons which induced the Japanese Government to believe it to be desirable in the general interests to include in the proposed understanding all regions in the Extreme East where the interests of the two Empires meet, I expressed the hope that the Russian Government would reconsider their position regarding that branch of the question. I also informed him fully respecting the amendments which Japanese Government consider it necessary to introduce into Russia's new Counter-Proposals. Accordingly, in order to remove every possibility of misunderstanding on the part of Russia respecting the attitude of the Japanese Government, you are instructed to deliver to Count Lamsdorff a Note Verbale to the following effect:

"The Imperial Goverament have examined with great care and attention the new Russian Counter-Proposals of the 11th instant. They regret to find that the Imperial Russian Government did not see their way in those proposals to give to the compass of the suggested understanding the same territorial extension as was deemed essential by Japan. The Imperial Government, in their original invitation to the Imperial Russian Government in August last, endeavoured to make it entirely clear that they desired, with a view to remove from their relations with the Imperial Russian Government every cause for future misunderstanding, to bring within the purview of the proposed arrangement all those regions in the Extreme East where the interests of the two Empires meet, and they cannot bring themselves to the conviction that a full realization of that desire can be expected if a large and important portion of those regions is wholly excluded from consideration. Accordingly, the Imperial Government feel constrained to ask the Imperial Russian Government to reconsider their position on the subject, and they hope that the Russian Government will be able to see their way to arrive at a satisfactory solution of the question. The Imperial Government also find it necessary to ask for the following amendments to the new Russian Counter-Proposals:

"*a.* Article II to read: "Recognition by Russia of Japan's preponderating interests in Korea and of the right of Japan to give Korea advice and assistance tending to improve the administration of the Korean Empire."

"*b.* Article V to read: "Mutual engagement not to undertake on the Korean coast any military works capable of menacing the freedom of navigation in the Straits of Korea;" and

"*c.* Article VI to be suppressed.

"As the principal part of these amendments cannot be said to be in excess of the modifications which were agreed to *ad referendum* at Tokio and as the Imperial Government consider those changes indispensable, it is hoped that they will receive the ready agreement of the Imperial Russian Government."

In presenting the foregoing note to Count Lamsdorff, you will say that I have spoken to Baron Rosen in a similar sense, and you will also express the desire for an early response.

No. 36.

Mr. Kurino to Baron Komura.

(Telegram.) Petersburg, December 23rd, 1903.
Received, " 24th, "

Upon receipt of your telegraphic instructions, I saw Count Lamsdorff December 23rd at 2 p.m. He told me he had received a telegram from Baron Rosen, stating that the latter had had an interview with you, and that particulars would follow, but such particulars had not been received yet by him. When I handed him the Note Verbale, he said that he would study it together with the report from Baron Rosen, and that he would do his best to send the Russian answer at the earliest possible date; but he added that he would have to communicate with Admiral Alexieff. In conclusion, I stated to him that under the circumstances it might cause serious difficulties, even complications, if we failed to come to an *entente*, and I hoped he would exercise his best influence so as to enable us to reach the desired end.

No. 37.

Mr. Kurino to Baron Komura.

(Telegram.) Petersburg, January 1st, 1904.
Received, " 2nd, "

I saw Count Lamsdorff January 1st, and asked whether any action had been taken regarding our last propositions. He said they had been fully considered; and he asked me to assure you that Baron Rosen will soon be instructed to proceed with the negotiations in a friendly and conciliatory spirit, and he added that he saw no reason why we could not arrive at an *entente*.

No. 38.

Baron Komura to Mr. Kurino.

(Telegram.) Tokio, January 7th, 1904.

Baron Rosen handed to me January 6th the following reply of the Russian Government to our last propositions of December 21st last:—

"Having no objection to the amendments to Article II of the Russian Counter-Proposals as proposed by the Imperial Japanese Government, the Imperial Government considers it necessary:—

"1. To maintain the original wording of Article V which had already been agreed to by the Imperial Government, that is to say, 'mutual engagement not to use any part of the territory of Korea for strategical purposes, nor to undertake on the coasts of Korea any military works capable of menacing the freedom of navigation in the Straits of Korea.'

"2. To maintain Article VI concerning a neutral zone (this for the very purpose which the Imperial Japanese Government has likewise in view, that is to say, to eliminate everything that might lead to misunderstandings in the future; a similar zone, for example, exists between the Russian and British possessions in Central Asia).

"In case the above conditions are agreed to, the Imperial Government would be prepared to include in the projected agreement an Article of the following tenor:

"'Recognition by Japan of Manchuria and her littoral as being outside her sphere of interests, whilst Russia, within the limits of that province, will not impede Japan, nor other Powers in the enjoyment of rights and privileges acquired by them under existing treaties with China, exclusive of the establishment of settlements.'"

No. 39.

Baron Komura to Mr. Kurino.

(Telegram.) Tokio, January 13th, 1904.

You are instructed to deliver to Count Lamsdorff a Note Verbale to the following effect which, you will say, is intended to confirm to him the views of the Imperial Government communicated by me to Baron Rosen on the 13th January:—

The Imperial Government, in order to arrive at a pacific solution of the pending questions and to firmly establish the basis of good relations between Japan and Russia, and in addition with a view to protect the rights and interests of Japan, have given most careful and serious consideration to the reply of the Imperial Russian Government which was delivered by His Excellency Baron Rosen on the 6th instant. They have finally come to the conclusion that the following modifications are necessary, i. e.:—

1. Suppression of the first clause of Article V of the Russian Counter-Proposals (presented to the Japanese Government through Baron Rosen December 11th) that is to say, "not to use any part of Korean territory for strategical purposes."

2. Suppression of the whole Article (VI) concerning establishment of a neutral zone.

3. The Russian proposal concerning Manchuria to be agreed to with the following modifications;

a. Recognition by Japan of Manchuria and its littoral as being outside her sphere of interest and an engagement on the part of Russia to respect the territorial integrity of China in Manchuria.

b. Russia within the limits of Manchuria will not impede Japan nor other Powers in the enjoyment of rights and privileges acquired by them under the existing treaties with China.

c. Recognition by Russia of Korea and its littoral as being outside her sphere in interest.

4. Addition of an article to the following effect:—
Recognition by Japan of Russia's special interests in Manchuria and of the right of Russia to take measures necessary for the protection of those interests.

The grounds for these amendments having been frequently and fully explained on previous occasions, the Imperial Government do not think it necessary to repeat the explanations. It is sufficient here to express their earnest hope for reconsideration by the Imperial Russian Government.

It should be further remarked that the suppression of the clause excluding the establishment of settlements in Manchuria is desired because it conflicts with stipulations of the new Commercial Treaty between Japan and China. In this respect, however, Japan will be satisfied if she receives equal treatment with another Power which has already acquired similar rights in regard to settlements in Manchuria. The statement in the Russian reply that the Japanese Government have agreed to the original wording of Article V of the Russian Counter-Proposals is erroneous, no such agreement ever having been expressed by the Imperial Government.

The above-mentioned amendments being proposed by the Imperial Government entirely in a spirit of conciliation, it is expected that they will be received with the same spirit at the hands of the Imperial Russian Government; and the Imperial Government further hope for an early reply from the Imperial Russian Government since further delay in the solution of the question will be extremely disadvantageous to the two countries.

No. 40.

Baron Komura to Mr. Kurino.

(Telegram.) Tokio, January 23rd, 1904.

You are instructed to sound Count Lamsdorff respecting the probable nature of Russia's reply to our last note and when the reply will be delivered.

No. 41.

Mr. Kurino to Baron Komura.

(Telegram.) Petersburg, January 25th, 1904.
Received, " " "

In reference to your telegram of 23rd instant, I saw Count Lamsdorff January 24th and asked his views in regard to our last proposals and also how soon the Russian answer could be given. He was not inclined to enter into details, but said that there are certain points to which he could not agree. He expects to lay his views before the Emperor next Tuesday, January 26th, and he hopes to be able to send an answer before long.

M. de Hartwig whom I saw this afternoon, told me that the Department of Foreign Affairs is yet in communication with Admiral Alexieff, and he cannot say how soon an answer can be sent to Japan.

No. 42.

Baron Komura to Mr. Kurino.

(Telegram.) Tokio, January 26th, 1904.

As the situation admits of no indefinite delay in the settlement of the questions involved, you will seek an interview with Count Lamsdorff at the earliest opportunity and state to him as an instruction from your Government that in the opinion of the Imperial Government a further prolongation of the present state of things being calculated to accentuate the gravity of the situation, it is their earnest hope that they will be honoured with an early reply, and that they wish to know at what time they may expect to receive the reply.

No. 43.

Mr. Kurino to Baron Komura.

(Telegram.) Petersburg, January 26th, 1904.
Received, " 27th, "

In reference to your telegram of the 26th instant, the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs said that the Ministers of War, Marine and other authorities concerned are to meet on the 28th January for the consideration of the question, and that their decision will be submitted to the Emperor for sanction, and he remarked that it had been the intention of Admiral Alexieff to come here; but that that idea was now abandoned, and his opinion will soon be received by telegraph. Under these circumstances, he says, he is unable to give the exact date when the reply will be given: but he can say it will not be much delayed. He said that he had received reports from official sources to the effect that Japan had sent a considerable number of troops, munitions and war materials to Korea, and asked me whether I could give any explanation regarding it. I simply answered that I knew nothing of such facts, and regretted not being able to give him any explanation. He added that such action on the part of Japan causes a very bad impression, while the two Governments are engaged seriously in such important negotiations. Telegraph me for my information whether the reports are true, and if so, the details.

No. 44.

Baron Komura to Mr. Kurino.

(Telegram.) Tokio, January 28th, 1904.

In reference to your telegram of 26th instant, you will see Count Lamsdorff at an early opportunity and say to him that you have been authorized to deny positively the statement that Japan has sent to Korea a considerable number of troops, munitions and war materials. As a matter of fact, no troops have recently been sent to Korea nor any ammunitions have been sent beyond the amount required for the ordinary use of the Japanese troops stationed in Korea. You will then ask him whether he is not able to acquaint you, for your own information, with the nature of the decision taken at the proposed conference of the Ministers on the 28th January, and whether he can indicate the approximate date on which the Russian reply is to be given.

No. 45.

Mr. Kurino to Baron Komura.

(Telegram.) Petersburg, January 28th, 1904.
Received, " 29th, "

Count Lamsdorff is satisfied with the explanation contained in your telegram of to-day. As to the question regarding the concentration of Russian troops near the Yalu, he does not believe it to be true, and he remarked that such newspaper reports are very regrettable. I tried to obtain information about the decision of to-day's meeting. He said that it is not possible for him to say anything concerning it as it will not be sent to the Emperor, and that until the respective Ministers have been received by the Emperor respecting the question, nothing can be said definitely. He stated that the Grand Duke Alexis and the Minister of Marine are to be received in audience next Monday, and the Minister of War and himself on Tuesday; and he thinks an answer will be sent to Admiral Alexieff on the latter day. I pointed out the urgent necessity to accelerate the despatch of an answer as much as possible, because further prolongation of the present condition is not only undesirable but rather dangerous. I added that all the while the world is loud with rumours and that I hoped he would take special steps so as to have an answer sent at an earlier date than mentioned. He replied that he knows the existing condition of things very well, but that the dates of audience being fixed as above-mentioned, it is not now possible to change them; and he repeated that he will do his best to send the reply next Tuesday.

No. 46.

Baron Komura to Mr. Kurino.

(Telegram.) Tokio, January 30th, 1904.

In reference to your telegram of January 28th, you are instructed to see Count Lamsdorff at the earliest opportunity and state to him substantially in the following sense:—

"Having reported to your Government that the Russian Government would probably give a reply on next Tuesday, you have been instructed to say to Count Lamsdorff that being fully convinced of the serious disadvantage to the two Powers concerned of the further prolongation of the present situation, the Imperial Government hoped that they might be able to receive the reply of the Russian Government earlier than the date mentioned by Count Lamsdorff. As it, however, appears that the receipt of the reply at an earlier date is not possible, the Imperial Government wish to know whether they will be honoured with the reply at the date mentioned by Count Lamsdorff, namely, next Tuesday, or if it is not possible, what will be the exact date on which the reply is to be given."

If Count Lamsdorff specifies the day on which the reply is to be given, you will see him on that day and ask him to acquaint you with the exact nature of the reply.

No. 47.

Mr. Kurino to Baron Komura.

(Telegram.) Petersburg, February 1st, 1904.
Received, " " "

Regarding your telegram of the 30th January, I saw Count Lamsdorff in the evening January 31st. He says he appreciates fully the gravity of the present situation, and is certainly desirous to send an answer as quickly as possible; but the question is a very serious one and is not to be lightly dealt with. In addition, the opinions of the Ministers concerned and Admiral Alexieff had to be brought into harmony; hence the natural delay. As to the date of sending an answer, he says, it is not possible for him to give the exact date as it entirely depends upon the decision of the Emperor, though he will not fail to use his efforts to hurry the matter.

No. 48.

Baron Komura to Mr. Kurino.

(Telegram.) Tokio, February 5th, 1904. 2.15 p.m.

Further prolongation of the present situation being inadmissible, the Imperial Government have decided to terminate the pending negotiations and to take such independent action as they may deem necessary to defend their menaced position and to protect their rights and interests. Accordingly you are instructed to address to Count Lamsdorff, immediately upon receipt of this telegram, a signed note to the following effect:—

"The undersigned, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, has the honour, in pursuance of instructions from his Government, to address to His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias the following communication:

"The Government of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan regard the independence and territorial integrity of the Empire of Korea as essential to their own repose and safety, and they are consequently unable to view with indifference any action tending to render the position of Korea insecure.

"The successive rejections by the Imperial Russian Government by means of inadmissible amendments, of Japan's proposals respecting Korea, the adoption of which the Imperial Government regarded as indispensable to assure the independence and territorial integrity of the Korean Empire and to safeguard Japan's preponderating interests in the Peninsula, coupled with the successive refusals of the Imperial Russian Government to enter into engagements to respect China's territorial integrity in Manchuria which is seriously menaced by their continued occupation of the province, notwithstanding their treaty engagements with China and their repeated assurances to other Powers possessing interests in those regions, have made it necessary for the Imperial Government seriously to consider what measures of self-defence they are called upon to take.

"In the presence of delays which remain largely unexplained and naval and military activities which it is difficult to reconcile with entirely pacific aims, the Imperial Government have exercised in the depending negotiations, a degree of forbearance which they believe affords abundant proof of their loyal desire to remove from their relations with the Imperial Russian Government every cause for future misunderstanding. But finding in their efforts no prospect of securing from the Imperial Russian Government an adhesion either to Japan's moderate and unselfish proposals or to any other proposals likely to establish a firm and enduring peace in the Extreme East, the Imperial Government have no other alternative than to terminate the present futile negotiations.

"In adopting that course the Imperial Government reserve to themselves the right to take such independent action as they may deem best to consolidate and defend their menaced position, as well as to protect their established rights and legitimate interests.

"The Undersigned, etc., etc."

No. 49.

Baron Komura to Mr. Kurino.

(Telegram) Tokio, February 5th, 1904. 2.15 p.m.

You are instructed to address to Count Lamsdorff a signed note to the following effect simultaneously with the note mentioned in my previous telegram:—

"The Undersigned, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, has the honour, in pursuance of instructions from his Government, to acquaint His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias that the Imperial Government of Japan, having exhausted without effect every means of conciliation with a view to the removal from their relations with the Imperial Russian Government of every cause for future complications and finding that their just representations and moderate and unselfish proposals in the interest of a firm and lasting peace in the Extreme East are not receiving the consideration which is their due, have resolved to sever their diplomatic relations with the Imperial Russian Government which for the reason named have ceased to possess any value.

"In further fulfilment of the command of his Government, the Undersigned has also the honour to announce to His Excellency Count Lamsdorff that it is his intention to take his departure from St. Petersburg with the staff of the Imperial Legation on.........date.

"The Undersigned, etc., etc."

No. 50.

Mr. Kurino to Baron Komura.

Petersburg, February 5th, 1904 5.5 A.M.
Received, " " " 5.15 P.M.

(Telegram.)

In compliance with the request of Count Lamsdorff, I went to see him at 8 p.m. February 4th. He told me that the substance of the Russian answer had been just sent to Amiral Alexieff to be transmitted to Baron Rosen. He added that Admiral Alexieff may happen to introduce some changes so as to meet local circumstances; but in all probability there will be no such changes. He then stated as his own opinion that Russia desires the principle of independence and integrity of Korea and also of necessity, the free passage of the Korean Straits. Though Russia is willing to make every possible concession, she does not desire to see Korea utilized for strategic purposes against Russia and believes it useful for the consolidation of good relations with Japan to establish by common accord a buffer region between confines of direct influence and action of the two countries in the Far East. The above is expressed entirely as his personal opinion, and I cannot say whether the same is the substance of the above-mentioned answer, though it seems to be very probable.

No. 51.

Mr. Kurino to Baron Komura.

Petersburg, February 6th, 1904. 5.57 P.M.
Received, " 7th, " 5.45 A.M.

(Telegram)

In reference to your two telegrams of yesterday's date, I presented to Count Lamsdorff to-day at 4 p.m. the notes as instructed. I shall withdraw from here with my staff and students on the 10th instant.

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Special Service.)

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

London, March 18.

The House of Commons by 182 to 68 has adopted a resolution in favour of women's suffrage.

ADMIRAL STARK RECALLED.

An Imperial Ukase recalls Admiral Stark, ostensibly on the ground of his ill-health.

NO NORTH-EAST PASSAGE.

The Russian Admiralty Authorities have abandoned the idea of sending the Baltic Squadron to the Far East by the North East passage.

REWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE.

The Commander of the *Retvizan* (Capt. Reitzenstein) has been decorated for repelling the Japanese torpedo-boat destroyers and for destroying the fireships in the night attack of Feb. 24th.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH RAPPROCHMENT.

Later.

Reuter understands that prolonged negotiations between the British and French Governments have resulted in a good understanding on all questions, Colonial and other, which have been long pending between the two States. All questions have been settled in principle and the signature of the agreements is expected in a few days. They will cover the Newfoundland, Egypt, Morocco, Siam and Nigeria questions.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE DEAD.

The Duke of Cambridge is dead.

ANOTHER LIBERAL ELECTED.

A Liberal has been elected for East Dorset.

THE GOVERNMENT AND TRANSVAAL LABOUR.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman has given notice of a vote of censure on the Government for not advising the disallowance of the Transvaal Chinese Ordinance. The debate has been fixed for March 21st.

RUSSIA AND KOREA.

London, March 18.

It is authoritatively stated at St. Petersburg that Russia does not consider Korea a belligerent because of her attitude towards Japan.

THE LATE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE.

The Duke of Cambridge will be buried in Kensal Green cemetery, beside his wife. A State service will be held in Westminster Abbey on Tuesday.

EMPEROR WILLIAM VISITS GIBRALTAR.

London, March 19.

The Kaiser William has arrived at Gibraltar. Sir George White, the Governor, boarded the *Koenig Albert* to welcome his Majesty, who landed in a launch, passing between two rows of the British squadron's boats. His Majesty drove with Sir George, who was accompanied by a brilliant suite, to the chief points on the Rock. The German flag was hoisted, while a royal salute was fired from the galleries. His Majesty will remain three days in Gibraltar. The British military and naval displays were very impressive.

BRITISH SUBMARINE SUNK.

Later.

According to an official telegram, the British submarine boat *A1* was sunk by a liner off the Nab Lightship, off Portsmouth, on the 18th inst. All hands were lost, including Lieut. Mansergh and Sub.-Lieut. Preston Churchill.

London, March 20.

Eleven lives were lost in the submarine sunk off the Nab. This vessel was of the newest type, and the accident occurred during manœuvres. The submarine was lying in forty feet of water, with only her periscope showing, waiting to attack a battleship, when the Cape liner struck and sank her.

BARON SUYEMATSU IN ENGLAND.

Baron Suyematsu had an interview with Lord Lansdowne yesterday.

THE POPE AND FRENCH POLITICS.

His Holiness the Pope, in a speech delivered to the members of the Sacred College, deplored the rigourous anti-clerical measures of France, which, he said, were contrary to the idea of liberty, the rights of the Catholic church, and the laws of civilization.

The speech is significant in view of the approaching visit of President Loubet to Rome.

ANOTHER GOVERNMENT LOAN.

Later.

The British Government has issued £5,000,000 of 2¾ per cent. stock at 87, for the purposes of the Irish Land Act.

A GERMAN REVERSE.

There has been severe fighting in South-West Africa. A small force of Germans with a number of staff officers, encountered the Hereroes' rear-guard, which was suddenly re-inforced. The Germans retreated, having 7 officers and 9 men killed, and 32 wounded.

THE BRITISH NAVAL DISASTER.

London, March 21.

An attempt to lift the submarine boat, sunk off the Nab Lightship, has failed. Salvage operations will now be necessary.

TO PROTECT JAPANESE.

The Washington Government, at the request of Mr. Takahira, the Japanese Minister, have instructed Mr. McCormick, the American Ambassador at St. Petersburg, to ask the Russian Government to assist 50 Japanese non-combatants, whose lives are in danger, to reach Berlin, where the Japanese Legation will look after them.

A RUSSIAN PROTEST.

London, March 22.

The *Temps* says that the French Minister in Tokyo has protested on behalf of Russia against the bombardment of the quarantine station at Sanshantao on the 11th of March.

A RUSSIAN TRAITOR.

A Captain attached to the Russian General Staff, has been convicted at St. Petersburg of selling to Japan the secret plans for the organization of the field army, and has been executed.

THE BALKAN TROUBLES.

Five hundred Bulgarians, divided into ten bands, have crossed the frontier and are proceeding towards Strumnitza and Monastir, which towns are intended to be made the centres of revolt.

BRITISH POLITICS.

London, March 23.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's motion of censure on the Government was rejected on division by a vote of 299 to 242.

CHINESE LABOUR ON THE RAND.

A motion to defer the introduction of Chinese labour on the Rand until representative government has been granted to the Transvaal, has been rejected by the House of Lords.

MILITARY MOVEMENTS.

An official Russian despatch has been received confirming the report that Japanese infantry and artillery occupy Anju and Ping-yang. It further says that an increased movement of troops and transport between these places is noticeable.

PORT ARTHUR.

Later.

Reuter's Agent at St. Petersburg telegraphs that it is unofficially stated that the Japanese reopened the bombardment of Port Arthur on the 22nd.

GENERAL KUROPATKIN.

General Kuropatkin has left Irkutsk.

DISCIPLINE.

Eleven soldiers have been shot at Irkutsk for pillaging and rape.

"THE AURORA."

The Russian cruiser *Aurora* and three destroyers have arrived at Bizerta.

THE JAPANESE IN KOREA.

London, March 24.

It is admitted in St. Petersburg that the Japanese are concentrating in the North of Korea more rapidly than the Russians, and that they have effectively fortified Anju, but that General Mischenko, with 6,000 cavalry, is ready to harass them unceasingly as soon as they move beyond Anju.

(Received at the Legation of France).

THE LOSS OF A SUBMARINE.

Saigon, March 21.

From Portsmouth—A submarine boat has sunk in the course of manœuvres. All the crew perished.

RUSSIAN NEWS.

From St. Petersburg—The reported accident to the torpedo-destroyer *Skori* has been officially denounced.

Russian troops continue to rush into Northern Korea. They are in excellent condition.

NEWS FROM SAIGON.

Saigon, March 22.

A detachment of Japanese troops having landed at Newchang, made a *reconnaisance* and then re-embarked.

(Received at the Naval Department.)

GRATEFUL SAILORS.

The crews of the Russian steamer *Ekaterinoslav* and seven other ships. numbering 4:4 in all, were released at Nagasaki on the 10th March. The nationalities of these people are: Russian, 230; Chinese, 152; German, 5; Dane, 1; Norwegian, 1; Korean, 1; Japanese, 15. They all declare that they are very satisfied at the treatment they received and that they will, when they reach home, publish an account of their experiences, to prove their gratitude.

THE FIFTH NAVAL ENGAGEMENT.

Admiral Togo, Commander of the United Squadron, sends telegraphic information which was received on March 24th at 6 p.m. in Tokyo.

"The United Squadron began action as had been decided. Two groups of destroyers approached Port Arthur on the night of the 21st and before daybreak of the following day had achieved the purpose assigned to them, though fired at more or less by the enemy. No damage was sustained by us. The main body of the United Squadron and the cruisers arrived off Port Arthur on the 22nd at 8 a.m. A section of the Squadron was despatched in the direction of Pigeon Bay, while the *Fuji* and *Yashima* undertook an indirect bombardment of the inner harbour. During the firing the enemy's ships came out one by one—five battleships, four cruisers and ten destroyers making their appearance outside the port when we were about to stop our indirect fire. The enemy moved about close to the forts only so that it is believed that their intention was to induce us to enter a certain zone. The enemy is believed to have engaged in indirect firing, many shells falling near the *Fuji*, but not leading to any casualty. All our squadron was withdrawn from the scene at 3 p.m.

(From the "Jiji Shimpo.")

RUSSIAN FORCES.

London, March 22.

Twenty thousand Russian troops have arrived at Harbin. Of these, four thousand have been despatched to Newchwang and two thousand to Vladivostock.

DEFECTS IN THE RUSSIAN ARMY.

It is stated that several thousand soldiers are under treatment in the Russian hospitals. The supply of ammunition is very insufficient, and besides, the supply of officers to take charge of the troops at Baikal and in the Siberia districts is scarce.

VICEROY ALEXIEFF.

The information that Viceroy Alexieff has been summoned to St. Petersburg is baseless.

THE JAPANESE NAVY.

With regard to the Japanese Navy, the Russian Minister of State for the Navy has said that Japan had organized it with admirable promptitude.

NEW RUSSIAN SQUADRON.

The Russian Naval authorities are now endeavouring to make preparations for the organization of a new squadron to be sent to the Far East.

THE FIFTH ATTACK ON PORT ARTHUR.

London, March 23.

According to official information published in St. Petersburg, the Japanese squadron consisting of eighteen ships bombarded, yesterday morning, for forty minutes, the forts of Port Arthur from off Liaoti-shan. Five Russians were killed and ten wounded. At noon, the Japanese retired southward. Viceroy Alexieff reports that the Russian squadron left their moorings in order to fight the Japanese, but his information did not touch upon actual fighting.

NEWCHWANG.

With regard to the firing heard at Newchwang, it is declared at St. Petersburg that the Russian gunners were performing their target practice. At the forts, four 5-in. guns and 18 field-guns are mounted.

JAPANESE FORTS.

The Russians state that the Japanese works extending from Anju to Yuensan cannot be destroyed.

RUMOURED POISONING OF THE AMIR.

Information from Askhaband (in Transcaspia) is published in St. Petersburg to the effect that the Amir of Afghanistan has been poisoned.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Lennox, British steamer, 2,361, McNair, 19th March,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Okhla, British steamer, 3,436, E. H. Garland, 19th March,—Rangoon, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Korea, American steamer, 5,651, W. B. Seabury, 19th March,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Yawata Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,364, R. Swain, 20th March,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,065, J. C. Jensen, 20th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tjimahi, Dutch steamer, 2,475, Johnson, 20th March,—Java, General.—Van Nierop & Co.

Leviathan, British cruiser, 14,100, Capt. Kirby, 20th March,—Hongkong.

Sheikh, British steamer, 2,828, Jones, 20th March,—Kobe, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Grossmont, British steamer, 1,818, ——, 20th March,—Batoum via ports, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Saxonia, German steamer, 3,316, ——, 21st March,—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Braemar, British steamer, 2,316, Sarby, 21st March,—New York via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Salamanca, British steamer, 883, A. E. Nelson, 21st March,—Iloilo, Sugar.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Obi, British steamer, 1,951, J. Davison, 22nd March,—Saseho, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Rugby, British steamer, 2,110, W. Brown, 23rd March,—Formosa, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Victoria, Swedish steamer, 989, Hermasson, 23rd March,—Kobe, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Ilinda, British steamer, 3,362, G. C. Stone, 23rd March,—Rangoon, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Doric, British steamer, 3,936, Harry Smith, 23rd March,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Carl, German steamer, 2,153, J. Jochinsen, 24th March,—Rangoon, Rice.—C. Illies & Co.

Pintang, Dutch steamer, ——, Ingerman, 24th March,—Moji, Coal.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Indrawadi, British steamer, 3,369, Cullington, 24th March,—New York via ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Cs.

Ascott, British steamer, 2,786, C. L. Cox, 24th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Macquarie, British steamer, 2,073, Jones, 24th March,—Sydney, Wheat.—Bowden Bros., Ltd.

America Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,363, W. W. Greene, 24th March,—Yokosuka.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

China, American steamer, 2,422, D. E. Friele, 18th March,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, E. Beetham, 18th March,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Menelaus, British steamer, 3,006, H. W. Evans, 18th March,—Surabaya, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Cheltenham, British steamer, 2,415, H. Brophy, 18th March,—Otaru, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Rhipeus, Dutch steamer, 1,958, Husband, 19th March,—Singapore, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Rajah, British steamer, 3,634, J. Clingen, 19th March,—Kobe, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Preussen, German steamer, 3,278, Prehn, 19th March,—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Labor, Norwegian steamer, 948, J. Jensen, 19th March,—Otaru, General.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Brisgavia, German steamer, 4,166, Schuecke, 19th March,—Havre, Hamburg and Bremen via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Ganges, British steamer, 2,721, W. Sibbold, 19th March,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Samara, British steamer, 1,790, W. Lewis, 21st March,—Muroran, General.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Korea, American steamer, 5,651, W. B. Seabury, 21st March,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Lennox, British steamer, 2,361, McNair, 21st March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hardis, Norwegian steamer, 1,065, J. C. Jensen, 21st March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ikhona, British steamer, 3,383, H. J. Willsher, 22nd March,—Moji, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Leviathan, British cruiser, 14,100, Capt. Kirby, 22nd March 28th.—Wei-hai-wei.

Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, K. Sato, 22nd March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Babelsburg, German steamer, 1,378, Wendt, 23rd March,—Jinsen and Chefoo, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saxonia, German steamer, 3,316, Brehmer, 23rd March,—Havre, Bremen and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Tjimahi, Dutch steamer, 2,475, Johnson, 23rd March,—Kobe, General.—Van Nierop & Co.

Yawata Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,364, R. Swain, 24th March,—Ujina.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sheikh, British steamer, 2,828, Jones, 24th March,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per American steamer *Korea*, from Hongkong via ports:—Capt. E. Bent, Mrs. E. Bent, Capt. Morrison, Capt. Kuhn, Mr. S. Kurosawa, Mr. S. Kinno, Mr. Yamada, Mr. C. H. Smith, Mr. F. H. Jermyn, Mr. J. Kuhn, Mr. Toeng C. Fang, Mrs. Toeng C. Fang, Master Fang, Mr. Lee Chan, Mr. A. F. Comrie, Dr. R. H. Campbell, Mr. C. M. Birnie, Mr. Geo. R. Harvey, Mr. R. Hara, Dr. J. S. McFarland, Mr. C. W. Yale, Capt. Warwick, Mrs. Birch and amah, Miss W. Birch, Master Birch, Mr. S. S. School, Mr. F. M. Jonas, Mr. H. Birge, Miss Parker, and Mr. J. L. Kimmins, in cabin. For Honolulu:—Mr. B. F. Dillingham, Mrs. B. F. Dillingham, Mr. T. Wissbrun, Mr. J. H. Porteous, and Mrs. J. H. Porteous, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Mr. W. Leech, Mr. A. Sabin, Mr. K. Iba, Mr. K. Kanaji, Miss M. B. Stuart, Mr. A. S. Chesebrough, Rev. R. A. Thomson, Mrs. R. A. Thomson, Rev. S. C. Bartlett, Mrs. S. C. Bartlett, 4 sons and amah, Mr. O. Spauden, Mr. A. W. Aspen, Mr. E. R. Sizer, Jr., Mr. J. Erlanger, Mrs. Geo. R. Harvey and two children, Mr. T. G. Hayman, Mrs. T. G. Hayman, Mr. G. R. Putnam, Mr. A. H. Hollingworth, Mr. L. H. Westdahl, Mr. E. Block, Mr. T. A. Sherman, Mrs. T. A. Sherman and child, Mr. D. R. Williams, Mrs. D. R. Williams, Rev. C. E. Burdette, Mrs. G. C. Finley, Mr. S. Bahmanson, Mrs. Bahmanson and child, Mr. H. K. Love, Mrs. H. K. Love and child, Mr. R. C. Robbins, Mr. Wong Yep and servant, Mr. E. Weissmuller, Mr. E. de Beixeden, Mrs. E. de Beixeden, 3 children and servant, Mr. S. R. Warburton, Mrs. S. R. Warburton, Mr. F. C. Austin, Mrs. F. C. Austin, Mr. E. Schmidt, Mrs. J. D. Rodgers, Miss Viola Rodgers, Mr. W. T. Spinney, Mrs. W. T. Spinney, Mr. W. M. Milne, Mrs. W. M. Milne, Mrs. R. L. Beebe, Miss M. Beebe, Master Beebe, Mrs. J. A. McLean, child and amah, Rev. H. O. Cady, Mrs. H. O. Cady and two children, Master R. McCartney, Mr. Geo. T. Hawley, Mrs. Geo. T. Hawley, and Mr. Lung C. Choi, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Yawata Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr A. C. Boughton, Mr. A. G. McCleve, and 10 Japanese, in cabin; 4 Japanese, in second class; 37 Japanese, and 15 Chinese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Doric*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. E. J. Cowan. Baron F. Chazal, Mr. G. Fritz. Capt. P. J. Hegardt, Mr. S. Horner. Mr. W. F. Hitt, Mr. K. Kameda, Capt. Henry Lindberg, Mr. W. G. D. Morgan, Mrs. J. B. Saunders, Miss Clara Saunders, Lieut. E. Franz and valet, Col. E. H. Crowder, Lieut. G. R. Fortescue, Capt. P. C. March, Mr. J. F. Burns, Mrs. H. M. Newson, and Mr. H. N. Nielson, in cabin. For Nagasaki:—Mrs. M. Canfield and infant, Mr. T. T. Ferguson, Mrs. T. T. Ferguson and two children, Mr. J. Troft, Mr. R. H. Hunt, Miss L. L. Hunt, and Mr. G[illegible] Baughman, in cabin. For Manila:—Mr. N. E. Bayles, Mr. E. M. Bowling, Mr. V. S. Brandt, Mr. B. G. Butler, Mr. A. F. Cameron, Mr. B. J. Daniel, Mr. D. D. Douglas. Mrs. D. D. Douglas, Mr. C. Edwards, Mr. R. Edwards, Rev. H. Farmer, Mrs. H. Farmer and infant, Mr. Geo. A. Gallagher, Mr. L. J. Grove, Mrs. L. J. Grove, Mr. J. P. Harrington, Mr. S. C. Hemstreet, Mr. Chas. Horrigan, Mr. Clark James, Capt. Wm. Johnson, Mr. J. J. McDonough, Mr. P. A. Merckel, Mr. C. C. Mitchell, Mrs. C. C. Mitchell, Mr. W. C. Neele, Mr. G. M. Nell, Mr. J. C. Phares, Mr. E. S. Powell, Mr. E. R. Roberts, Mr. H. A. Seaver, Asst. Naval Constructor S. F. Smith, Mr. F. L. Smyth, Mr. Karl Stefan, Mr. H. S. Strassbaugh, Mr. D. D. Strong, Mr. A. J. Swan, Mr. A. J. Van Waning, Mr. D. W. Walker, and Mr. B. R. Wyckoff, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mrs. P. G. Anderson, Mr. Chas. Freeman, Mrs. K. C. Palmer, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per American steamer *China*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. O. L. Babcocks, Mr. C. E. Beaty, Mr. Felix Berol, Mr. Max Berol, Mrs. Max Berol, Mr. Wm. Berol, Mr. D. N. Blake, Mr. Geo. Bowack, Mr. Justin Briggs and native servant, Mr. D. W. Britting, Mr. Allan Cameron, Mrs. Allan Cameron. Hon. F. D. Cheshire, Mr. A. M. Clover, Mr. G. W. Colton, Mr. W. B. Colver, Mrs. A. W. Curtis, Mr. J. W. Davidson, Mr. A. H. Davis, Mrs. E. G. Delano, Mrs. G. L. Dudley, Mr. A. M. Greer, Mrs. A. M. Greer, Mr. C. D. Hagerty, Mr. J. H. Hare, Mr. W. C. Hartridge, Mr. P. E. Hemmett, Mr. E. H. Himrod, Lt.-Com. W. S. Hughes, Miss B. Irwin, Mrs. L. F. James and infant, Mrs. M. Jamison, Mr. L. E. Johnson, Mr. Harvey Johnston, Mrs. Harvey Johnston and 2 children, Miss M. Kelley, Mr. K. Kiyooka, Mr. Chas. Kleine, Mr. Chas. F. Kleye, Mr. E. F. Knight, Miss L. M. Knight, Miss L. M. Koolsen, Mr. Chow Yu Kwan, Mr. H. T. Labelle, Mr. Paul Lauder, Mr. Geo. Main, Mrs. Geo. Main, Mr. P. W. Massey, Miss M. McCann, Mr. D. O. McCombs, Mr. W. F. McLaughlin and native servant, Mr. T. F. Milliard, Capt. J. B. Milton, Miss L. Moon, Rev. C. R. Moseley, Mr. I. B. Nutter, Mrs. L. L. Ormsby, Mr. W. McC. Osborne, Mrs. M. S. Porter, Mr. J. W. Price, Mr. Jno. G. Rerney, Mr. Chas. F. Rhine, Mr. Geo. F. Richmond, Lt.-Com. H. Rodman, Mr. V. M. Sale, Mr. Geo. E. Saunders, Mrs. M. C. L. Sherwood, Mr. Thos. J. Smith, Mrs. Thos. J. Smith, Capt. H. K. Strive, Dr. W. A. Sturge, Mrs. W. A. Sturge, Mr. A. F. Thane, Mr. Chas. V. Thomas, Mr. V. E. Towels, Mr. J. H. Van Sendon, Capt. Geo. Vidmer, Mrs. Geo. Vidmer and 2 children, Mr. E. L. Watson, Mr. H. M. Whitford, Mr. E. Whiting, Mr. C. D. Whipple, Mr. B. Yamasaki, and Mr. R. P. Yates, Jr., in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—Miss Adams, Mr. J. Baddeley, Miss Blackstock, Mr. W. Brand, Mr. H. S. B. Brindley, Miss Burton, Mr. A. J. H. Carlill, Mr. C. L. Carter, U.S.N., Miss Ellis, Miss E. Forster, Mr. S. Y. French, Mr. H. W. Forst, Mr. H. Fujishima, Mr. Manuel Gonzales, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Gray, Master Gray, Surg. E. R. Grazebrook, R.N., Mr. Z. Hokyo, Miss Hooper, Mr. and Mr. G. J. Hoskins, Miss E. Hoskins, Miss I. Hoskins, Mr. G. Hoskins, Mr. L. Hoskins, Mr. A. R. Ireland, [illegible].N., Mr. M. Isoda, Mr. M. Kuritsuka, Captain M. Kaburaki, I.J.M., Mr. J. Laughlin, Mr. Martin Matzdorff, Mr. H. G. Maud, Miss Maxey, Mr. N. Nagai, Miss O'Hagan and maid, Mr. A. E. Roe, Mr. H. Rumcker, Mr. K. Sano, Mr. J. S. Scott, Mr. Walter Sharples, Miss Shepherd, Mr. J. B. Shettle, Mr. J. Smith, Prof. Fred. Starr, Mr. F. O. Stuart, Mr. T. Takanagi, Mr. S. Tashima, Rev. S. Thoburn, Mrs. S. Thoburn and child, Miss Thoburn, Bishop J. M. Thoburn, Mr. Y. Watanabe, Mr. K. Watanabe, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Watson, Miss Watson, and Mr. He Cheong Wong, in cabin.

Per German steamer *Preussen*, for Europe via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. F. Palmer, Mr. R. M. Collins, Mr. Gysin, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Gill, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Barto, Mr. Benrard, Dr. F. A. Anderson, Mrs. J. R. Fiske, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice W. Frye, Miss Jackson, Master Charles Bernard, Mrs. W. Karl Vincent, child and amah, Miss Vincent, Baroness V. Kotze, Mr. T. Joss, Mr. T. Adani, Mr. S. Ito, Mr. Robert A. Browne, Mr. G. F. Peacock, Mr. H. Morphy, Mr. D. J. Karanjia, Mr. E. Tsuyama, Mr. Haltering, Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Remy, Mr. de Vries, Mr. Westhof, Mr. Coburg, Mr. D. Z. Felde, Mr. Den Kai Tai, Mr. Chun You Shing, Mr. Felix Koehler, Mr. K. L. Van, Mr. J. L. Wheeler, Mr. and Mrs. K. Ning Sai and child, Mr. Cham Chok Yue, Mrs. Tin Loy, Mr. Chun Ho, Mrs. Chin Shin, Master Chin Tun, Master Chin Yuen, and Master Chun York, in cabin.

Per American steamer *Korea*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. F. Anchorena, Mrs. F. Anchorena, Mr. A. W. Aspen, Mr. F. C. Austin, Mrs. F. C. Austin, Mr. S. C. Bartlett, Mrs. S. C. Bartlett and maid, Master D. Bartlett, Master G. Bartlett, Master R. L. Master S. C. Bartlett, Jr., Mrs. R. L. Beebe, Miss M. Beebe, Miss I. Beebe, Master Beebe, Mr. E. de Beixedon, Mrs. E. de Beixeden, 3 children and servant, Mr. E. Block, Mr. S. Bohmanson, Mrs. S. Bohmanson and child, Mr. Harold Bolce, Rev. C. E. Burdette, Mr. C. E. Burdette, Rev. H. O. Cady, Mrs. H. O. Cady and 2 children, Dr. R. H. Campbell, Mr. A. S. Chesebrough, Mr. Lung C. Choi, Mr. F. R. Cornish, Mr. B. F. Dillingham, Mrs. B. F. Dillingham, Mr. J. Erlinger, Sir George Errington, Lady Errington and maid, Rev. Claudius Ferrand, Mr. G. E. Finley, Mr. Asa Fisher, Mr. S. Fukusawa, Mr. O. Gagg, Capt. J. R. Gordon, Miss Gordon, Mr. J. Hackstron, Mr. G. H. Hamps, Mrs. G. H. Hamps, Mrs. Geo. R. Harvey and 2 children, Mr. Y. Hashimoto, Mr. I. Hayashi, Mr. T. G. Hayman, Mrs. T. J. Hayman, Mr. Geo. T. Hawley, Mrs. Geo. T. Hawley, Mr. A. H. Hollingsworth, Mr. W. H. Hunter, Mr. K. Iba, Mr. H. Imura, Mr. A. B. Jackman, Mr. F. H. Jermyn, Mr. K. Kawaji, Mr. T. Kashiwamura, Mr. S. Kinkosan, Mr. Y. Kinoshita, Mr. W. Lagro, Mr. A. Labin, Mr. W. Leech, Mr. H. H. K. Love and child, Mr. Y. Makiuchi, Mr. R. W. Mason, Miss C. W. Mason, Master R. W. McCartney, Mrs. J. H. McLean, child and maid, Mr. W. M. Milne, Mrs. W. M. Milne, Mrs. Lucy B. Mathey, Baron Matsudaira and valet, Mr. H. Matsui, Mr. M. Matsumura, Miss M. Morrison, Mr. T. Nagino, Mr. Goro Nakayama, Mr. E. J. Oesterreicher, Mr. G. Ohta, Mr. Stuart Plowright, Mr. J. H. Porteous, Mrs. J. H. Porteous, Mr. G. R. Putnam, Mr. R. C. Robbins, Mrs. J. D. Rogers, Miss Rogers, Mr. E. Schmidt, Mr. E. M. Seligman, Mr. T. A. Sherman, Mrs. T. A. Sherman and child, Mr. G. Simon, Mr. E. R. Sizer, Jr., Mr. C. H. Smith, Mr. O. Spandon, Mr. W. T. Spinney, Mrs. W. T. Spinney, Miss B. Stuart, Mr. R. Tanaka, Mr. L. Temme, Madame Tiller, Mr. J. Frank Tritch, Mrs. J. Frank Tritch, Rev. R. A. Thomson, Mrs. R. A. Thomson, Mr. N. W. Van Cleve, Mr. S. R. Warburton, Mrs. S. R. Warburton, Mr. E. Weismuller, Mr. L. H. Westdahl, Mr. E. A. Wetmore, Mr. H. D. Wetmore, Lieut. C. S. Williams, U.S.N., Mr. D. R. Williams, Mrs. D. R. Williams, Mr. Huntington Wilson, Mr. T. Wissbrun, Mr. H. Yamawaki, and Mr. Wong Yep and servant, in cabin.

CARGO.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—

From.	TEA. Canada.	Chicago & West.	New York & East.	Pacific Coast.	Other Cities.	Total Packages.
Hongkong	702	—	—	62	—	764
Shanghai	66	—	—	273	—	339
Kobe	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yokohama	166	280	—	—	—	446
Total	934	280	—	335	—	1,549

From.	SILK. New York.	San F'cisco.	Easton.	South Man'ster.	Total. Bales.
Hongkong & Canton	135	—	—	—	135
Shanghai	1,023	—	—	—	1,023
Yokohama	1,025	—	25	8	1,058
Total	2,183	—	25	8	2,216

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw and Waste Silk shipped per steamer *Preussen*:—

	Raw.				Waste.			
Nabholz & Co.	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Siber, Wolff & Co.	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sieber & Co.	55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Otto Streuli & Co.	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ulysse Pila & Co.	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cl. Eymard	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jewett and Bent	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
P. Dourille	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
H. Bernardin & Co.	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Longin & Co.	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ed. L. van Nierop.	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pollak Bros.	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Dell'Oro & Co.	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—
Cornes & Co.	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—
Jardine, Matheson & Co.	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	—
	212	—	—	—	33	—	—	—

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer	Date.
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Lyra 1	Th. Mar 24
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hamburg	Sa. Mar. 26
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Victoria	Su Mar 27
Canada	C. P. R.	Athenian 2	M. Mar [illegible]
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	M. Mar. 28
Europe	M. M. Co.	Salazie 3	Th. Mar. 30
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. April 4
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co	Em. of China	Th. April 7
America	P. M. Co	Siberia 4	Su. April 10
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	China	Th April 14
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	W. April 18

1 Left Seattle on the 3rd inst.
2 Left Vancouver on the 7th inst.
3 Left Hongkong on the 23rd inst.
4 Left San Francisco on the 23rd inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	F. Mar. 25
Europe	M. M. Co.	Armand Behic	F. Mar. 25
Hongkong	N. P. Co	Lyra	F. Mar. 25
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Victoria	M. Mar. 28
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Athenian	M. Mar. [illegible]
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	W. Mar. 30
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hamburg	Sa April 2
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. April 4
Canada	C. P. R. Co	Em. of China	F. April 8
Hongkong	P. M. Co	Siberia	M April 11
America	P. M. Co.	China	Sa April 16

VESSELS TO ARRIVE.

STEAMERS.

NAME.	FROM.	REPORTED	
Ardandearg	New York	At S'hai	Mar. 2
Arabia	New York	Left	Feb. 14
Artemesia	Hamburg	Passed Canal	Mar. 3
Armenia	Hamburg	Left	Feb. 26
Asama	London	Passed Canal	Feb. 11
Athenian	Vancouver	Left	Mar. 7
Ballarat	London	At S'hai	Feb. 17
Bencleuch	London	At Kobe	Mar. 20
Benlawers	London	Passed Canal	Mar. 3
Caithness	London	Passed Canal	Feb. 29
Claverly	New York	Left	Feb. 4
Doric	San F'cisco	Left	Mar. 5
E. F. Ferdinand	Trieste	Passed Canal	Feb. 5
Glenartney	London	Passed Canal	Mar. 1
Glenlogan	London	Passed Canal	Jan. 21
Glenesk	London	Passed Canal	Feb. 29
Glenturret	London	At S'pore	Mar. 1
Hamburg	Hamburg	Left S'hai	Mar. 19
Handandine	New York	Left	Feb. 15
Idomeneus	Livespool	At S'hai	Feb. 22
Indradeo	New York	Left	Feb. 9
Indravelli	Portland	Left	Mar. 14
Indrawadi	New York	Due Kobe	Mar. 12
Kanagawa Maru	London	At Malta	Feb. 7
Laos	Marseilles	Passed Canal	Feb. 2
Lyra	Seattle	Left	Mar. 3
Machaon	Liverpool	At N'asaki	Mar. 17
Macquarie	Sydney	Left	Mar. 5
Malacca	London	Left S'pore	Mar. 3
Marburg	Hamburg	Left	Feb. 22
Nithsdale	Phila.	At Kobe	Mar. 17
Ningchow	Liverpool	Left	Feb. 4
Oopack	Liverpool	Passed Canal	Mar. 3
Palawan	London	Passed Canal	Feb. 22
Patroclus	Liverpool	Left S'pore	Mar. 6
Plitvice	Phila.	Passed Canal	Mar. 1
Richmond Castle	New York	Left	Mar. 1
Roseley	Cardiff	Passed Canal	Feb. 22
Salazie	Marseilles	Leaves Saigon	Mar. 19
Satsuma	New York	Passed Canal	Feb. 8
Shimosa	New York	Left	Jan. 23
St. Bede	New York	Left S'pore	Feb. 29
St. George	Norfolk	At Zebu	Jan. 28
St. Nicholas	New York	Passed Canal	Feb. 4
Strathnevis	London	Passed Canal	Feb. 8
Suevia	Hamburg	Left S'pore	Mar. 18
Swanley	Barry	Left	Feb. 10
Telemachus	Liverpool	At N'saki	Mar. 19
Tiberius	New York	Passed Canal	Feb. 4
Verona	New York	Left	Feb. 15
Wakasa Maru	London	At H'kong	Mar. 9
Willowdene	Hamburg	Passed Canal	Feb. 4

UNDER SAIL.

Acme	New York	Jan. 24	Y'hama
Bretagne	Phila.	Nov. 14	Hiogo
Cannebiere	Phila.	Oct. 2	N'saki
Duguesclin	Phila.	Nov. 8	N'saki
Houdoudin	New York	Jan. 6	Japan
Italia	Phila.	Jan. 20	Loading
Mabel Rickmers	Phila.	Nov. 21	N'saki
Regina Elena	New York	Nov. 12	Y'hama
Renee Rickmers	Phila.	Nov. 5	Hiogo
Rickmer Rickmers	Phila.	Oct. 26	Hiogo
Steinbek	Phila.	Aug. 24	N'saki
S. Margherita	Phila.	Sept. 6	Kobe
S. P. Hitchcock	New York	Aug. 12	Y'kaichi
Tourville	New York	Sept. 11	H'date

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For TRIESTE, via Kobe, Hongkong, Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Aden, Suez, Port Said, and Fiume, about March 27th, the "TRIESTE."—Pollak Bros.

For GENSAN, via Bakan and Fusan (from Kobe), March 27th, at Noon, the "CHIKUGAWA MARU."—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

For HONGKONG, via Kobe, Inland Sea, Nagasaki, and Shanghai, about Mar. 28th, the "ATHENIAN."—Canadian Pacific Railway Co.

For VICTORIA, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash., Mar. 28th, the "VICTORIA."—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

For LONDON and Antwerp, via Kobe, Shanghai, Hongkong, Straits, Colombo and Port Said, March 28th, at 4 p.m., the "MALACCA."—P. & O. S.N. Co.

For LONDON and Antwerp, via ports, Mar. 29th, the "MACHAON."—Butterfield & Swire.

For AUSTRALIA, via ports (from Kobe), about Mar. 30th, the "AUSTRALIAN."—Cornes & Co.

For AUSTRALIA and New Zealand, (from Kobe), Mar. 30th, the "CHINGTU."—Butterfield & Swire.

For SAN FRANCISCO, via Honolulu, March 30th, the "GAELIC."—O. & O. S.S. Co.

For HONGKONG via Kobe, Moji, Nagasaki and Shanghai, April 1st, the "INDRAVELLI."—P. & A. S.S. & Co.

For HAVRE, Hamburg and Bremen via ports, April 1st, at Daylight, the "SUEVIA."—C. Illies & Co.

For BREMEN and Hamburg, via ports, April 2nd, at 9 a.m., the "HAMBURG."—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

For TAKAO, via Kobe, Ujina, Moji, Nagasaki, Keelung and Anping, April 2nd, at 3 p.m., the "CLARA JEBSEN."—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

For CHINNAMPO, via Moji, Fusan, and Chemulpo (from Kobe), April 2nd, at Noon, the "KWANJO-GO."—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

For HONGKONG, via Kobe, Inland Sea, Nagasaki, and Shanghai, April 4th, the "EMPRESS OF INDIA."—Canadian Pacific Railway Co.

For BONIN ISLANDS via ports, April 5th, the "HIOGO MARU."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

For PORTLAND, Ore., about April 5th, the "INDRASAMHA."—P. & A. S.S. Co.

For GENOA Marseilles, and Liverpool, via ports, Mar. 6th, the "IDOMENEUS."—Butterfield & Swire.

For CANADA, United States, and Europe, via Vancouver, B.C., April 8th, at Noon, the "EMPRESS OF CHINA."—Canadian Pacific Railway Co.

For HONGKONG, via Kobe, (Inland Sea), Nagasaki, and Shanghai, about April 11th, the "SIBERIA."—P. M. S.S. Co.

For VICTORIA, Seattle and Tacoma, Wash., April 12th, the "NINGCHOW."—Butterfield & Swire.

For SAN FRANCISCO, via Honolulu, April 16th, the "CHINA."—P. M. S.S. Co.

For HONGKONG, via Kobe, (Inland Sea), Nagasaki, and Shanghai, about April 19th, the "COPTIC."—O. & O. S.S. Co.

SHIPPING IN YOKOHAMA.

STEAMERS.

Armand Behic, French steamer, 2,819, Flandin, 16th March,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Ascott, British steamer, 2,786, C. L. Cox, 24th March—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Braemar, British steamer, 2,316, Sarby, 21st March,—New York via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Carl, German steamer, 3,153, J. Jochinsen, 24th March,—Rangoon, Rice.—C. Illies & Co.

Celebes, Dutch steamer, 1,430, J. Veen, 9th March,—Java, Sugar.—Van Nierop.

Grossmout, British steamer, 1,818, ——, 20th March,—Batoum via ports, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Indrawadi, British steamer, 6,369, Callington, 24th March,—New York via ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Ilinda, British steamer, 3,362, G. C. Stone, 23rd March,—Rangoon, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Ilola, British steamer, 3,362, W. Robertson, 16th March,—Rangoon, Rice and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Knight Errant, British steamer, 4,779, Kendall, 16th March,—Norfolk, Coal.—A. Weston.

Macquarie, British steamer, 2,073, Jones, 24th March,—Sydney, Wheat.—Bowden Bros., Ltd.

Mogul, British steamer, 2,354, Bailey, 14th March,—New York via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Obi, British steamer, 1,951, J. Davison, 22nd March,—Saseho, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Okhla, British steamer, 3,436, E. H. Garland, 19th March,—Rangoon, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Pintang, Dutch steamer, ——, Ingerman, 24th Mar.,—Moji, Coal.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Pionier, German steamer, 975, Wiese, 12th Feb.,—Christmas Island, Phosphate.—C. Illies & Co.

Rugby, British steamer, 2,110, W. Brown, 23rd March,—Formosa, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Salamanca, British steamer, 883, A. E. Nelson, 21st March,—Iloilo, Sugar.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Strathgyle, British steamer, 3,284, J. R. Gordon, 16th Jan.,—Hongkong, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Telena, British steamer, 3,124, Carter, 2nd March,—Taketoyo, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Victoria, Swedish steamer, 989, Hermassorf, 23rd March,—Kobe, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

SAILING VESSELS.

Marechal de Gontant, French bark, 1,743, Donniere, 22nd Feb.,—New York, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

MEN-OF-WAR.

Amagi Kan (10 guns), Japanese gunboat, 920, Com. Minami Yoshitaka, 21st Jan.,—Yokosuka.

Puglia, Italian cruiser, 2,538, Captain Pescetto, 11th March,—Honolulu.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There is no new feature to report.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

		PER YARD.
White Shirting—	40 yds. 36 in. 50 yds. 36 in.	0.09 to 0.10
		PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches		Y.2.85 to 3.60
Grey Shirting—9 lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches		2.80 to 4.25
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches		3.00 to 5.00
		PER YARD.
Cotton Italians and Satteens		0.20 to 0.40

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	Y.0.35 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 32 in....	0.30 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches...	0.16 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.50 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 to 65 inches ...	0.90 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0.60 to 0.66
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	9.50 to 12.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches...	0.90 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches...	1.90 to 2.25
TurkeyReds—3.8 to 5lb, 24-25 yards, 32 nches...	2.50 to 3.65

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Y. 140.00 to 150.00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	—
Nos. 38/42, Singles	—
Nos. 32, Doubles...	145.00 to 150.00
Nos. 42, Doubles...	155.00 to 160.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/100, Plain...	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	245.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	295.00 to 305.00
Nos. 2/100 ,Gassed	425.00 to 435.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling...	Nominal.	33
Indian Broach...		26
Chinese		23

METALS.

Business has been on a very small scale.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward...	Y.4.05 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.30 to 4.60
Sheet Iron...	4.65 to 6.90
Galvanised Iron sheets	10.00 to 11.00
Wire Nails, assorted	5.15 to 5.75
Tin Plates, per box...	6.70 to 7.60
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.05
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1¼ inch)	5.00 to 5.50

KEROSENE.

Hardly any change in this market.

American	$3.47
Russian	3.20
Langkat	3.30

SUGAR.

No change.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	Y.6.70 to 7.00
Brown Manila...	6.80 to 7.40
Brown Daitong	5.40 to 6.80
Brown Canton...	5.90 to 7.80
White Java and Penang...	7.50 to 8.40
White Refined...	9.10 to 11.70

INDIGO.

Still a quiet market.

	PICUL
Java, Medium to best...	270.00 to 320.00
Calcutta, Medium to best	180.00 to 290.00
Madras (*Kurpah*), Medium to best ...	140.00 to 170.00
Madras (Dry Leaf), Medium to best ..	100.00 to 140.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Small business; prices nominally unchanged but concessions can be obtained on medium and inferior grades. Best qualities scarce and proportionately dear.

QUOTATIONS.	
Filatures—Extra Best, Coarse	Y. —
Filatures—Extra, Fine	—
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	1,000 to 1,010
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	—
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	910 to 930
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	960 to 970
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	890 to 900
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	910 to 920
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	—
Common—Coarse	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1½	910 to 920
Re-reels—No. 2	—
Re-reels—No. 3	880 to 890
Kakedas—Extra	—
Kakedas—No. 1	920 to 925
Kakedas—No. 1½...	900 to 910
Kakedas—No. 2	880 to 890

WASTE SILK.

Very small market, and prices nominal. Many of the desirable kinds appear to be finished for the season.

QUOTATIONS.	
Noshi—Filatures, Best	180 to 185
Noshi—Filatures, Good	170 to 175
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Good...	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	—
Nsohi—Joshiu, Best	130 to 135
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	120 to 125
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	150 to 160
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	140 to 145
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	70 to 80
Kibiso—Bushiu, Fair	60 to 70

TEA.

No business.

QUOTATIONS.	
Choicest	—
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine...	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common...	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, March 25.

London silver ¼ lower and China sterling quotations $\frac{1}{16}$ to ¼ lower have caused local rates on China to advance accordingly but there is no change otherwise.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0$\frac{1}{16}$
— — Bills on demand..............	2/0⅛
— — 4 months' sight	2/0$\frac{9}{16}$
— Private 4 months' sight............	2/0$\frac{9}{16}$ @ ½
— — 6 months' sight............	2/0$\frac{11}{16}$ @ ⅝
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	253
— Private 4 months' sight......	257½ @ 7
— — 6 months' sight......	259 @ 8
Hongkong—Bank sight .... per $100.	90*
— Private 10 days' sight do.	87½*
Shanghai—Bank sight	79½*
— Private 10 days' sight	82*
India—Bank sight	150
— Private 30 days' sight	152¾
America—Bank sight................................	49
— Private 30 days' sight	49⅞ @ ⅜
— Private 4 months' sight	50⅝ @ ⅜
Germany—Bank sight	205½
— Private 4 months' sight	210 @ 9½
Bar Silver (London)	25¾

* Nominal.

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, March 25.

Grand Hotels, sellers at *yen* 235, offers for shares wanted. Helms, buyers at *yen* 45. Langfeldts, buyers at *yen* 40. Nickels, sales at *yen* 35. Oriental Hotel ordinary shares, buyers at *yen* 75. Kirin Breweries, sellers at *yen* 105. Y. U. C. debentures, buyers at 108. Offers wanted for Oriental Hotel debentures 1st and 2nd issue.

	YEN.	
Brett & Co. Limited	8½	Nominal.
Club Hotel, Limited	70	Nominal.
Grand Hotel, Limited	235	Sellers.
Helm Bros., Limited	45	Buyers.
Langfeldt & Co., Limited.........	40	Buyers.
Nagasaki Hotel, Limited	35	Nominal.
C. Nickel & Co., Limited	35	Sales.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Founders...	450	Nominal.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Ordinary...	75	Buyers.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Preference.	70	Nominal.
Japan Brewery Co., Limited ...	105	Sellers.
Yokohama E. & I. Works	95	Buyers.

Telephone No. 323.

TELEGRAPHIC QUOTATIONS.

March 22.

Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	$605	Sales.
Indo-China Steamship Company, Limited..........................	T.62	Sellers.
Punjom Mining Company, Limited	$1	Sales.
Raub Australian Gold Mining Company, Limited	6½	Buyers.
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co., Ld...............	92½	Sellers.
Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Company, Limited. .	147	Sellers.
Humphrey's Estate and Finance Company, Limited	10	Buyers.
Green Island Cement Co., Ltd....	25	Buyers.
S. C. Farnham Boyd & Co., Ltd.	T.140	Buyers.
Shanghai Land Investment Company, Limited	102	Sellers.
Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Company, Limited	180	Buyers.
China Traders' Insurance Company, Limited	$55	Buyers.

A. C. HUTTON POTTS,
Stock and Share Broker,
75, Main Street.

POSTAL INFORMATION.

FOREIGN MONEY ORDERS.

COUNTRIES OF EXCHANGE.

Universal Orders — Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Luxemburg, Roumania, Switzerland, German East Africa, German South-West Africa, German New Guinea, Cameroons, Togo, Samoa Islands, Kiautschau, Morocco, Beyrouth, Jaffa, Jerusalem.

Under Special Arrangements — Great Britain France, (including Algeria), Italy, (including Canea Crete Island), United States of America (including Hawaii), Canada, Hongkong (including Macao Hoihow, Canton, Swatow, Ningpo).

Through the intermediary of the British Post Office—Denmark, Egypt, Holland, Norway, Orange River Colony, Portugal, Sweden, Transvaal, Tunis, Constantinople, Panama, Smyrna, Tangier, Iceland Danish West Indies, Netherland East Indies, British colonies, not mentioned above and below.

Through the intermediary of the Hongkong Post Office—Ceylon, India, New South Wales, New Zealand, North Borneo, Queensland, South Australia, Straits Settlements, Tasmania, Victoria, Burmah, Bangkok, Chiengmai.

Through the intermediary of the Italian Post Office—Malta.

Money Orders for those places in China and Korea where Japanese Post Offices are established, are ssued subject to the domestic Money Order regulations.

MAXIMUM AMOUNTS.

Universal Orders—1,000 francs. The amount, however, limited to 500 francs for Bulgaria, Romania, German New Guinea, and Samoa Islands.

Italian and Through Orders—1,000 francs.

French Orders—250 francs.

British and Through orders—10 pounds.

U.S. Orders—100 dollars U.S. gold.

Canadian Order—50 dollars U.S. gold.

Hongkong and Through Orders—Issuing, 100 dollars silver.

FEES.

Universal Orders. Italian and Through Orders—for the first 100 francs, 10 *sen* per 25 francs; beyond the first 100 francs 10 *sen* per 50 francs.

French Orders—10 *sen* per 25 francs.

British and Through Orders—10 *sen* per 1 pound.

U.S. Orders—10 *sen* per 5 dollars.

Canadian Orders—do.

Hongkong and Through Orders—10 *sen* per 10 dollars. For Straits Settlements only, 15 *sen* per the same amount.

REMARKS.

Notice of payment of the Universal Postal Money Order may be obtained on or after the day of issue upon payment of a fee of 5 *sen*.

Delivery of cash order advice by express may be executed in Germany, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Switzerland, and Luxembug, by paying in advance a fee of 12 *sen*.

Money Orders may be transmitted by Telegram to Germany, Austria-Hungary, Switzerland, and Luxemburg, for which the ordinary telegram fees must be paid in addition to the money order fees.

Foreign money orders will be issued and paid at any Post Office in Japan, where domestic money order business is transacted. Telegraphic orders are, however, managed at the main offices in Tokyo and Yokohama only.

FOREIGN MAILS.

RATES OF POSTAGE AND FEES.

Letters: per 15 grammes or fraction thereof, 10 *sen*. Post Cards: single, 4 *sen*; with paid answer, 8 *sen*. Printed matter: per 50 grammes or fraction hereof, 2 *sen*. Commercial Papers: up to 250 grammes, 10 *sen*; each additional 50 grammes, 2 *sen*. Samples of Merchandise; up to 100 grammes, 4 *sen* each additional 50 grammes, 2 *sen*.

Registration, 10 *sen*. Acknowledgment of Delivery of a Registered Article, 5 *sen*. The same fee will be charged for enquiry, made after posting, as to the disposal of a registered article.

Registered mails may be sent marked with trade charges to the following countries and up to the amounts subjoined after the name of each country:—Germany (800 mark), Austria (500 gulden), Belgium, Switzerland and Luxemburg (1,000 francs), Roumania (500francs).

Withdrawal of correspondence and correction of addresses may be claimed for certain countries by paying a fee which varies according to cases.

LIMIT OF WEIGHT AND DIMENSIONS.

Letters—No limits of weight and dimensions.

Printed Matter & Commercial Papers—Weight, 2 kilogrammes. Dimensions, 45 centimetres in any one direction. Packets in the form of a roll may, however, be 75 centimetres in length, and 10 centimetres in diameter.

Samples of Merchandise—weight, 350 grammes

Dimensions 30 centimetres in length, 20 centimetre in breadth, 10 centimetres in depth. Packets in the form of a roll, 30 centimetres in length, and 15 centimetres in diameter.

PROHIBITED ARTICLES.

Articles of a nature likely to soil or injure the correspondence; explosive, inflammable, or dangerous substances: animals or insects, living or dead; current coin, or articles liable to Customs duty; gold or silver bullion, precious stones, jewelry, or other articles of value.

REMARKS.

Mails for Korea and for those places in China where Japanese Post Offices are established (Peking, Newchwang, Nangking, Shan-hai-kwan, Tientsin Tong-ku, Chefoo, Shanghai, Soochow, Shashi, Hangchow, Hankow, Amoy, and Foochow), are subject to the domestic postage and local conditions.

Articles, other than letters and post cards, must be prepaid at least partly. Commemorative Postage Stamps are not valid, if used for Foreign Mails. Correspondence may be delivered by Express in certain countries, bypaying in advance a fee of 12*sen*.

FOREIGN PARCELS.

HONGKONG PARCELS.

Places of Exchange—Hongkong, Amoy, Canton, Foochow, Hankow, Hoihow, Macao, Malacca, Ningpo, Pakhoi, Penang, Shanghai, Singapore, Swatow, Siam.

Limit of Weight and Dimensions—Weight, 5lbs. Dimensions, 2 feet in length and 1 foot in breadth and depth.

Rates of Postage—For Siam 35 *sen* for the first one pound, beyond, 20 *sen* per pound. For the other countries or places, 20 *sen* per pound.

CANADIAN PARCELS.

Limit of Weight and Dimensions—Weight, 7lbs. Dimensions, 2 feet in length and 1 foot both in breadth and depth.

Rates of Postage—40 *sen* per each 1lb.

GERMAN PARCELS.

Limit of Weight and Dimensions—Weight, 5 kilogrammes. Dimensions, 60 centimetres in any one direction.

Rates of Postage—*Yen* 1.90 per each parcel.

Acknowledgment of Delivery—5 *sen* in addition to the ordinary postage rate.

Remark—One Customs Declaration and one Despatch Note may be used for 3 parcels and under, provided they be from the same sender to the same addressee.

SAVE YOUR HAIR

With Shampoos of Cuticura Soap and Light Dressings of Cuticura.

This treatment at once stops falling hair, removes crusts, scales, and dandruff, soothes irritated, itching surfaces, stimulates hair follicles, supplies the roots with energy and nourishment, and makes the hair grow upon a sweet, wholesome, healthy scalp when all else fails.

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Assisted by CUTICURA OINTMENT, for preserving, purifying, and beautifying the skin, for cleansing the scalp of crusts, scales, and dandruff, and the stopping of falling hair, for softening, whitening, and soothing red, rough, and sore hands, for baby rashes, itchings, and chafings, in the form of baths for annoying irritations and inflammations, or too free or offensive perspiration, and for all the purposes of the toilet, as well as by millions of women in the form of washes for ulcerative weaknesses, and many sanative, antiseptic purposes which readily suggest themselves to women and mothers.

COMPLETE TREATMENT FOR EVERY HUMOUR,

Consisting of CUTICURA SOAP, to cleanse the skin of crusts and scales, and soften the thickened cuticle; CUTICURA OINTMENT, to instantly allay itching, inflammation, and irritation, and soothe and heal; and CUTICURA RESOLVENT PILLS, to cool and cleanse the blood. A SINGLE SET is often sufficient to cure the most torturing, disfiguring, itching, burning, and scaly skin, scalp, and blood humours, with loss of hair, when all else fails. Sold throughout the world. Australian Depot: R. TOWNS & CO., Sydney. British Depot: 27-28, Charterhouse Sq., London. French Depot: 5 Rue de la Paix, Paris. POTTER DRUG AND CHEM. CORP., Sole Props., Boston, U. S. A.

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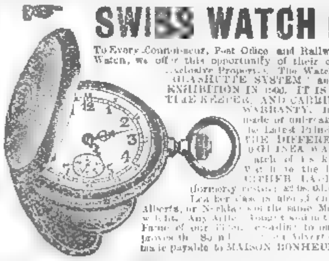

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To Every Connoisseur, Post Office and Railway Servant, and Persons Requiring a Splendid Watch, we offer this opportunity of their obtaining this: "Original Swiss Watch" (Our Exclusive Property). The Watch in question is made on the World-Renowned "GLASHUTTE SYSTEM" and received the Highest Award at the PARIS EXHIBITION IN 1900. IT IS THOROUGHLY REGULATED, A SPLENDID TIME KEEPER, AND CARRIES WITH IT A THREE YEARS WRITTEN WARRANTY. It has Three Heavy Cases (Bayonette), which are made of unbreakable Oroin Metal, Electrically Gold Plated on the Latest Principle, and the finest Connoisseur cannot detect THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OURS AND THE USUAL GUINEA WATCH. It wears like Real Gold and is the only Watch of its kind having that advantage. To introduce this Watch to the British Public and Colonists we will deliver EITHER LADIES' OR GENTS' for [illegible], post free (formerly [illegible]), on receipt of Money Order for that Amount. A Leather Case is also given gratis with every Watch. Fashionable Chains, Alberts, or Necklaces of the same Metal can be had for [illegible], or 12s., according to weights. Any Article bought and not approved of will be exchanged. The European Fame of our Firm, according to our Daily Orders and Unsolicited Testimonials, proves the Soundness of our Advertisements. Post Office or Postal Orders should be made payable to MAISON BONHEUR, BALE (SUISSE).

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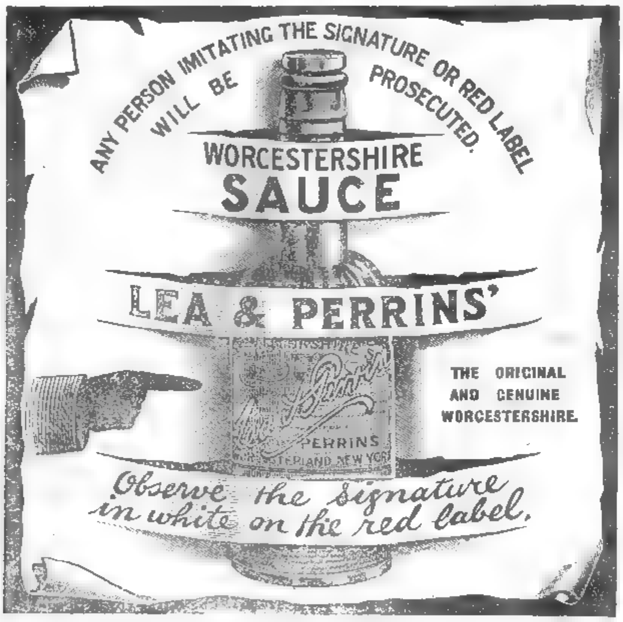

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, APRIL 2ND, 1904.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

DURING a gale, a junk with 520 bags of barley was capsized on the night of March 26th at Ujina.

MARQUIS ITO is expected to arrive at Saseho this morning and will leave there by the steamer *Hongkong Maru*.

MR. HIROSE, President of the Yamanashi Prefectural Assembly, was arrested on March 27th on a charge of fraud.

THE Toyo Kisen Kaisha's steamer *Manshu Maru* has been taken off the schedule and left Yokohama on March 26th for Yokosuka.

MR. NOZAWA, a correspondent of the *Niroku Shimpo*, says a Moji telegram to the *Kokumin*, has been prohibited from visiting transports.

THE Government intends establishing an institution under the name of *Haihei-In*, to afford accommodation for soldiers injured at the front, for which purpose the authorities have purchased the building of the Nippon Athletic Society. The place will be completed by August.

CAMBRIDGE has now won the famous Varsity boat race 27 times, against Oxford's 33. Cambridge has scored three wins in three successive years.

THE well-known actor Ichikawa Gonjiro, who was suffering from consumption, died on the morning of March 27th. He was fifty-seven years of age.

FROST prevailed on March 29th in the district of Fuji, Shidzuoka prefecture, the injury to the crop of barley being estimated at about 40 per cent.

GENERAL YAMAGUCHI, formerly Commander of the Fifth Division, who is now appointed Military Councillor to the Head-Quarter staff, will come up to Tokyo early in April.

COUNT KATSURA, the Premier, entertained the members of both Houses and the government delegates on March 30th at the Imperial Hotel. The Houses closed the same day.

K. KATO, a bookseller, of Isezaki-cho, Yokohama, was on March 26th prosecuted by the police on a charge of having sold illustrated post cards which are injurious to social order.

VISCOUNT YOSHIKAWA, Minister for Home Affairs, entertained the local governors who are now in Tokyo, and officials of the Tokyo City Office, on March 27th at 3 p.m. at his official residence.

MR. R. IMANISHI and a few other merchants of Osaka have purchased the property of the Tokyo Beer Brewing Company for two hundred thousand *yen*. They will shortly re-open business under the same name.

THE *Nichi Nichi's* Ujina correspondent states that Lieut. Martini, Naval attaché of the French Legation, Tokyo, paid a visit to the captured Russians now confined in a Buddhist temple at Matsuyama, on the 24th ult.

THE *Asahi's* Saseho correspondent states that on the evening of March 27th, a quantity of powder exploded at the Saseho Naval Arsenal with the result that a wooden building was destroyed and four workmen were killed.

CAPTAIN TROUBRIDGE, Naval attaché of the British Legation, proceeded on March 26th to the Palace, accompanied by Sir C. MacDonald, where he had farewell audience of the Emperor. Capt. Troubridge left for England on the 28th.

A TELEGRAM from Sapporo reports that a pupil named H. Morikawa (15) attending the Sapporo School, committed suicide on March 27th by drowning himself in the Toyohira river. The cause of this tragedy is said to be that he failed to pass a scholastic examination.

LIEUT.-COLONEL MACKENZIE FOSS, who has been shooting and exploring on the Siamese frontier, went through Colombo the other day and claims with his party of engineers to have located large deposits of tin-ore fully equal to those of the Straits Settlements.

BEFORE long the rules governing the bestowal of the Victoria Cross will be altered. It has long been felt that the Cross should be awarded not so much for an act of bravery in saving an individual life, as for an act of bravery benefiting the nation, or the particular fighting section of it to which the individual belongs. The amendment of the rules, we understand, will be based on this wider interpretation of an act of bravery.

MR. OZAKI, Mayor of Tokyo, Mr. S. Shimada and four other members of the Lower House entertained the foreign war correspondents now staying in Tokyo on the evening of March 26th at the Maple Club, Shiba Park.

THREE men armed with swords and revolvers entered, early on the morning of March 27th, the dwelling of T. Kamoshita, a wealthy farmer, at Kita-toyoshima, near Tokyo. Having tied up all the members of the family, the robbers took away money and many articles from a godown.

A MAN armed with a large knife entered, on the night of March 25th, the dwelling of a merchant, T. Shibatu, Furo-cho, Yokohama, and inflicted severe injuries on the latter and his mother. It appears that the culprit was attempting to steal some articles from a cabinet when the occupants awoke from sleep and gave the alarm.

A TELEGRAM from Nagasaki states that a British steamer arrived there on March 29th with iron pipes and tin sheets to be forwarded to Vladivostock. The customs appraisers are examining the cargo with a view to deciding whether it is to be classified as contraband of war. It is believed by the authorities that the material is to be used at a ship-building yard, or for a cartridge-filling factory.

PRINCE ZU-LUN and suite left Shimbashi by the 10.30 a.m. on March 28th, arriving in Yokohama at 11.40 a.m. They proceeded to the Oriental Palace Hotel where the Prince was entertained at lunch by prominent Chinese traders. Governor Sufu and other officials were present. About 2 p.m. the Prince removed to the Grand Hotel. Yokohama was decorated by the Chinese in the Prince's honour. The Prince and party will leave on the 30th by the *Gaelic* for San Francisco.

A PRO-JAPANESE demonstration is reported to have taken place in Berlin on Feb. 14th, in one of the restaurants in the Friedrichstrasse. Some Japanese, mostly medical students, entered the place, when a German called for three cheers for Japan, which were heartily given by all present. One of the Japanese students mounted a chair, and delivered a little speech in broken German, in which he intimated that he and his colleagues were convinced that the sympathy of Berliners, from whom they had learned so much, was on their side.

MR. GUENTHER, United States Consul-General, writes from Frankfort that the tremendous price which is asked for radium at present will probably be lessened considerably in the future. This wonderful element is only obtained from the uranium ores of Bohemia, and the assertion that the price is artificially screwed up by the producers is perhaps only true to a limited degree. Professor Himstedt, of the University of Freiburg, has continued investigations as to the existence of radium in nature, and has extended those formerly made of rain water and of the soil with reference to the presence of radium. He has arrived at the conclusion that radium occurs more frequently in our surroundings than has heretofore been suspected. According to his experiments, all natural springs of water and also the petroleum wells possess a heavy gas, whose radiations are similar to, and probably identical with, radium.

direction of Hwi-chhon. This last-named place is about mid-way between the east and west coasts of northern Korea, and lies on a branch of the road leading to Kang-ge, which is an important city 55 miles from the Yalu's upper water. This intelligence goes to confirm news previously received to the effect that the Russians are occupying along the Yalu a line from Wiju to Chhosan, a distance of 185 miles. But of course such extension is quite out of the question, especially in a country where means of communication are radically defective. The truth seems to be that the Cossacks are moving actively hither and thither in a region having the Chongpu-Unsan road for its southern limit, and perhaps a hundred and fifty miles of the Yalu for its northern boundary.

The principal local official in Wiju wires that the Russians are preparing the place for defensive purposes; that the communications are interrupted and that provisions are very scarce

Another telegram to the *Hochi Shimbun* is in the sense of the news sent from St. Petersburg that the Russians have retreated to the Yalu. But they have not retreated, as is shown by the Chong-ju affair.

There has been another capture of twelve Tonghaks near Hamheun. The leaders were executed.

The War Office announces that the Russians who fought at Chongju on the 28th instant were Cossacks belonging to the Chichinsky Regiment of the Zabaikal Army. Further, the troops forming the line of outposts between Chongju and Wiju are the First and Fifth companies of the Argunsky Regiment. This Regiment has a fighting force of 890 sabres, with 55 non-combatants and 51 transport troops. Various articles belonging to the retreating Russians were found at Kasan.

CAPTAIN HIROSE.

Captain Hirose received a step of rank and the Order of the Golden Hawk the day before his death. Warrant Officer Sugino, who also perished on the 27th, had been raised in rank on the 26th and had received the sixth class of the same Order. The widest regret appears to be felt for Captain Hirose's death. A man of learning as well as a fine officer, he was universally beloved for his gentle, unassuming demeanour. Some years ago, after a visit to Russia, he came home across Siberia, and acquired a fair knowledge of the Russian language. Death found him at the early age of 37, and it seems as certain as human things can be certain that his fate was the result of that heroic search he made for warrant-officer Sugino at a moment when the least delay in leaving the *Fukui Maru* involved immense risks. Nothing could have been more characteristic of the man than this act. It tells in a word why he was beloved by his subordinates, and how his discharge of difficult duty was always successful. He distinguished himself in his classes at the Naval Academy and he was a noted student of *jujutsu*. To whatever he did he carried the same spirit of unfailing earnestness.

THE AMERICAN-CONSUL QUESTION.

Shanghai telegraphs that the Russian Authorities have intimated to the Government of the United States that so long as a state of war exists it will be preferable not to post consuls at the newly opened ports in Manchuria. If that be true, the Washington Government will have a problem to solve.

NEWCHWANG.

Saturday, March 26.

The ice is on the point of melting at Newchang and in a few days the British and American gun-boats will leave the place. Thereafter it is expected that the Russians will proceed to block the river by sinking junks, but great doubts are entertained as to the probable success of the manœuvre owing to the force of the current at this time of year.

Wednesday, March 30.

On the 23th instant the Russian Consul at Chefoo published a notification that any vessel desiring to enter Newchwang must stop at a point 5 miles outside the harbour, and submit to an examination, after which she would be allowed to proceed. The object of this notification was to encourage steamers to proceed to Newchwang, so as to open a route for the inflow of provisions and munitions of war. It is stated that after the issue of the notification British and German shipping firms in Chefoo applied to the Japanese Consul, Mr. Mizuno, for passes which would enable them to escape detention by Japanese men-of-war, but the Consul naturally refused to give any such documents. The view he is said to take is that all the region eastward of the Liao, under which definition Newchwang falls, is belligerent territory, and consequently vessels proceeding thither must take the risk. Besides, a consul can not examine the whole of a ship's cargo. He has to rely solely on the manifest, and that is obviously an insufficient guarantee against the smuggling of contraband.

The *Jiji Shimpo's* Peking correspondent states that a certain British subject in Newchwang, apparently acting in Russian interests, induced a number of his fellow-nationals to sign a petition to the British Minister praying that the gun-boat *Espiegle* might be allowed to remain in the port. Sir Ernest Satow replied, however, that there being no possibility of treating Newchwang as neutral territory, the *Espiegle* could not be suffered to lie there, and she would have to take her departure early in April. It is plain that the Russians would like to have Newchwang enjoy the facilities connected with neutrality, as they would then be relieved of the necessity of guarding it, and might also use it as an avenue for importing supplies. But we would point out to the *Jiji Shimpo's* correspondent that the action taken by British subjects in this matter is perfectly explicable without recourse to the hypothesis that they are secretly acting in Russian interests. Nothing could be more natural than that they should desire the continued presence of a gun-boat. The gun-boat is the one emblem of security in the eyes of the British merchant in the Far East. There are Englishmen in Newchwang who possess large vested interests and probably some are still accompanied by their wives and families. Should Newchwang be regarded as belligerent territory, the need of such assistance as only a man-of-war could render may at any moment become imperative. Besides, there is the question of continuing or abandoning business from which daily bread is obtained. The best will in the world for Japan's cause could scarcely reconcile the average Britisher to lose everything for her sake.

The latest news from Chefoo contradicts the above story about permits for steamers. Martial law, we are told, has been proclaimed by the Russians at Newchwang, and all ingress of merchant steamers forbidden. On the other hand, according to Shanghai, the Russian officials have issued a notification that ships entering or leaving the port must stop near the eastern lighthouse and submit to examination, the time for such operation being from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

From Newchwang comes intelligence that a raid was recently made on a Japanese store by a party of Russian soldiers under a Russian officer. The owner of the place was tied up and his store pillaged. But justice seems to have been rendered speedily. The Russian Consul hastened to the place, released the Japanese store-keeper and took steps to have him compensated to the extent of $337, which money was duly paid to him on the 3rd instant.

Thursday, March 30.

We stated in our last issue that the Russians had declared a state of siege at Newchwang. It is now alleged that they have promulgated a regulation that all persons exporting goods from the place must pledge themselves not to carry the goods to either Japan or Korea, the pledge to take the form of a sum of money representing the market value of the goods, which money will be lodged with the Russian Authorities. Over-sea trade would be effectually stopped by that system, we should think.

THE WAR TAXES.

The Budget Committee of the Lower House held a meeting on the 25th instant, and came to the following conclusions:—

The Business Tax to be increased as desired by the Government.

The Income Tax to be increased as desired by the Government.

The *Sake* Tax to be increased as desired by the Government.

The Exchanges Tax to be increased as desired by the Government.

The Shooting Licenses Tax to be increased as desired by the Government.

The Mining Tax to be increased as desired by the Government.

The Soy Tax to be increased as desired by the Government.

The Registration Tax to be increased as desired by the Government.

The Imported Sugar Tax to be increased as desired by the Government.

The Salt Consumption Tax } rejected.
The Silk Fabrics Tax }

The Kerosene Tax to take the form of an increase of 3.2 *sen* per gallon, canned and uncanned alike.

The Sugar Consumption Tax—
Class I—as proposed by the Government.
Class II—3 *yen.*
Class III—3.30 *yen.*
Class IV—3.70 *yen.*

Tobacco Tax, all manufactured tobacco to pay 150 per cent. *ad valorem* instead of 100 per cent.

The Land Tax to be increased to 4.3 on agricultural land, building lands being taxed as proposed by the Government.

The results so far as income to the Treasury is concerned, are:—

REDUCTIONS OF INCOME.

	Yen.
Reductions on account of Land	2,014,250
„ Silk Fabrics	4,183,885
„ Salt	2,810,595
„ Revenue stamp	89,625
Total	9,098,355

INCREASES OF INCOME.

	Yen.
Sugar Consumption Tax	721,071
Import Duties (Kerosene excepted) .	170,800
Duty on Kerosene	411,167
Tobacco Monopoly	1,400,000
Total	2,703,038

Thus the total reduction is 6,395,317 *yen*. Of this aggregate it is proposed to make up 1,800,000 *yen* by administrative economies, and to obtain the rest by diverting money from other sources.

MARQUIS ITO.

Saturday, March 26.

On the 23rd instant Marquis Ito gave an entertainment in Seoul. It is stated that after dinner Marquis Ito openly asked the Korean officials present what kind of ceremony their country had formerly observed towards China. On receiving an accurate reply, His Excellency asked whether anything of this ceremonial remained. The Koreans answered that it had been absolutely abandoned after the Shimonoseki Treaty. The Marquis next inquired whether any such ceremonial was observed towards Russia or whether there was any idea of observing it. The reply was emphatically in the negative. "Then," said the Marquis, "I rise to propose the health of His Majesty the Emperor of Great Korea." These preliminaries and their sequel are said to have produced a strong impression upon the Korean officials. It was indeed a dramatic kind of procedure, well calculated to remind the Koreans of the cardinal fact that, nationally speaking, they owe every thing to Japan.

Monday, March 28.

The immediate result of Marquis Ito's visit appears to be that steps will be taken to reorganise the government on lines more or less remotely like those adopted by Japan at the time of the Restoration. There is, of course, a radical difference in the two situations, for in Korea the central administration is already under the Sovereign's direction and no occasion exists to make any sweeping re-construction. Hence we can not clearly discern what is intended. No difficulty offers in determining what is wanted and what is radically wanting, namely, official integrity. But that is scarcely a matter of system. We must be content to await some fuller exposition of the steps contemplated.

On the occasion of the luncheon given to Marquis Ito in the Palace on the 25th inst., the Emperor conversed with the Ambassador for two hours, and accompanied him to his palanquin when the time for leave-taking came. In the *Kokumin* we read an *exposé* of the counsels given by the Marquis. He is said to have strongly condemned the custom of officials offering all kinds of conflicting advice to the Throne, and to have insisted that the Cabinet should act as a filter for such advice and should accept full responsibility for it. His Excellency further insisted that Korea's history indicates her greatest misfortune to be perpetual struggles for political power among ambitious men, and consequent involving of the Court in these intrigues. It should be the prime endeavour of the Sovereign to educate a spirit of harmony and co-operation, and His Majesty, carefully segregating himself from all details or petty affairs, should confine his attention and direction to cardinal matters only.

The Emperor is reported by the same authority to have received this advice with most unequivocal indications of pleasure and appreciation. His Majesty begged the Ambassador to remain in Seoul, so as to assist in giving practical effect to his wise counsels. But the Marquis pleaded multiplicity of duties awaiting him in Japan and explained that his sojourn in Seoul must be very limited. The Emperor then asked him to regard Korea as his country villa, and to visit it as often as circumstances would permit.

Marquis Ito left Seoul on the 26th instant. He is said to have had an extraordinary send-off, all the Korean high officials and all the members of the foreign Corps Diplomatique attending at the station to bid him farewell. The Imperial State carriage was again provided for his use on the railway.

Thursday, March 31.

Marquis Ito arrived at Saseho on the morning of the 29th instant. He was saluted by American, English, German and French men-of-war now lying in the port. His Excellency's plan was to go on by ship to Kobe, reaching that place on the 30th.

KOREA.

Saturday, March 26.

The Korean Government formally announced the opening of Yong Am-pho on the 24th instant.

Lieut.-Colonel Nozu has been definitely appointed military adviser to the Korean Government for a period of 5 years.

The chief local official at Wiju has sent a report by messenger to Seoul, whence it has been transmitted to the Seoul Government. He says that between February 2nd and March 15th the total number of Russian troops that crossed the Yalu was 4,500. Of these a thousand proceeded in the direction of Chhosan, three thousand took up their quarters in Wiju and 500 moved southward. Chhosan is far up the Yalu—108 miles above Wiju. Previously nothing had been heard of Russian troops higher up the river than Chhang-song, which is 44 miles from Wiju.

Is it true, we wonder, that the Russian forces began to cross the Yalu into Korea on the 2nd of February? If it is true, then what a farcical character do the Tsar's complaints assume that Japan's first belligerent acts preceded any declaration of war. Actually on the 2nd of February, namely, 4 days before the rupture of diplomatic relations and 6 days before the first act of war on Japan's part, the Russians themselves had commenced the war by moving troops into Korea; that is to say, into the very territory which they subsequently pretended to be neutral. There never was a more ludicrous farce. They began to invade Korea at the very time when Count Lamsdorff was making pacific declarations to Mr. Kurino in St. Petersburg, and it was one of their own ships—the *Korietz*—that fired the first shot on the 8th of February outside Chemulpo. Yet they pretend that the Japanese began the war without due notice. The plain truth is that had the Japanese Government delayed a little longer, Pyongyang and probably Seoul would have been occupied by Russian troops, while Viceroy Alexieff was leisurely examining whether some "local modifications" of St. Petersburg's answer might not be necessary before presenting it to the Foreign Office in Tokyo.

The Emperor of Korea has presented to the Japanese naval forces in Korean waters 20 dozens of champagne, 50 boxes of cigars 30,350 boxes of cigarettes of sorts, 30 tubs of *sake* and 50 oxen.

Monday, March 28.

Accounts from the north-east of Korea indicate that although there has been a great deal of talk of the doings of Russian troops in that direction, the enemy's force there is really small. It is doubtful whether all the Russian troops posted here and there in the vicinity of the Tumen aggregate as many as 2,500 men. Kyong-song is one of the strongest positions on the north-east coast, and it would seem that there are only 100 Russian soldiers there. On the other hand, it is tolerably plain that the Japanese have some force in Yuensan, but the truth is that all military intelligence is too fragmentary and untrustworthy for the construction of any clear ideas.

But although the Russians have not apparently crossed the Tumen on the north-east in any force, they are said to be collecting in large numbers on the north side of the river, their place of concentration being Chong-song (not to be confounded with Chhang-song on the Yalu). From that region the Korean local officials send word that the Russians are murdering the people, seizing provisions and otherwise behaving with great violence, so that the inhabitants are flying from their homes and many are without means of sustenance. The unfortunate officials ask plaintively "What are we to do?"

On the other hand there can be no question that the Russians are vigorously fortifying the Yalu line. Most of their works appear to be on the northern bank of the river. They extend from Antung to Chhang-song, a distance of over 40 miles. At Chhang-song four forts are said to have been erected and at Antung seven have guns actually mounted, while six others are in the construction process. All these preparations would doubtless render the passage of the river very difficult at any point between Antung and Chhang-song. But the position has one very great and palpable weakness. Its base of supplies is Liao-yang, at a distance of 180 miles from Antung, and the roads between the two places are of the worst possible description, especially at this time of year. Indeed it is already rumoured that the Russians on the Yalu are in great straits for provisions, and that they are beginning to eat their transport animals.

The civilization that the Russians are spreading at the point of the bayonet in the "benighted regions" of the Far East is a noble product of the heirs of all the ages. Even at Smolensk, within their own lines, these fine fellows have to be executed in batches to restrain them from pillage and rape. What must they be when they find themselves enjoying the splendid freedom of an enemy's country?

Mr. Hayashi, Japanese Representative in Seoul, has applied to the Korean Government for permission for Japanese subjects to engage in fishery operations along the coasts of the three provinces, Pyongsan-do, Hwang-hai-do and Chhungchhong-do. These are the western provinces of Korea; that is to say, the provinces where military movements are now supposed to be taking place on the largest scale. It is therefore of great moment that an ample supply of fish should be forthcoming. So long as Japanese troops work within a reasonable distance from the sea, they may be said to carry their commissiariat with them. Already the Japanese enjoy fishing privileges on the shores of five other Korean provinces. If the above application be granted—as we presume it will be—they will be able to fish everywhere on the coast of Korea. It can not be doubted that the resulting development of the sea's resources would be considerable.

On the 25th instant Marquis Ito and the members of his staff, together with Mr. Hayashi, Mr. Hagiwara and others had the honour of lunching with the Emperor of Korea in the Palace. Japanese newspapers note that although this is not the first instance of foreigners being entertained in the Palace, it is actually the first instance of the Emperor himself sitting down with them to table.

The two leaders of the Hamheun riot—

that is, the Tonghak instigators—have been executed.

It is alleged that the Russian troops have retreated from Chonju to Son-chhon, a distance of 19 miles, breaking all the bridges and destroying the telegraphs *en route*. Son-chhon is 50 miles south of Wiju.

Tuesday, March 29.

Mr. Hayashi is said to have applied for permission to lay a line of telegraphs from Pyong-yang to Anju. Apparently this must be a question of increasing the capacities of the present line.

Reports continue to come from Chemulpo that the place is crowded with petty tradesmen and adventurers who have come to make capital out of the war. These people are so numerous as to be a nuisance.

We have been hearing of various changes of plan as to the personality of the special ambassador who is to be sent from Korea to Japan. Apparently the Court has reverted to its original intention, and Prince Li Chi-yong will be the envoy.

Wednesday, March 30.

Marquis Ito's brief stay in Seoul is said to have produced an excellent effect so long as he was in sight, but the best informed persons are convinced that Korea will drift back into its old groove so soon as ever the echoes of Marquis Ito's wise words grow faint. Already there are evidences of a recrudescence of political intrigues. The Min section, supporters of the Prince Imperial, and the adherents of the Lady Om, led by Chyo Pyon-sik, are beginning to renew their activities, and it is further stated that Li In-yong and his brother have addressed to the monarch a secret memorial, pointing out that although Japan enjoyed the sympathy of Western nations at the outset, she has incurred the hostility of France and Germany by using Korean territory for belligerent purposes and by her arbitrary conduct in general towards Korea. Therefore, these politicians urge, Korea's obvious route to safety is to cultivate French and German friendship, and thus open a path to an ultimate understanding with Russia. These two Li are the men who advised the Emperor to take refuge in the French Legation when a crisis recently came in sight.

The immediate subject of political dispute is the office of *Gisei Daijin*, which appears to be a new post, having for functions the giving of advice about administrative affairs in general. Each party has a candidate of its own.

Prince Li Chi-yong, it is reported, may be the bearer of a fresh communication about the Korean refugees, when he comes as special ambassador to Japan. But at present only the Minister of the Household is in favour of entrusting him with such a commission.

LADIES' PATRIOTIC ASSOCIATION.

We understand that Princess Iwakura, President of the Japanese Ladies' Patriotic Association, has been graciously pleased to accept a contribution of one thousand *yen*, from Nobel's Explosive Company, Limited, Glasgow, through their agents Messrs. Mollison & Co., of 48, Yamashita-cho, Yokohama and 70, Kyo-machi, Kobe, towards the relief of the wives and children of Japanese soldiers and sailors called to the front, and also a contribution of one hundred *yen* from Mr. and Mrs. J. Pender Mollison towards the same object.

CHINA.

Monday, March 28.

The Russian Representative in Peking has addressed a remonstrance to the Chinese Government on the subject of China's neutrality. He alleges that it is not strict neutrality at all but neutrality essentially benevolent to Japan. In support of his allegation he adduces two alleged facts. One is that certain Japanese marines who landed at Tung-chou in Shantung, were allowed by the Chinese to return to Japan without restraint; the other that Japanese transports constantly call at Chefoo and Yung-ching where every facility is given to them by the local authorities. In consequence of this complaint the Inspector-General of Customs has been requested to investigate the facts, and the Chinese local authorities have meanwhile been reminded of the necessity of observing strict neutrality. But it is emphatically denied in Japan that any transports have called at either Chefoo or Yung-ching; and while it is admitted that, owing to stress of weather, a small party of marines did land at Tung-chou, it is declared that they were not allowed to leave without taking an oath to refrain from further participation in the war. The public would like to learn, on the other hand, how Russia proposes to reconcile with any principle of strict neutrality her own conduct in the case of the *Mandjur*.

Two cruisers of the Chinese Northern Squadron have been ordered to patrol the coast of Shantung to prevent contraband of war from reaching Liaotung.

Tuesday, March 29.

From telegrams received in Tokyo it appears that Viceroy Yuan has enlisted ten thousand men in Honan and Shantung, who are to be trained so as to take the place of the guards that have been sent to the north-east, namely, into the West-Liao district.

General Ma's troops are said to be posted along the Great Wall on the Manchurian border.

Between Ying-kow and Liaoyang along the Liao River, the Russians are said to have built 13 forts and 3 look-out towers.

It appears that Sir Robert Hart, convinced of the absolute necessity of providing China with suitable armaments, recently memorialized the Throne in favour of imposing a land tax. The rate suggested was small, but nevertheless on the hypothesis that one half of the land in the 18 provinces is arable, there would result a revenue of 400 millions of *yen*. The Emperor and Empress are reported to have welcomed the project, and printed circulars explaining the details were sent to the various Viceroys and Governors. But the *Jiji Shimpo's* Peking correspondent, who sends the news, says that Sir Robert regards with great doubt the chances of his project being put into operation.

China is bound by her recently concluded treaties to make provision for the registration of foreign trade-marks within her dominions. But as she did not show any disposition to give effect to this engagement, the Japanese and the American Representatives approached her on the subject, with the result that she got as far as compiling regulations which, however, remain to be carried out.

It appears from telegrams received in Tokyo that China's foreign trade for 1903 aggregated 540 million taels, imports standing for 326 millions and exports for 214 millions. The Customs revenue was 30 millions, being half a million greater than the revenue for any previous year. Another interesting fact is that Japan's share in the total was 80 million taels.

PIGEON BAY.

Pigeon Bay is now a historical place. It is the place where indirect fire has been employed by men-of-war on a scale hitherto quite unprecedented. The *Asahi Shimbun* says that the range thence to Port Arthur is only some 9,000 metres, or a little over 5 miles, which is a very convenient range for such a purpose. Guns can not be trained so as to drop shells over a hill 300 feet high—that is the greatest height of the intervening hills at Pigeon Bay—if they are required to fire at a short range, but it is easy even for an uninitiated person to see that in the case of a long trajectory a projectile may reach a maximum height of 300 feet in its flight without taking anything like a vertical course at the time of descent. The Russian engineers had of course recognised that Pigeon Bay was a weak spot in the defences of Port Arthur, and they had accordingly planned six batteries, all of which were in course of construction when war broke out. But none had reached the stage of having guns mounted. Mines, however, are said to have been laid. They did not, however, prevent the *Yashima* and the *Fuji* from taking positions in the Bay on the 22nd inst., and bombarding Port Arthur over the hills. From what point Admiral Togo carried on his previous bombardments we do not know, neither does he make any attempt—and the omission is noteworthy—to estimate the damage done by the fire of the *Yashima* and the *Fuji*. It may be presumed that the Japanese staff knew all about Pigeon Bay and the state of its defenses from the outset, but to know exactly what temporary measures were adopted by the Russians at any moment would scarcely have been possible. Between sunset and sunrise on any night two or three hundred torpedoes might have been moored in Pigeon Bay so that a ship attempting to take a position there would have gone to almost certain death. But truly it seems possible to take risks where the Russians are the enemy. Is that the case in military affairs also?

THE "BAYAN."

A telegram received in Tôkyo says that the *Vossische Zeitung* learns from a Russian source that the armoured cruiser *Bayan*, on the 16th instant, ran on one of the mines laid by the Japanese and was blown up, only a small number of her crew escaping. This incident, the German paper adds, was left concealed for some time, but has now leaked out. The *Bayan* was a fine new ship of 7,800 tons displacement, with an armament of two 8-inch and eight 6-inch quick-firers. She was the only armoured cruiser in the Port Arthur squadron. It will be remembered that on the night of the 10th instant, two Japanese destroyers were despatched upon a mine-laying expedition and that they were said to have effected their purpose. Of course the whole story may be untrue.

The same journal says that the Russian Government is persistently reported to have purchased two large, fast German steamers, which are to receive some kind of armament at Cronstadt and then to be sent eastward. The German owners of the steamers, however, deny the story altogether, as well they may.

BARON KOMURA'S SPEECH.

The following is an accurate translation of the speech delivered by Baron Komura in the House of Representatives on the 23rd instant:—

GENTLEMEN,—It is a great honour to me to make a brief statement before this House regarding the course of negotiations between Japan and Russia from the commencement to their termination. These negotiations lasted for more than half a year and are of a most complicated nature. Now I will try to briefly explain to you, Gentlemen, the main points of these negotiations.

When, upon the sudden outbreak in North China of the Boxer troubles in 1900, the Powers sent forces to Chihli for the relief of their Representatives and nationals and were taking action in harmonious co-operation, Russia despatched a large army into Manchuria and finally took possession of the whole of that province. She repeatedly declared at the time that this despatch of troops was simply for suppressing the Chinese insurgents and that she was determined to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China in Manchuria, and that consequently her occupation of that province, which was the result of inevitable circumstances, was intended to be merely temporary. Nevertheless on more than one occasion she tried to induce China to conclude a treaty of a nature tending to impair China's sovereignty and incompatible with the treaty rights of the Powers. Accordingly, on each occasion the Imperial Government warned both Russia and China, and Russia finally concluded in April, 1902, a convention providing for the restoration of Manchuria In accordance with the stipulations of the Convention, Russia commenced to prepare for the restoration, and in fact a partial evacuation had already been effected when in April last year, there was a sudden change in her attitude, and not only were the withdrawal of her forces from Manchuria and the restitution of the administration to China suspended, but also various additional conditions were demanded from China. This action is believed to have been due to divided counsels in Russian Government circles regarding the solution of the Manchurian question, and to the subsequent ascendency of the party in favour of permanent occupation.

The development of affairs in Manchuria received the most careful attention at the hands of the Imperial Government. The maintenance of the independence and territorial integrity of Korea is of the utmost, importance to the safety and repose of this Empire and is in fact our traditional policy; while in the event of the absorption of Manchuria by Russia, the separate existence of Korea would be constantly menaced and the firm establishment of peace in the Far East would become impossible. The Imperial Government, therefore, having regard to the future well-being of the Empire, deemed it necessary for consolidating the peace of the Extreme East and for securing the rights and interests of the Empire to open, as soon as possible, negotiations with Russia with a view to a friendly definition of the interests of the two countries in Manchuria and Korea where those interests meet, and thereby to remove every cause of future conflict between Japan and Russia. The Japanese Government, therefore, instructed their Representative at St. Petersburg on July 28th, 1903, to bring their wishes to the attention of the Russian Government and to request the latter's concurrence. The Russian Government willingly assented, and the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs announced that he had obtained Imperial authority to open negotiations on the subject. Accordingly, on the 12th August last, the Imperial Government presented to the Russian Government through their Minister at St. Petersburg, as a basis of negotiations, proposals substantially as follows:—

1. Mutual engagement to respect the independence and territorial integrity of China and Korea.
2. Mutual engagement to maintain the principle of equal opportunity for the commerce and industry of all nations in China and Korea.
3. Reciprocal recognition of Japan's proponderating interests in Korea and Russia's special interests in railway enterprises in Manchuria, and mutual recognition of the respective rights of Japan and Russia to take measures necessary for the protection of the above mentioned interests so far as they do not conflict with the principle of Article I and Article II.
4. Recognition by Russia of the exclusive right of Japan to give advice and assistance to Korea in the interests of reform and good government.
5. Engagement on the part of Russia not to impede the eventual extension of the Korean railway into southern Manchuria so as to connect with the East China and the Shanhaikwan-Newchwang lines.

About ten days after the presentation of the proposals of which the above are essential points, the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs suddenly suggested the transfer of the seat of negotiations to Tokyo. The Imperial Government, however, not only from the consideration that the progress of the negotiations would be facilitated by conducting them at the Russian capital, but also in view of the changes effected [illegible] the Russian administrative organization in Manchuria and the erection of a viceroyalty of the Far East, apprèhended that the transfer of the seat of negotiations to Tokyo would not conduce to a satisfactory understanding. They accordingly repeatedly objected to the proposed transfer, but the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs was insistent, assigning as the reason for his attitude the Czar's contemplated trip abroad, etc. Again, when the Imperial Government requested the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs to accept in principle our proposals as a basis of negotiation, he only agreed to take them in conjunction with the Russian counter-proposals as such basis. The Imperial Government, deeming it disadvantageous to delay any longer the opening of discussions, agreed at length to transfer the seat of negotiations, and requested the Russian Government to present as soon as possible their counter-proposals. It was not until nearly a month later, the 3rd October, that the said counter-proposals were presented.

In those counter-proposals, Russia while having no objection to engage to respect the indepèndence and territorial integrity of Korea, declined to extend the same engagement to China, and so far from consenting to recognize the principle of equal opportunity for the commerce and industry of all nations in that country, requested Japan to acknowledge Manchuria and its littoral as entirely outside her sphere of interest. She further proposed various restrictions upon Japan's freedom of action in Korea; for instance, while recognizing Japan's right to despatch troops, when necessary, for the protection of her interests in Korea, Russia demanded previous notice in case of, such despatch, and she refused to allow Japan to use any portion of Korean territory for strategical purposes. She went so far, in fact, as to propose to establish a neutral zone covering all Korean territory north of the 39th parallel, that is to say, more than one third of the entire Korean Empire.

But, as the maintenance of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China in Manchuria is absolutely essential to the preservation of the independence of Korea and as such maintenance was none other than a principle which had been voluntarily and repeatedly declared by Russia herself, and moreover as it was considered necessary to keep uninjured the commercial interests of all the Powers concerned, upon the strength of the Russian engagement to respect treaty rights, the Imperial Government decided to maintain to the end their proposal on that subject, and necessary amendments to other Articles were also made. For instance, the imposition of any restriction on Japan in sending troops to Korea should be struck out. A neutral zone, if it was to be created, should be established on both sides of the boundary line between Manchuria and Korea with the same extent either way—i.e. fifty kilometres on each side. With these amendments, several interviews took place with Baron Rosen from the 6th October last, and as the result of repeated discussions, in which some of our amendments were accepted while as to others no agreement was arrived at, our definitive amendments were presented to Baron Rosen on the 30th of that month and the Russian Government were asked to consider them. Although we frequently pressed for an answer, the Russian reply was again greatly delayed and it only reached us on the 11th December. This embodied the 2nd Russian counter-proposals. If the regret of the Imperial Government at such delay was deep, their disappointment at the contents of the reply, when it was received, was still more profound, for in it the clauses relating to Manchuria were completely suppressed, thus restricting the proposed convention entirely to Korea, while on the other hand the original demands regarding the neutral zone and the non-employment of Korean territory for strategical purposes were again revived. But the object of the convention was, as above stated, the removal of all causes of future conflict by a definitive settlement of all questions between the two countries at points where their interests meet, and if Manchuria were placed outside the purview of the arrangement, and a moiety of the problem were thus to remain unsolved, the result would plainly be at variance with the aims for which the negotiations were inaugurated. Consequently, on the 21st of December last, the Imperial Government asked the Government of Russia to reconsider their position on the subject of Manchuria, and again requested, with respect to Korea, the suppression of the restrictions as to the employment of Korean territory, and they also proposed the entire deletion of the clause relating to a neutral zone, as it was considered that, if Russia would not agree to its extension into Manchuria, it would be only fair not to create it in Korea.

The Russian Government gave their reply on the 6th of January, in which they still adhered to their original proposals as regards Korea, and on condition that those proposals were accepted by the Imperial Government they offered to agree to the insertion of a clause stipulating that Russia would not impede the enjoyment by Japan and other Powers of the rights and privileges acquired under existing treaties with China. This at first sight might seem to be a concession on the part of Russia regarding Manchuria, but in reality it was not so, for Russia made it conditional on certain propositions regarding Korea to which Japan could never agree. Again no stipulations were to be made as to the territorial integrity of Manchuria and the above mentioned clause, unaccompanied by assurances concerning territorial integrity, would be practically valueless. Accordingly, the Imperial Government, recognizing the absolute necessity of causing Russia to engage herself to respect the territorial integrity of Manchuria, and finding no margin for further concession in regard to Korea, decided to firmly insist upon their amendments, and once more requested on the 13th January last reconsideration by the Russian Government. They subsequently repeatedly instructed the Japanese Minister at St. Petersburg to ask for a reply. The Russian Government, however, did not give any answer, neither did the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, in his interview with Mr. Kurino held so late as the 31st January, afford even an indication as to the date whereon the reply would be presented.

Upon the whole, while the Imperial Government invariably met Russia in a conciliatory and frank spirit, in the hope of arriving at a speedy solution of the situation by yielding to Russia's wishes so far as they could do so without impairing the vital interests of Japan, Russia always unduly delayed her replies, or proposed such amendments as were altogether inconsistent with the idea of an amicable settlement, thus making the situation more and more complicated. Besides Russia, while professing peaceful intentions on the one hand, made on the other great naval and military preparations, despatching all her most powerful war-vessels to the Extreme Orient and sending military reinforcements tens of thousands strong to Manchuria and the neighbouring regions. Unusually great activity was shown by her in purchasing and transporting arms, ammunition, stores and coal to the same region, so that it was placed beyond the range of doubt that Russia had no sincere desire for conciliation and only aimed at compelling us to yield to her designs by force of arms. Especially towards the end of January the warlike activities of Russia were so far accelerated that, had Japan permitted any further procrastination, the Empire would certainly have been placed in serious danger. Although the Imperial Government entertained a most sincere desire for peace, yet, in the face of such circumstances, they could not avoid deciding, after a full and careful survey of the situation, to break off the negotiations with Russia and to take all necessary measures for self-defence. Accordingly, on the 5th of Feb., they issued telegraphic instructions to the Japanese Minister at St. Petersburg to announce to the Russian Government that the Imperial Government had terminated negotiations relative to the proposed Russo-Japanese convention, that they would take such independent action as they might deem best to defend and consolidate their menaced position and to protect their established rights and legitimate interests, and that they would sever diplomatic relations with Russia and withdraw their Legation. In accordance with those instructions our Minister at St. Petersburg made the communication on the 6th February last.

Such is, Gentlemen, a brief account of the negotiations with Russia. As for the details, the document just presented to the Diet will afford you full information.

THE FACTORY GIRLS' CONCERT.

The promoters of the concert for the benefit of the factory girls, held on Friday, March 18th, desire to thank all those who so kindly assisted by taking part, and by selling tickets, also the directors of the Public Hall and Mrs. Manley for reducing their prices for the charity; Messrs. Thwaites & Co. for lending the piano, and the *Japan Mail* for printing the tickets and programmes at cost price; also the *Japan Mail*, the *Japan Gazette*, the *Japan Herald*, and the *Japan Advertiser* for advertising the concert free of charge. The concert realised the sum of *yen* 321.50, which has been handed over to Mrs. E. W. Townend and Mrs. H. McArthur, the local Treasurers of the Fund.

WAR NOTES.

Saturday, March 26.

Two hundred and twenty-nine Japanese subjects hitherto residing in Blagovetchensk have been sent to Tsitsihar under Russian escort.

Monday, March 28.

General Kuropatkin is now said to have reached Mukden and after a consultation with Viceroy Alexieff, to have proceeded to Harbin where his head-quarters will be. Previous intelligence had indicated the 27th as the probable date of Kuropatkin's arrival at Mukden. He, of course, is to be commander-in-chief in Siberia and Manchuria, while General Linevitch will, it is said, command the forces operating from Liaoyang to the Yalu.

At Newchwang the withdrawal of American and British residents is said to be regarded by the Russians as an indication that secret intelligence has been received of a projected landing of Japanese troops. They—the Russians—had counted on the presence of English and American residents as a deterrent against military operations and they are now adopting measures of increased vigilance. But inasmuch as they themselves had paid not the least attention to the presence of such nationals in the place, it is hard to suppose that they credited the Japanese with greater forbearance.

The Governor of Shantung is said to have telegraphed to Peking that the Germans seem to be about to post troops along the newly constructed line as railway-guards. He requests that a protest shall be addressed by the Foreign Office to the German Government.

Takeshiki reports that the Russians have been very unsuccessful both at Port Arthur and at Dalny in their mine-laying operations. In consequence of the gales and high seas prevailing throughout the month, the torpedoes have either drifted or been carried away from their moorings, so that many of them are now floating harmlessly on the surface in full view.

From Moji comes news that a German steamer, the *Brisgavia* (?) has been seized at that port, having on board 7 field pieces and 208 tons of material for man-of-war construction. Her master pleads that he is bound for Shanghai and the matter is under investigation.

A Japanese subject who left Kinchow on the 25th instant reports that there are about 30,000 Russian troops there and that they have provisions for three months only. On the east, north and west gates preparations are made to mount quick-firing guns. The gates were all closed on the 17th instant and kerosene was placed under a quantity of hay inside the north gate, evidently with the intention of firing the town in case of retreat. Outside the southern gate at a distance of about 60 yards there are several batteries and on a neighbouring hill there are seven, the guns (27 in number) being mounted so as to command all the approaches and the ground at the base of the forts being mined. On the 19th and 20th the railway service to Mukden was interrupted, probably because the bandits had injured the line.

Tientsin reports that the Russians are taking vigorous measures to fortify Yingkow. The number of men engaged on the works has been doubled, the batteries on either side of the river are being repaired, and a thousand fresh troops have arrived. The ice has melted and junks are now able to ascend the river as far as the Chinese city.

The s.s. *Chefoo* attempted to reach Port Arthur on the 24th instant, but was stopped by a Russian destroyer at a point 10 miles distant from the port, and had to return to her place of departure (Chefoo).

Some petty newspaper recently published a rumour to the effect that one of the men summoned for duty with the colours attempted to escape, was captured and shot. This tale grew as tales often do, and by and bye people were talking of a grand execution of 25 recusant soldiers at Tsukudajima. Under the circumstances the War Office has been questioned, and it emphatically denies that any one has been shot or that any one could be lawfully shot for such an offence. Naturally there have been attempts to avoid service and to remain earning a livelihood for wife and children; thirteen attempts in all. But in every case without exception the men subsequently joined and all are now serving loyally.

The raising of the *Varyag* is said to be proceeding most successfully, but as the *Kokumin's* correspondent, by whom the intelligence is conveyed, speaks of 12-inch guns having been already raised from the vessel, his details are obviously coloured by his imagination. At all events 8 guns of sorts have been taken out of her. They are all said to be serviceable, and it is now certain that the ship can be saved. She will make an addition to the Japanese navy, since she is a fine protected cruiser of 6,500 tons, with a nominal speed of 23 knots.

In the Port Arthur journal it is stated that the railway round Lake Baikal will be finished by the end of this year or the beginning of next, and that it will then be possible to despatch 7 trains daily. That does not seem to be a very imposing number, nor does the whole prospect appear to have any cardinal bearing upon the present situation.

Tuesday, March 29.

The German steamer detained at Shimonoseki as carrying contraband of war, has been released. The guns she had on board were proved to be for Tientsin and the torpedo materials for the Yangtze.

General Kuropatkin is telegraphed as having reached Mukden on the 26th, and as being due at Liaoyang on the 28th.

THE "HANYEI MARU."

Later news from Chefoo says that the ship sunk by the Russian squadron near the Miao Islands was a small coasting steamer called the *Hanyei Maru*. She fell in with the Russian squadron at half-past seven on the morning of the 26th instant. Her master and 2 of her crew managed to escape in a junk, and reached Ninghai Bay, whence they ultimately made their way to Chefoo. Ten Japanese subjects and seven Chinese were taken off the steamer by the Russians. According to the Russian account the junk was taken as well as the steamer, but the master's story is different. The Russian report speaks also of having seen a Whitehead torpedo, but that item of the story requires explanation. The Miao Islands lie on the southern side of the Liautishan Channel, nearly directly opposite to Port Arthur. It is at all events evident from their report that Admiral Makaroff took his squadron out of Port Arthur on the 26th. For the rest, the Russians can not be called very fortunate. The sum total of their exploits hitherto has been the sinking of two small coasting steamers.

M. PAVLOW.

The Vladivostock journal publishes the text of a telegram sent by M. Pavlow to St. Petersburg from Shanghai, where he had just arrived, on the 18th of February. He says that on the 8th of that month telegraphic communication was interrupted, and the Japanese were evidently making preparations for war. Therefore he resolved to send the *Koriets* with despatches to Port Arthur, and he also warned the *Varyag* to be prepared for emergencies. At 4 p.m. the *Korietz* went out to reconnoitre, and encountered a Japanese squadron of 6 cruisers and 8 torpedo-craft. One of the cruisers followed her and the torpedo-craft discharged 3 projectiles which failed to reach their mark. (M. Pavlow carefully avoids saying anything about the fact, admitted by the men on the *Koriets* themselves, that the Russian ships opened the ball by firing by mistake!). The *Korietz* without firing returned to the port and dropped her anchor. That night several Japanese cruisers landed about 3,000 Japanese troops, of whom the greater part entered Seoul wholly unopposed. M. Pavlow then describes the letter sent to the commander of the *Varyag* and the exit of the two vessels. He says that the Japanese summoned them to surrender and receiving no reply, opened fire. The *Varyag* was wounded below the water-line. She put back for repairs, but finding that these would not be effected, her commander decided to destroy the two ships rather than suffer them to fall into Japanese hands. They took the same course with regard to the S. S. *Sungari* which had come in the same night. The Japanese ships that took part in the fight were the *Asama*, *Naniwa*, *Takachiho*, *Chiyoda*, *Akashi* and the *Niitaka*. (This is of course untrue). The *Asama* having been twice hit by the *Varyag* had to cease firing, and one of the Japanese destroyers was sunk. On the same night the *Takachiho* sank, and on the following morning a Japanese transport carried home 80 Japanese killed and wounded from Yashan Bay. All the foreign onlookers were astounded by the valour and resolution displayed by the Russians, and all sympathised. The same evening M. Pavlow asked for an audience, but the Emperor replied that the city was in Japanese military occupation and that unless he observed a strictly obedient mien his palace would be seized. There had been no notice whatever from the Japanese Minister as to the rupture of diplomatic relations (and no notice from Tokyo also?) or of the violation of Korea's neutrality.

This report is worthy of M. Pavlow.

A QUESTION.

Mr. Hanai Takuzo and others—the necessary thirty-three—presented in the Lower House on the 29th instant a question which happily there was not time for the Government to answer. It referred to the land on which the Greek Cathedral is erected in Surugadai. The land is not held under perpetual lease. It is merely allotted as "attached" to the Russian Legation. But there is now no Russian Legation. Therefore these questioners want to know how the land is held.

There are many Japanese who do not love the Greek Cathedral. It dominates the city too completely, and looks down on the Imperial Palace. Perhaps another site might have been more wisely selected. But the day has gone by for criticism of that kind.

LIAOTUNG.

Kinchow is one of the most important positions in the Liaotung peninsula. It lies just north of the place where the peninsula narrows to a neck of only 2 miles across; a neck which, if carefully entrenched, might defy the southward advance of an army. At Kinchow the railway from Mukden to Port Arthur branches eastward to Dalny. Something was said in our last issue about the fortifications of Kinchow, and we now read in the *Jiji Shimpo's* Chefoo correspondence that the bandits recently attacked a Russian detachment on the north of Kinchow and killed 3 of the railway guards. It is also stated that two Chinese travellers stepped on mines laid outside the southern gate of the city and were blown up together with 4 coolies that accompanied them. The bandits seem to be very busy to the north of Kinchow and traffic, except by the railway, is said to have been almost abandoned.

It is stated that some 50 head of cattle are transported daily from Kaiping to Kinchow and Port Arthur. If that be so there can not be much truth in the stories about scarcity of provisions in the latter place.

The rumour is repeated that during 2 days—the 20th and the 21st—the service of trains was completely interrupted between Liaoyang and Tashikiao, owing to injury done to the line by bandits, who are said to be causing infinite trouble in this respect. They have published a notification that any village will be burned which supplies oxen or tranport animals to the Russians, and the Russians have proclaimed that any village will be burned where such notifications are posted, so that the unhappy villagers are veritably between the devil and the deep blue sea.

The Russians are said to be offering 2,000 dollars for information leading to the apprehension of any Japanese military spy and 1,000 for any ordinary spy, but as they pay all their obligations with rouble notes, which have only a slender value in the market, these promises do not excite the Chinese to any great display of energy.

A Chinaman who has reached Chefoo, having left Port Arthur on the 24th instant, says that various defensive measures which we can not clearly understand, are being taken at Port Arthur. He also says that a vessel with a largecrane is engaged removing the armaments from injured war-ships.

WAR TELEGRAMS.

It is worthy of note, says the *China Mail*, that the Far Eastern Press Association, according to the *Manila Cablenews*, is receiving telegrams direct from Chemulpo. This reminds us of an incident in the China-Japan war, when a local newspaper was publishing daily telegrams first from Chemulpo and then from beleagured Weihaiwei. These messages ceased suddenly when the *China Mail* pointed out that there was no cable to Chemulpo or Weihaiwei. Wireless telegraphy was not then in use, and we had a shrewd suspicion that most of the "Special Telegrams" emanated from the fertile brain of an imaginative sub-editor. We do not accuse the Far Eastern Press Association of manufacturing telegrams; we merely point out that it is getting telegrams like the following out of Chemulpo where no other newspaper or Press organisation seems to be represented:—

Chemulpo, March 5.—The Japanese Government has landed nearly 20,000 troops at Chinampo instead of at Chemulpo, as a previous telegraphic report had it. This force is expected to push inland to the railroad.

THE PLAGUE IN CHINA.

Dr. Henry Layng, in the course of his annual report to the Inspector-General of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs regarding the health of Swatow in 1902, incorporates a letter writen from Ungkung by a foreigner resident there, who says:—"The natives claim that there are 100,000 persons at Ungkung within and without the walls; though a foreigner cannot well estimate the population of Chinese cities, I should think that 75,000 would be nearer correct. The natives say that about 1,000 persons died here of cholera during the past summer. Cholera was worse in all the surrounding villages than in this place. At Cioan city, where there is a population of about 40,000, there were said to be 5,000 deaths. We had not a case of plague at Ungkung this year, whilst the natives say there were 10,000 deaths from it last year. Certainly there were about 5,000 corpses interred in the potter's field, but those that are interred elsewhere are more difficult to reckon. I have inquired in all parts of Ungkung, and of hundreds of persons, and without exception they say they do not remember to have seen a rat since the plague ceased last year. It appears that the plague made a clean sweep of the rats, whilst only decimating the natives; hence I have reached the tentative conclusion that no rats, no plague. Another place and incident will complete about all that I know. Chia-na is about 10 miles from Ungkong, where the natives say there is a population of 20,000, and where plague and cholera were exceedingly virulent. First, about 1,000 died of plague, then cholera came in, reinforcing the plague, and by the co-operation 1,000 more deaths ensued. Some of the deceased were buried near a large well belonging to a village of about 500 inhabitants. The well, which was about 12 feet in diameter, was used by the entire community. During the very rainy season in the beginning of summer 300 persons of that village died of plague. Finally when the people saw that the terrapins and turtles inhabiting the well were floating on their backs dead, they concluded that the water was infected from the newly-made graves; so they discontinued using the water, and the plague ceased. Knowing that Chinese coffins are usually sealed with putty and made almost water and air proof, I inquired about those used there, and was informed that from scarcity of regular coffins and lack of ability to purchase them, many of the deceased were interred in improvised boxes and crates." The history of this and former epidemics of plague is much the same, says Dr. Layng. Onset is always in the winter months; the spread of the disease is at first slow; towards the end of February the rate increases; by April the epidemic is in full swing; it reaches its maximum in May and June, and in August it dies out.

THE CAMPAIGN IN KOREA.

The Japanese accounts of operations in north-western Korea do not exactly tally with the Russian, but the difference is one of degree only. According to the latest Japanese version of affairs, the Russians have retired their outposts from Chongju to Sonchhon, a distance of some 20 miles, destroying the bridge over the Tong-nai river *en route* and wrecking the telegraph. At Sonchhon they would be still nearly 50 miles south of Wiju. But according to the St. Petersburg account they have retired to the Yalu, and the latter statement is probably the more correct, for the retention of a small force on the Wiju-Chonju road would be a fruitless operation. As to the 45-mile line said to have been fortified by the Japanese, the distance does not quite agree with the names of the places mentioned. From Kasan on the sea-coast there is a main road running nearly due east to Pakchhon (Reuter's "Pekchen") and thence to Nyongpyon (Reuter's "Yeng-ying"), where it is joined by the cross-road running north to Unsan. From Kasan to Nyong-pyon the distance is 25 miles, and it seems probable that the Japanese front extends over that interval. If the right wing be thrown forward to Unsan, that would mean a further extension of 17 miles and would nearly agree with the Russian statement that the Japanese army extends over a front of 45 miles. As to rivers and bridges in the interval between Kasan and Wiju, there are three rivers, the Pong-nai, the Sonchong and the Sakju. None of them is a stream of any magnitude, however, and the destruction of such bridges as already exist should not prove a very serious obstacle to a military advance on a large scale. The road difficulty is much more formidable. All the country in which the Japanese are now operating is mountainous and comparatively wild, traversed by roads which scarcely deserve to be ranked above paths. An advance with artillery through such a country must be a slow and troublesome matter. Evidently the season has a large voice in the matter, but as the warmth of spring will make itself felt in a few days, snow and ice must soon cease to be impediments.

THE WEST-LIAO QUESTION.

It is alleged—though from a tainted source, namely, Chefoo—that Viceroy Yuan and General Ma are resolutely proceeding with their dispositions for enforcing the neutrality of the West-Liao region. Mr. Lessar protests and threatens, but even the patient Chinese have begun to grow accustomed to Mr. Lessar's remonstrances and callous to his menaces. In fact, Russian diplomatists in China and Korea have hitherto made the mistake of talking too much. Their words have been numerous out of all proportion to their deeds. There is no valid objection to the preservation of neutrality in the West-Liao region unless the Russians suspect the Chinese of an intention to help Japan at the crucial moment. In order to be able to do that effectively the Chinese would have to use the neutral territory as a place for concentrating a force to operate on the right flank of the Russians in Manchuria. Now precisely the way to warrant the massing of such a force is to dispute the neutrality of the region, and that is just what the Russians have been doing. Had they agreed from the first that the neutrality of the whole area was a matter of course since they evacuated it in 1902, the Chinese would have had no excuse for massing troops there, and any undue exhibition of force on their side would have furnished to Russia a legitimate cause of complaint. But wordy protests and empty threats have merely stirred up the phlegmatic Chinaman, and he seems to be gradually pushing his van so far beyond the wall that if anything tempted him to draw the sword against Russia, the latter's position along the Liao, that is to say, along the line of railway, would become very precarious.

SIR ROBERT HART.

Allusion has been made of late to a project submited by Sir Robert Hart to the Chinese Government. Sir Robert holds that when the Russo-Japanese war concludes China will have a very difficult part to act and that she should immediately take measures to prepare herself. Among these measures incomparably the most important is to organise a strong and efficient military force. But at present the Government has no funds for such a purpose. The customs duties and the taxes on land and salt produce an aggregate revenue of only 80 million taels, one half of which goes to the service of the empire's foreign debt. Some other means of increasing the State's income must be found and Sir Robert finds it in a new form of land tax. There are 3,000 million *mow* (1,335 millions of acres) of arable land in the 18 provinces, and if a tax of 200 cash were imposed on each *mow*, there would result an income of 800 millions of taels. One half of that amount at least might be counted on, and one half, or 400 million taels should suffice. Sir Robert—we quote from the *Asahi Shimbun*—advises that there should be four corps d'armee in the empire, the Chili Corps, the Liangking Corps, the Hukwan Corps and the Liangkwang Corps. Each should consist at first of 50,000 men, to be gradually raised in the course of 10 years to a total strength of half a million, including all the reserves. Making due provision for military schools, equipment and war material, he estimates the annual cost of the army at 50 millions of taels, which ought to be sufficient, seeing that Japan's army of nearly the same strength costs only 40 million *yen* in round numbers.

Then there is the question of a navy. Sir Robert would have three squadrons, a northern, a southern and a third to be subsequently determined, each consisting of 20 ships and 60 torpedo-craft. The cost of maintaining these, together with the necessary schools, and so forth, he puts at 30 millions of taels (Japan's figure is 31 millions of *yen*). He then proposes 4 arsenals, costing ten million taels for upkeep. He also proposes to increase the salaries of officials all round as well as the allowances for administrative expenses, to which accounts he assigns a sum of 160 million taels yearly. Next he allots 10 millions to educational purposes (the Japanese Treasury pays 6½ millions), and he farther projects postal improvements costing 10 millions, together with 5 millions for telegraphs. These two last outlays are of course temporary, as the telegraphs and post-offices would soon be self-supporting, Finally Sir Robert sets aside 10 million taels as the allowance for the Court. In the *Asahi's* account the above figures are said to total 326 millions of taels, but as they aggregate only 285 millions, there is obviously some mistake. At any rate the outlines of Sir Robert's plan are plain enough. He concludes by advising that the total proceeds of the Customs and the salt tax should be devoted to the service of the foreign debt, and that, as soon as it is paid off, these imposts should be wholly remitted and China shall adopt free trade.

In this context we may quote an extract from the recently published "Oriental Series" (Vol. X p. 120):—"Japan with her population of 42 millions and her arable area of only 13 millions of acres, pays without any difficulty a sum of 140 millions of taels annually to the State, exclusive of local taxes, whereas China, with a population of 420 millions and an arable area of 400 million acres, pays only 106 million taels, inclusive of local taxes," Sir Robert, it will be observed, estimates the area of arable land at 1,333 millions of acres. It is a question about which there has been much discussion. At all events the tax now collected is only 25 million taels. How would the people bear being asked to pay sixteen times that amount?

ANOTHER NEWSPAPER AFFAIR.

There has been another newspaper complication. This time the *corpus vile* is a Chinese journal, the *Chi-pao*, published in Tientsin. Japanese newspapers allege that it had some close connexion with Mr. Detring and that it was a paid organ of Russia, two allegations of which it is not easy to trace the connexion. Recently this *Chi-pao* got into some trouble with the officials of the Viceroy's Yamen, and its manager seems to have declined the latter's subscriptions, which incident of the tale we decline to credit. At all events the Governor of Tientsin vetoed the circulation of the journal and it has been compelled to put up the shutters. This makes three newspapers which have come to grief since the beginning of the war—the *China Times*, the *Niroku Shimpo* and the *Chi-pao*. We can not pretend to sympathise with any one of them. It appears to us that if a newspaper can not say what it has to say without using violent and inflammatory language, it had better be restrained altogether from speaking. Newspapers have endeavoured to create a delusive atmosphere of false sentiment about their rights and their functions, but they have also duties, and one of them is not to purchase profitable notoriety by making mischief.

STILL THE "MANDJUR."

Tuesday, March 29.

This wonderfully vacillating gunboat still clings to some remnant of her armament, and her Japanese friends consequently decline to depart from the neighbourhood of Woosung. Therefore Russia threatens that unless these troublesome loiterers take themselves away speedily, she will re-arm the *Mandjur*. What a delightful story! The *Mandjur* incident is truly one of the funniest affairs on record. We do not believe this last account of Russian menaces, for the simple reason that to re-arm the *Mandjur* would involve recovery of her armament from its Chinese custodians. But even if that tale be ruled out, the record remains ridiculous enough.

Wednesday, March 30.

The *Mandjur* is at length disposed of, and the Japanese Consul-General has informed the Commander of the *Akitsushima* that the presence of his ship is no longer required.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

The *Debats* collects the views expressed by five Italian journals with regard to the war. One says that the only hope of confining the range of the war is that Japan should be successful. Another, the socialist organ, expects that the war will not last long. A third affirms that Russia is fighting merely for the sake of internal expansion necessitated by her policy of aggressive militarism, whereas Japan is fighting for her own safety. Justice indicates the side that should be victorious. The *Tribuna* considers it quite plain that Russia's procrastination in the negotiations was for the purpose of improving her military position, and that if Japan had not taken active measures the situation would have become hopeless for her. A fifth newspaper considers that Japan's preliminary successes show Russia's unpreparedness and want of organization.

On the 24th ultimo Prince Pu Lun was received in audience by the Emperor, and lunched with His Majesty. On the afternoon of the same day His Majesty sent Prince Iwakura to the Shiba Detached Palace for the purpose of presenting the First Class Order of the Paulownia to the Chinese Prince.

The Government has introduced in the Diet a bill for increasing the pensions of men serving in the Army and Navy. From a rough persual of the measure we find that it chiefly affects non-commissioned officers and privates, and that the maximum increase proposed is 50 per cent.

The Emperor has given a hundred thousand *yen* to the *Gunjin Yengo-Kai*. We have described the organization and objects of this Society in our columns. Its great promoters are Counts Inouye and Matsukata. The Association was started only a month ago and has already collected over eight hundred thousand *yen*.

A cartridge-filling factory at Saseho blew up on the 27th ultimo at 7.30 p.m. Four persons were killed and several injured.

Captain Troubridge, Naval Attaché of the British Legation, left Tokyo on the morning of the 28th ultimo, after two years' service in Japan, during which time he won remarkable popularity. Quite a crowd of notables assembled at Shimbashi to bid him farewell, prominent among them being Admiral Viscount Ito, Vice-Admiral Ijuin, their Excellencies Sir Claude MacDonald and Count von Arco Valley, Mr. G. Barclay, many Japanese naval officers and the Naval Attachés of the various Legations.

The railway from Maizuru to the port admiral's offices has been commenced, and will be finished, it is said, by September next.

THE BOOKSHELF.

Gerrard Street and its Neighbourhood, by Mr. H. B. WHEATLEY, F.S.A., London: KEGAN PAUL, Trench, Trübner & Co. Ltd.

THE well-known publishing house of Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., Ltd., have lately moved to Dryden House, Gerrard Street, London, W., and they have taken advantage of the occasion to issue a most interesting brochure dealing with the literary and historical associations of the house, street and neighbourhood. They could not have chosen a more competent man than Mr. Wheatley for such a task, for he knows his London well and is even more familar with the London that has long since vanished. His little book on Gerrard Street runs to 35 pages and contains no less than seven illustrations, which include a portrait of Dryden, Dryden's house as it was and is, plans and views of Leicester square in 1658, and in 1700, and the same neighbourhood at the present day, enabling one to gather a very good idea of the great changes which three hundred years bring about in London town.

The Rapid Review, London, C. ARTHUR PEARSON, Ltd.

WE have received some specimen pages of the new review which C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., of London, were to produce on the 12th of February. The publishers in their foreword say that their new venture "is a Magazine whose aim is to save time and trouble, and to do so with comfort and entertainment. Its title, *The Rapid Review*, conveys briefly its general scope and the nature of its contents. It will contain monthly a bright and full summary of the world's thought and progress in every form of enterprise and advancement. It will deal with essentials, not with superfluities; with facts, not with fancies; and, consequently, it will be the Magazine to which the busy man or woman, worn with a long day's work, can turn with the certainty of finding the last word on every topic of interest stated clearly, without irrelevant preamble or digression, and rendered in a fashion that can be grasped without effort." The contents of the first number include:—

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Russia and Japan.
Financial Wild Oats.
The Danger of Games.
The Tibetan Expedition
The Tavern and the Trust.
The Fiscal Issue.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

The Iron Duke.
Three Professions.
The Creevey Papers.
Wild Nature's Ways.

MUSIC OF THE MONTH.
SCIENCE OF THE MONTH.
CONTEMPORARY THOUGHT.
MEN AND WOMEN OF THE MONTH.

Mr. Asquith.
Mr. Austen Chamberlain.
The Lord Mayor.
Miss Cave.
The Duke of Norfolk.
Mr. Joseph Bosley.
Lord Selborne.
Mrs. James Bryce.
Sir Robert Herbert.
Major Younghusband.

PLAYS OF THE MONTH.

The Darling of the Gods.
Other Plays in brief.

ART OF THE MONTH.
WOMAN'S WORK.
THE MONTH IN THE COUNTRY.

Needless to say, this new review is being extensively advertised, and we give a specimen of the latter-day advertiser's notion of attracting and arresting attention:

Suppose yourself at a bookstall,
You would like to buy everything,
You don't want to miss anything,
You have not much money.

What ought you to do?
Buy the Rapid Review!
But why?
Because it tells you all you want to know.

All the Magazines,
All the Periodicals,
All the Newspapers,
All newest boooks.

All the speeches.
All the lectures,
All the plays,
All the newest in science and art.

Suppose yourself in a foreign town:
You want to see everything,
You don't want to miss anything,
You have not much time.

What do you do?
You buy a guide book,
It tells you just what you ought to see,
And what not to waste time over.

The Rapid Review is a guide book,
Not to a town, but to the world.
Not to the sights of the world,
But to the doings of the world.

To the progress and thought of the world;
In literature and art,
In music and science,
In politics—in everything

THE RAPID REVIEW

WILL SAVE YOU TIME, THOUGHT AND MONEY.

Great Masters: London, WM. HEINEMANN.

THIS notable publication has reached its eighth number and maintains the high standard set by the opening portfolio. Mr. Wm. Heinemann deserves well of all picture-lovers for placing such an opportunity of acquiring beautiful works of art within their reach. The four pictures in the present number include "A Polish Noble," by Rembrandt, from the Hermitage Gallery, St. Petersburg; "A Duet," by Gerald Terborch, in which the figure at the harpsichord was supplied by a restorer; the "Vision of St. Anthony of Padua," by Murillo, from the Berlin Gallery; and an English scene by George Morland, "At the Door of 'The Dolphin,'" from Mr. A. Sanderson's Collection.

THE DIET.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 1 p.m. and having heard the first reading of a Government bill for increasing military pensions, handed the bill to a special committee.

The various committees then reported upon all the measures hitherto taken as matters of urgency, including Ordinance No. 291 (relating to the special-account funds, short-period loans and the Seoul-Fusan Railway), about the post-facto sanction of which there had been some doubts. Sanction was given without a dissentient voice in every case.

Three other measures were similarly treated; one for placing certain naval expenditures in a special account; another for facilitating the hypothecation of registered public securities; and the third relating to coast defence.

Mr. Fukuchi, on behalf of the Special Committee, reported that the Committee had not found anything to amend in the draft of the House's thanks and congratulations to the Imperial Navy.

Admiral Baron Yamamoto, Minister of State for the Navy, ascended the rostrum amid loud applause. He said that since the outbreak of war the House had had opportunities of reading many official reports and it had also heard the statements made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and others. He might, however, add a few words. From the time when the negotiations commenced, it had been the duty of the navy to prepare for an emergency. They had naturally good sailors and they had good ships, but there could be no question that the maritime power of Russia as a whole exceeded the maritime power of Japan, and consequently as the failure of diplomacy became imminent, they had not been without anxiety about the result of a conflict on the sea. Nevertheless, from the time that the squadron set out on the 6th of February, it had been everywhere successful, as the reports of the admirals in command and the captains of ships showed. He regretted that it was not permissible for him to make any statement in amplification of those reports. The enemy's ships were still in Port Arthur, and according to the news received last evening, several of them had been able to leave the harbour. It would seem, therefore, that the injured vessels had been successfully repaired. Under such circumstances, it was obvious that their exertions must be doubled, and he did not doubt that the message the House was now about to send to the Fleet would inspire it to fresh efforts.

Mr. Tsunematsu called on the House to rise and vote for the address, standing as a mark of respect towards the Navy. The House rose and adopted the address amid vehement acclamations.

Admiral Baron Yamamoto again ascended the rostrum and declared that such an address would be profoundly gratifying to the men at the front. He promised to convey it at once to all the ships and to accompany it with a statement of the House's earnest demeanour. He ventured to say that the successes thus far won were due to the virtues of their Sovereign, the zeal of the nation, and the valour and loyalty of the officers and men of the Navy. In the name of the Government he begged to tender thanks.

His speech elicited vehement applause.

A bill sanctioning an issue of bonds for the purpose of buying up Chinese proprietory rights in Formosa with a view of increasing the taxation yielded, was taken as a matter of urgency on the motion of Mr. Tsunematsu, and was passed at once.

The House rose at 2.10 p.m.

THE HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House met at 10 a.m. on the 26th instant for the first time this session from a business point of view. Prince Pu Lun was among the spectators. The Prime Minister and Baron Komura delivered speeches in the same sense as the addresses already made by them in the Lower House.

Baron Ozaki considered that as the evacuation of Manchuria by Russia was a question which concerned all the Powers, Japan should have conferred with them before approaching Russia. He wished to know whether there had been any such conference.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs replied that there had been, within certain limits.

An answer from Admiral Togo to the vote of thanks and applause passed by the House was read and recorded.

Several Government Bills sent up from the Lower House were handed to special committees, and the House rose at 11.30 a.m.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 1 p.m. on the 26th instant.

In answer to a question Mr. Koyezuka Ryo, Chairman of the Committee appointed to examine into the Akiyama case, stated that the Committee had not yet come to any decision, but that it hoped to do so in the meeting now immediately to be opened.

All the Government Bills for increased taxation were taken *en bloc* and passed with the amendments recorded elsewhere in our columns, the net result being that the revenue proposed by the Treasury was reduced to the extent of 6,171,561 *yen*.

Considerable discussion took place with regard to the Bill for establishing a state monopoly of tobacco manufacture. The Special Committee attempted to postpone presenting its report on the ground of the chairman's indisposition, but the House insisted on hearing the report at once. Mr. Tada Sakubei, in *lieu* of the chairman, then announced that the Committee recommended the passing of the Bill, but had decided to amend the method of assessing the commutation in the sense of taking the amount actually sold by each manufacturer as the basis of calculation.

The Minister of Finance opposed this change and an animated debate ensued, with the result that the closure was ultimately applied, and the House, by an overwhelming majority, passed the measure as amended by the Committee.

The House then proceeded to consider the Government's Bill for authorizing the issue of premium-bearing bonds of small denominations by the Savings Department of the Industries Bank. It is the Cabinet's idea that during war large expenditures have to be made which go to enrich the lower orders, and that a measure of the kind contemplated by this Bill will serve to bring these funds again within reach of the Treasury. The project has been much debated by the public and has been condemned in several quarters, but the House passed the Bill without difficulty.

The Bill for increasing military and naval pensions was carried unanimously through all its readings, as was also a Bill for making special reductions in the taxable assessments of lands along the Watarase River, which, having been more or less sterilized by the emanations from the Ashiwo Mine, could not justly be required to pay the increased rate of land tax.

A diversion was created by Mr. Buto, who attempted to make a speech about the Ashio-Mine poison, but was interrupted by repeated cries of "useless." Exasperated by these comments Mr. Buto cried out that his interrupters had been purchased by the owner of the mine, Mr. Furukawa. A motion was at once introduced for handing him over to the Disciplinary Committee, but a majority voted against it. The motion had the effect, however, of silencing Mr. Buto.

After a brief recess, Baron Sone ascended the rostrum and declared that the Government approved the decision of the House in the matter of the War-tax measures; that the deficit resulting from the reduction of the land tax by 0.2 per cent. would be made up by raising the selling price of tobacco; that as to the remaining deficit of 6 million *yen*, the Government proposed to meet it by advances from the special capital funds and by administrative economies, a bill in which sense had been submitted; and that the Government promised to spare no effort to achieve such economies.

This speech was warmly applauded.

The Akiyama affair then came up for discussion.

The Chairman of the Special Committee explained the evidence adduced against Mr. Akiyama, first, that in August, 1903, the *Niroku Shimpo* had published an alleged copy of a convention concluded between Russia and Japan; secondly, that Mr. Akiyama was said to have met the First Secretary of the Russian Legation at the Hotel Metropole and at the Sakurada Kaikwan: thirdly on the 16th of this month the *Niroku* had published an article highly injurious to Japan's interests; and that Mr. Akiyama lived in a style incompatible with his visible income. The Committee had not found that any of these things constituted a proof of disloyal collusion with Russia, but they did find that Mr. Akiyama had sacrificed his country's interests to his own, and that his conduct was calculated to promote the interests of his country's enemy. As for the Chairman himself, he declared that he did not share the Committee's view, but that he reported them as a matter of duty.

Mr. Kusume Gen called out loudly that Mr. Akiyama must now make up his mind.

Mr. Akiyama ascended the rostrum. At first his appearance created some uproar, but his calm and confident demeanour finally secured a hearing. He said that were there question of Akiyama alone, the matter would be comparatively unimportant. But Akiyama, a member of the House of Representatives, could not disgrace his country by bowing to such a calumny. Not for the smallest fraction of a moment did he deserve such a reproach. He would not lightly resign his membership of the House. As for the materials collected by the Committee by way of evidence, they were mainly a *resumé* of the slanders uttered against him by his political enemies at the time of the general election. The Minister of Home Affairs had assured him on the preceding day that he attached no importance to the charges against him. There was one man now on the Ministerial benches who considered him a Russian spy and had furnished the evidence against him. That man was swayed solely by sentiment and not by facts. Such persons might call him a Russian spy, but for his part he could only feel apprehensions when he saw the Government of the country in the hands of these men. He agreed with the sentiments of that nature expressed in the *Niroku Shimpo's* article of the 16th instant, but he fully admitted that the article contained much which ought not to have been written at this crisis, and he was prepared to accept all the responsibility attaching to such indiscretion. If, however, on the strength of that article he was to be declared a Russian spy, he would occupy his seat in the House until driven from it by the open weapon of his fellow-representatives' decision.

Mr. Ozawa spoke in support of the Committee's decision, and introduced an urgency motion calling on Mr. Akiyama to resign.

Mr. Ooka urged that the House was apparently about to commit the great cruelty of condemning a man to death without any incriminating evidence and in obedience to the passion of the moment. Already they had heard from the Chairman of the Committee that the Committee could not find any evidence in support of the accusation. The military and naval forces of the Empire were conducting a war beyond the seas in full obedience to the dictates of civilization, but here in the calm and quiet of the Imperial Diet, the House of Representatives was about to take the uncivilized step of pronouncing a man guilty of a heinous crime on the testimony of an official detective. Undoubtedly the article that appeared in the *Niroku Shimpo* of the 16th instant was opposed to the country's interests. It was hard that the proprietor of a journal should be held responsible for everything appearing in its columns, nevertheless Mr. Akiyama himself had declared that he accepted the responsibility in this case, and the speaker therefore moved that the House limit its decision to that question, his motion being that "in consideration of the leading article published on the 16th instant in the *Niroku Shimpo* under the heading, *Impeachment of the Cabinet*, of which newspaper Mr. Akiyama is proprietor, this House considers that some decision must be taken by Mr. Akiyama."

This speech had an excellent effect.

Mr. Akiyama again ascended the rostrum and declared that to the count preferred by Mr. Ooka, he had no hesitation in pleading guilty and that he hereby resigned his seat. But as to the allegation that he had met General Kuropatkin (at this point he was interrupted by numerous cries of "never mind that; nobody believes anything of such foolishness"). He therefore refrained from further explanation and merely said:—"Then, gentlemen, if you are convinced of my innocence of the great crime, I care for nothing else and I bid you farewell."

He then left the House. The President suggested that under the circumstances the matter might be dropped; but the House insisted on passing Mr. Ooka's motion.

Thus (says the *Kokumin Shimbun*) the Representatives who had just voted a war fund of 380 million *yen*, got rid of their stupendous business—the Russian spy!

The House rose at 6.05 p.m.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House met at 10 a.m on the 27th, and proceeded at once to consider 15 bills sent up from the Lower House, which were handed to special committees. Mr. Sakatani, Government Delegate, explained the amendments, made by the Representatives, and signified the Government's concurrence.

Seven Bills previously entrusted to special committees were favourably reported and passed at once. On a motion by Viscount Tani, the Order of the Day was extended so as to include *post-facto* consideration of the Coast Defence Ordinance, which received the House's consent.

The House rose at 11.10 a.m.

The House met at 10 a.m. on the 28th March. Viscount Soga having reported in favour of the War Tax measures, as amended by the Lower House, and having stated that the supplementary (local) taxes are not to be levied on the basis of the increased rates in the case of the land tax, the income tax and the business tax, also that the limit of time for collecting the war taxes is to be the calendar year after the termination of the war, the House passed the 12 Bills without discussion or dissent.

The Tobaeo Monopoly Bill was also voted as sent up from the Lower House.

The House rose at 10.40 a.m.

The House of Peers met at 10 a.m. on the 29th, and passed the remainder of the War-tax bills.

Viscount Nagaoka reported that the Special Committee had decided to reject the Bill empowering the issue of small-denomination savings bank bonds, the Committee considering the measure demoralizing as calculated to encourage a spirit of gambling.

The Prime Minister urged the adopting of the Bill as a war measure. After considerable discussion the Bill was passed, having been amended so as to operate during the war only, and the restriction as to the bank of issue being removed.

A recess was then taken for the purpose of holding a consultation with the Lower House as to these amendments. When the House re-assembled the Minister of State for the Navy read Admiral Togo's report about the blocking of Port Arthur, and on the motion of Viscount Soga the House passed a vote of warm appreciation of the valour displayed and commiseration with the fate of the brave men who had fallen.

The Lower House's agreement with the amendments of the above Bill having been announced, the House rose at 2 p.m.

The Lower House met at 1 p.m. for the purpose of considering certain Representations and Petitions.

The Minister of State for the Navy read Admiral Togo's last report. He added that since Admiral Makaroff had succeeded Admiral Stalk there had been a marked difference in the enemy's conduct, and the Japanese now hoped that the Russian fleet would come out to meet them in the open. The Russians had suffered some damage, but they had in part repaired their injuries, and it must be admitted that they had plenty of fighting strength left. The last attempt at blocking the harbour seemed to have succeeded much better than the first. The enemy's ships might be able to pass between the sunken vessels. but he believed that the fair-way had been reduced to very narrow dimensions, That result was due to the valour and resolution of the Japanese officers and men. They knew that the enemy was still very strong at sea and they were far from despising him. The House would note that the same officers and engineers had been employed on both the blocking operations. That would have been avoided had not these men themselves desired to utilize their experience so as to ensure success. Nothing could be more difficult than this work of blocking. The men had to go into the midst of the enemy's fire without any weapons of their own and had to perform work demanding the greatest coolness under circumstances of deadly peril. They could only trust to the valour and ability of their officers and men to win future successes. These officers and men would be nerved to fresh exertions when they learned what warm approval their conduct had received from both Houses of the Diet, and how the country, through its representatives, had shown itself a unit in voting supplies for the war.

After some further business, two attempts were made by members to induce the House to call for the resignation of Mr. Ogawa Genkichi, who had spoken of Mr. Akiyama as a "Russian Spy," but the House, amid considerable commotion, refused to entertain the proposal.

On the motion of Mr. Hara Kei the House unanimously adopted a Resolution declaring that the Emperor's Declaration of War had been prompted by a desire to secure permanent peace in the Far East, and that the House had voted abundant supplies to promote that end. The war had only commenced, and though the country's forces had shown great valour and skill, a long time must still elapse before the desired peace could be restored. The House had felt no reluctance whatever in granting large sums and it trusted that the Ministers of the Crown would spare no efforts to bring the war to a successful termination and restore the blessings of peace.

Speaking to this motion Mr. Hara dwelt on the advantages of a constitutional form of Government as enabling the nation to give its whole strength in support of the Government and the Two Services at a crisis like the present.

The House adopted the Resolution unanimously, standing up for the purpose and cheering vehemently.

The Prime Minister then ascended the rostrum and solemnly promised that the Government would conscientiously and earnestly work to achieve the ends indicated in the Resolution just adopted.

The President delivered a short address congratulating the House on the loyalty and patriotism it had shown, and speaking of the advantages of a constitution which enabled the nation to act in such strong harmony.

The House rose at 3.30 p.m.

On the 30th March, at 11 a.m. the ceremony of closing the Imperial Diet took place. The Emperor did not attend in person. His Majesty's speech was read to the two Houses by the Prime Minister. It declared the Diet prorogued, and briefly expressed His Majesty's satisfaction with the manner in which the members had discharged the important functions devolving on them in this time of war, in accordance with the Imperial wishes.

Twenty-four Chinese students from Cheh-kiang arrived on March 28th at Nagasaki via Shanghai. They will leave there by train for Tokyo.

YOKOHAMA LITERARY SOCIETY.

There was a very good attendance at the fortnightly meeting of the Yokohama Literary Society, held at Van Schaick Hall on Friday. The Rev. George Wallace proved to be a most entertaining lecturer, bringing to his aid a keen sense of humour which he displayed in relating many a good story of the land and people really first revealed to the world by that exceedingly clever novel, "David Harum." Mr. Wallace spent some years in New York state and thus was able to draw freely on his personal recollections of the peculiarities of these country folk. Many a time and oft during the evening he had his audience convulsed with laughter, and at the close of his lecture he was very warmly applauded. Later in the evening he read a selection from "David Harum," affording a rare treat of dialectical humour. Miss Dodds, who is shortly leaving Japan, was thanked by the President for her contributions to the Society's programmes, and in the name of the Society he wished her *bon voyage.* The full programme was as follows:—

PART I.

LECTURE..."Environment of an American Novel,"...
REV. GEORGE WALLACE.

PART II.

1. PIANO SOLO......"La Fileuse"..................*Raff.*
Miss MENDELSON.
2. SONG (with violin obligato)......"Happy Days" *Streletzki.*
Miss LLOYD THOMAS and Mr. O. FEHLING.
3. RECITATION...."The Last Shot"....*John D. Reid.*
(A Tale of the Indian Mutiny)
Miss DODDS.
4. SONG..................."Sunset"........*Dudley Buck.*
Mrs. W. T. PAYNE.
5. READING from "David Harum"
Rev. GEORGE WALLACE.
6. VIOLIN SOLOS......"Le Cygne"......*Saint Saens.*
"Gavotte"..................*Bohm.*
Mr. O. FEHLING.

DESULTORY NOTES ON SPORT.

Training for the Spring Race Meeting is proceeding somewhat uneventfully. Most of the new Australian subscription griffins are quiet and comparatively well-behaved, but one or two have given trouble. Most of the excitement incidental to the early stages of training has been furnished by China ponies. The new subscription China pony belonging to the Clerk of the Course is troublesome, and gave his owner a nasty fall last week, getting mixed up in some way with the guards protecting the grass track. He subsequently got rid of one of our new amateur riders, putting him down on the entrance road, but fortunately without causing damage. Another of the new lot, belonging to the Chairman of the Executive Committee, pipped his riding boy on several consecutive mornings, indulging in a wild scamper every time before he could be secured.

Some of the new Walers are showing very good promise, and are making very fair progress. It is far too early yet to speculate on their respective chances, as out of any batch of horses put into training for the first time, some come to hand much earlier than the others, and early "fancies" are usually misleading.

The course is shewing considerable improvement, and does not seem so heavy after rain as was formerly the case. Work on the new stand is being pushed forward, and it will doubtless be found a great convenience at the Meeting.

The fine weather on Saturday induced the owners of the *Asagao* and *Nina* to start the season's week-end cruising. The former, with an early start, got down to a pretty little cove just beyond Uki Shima, on the Boshu Coast, called Ichibukero. *Nina* had just reached Uraga when the wind failed. Both boats had a stiff beat back to Yokohama on Sunday against a north wind and bitterly cold rain. The weather, in contrast with Saturday, seemed quite a return to winter.

LITERARY AND MUSICAL REUNION.

On Friday evening a literary and musical reunion took place at the Public Hall under the auspices of the Yokohama Committee of L'Alliance Francaise. There was a large attendance and the proceedings were completely successful. The first part of the programme was a lecture on "Le Dedale" by M. P. O. Francois, of the Imperial University, which was most appreciatively listened to. The second part consisted of the following numbers, all of which were warmly applauded:—

I.—Les deux Cœurs ....H. de Fontenailles.
Obstination.... .... " "
Chante par ....M. L. Cherfils.
Accompagne par ....Mme Lacroix.
II.—Fireside Tales—Nos. 1 and 2...
Edward MacDowall.
Joué par ....Mrs. McIvor.
III.—Sans Toi. ....Guy d.Hardelot.
Chante par ....Mrs. Payne.
Accompagné par ....Miss Mendelson.

SIR POWER PALMER.

The death is announced, from appendicitis, of General Sir Power Palmer, K.C.B., G.C.I.E. The *South China Morning Post* gives the following sketch of his career:—"The deceased retired from the position of Commander-in-Chief in India a little more than a year ago, when Lord Kitchener was able to leave South Africa. He was sixty-four years of age. He entered the Indian Army in 1857 and served during the Mutiny with Hodson's Horse. In 1863 he was in the Mohmund frontier expedition; 1867-8 in the Abyssinian war; in Acheen serving with the Dutch forces in 1876-8; in 1878-9 in the Soudan campaign; in 1892-3 in command of the Chin Hills expedition; and in 1897-8 in the Tirah campaign. In this Afghan war, he obtained his Brevet Lieutenant-Colonelcy, in the Soudan a C.B., and for the Chin Hills a K.C.B. In 1901 he was created a G.C.I.E. General Sir Power Palmer was an old Cheltonian and at the last speech day he distributed the prizes, and unveiled an Eleanor Cross and obelisk which was erected at the expense of old Cheltonians in memory of old Cheltonians fallen in South Africa."

FIRES.

Fire broke out on the morning of March 27th at Matsuya-cho, Kyobashi, near Shimbashi, destroying eight buildings.

Early on the morning of March 28th, fire occurred at Shinmachi, Sapporo, destroying a theatre and ten dwellings. Two persons were killed.

About the same time an outbreak of fire took place in the factory of the Tokyo Flour Manufacturing Company, Fukagawa. As a severe northerly wind prevailed the conflagration spread to the various buildings in the compound, destroying five godowns, two engine houses, and two buildings, and also extended beyond the compound, burning nineteen houses. The damage to the factory is estimated at about a hundred and fifty thousand *yen.* The cause was a candle by means of which one of fifteen men who were working during the night was examining a defect in a machine.

A report from the village of Wada, Minami-Saitama, Saitama prefecture, states that a girl was killed by a fire which broke out in her house on March 26th.

THE LAW COURTS.

S. NAKAKAMI v. THE SINGER MANUFACTURING CO.

The hearing of this case, in which plaintiff claims *yen* 187.55, alleged to be due to him as commission, etc., while in service as salesman of defendant's firm, came up again in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno on March 25th when S. Kawamura was examined as a witness.

Witness stated that he was employed on April 18th, 1903, by the Singer Manufacturing Company and left on August 20th. He was first interpreter for two months and then became a salesman. In June, 1903, plaintiff was discharged by the manager of the firm, the latter telling witness that he was not satisfied with the work done by plaintiff. Witness did not know whether plaintiff had deposited money with the firm as personal guarantee or whether the parties had made a promise about commission on the business done by plaintiff. Witness went to Kawagoi in June 1903 to examine the business which plaintiff carried on there. Witness made several reports and gave them to the manager but he did not remember now what was in the reports. Defendants prosecuted plaintiff in the Yokohama District Court charging him with embezzlement, but the case was settled out of Court by means of arbitration and the refunding of the money by plaintiff. Witness, however, did not know the details as he left for Niigata on office business in June 23rd.

The case was adjourned on account of the absence of defendant's counsel, though the hearing would have concluded had he been present.

A MURDERER SENTENCED.

Z. Okuda, who was convicted of having murdered the proprietor of the Shobu-in garden, Horikiri, Tokyo, and then set fire to his dwelling, was sentenced to death on March 26th in the Tokyo District Court.

WADA v. BERNARD.

The hearing of this case, in which plaintiff claims *yen* 55, came up in the Yokohama Local Court on March 25th.

Plaintiff's counsel stated that plaintiff was employed by Mr. C. B. Bernard as a cook from Oct. 1st to Dec. 6th last. During this time, plaintiff purchased daily necessaries on behalf of defendant, but the latter refused to refund the money thus spent. Counsel asked the Court for leave to examine Mrs. Bernard as a witness.

The Court decided to do so on March 30th. Thereupon the case was adjourned.

EXAMINATION FOR PRESERVING EVIDENCE.

With regard to a case instituted by Mr. H. E. Reynell, Kobe, against Mr. R. Young, editor of the *Kobe Chronicle,* in which suit Mr. Reynell applied for the preservation of evidence, Mr. C. Carpentier, Manager, and Mr. A. Elked, sub-manager of the Russo-Chinese Bank, were examined as witnesses on March 26th in the Yokohama Local Court before Judge Kobayashi.

The Court showed a letter to the witnesses which they acknowledged to be a letter sent by the Bank to Mr. Reynell. The purport of the letter was that the Bank refused a request of Mr. Reynell for a loan. The witnesses stated that they thought it would be dangerous to lend money to Mr. Reynell as they read an advertisement in the *Kobe Chronicle,* in March last, regarding the attachment of the property of Mr. Reynell. This advertising notice was printed over the name of Mr. Hirata, barrister in Kobe.

The examination concluded.

LIBEL CASE.

The trial of Mr. Maejima, a nominal editor of the *Yokohama Shimpo,* was resumed on March 28th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Hadano, when Mr. Ishizawa, of the Harbour Police Station, was examined as a witness.

The witness stated that he did not know whether the steamers of Messrs. Dodwell & Co. carried abroad Japanese girls of ill-fame without passports, but there was a rumour that some ships did carry such girls. The witness could not point out which ships had carried on this business, but he added that the ships concerned in the rumour were regarded as being both Japanese and foreign.

The trial having concluded, the Public Procurator stated that the action of the accused was injurious to the reputation of Messrs. Dodwell and Company, and he should be punished in accordance with Art. 358 of the Penal Code.

Mr. Yamada and three other lawyers employed in the defence argued against the Public Procurator. They urged that the accused did not intend to vilify the foreign firm.

The case was adjourned till March 30th when sentence will be delivered.

S. ISAACS v. MAX ISAACS.

Mr. Sawada, Counsel for defendant in this case, inform us that the rehearing on March 28th, was indefinitely postponed on account of Mr. Dayet being unable to appear in Court as a witness.

LIBEL CASE.

The trial of Mr. K. Maejima, nominal editor of the *Yokohama Shimpo*, who was prosecuted in the Yokohama District Court by Messrs. Dodwell and Company on a charge of libel in connexion with girl stow-a-ways, having been concluded, sentence was given on March 30th before Judge Hadano, acquitting him. The purport of the decision was that the statements of the paper with regard to the women, who were alleged to have been carried by the steamers of Messrs. Dodwell and Company to foreign countries, were not intended to injure the reputation of the firm.

AMERICAN TOPICS.

Paymaster Morse of the U.S.S. *Wisconsin*, accused of irregularities in his commissary fund account, is to be tried by a court martial.

The losses of underwriters by the Baltimore fire are now placed at $32,464,894, from which salvage to the amount of about $1,769,700 is to be deducted. These estimates are much below those originally made.

Information has been received at the Navy Department from Rear Admiral Evans at Cavite that Paymaster Harry E. Biscoe of the *Oregon* has been placed on trial by court-martial on a charge of neglect of duty growing out of a shortage in ships stores, amounting in value to $2,800.

Advices from La Paz, Bolivia, announce that the traditional treasure of the Incas has been discovered at Challacatta. It amounts to $18,000,000. The discoverers are of various nationalities, and are now quarrelling over the treasure, although a legal contract exists between them as to its division. The authorities have interfered in the matter.

An effort is to be made by President Roosevelt to prevent the wanton destruction of elk in the United States. Congress, probably informally, will be asked to enact stringent laws looking to the preservation of these great animals. State game wardens recently found the carcasses of eleven elk in one place and eight in another of the Olympian mountains of Washington. All had been killed illegally, merely for two teeth in each animal, which are used as a sign of the Order of Elks.

Commander William P. Randall, U.S.N., retired, died at his home in New Bedford on February 21, aged 71 years. Assigned as acting master on the frigate *Cumberland* during the Civil War, he participated in the battle with the *Merrimac* and was credited with having fired the last shot from the frigate before she was sent to the bottom. After the war he entered the Navy as ensign and served in various capacities until 1882, when he was retired. During the Spanish war he served as executive officer of the receiving ship *Wabash*.

A mortgage has been executed by the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company to the United States Government to cover the loan of $4,600,000 authorized by Congress to be made to the company. Secretary Shaw now has the mortgage in his possession. One million dollars was to be paid over to the company in February; two millions will be paid in March, one million in April and $600,000 in May. The mortgage covers the gate receipts of the fair and repayment of the amount loaned will be made in June. The mortgage provides that in the event of failure of the exposition company to pay promptly the amount loaned, the Government shall take charge of the fair and run it.

Glen Cebays, a negro, was burned at the stake near Crosset, Little Rock, Ark, on February 19, on the charge of murdering J. D. Stephens. Stephens, who was a wealthy planter, had a few words with Cebays and the negro securing a shotgun killed Stephens at close range. Cebays then made his escape. Bloodhounds were secured and they traced the fugitive to his father's house, where he was found hiding in a well. He made a full confession. With hands and feet tied, Cebays was bound to a stake in his father's yard and brush was piled around him. The torch was then applied and the murderer was slowly burned to death within 20 hours of the crime.

The Post Office Department in Washington has begun a crusade against the printing of objectionable advertisements and stories in newspapers and periodicals throughout the United States. The action is based on Section 3893 of the Revised Statutes, which impose a fine of not exceeding $5000 or imprisonment for not over five years, or both, for any person depositing in the mails or aiding in circulating through the mails, any obscene print, pamphlet, etc. It is proposed to amend this law to include vulgar advertisements and other printed matter. Under the new policy a number of papers containing questionable matters have been thrown out of the mails under the telegraphic orders to the postmasters, and a campaign will be waged against objectionable medical advertisements which are being widely published.

The will of the late William C. Whitney was filed for probate in Mineola, L.I., on Feb. 24. Mr. Harry Payne Whitney is made sole executor and trustee under the will. After legacies of $250,000 each to Adelaide and Bertie Randolph, stepchildren, have been deducted and provisions made for an income of $30,000 a year for his daughter Dorothy, the bulk of the estate is left in trust, one-half of the income to go to Harry Payne Whitney, the oldest son; one-tenth to his daughter Pauline, now Mrs. Almerich A. Page; one-tenth to his son Payne, and three-tenths to his daughter Dorothy. The trusteeship is to last six years, the estate then to be divided in the same proportions among the children. The special income of $30,000 for Miss Dorothy is to terminate upon her coming of age. There are no bequests to charity. The will is dated November 14, 1902.

"The strangest, weirdest method of embalming ever thought of has just been patented by a Russian residing in New York State," says *Popular Mechanics*. "The corpse is to be encased in the centre of a solid block of pure glass, through which the features and outlines of the body will be perfectly visible. As no air can ever possibly enter, the remains are expected to be preserved for centuries. The inventor hopes that some day a vast mausoleum of noted and gifted men will be erected, in which it will be deemed the highest honour to be thus preserved for future generations. . . . The mechanical process which is to make all possible, and on which the United States Government has granted a patent, is quite simple. The remains are first surrounded with a coating of sodium silicate, or water glass, which is allowed to dry. When the water has been sufficiently evaporated, the subject is placed in a mold which is to determine the size of the glass block, and molten glass poured until the mold or flask is filled."

The Chicago *Inter Ocean* of Feb. 23, prints the following story: Mme. Eleonora Petrelli, once a world-renowned opera singer and widow of Prince von Petroff of Russia, died in an obscure hotel in Chicago, alone and in want save for the charity of strangers. Daughter and heiress of one of the wealthiest Counts of Scandinavia, this wonderful woman lived to see two great fortunes melt away and to have her title of royalty taken from her. Driven by necessity to sing for a living in the royal opera companies of the continent, the singer won her way upward in the profession, until at the Russian court in St. Petersburg she became the wife of Prince von Petroff, a Boyar nobleman. Then began the series of misfortunes which eventually left her adrift as a poor teacher of music in Chicago at the age of 87 years. The singer had won fame under the name of Mme. Petrelli in three royal opera companies. The name was assumed for stage purposes and is Italian for Petroff, the name of her royal husband. Her father was the Count Weigand of Sweden. Her mother was the Countess von Schwerin. Mme. Pettrelli's name when a child was Eleanore Weigand. She was descended in a direct line from the Grand Duke of Mechlenburg and the Rev. Dr. Count von Schwerin, at one time the most noted man in Scandinavia.

An eight-hour day has been established in twenty-seven states and territories, as we learn from a summary of legislation on this subject in the *Massachusetts Labour Bulletin*. In six states, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, New York and Pennsylvania, eight hours are prescribed as the limit of a day's work unless the contrary is specified. Nevada and the United States specify the eight-hour day upon irrigation works, and New York does the same for labourers upon the reservoir. Wisconsin prescribes an eight-hour day in manufacturing and mechanical establishments unless there is an agreement to the contrary. Eight hours are declared to constitute a day's work for labourers on road work in Missouri, New Mexico and Tennessee, and in mines and smelters in Arizona, Colorado, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming. Eight hours are prescribed as the maximum day's labour upon public works in Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Maryland (Baltimore), Minnesota, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Porto Rico, Utah, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming. The United States provides for an eight-hour day on government work. In Massachusetts nine hours constitute a day's labour for all labourers on public works, but an eight-hour day for public employees is provided for cities and towns accepting the provisions of acts passed in 1899 and 1900.

AOYAMA GAKUIN, TOKYO.

The Graduation Exercises of the School of Theology, College and Academy, which together constitute Aoyama Gakuin, were held on Monday. Although the day was unfavourable, there was present a large attendance of friends of the Institution. Three graduated in the English course of Philander Smith Biblical Institute, five from the College and sixteen from the Academy. Addresses were delivered by Bishop Moore, who has Episcopal supervision of the Methodist Episcopal Church in China, Korea and Japan, and Baron Kikuchi, ex-Minister of State for Education. In the evening eighty-four plates were laid for the annual gathering of alumni.

At this meeting, several encouraging facts announced showed the progress of a year.

The Biblical Institute has been recognised by the Department of Education as a Semmon Gakko. It is still hoping that soon it will form part of a Union Theological School for the five Methodisms in Japan.

The privileges, for a time withheld from the Academy because of the Instruction forbidding religious teaching, have been restored and its graduates may now enter the *Koto Gakko*, as well as other schools of similar grade upon the same conditions as graduates of regular middle schools.

Middle school graduates who complete the college course may obtain, without further examination, a license for the teaching of English in Middle, Normal and Girls' Higher Middle schools.

The fact that the receipts for tuition during the year were larger than the year before, although the amount received that year was the largest in the history of the school up to that time, shows steady growth.

$25,000 gold is immediately available "for the construction of a chapel and another building for general instruction and administration."

It was 25 years ago this year that the Methodist

Episcopal Church founded in Yokohama the school to-day established on the spacious grounds at Aoyama. With generous provision for much needed buildings, with Government privileges restored and with fullest religious liberty Aoyama Gakuin, deeply thankful for the past and full of bounding hope for the future, celebrates her quarter-centennial.—Communicated.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Snow fell heavily in Gifu during the whole of March 24th.

A sample parcel of new tea has been brought to Kobe from Kochi prefecture.

On the night of March 25th fire broke out at Hakata, Fukuoka, destroying thirty-two houses.

Four cases of dysentery were reported on March 28th in Tokyo.

The Commercial Pacific Cable Company's steamer *Scotia* has been wrecked off the island of Guam.

The fall in the price of silver in Formosa still continues. The rate was quoted on March 25th at *sen* 91.

Mr. I. Saito, a member of the Chiba Prefectural Assembly, was arrested on March 26th on a charge of fraud.

Mr. K. Takahashi, vice-president of the Bank of Japan, left New York on March 24th for London.

General Bruce Hamilton has been appointed to command the Second Division of the First Army Corps.

The amount donated towards the war fund in the Yokohama City Office aggregated on March 27th *yen* 74,228.46.

A case of typhus is reported in a factory of the Gassed Yarn Spinning Company, Tokyo. The patient is a female worker.

Owing to an explosion of gun-powder, J. Kamiya, manufacturer of fire-works, Okawa, Yokohama, has been killed.

The members of the Newchwang branch of the Yokohama Specie Bank arrived at Nagasaki on March 26th via Tientsin.

It is stated in Shimonoseki that a Japanese vessel was attacked by a pirate off Mokpho, Korea, and four of the crew were killed.

M. Yasuda (26), an incendiary, was sentenced on March 24th in the Tokyo District Court to nine years' confinement with hard labour.

Prince Fushimi arrived on March 28th at Kyoto by the 3.37 p.m. train from Shimbashi. He proceeded to his villa at Kawara-machi.

General Yamaguchi, Commander of the Fifth Division (Hiroshima), entertained on the evening of March 24th all the officers at the barracks.

Mr. K. Naito, President of the Nippon Kerosene Oil Company, was to leave by the steamer *Gaelic* for America to investigate the oil industry.

The *Mainichi* was prosecuted on March 26th on a charge of having condemned the judicial authorities for having ordered the suspension of the *Niroku*.

M. Yokota (40) clerk of the Ono Local Court, Fukui prefecture, was arrested on March 24th in Tokyo. He forged an official document and decamped.

The interim dividend of the Sanyo Railway Company for the last half-year is expected to be four per cent. The annual general meeting will shortly be held.

The weavers of Aichi prefecture have decided to support the Government's proposed increase of taxes on woven silk goods. Woollen cloth importers in Tokyo, Yokohama, and Osaka, who had decided to oppose the proposal, presented on March 24th their statement of reasons to the Ministers of Finance, and Agriculture and Commerce and members of both Houses.

A telegram from Sapporo states that an explosion of gas occured on March 22nd at 7 30 p.m. at the Kamoi Coal Mine, owned by the Hokkaido Colliery and Railway Company. Thirteen men were killed.

Two men, sellers of newspapers, were arrested on the night of March 25th at Idzuhara on suspicion of having been employed by the Russian government as spies.

The *Nichi Nichi* states that Dr. Morrison, the well known Peking correspondent of the London *Times*, who is now in Shanghai, will go to the front with the Japanese army.

According to a British war correspondent who arrived on March 25th at Shimonoseki from Pyong-yang, says a telegram to the *Jiji*, the Russian troops at Anju and in the northern districts are now withdrawing, and a severe collision will take place in about ten days.

The dead body of a farmer, M. Hashimoto (46), Honmoku, Yokohama, was found on March 28th on the shore near No. 20, Yamashita-cho. He has been missing since the 21st when he was fishing off Honmoku.

The weekly business report, dated March 27th, from the Japanese Consul at Lyons, received in Tokyo, says that transactions in raw silk are nominal, only a few demands offering at the present, and prices show a downward tendency. Japanese filatures, No. 1½—9 to 11 deniers—were quoted at 45 francs.

The appeal of Mr. C. Ogura, ex-Governor of Gumma prefecture, who was sentenced by the Tokyo District Court to two months' imprisonment with hard labour and fined seven *yen* in connexion with the text book affair, was rejected on March 28th in the Court of Cassation. He will now be removed to prison.

Mr. T. D. McKay sends us the calendar of the International Mercantile Marine company, which comprises the American line, the Atlantic Transport line, the Dominion line, the Leyland line, the Red Star line, and the White Star line, for all of whom he can quote rates.

A committee of the *Seiyukai* elected to investigate the question regarding Mr. T. Akiyama, proprietor of the *Niroku Shimbun*, who is alleged to be a Russian spy, concluded their investigation on March 24th. He has been handed over to the members of the Lower House belonging to the party.

A sample of new tea brought on March 27th from Kochi prefecture, proved to be of superior quality, and the nominal price given was six hundred *yen* per hundred *kin*. It is added by a correspondent of the *Kokumin* that the first shipment of new tea will be sent by the steamer *Athenian*, which will leave this port on May 4th for America.

The British steamer *Wilhelm* broke down when 20 miles from Ampenam. After five days, in which the steamer drifted 90 miles, the engineers succeeded in making such repairs as enabled her to steam dead slow to Sumbawa, whence a Dutch Government steamer towed her to Ampenam. After an interval of 17 days the *Charterhouse*, belonging to the same owners, arrived at Ampenam, and towed the *Wilhelm* to Singapore.

Mr. H. R. Hunter, Sub-Manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, is appointed Inspector of Agencies and Branches, and Mr. J. C. Peter, who has just returned from leave, becomes Sub-Manager in Hongkong. Mr. C. W. May, who has been Acting Chief Accountant, becomes Chief Accountant in succession to Mr. Peter. Mr. R. T. Wright, of the Head Office, has gone to Amoy as Agent succeeding Mr. W. H. Wallace, who goes home on leave.

The financial report of Russian railroad revenues during 1901, just published, shows a loss of $7,210,000. During the period of 1897-1900 the annual profits were between $5,665,000 and $9,785,000. The revenues, which amounted to $309,455,000, exceeded the expenditure by $77,765,000. The deficit must be attributed to bad crops and to the construction of 3,000 miles of new lines. The greatest deficit was that of the Siberian Railroad, which amounted to $11,330,000.

His Imperial Highness Prince Pu Lun and party (consisting of seventeen persons) left Yokohama for the United States on the O. & O. steamer *Gaelic*. The Prince will travel eastward on the Southern Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads The *Gaelic* also took Vice-Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge, Commander-in-chief of the China Squadron, whose place has been taken by Sir Gerard Noel.

Mr. Uchida, Japanese Consul-General at New York, telegraphed on March 25th that the market being effected by the fall in Italy, some transactions in raw silk have taken place, but the general state of the market is stationary. *Habutae* silk has been dull since prices advanced. No change occurred in the matting market. Cotton is rather steady. The closing price on the 25th for delivery in May was quoted at cents 14.78 and for present delivery at cents 14.75. The stock is 818,572 bales.

Mr. August W. Machen, formerly General Superintendent of the Free Delivery Postal Service; Dr. George F. Lorenz, of Toledo, once postmaster of that city, and Diller B. Groff, of Washington, all of whom were convicted of conspiracy against the U.S. Government in connection with the supply of Groff fasteners to the Post Office Department, have been sentenced by Judge Pritchard to two years' imprisonment in the Moundsville, W. Va., penitentiary and a fine of $10,000 each. The defendants immediately gave notice of appeal to Court of Appeals and were released on $20,000 bonds each.

THE *N.-C. Daily News* of March 15 reproduces the poem "Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori," which was originally written for the *Japan Mail* by a young English lady resident in Tokyo. Before reaching Shanghai, however, the poem seems to have been reprinted, without any acknowledgement, in the *Osaka Asahi*, for we find our Shanghai contemporary writing:—"The following poem is printed, in English, in the *Osaka Asahi*. It fairly represents, we are assured, the universal sentiment of the people of Japan." "M. K.," we feel sure, will be delighted to hear it.

Colonel E. Cotter has lectured at the United Service Institution on "Coast Defence from an Imperial Standpoint." Admiral Close, who took part in the subequent discussion, said he was astonished at the want of proper defences in the Thames. If Germany declared war one day they could have a couple of gunboats up the river to the middle of London the next night. London would never be safe until they had a couple of such craft stationed in the river. Any gunboat could get past Sheerness, and there would be nothing to stop it except a few police boats. Invading vessels could inflict any amount of damage. They would destroy the Houses of Parliament, the Tower, and play havoc with the shipping.

In the recent address before the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, Mr. H. Fulford Bush stated that Dalny occupies the side formerly known as Odin Bay, from the fact that during the China war in 1858, H.M.S. *Odin* was stationed there, the place being used as a military depôt. When his father, Mr. Henry E. Bush, passed through the place some years afterwards on his overland journey from Newchwang to Port Arthur, in mid-winter, performed in those days on horseback, several of the men repeated the commands they had learnt when, as children, they had watched the British soldier drilling, giving the "right turn, "quick march," &c., with all the dignity and volume of a drill sergeant.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SYMPATHY.

(To the Editor of the "Japan Mail.")

Sir,—The bursting of the storm of war in the Far East has produced great excitement throughout America. The people very naturally take a deep interest in the struggle and await with much anxiety the issues of the war. With but few exceptions the conscience of the people, as well as their heart, are with Japan in the brave struggle she is putting forth for her own life and to insure the new and better era in the Far East. Some Irish-Americans have given expression to pro-Russian sentiments, but the reason for this is well understood. The journals of this country are pretty nearly unanimous in the expression of friendly feelings toward Japan. They have sent many brilliant men to the seat of war in order to thoroughly study the problem. Conspicuous among these is the *Outlook*, which has commissioned the well known traveller, George Kennan, to devote a whole year of impartial study of the problems of the Far East and lay the results before its readers. The conduct of the Japanese in the United States awakens unqualified admiration. The prompt return of those liable to military duty and the extraordinary liberality, as shown in their subscriptions to the war fund and the Red Cross Society, coupled with their quiet and serious bearing in public, have made a very favourable impression upon all classes. Brilliant victories won by the fleet in the opening days of the conflict sent a thrill of admiration throughout the country.

The statement by the Japanese Goverament, setting forth the causes for the severance of relations with Russia, and the appeal to the sword, convinced most readers of the justness of Japan's claim. Americans are naturally proud of their great Secretary, John Hay. His prompt action with a view to confining the arena of struggle to the smallest limits and for the protection of the integrity of China, and the ready response of all the Powers to his proposition, raises him still higher in the estimation of his countrymen as well as that of the world.

While some classes may obtain material benefit from the struggle, yet there is profound desire on the part of people at large that the conflict may soon be ended, with the integrity of China and the peace of the nations of the Far East assured.

M. C. HARRIS,
Supt., Japan Mission.

San Francisco, Cal., March 5th, 1904.

REPORT OF THE YOKOHAMA FOREIGN BOARD OF TRADE FOR THE YEAR 1903.

The Course of Trade.—The returns of the foreign trade of Japan for the year 1903 continue to show an increase both in Imports and Exports.

	1903. Yen.	1902. Yen.
Total Exports	289,502,442	258,303,065
Total Exports from Yokohama	146,580,438	139,015,675
Total Imports	317,135,518	271,731,258
Total Imports to Yokohama	110,878,968	89,292,505
	1901. Yen.	1900. Yen.
Total Exports	252,439,543	204,429,994
Total Exports from Yokohama	133,822,517	96,125,275
Total Exports	255,816,645	287,261,846
Total Imports to Yokohama	88,528,419	109,775,317

The total value of the Foreign Trade of Japan in 1903 was *yen* 606,637,960, in 1902 530,034,323, in 1901 *yen* 508,166,188, and in 1900 *yen* 491,691,840.

The principal articles of Export showing an increase during 1903 were Habutai, Cotton Goods, Porcelain, Cotton Yarn, Straw Braid, Tea, Coal, and Copper; while Raw Silk, Matting, and Rice showed a decrease compared with the figures of the previous year. In Imports an increase is found principally in Wool, Iron and Steel of various kinds (including Rails), Dried Indigo, Woollen Cloth, Mousseline, Sugar, Rice, Peas, and Beans; those commodities showing a decrease being Raw Cotton, European Paper, Italian Cloth, Shirtings, Prints, Flannels, and Velvets.

The export of Bullion during the year was about seventeen millions of *yen* more than in 1902 and the import about five millions less.

Notwithstanding the heavy Rice crop harvested last year—the best for the past ten years except 1898 and 1901 which were only slightly in excess of it—the import of foreign Rice was no less than 12,162,405 piculs of the Customs value of nearly fifty-two million *yen*, and exceeding the import of the previous year by nearly eight million piculs. The official returns give the crop of 1903 as 46,475,038 *koku*, which is six millions and a quarter *koku* above the average and nine millions and a half more than the crop of the previous year. Deducting the export of Rice during the year—which was less than a million piculs—and adding the large import, give figures approaching 130,000,000 piculs.

Matches.—There is an increase in the export of Matches, but it is small compared with the excess in the same direction in 1902 over the previous year.

Straw Braid has continued in good demand, and an increase of nearly a million *yen* in value has been the result of the export of 1903 over that of 1902.

Yarns.—The export of Japanese Yarns in 1903 amounted to eleven and a half million *yen* more than in the previous year, and that of manufactured Cotton Goods to about a million. What the prospects are in the immediate future for these commodities in China it would be difficult to determine, though at present communication with Shanghai and the southern ports is not interfered with.

In Imports, Foreign Paper shows a decline of more than half a million in value in 1903 compared with 1902, against an increase in the latter year of a million and a half over 1901.

Wool figured for an increase of a million and a half in 1903 over the previous year, and continues to be in good demand.

Machinery and Locomotives also show a small increase in value in 1903.

The decrease in the value of Raw Cotton imported was ten million *yen* and in Petroleum three and a half millions.

The value of the deliveries of the principal articles of Import in Yokohama during the past year as compared with 1902 has increased about half a million *yen*, and the value of Exports from Yokohama about five and a half million *yen*.

The increase in foreign tonnage at Yokohama was nearly 300,000 tons in 1903 over that of the previous year.

The following are the values of the Exports and Imports for the past two years:—

Exports.

Manufactured Goods:—	1903. Yen.	1902. Yen.
Habutai Silk	27,510,478	24,685,408
Kaiki Silk	1,000,386	2,672,887
Silk Handkerchiefs	2,938,421	3,154,237
Cotton Goods	6,874,947	5,986,545
Rugs	605,061	653,330
Matches	8,473,072	8,169,966
Matting	4,651,165	6,772,496
Porcelain	3,169,009	2,461,544
Lacquer Ware	852,683	889,079
European Umbrellas	1,344,499	1,037,926
Partly Manufactured Goods:		
Raw Silk	74,428,907	76,859,478
Noshi and Waste Silk.	6,991,472	5,713,796
Cotton Yarn	31,418,614	19,901,522
Straw Braid	3,787,062	2,938,858
Tea	13,935,253	10,484,017
Camphor	3,537,844	3,404,833
Isinglass	818,172	1,108,544
Unmanufactured Goods:—		
Coal	19,260,503	17,270,417
Rice	4,959,880	6,679,544
Dried Cuttlefish	2,094,499	1,802,415
Seaweed	1,043,599	809,487
Mushrooms	954,320	866,499
Copper	14,906,034	10,261,984
Fish Oil	1,188,015	1,502,603
Vegetable Wax	1,064,746	789,875
Other Goods	51,698,771	41,425,775
	289,502,422	258,303,065

Imports.

Class I.:—	1903. Yen.	1902. Yen.
Raw Cotton	69,518,110	79,874,771
Cotton Yarn	766,287	1,747,875
Wool	4,811,811	3,397,564
Iron Nails	1,509,994	1,451,125
Rails	2,751,972	1,662,700
Bar and Rod Iron	3,557,942	3,519,126
Other Iron and Steel	7,972,246	6,974,346
Dried Indigo	4,350,816	3,097,981
European Paper	3,064,211	3,664,399
Leather	1,532,268	1,346,099
Machinery	8,130,872	8,052,528
Locomotives and Railway Carriages	2,772,811	2,532,809
Steamers	(16) 1,733,427	(17) 1,488,013
Class II.:—		
Mousseline	4,189,076	3,754,836
Woollen Cloth	2,610,394	2,000,012
Italian Cloth	650,579	1,181,175
Flannel	214,799	487,350
Shirtings and Prints	6,679,508	9,300,076
Cotton Velvet and Satin	1,900,567	3,019,613
Sugar, White and Brown	20,966,031	14,467,814
Watches	242,586	234,150
Class III.:—		
Rice	51,960,272	17,750,817
Pease and Beans	7,993,413	5,786,707
Petroleum	11,455,697	14,937,169
Oil Cake	10,739,361	10,121,712
Other Goods	85,060,468	69,970,491
Total	317,135,518	271,731,258

The export and import of Specie and Bullion were as follows:—

Exports.

	1903. Yen.	1902. Yen.
Gold	16,698,230	453,313
Silver	2,302,969	1,575,669
Total	19,001,199	2,028,982

Imports

	1903. Yen.	1902. Yen.
Gold	25,355,369	30,183,670
Silver	2,452,100	1,977,688
Total	27,807,469	32,161,358

Harbour Reclamation.—In last year's Annual Report it was stated that "the Customs Reclamation scheme had not made so much progress as was hoped for, want of funds being the cause of delay." This condition remains, and it has now been decided to complete a portion of the works, sufficient for the berthing of five steamers, leaving the remainder of the original plans to be carried out when funds are available for the purpose. The accommodation proposed to be completed first extends for nearly 3,000 feet on the south-east side of the works, the depth of water providing a berth for one vessel of 8,000 tons, two of 5,500, one of 2,900, and one of 1,600 tons. This quay is promised to be ready for occupation before the end of the financial year 1904. The bridge connecting the Reclamation with the shore is said to be so well advanced towards completion that little remains to be done beyond laying the rails.

The Breakwater.—Extensive repairs are in progress on this work, the total cost of which is estimated at over a million and a quarter *yen*, which will probably be spread over three years. Most of the damage was caused by a violent storm in September, 1902, when over 3,000 feet of the work suffered. The result of an unusually heavy gale on this structure has not been altogether unforeseen, as the original plans for the foundation were set aside against the strong representations of the engineer on account of cost.

Dredging has been carried on during the year, but in a more or less desultory manner, and vessels have touched bottom approaching the Pier. Although a dredger paid one visit during the year to the mouth of the Creek, the depth of water at this place is still insufficient, and a crowd of craft may often be seen waiting for the rise of the tide. This is particularly inconvenient to the discharge of Kerosene, and, in addition to the time lost over the work, lighters oil-laden get aground in the Creek itself, where two or three may be seen lying within a few feet of flaring fires on other barges, where men are cooking rice, to the great danger of a conflagration, which, if it broke out, would reach the houses on one side if not on both.

Yokohama-Hachoji Railway.—It was stated towards the end of the year that nearly the whole of the shares in this undertaking had been subscribed for, and that as soon as this was the case the company would apply to the Authorities for permission to commence construction, also for a provisional charter for the laying of a line of 1 mile 26 chains to be exclusively used for the transportation of freight and to run between the Customs Pier and the neighbourhood of Nakakido. The line to Hachioji is expected to be open for traffic by the end of 1905. This company is said to have acquired the right to reclaim 90,000 *tsubo* of the foreshore of the harbour, 20,000 *tsubo* of which will be required for the railway works.

Customs Tariff.—In consequence of the issue by the Customs of Supplementary Classifications of Imports, it was deemed necessary that the Board should publish a revised edition of the Tariff. This was decided upon by the Committee in April, and the work being immediately put in hand was shortly after published.

New Contract Form for Textiles.—An agreement was proposed for a Form of Contract by the Woollen Goods Dealers' Association, which, after due consideration by the Committee and a draft of the document being submitted to the Members, was finally subjected to slight amendments which were sent to the Association for approval. The alterations by the Committee having been accepted by the Association, together with a Japanese translation, the document was printed in English and Japanese and a copy sent to all Members.

Arbitration.—The Arbitration scheme based on the Rules and Procedure of the Arbitration Court of the London Chamber of Commerce, which were obtained as a guide, has been completed. When the papers were finally in order they were submitted to the Members for approval, and the signatures of those who were willing to serve as Arbiters invited; over sixty Members signified their readiness to serve.

TEA SUBSIDY.—A letter from the Tea exporting firms of the port was addressed to the Board in reference to the Government grant to the Japanese Tea Guild which amounted to *yen* 70,000 annually for seven years. This letter, which stated that the subsidy was "contrary to the Treaty," was forwarded under cover of a letter from the Chairman to the British and American Ministers, who undertook the representation of the case to the Authorities, with the result that the subsidy has been cut off. It is stated, however, that the Guild will push matters in the direction of obtaining a renewal of the grant.

REGISTRATION.—The registration of the Chamber has been completed, and the following Circular has been issued to all Members and to correspondents in various parts of the world:—"In order to comply with Japanese laws, one of which provides that only one Chamber of Commerce, using that title, can exist in any one city in Japan, the Yokohama Foreign Chamber of Commerce has changed its title to Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade. This has become necessary in order to obtain registration as a juridical person for this Institution under the Revised Treaties, and on account of the existence in Yokohama of a Japanese Chamber of Commerce. The functions of the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade, however, will not differ in any respect from those carried on during the past thirty-seven years as the Chamber of Commerce; the bi-monthly Trade Report and the Annual Report and Statistics will be published as heretofore, and Arbitrations and Surveys will be undertaken as in the past."

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.—The Custom House export figures for the calendar year 1903 are 73,216 piculs, valued at *yen* 74,327,602, as against 80,059 piculs, valued at 76,768,740 for 1902. These figures being for this calendar year show the volume of trade in Raw Silk for that period, but afford no indication of the actual progress in the production of Raw Silk in each successive working season, which commences in July and ends in June of the following year, a period of twelve months within which the crop of Silk is produced and marketed. The following table, which gives the total export in bales for each season, and place of destination, shows clearly the growth of the export trade during the past few years:—

	1902-02.	1901-02.	1900-01.
Continent of Europe	28,182	27,080	30,973
England	—	16	459
America	48,252	44,459	35,252
	1899-900.	1898-99.	1897-98.
Total Bales	76,434	71,555	66,684
Continent of Europe	21,183	19,661	19,726
England	248	244	84
America	34,765	30,772	37,005
Total Bales	56,191	50,667	56,765

The season 1903-1904 bids fair to exceed the export figures of 1902-03, the crop turning out an unusually good one, the weather during the period of silkworm rearing having been perfect for this industry.

Purchases by Japanese manufacturers on the Yokohama market were for seasons:—

	1903-3.	1901-2.	1900-1
Piculs	5,880	6,670	6,525
	1899-1900.	1898-99.	1897-98.
Piculs	8,055	7,156	8,085

One of the most noteworthy features of the trade is the important and steadily increasing hold which Japanese direct exporters have upon this, the chief article of export, as shown by this table:—

	1902-3.	1901-2.	1900-1.
Bales	22,000	17,500	15,500
	1889-1900.	1898-99.	1897-98.
Bales	17,500	12,200	11,800

and for season 1903-1904 direct exports by Japanese will probably show further expansion, as for the half-year to the end of December, 1903, 10,300 Bales had already been shipped by them.

Prices have fluctuated 10 per cent. to 15 per cent, during the course of the year; in January they stood at:—

	Yen.
Best Sinshiu Filatures, coarse	1,060
Falling in April to	980
Fil. in general, fine size,	1,125
do do	1,040

This lost ground was regained in May, due to reports coming forward from Italy that the new crop in that country had suffered severe damage from frost.

Prices for new Silk opened in June at *yen* 1,050 for No. 1 coarse sizes for the New York market, but buyers for Europe were unable to pay the high prices asked for fine-sized Filatures, and held aloof from the market until towards the end of July when holders decided to give way and business resulted at *yen* 1,040/1,050 for Good Fils. 9/11 den. European buyers were attracted by these prices, which were relatively cheaper than Italian Silks, and the demand increasing, this class of Silk had advanced by September to *yen* 1,120 per picul. America would not follow this movement, and prices dropped to *yen* 1,005 for Best Sinshiu Filatures by the end of July, rallying to *yen* 1,045 in September, but only for a short time; the market again weakened, and the year closed with a dull market, and this Silk was quoted at *yen* 910.

The demand for Europe for fine sizes also fell off in September, and prices by the end of December had receded to *yen* 1,000 for best 9/11 den.

In regard to the quality of the new Silk, it was remarked in last Report that Sinshiu Filatures had proved disappointing to consumers abroad, owing to careless reeling and unevenness in size, and it is to be regretted that no material improvement is yet noticeable in this respect.

The class of Silk most in favour with American buyers throughout the year has been Rereeled Mybash, and the supply not being equal to the demand this Silk has at times fetched the same price as No. 1 Sinshiu Filatures, and during September *yen* 10/15 per picul higher than that grade. Koshiu Filatures have also been in excellent demand at very full prices, and deservedly so, as much greater care has been paid to produce good winding and even-sized Silk than in the neighbouring province of Shinshiu. Several years of careful attention will be necessary to restore to favour Shinshiu Filatures which from a large portion of the Silk produced in Japan.

WASTE SILK.—During the first six months of the year under review prices remained very steady, but with the opening of the new season higher rates were demanded. Shippers then hold aloof for a few weeks, but early in September a considerable amount of business was put through and prices advanced rapidly, reaching as high as:—

Yen.	
230 best	Kikai Noshi.
180 best	Kikai Kibiso.
165 best	Djoshio Noshi.

The average prices for the year were as follows:—

	In Jan.		In August—new season's produce.		The year. closed at.	
	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
Kikai Noshi	170 to	185	185 to	200	175 to	190
Kikai Kibiso	125 to	140	150 to	165	140 to	155
Djoshio Noshi	105 to	120	145 to	160	110 to	125

During the year 1903 the export of Waste Silk was as follows:—

	Bales.
Marseilles	14,957
New York	429
Genoa	344
Milan	335
Trieste	195
London	89
Other ports	272
	16,621 = Piculs. 50,111

The shipments are composed of:—

Kibiso	Piculs 32,427
Noshi-ito	14,989
Sundries	2,695
	Piculs 50,111

MANUFACTURED SILKS.—It will be seen from the following table that, whereas the gross of the Manufactured Silk exported during 1903 shows a net increase of 3½ per cent., the development of trade is confined to the Plain material or Habutai, the steady growth in which has off-set the marked decrease in the two next leading lines of Kaiki and Silk Handkerchiefs:—

	1903. Value, *yen*.	1902. Value *yen*.	per cent.
Habutai	27,510,477	24,685,407	(increase 11½)
Kaiki, etc.	1,000,386	2,672,887	(decrease 62½)
Handkerchiefs	2,938,420	3,154,236	(decrease 7)
Gross	31,449,284	30,512,531	(increase 3½)

PLAIN SILKS.—The trade of the twelve months has not been characterized by those violent fluctuations which have usually formed a feature of the industry in previous years. The basis of quotations was exceptionally steady, with a general upward tendency, until the middle of August, when a more marked rising movement set in, the advance being supported by the condition of the Raw Silk market. During the first week in September, a fresh period of activity developed in the European trade, and rates on the local market promptly responded, until, at the end of the month, rates were fully 12 per cent. above those current in January. This high basis was maintained throughout October; being more or less influenced by every new phase of the political embroglio, and the month closed upon a feverish market with an occasional tendency to develop a panic. About this time also, financial difficulties in both Echizen and Kaga seriously hampered the dealers in those districts, and the market fell under the control of a few capitalists whose policy tended to restrict business within very narrow limits. Early in November it appeared that the American buyers anticipated that the outbreak of hostilities would result in the falling off of supplies, and they therefore proceeded to purchase with undue haste and excitement. The basis of prices would have been pushed still higher had not the heavy stocks of Raw Silk formed a wholesome check to the upward movement. The period of activity was short-lived, for about the middle of November a sharp reaction set in, resulting in rates dropping to a level fully 10% below the highest point touched in October. This basis was practically maintained until the close of the year, notwithstanding the occasional fluctuations caused by political rumours, favourable and otherwise.

KAGA HABUTAI.—The above remarks refer principally to *Echizen* material, but it is noteworthy that *Kaga* weaves are steadily gaining in popularity, and, if the present conditions continue, will out-strip *Echizen*. The production in the former district is increasing steadily, whereas in the latter the output shows a falling off.

KAWAMATA.—The trade in this light-grade material has again been adversely affected by the short-sighted policy of the weavers, who continue to load their productions with an excessive percentage of starch. This practice has naturally brought *Kawamata* into bad repute both in Europe and America, and the industry will be permanently impaired if this abuse is not checked.

TWILLS.—This once popular weave has passed through another year of neglect, and the prospect is decidedly discouraging. The European market has been able to supply its own requirements, and American consumers appear to take but little interest in the line.

KAIKI.—This style of fancy material has again been entirely out of the market. Some few stocks are still held locally, but these are offered at 20 per cent. below cost without buyers responding.

BROCADES.—This weave has also passed another year in the "doldrums." The Rangoon market is still surfeited with the enormous stocks thrown upon it in previous seasons, and although rates have declined to the lowest point ever recorded, it seems impossible to tempt the Burmese to re-enter the market. Locally we have considerable stocks of both *Echizen* and *Joshiu "tama"* Brocades which the holders are prepared to sacrifice at sharp reductions, but they find the shippers quite unresponsive.

JOSHIU WEAVES.—These continue to decline in popularity, *i.e.* for export purposes. Prices have fluctuated slightly, in sympathy with the movements of the Raw Silk market, but the basis has been comparatively high throughout the year.

Early in the year efforts,—more or less official—were made to arrest the growing practice of increasing the weight of *Echizen* and *Kaga* Habutai by the addition of moisture. The Fukui *kensajo*, or inspection office, instituted a standard and framed regulations to deal with the matter, but in effect these measures proved futile, and the adulteration was continued with increasing *sangfroid*. The quasi "official" stamping of the correct weight upon each piece likewise proved ineffectual, owing to the difficulty of establishing a definite basis and the impracticability of any theoretical standard such as prevails in Raw Silk conditioning. In August, the leading local foreign exporting houses investigated the matter, and a small Committee representing their interests acted in co-operation with the Japanese Habutai Guild, drawing the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce to the practice referred to. Pressure was brought to bear upon the weavers in *Echizen* and *Kaga*, and for a time they were frightened into discontinuing their tricks. This wholesome corrective, however, is rapidly losing its effect, and more drastic measures should be promptly taken to prevent a recrudescence of the trouble.

Basing statistics upon Custom House returns (which, as previously noted form an unreliable record owing to the inaccurate destinations still declared by some shippers), it appears that the American trade in Habutai shows a slight decrease (4 per cent.), whereas European consumption has developed, and other smaller markets like Australia (20 per cent.) show a good growth. In *Kaiki*, it seems that the United States consumers were satisfied in 1903 with but one-third of their purchases of 1902. European demand showed equal apathy towards this once popular line, the fields of Greater Britain (Canada, Australia, and India), alone having any tendency to increase the trade.

SILK HANDKERCHIEFS.—The above table shows a decline of 7 per cent. in value, whereas the quantity exported fell 15 per cent. below the figures for the previous year. The principal decrease is shown in the shipments to America and Great Britain (20 per cent.), while Germany, France, and Canada evince a marked growth.

TEA.—The season of 1903 has been notable for the high prices paid for both First and Second Crop leaf, but more particularly for First Crop, this higher range of prices having been made possible by the removal of the duty in the United States. First arrivals of the new leaf appeared on the market a few days earlier than in the previous year, and these were eagerly bought up by speculators (or a speculator), and shipped by the first steamer with the object, apparently, of placing the shipper in the position of being the only holder of new Teas on the other side during the few days' interval between deliveries of the first and second steamers; the result of this policy was that first arrivals on this market varied in price from *yen* 12.00 to *yen* 20.00 per picul over the rate of the previous season.

It was of course impossible for sellers to maintain these prices, but holders in the interior were undoubtedly encouraged by them to demand more for their Teas than they would otherwise have been willing to accept, and when the market settled down to regular business, prices were still *yen* 10.00 to *yen* 12.00 per picul over the previous year, and were maintained at this figure practically for the whole of the First Crop.

The quality of the First Crop pickings was about up to the average, the market ruled very steady, and by the end of June settlements at this port were about piculs 20,000 more than the same point of the previous season.

Arrivals of the Second Crop were disappointing in quality; the liquor at first drew unusually dark, but later arrivals showed an improvement in this respect. The leaf, however, was dry and had the appearance of being roughly prepared. Prices for Second Crop leaf ruled from *yen* 4.00 to *yen* 7.00 per picul higher than the previous season, but, later on, pickings in the lower grades more nearly approximated the prices ruling in 1902.

Total settlements for the year at this port were about piculs 195,000, against piculs 180,000 for the previous year.

The favourable conditions ruling on American markets in 1902 encouraged the increase of small firing establishments in the interior, and it is estimated that about piculs 55,000 to piculs 60,000 were fired in Shizuoka Ken during this season; this business was divided between about thirty firms of varying importance, and most of the Teas were shipped direct to America, but some found purchasers among the foreign firms of this port or were shipped under their names; in the normal course of things the season under review could have proved anything but encouraging to small native consigners, but the late enquiry consequent on the outbreak of war may have helped out those who were able to wait long enough.

COPPER.—The prices ruling during 1903 have been favourable to Japanese producers, starting at *yen* 30.00 for Furukawa Bessemer and reaching top point in December with *yen* 33½.

Export figures have remained about the same in Yokohama, whilst Kobe shows a considerable increase, viz.:—

	1903.	1902.
Yokohama	10,500 tons.	10,150 tons.
Kobe	12,900 tons.	8,850 tons.
	23,400 tons.	19,000 tons

Added to this, a decided increase in the home consumption, Japan's total production of 1903 shows a considerable development.

FISH OIL.—Owing to a good demand from European markets, the small stocks carried over from 1902 changed hands at prices up to about *yen* 8.00 per 100 kin, at which figure even forward contracts for delivery beginning in June-July were closed; but, in consequence of a very heavy summer catch, prices dropped gradually to *yen* 6.00 per 100 kin, and, in view of good prospects for a favourable outturn of the winter Sardine catch, gave way further, reaching their lowest point at *yen* 5.30. After fair transactions at that price, the market hardened gradually and closed pretty firm at about *yen* 6.00 per 100 kin at the end of December, with only small stocks left.

JAPAN YARNS.—The export of these Yarns, which showed a decrease in 1902 as compared with the two preceding years, have not only recovered but now show a large increase, as will be seen by the figures below:—

	Piculs.	Value. Yen.
1903	921,608	31,418,613
1902	592,443	19,901,522
1901	627,517	21,465,572

IMPORTS.

RAW COTTON.—The tendency of prices during the year under review has been continuously rising; the market opened in January at:—

Y.26.00 per picul for American Middling, closing in Dec. at	Y.38.50
Y.23 50 per picul for Broach Middling, closing in Dec. at	Y.36.75
Y.21.50 per picul for Chinese Middling, closing in Dec. at	Y.30.00

Market values for manufactured goods did not follow those enormous advances in the same proportion, consequently spinners were obliged to restrict their working time as well as purchases of raw material to some extent. These facts account for the decrease of the import of Raw Cotton by about *yen* 10,300,000, as the following figures show, viz:—

	Yen.
Value of import during 1902	79,800,000
" " 1903	69,500,000

YARNS.—The figures for 1903 show a decline of about 74 per cent. on those of 1902, and say 90 per cent on those of four to five years ago. Consumption of English Yarns in this country has been rapidly diminishing for some time, and the absence of any recovery during a year in which economical conditions were more or less favourable to such clearly indicates that the trade is doomed. Native spindles now supply the ordinary demand, and it is only for the superfine qualities that weavers turn to the imported article. Comparative totals of imports in bales are:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.
Bales ...	2,414	6,766	15,795	19,497	17,475	33,465

Manchester quotations were abnormally high throughout the year, and sales were more or less confined to the disposal of stocks at fully 10 per cent. below replacing cost.

Owing to the outbreak of plague in the Tokyo "Gassed" Yarn Mill early in January, importers were placed in an advantageous position which they held during that month and the next. With the resumption of work by the native operatives, however, sales immediately fell off and were almost *nil* in March-May. Rates were maintained though, with a strong cotton market to support them, and sellers, for the most part, were proof against the temptation to dispose of their stocks wholesale. Clearances were at their best in June, and brought a short period of activity.

This was followed by a break lasting through August-September, and, though there was a temporary improvement later, political difference between Japan and Russia caused a depression which brought business to a complete standstill in December.

Sales in the principal counts were approximately as follow:—

	16/24's.	2/60's.	2/80's.	2/100's.
(Bales 400 lbs.)	25	744	949	210

GREY SHIRTINGS.—High producing cost restricted business considerably, and the aggregate of packages imported was only about 60 per cent. of that in the previous year, when, however, the article was probably overdone. Fear of a surfeit continually haunted the minds of dealers who adopted a policy of weakness. Prices obtainable were therefore unsatisfactory, and importers found difficulty in clearing their holdings with a margin. Stocks carried over to 1904 amount to some 145,000 pieces. Comparative imports are:—

	Pieces.
1903	463,743
1902	785,293
1901	479,502
1900	750,117
1899	748 820
1898	858,630

WHITE SHIRTINGS.—Apparently the market can only absorb about 120,000 pieces per annum, and, as importers do not realise this, the supply is nearly always greater than the demand. Although in 1903 arrivals were only about one-half the above quantity, for ten months sellers had to contend with a glut. As soon as there was room for further commitments the prohibitive price of American cotton made them impossible.

FANCY COTTONS AND WOOLLENS.

UNION ITALIANS.—Business in this class of goods shows a falling off, when compared with the previous year, of about 10 per cent. This is in a great measure attributable to the increasing popularity of Silk finished, Schreinerized, or Mercerized cotton goods. A few of the favourite cloths have been in demand to a certain extent, but the lower qualities are now seldom, if ever, asked for.

COTTON SATTEENS.—Trade in these goods was overdone, although importations show a decrease compared with 1902. The considerable carry-over from the previous year and fair-sized purchases at the commencement of 1903, were evidently more than the market can stand, and dealers generally have had to submit to considerable sacrifices before being able to clear their commitments. Prices were unsatisfactory on the whole, though there was a spurt in Schreinerized good, owing to depleted stocks, towards the end of the year.

PRINTS.—This has been an unsatisfactory business to Yokohama importers, the volume of the trade done being less than half of that transacted in 1903. The second half of the year in the Print business proved to be one of disappointment, one of the principal reasons of this being a repetition of the unloading process in Tokyo of the speculatively bought Osaka stocks. Dealers have not made money out of Prints, and importers have suffered also owing to protracted deliveries.

VELVETS.—A most unsatisfactory trade, with poor prices and wretched deliveries. It is very improbable that money has been made in the aggregate in this line, either by importers or native merchants.

VICTORIA LAWNS.—A steady business throughout the year, with better prices ruling towards the end of the twelve months, owing to a diminution of stocks.

CLOTH.—In woollens and worsteds trade in the country was bad. It is computed that over 15 per cent. less was done than in the preceding year. Late clearances, as is usual in this class of goods was again the cause of considerable loss to the importer.

Business generally in Fancy Goods was very disappointing, a combination of forces, namely, dear cotton, the bad rice crop of 1902, political troubles, and fear of war, together with the withdrawal of normal banking facilities to the native dealer, resulted in a general disinclination to trade in any but a hand to mouth fashion, and the destruction of that confidence on the part of importer and dealer alike which is so noticeable during a year of good trade conditions.

FANCY COTTONS.

WOOLLEN CLOTH.—The past year may be considered normal, and fairly satisfactory on the whole. The spring market opened well, and imports found a ready sale from March to May, and by the end of the spring season only small stocks were left with Yokohama importers. The orders for spring 1904 showed a decrease when compared with those of previous seasons owing to a rise in the home market, to which Japanese importers in many cases refused to respond.

At the opening of the winter season, imports seemed rather small, and clearances were brisk in September and the first half of October, but falling off gradually and resulting in a dull market at low rates towards the close of the year. This change was due (1) to old stocks from 1901 and 1902, which were offered at considerably lower figures than new imports and frequently sold at heavy losses; (2) to a large number of auction sales, when goods are disposed of on long credit and retailers over-buy themselves; and (3) to an unusually large quantity of stock thrown on this market from Osaka (chiefly low grade).

Undelivered stocks at the end of the winter season were rather heavier than last year, and will no doubt influence the coming autumn market.

Forward orders were given on a smaller scale than usual owing to the political situation, which made native speculators and foreign firms hesitate before placing and accepting new orders, but still, contracts placed together with stocks on hand may be expected to fully meet the demand.

Cheap Army Cloth continues to be favoured as against President and Union Cloth, and in better grade Worsteds no particular line can be said to have been in fashion during the past season, while dealers seemed quite undecided as to qualities and shades for their forward orders.

FLANNELS.—Native manufacturers compete successfully with the imported article, and this trade is more or less finished for importers.

BLANKETS.—Owing to the political situation there was a good demand towards the end of 1903, but the bulk of the trade was done in the native-made product.

METALS.—It will be seen from the Customs Returns that the trade in almost all lines has been greater for the period under review than for the previous year. The most important feature in connection with the Metal trade of 1903 is that native importers have figured in it to a much larger extent than in former years. This has resulted in a number of foreign merchants withdrawing from the field, as with the increased competition the profits to be obtained were not sufficiently attractive.

The demand throughout the year was fairly good, and probably above the average, and especially was this the case during November and December. The increased activity was undoubtedly due to a speculative demand in anticipation of war, and as a result stocks were moved at fairly remunerative figure.

BAR IRON.—Imports amount to about 29,700 tons, which is a slight advance over the business of the previous year.

PLATES AND SHEETS.—The above remarks also apply here. Imports about 11,700 tons.

PIG IRON.—Imports of this article were about 50 o/o in excess of the previous year.

WIRE NAILS.—Here also a large increase is noticeable, the imports amounting to piculs 141,466 as against piculs 70,768 for the year 1902.

KEROSENE OIL.—Since the beginning of the year under review prices have gradually advanced, American Oil having reached a level of 40 to 50 *sen* a case, and Russian Oil 35 to 40 *sen* a case higher than the highest point touched in 1902. The price of American Oil was *yen* 2.84 in January, and it gradually advanced during the year to *yen* 3.35 in December whilst Russian Oil showed a fluctuation from *yen* 2.70 to *yen* 3.03 during the same time. The natural result of these advances was a slight decrease in the trade. In spite of this decrease, however, business has been eminently satisfactory from the importer's point of view, and although the number of cases consumed may be rather less than last year, the amount of the turnover is probably in excess, owing to the enhanced prices obtained. As will be seen by the tables below, deliveries of American Oil have decreased by about 285,000 cases, whilst Russian Case Oil has increased by about 17,000 cases and Tank Oil by about 109,000 cases.

Business in Echigo Oil appears to have been nearly the same as last year, viz., 1,500,000 cases, dealt with chiefly by the Hoden Oil Co., to the extent of 700,000 cases, the Nippon Oil Co., 400,000 cases, the International Oil Co., 300,000 cases, and sundry small companies 100,000 cases. It appears certain that several of the old wells have given out and their place taken by fresh borings.

Considerable attention has been paid during the year to prospecting in Hokkaido, where the International Co. have acquired territories said to amount to 100,000,000 *tsubo*, of which part is said to be very hopeful. The Hoden Co. are now also interesting themselves in this part of Japan, and have started boring and making explorations. The same company also have oil wells in Formosa, but it appears that operations are conducted in such a primitive manner that it cannot be said to have much value at present.

As regards Liquid Fuel, which was successfully tried on the Imperial Government Railways last year, business has been much restricted owing to a considerable advance in price.

The arrivals and deliveries of American and Russian Oils were :—

	American.		Russian.	
	Arrivals.	Deliveries.	Arrivals.	Deliveries.
1902...	2,208,227	1,492,562	1,280,422	1,278,592
1903...	537,102*	1,206,939	1,567,724	1,406,052
	1,671,125	285,623	287,302	127,462
	Decrease.	Decrease.	Increase.	Increase.

* 715,665 cases carried over from last year.

SUGAR.—This has been, perhaps, the worst of the last ten years for Refined Sugar (especially Hongkong Refined), sales having been very considerably less even than in the previous year, and quotations at times so low that refineries have had to sell without profit merely to keep in touch with consumers. On the other hand, there was a very active market for Brown Sugar, especially during the first four months, although the ample stock then in hand prevented prices from advancing in proportion to the demand. During the summer months the arrivals of Refined foreign Sugar were small, increasing the demand for the native article, and prices consequently advanced in August-September. The market, however, became dull again towards the close of the year, though the threatening state of political affairs promised to bring about a fair speculative business. The total sales of Hongkong Refined Sugar during 1903 amounted to less than 40 per cent. of those of the previous year.

PLANT INDIGO.—During the first three months of the past year, trade in Plant Indigo was brisk, and this led to the market being freely supplied from India and Java, and the total value of the import was in excess of 1902. Prices commenced to decline in April, and the downward tendency continued until September, when a slight reaction set in, and demand improved. The improvement, however, was short-lived, and the last few months of the year witnessed a sharp decline in values, due principally to the competition of Artificial Indigo, which has been forced upon the market at ever declining prices. The outlook for Plant Indigo for the coming year is not promising.

ARTIFICIAL INDIGO.—The increase of the import of Artificial Indigo during the year under review has again been remarkable as shown in the following figures :—

Year.	Kin.	Value *yen*.
1898	613	3,395.71
1899	13,113	51,892.32
1900	30,899	111,390.08
1901	76,709	246,579.15
1902	323,316	997,069.55
1903	463,025	1,345,024.87

During 1903 further price reductions have taken place, and to-day powder containing about 97 per cent. indigotine can be had almost at *yen* 2 per lb. against a price of *yen* 2.70 per lb. at the end of 1902, so that the artificial product compares very favourably with any Plant Indigo. Dyers therefore prefer the synthetic stuff, and many Indigo dealers who are really against the artificial product are compelled to sell it, as otherwise they would lose customers.

The bitter contest between the natural and artificial dye is at its highest. There are now two large rival factories pushing their artificial Indigo here, and the result of their energetic movements can hardly be to the advantage of Plant Indigo, of which large stocks at high cost are still kept unsold.

FREIGHTS.—The rates for Europe at the close of 1902 were maintained throughout 1903 for general cargo, namely, 50 shillings (45 shillings for B class, 40 shillings for C class), but for Waste Silk per 40 cubic feet, which had stood for some time previous at *yen* 27.50 declined to *yen* 22.00 and continued at that rate till the end of the year.

For New York, viâ Canal, the rate opened in 1903 at 25 shillings and remained so till June, when 20 shillings became the figure, but in August it was again put up to 25 shillings and remained so till the close of the year.

For the Pacific the freight on Tea, which closed in 1902 at 1¼ cent per pound, continued throughout 1903 at the same rate. Measurement cargo for New York and Overland points opened at $10 per 40 cubic feet and continued so until November, when $8 became the rate for the remainder of the year.

RAILWAYS.—But little progress was made in railway extension during 1903, the new mileage opened of both Government and private railways being only 211 miles. It had been anticipated that foreign capital would have been obtained for the prosecution of schemes for improved communication, surveys having been made and charters granted for a considerable addition to the mileage now in operation, but the security offered to foreign capitalists by railway promoters appears to have been unsatisfactory, and consequently the required assistance was not forthcoming. There was a falling off in the passenger traffic on both Government and private lines during the year, but a slight increase in the receipts; the latter fact is due to the raising of rates. The goods traffic makes a better showing by the carriage of 1,712,919 tons of freight more than in the previous year, which increased the receipts by 3,894,882 *yen*. Following are the figures for the year under review :—

	Total Mileage.		Increase over the previous year.	
	Miles.	Chains	Miles	Chains
Government Railways...	1,226	56	167	8
Private Railways	3,010	60	44	12
Total	4,237	36	211	20

	Passengers. No.	Receipts. Yen.
Government Railways	31,897,045	11,547,952
Private Railways..............	78,121,456	17,104,366
Total..................	110,018,501	28,652,318

	Goods. Tons.	Receipts. Yen.
Government Railways	3,183,720	5,692,088
Private Railways..............	12,938,951	14,088,743
Total..................	16,122,671	19,780,831

THE GOLD STANDARD.—The Gold Standard of Japan, which has now been in operation for over six years, having come into force on the 1st October, 1897, continues to work smoothly and to facilitate trade, affording great convenience in all transactions with foreign countries.

The Gold Reserve of the Bank of Japan, which at the commencement of the year under review stood at *yen* 108,033,000, against a Note issue of *yen* 230,809,000, rose steadily between the months of March and September, and by the end of the year stood at *yen* 113,384,000, against a Note issue of *yen* 211,896,000. These figures, compared with the position at the end of each of the four previous years, as shown below, will be regarded as very satisfactory :—

	Gold Reserve.	Note Issue.
	yen.	yen.
1903	113,384,003	211,896,000
1902	108,033,000	230,809,000
1001	68,500,000	186,000,000
1900	66,000,000	215,000,000
1899	110,500,000	225,000,000

It is noteworthy that, notwithstanding the balance of trade for the year 1903 being *yen* 27,633,000 against Japan, the imports of Treasure exceeded the Exports by *yen* 8,806,000.

The following table gives the Imports and Exports of Gold during the past eight years, and embraces the whole period affected by Japan's adoption of the Gold Standard :—

	Imports. Yen.	Exports. Yen.
1896	10,217,458	1,996,575
1897	64,313,492	8,863,797
1898	37,027,752	46,281,343
1899	20,080,695	8,768,365
1900	8,967,191	51,761,614
1901	10,651,207	11,477,852
1902	30,183,670	453,313
1903	27,807,469	19,001,198
	209,248,934	148,604,057
Excess of Import..................		60,644,877

EXCHANGE.—Exchange opened at the commencement of the year at 2/0$\frac{13}{16}$ per *yen* as the Banks' selling rate for demand drafts on London, which was an unusually high rate, and compared with which it was more advantageous to import Gold, but a decline soon set in, the rate dropping to

2/0¾ on the 12th January
2/0$\frac{11}{16}$ „ „ 15th „
2/0⅝ „ „ 20th „
2/0$\frac{9}{16}$ „ „ 22nd „
and 2/0$\frac{7}{16}$ „ „ 26th „ at which it

remained stationary until the 19th May when an advance of $\frac{1}{16}$th of a penny took place, followed by another $\frac{1}{16}$th on the 29th idem. There was no futher movement until the 1st September, when a rise to 2/0$\frac{11}{16}$ occurred. This quotation remained in force for over two months, but on the 7th November there was a sudden decline of $\frac{3}{16}$th of a penny to 2/0½, and on the 12th November a further fall to 2/0$\frac{7}{16}$. There was, however, a recovery of $\frac{1}{16}$th on the 20th November to be followed by a decline again to 2/0$\frac{7}{16}$ on the 9th December, and a further fall to 2/0⅜ on the 24th December and to 2/0$\frac{5}{16}$ on the 29th.

ACCOUNTS.—The accounts have been audited by Messrs. J. Cox-Edwards and A. J. McClure. These show a balance, including the dependency set down in the printed statement, of *yen* 3,665.12 against *yen* 3,290.71 in the previous year.

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

REVOLT OF ALBANIANS.

London, March 25.

Ten thousand Albanians have revolted at Baba Tepe. Shakir Pasha with twelve battalions is surrounding them and ten other battalions are hastening to his assistance from various points.

NEW KNIGHTS.

King Edward has knighted the sons of the late Duke of Cambridge.

CHINA DENOUNCES THE EXCLUSION TREATY.

Later.

In spite of strong American opposition China has denounced the Chinese Exclusion Treaty which expires on Dec. 27th.

SIR EDWIN ARNOLD DEAD.

Sir Edwin Arnold is dead.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH AGREEMENTS.

With reference to the Anglo-French agreements mentioned in the telegram of March 17th, it is understood that those which relate to Newfoundland and Nigeria have been completed. France renounces all territorial claims in Newfoundland, and England agrees to pay a small compensation for a few lobster canneries on the "French coast." Great Britain makes the concession of owning a French short cut to Lake Chad. With regard to Morocco and Egypt each party engages practically not to stand in the way of the other, but the committal of this to paper is difficult.

FRANCE AND THE VATICAN.

London, March 26.

France has vigorously protested at the Vatican against the speech delivered by the Pope on the 19th inst.

THE BALKANS.

Turkey continues her preparations for all emergencies in Macedonia. Greece has called out one class of reserves, ostensibly for manœuvres.

ADMIRAL WIRENIUS' SQUADRON.

The Russian cruiser *Oslabia* and two destroyers have arrived at Algiers from Suda Bay, and will probably proceed to Lisbon on Tuesday next.

THE UNIVERSITY BOAT RACE.

London, March 27.

Cambridge won by four lengths.

WAR MOVEMENTS IN KOREA.

It is stated in St. Petersburg that a considerable Cossack force is operating on the south-east of the Japanese communications between Anju and Pingyang with the object apparently of preventing a junction between the troops landed at Chinnampo on the west and Gensan on the east.

CANADA AND JAPANESE IMMIGRANTS.

The Dominion Government has disallowed on imperial grounds three acts passed by the Legislature of British Columbia, imposing restrictions on Japanese.

THE FIRST LAND ADVANCE.

London, March 27.

It is reported from St. Petersburg that the Russian troops between the Yalu and Pingyang have been compelled to retire on an entrenchment on the south bank of the Yalu, before the first Japanese army of 40,000 men, whose advance guard, with artillery, occupied a fortified line of forty-five miles, extending from Kazan, Anju, and Yengying to Pek-chen.

A further advance is improbable till the streams are clear of ice, as the retiring Russians destroyed the bridges over five rivers along the road to Wiju.

KUROPATKIN.

London, March 28.

General Kuropatkin has proceeded to Mukden.

VLADIVOSTOCK.

It is announced at St. Petersburg that a proclamation has been issued by the Commandant of Vladivostock in which he urges the inhabitants to remain, but only those will be allowed to stay who possess the specified amount.

It is calculated that there are cereals to last for eight months in Vladivostock. The banks are closed and no money is circulating.

LORD CURZON.

Lord Curzon has been appointed Warden of the Cinque Ports.

BRITAIN AND NEWCHWANG.

London, March 29.

Earl Percy, speaking in the House of Commons, said that the British Consul at Newchwang had urged the importance of maintaining a warship there, but Admiral Sir Gerard Noel agreed with Sir Cyprian Bridge that such a step would not be desirable.

THE LAND FIGHTING.

London, March 30,

It is reported from Seoul that an engagement took place on March 23rd between a detachment of Japanese infantry and a force of Cossacks between Anju and Chongju. The Japanese were victorious, the Russians retiring slowly. The Japanese had fifty killed; the Russian loss is unknown.

(RECEIVED AT THE LEGATION OF FRANCE.)

THE LATEST NAVAL ENGAGEMENT.

Saigon, March 24.

St. Petersburg reports that during the night of the 21st-22nd six Japanese destroyers attacked Port Arthur. The Japanese squadron bombarded it in the morning, discharging 208 shells without doing any damage. Five Russians were killed and 9 wounded. A Japanese war-ship was injured.

(RECEIVED AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE)

MAKAROFF'S REPORT.

Admiral Makaroff reports: At 2 a.m. on the 27th four large Japanese steamers, accompanied by six destroyers, were brought into the field of the Russian search lights. As they were making for the mouth of the harbour we opened fire on them and ultimately three of the Japanese steamers went ashore on the right of the harbour entrance, and one on the left, obstructing the fairway. The Russian destroyer *Silni* fought with the six Japanese destroyers, and had several men killed and 13 wounded, among the latter being the commander. At dawn the Japanese squadron stood in, and the Russian ships went out to meet it, thus showing that the Japanese enterprise had failed.

(SPECIAL TO "JAPAN MAIL.")

U.S. CONSUL AT KOBE ILL.

Kobe, March 29.

Mr. S. S. Lyon, U.S. Consul at this port, was seized by an apoplectic fit in his bath this morning. His condition is understood to be hopeful.

(FROM THE "JIJI SHIMPO.")

LIAO-TUNG NEUTRALITY QUESTION.

London, March 24.

Russia has endeavoured to induce the United States Government to consent to neutralizing Newchwang and the western coast of the Liao-tung peninsula. The object of Russia is to prevent the Japanese from landing forces or making their military bases there. America has declined to consent to the request of Russia on the gronnd that it will annoy Japan.

SIR EDWIN ARNOLD.

Sir Edwin Arnold is dead. His age was seventy-two years.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE NEGOTIATIONS.

London, March 25.

With reference to the correspondence regarding the negotiations between Japan and Russia which was recently presented to the Diet, the London *Times* states, that the earnest wish of Japan to obtain the consent of Russia was càrried so far as to be almost servile, but Russia refused her claim. The paper believes that Russia never expected that Japan would embark upon war.

RUSSIA'S DEFENCE.

According to information from Russian sources, the Russians believe that the Japanese forces will land at Chin-wang-tao.

THE SECOND BLOCKING OPERATION.

London, March 27.

Early on the morning of the 27th the Japanese again attempted to block the mouth of Port Arthur by sinking four steamers, and severe fighting occurred between the destroyers of both fleets. According to official information issued at St. Petersburg, the enterprise of the Japanese failed, the entrance being still clear.

THE RUSSIAN SQUADRON AT PORT ARTHUR.

Admiral Makaroff reports that he started out from Port Arthur on the morning of the 26th (Saturday) accompanied by battleships, cruisers, destroyers, etc., and reconnoitered the adjacent islands.

NAVAL AND LAND FIGHTING.

According to a telegram from Chefoo to an Italian journal, the Russian squadron under the command of Admiral Makaroff has fought the Japanese seventy miles east of Port Arthur, the result being that the former retired to the port after sustaining damage.

The Russians have withdrawn over the Yalu before the First Corps of the Japanese army consisting of forty thousand.

GENERAL KUROPATKIN.

General Kuropatkin left Harbin yesterday for Mukden.

RUSSIAN TORPEDOES.

London, March 28.

According to information from St. Petersburg, Russian Naval officers are on their way to Fiume, Austria, to take delivery of Whitehead torpedoes which are to be employed by the Pacific Squadron.

GENERAL KUROPATKIN.

General Kuropatkin has arrived at Liao-yang.

NEWCHWANG.

The chief of the Russian Civil Office at Newchwang has proclaimed the port of Newchwang and the town to be within the zone of hostilities. The Consuls of the Powers are awaiting the instruction of their ministers.

(FROM THE "ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

THE JAPANESE WHITE-BOOK.

London, March 25.

Public opinion regarding the Japanese White-book is entirely favourable to Japan, whose offer respecting Manchuria is considered magnanimous.

ADMIRAL WIRENIU'S SQUADRON.

Admiral Wirenius' squadron has been ordered to remain at the Piræus, under the friendly neutrality of Greece.

A FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE.

Colonel Marchand has been attached to General Kuropatkin's Staff, in order to follow the military operations.

PROBABLE MOVEMENTS.

Military experts generally believe that the Japanese will land at Newchwang.

RUSSIAN TROOPS.

London, March 26.

Russia has declared that a hundred thousand soldiers have been sent to the Far East by the Siberian railway since the outbreak of war.

THE ASIATIC TRADE OF RUSSIA.

London, March 26.

Russian trade is greatly impeded by the suspension of the transportation of merchandise by the Siberian railway. The traders of Moscow intend to carry on their business with Asia over the routes which they had employed before the construction of the railway.

TURKEY.

Demonstrations sympathizing with Japan are taking place in Turkey.

THE "TIMES" AND JAPAN.

London, March 28.

The war expert of the London *Times* earnestly advises Japan not to land her troops at places remote from Manchuria.

THE DONATION.

The amount donated by the British towards the fund to relieve the widows of soldiers and delivered to Viscountess Hayashi has reached £12,460.

(FROM THE "N.-C. DAILY NEWS.")

THE SUBMARINE DISASTER.

London, March 21.

It is officially announced that an examination of the hull of the sunken submarine proves that there was no defect in her, and the sinking was clearly due to the collision with the liner.

The exposed position of the wreck prevents lifting her, and she will be repaired and then floated.

PLAGUE IN THE TRANSVAAL.

Plague has broken out in the coolie location at Johannesburg, and there have been several deaths.

BRITISH MISSION TO THIBET.

The Thibet mission is to advance immediately.

THE LATE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE.

Hongkong, March 22.

A military memorial service of an impressive character was held at the Hongkong Cathedral today in honour of the late Duke of Cambridge, as Honorary Chief Colonel of the Forces.

Rev. E. J. Hardy, the army chaplain, officiated, and the attendance included the Acting Governor, General Hatton, Admiral Noel, Admiral Curzon Howe, the Foreign Consuls, and the members of the Legislative Council.

THE VOTE OF CENSURE IN PARLIAMENT.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, in moving the vote of censure with reference to the Transvaal Chinese Labour Ordinance, said that the British workmen in the Transvaal would be snuffed out by the biggest scheme for human dumping since the middle passage was abolished. The scheme in many respects, he said, was indistinguishable from slavery, and he demanded the deliberately expressed views of the Transvaalers.

The Hon. A. Lyttleton, Colonial Secretary, said that the Government would not have given its assistance to the ordinance unless a preponderating majority of the Transvaalers had been favourable to it. He cited the growing distress in the Transvaal, and said that the cry of slavery was ridiculous. The contract would be circulated in the Chinese language in each village a month before the recruiter arrived, and the labourers would receive at least twelve or fifteen times the wages they earned in China. He denied that Chinamen are immoral.

(From the "Hongkong Daily Press.")

THE THIBET MISSION.

London, March 15.

The Thibet Mission has been overtaken by a blizzard. The cold was intense, and for 36 hours there was no food to be had.

PORT ARTHUR.

London, March 17.

General Kuropatkin has ordered Admiral Stoessel to hold Port Arthur. The General intends to place 250,000 troops on the Yalu and to guard the railway with 150,000.

(From the "S.-C. Morning Post.")

RUSSIAN WAR NEWS.

London, March 13.

Admiral Makaroff's arrival at Port Arthur on the 3rd inst., has inspiringly affected the officers and men of the Russian fleet.

He only took over command on Wednesday, the 9th inst., but he immediately made his influence felt.

He reports that the crews of the Russian men-of-war were perfectly cool during the fight and the work on board is proceeding as usual despite the rain and fragments from bursting shells.

London, March 14.

Order have been received at Kronstadt to begin the arming of the warships preparatory to their leaving for the Far East.

The fifteenth Russian Army Corps will leave Moscow for Manchuria in a few days.

The tenth Army Corps will also shortly leave Charkoff for the front.

London, March 16.

The Czar of Russia has announced that the German and French Red Cross Societies have offered active assistance in the present war to the Russian troops, which he has accepted.

The Hamburg-America steamer *Pennsylvania* left Hamburg with 2,200 steerage passengers. They were mostly Russians, Poles and Finns, escaping from Russian territory for the purpose of evading military service in the present campaign.

The Russian authorities succeeded in stopping a number of others who had booked by the *Pennsylvania* at the moment of their leaving Russia.

(From the "Shanghai Mercury.")

SERVIANS OFFER TO FIGHT AGAINST JAPAN.

London, March 19.

The Tsar has accepted the offer of the Servian Government that the Prince of Montenegro form a Legion of Servian Volunteers to fight the Japanese.

TRANSVAAL LABOUR QUESTION.

The Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, Secretary of State for the Colonies, in a letter to a correspondent, stated that he was aware that the confirmation of the Transvaal Labour Ordinance would probably cost the Unionists many votes in the country, but, he added, a Government which flinches from doing what is in the interests of another part of the Empire in order to avoid losing home supporters does not deserve to remain in power.

London, March 21.

The newspapers teem with letters, leading articles and reports of meetings regarding the Chinese Labour Question in the Transvaal, which has temporarily replaced the Fiscal Question as the burning question of the moment, owing to the agitation of the Liberals.

AN AMUSING SKIT.

We take the following from the *North-China Daily News*. We fancy that our readers will not have much difficulty in discovering the identity of the writer :—

The International Court of Journalists.

Shanghai, April 1.

Before Robert Doyen, Esq. (the President), and others.

THE PUBLIC *v.* LE MAIRE EMILE.

The first trial before this newly-established tribunal provoked much interest, and the Court Room, 17, The Bund, was crowded with brokers and bank clerks from the adjacent establishment which were closed for an "extra" holiday to mark the occasion. Anticipating a reform which we understand is to be introduced "in another place," a thoughtful management provided sandwiches and lemonade in an adjoining apartment, which had been carefully labelled "Reserved for the Bar." In the Courtroom itself the last few specks of dust had been removed from the President's neatly-ordered table, immediately beneath which a comfortably upholstered armchair, facing a pile of note-books, three quill pens, an inkstand and a small flask of Aquarius, marked the seat of the Court Stenographer. The remainder of the Pressgang, several of whom had hurriedly shaved, constituted the jury and were accommodated accordingly.

A tap on the table by the President with a pair of silver scissors, and the defendant was led in by the foreman locker-up. He was wearing a pallid smile, a fiercely curled moustache, and a pink bow. He kowtowed three times to the Court and was then permitted to seat himself on an inverted waste-paper basket.

Mr. Orlando Ryte appeared to conduct the prosecution and Mr. Cawnpore O'Shady was for the defendant.

The petition put in was very brief. It formally recited that the defendant being a citizen, etc., of full years of discretion, etc., resident at Shanghai aforesaid, etc., and being in sole charge and control of a certain public print, did knowingly, willingly, and of malice aforethought omit to supply the public, his patrons, with full particulars, plans, illustrations and eye-witnesses' narratives of the fall of Port Arthur, to the loss, detriment and damage of the said public.

The answer admitted that the information called for had been withheld, but pleaded in justification that there was reason to question whether Port Arthur had actually fallen. In further answer it was pleaded that the defendant had published fuller accounts than any other paper of the glorious victory achieved by a Russian cruiser off Chemulpo on the 7th February. It had also demonstrated clearly that David in an historic engagement took an unfair advantage over his opponent Goliath by attacking him with a weapon of barbarism, to wit a sling, and without a previous declaration of war.

During the reading of the petition and answer defendant was observed to be weeping silently.

Mr. Ryte opened the case in measured hexameters, which at once had their effect on the jury, who ordered another "case" forthwith. Proceeding, he proved by a series of paragrams, supported by copious citations from the Desk Hong List, that the first essential in an editor was a knowledge of a proper use of the word "alleged," in conjunction with a vivid imagination. By the Statue of Manila (2nd Rsvlt. cap. 1, sec. 01) it was definitely laid down that "in any war between the Imperial Government of the Bear and the Imperial Government of the Rising Sun, it shall be lawful to surmise not more than three victories per diem, to suit the susceptibility of readers, and any paper neglecting to record the sinking of a battleship at least once a week shall be subject to summary extinction."

Mr. O'Shady asked what bearing this had on the petition put in.

Mr. Ryte said he was coming to that. The defendant had deliberately and designedly refused to comply with the section quoted, and had wasted valuable ink and paper on an "Address to the Mandjour."

The Court ruled any reference to Japanese cruisers at Woosung to be irrelevant, incompetent, and immaterial.

Mr. Ryte said he would not pursue the point. He had said enough.

Mr. O'Shady—Hear, hear.

The Court pleaded with counsel to maintain order.

Mr. O'Shady said he was congratulating himself on finding himself in agreement with his learned friend.

This amende honorable was accepted.

Baron Monchausen, called for the prosecution, said he had searched through the file of defendant's paper since the beginning of the century and found no mention of the annihilation of St. Petersburg.

Cross-examined—He had just arrived from a ten years' holiday at the North Pole and met a Baltic squadron under full steam in the Arctic Ocean.

Mr. L. de Rougemont said he had never felt so yellow before as when reading defendant's paper. It made him wish he had been a journalist.

This witness was immediately added to the jury.

Mr. O'Shady said that after the unanswerable evidence put in by the prosecution, he had advised his client to plead guilty and to throw himself on the Court. There were extenuating circumstances, which the jury could not fail to uncover.

The jury, without leaving the box, returned a unanimous verdict, hononrably acquitting the accused.

The President thanked the jury for the close attention they had given to a particularly simple case and excused them from reading defendant's paper for a month of Sundays.

Defendant fainted but recovered on being taking into the Bar enclosure.

RUSSIA AND AMERICA.

St. Petersburg, March 4.

The Russian press hailed with great satisfaction the American dispatches of the last few days as indicating a change in the disposition of the Washington Government toward Russia. The *Bourse Gazette* and the *Novoe Vremya* this morning discuss in a sober-minded fashion Russo-American relations and the danger of a permanent estrangement. The *Bourse Gazette* says there is something profoundly regrettable in the present relations between these two world powers and continues :

"They transcend the bounds of common logic. The position taken by America since last June and the anti-Russian newspaper campaign in the United States are so inexplicable that they seem like a nightmare. Since the beginning of its history America has inspired the liveliest feelings of friendship and admiration among Russians, and diplomatic and political expressions of these feelings have been continuous and constant. In Russian social circles there has ever been a veritable worship of the classic land of liberty, and the Americans have always heretofore made Russian friendship the corner stone of their foreign policy. Suddenly, as if an evil spirit had broken loose, the Americans, despite their practical turn of mind, began to do everything to stimulate Japanese aggressiveness, and seem now to be anxiously awaiting Japanese victories in Asia, where important American commercial interests are centered. As a matter of fact, hostility between the United States and Russia would be as great a misfortune to civilization in the twentieth century as was the rivalry between France and Germany in the nineteenth. The duty of every right-minded man is to arrest the growth of this animosity.

"Russian diplomacy owes it to the Americans and to the whole civilized world to do its utmost. We are not called upon to re-echo hostile sounds coming from beyond the Atlantic, because the unfriendly sentiments do not exist among us. The latest advices permit the belief that it will be much easier to remove the misunderstanding than the enemies of Russia may think."

The *Novoe Vremya* says it does not know whether the Washington Cabinet influenced such incidents as the gift of $10,000 by Charles R. Crane of Chicago to the young Czarina's fund for Russian soldiers and sailors, the pro-Russia Irish demonstration in New York and the quieter tone of the business press, but the paper believes it notes an important change in American official tactics beginning with a disinclination to favor the Japanese cable project, followed by the report of Secretary Hay's dissatisfaction with the anti-Russian press campaign, which disposition was further proved by his not insisting on dispatching United States Consuls to Antung and Moukden at this time, which quite agrees with President Roosevelt's decision to allow Morgan (appointed United States Consul at Port Dalny) to remain at home for the present and not to send the battle-ship *Kentucky* to the scene of hostilities in the Far East. The paper adds :

"We are certain that this change is as agreeable to the Americans as it is to us. The antagonism of Washington distressed but did not frighten us, for things could not come to a rupture, as prudence must end always in dominating impulse, and there being no serious reason for a quarrel. The practical Yankees must realize that the telegram of the American Consul at Moscow to Chicago, to the effect that American business in Russia was suffering by reason of the anti-Russian feeling said to exist in the United States, illustrated the feelings not only of the Moscow merchants but of all branches of the Russian trade. What he predicted happened in the case of England after the Crimean war. Germany stepped into the British shoes."

In conclusion the *Novoe Vremya* says :—"All is well that ends well. If the light cool fog which has been hanging over Washington is dispelled, and the good old feelings return, we shall be the first to welcome them."

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	M. M. Co.	Salazie 1	F. April 1
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Hyades	F. April 1
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India 2	M. April 4
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Tremont	Tu. April 5
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	Th. April 7
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Prinz Heinrich	Sa. April 9
America	P. M. Co.	Siberia 3	Su. April 10
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	China	Th. April 14
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	M. April 18
Canada	C. P. R.	Tartar	M. April 18
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Sa. April [illegible]

1 Left Kobe on the 31st ult.
2 Left Vancouver on the 21st ult.
3 Left San Francisco on the 23rd ult.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Hyades	Sa. April 2
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hamburg	Sa. April 2
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. April 4
America	T. K. K.	America Maru	W. April 6
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Tremont	W. April 6
Europe	M. M. Co.	Salazie	F. April 8
Canada	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	F. April 8
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Siberia	M. April 11
America	P. M. Co.	China	Sa. April 16
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Tartar	M. April 18
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Tu. April 19
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Tu. April 26

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Lyra, American steamer, 3,516, G. V. Williams, 25th March,—Seattle, Wash., Mails and General. —Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Ramsay, British steamer, 2,767, F. C. Mullan, 25th March,—Yokkaichi, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,055, J. C. Jensen, 25th Murch.—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Trieste, Austrian steamer, 3,203, Mecozzie, 25th March,—Trieste via ports and Hongkong, General.—Pollak Bros.

Machaon, British steamer, 4,277, G. W. Long, 25th March,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Iyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,918, M. J. Curnow, 26th March,—Seattle, Wash., via Victoria B.C., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Thea, German steamer, 934, Ohlerich, 26th March, —Moji, Coal.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Heathdene, British steamer, 2,277, W. J. Milburn, 29th March,—Muroran, 23rd March, Coal.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Bencleuch, British steamer, 2,679, A. W. S. Thomson, 26th March,—London via ports, and Kobe, 25th March, General.—Cornes & Co.

Eretria, British steamer, 2,255, Mulcaley, 26th Mar., —Hongkong, 16th March, General.—Dodwell & Co.

Taisang, British steamer, 1,544, R. C. D. Bradley, 26th March,—Shanghai via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Australian, British steamer, 1,784, MacArthur, 26th March,—Sydney via ports, General.—Cornes & Co.

Victoria, American steamer, 2,112, J. Truebridge, 27th March,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Afridi, British steamer, 2,354, Golding, 27th March, —Hongkong, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Athenian, British steamer, 2,440, S. Robinson, 27th March.—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Malacca, British steamer, 2,616, A. F. Street, 27th March,—London via ports, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Anna, Norwegian steamer, 773, Olsen, 27th March, —Saigon, Salt.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Manshu Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,284, W. E. Filmer, 27th March,—Kobe, General,—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Phu Yen, French steamer, 1,298, N. Thomas, 28th March,—Saigon, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Lennox, British steamer, 2,361, McNair, 28th March, —Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Lisa, Swedish steamer, 998, Hoendale, 28th March, —Moji, Coal.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Owari Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, Y. Shimidzu, 28th March,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Benlomond, British steamer, 1,752, Currie, 28th March,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hounslow, British steamer, 1,860, H. Adshead, 29th March,—Java, Sugar.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 29th —Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Germania, German steamer, 924, Bruhn, 30th March, —Saigon, 11th March, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Hamburg, German steamer, 6,598, E. Burmeister, 30th March,—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Atlantic, American steamer, 960, M. Coco, 30th March,—Iloilo, Sugar.—To Order.

Clara Jebsen, German steamer, 1,303, Banainen, 30th March,—Kobe, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,065, J. C. Jensen, 30th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Doric, British steamer, 2,936, Harry Smith, 25th March,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General. —O. & O. S.S. Co.

Obi, British steamer, 1,951, J. Davison, 25th March, —Muroran, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Marechal de Gontaut French bark, 1,743, L. Lacroix, 25th March,—Saigon, Ballast.—Standard Oil Co.

Armand Behic, French steamer, 2,819, Flandin, 25th March,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General. —M. M. S.S. Co.

Victoria, Swedish steamer, 989, Hermasson, 25th March,—Hakodate, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Salamanca, British steamer, 883, A. E. Wilson, 25th March,—Kobe, Sugar.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Itola, British steamer, 3,362, W. Robertson, 25th March,—Kobe, Rice and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Khalif, British steamer, 2,219, Middleton, 25th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,055, J. C. Jensen, 26th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Lyra, American steamer, 3,516, G. V. Williams, 27th March,—Manila via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Ramsay, British steamer, 2,767, F. C Mullan, 27th March,—Otaru, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Rugby, British steamer, 2,110, W. Brown, 27th March,—Kobe, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Quarta, German steamer, 1,146, ——, 27th March, —Kobe, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Trieste, Austrian steamer, 3,203, Mecozzie, 28th March,—Trieste via ports, General.—Pollak Bros.

Australian, British steamer, 1,784, MacArthur, 28th March,—Australia via ports, General.—Cornes & Co.

Bintang, Danish steamer, 1,404, Ingerman, 28th March,—Moji, Coal.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Thea, German steamer, 934, Ohlerich, 28th March, —Kobe, Coal.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Iyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,918, M. J. Curnow, 28th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Victoria, American steamer, 2,112, J. Truebridge, 28th March,—Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Athenian, British steamer, 2,428, S. Robinson, 29th March,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General. —C. P. R. Co.

Machaon, British steamer, 4,277, G. W. Long, 29th March,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Heathdene, British steamer, 2,277, W. J. Milburn, 29th March,—Muroran, General.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Braemar, British steamer, 2,316, Sarby, 29th March, —Kobe, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 30th March,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Okhla, British steamer, 3,436, E. H. Garland, 19th March,—Kobe, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Grossmont, British steamer, 1,818, Fleetham, 30th March,—Moji, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Eretria, British steamer, 2,255, Mulcahy, 30th March, —Yokkaichi, General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

America Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,256, W. W. Greene, 30th Mar.,—Kobe, General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per American steamer *Victoria*, from Hongkong via ports.—Mr. G. de Purncker, Mrs. K. Tingley, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Birchenall, Mr. and Mrs. T. Smith, Mr. Royds, Lieut. Martinie, Mr. A. G. Drabble, Mrs. Ishimoto, Mr. K. Miyagawa, in cabin; 2 Chinese, in steerage. For Tacoma:—Mr. A. Maser, Mr. E. Hennel, Mr. W. A. Spiegel, Mr. A. Olssen, Mr. C. Drusedom, Mr. T. Fisher, Mr. D. Ready, Capt. A. Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. McLellan, Mr. L. Fossati, Mr. A. Deluigi, Mr. P. Lago, Mr. C. Cosgarini, and Mr. E. Agresti, in cabin; 23 Chinese, and 61 Japanese, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Iyo Maru*, from Seattle, Wash.:—Mr. Horikoshi, Mr. Shimada, Mr. Futami, Mr. D. H. Hibbard, and Miss Alma Jones, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Athenian*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Sir William Nicholson, Lieut.-Col. Haldane, Capt. Thacker, Mr. W. Richmond Smith, in cabin; 5 Chinese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Malacca*, from London via ports:—Mr. Green, and Mr. Woolley, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, from Hongkong via ports:—Capt. Harrison, Mrs. Harrison, Mr. A. Russel, Mrs. Christensen, Bishop Foss, Mrs. Foss, child and amah, Mrs. Goddard, Miss Goddard, Mr. Collbran and servant, Mrs. Collbran, Miss J. Harris, Mrs. Cockrill, Mrs. M. M. Rudd, Mrs. L. M. Johnstone, Mr. R. A. Brown, Mr. Franz Schultz, Miss Davies, Mr. Ting Maiug Ing, Dr. Haas, Mr. Priest, Mrs. Priest, Miss E. Cabeldu, Mr. B. F. Madon, Miss Cameron, Mrs. N. S. Keith, Mrs. Melvin, Miss F. Myers, Dr. Street, and Mrs. Street, in cabin. For Honolulu:—Dr. Nicholas Russel, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Dr. R. Schiffman, Capt. F. Harrison Smith, R.N., Capt. J. J. Gilbert, Mrs. Gilbert, Miss B. E. Campbell, Mrs. Chow Tsze Chi and amah, Mrs. Chu Sang Teh, child and amah, Mr. Lee Kai, Mr. J. E. Woelker, Mr. William J. Gorham, Mr. Ira H. Willson, Mrs. Willson, Mrs. A. J. Coffee, Mr. C. Durand, Lt.-Com. H. T. Mayo, Mr. A. Elias, Mr. J. C. Meyer, Rev. F. Chlinger, Mrs. Chlinger and child, and Miss A. Oiser, in cabin.

Per German steamer *Hamburg*, from Europe via ports:—Miss M. Baron, Mr. F. Pageff, Mr. A. Cooper, Major von Forster, Dr. Saehmanns, Mr. and Mrs. V Guayamatra, Major Caviglia, Prof. Terashima, Prof. V. Hochberg, Mr. and Mrs. Gausloser, Mr. and Mrs. Russel, Miss J. E. Selden, Mrs. Porter and amah, Mr. W. Hick, Mr. and Mrs Meurer, Mr. Stubenrauch, Hauptm. Hoffmann, Mr. R. Lutgens, Mr. and Mrs. Davidson, Dr. Leull, Mr. E. Maitland, Miss Ozaki, Mr. M. Chas, Mr. Bernard, Mrs. Wilson, Mr. Smith, Mr. M. Kubo, Mr. J. Hall, Mr. C. Refardt, Mr. E. Jeffrey, Mrs. Kuwada, Mr. Killey, Mr. and Mrs. Schmid, Mr. W. Falk, Mr. E. Stucken, Mr. Lee Pow Shun, Mr. Helm, Mr. Hardmann, Miss Cyasta, Mr. Aulauf Wilchert, Miss Hentschel, Mr. N. Cullen, Mr. Onuki, Mr. Hongo, Mr. Fucani, Mr. Mr. Lee Cha Chong, Mr. Chion Foh Wha, Mr. Moritz, Miss Saito, Mrs. Saito and child, Mr. E. Krug, Mrs. C. Dresser, Mr. A. Knaack, Mr. H. Nagott, Mr. M. Murao, Mr. Dragossy, Mr. M. Mori, Mr. J. Kamada, Mr. Pow-Man Cheung, Mr. Lam Shin Tung, Mr. J. Prosse, Mr. Westphal, Mr. Shmuck, Mr. Henser, Mr. Stoellger, and 85 Chinese, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Armand Behic*, for Marseilles via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Stedman, Mr. William Falck, Mr. and Mrs. R. Schmid and infant, Mr. S. Schwol, Mr. C. de Ferens, Mr. Paul, Mr. C. Refardt, Mr. and Mrs. Lee, Mr. H. Aubert, Mr. and Mrs. Bemenkoff, Mr. Carl Ferber, Mr. P. Serodouin, Mr. F. O. Seaton, Mr. D. Ferguson, Mr. Vincente Salgado, Mr. Maurice Laubie, Mr. Alberto Magui, Mr. Micheli Mariano, Mr. Scandolara Ezelino, Mr. Cordano Ernesto, Mr. M. Whitehead, 3 infants and boy, Mr. J. T Arnould, Mr. Ch. Saxton, Mr. Benj. Tunstall, Mr. John Gray, Mr. Rob. Grant, Mr. W. Leggett, Mr. Edgar Jackson, Mr. J. Gordon, and Mr. W. Tallers, in cabin; 2 Russians, and 18 Indians in steerage.

Per British steamer *Doric*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mrs. P. G. Anderson, Mr. Gus Baughman, Mr. N. E. Bayless, Mr. E. M. Bowling, Mr. F. S. Brandt, Mr. J. F. Burns, Mr. E. G. Butler, Mrs. P. S. Cabeldu, Mr. A. F. Cameron, Mrs. M. Canfield and infant, Mr. A. Cotting, Mr. B. J. Daniel, Mr. D. D. Douglass, Mrs. D. D. Douglass, Mr. C. Edwards, Mr. C. Edwards, Rev. & Mrs. H. Farmer & infant, Mr. T. T. Ferguson, Mrs. T. T. Ferguson and 2 children, Mr. Chas. Freeman, Mr. Geo. A. Gallagher, Rev. D. C. Green, Mr. L. J. Grove, Mrs. L. J. Grove, Mr. F. J. Hall, Mr. J. S. Happer, Mrs. J. S. Happer, Mr. J. P. Harrington, Mr. Victor Heller, Mr. S. C. Hemstreet, Mr. Chas. Hourigan, Mr. B. H. Hunt, Miss L. L. Hunt, Mr. Clark James, Capt. Wm. Johnson, Mr. N. G. Maitland, Mr. J. J. McDonough, Mr. P. A. Merckel, Mr. C. C. Mitchell, Mrs. C. C. Mitchell, Mr. W. W. Neele, Mr. C. M. Nell, Mr. H. N. Nielson, Mrs. F. C. Palmer, Mr. J. C. Phares, Mr. E. S. Powell, Mr. F. E. Roberts, Mr. H. A. Seaver, Mr. Earl Shaw, Mr. F. E. Shaw, Mr. S. F. Smith, Mr. N. F. Smith, Mr. F. L. Smyth, Mr. Karl Stefan, Mr. H. S. Strassbaugh, Mr. D. D. Strong, Mr. A. J. Swan, Mr. J. Troft, Mrs. E. H. Tuska and amah, Mr. A. J. Van Waning, Mr. D. W. Walker, Mr. B. R. Wyckoff, Mr. M. Yokoyama, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. Ernst. Ahlers, Mr. C. de Angeli, Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge, R.N., and valet, Mrs. Cho Tsze Chi and amah, Capt. O. de B. Brock, R.N., Miss B. E. Campbell, Mr. Cheng Chang, Mr. Su Chun Chen, Mr. Cheng Ta Cheng, Mrs. A. J. Coffee, Com. A. W. Craig, R.N., Mr. Percy J. Delf, Mr. B. Durand, Mr. A. Elias, Capt. J. J. Gilbert, Mrs. J. J Gilbert, Mr. H. Goldschmidt, Mr. W. J. Gorham, Mr. E. Greenacre Lieut. David H. Hamilton, R.N., Mr. Ling Maing Ing, Mr. T. Inumaru, Mr. Wong Kai Kah, Mr. Lee Kei, H.I.H. Prince Pu Lun and attendants, Lieut.-Com. H. T. Mayo, U.S.N., Mrs. F. M. Merrill, Mr. J. C. Myer, Mr. H. Morrison, Mrs. H. Morrison, Mr. J. B. Murphy, Mr. H. Naito, Rev. F. Ohlinger, Mrs. F. Ohlinger and child, Miss A. Oison, Mr. A. W. Perry, Dr. Reipen, Dr. N. Russell, Dr. R. Schiffmann, Mr. Ed. Schultz, Mr. Franz Schultz, Mr. Fing Kai Shun, Mr. P. Stuhlen, Mr. Peng Ku Sun, Mr. A. M. Scott, Capt. F. Harrison Smith, R.N., Mr. T. Takeda, Mr. Cau Sang Tah, child and amah, Mr. Su Shih Tih, Mr. J. E. Woelker, Mr. Ira H. Wilson, and Mrs. Ira H. Wilson, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *America Maru*, for Kobe:—Mr. C. S. Averill, Mr. A. Drewell, Miss A. Glahn, Mr. P. McGregor Grant, Mr. Victor Hearne, Mr. K. Ito, Mr. P. Messer, Mr. D. L. Smith, and Mrs. D. L. Smith and amah, in cabin.

CARGO.

Per American steamer *Victoria*, for Tacoma:—

TEA.

	Canada.	Chicago & West.	New York & East.	Pacific Coast.	Other Cities.	Total Packages.
Hongkong ...	—	—	—	57	—	57
Shanghai ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kobe	—	253	—	8	—	261
Yokohama...	—	682	—	—	—	682
Total ...	—	935	—	65	—	1,000

SILK.

	New York.	Other Cities.	Total Bales.
Hongkong	40	—	40
Shanghai	—	—	—
Yokohama	69	—	69
Total	109	—	109

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The market is unchanged.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER YARD.
White Shirting—{40 yds. 36 in. 50 yds. 36 in.} ...	0.09 to 0.10
	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	Y. 2.85 to 3.60
Grey Shirting—9lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.80 to 4.25
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches...	3.00 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton Italians and Satteens...	0.20 to 0.40

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	Y. 0.35 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 32 in....	0.30 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches...	0.16 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.50 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 to 65 inches ...	0.90 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0.60 to 0.66
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	9.50 to 12.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches...	0.90 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches...	1.90 to 2.25
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 5lb, 24-25 yards, 32 nches...	2.50 to 3.65

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Y. 140.00 to 150.00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	—
Nos. 38/42, Singles	—
Nos. 32, Doubles...	145.00 to 150.00
Nos. 42, Doubles...	155.00 to 160.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/100, Plain...	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	245.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	295.00 to 305.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	425.00 to 435.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling...	Nominal.	33
Indian Broach...		26
Chinese		23

METALS.

Still a small business.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward...	Y. 4.05 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.30 to 4.60
Sheet Iron...	4.65 to 6.90
Galvanised Iron sheets	10.00 to 11.00
Wire Nails, assorted	5.15 to 5.75
Tin Plates, per box...	6.70 to 7.60
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.05
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1½ inch)	5.00 to 5.50

KEROSENE.

Nothing new.

American	$3.47
Russian	3.20
Langkat	3.30

SUGAR.

Nothing to report.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	Y. 6.70 to 7.00
Brown Manila...	6.80 to 7.40
Brown Daitong	5.40 to 6.80
Brown Canton...	5.90 to 7.80
White Java and Penang...	7.50 to 8.40
White Refined...	9.10 to 11.70

INDIGO.

Nothing doing.

	PICUL.
Java, Medium to best...	270.00 to 320.00
Calcutta, Medium to best	180.00 to 290.00
Madras (*Kurpah*), Medium to best ...	140.00 to 170.00
Madras (Dry Leaf), Medium to best ..	100.00 to 140.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

A small daily business continues. Quotations are nominally unchanged. Good silks are worth good money, while inferior parcels can be had at a reduction. Spring reelings are now coming in, but on the whole are not of very desirable quality. Advices from Lyons are dull and dispiriting, but they seem willing to take silk at a price all the same.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra Best, Coarse	Y. —
Filatures—Extra, Fine	—
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	1,000 to 1,010
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	—
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	910 to 930
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	960 to 970
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	890 to 900
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	910 to 920
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	—
Common—Coarse	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1½	910 to 920
Re-reels—No. 2	—
Re-reels—No. 3	880 to 890
Kakedas—Extra	—
Kakedas—No. 1	920 to 925
Kakedas—No. 1½...	900 to 910
Kakedas—No. 2	880 to 890

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WASTE SILK.

Nothing doing; season practically finished. Small driblets of supplies come in, but are not very tempting to operators.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	180 to 185
Noshi—Filatures, Good	170 to 175
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Good...	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	—
Nsohi—Joshiu, Best	130 to 135
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	120 to 125
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	150 to 160
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	140 to 145
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	70 to 80
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	60 to 70

TEA.

No business to report.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	—
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine...	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common...	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, March 30.

London silver unchanged, but Hongkong sterling quotations $\frac{1}{16}$ lower; no change from Shanghai and local rates firmer on China, but unchanged otherwise.

London—Bank T.T. ...	2/0$\frac{3}{16}$ @ ⅛
— — Bills on demand...	2/0⅛ @ $\frac{1}{16}$
— — 4 months' sight ...	2/0$\frac{5}{16}$ @ ⅜
— Private 4 months' sight...	2/0$\frac{7}{16}$ @ ½
— — 6 months' sight...	2/0$\frac{9}{16}$ @ ⅝
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight ...	253
— Private 4 months' sight...	257½ @ 7
— — 6 months' sight...	259 @ 8
Hongkong—Bank sight ... per $100.	89½*
— Private 10 days' sight do.	87*
Shanghai—Bank sight ...	80*
— Private 10 days' sight ...	82½*
India—Bank sight ...	150
— Private 30 days' sight ...	153
America—Bank sight...	49
— Private 30 days' sight ...	49¾
— Private 4 months' sight ...	50½
Germany—Bank sight ...	205½
— Private 4 months' sight ...	210 @ 9½
Bar Silver (London) ...	25$\frac{11}{16}$

* Nominal.

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, APRIL 9TH, 1904.

BIRTHS.

At Hazlet, New Jersey, U.S.A., on March 7th, the wife of JOHN H. JEWETT, of a Son.

On the 5th April, in Tokyo, the wife of Herr. F. C. VON ERCKERT, First Secretary of the German Legation, of a Son.

MARRIAGES.

At Christ Church, Yokohama, on the 5th inst., by the Rev. W. P. G. Field, M.A., AGNES LAURINA BEATRICE, daughter of David Ross, F.R.I., B.A., of New Zealand, and niece of Captain and Mrs. James Martin, 239 Bluff, Yokohama, to WILLIAM EDWARD LAXON SWEET, of Kumamoto, son of the late Rev. L. E. Sweet, of Bathford, England.

On the 5th April, at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Tsukiji, Tokyo, by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Awdry, D.D., the Rev. JOHN THOMAS BRYAN, M.A., B.D., to LUCY SILVER, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Silver Hall, of Tokyo.

On the 6th April, 1904, at H.B.M.'s Consulate, before Mr. E. M. Hobart Hampden, Vice-Consul, and afterwards at Christ Church, Yokohama, by the Rev. W. P. G. Field, M.A., FRANCIS JAMES HALL, fourth son of the Rev. T. O. Hall, of Stretton Rectory, Oakham, England, to BEATRICE MAUDE SUCKLING BARON, youngest daughter of the late Rev. W. J. Baron, of Withybrook Vicarage, Coventry, England.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

PRINCESS KUNI was delivered of a daughter on March 30th.

THE torpedo-boat *Hashitaka*, which was under construction at the Kawasaki Shipbuilding Yard, Kobe, has been completed.

A TELEGRAM from Ujina states that a steam launch took fire on April 3rd in the harbour. The hull was destroyed.

A WOMEN of about twenty-two years of age, well dressed, committed suicide at noon on March 30th on the railway near Shinagawa.

A TELEGRAM from Shidzuoka reports that two hundred *kwamme* of new tea have been put on the market, the price being forty *yen* per *kwamme*.

THE Nippon Yusen Kaisha has purchased the British steamers *Mogul* and *Afridi* and renamed them the *Jinsen Maru* and the *Kirin Maru* respectively.

THE amount donated to the *Gunjin Kyugo-kai* (society for succouring the distressed families of soldiers at the front) now aggregates *yen* 911,293.

KATO, a soldier of the third regiment of cavalry Nagoya, committed suicide on March 30th. The cause was that his application to go to the front was rejected.

MR. KNIGHT, war correspondent of the London *Times*, and seven others arrived on April 5th at Shimonoseki on their way to Korea. They were to leave on the following day.

AN old woman the wife of S. Nakamura, a fisherman at Haneda, near Kawasaki, committed suicide on April 3rd by hanging herself. Poverty is reported to be the cause.

THE members of the Nobles' Club were to hold a meeting on April 7th at 3 p.m. when Lieut.-Commander Ogasawara of the Navy was to give a lecture with regard to the present situation.

Two cases of typhus are reported in the spinning factory at Honjo, Tokyo, the patients being female workers about sixteen years of age. Two cases of scarlet fever are also reported in Tokyo.

IT is reported from Montreal that the Russian Government has offered the management of the Trans-Siberian Railway to Mr. William Whyte, the second Vice-President of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

A HAKODATE telegram announces that an engineer of a French sailing vessel, which arrived there on March 30th from New York, has been attacked by cholera. The patient is under treatment.

MR. ISRAEL PUTNAM has announced the severance of his connection with the *Manila Cablenews*, which, from the 8th inst., has been leased to Mr. Frederick O'Brien, former business manager of that journal.

THE British steamer *Ningchow* arrived on March 30th at Nagasaki with sixteen hundred tons of cargo for Vladivostock. Among the goods, contraband of war was found, which the authorities are examining.

ABOUT fifty members of both Houses have applied to the authorities for permits to go to the front to observe affairs in Korea and Manchuria as well as to witness the land operations. Permission is reserved.

OVER seven hundred farmers of the villages of Nogi and Koga near Utsunomiya who are opposing the construction of the canal at Shimo-tsuga, attempted on April 1st to enter the Kencho in order to urge the Governor to stop the work. The Oyama police restrained them, upon which they left for their villages in procession. The authorities dispersed them, advising them to elect a few delegates for the purpose of presenting their petition.

BUN AOKI (47) and her daughter living in the district of Aiko, Kanagawa prefecture, committed suicide on April 4th by jumping into a well. Leprosy, from which they had been suffering for several years, is reported to be the cause.

A FATALITY occurred on board the P. and O. steamer *Palawan* on her passage from Penang to Hongkong. As the vessel was leaving Penang, Thomas Wallace, a stoker of the first class, naval rating, jumped overboard and his body could not be recovered.

THE German cruiser *Hansa* arrived on March 27th at Chin-wang-tao from Taku. Many of the crew were permitted to land. A Chefoo telegram reports that a Chinese warship passed off the port on the morning of March 29th in an easterly direction.

THE libel case against the *Chuo Shimbun* filed by Mr. Ikariyama, chief of the Kaga-cho police, Yokohama, will be tried on April 13th in the Tokyo District Court. The action arises out of the trial of M. Takahashi, employed as a Russian spy, who was convicted in the Yokohama District Court.

JAPAN'S consumption of American cotton has been rapidly increasing. In 1900 Japan used 348,406 bales of East Indian cotton and 278,725 bales of American cotton. In 1902 Japan used 437,466 bales of East Indian cotton and 166,617 bales of American cotton. This year Japan has not taken 50,000 bales up to date.

THE *Nichi Nichi's* Nagasaki correspondent states that about fifty workmen are now employed at Port Arthur in repairing the damage caused by the Japanese bombardment; and that the works at the barracks of the 18th regiment and a part of the offices of the Commander-in-Chief are now completed.

THE nominal editor of the *Heimin Shimbun* was sentenced on April 5th in the Tokyo District Court to three months' minor imprisonment and the paper was suppressed. The charge was that on March 27th it condemned the authorities for proposing increased taxes, in such a way that its statements were injurious to public order.

ACCORDING to the *Official Gazette*, during the week ended March 27th, a hundred and thirty-seven cases of plague appeared in Formosa and eighty-eight proved fatal. From the first appearance in January till the end of the same week the patients were calculated to be six hundred, and twenty-one died.

PRINCE NASHIMOTO, who is a captain of infantry, arrived on the evening of April 4th at Yokohama by the steamer *Empress of India* from Vancouver. Marquis and Marchioness Nabeshima, Governor Sufu and various officials of the Kanagawa Kencho welcomed him. The Prince left by the 6.10 p.m. train for Tokyo. He has been in France studying military matters.

THE British steamer *Fanar*, owned by the Manchester District Shipping Company, arrived at Nagasaki at noon on March 30th with a full cargo from Cardiff. One of the ship's officers informed an interviewer that she was detained by a Russian cruiser and four destroyers on the Arabian coast, between Kunhidar and Port Mornington, in the Red Sea, at 4.30 p.m. on February 22nd last, and was boarded by a Russian officer and four armed marines. The Russian officer inspected all papers, and allowed the steamer to continue on her voyage after a detention of about 40 minutes.

PORT ARTHUR.

Friday, April 1.

Accounts of the last blocking operation are beginning to come in. It is stated that at first the fire of the forts was very fierce, but the men in charge of the steamers, determined not to make a second failure, moved in steadily at the vessels' highest speed, not being deflected from their purpose in the smallest degree by the danger. When the steamers got closer in, it became impossible for the forts to fire on them freely owing to the danger of injuring their own men-of-war, and the Russians had nothing for it but to trust to their destroyers As to the statement that the Russian squadron moved out and attacked the Japanese, it is strenuously denied, but in fact no such statement was made by Admiral Makaroff. It may have been produced by the Mukden-Shanghai factory, but Admiral Makaroff reported that his ships went out some hours later and did not see anything of the Japanese.

On the other hand, Admiral Makaroff's allegation that freedom of ingress was not at all impaired by the operation appears to be ridiculed in Japan. Freedom of egress had already been more or less impared even by the one steamer successfully sunk on the first occasion, and it is extravagant to pretend that 4 steamers sent to the bottom almost precisely in the manner designed have failed to accomplish anything. It is thought that if the Russian Admiral went out of harbour subsequently, as he says that he did, then probably he was carried by a destroyer and the squadron accompanying him consisted of torpedo-craft only. The Japanese, it is easy to see and not difficult to imagine, bitterly resent the suggestion implied in the Admiral's recent reports that he finds the enemy unwilling to give him battle in the open. Such a suggestion is manifestly extravagant. The Japanese squadron has been doing nothing all this time but offering battle. On the occasion of the first attack the Russian ships steamed round and round in a circle, never going more than a mile and a half from the forts. They carefully avoided coming out into the open sea, and very likely their tactics were wise in the circumstances. Thereafter, as their own reports show, they never once went out of harbour during any one of the five engagements that have taken place, unless we except the occasion when Admiral Makaroff, emerging with the *Askold* and the *Novik*, saw one of his own destroyers sent to the bottom by the Japanese, and never struck in to her assistance, because—we follow his own account—she was surrounded by five Japanese cruisers. She can not have been surrounded by five Japanese cruisers for the simple reason that the engagement took place within the shadow of the forts, but even supposing that she was so surrounded, is it probable that naval history will applaud Admiral Makaroff's discretion? Men like Captain Trollope and ships like the *Glatton* are not to be looked for in every century, but we should be sorry to think that the unsuccoured fate of the *Stereguschtchu* is to be regarded as a normal incident of naval war-fare. And certainly it does not seem worthy of brave men to seek to spread abroad a belief that an enemy who has fruitlessly offered battle time after time, shuns it when the other side enters the arena.

There is one thing to be said about this blocking business—is it worth the cost of lives and material? The channel at the entrance of Port Arthur is 350 yards wide and even though four steamers were sunk there at the best regulated intervals, they would scarcely prevent egress and ingress. Then there is the possibility of subsequently destroying them. It would seem that a few charges of dynamite should suffice to undo all the trouble taken in placing the obstacle. However, it must be assumed that Japanese naval experts know what they are about. The steamer sunk in the fairway on the first occasion does not appear to have been yet blown up.

The work of repairing the damage done to forts and public buildings at Port Arthur by the fire of the Japanese is said to be progressing vigorously.

It is now stated that the Russian destroyer put *hors de combat* by two Japanese torpedo-boats on the 27th instant and subsequently seen at the base of the Hwan-kin-shan fort, was, not the *Silni*, but the *Bezchumni*. If so, two Russian destroyers suffered, for we can not imagine that Admiral Makaroff's account was incorrect.

General Stoessel's general order addressed to the garrison of Port Arthur on the 27th of February and copied into the *Novo Krai*, is a suggestive document. The General infers from the persistence of the Japanese attacks that they are bent upon reducing Port Arthur, or at least, upon tearing up a part of the railway. "Remember," he says, "that they would regard the seizure of Port Arthur as a national glory. But as they have erred in their main ideas, so they will err in this. Our own people do not require to be told this, but I address myself to the inhabitants at large. From every point of view there is no reason for us to yield to the foe. A fortress must fight to the last, and I shall never give the word to surrender. Further, we have absolutely no place to retire to. Even the most timid must appreciate these points, and I warn you all that you must fight to the death. Those that go into battle ready to lay down their lives, these are the men that accomplish great things and make a name for themselves. On the contrary those that shrink from the combat and seek cravenly to save their own persons, these too must die, but die ingloriously, for from this fortress there is no escape. It has the sea on three sides, the enemy on the fourth. There is nothing for it but to fight. The Japanese will long remember the blow our brave soldiers will give them. I am confident, too, that even though a route of escape were open, our brave Russians would not take it, but would prefer to die at their posts. Remember, those that die in battle remain long in the memory of the world and achieve lasting fame."

General Stoessel knows his own people, but, speaking frankly, it does not appear to us that his address is of the most inspiriting description. There is a kind of *morituri-te-salutamus* ring about it.

The steamer sunk at the Miao Islands by the Russians on the 26th instant proves to have been the *Hanyei Maru* of 75 tons, the despatch boat of the *Asahi Shimbun*. She had gone to the islands to purchase a junk, and was returning with it, having placed in it one Japanese subject and two Chinese. At 7 a.m. she fell in with a Russian squadron of ships and torpedo-craft from Port Arthur, and they immediately sunk the little steamer, making prisoners of her crew, with the exception of the master and two Japanese who escaped to a Chinese junk. The steamer had been built in 1862 but her boilers were renewed in 1902. The *Asahi* had chartered her, under guarantee, for the purpose of patrolling the coast of the Gulf of Pechili and obtaining information. As for the assertion that a Whitehead torpedo figured in the affair, the *Asahi's* people deny it totally, and indeed it is hard to see what the *Hanyei* can have been doing with such a missile. In the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* we read that the *Hanyei* became the recipient of 60 shells before she went to the bottom. The Russians used a quick-firer, probably of very small calibre.

It is stated that a Berlin newspaper contains a strange statement, namely, that at the time of the sinking of the Russian destroyer *Stereguschtchi* there were nine wounded men on the lower deck, but the Japanese battened them down and left them to perish. It is thought possible that this story was invented by the German newspaper for the purpose of exciting European sentiment against Japan; a sort of recrudescence of South-African journalism, in fact. But the falsehood may have emanated from a Russian source, for the Russians also are busily inventing lies with the same object. They say, among other things, that the Japanese troops are behaving with the greatest licence in Korea, sacking villages and otherwise perpetrating all kinds of excesses.

The *Novo Krai* of the 25th ultimo says that the Japanese fired 208 twelve-inch shells into the town and the harbour and against the Liautishan forts on the 25rd instant. If that be so Port Arthur had 148,512 lbs. of iron hurled at it, or about 66 tons. The *Fuji* and the *Yashima* have four 12-inch guns each, so, assuming that they used all their guns, which is very unlikely, each weapon must have fired 26 shells. We greatly doubt it.

Monday, April 4.

A Chinese junk-master who left the neighbourhood of Port Arthur on the 16th ultimo says that two Russian ships were sunk in the fight on the 10th ultimo. He also alleges that in three villages between Port Arthur and Pigeon Bay twenty Russians were frozen to death, and that the killed and wounded in the bombardment totalled two hundred. The new forts on Liaotishan were greatly injured. Chinese subjects are taken into the Russian ranks, clad in Russian uniforms and paid 30 roubles per month. The manufacture of small arms is vigorously carried on. Steps are also being taken to prepare large quantities of salt meat, and palisades have been constructed at the base of the Hwan-kinshan forts, the masts of junks being used for that purpose.

Some particulars of this enterprise are coming out. The *Chiyo Maru* went in first among the four steamers. She received a heavy fire from the forts and presently found herself between two Russian destroyers. But it appeared that these vessels endangered each other by their shooting. For that reason, or owing to some other cause, one of the forts made signals with a search light and the destroyers ceased their attack. The *Chiyo Maru* then pushed on and was able to anchor at the projected place, where her crew sunk her. She was not struck by a torpedo from first to last. When her crew had been picked up by a Japanese destroyer and were steaming back, it seems that they incurred a new peril by singing a war-song which drew a hail of shot from the enemy.

When one of the *Yoneyama's* boats was rowing back and had reached a point some distance from the mouth of the harbour, she suddenly observed a Russian destroyer a short distance ahead. Her crew hesitated, utterly at a loss how to proceed. But it was fortunately observed that the Russian search-lights were working entirely from within the harbour, so that while objects outside were visible to those inside, a vessel in the path of the beams could not see anything between herself and their source. The Japanese therefore rowed on. But as they passed the destroyer they observed, to their surprise, that she seemed not to have anyone on board. They conjectured that she was the *Silni*, which had just been in action with the torpedo-boats *Aotaka* and *Tsubame*, and had suffered so much as to be *hors de combat*.

It is stated that each of the blocking steamers had a machine-gun on board, and that the crews worked these pieces vigorously as they hastened to their location. This provision was doubtless intended to inspirit the men. It is one thing to move through a zone of fire without any means of returning it, and quite another thing to pass through sustained by the excitement of giving back what one gets, in a measure at all events. Of course these machine-guns must have been abandoned with the steamers. And indeed there is collateral testimony that such was the case, for an official report from Mukden says that guns found in the steamers are now in the possession of the Port Arthur garrison. They have been raised, presumably, but it must be confessed that this supposition involves the idea of great celerity on the part of the Russians. The attack took place on the morning of the 27th and the Mukden report is dated the 29th. Therefore the guns must have been raised during the 27th or the 28th. On the other hand it is to be recalled that there is only 3¾ fathoms of water at the entrance of the harbour, so that salvage operations would be of the simplest nature.

We have had, *via* Paris, a remarkable story about the doings of the *Silni*; how, single-handed, she sunk the four Japanese steamers before they could reach their locations at the harbour's mouth, and how, single-handed, she engaged six Japanese destroyers. It is to be regretted that the romancists who spin these yarns do not exercise more reflection. Even supposing that the *Silni* accomplished the impossible feat of simultaneously torpedoing the whole four steamers at a distance of 2 miles from the harbour's mouth, they could easily make those two miles before sinking, unless, indeed, their machinery were disabled, which does not appear to have occurred in any case. A steamer struck by a torpedo does not drop to the bottom *in situ* like a pheasant shot in cover. As for the *Silni's* splendid combat with six Japanese destroyers, it has a smell of men in buckram. No doubt her officers and men fought stoutly and valiantly, and that makes it all the more regrettable that their record should be rendered ridiculous by incredible embroidery at the hands of romancists. Besides, how did it happen that only one Russjan destroyer was available for the defense of the port?

It is stated that the four blocking steamers were under fire for nearly 20 minutes before they reached their destined places, but apparently the Russian shells failed to burst when they struck, or failed to strike. A Russian destroyer passed right between the Japanese torpedo-boats *Tsubame* and *Aotaka* and received their full fire. Another destroyer was struck by the *Yoneyama Maru*, which seems to have been steered direct at the destroyer, though, of course, unless the latter were disabled or taken by surprise she could easily have eluded a slow old craft like the *Yoneyama*. The steamers passed through a veritable shower of shells, but probably the Russians had finally to desist from firing owing to the danger of injuring their own people. It is related that more than one of the row-boats which took the crews off the steamers were riddled with bullets from quick-firers, but their inmates escaped quite miraculously. Special mention is made of a warrant-officer, Yenya Minosuke, who was in the *Yoneyama Maru*. He received 4 wounds simultaneously with the disablement of Lieutenant Shimada, who had charge of the machine gun. Nevertheless he assumed command of the gun and performed all his duties subsequently, dropping the anchor, lowering one of the boats and assisting to row her. It was not until the squadron was in sight that his strength failed him. He is now in hospital and his recovery is considered certain.

It may be mentioned here that the X rays seem to be helping to save the lives of many among the Japanese wounded.

There is a project on foot to erect a bronze statue of Commander Hirose in the Hibiya Park. The *Jiji Shimpo* has begun to collect subscriptions and has already received a sum of over a thousand *yen*. The remains of this brave officer have been brought to Saseho and will be buried with all honours on the 8th instant. We read also of the relics of chief-warrant-officer Sugino, but presumably these are only his clothes and other personal belongings, for his body went down with the *Fukui Maru*.

The despatch boat of *The Times* which passed Port Arthur at a distance of 14 or 15 miles is said to have observed that the available entrance to the harbour has been reduced to a width of some 26 yards. But it must be confessed that the opinions attributed to the folk on board the *Haimun* vary. Apparently one view was expressed by Captain Colquhoun, another by the steamer's chief engineer, and it is evident that at a distance of 14 or 15 miles the clearest observations can not be very trustworthy.

Takeshiki reports that according to intelligence received from the front the Russians have only torpedo-craft outside Port Arthur, and are engaged breaking up the steamers sunk by the Japanese.

Prince Cyril, who last year paid a visit to Japan, has arrived at Port Arthur.

One Kutami Soichi, apparently a merchant, who has just been released from prison at Port Arthur, where he was confined until March 31st, reports that the damage done to Port Arthur by the bombardment on the 10th of March was very considerable. The best quarter of the new town, the dock and the barracks suffered most. These details have not much interest except as showing that the place is not sufficiently defended.

Tuesday, April 5.

The dock in Talien Bay has been pushed forward with great energy of late, but it is said that the site presents many difficulties, and that as all the stone has to be procured from an island off the coast of Shantung, a long interval must elapse before the completion of the work.

Chefoo reports that the recent blocking operation at Port Arthur was successful, and that only destroyers can now emerge from the harbour. As to this it may be noted that although the width of the entrance is 350 yards, the three-fathom channel narrows at one place to 175 yards, and that although, within the heads, there is a width of 430 yards between the end of the Tiger's Tail spit and the entrance to the basin, still, even in normal circumstances, a vessel over 300 feet in length finds difficulty in getting in or out. A small addition to the natural obstacles might therefore prove very potent. Still we can not believe that Admiral Makaroff would have reported free egress had the blocking operations been wholly successful.

It is stated that General Kuropatkin will make his head-quarters for the present in Liaoyang. The latter place is 230 miles from Kinchow, that is to say, from the key to the Port Arthur position. It will evidently be the great Russian base in Manchuria after Harbin.

Thursday, April 7.

Chefoo alleges that the available entrance to the harbour of Port Arthur has been reduced to 30 metres. A Chinese junk-master also has something to say on this subject but it is difficult to construct any intelligible story out of his statements. At all events he says that the line-of-battle ships can not get out at all and that even the cruisers find the navigation very difficult. Another steamer skilfully sunk would finish the job, he thinks. A Japanese naval officer is reported as saying that whereas the vessels sunk on the first occasion could be subsequently handled by the Russians, and thus dragged out of the fair-way, the steamers sent down on the 27th March can not be thus dealt with and must undoubtedly prove a very great obstruction. But it must be confessed that there is a great deal of conjecture about it all. The *Asahi Shimbun* has news from Tientsin that the Japanese squadron approached Port Arthur on the 30th ultimo, but that its object was solely to ascertain the effect of the blocking operation.

The Americans and Japanese who were seized by the Russians on the 2nd instant on board the despatch steamer *Fuwan* (?) are reported to be held prisoners at Newchwang on the charge of being Japanese spies. One of them, Mr. Washburn, is described as the son of a U. S. Senator.

Friday. April 8.

On the 6th instant two steamers, the *Chefoo* and the *Paoting*, arrived at Chefoo from Newchwang. The former vessel reported that in the sea off Port Arthur she observed four steamers without lights of any kind, and the *Paoting* says that she sighted a large number of search-lights. These statements, if credible, would seem to indicate that Admiral Togo is bent upon filling up the gap in the blocking line at Port Arthur.

Then we have another tale from the same place. It is carried by the S.S. *Suchuan*, said to have entered Chefoo on the 4th instant. She reports that on her outward voyage from Chefoo on the 28th of March, she encountered a fleet of no less than 27 Russian war-ships and was ordered to stop. The blocking operation took place on the 27th, so if 27 Russian ships were cruising about on the 28th it is plain that the operation failed signally. On the other hand Takeshiki announces on avowedly good authority that the Russian ships are all lying quietly in Port Arthur, whence they have not emerged since the 27th of March. Their torpedo-craft come out, but retire speedily on sighting the Japanese guard-ships. It is further stated that the efforts of the Russians to remove the obstruction caused by the sunken ships have not been crowned with success.

History certainly repeats itself according to its good old custom, but one would scarcely have expected to find the fact illustrated by Russians and Chinese. Yet it is indisputable that the public is to-day in precisely the same state of bewildered uncertainty about the Russian squadrons as it was about the Chinese squadron during the War of Reprisals in 1884-5 and during the China-Japan War of 1894-5. In the two latter cases the Chinese seemed to devote their energies to avoiding the enemy. While Admiral Courbet lay off Kelung, the Chinese hid themselves in Weihaiwei, in Port Arthur or at Taku. While Admiral Ito tapped the Chinese shield at Weihaiwei, Admiral Ting lay perdu in Port Arthur. And while Admiral Togo sends cannon-ball cartels once a week to Admiral Makaroff, the latter always manages to be *non-inventus* at the psychological moment. If Admiral Makaroff has a policy, if he aims at saving the remnant of his fleet from further perils, he is pursuing his aim at the cost of great moral sacrifices.

Our readers will remember that repeated reports were recently received as to the sinking of two vessels by the Russians in the fair-way at Port Arthur. An explanation is now furnished of this apparently strange manœuvre. The ships were sunk on either side of the *Retvisan* in connexion with the operation of floating her, which was successfully accomplished. But beyond getting her into the harbour no useful result was attained, as the dock is not capable of receiving her.

Chefoo telegraphs that according to a wire from Mukden the Japanese squadron looked in again at Port Arthur on the morning of the 5th instant and cannonaded the place. Nothing is said as to the effects. It is to be observed that we get all our news of doings at Port Arthur either from Chefoo or from St. Petersburg. The Japanese authorities, having no direct telegraphic communication with Manchuria, are naturally behind-hand.

There appears to be some confirmation of the statement that the *Boyarin* (armoured cruiser) was sunk by contact with one of the floating mines laid by the Japanese destroyers on the 10th of March. The *Jiji* quotes a letter said to have been received in St. Petersburg. Its writer says that the possibility of raising and repairing the ship is under discussion, but that it is feared her frame has been injured.

There is a rumour, published by the *Jiji Shimpo* as having been transmitted from St. Petersburg by the correspondent of a French journal, that Admiral Starck, on receipt of the order depriving him of his command at Port Arthur, committed suicide. The statement is not verified.

JAPANESE NATIONAL ANTHEM.

Kimi ga yo wa
Chi yo ni, ya chi yo ni
Sazare ishi no
Iwao to narite
Koke no musu made

METRICAL TRANSLATION.

Unto a thousand,
Yea, to eight thousand, ages
Be Thine Enlightened Rule;
Until pebbles, rocks become,
Till those rocks be all moss-grown.

REV. GEO. M. ROWLAND, Sapporo.

It is reported from Morioka that since the night of April 5th, a strong northerly wind prevailed in that locality, with snow on the following day. Much damage seems to have been caused to wheat and barley crops.

KOREA.

Friday, April 1.

The two Koreans—Messrs. Hyong Sang-Kon and Li Hakkeun—who recently proceeded to Shanghai for the purpose of consulting M. Pavlow. are said (*Jiji Shimpo's* correspondence) to have addressed a secret letter to the Emperor of Korea, embodying the gist of their conference with the Russian diplomatist. M. Pavlow said, and indeed his answer might have been accurately predicted, that Russia would soon send to the Far East a great army which would roll the Japanese into the sea, whereafter she would take steps to secure the independence of Korea. Therefore the Korean Sovereign and his pople might feel easy. So they will, doubtless. Russia's method of securing Korea's independence and respecting her sovereignty is on record at Yong Am-pho and in the Yalu Valley.

Seoul has returned to its wallowing in the mire. No sooner was Marquis Ito's back turned than the high officials assembled, having breathed a long sigh of relief, said to one another, "let us go back to the smooth old grooves and the nice old times of ante-Ito days." And they went back. Pak Che-sun, Minister for Foreign Affairs, found the turn too sharp and tendered his reputation, which was accepted.

It has been finally settled, we read in the *Jiji*, that the Korean Government shall buy the Seoul Electric Railway.

Asked in the House of Commons by what right Great Britain had sent 325 Russian marines from Chemulpo to Ceylon for detention at the latter place, M. A. J Balfour said that such a course seemed to be most consistent with her duties as a neutral, these men having been saved hy a British vessel in Chemulpo harbour. The Japanese Government, however, had intimated that there would be no objection to the release of the prisoners if they took an oath to refrain from joining the fighting line while the war lasted, and steps were now being taken to effect that arrangement.

News has been received in Tokyo that General Kuropatkin telegraphed to St. Petesburg with reference to the fight at Chong-ju on the 28th instant that 5 officers were severely wounded, 3 troopers killed and 12 wounded. He mentions Major-General Meschenko was in the fight. The names of the wounded officers are given. General Meschenko reports that the Japanese cavalry and infantry attacked with great valour and that he believes their loss must have been very great. He adds that among the 12 wounded troopers 5 are seriously hurt, and he frankly states that the force retired to Kwaksan.

Monday, April 4.

The business of the moment in Seoul seems to be the restoration of all things to their old grooves. What the Emperor desires is to secure the safety of the Imperial House, and no means of attaining that end seem more trustworthy than to increase the army, which is just what Marquis Ito deprecated. Then again His Majesty does not at all relish the idea of differentiating the Court and the Cabinet, as the Japanese statesman suggested, whereas some of his Ministers think that by no other means can reform be accomplished. It will be remembered that some time ago Min Yong-hwan was said to have advised the despatch of 2,000 troops from Pyngyang to guard the northern frontier, and that the prospect of such an expedition led immediately to 400 desertions. The story now told is that Mr. Min had no feeling of solicitude whatever about the northern frontier, and that his sole object was to remove the guards which the Emperor has at his command. From such a scheme the kind of spirit prevailing in Seoul may be inferred. The aged Minister Cho Pyong-sik is also mixed up in the intrigues, his aim being the elevation of Om to the post of empress.

The chief official in Wiju reports that the Russians have driven out 950 soldiers who formed the garrison of the town and have seized all their arms and other military belongings.

It is stated that the Korean head-man at Pakchhon was executed by the Russians for failing to supply provisions when required to do so.

The Korean Minister of Justice is reported to have compiled and presented to the Privy Council for approval a law dealing with the offence of having recourse to a foreign country for aid. The methods of punishment applied are taken from the Min code, which is terribly severe, and the offences enumerated are: seeking the protection of a foreign State; revealing to foreigners the secrets of the country; making agreements to secure the loan of troops, of money, or of ships from a foreign country or for the grant of concessions for mines, railways, fisheries, salt factories, lands or forests; employing foreign advisers; seeking to obtain office by the assistance of aliens; making use of foreign aid to create domestic disturbances; selling or acting as nominal purchasers of lands or houses in the interests of foreigners; and obtaining foreign nationality without permission.

It is reported that the Russians have evacuated Son-chhon and that a collision between them and the Japanese troops has occurred at Chholson. Son-chhon is on the coast 19 miles north of Chonju, and Chholson is 16½ miles still further north. If these statements be trustworthy the Japanese must be advancing very rapidly. On the 28th of March they fought at Chonju, and on the 1st of April we find them 35½ miles nearer Wiju. Chholson is 32½ miles from Wiju.

Major-General Flug sends from Mukden to Major-General Decino in Shanghai one of the most perplexing accounts we have ever read. It relates to the fight at Chonju on the 28th ultimo, and it flatly contradicts the report of General Mitschenko himself. These perplexities must be left to unravel themselves.

The First Bank has opened a branch in Anju. This bank intends, it is said, to push forward its branch as the army advances.

It is stated that a great scarcity of silver is felt in Northern Korea. The workmen in the American mines at Unsan and the British mines at Yunsan are clamouring for silver. Neither they nor the Koreans in general attach the same value to gold as to silver, and a Japanese silver *yen* can not be bought for less than 130 gold *sen*. There should not be much difficulty in remedying this state of affairs.

Much inconvenience having been caused by an exodus of the Korean population along the route of the Japanese army's advance, the Emperor, at the request of Mr. Hayashi, has sent a commissioner to restore confidence.

Mr. Hayashi is said to have addressed a note to the Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs—now Mr. Kim Kachin, the former Minister, Pak Chesun, having resigned—

urging, in effect, the importance of the reforms advocated by Marquis Ito, namely, a distinct differentiation of the Court and the Cabinet. Mr. Hayashi points out that, with things as they are at present, the Court often makes with foreigners engagements of which the Cabinet has no knowledge, and *vice versa*, with the result that many complications and inconveniences occur.

There is a report from Shanghai that the Japanese Minister in Peking has intimated to the Chinese Government that Hon-chun may become the scene of fighting. Hon-chun is a town 60 miles from the mouth of the Tumen on the left bank, but not in Russian territory, being within the Manchurian border. Mr. Uchida has therefore warned the Chinese Government that the inhabitants of Hon-chun should withdraw.

That is a wonderful tale. It has never previously been the habit of diplomats to constitute themselves informers as to strategical plans.

Takeshiki reports that the Vladivostock squadron seems to be engaged convoying provision-boats to the Tumen River for the use of the Russian forces at Hoi-ryong and Kyong-song. These are places within Korean territory south of the Tumen. If they be in Russian occupation, then it would follow that the situation on the north-east frontier of Korea is very similar to the situation on the north-west, the Tumen in the former case taking the place of the Yalu in the latter; Antung being represented by Han-chun and Liaoyang by Possiet Bay.

Tuesday, April 5.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun's* Seoul correspondent sends detailed news in the sense that the American citizens prominently interested in the Seoul electric railway are acting in collusion with the Russo-phils. Rumours were circulated some time ago that the leaders of the Russo-phils, namely Messrs. Hyon Sang-kong and Li Hak-keun, were helped by the electric railway people to leave Korea and to call at Shanghai *en route*, where they had an interview with M. Pavlow. It was further stated that these Korean politicians had been instrumental in inducing the Emperor to prepare a considerable sum of money for use in the event of his flight to the French Legation. This money, we are now told, has disappeared in company with Messrs. Hyon and Li, who have also pocketed a sum of 400,000 *yen*, being plunder in connexion with the sale of the electric railway. The line would have been readily sold for a million *yen*, but by adroit manipulation the Russo-phils got it put through at 1½ millions, receiving out of that total nearly one half of a million on their own account. They therefore leave Korea with well filled pockets.

The ginseng complication is said to have been settled by payment of compensation amounting to 20,000 *yen*. Probably our readers remember the story, namely, that whereas the Korean Government are pledged to farm the sale of the vegetable to the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha for a fixed term of years, the Court re-sold it to a French firm. The latter now receives compensation for breach of contract.

A telegram from London dated the 2nd instant says that, according to a statement published in the St. Petersburg *Official Gazette*, the Russians gained a signal victory at Chong-ju, and the Japanese force, raising the Red-Cross flag, surrendered. That is a valiant tale, but how it is to be reconciled with the official report made by the Russian General on the spot, we can not see just at present.

The *Hochi* and the *Yomiuri* allege that the Russian force which retreated from Chongju on the 28th ultimo, marched direct from that place to Wiju, making one night's halt at Sonchhon, which is 16 miles northward of Chonju. They left a detachment at Sonchhon, but this also is said to have retired to Wiju on the 2nd instant.

For the convenience of readers it may be well to tabulate the villages or towns along the high road from Chongju to Wiju:—

Kwaksan...	5 miles north of	Chonju,	approximately.
Sonchhon...	11	Kwaksan,	,,
Chholsan...	16½	Sonchhon,	,,
Yongchhon...	13	Chholsan,	,,
Wiju.........	19½	Yongchhon,	,,

The recently appointed Korean Representative at the Japanese Court was to have left Seoul for Chemulpo on the 3rd instant, but apparently some difficulty has arisen owing to the unprecedentedly rapid promotion of this Mr. Hyon Yong-un. and it is now thought that his appointment will not materialize.

The Korean Government, it is reported, intend to send, at the close of this month, a commission to Wiju and Yong Ampho for the purpose of delimiting the projected settlements at those places, and the commission will be accompanied by some officials from the Japanese Legation in Seoul. This sounds just a little previous, seeing that Wiju is in Russian possession. Some newsmonger has been getting ahead with a vengeance.

The Emperor of Korea has addressed a proclamation to the people in the sense that the land tax will be remitted this spring in the case of districts within the limits of belligerent operations, but inasmuch as the Japanese soldiers observe perfect discipline and do not commit any outrages whatsoever, neglect on the part of the inhabitants to prosecute their agricultural operations must be ascribed to idle fears and will be reckoned hereafter as their own fault.

Various articles taken by the Japanese from the *Varyag* have reached Tokyo, having been forwarded by Captain Hirose of the *Oshima*, which vessel appears to be chiefly engaged in the salvage operations. The objects will soon be shown to the public, probably at the Yushu-kwan in Kudan. Among them is a 37-m.m. gun.

Wednesday, April 6.

Accounts from north-east Korea suggest that small forces of Russians are occupying places immediately southward of the Tumen River, including Un-Kwi Bay, Kyong-heun and Chong-song. Apparently these troops are acting merely as posts of observation. They make no essay to penetrate into Korea, and it would seem that their chief function is to give timely notice of any attempt on the part of the Japanese to move against Vladivostock *viâ* Possiet Bay.

It is stated that a tolerably large body of Russians are making Chhang-song a basis and are pushing thence into Korea keeping touch at the same time with Kiulien-ching. Chhang-song is on the Yalu 42 miles above Wiju, and Kiulien-ching is the first place of importance in Manchuria after crossing the Yalu from Wiju. From this account it would appear that the Russian position on the Yalu extends from Wiju to Chhang-song on the south bank of the river, and probably the extension on the north bank is not greater. The troops in Chhang-song, who are described as making advances into Korea, are doubtless intended to protect the left flank of the force which had been pushed along the Pyongyang-Wiju road as far as Kasan, and which lately came into collision with the Japanese at Chong-ju. There is a road from Chhang-song to Sak-ju, and the latter is the meeting place of roads leading to Wiju on the north, to Chonju on the south-west and to Nyong-pyon on the south-east. Sak-ju is therefore a place of some importance and we may possibly hear of a conflict there. The *Asahi's* Seoul correspondent says that the Russians in all this district—north-west Korea—are seriously hampered by the want of good maps. They have a map, apparently, of the road between Wiju and Pyong-yang, but all the district eastward of that line is evidently little known to them, and being a very difficult district for military operations, this want interferes with their strategy.

It will be remembered that, two days ago, a rumour reached Tokyo—not, it must be confessed, from very trustworthy sources—to the effect that a collision had taken place at Chholsan. Chholsan is 32½ miles northward of Chonju, and another stand by the Russians might have been expected there. But the place is within some three miles of the sea-coast, and could therefore be bombarded by a Japanese gun-boat. The correspondents of Tokyo journals report, therefore, that the Russian outposts have been withdrawn from Chholsan, and even from Yongchhon, which is 13 miles further north. Of course, if that be the case there is no obstacle between the Japanese and Wiju, but it seems probable that the advance upon Wiju is not regulated solely by the amount of direct opposition likely to be encountered there.

The Korean Government is thinking of abolishing the North-western Railway Bureau, which has its rather apocryphal existence in the construction of a line from Seoul to Wiju. If the Bureau be abolished, its work will be handed over to the Railway Department, and the latter will deal with all questions having relation to the Seoul-Fusan and Seoul-Wiju roads.

It is stated that the total issue of notes by the First Bank in Korea is one million three hundred thousand *yen*. The Bank is affording great facilities to the army by opening branches in each place occupied, so that the military notes issued by the troops can be immediately changed for silver. These notes are now circulating at 90 *sen*.

The rice exchange at Chemulpo is to re-commence operations from the 19th instant. It had been closed owing to the dislocation of prices resulting from the war.

Both the *Jiji Shimpo* and the *Asahi* allege that the Japanese advanced guard entered Wiju on the 3rd instant, in the evening, and found no sign of the enemy. According to statements made by the people of the place, the Russians had crossed the river on the 2nd, the men in boats the horses swimming. From these same people it was learned that the Russian forces at points higher up the river, as Chhong-song, Pyok-tong and Chhosang, consist of small detachments. It is further rumoured that the Russians had no commissariat arrangements south of the Yalu and that they lived on such food as could be obtained in the district,

From the above it would seem that the river was not bridged, and in that event the Russians would of course take care not to risk an engagement, great or small, on the southern bank. But these reports require confirmation.

It will be remembered that a recent telegram spoke of unrest in Korea, and said that outside the Japanese lines order was not preserved. This is partly confirmed by rumours that obstruction is offered to the building of the Seoul-Fusan Railway, and that it has been found necessary to post gendarmes at intervals along the line. There is also a report that three Japanese subjects, clog-makers, have been murdered at Kaheun in Chhung-chhong-do, whither they had gone to purchase wood for the purposes of their trade.

The *Chuo Shimbun* and the *Jiji Shimpo* say that according to a statement made by the Captain of the *Hakuai Maru*, which arrived at Shimonoseki on the 4th, twenty Russians were taken prisoners at Chongju.

It is further alleged that the number of sick and wounded carried by this vessel to Japan was 190, and that among the number 33 were serious cases. Of these patients 142 were sent to the Kokura hospital and 48 to Ujina.

Friday, April 8.

It is stated that the British Representative in Seoul has urged the necessity of sending some troops to Eunsan, as the inhabitants of the district show signs of unrest. Eunsan is the site of British mining enterprise. It lies north-east of Pyong-yang and north of Sonchhon where the Tonghaks are said to have their head-quarters. These pests are showing some signs of activity. They have not actually risen in any force, but the idea is that they have been joined by a great number of deserters from the Pyong-yang garrison who carried their arms with them when they fled. The Tong-haks are bitterly hostile to the Russians, and it is scarcely to be expected that they will organize any movement deliberately intended to assist the latter. But their charity begins most essentially at home, and the most serious result of their unrest is that the timid Korean farmer refrains from tilling the ground, thus preparing the way for a famine now said to threaten the whole of northern Korea. It must be apparent, however, that to talk of crops not being put in while the snow is barely off the ground is premature.

The *Nichi Nichi* reports that the Koreans northward of Pyongyang show the best possible disposition towards the Japanese soldiery whom they regard as their deliverers from the Russians. The latter's conduct while riding hither and thither on their recent scouting expeditions seems to have been execrable.

THE YALU.

Monday, April 4.

A junk which left the Yalu on the 28th ultimo and reached Chefoo on the 30th, reports that there are a thousand Russians in Antung and eight hundred at Tatungkou. These numbers sound very small, but may be correct none the less. Probably the Russians in the Yalu region are greatly scattered. Their programme is to harrass and delay the advance of the Japanese as much as possible, so as to give time for the arrival of a consolidating force from Liaoyang, 170 miles distant. To that end they would naturally divide into a number of loosely linked outposts—an easy and safe disposition considering that they consist chiefly of cavalry. As each outpost is driven in, it falls back towards the Yalu and by the time that the Japanese reach the river, they may find a formidable army in possession of the entrenchments.

Thursda, April 7.

The situation in the Yalu Valley and its vicinity is complicated by Reuter's telegram conveying a St. Petersburg statement that General Artamanof with 500 Cossacks has occupied Unsan, and that he has thus forestalled the Japanese advancing from Chonju. This statement is inexplicable on the face of it, for Unsan is not at all connected with the main route from Chonju to Wiju. It is true that there is a road running north-east from Chonju *viâ* Kusong, and reaching Unsan at a distance of nearly 40 miles among the hills. In a certain sense, therefore, a Russian force at Unsan might be said to menace the flank of the Japanese advancing by the coast route to Wiju. But such a force would have to be very much larger than 500 Cossacks. It appears probable that the St. Petersburg telegram was compiled by some one quite unacquainted with the geography of northern Korea.

The great point of uncertainty is whether the Russians have retired across the Yalu or whether they are still holding Wiju. It appears tolerably certain that they have evacuated the various strategical points between Chonju and Wiju, but it is not certain whether they have evacuated Wiju. If some of the purveyors of news at the front would send intelligence as to whether the Russians have bridged the Yalu, we should have a tolerably trustworthy guide. If they have bridged the river, it may be taken for granted that they intend to make a stand on the southern bank. Some time ago a very confident statement reached Tokyo to the effect that a bridge of boats had been constructed, and the *Asahi* now publishes a report obtained from a Chinese subject who left Tatung-kou on the 28th ultimo, in the sense that at that place, at Yong Am-pho and at Wiju raft bridges have been built—three bridges in all. On the other hand we have the news received direct from the front on the 4th instant that the troops in Wiju have retired to the north bank of the river, and that in doing so the men went in boats and the horses swam over. It seems impossible to arrive at a definite conclusion. Evidently if no bridges exist the Russians will not risk an engagement on the south bank. There is, indeed, some reason to doubt whether they contemplate any cardinal resistance at the Yalu. That will depend largely, we imagine, on the celerity of the Japanese army's movements. If the latter do not reach the river in force until the Russians have had time to concentrate a strong army on the northern bank, the Yalu Valley will be the scene of a great battle. At present it does not appear that the Russians have more than thirty thousand men of all arms in the region. But they are probably receiving re-inforcements constantly from Liaoyang; or, at least, they ought to be receiving re-inforcements, for it is quite plain that so long as the Yalu line can be held, Japanese operations from the direction of the northern littoral of the Yellow Sea are scarcely possible, and moreover, the Russians remain free to make ulterior dispositions in Manchuria. If, however, the Japanese get quickly to the river, and, above all, if they effect a crossing at some point above Wiju so as to turn the left flank of the Russians before the latter have sufficient force for covering purposes, we may expect that a point further westward will be the site of the first big battle. What one looks for now in vain is that strong and harassing resistance which General Mischenko and his 6,000 cavalry were preparing to offer to the Japanese advance as far back as the 23rd of March. Our readers doubtless recall that telegram. It was published here on March 25th and it said that while the Russians admitted the superior rapidity of Japanese concentration in northern Korea, and the effective fortification of Anju, they announced that General Mischenko with 6,000 cavalry was "prepared to harrass the enemy unceasingly so soon as he moved beyond Anju." Where is that big body of cavalry? Something was heard of them on the Kasan-Pakchhon road, which runs eastward from the sea at a distance of about 13 miles from Anju. There two squadrons of Russian cavalry advancing from opposite directions, impounded a patrol of 4 Japanese troopers on the 9th March and killed one of the latter. But after that effort General Mischenko seems to have fallen back with some 800 Cossacks upon Chonju, which is 33 miles north of Anju, and we know pretty accurately what happened at Chonju on the 28th of March. There have been attempts on the part of the Mukden-Shanghai factory to claim a Russian victory at Chonju, but inasmuch as the alleged victors retired incontinently and inasmuch as General Mischenko himself reported the necessity of that retreat, we may safely assume that the Japanese won the day. Since then nothing has been heard of the Russian General and his 6,000 Cossacks. Probably the 500 troopers now said to have occupied Unsan are part of the same mysterious force, and will accomplish just as little as has been achieved by the General himself.

There appears to have been another skirmish at some point north of Pakchhon. Twelve Russian troopers were taken prisoners there and have been carried to Chinnampo. This seems to have been in the sequel of the Chonju fight, and it is very probable that the twelve men were a patrol sent out by Mischenko along the Kusong-Sakju road, who, returning to join the main body at Chonju, found that it had retreated and were taken prisoners.

It is stated that maritime communications between Chinnampo and the Chhongchhon River were to be opened on the 6th instant by the Hotta S.S. Company. Anju lies on the Chhongchhon, so that, in effect, the steamers will bring Anju into maritime touch with Pyong-yang. But we presumed that Government transports were already on the line.

There is a rumour that the 500 Korean soldiers who fled from Pyong-yang at the intelligence that they might be sent to defend the frontier against a Russian invasion, have assembled in the northern districts and, being in possession of arms, are harrassing the country and robbing the people. The Cossacks, too, appear to have devoted themselves largely to denuding the country of all edibles. They have been moving about rapidly in small parties of about 100, pillaging and destroying. The consequence is that the people have fled in all directions and that agricultural work having been abandoned, there is prospect of great distress, the collateral effect of which would probably be attacks upon the Japanese provision convoys. It is early still to speak of agricultural work being finally interrupted for the season. Probably the proclamation recently issued by the Court calling on the people to recognise that everywhere within reach of the Japanese forces there is safety, and that ordinary occupations may be tranquilly pursued, is connected with this state of affairs.

Friday, April 8.

All accounts agree in saying that after the affair at Chonju the Russians withdrew to Wiju, leaving outposts only at Sonchhon and Chholson on the road between Chonju and the Yalu. Subsequently these outposts also were withdrawn. It appears that no attempts were made to bridge any of the rivers over which the coastwise route runs. It is further stated that 8 guns which the enemy had brought as far as Chonju were subsequently taken back to Antung, and that there is no Russian force whatever at Yong Ampho. We hear again of Russian troopers taken prisoners, the number varying from 15 to 70, and some statements indicating Kasan as the place of capture while others mention the Chonju-Kusong road.

The situation seems to be now that the Russians have abandoned all idea of offering resistance south of the Yalu. They hope to dispute the passage of the river resolutely, so as to hold the Japanese there while the movement of concentration from Liaoyang proceeds, and with that object they have erected batteries on the island of Hosan, which lies mid-way in the river opposite to Wiju. But of course it is in the last degree improbable that the Japanese will limit themselves to a direct attempt to cross the river in the face of Russian dispositions. As to what the strategy now in progress may be, however, discussion in the columns of a newspaper is forbidden.

One is constrained to express astonishment at the moral tactics of the Russians as revealed in north-western Korea. The habit of head-quarter staffs in general is to minimize their own military resources and magnify those of the enemy, but the Russians seem to take the opposite line. A short time ago they told the world that they had made arrangements for the constant impeding and harrassing of a Japanese advance beyond Anju, and that General Mischenko with six thousand Cossacks was to undertake the task. But in sober fact the General and his cavalry seem to have confined their enterprise to a somewhat perfunctory stand at Chonju, in which only 800 Cossacks were engaged. Then they told the world that they had retired on the Yalu, smashing all the bridges and destroying the roads as they went. There are five rivers which might have been thus treated, but it now appears that the Russians never bridged them at all, and consequently there were no bridges to smash. As for the roads, there is only one that would have been worthy of such treatment, and it seems to be no better nor any worse than it was before the Russians crossed the Yalu.

It is not quite certain, however, that the whole Russian force crossed the Yalu without further resistance. Rumours arrive of an engagement at Wiju on the 5th instant, and of the occupation of that place by the Japanese advance guard. Even assuming the truth of that statement, however, the affair may be supposed to have been of small importance. Those familiar with the topography of the region say that the Yalu offers few advantages to a defending force along the southern bank, but that the northern has many natural advantages. At all events the crossing of the river will be the next operation of cardinal importance. If that be effected, the Russians will probably fall back upon Feng-hwang, where they have now a considerable force, and where they could muster probably thirty thousand men if all their available troops were concentrated from the surrounding country.

It will be remembered that news arrived recently from a Russian source to the effect that a Japanese force of cavalry had been completely routed by the Cossacks near Chonju. In fact the story read like a new version of the Chonju fight. Subsequent information explains the discrepancy and shows that there was some ground for the Russian story. It appears from the statement of a Japanese trooper who has just returned by the *Kosai Maru*, in a wounded condition, to Moji, that on the 22nd March a reconnoitering squadron of 13 troopers under the command of Cornet Muto, proceeded from Anju in the direction of Pakchhon. The sighted 3 Cossacks and attacked them. The Cossacks retreated rapidly, Muto's squadron pursuing, when suddenly a whole troop of Cossacks emerged from the shelter of a hill and opened a smart fire on the Japanese. The latter, being completely outnumbered, retreated. One of their number (Inouye, who gives this account) was wounded as also were 4 horses, one of which died. The Japanese managed to join the main body. They came to the conclusion that the Cossacks are exceedingly bad marksmen. It is easy to see that this incident might well have become the basis of a triumphant Russian story.

THE KOREAN FRONTIER AND THE YELLOW-SEA LITTORAL.

According to the *Jiji Shimpo's* information the Russians have cavalry posts distributed from Takushan to the Yalu; between Antung and Kiulienching they have constructed batteries on the heights, but with the exception of one hill there are no guns mounted; and in the same district—*i.e.* between Antung and Kiulien—they have erected parapets and palisades. As to the force at Antung, there is no definite information, but the people speak of one army corps, which would mean some thirty thousand men.

It is at all events plain that Antung is the basis of the Russian forces in the Yalu district. They intend to dispute the passage of the river vigorously, and with that object they are keeping touch with the Japanese as the latter move northwards, the Russian aim being to obtain full notice of any flanking movement. Chonju, whence the most advanced Russian outpost was dislodged on the 28th of March, is a little less than 70 miles from Wiju. Several days must therefore elapse before the Japanese reach the latter place, and it is probable that they will encounter opposition *en route*. Great divergencies are noticeable in the various accounts as to the strength of the Russians at Antung, but the estimate stated above, namely, one *corps d'armée*, may perhaps be taken as indicating the whole force available in the district. Of course it would be possible to take a much more intelligent view of the situation if we had any accurate knowledge of the front over which the Russians are extended along the Yalu, and the extension taken by the Japanese in advancing. But as to the latter point there is no information: everything is wrapped in profound silence; and as to the former, accounts have differed so greatly that no assurance even approximate can be felt. Some authorities have shown the Russian outposts as far up the river as Chhosan, which is 187 miles above Wiju, while others have indicated Chhangsong as the point of greatest extension, the distance from Wiju in the latter case being 70 miles. Probably the latter estimate is much nearer the truth.

It goes without saying that Russian cavalry videttes are carefully patrolling the littoral of the Yellow Sea, so as to give timely notice of any attempt to land. The force required for this purpose and for watching the shores of Liaotung, to say nothing of guarding the railway, must be very considerable. Takushan, which is the first place of any note to the westward of the Yalu estuary along the littoral of the Yellow Sea, is said to be garrisoned by some 300 Cossacks, and small detachments are posted on the Tayang river which flows westward of Takushan. Chinese junks appear to be carrying supplies of provisions to Takushan, Saho and Tatung, which doings a Japanese gunboat might well be detached to prevent. The whole disposition shows a marked scattering of forces, but in view of the great mobility of the Cossacks that fact has comparatively little importance.

Liaoyang is the chief base of the Yalu operations, and Liaoyang is 170 miles from Antung. The *Asahi's* special correspondent seems to have lately visited Liaoyang. He reports that up to the 6th of March there were active movements of troops at that place, but that since then comparative quiet has prevailed. He puts the total force there assembled at some 8,000 men, which estimate, if correct, would go to show that the main part of the immediately available troops have been moved to the Yalu Valley, and that the reinforcements arriving from the north will take their place at Liaoyang. Everything goes to indicate that one of the decisive battles of the war, one of the great contests of history, will be fought in the neighbourhood of Antung, unless some powerful flanking movement dislocate all the Russian arrangements.

The *Asahi's* correspondent speaks of large stores of flour stocked in thousands of bags at a point northward of Liaoyang, and says that at five places between Liaoyang and Fenhwangting the commissariat has established stations where the baking of bread goes on continually. The roads, or rather the one road, between Liaoyang and the Yalu is said to be in a terrible condition owing to the break up of the frost.

CAPTAIN HIROSE AND WARRANT-OFFICER SUGINO.

It appears that these two gallant men who lost their lives at Port Arthur on the 27th of March, were close friends. There had been an immense number of applicants for the honour of taking in the blocking steamers, but the rule made and observed was that none of the warrant-officers and men engaged on the previous occasion should be again employed. An exception was made, however, in Sugino's favour on account of the special relations between him and Captain Hirose. Sugino had taken part in the torpedo enterprise at Wei-hai-wei in 1895. He was in the boat sent to cut the boom, the most perilous part of the undertaking. Under ordinary circumstances an officer should have taken the place assigned to Sugino—the place subordinate to Captain Hirose in the affair on the 27th of March. But Captain Hirose applied to have the post given to Sugino. The two men had often expressed a hope that if either fell in battle the other might share his fate, and their wish was fulfilled.

We are asked by Captain Hirose, elder brother of Commander Hirose, who was killed on the occasion of the recent attack at Port Arthur, to convey an expression of his profoundest thanks to the many foreigners of various nationalities who, by telegram or letter, have conveyed their condolences in connexion with the death of his brother. Captain Hirose regards it as a high honour to himself and his family that such expressions of sympathy should have been sent.

NEWCHWANG.

Friday, April 1.

The foreign residents of Newchwang—according to a telegram in the *Asahi Shimbun*—held a meeting on the 25th inst., for the purpose of debating what course should be pursued to preserve order in the event of the Russians evacuating the place and the Japanese not immediately taking possession of it. A decision was taken in the sense of referring the matter to the consuls, but the meeting also passed a resolution expressing confidence in the ability and intention of the Russians to preserve order.

A Chinese man-of-war is said to have seized some junks attempting to carry provisions from Chinwantao to Newchwang and Port Arthur. The provisions were confiscated and sold by public auction.

Monday, April 4.

It is reported that the British Consul at Newchwang has notified his nationals that no obligation devolves on them to observe the instructions contained in the Russian law of siege, pending the receipt of some official intimation from the Minister in Peking. But telegrams from Europe indicate that no complications are likely to arise in connexion with this matter.

At Newchwang four steamers are said to have arrived, but no business is doing, and the merchants have intimated to Shanghai that the further despatch of vessels would be too hazardous.

It is expected that the American and English gun-boats lying at Newchwang will leave the place on the 5th instant. They will be followed by a large exodus of the foreign population, which, indeed, is already reported to be breaking up.

Latest news from Newchwang, published by the *Asahi*, says that there are about 2,000 infantry quartered in Yingkow with 200 artillery and 8 guns, and from 200 to 300 cavalry. Along the river Liao southward of Yingkow, through a distance of about 20 miles, detachments are posted here and there, their total number being about 600 or 700. In the fort at Newchwang 2 ship's guns have been mounted. Some trial shots were fired on the 22nd instant. The *Sivoutch*, from which these guns are said to have been taken, has an armament of one 9-inch, one 6-inch, six 9-prs. and five 1-prs. Apparently the 9-inch gun has not been disturbed. The *Sivoutch* herself is to be used as a floating battery, it is said.

All the coal in Newchwang has been bought up, this correspondent alleges. The locomotives are burning partly wood and partly coal, and their supply will last for only two months more. All valuables have been sent by the Chinese store-keepers to Shanhaikwan, and business is absolutely at a stand-still.

The sinking of stone-laden junks to obstruct the river seems to have been suspended, temporarily at all events, in deference to the protests of the British merchants.

Tuesday, April 5.

The *Asahi's* Tientsin correspondent says that the Russians have concentrated a force of ten thousand infantry and 3 brigades of artillery at a place within a few hours' march of Yingkow—probably Liaoyang—, and that they have mounted 5-inch and 6-inch guns in the forts on the west bank of the Liao. Had the Japanese landed on the 10th of March, adds this correspondent, the Russians would have retired without offering any serious defense, but they have now had leisure to make all the necessary preparations and a landing would be vigorously opposed.

The British Consul at Newchwang has definitely informed his nationals, under instructions from Peking, that a gunboat can not remain at that place. This decision, which we know to have been taken by the home Government, has naturally caused much dissatisfaction among the British residents, who see themselves thus abandoned to all the vicissitudes of war. The Russians, of course, will be guided solely by strategical considerations, so long as the war lasts, and will give themselves little concern about preserving order in a place remote from the field of immediate operations—even Russian soldiers, too, are not always agreeable as fellow-residents. Hence at any moment the unfortunate inhabitants may find themselves at the mercy of the Chinese bandits. It is a painful situation, and the greatest sympathy must be felt for people exposed to such perils through no fault of their own.

The Russo-Chinese Bank is stated to have loans aggregating two millions of taels in the hands of Chinese merchants, but the latter, though pressed for payment, allege that owing to the official veto on the export of bean-cake, they are deprived of the resource from which they had intended to meet their obligations.

It should be noted that the placing of bean-cake on the list of contraband of war is primarily Russia's act. Bran is apparently the idea of the Chinese Government, and of course the veto upon this particular staple will be felt chiefly by Russia, for Japan does not import bran from China. The Russian list of contraband is very compendious. In addition to the various articles enumerated in detail, there is a rider covering all articles capable of being used for belligerent purposes on land or on sea. Any merchant desiring to export such goods to a neutral country is required to deposit their full value with the customs authorities by way of security, and as the customs are wholly under Russian control, that order places an effective barrier in the way of commerce. It is difficult to understand what the Russians mean by interdicting bean-cake. Unless it be held that since crops can not be grown without fertilizers, and since the growth of crops is ultimately essential to the maintenance of a fighting force, therefore fertilizers must be regarded as contraband of war, the only inference to be drawn from Russia's action is that she simply obeys an unreasoning impulse to incovenience the Japanese nation in every conceivable way. Still stranger is China's conduct. Every word written by the *Jiji Shimpo* on the subject seems to us to be fully justified. In matters of serious moment China's neutrality is a mere farce. Her conduct in the case of the *Mandjur* was quite comical, and she has cravenly allowed Russia to fix the limits of the belligerent area in the West-Liao River precisely as suited Russian convenience and without the slightest regard for Chinese rights of neutrality. On the other hand, we now see the Chinese Customs not only observing strict neutrality, but going far beyond the limits of any neutrality hitherto observed. Eggs and bean-cake are put upon the list of contraband, the latter apparently for no reason except because Russia has arbitrarily chosen to make it contraband, and the former seemingly on the Russian principle that any stick does for beating the Japanese. Eggs are certanly a comestible, but their explicit inclusion in the list of contraband betrays a temper which China should be the very last to display, and which, contrasted with her palpably invertebrate assertion of neutrality in other directions, constitutes a just ground of Japanese complaint.

Wednesday, April 6.

A British steamer which arrived at Chefoo on the afternoon of the 4th carrying two thousand Chinese refugees from Newchwang, reports that at the latter place a steamer called the *Fuwan*, chartered by the Chicago *Daily News* syndicate for despatch purposes, had been seized by the Russians. She had two Japanese among her crew, but beyond that very slender fact no pretext for her seizure is suggested. The steamer's name is given as the *Fuwan*, but whether this is a Chinese name or a transliteration of "Fawn" we can not tell.

It is now stated that the Russians are bent upon sending the *Sivoutch* away from Newchwang. We have been hearing a great deal about this gun-boat of 950 tons. The latest was that her armament had been partly employed for the purpose of equipping the shore-batteries, and that the ship herself was to be converted into a floating fort. But the talk now is of her putting to sea. She ought not to have much difficulty in reaching Port Arthur, but whether she could enter there is another matter.

Friday, April 8.

It is stated that the Russians have carried out their intention of blocking the river at Newchwang by sinking junks and placing mines. But, on the other hand, Tientsin reports that large masses of floating ice are still carried down by the Liao, and that it has not yet been possible to lay torpedoes. The same rumour adds that a Japanese attack is daily expected there.

The correspondent of the *Chicago Daily News*, his two American companions and their two Japanese interpreters, who were seized a few days ago together with their ship by the Russians at Newchwang, are said to have been released on the 5th instant.

THE CORRESPONDENTS.

The correspondents who are to accompany the First Army have at length been allowed to go to the front. They are to assemble at Moji by the 6th instant, and will proceed thence by transport to Chemulpo, whereafter their destination will be announced and they will be carried to it by a Government vessel. They have certainly had to wait a long time for their permits, and doubtless the view some of them take is that whereas war has been going on for nearly two months no facilities have yet been granted to journalists. But the question is, have newspapers any right to be considered in preference to the interests of an empire. It appears to us that they have not. It appears to us, speaking frankly, that newspapers have succeeded in arrogating titles and setting up claims which have no basis of reason. If secrecy be not only permitted in the case of diplomatic negotiations but also considered essential in many instances, why should it not be permissible and sometimes essential in military and naval matters, where undue disclosures of plans or movements may involve not only the lives of thousands or ten of thousands, but even the downfall of a State? So far as we have been able to ascertain, the most experienced and responsible among the correspondents themselves take that view. But at times during their long spell of idleness some of them are said to have expressed doubts whether they would ever be permitted to go to the front at all, and whether the Japanese Head Quarter Staff was not deluding them with specious assurances and deceptive courtesies. Of course there was no real ground for any such apprehension. The delay has probably been greater than the Japanese Authorities themselves anticipated, but the causes of its prolongation have been beyond control. Not for a moment, however, was it to be imagined that had there been no intention of allowing the correspondents to go to the front at all, they would have been suffered to remain in Tokyo without a clear intimation of the fruitlessness of doing so. All that can be fairly asserted is that the Japanese Government has made a new departure so far as choosing its own times and seasons is concerned. We think it very likely that this exceptional discretion will be observable in the nature of the censorship also, and that correspondents will be strictly limited to describing things which have already taken place, and not even these should inferences as to future movements be deducible from them. Military officers universally will welcome the innovation, but the public's craving for intelligence will not be fully satisfied. One class of correspondent especially will suffer—the correspondent that invents whereever his narrative wants picturesque padding, or even when facts fail. But such correspondents are the curse of the whole craft, and their conscientious colleagues will heartily endorse any restraints put upon them.

THE POLITICAL PARTIES.

It is stated that the relations between the *Seiyu-kai* and the Progressists have become somewhat strained. The Progressists have shown a determination to discredit the *Seiyu-kai* by alleging, or suggesting, that from the latter emanated the proposal to increase the compensation given to the tobacco-manufacturers from three years' income to four years; a proposal which many people insist on ascribing to corrupt motives. Mr. Hara Kei, speaking at the usual post-session general meeting of the *Seiyu-kai* justly ridiculed the pettiness of wrangling about the author of the proposal, instead of considering the proposal itself on its own merits. He claimed that the sole object of advising a change from three years' income to four years' was to secure the assent of all parties to a measure savouring of confiscation. At the same time Mr. Hara explicitly denied that the proposal had come from the *Seiyu-kai* members of the Committee.

Nevertheless Messrs. Hara and Matsuda have insisted on resigning their positions as General Commissioners of the Party. No thinking person suspects either of these gentlemen of anything like corruption, but they naturally resent the treatment they have received. Their resignations are accepted nominally on the ground that they have long desired to be relieved of their duties.

It appears that Mr. Ozaki Yukio has not been a sufficiently striking figure as a member of the City Council of Tokyo. His colleagues have asked him to resign. The request is said to trouble him very little, but if he resigns his seat on the Council he will probably resign his position of Mayor also. Tokyo newspapers hint that there is an agitation against Mr. Ozaki because he does not favour the methods of Tammany Hall.

THE "GUNJIN YENGO-KAI."

This association held its inaugural meeting in the Nobles' Club on the 1st instant, under the presidency of His Imperial Highness Prince Arisugawa, the invitations having been issued by Counts Matsukata and Inouye. The Prince delivered a short address, saying that at a time of unprecedented national calamity like the present, everybody must forget self and selfish interests, and must work in the cause of country. It was an occasion to give practical effect to the patriotism of the Japanese people. His Imperial Highness expressed great admiration for the generosity already displayed by the members of the Association and invited them to continue their efforts in the cause of ultimate success. He also stated that the Emperor, the Empress, the Prince and Princess Imperial and the Princes of the Blood heartily sympathised with the Association's motives and had contributed the following sums:—

	Yen.
The Emperor and Empress	100,000
The Prince and Princess Imperial	10,000
Prince Arisugawa	5,000
Princes Komatsu, Fushimi, Kanin, Higashi-Fushimi, Yamashina, Kayo, Kuni, Nashimoto, Kita-Shirakawa and Kwacho	Each 3,000

Count Matsukata returned thanks on behalf of the Association, and Count Inouye read a report showing that the money already collected within the short space of a month reached nearly a million *yen*, which subscriptions had come from Tokyo alone, and the total would doubtless be much augmented when the various provinces had contributed. A cold collation was then served and the party broke up at about 5 o'clock.

H.I.H. Prince Arisugawa, speaking at the inaugural meeting of the Teikoku Gunjin Yengokwai, which was held on April 1st at the Kazokukaikwan (Nobles' Club), said:—

"Now that our country has been forced to face a supreme national crisis, under circumstances unprecedented in its history, our men serving in the Army and Navy are engaged in acts of danger and are sacrificing all their personal and family interests for the sake of their fatherland. At this unique period, this Association has been organized to assist them, in order to enable them to fight with contented minds and to devote all their energies to the ends of State. This enterprise is a demonstration by solid facts of the loyal and patriotic spirit of the people. It is a praiseworthy act of rare occurrence. I can not but admire the patriotic conduct of those persons who have so promptly responded to the appeal of the Association and have so munificently subscribed to its funds. I hope that the Association will make successful progress and fully attain its object through your co-operation and endeavours."

His Imperial Highness added that the organization of the Association had come to the knowledge of H.I.M. the Emperor, H.I.M. the Empress, H.I.H. the Crown Prince and H.I.H. the Crown Princess who had greatly approved of the undertaking and graciously given their patronage to the Association.

Count Matsukata, Vice-President, made a short speech in reply to the above address and expressed sincere thanks for the favour shown by the Imperial Family. Count Inouye, another Vice-President, also made a speech, lauding the enthusiastic patriotism of the subscribers and said, referring to the sympathy shown by English and American friends: "There is one thing to report. As you know, correspondents have been sent to Tokyo from England and the United States of America, where sympathy with our country's cause is deep and extensive. Those gentlemen have shown us a great deal of sympathetic sentiment, have earnestly approved of the objects of our Association, and being actuated by an ardent desire to lend material assistance to our men serving in the army and navy, as well as their families or survivors, have come to the decision to tender their valuable services and will co-operate in writing and publishing a book the contents of which will be matters connected with their own personal experiences in recent wars, namely the Chino-Japanese War, the Spanish-American War, the South African War, the Boxer disturbance, etc., and the proceeds of the sales will be contributed to the funds of the Association. I, representing the Association, feel impelled to express our sincere thanks to those gentlemen for their sympathy and kind initiative."

CHINA.

Friday, April 1.

The *Shogyo Shimpo* alleges—on what authority we do not learn—that there is great mortality among the horses of the Russians in Manchuria, chiefly owing to want of fodder. All the millet obtainable has been used, and the beans have now been distributed, but the fact is that without great facilities for sending forward a supply of hay and oats the large number of horses now in the country can not be supported. The railway, however, is too much occupied with other matters to serve such a need, and it is possible that the fine Cossack cavalry may be crippled.

Monday, April 4.

According to the *Asahi Shimbun*, eight Chinese Representatives in foreign countries have addressed a joint memorial to the Throne urging the necessity of administrative reforms. They say that although the Russo-Japanese war may not continue long, fresh dangers for China will surely arise one after another at later dates, and disasters of the gravest nature are inevitable unless timely steps be taken to prepare against them. The Empress-Dowager is reported to have been much displeased by the memorial.

The Chinese Customs have now added bran to the list of contraband of war. Great complaint is said to be made by British merchants as well as by Japanese, but the Commissioner of Customs is said to have replied that though eggs might possibly be removed from the list, he has explicit instructions from Peking on the subject of bran and bean-cake. We can not understand the principle adopted in the case of bean-cake. Even among food-stuffs for pigs it does not find a place, being a fertilizer pure and simple. Bran certainly constitutes a staple of food for horses.

The Commissioner of Customs at Shanghai has suddenly announced that eggs must be included among food-stuffs and therefore treated as contraband of war. The Japanese Consul-General is reported to have protested. But why? Are not eggs an important food-stuff? This question of contraband in the matter of edibles and potables is immensely complicated.

Wednesday, April 6.

General Tseng appears to have had a new schedule of demands preferred by the Russians; namely, that Manchuria not being neutral territory, the local officials must obey Russian orders; that Russia is entitled to appoint and remove Chinese officials throughout the three provinces; that she also has a right to collect the taxes; and that the Chinese forces must not make any movement without Russian orders, Tseng declined to take that view of the situation.

The Chinese Government has withdrawn the veto on the export of eggs and bean-cake. Probably the imposition of such a veto was due to a misunderstanding.

The *Jiji Shimpo's* Shanghai correspondent wires that Mr. Byron Brenan, one of the chief projectors of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway, has returned to England. He had attempted to induce the Chinese shareholders to postpone the construction of the line until the termination of the war, but being unsuccessful, has left for London to arrange financial ways and means. Meanwhile operations of survey are being vigorously carried on.

THE "HANYEI MARU."

The *Asahi* gives a very long account of the sinking of the *Hanyei Maru*, but there are few incidents of special interest. It appears that the little steamer had gone to the Miao Islands to purchase a junk and was returning to Chefoo with her acquisition when she fell in with the Russian squadron. The account given of the latter is very confused; we can not even discover the total number of vessels, but apparently there were 8 ships and 6 destroyers. It is true that the junk had a torpedo on board—a Russian torpedo which the junk-men had picked up and which they looked forward to selling for a round sum. The master of the steamer left the bridge and hid himself when he recognised that the squadron bearing down on him was Russian, and two of his crew followed his example. The result of this manœuvre was that, there being no Hirose to search for the missing men, and the Russians naturally concluding that all had been removed, the three fugitives had the pleasure of being in the vessel while she served as a target for the Russians. They say that 50 or 60 shots were discharged at her with quick-firing guns, but all the shells took effect above the water-line and it became necessary ultimately for one of the big ships to put a heavy shell into her vitals. All this time the master and his two comrades lay *perdu*, and presently they had the pleasure of hearing the Russian squadron take its departure. They then emerged from their hiding place, and the little steamer being in a sinking condition, they induced a passing junk to take them off in consideration of two bags of rice.

Mr. Consul Mizuno, after investigating the circumstances of the sinking of the *Hanyei Maru* and examining her master and the two seamen who escaped, claims emphatically that the incident occurred within Chinese territorial waters and was therefore a distinct violation of China's neutrality. The Miao Islands are of course Chinese territory. Every one that has made the voyage from Shanghai to Taku knows them well. It remains to be determined, then, whether the *Han-yei* was within the three-mile limit of the islands. This three-mile limit, it may be remarked *ea passant*, will soon have to be altered. It was fixed in old times solely with reference to the range of mediæval ordnance, but when guns have developed a range of 14 or 15 miles it becomes absurd that an enemy's ships should be allowed to fire indiscriminately within 3 miles of a neutral State's coast.

The latest intelligence is that this vessel was fired on by the Russians at a point unquestionably less than 3 miles from the Miao Islands, and that a flagrant breach of China's neutrality was thus committed.

Chefoo telegraphs that on the 31st ultimo the ten Chinese members of the crew of the *Hanyei Maru* were taken by a Russian war-ship to a point ten miles from Port Arthur, and thence proceeded by junk to Chefoo, reaching it on the 3rd instant. If this be accurate, it would follow that the blocking operation has not been successful, unless the so-called war-ship be a destroyer, which is likely enough. It is becoming a question of great interest to discover what effect the sinking of these four steamers has had. As to the *Hanyei Maru*, it is now stated that her object in going to the Miao Islands was to procure a cargo of bêche-de-mer. Her Japanese crew have not yet been released. They will be able to tell something interesting about Port Arthur if the Russians let them out, and it is scarcely likely that they will be held prisoners for any great length of time. The *Novy Krai* says that they number 10, and that they have been placed under guard on the *Novik* and the *Elmack*.

MR. AKIYAMA'S CASE.

Some time ago we received from Messrs. Ozaki Yukio and Inukai Ki a lengthy analysis in refutation of the charges preferred against Mr. Akiyama, proprietor of the *Niroku Shimpo*, and until recently a member of the House of Representatives. It was probably the desire of Messrs. Ozaki and Inukai that we should translate and publish their brochure, and we should willingly have done so had we not judged that the accusation against Mr. Akiyama would derive undue importance from such treatment. The whole incident was, in our opinion, a merely hysterical ebullition, and for the sake of the reputation of certain otherwise sedate men who, allowing themselves to be carried away by a wild vertigo, lent their aid to swell the agitation, our inclination would have been to suppress all allusion to the matter. We ourselves have had the honour to receive an anonymous letter charging us with being Russian spies and threatening vengeance, the basis of the accusation being our alleged intimacy with Mr. Akiyama whom, unfortunately, we have never had the pleasure of meeting. The indictment in Mr. Akiyama's case had probably just as solid a foundation, and we should not for one moment think of dignifying such silliness by serious notice. Japan is passing through a great crisis, and the remarkable self-restraint and composure she shows in cardinal matters is not unlikely to be off set by occasional ebullitions in minor affairs. The recent *Ro-tan* mania was an example of the latter kind, and its promoters will by and bye look back upon their childish emotionalism with profound shame. It is essentially a malady whose cure may be trusted to time. Mr. Akiyama's name can only be injured by provoking controversy which in itself invariably becomes a vehicle for developing prejudice. The *Niroku Shimpo* deserved some punishment for its extreme indiscretion; for suffering personal animosities to over-ride patriotic considerations. But there is a limitless interval between that and the heinous crime of deliberately aiding the enemies of one's country. Truth and justice always come out on the top in the long run, and Mr. Akiyama will be amply vindicated. Meanwhile the silence of contempt is, we think, the proper attitude to adopt towards his traducers.

WAR NOTES.

Friday, April 1.

The withdrawal of inhabitants from Vladivostock seems to be attended with great difficulties. So many are making their exit and, on the other hand, so much military movement is going on that the railway is hopelessly congested and trains are detained at out-of-the way stations for hours at a time. One instance is mentioned of a train being stopped for a night and a day. Presumably this is on account of the order recently issued that all persons unpossessed of a certain store of grain must withdraw from the town.

A Tacoma newspaper states that Mr. John Rosen, acting on behalf of the Russian Government, has purchased three steamers belonging to the Northern Pacific Steamer Company, namely, the *Tacoma*, the *Olympia*, and the *Victoria*, and that they have proceeded to Nome in Alaska. Nome being a place to which no importance has hitherto attached, the supposition is that these three vessels are to pass through Behring Sea down the Kuriles and thus reach Vladivostock.

It is stated in Tokyo that, according to the *Novoye Vremya*, the Tsar, in appointing General Kuropatkin to command the troops in Manchuria and Admiral Makaroff to command the naval forces, informed Viceroy Alexieff that while both of these officers were to assist him, each was to have an independent and responsible post. The Russian journal gives what purports to be an extract from a despatch of the Tsar to the Viceroy in the above sense. There can be no doubt if this statement be true, Viceroy Alexieff must regard himself as virtually dethroned. To be deprived of any control of the troops in the field or the ships on the sea, and to be reduced to the discharge of merely administrative duties, is to cease, in effect, to be Viceroy.

Monday, April 4.

A trooper named Tadokoro was the first to fall in the land operations north of Pyong-yang. It appears that he and three other troopers under the orders of Lieutenant Maruo had retreated eastward towards Pakchhon before a force of Cossacks moving southward along the coast road, when another body of Cossacks was descried moving westward from Pakchhon. The five Japanese, caught between two bodies of the enemy, saw nothing for it but to take refuge in a grove at some distance. Just as they were about to turn off the road along a track leading to the grove, Tadokoro's horse was shot. This involved a delay, the men being unwilling to leave their comrade whereas he vehemently urged them to depart. When last seen he was standing at the entrance to the path rifle in hand, evidently determined to cover his comrades' retreat. The next day he was carried in by some Koreans with a bullet through his body.

Shanghai telegraphs that on the 30th ultimo a Russian squadron sunk the *Satsuki Maru* between Port Arthur and Weihaiwei. The *Satsuki Maru* is a small steamer of 133 tons built in Japan in 1889 at the Fukuzawa yard and owned by Mr. Takamori of Hakodate. She was suited solely for coast trade work and no reason can be conceived for her presence at the entrance of the Gulf of Pechili. It is therefore conjectured that this story may be merely a mistaken version of the sinking of the *Hanyei Maru*. The *Jiji Shimpo's* Shanghai correspondent says that Admiral Makaroff has announced that he will regard as an enemy's vessel and will sink any ship which, being within the belligerent zone, does not show a light at night, does not run up her colours when challenged and does not show her colours during day-light. The Admiral does not limit this announcement to merchantmen: he promises to treat men-of-war similarly. It is a fine role, this devotion of a great Power's fleet to purely predatory purposes. If Admiral Makaroff wanted an occupation worthier of the flag he flies, he could easily find it. But perhaps there might be "five cruisers" in the way.

The Japanese subjects who were recently sent from Blagovestchensk to Stretinsk seem to have been most kindly treated by the Russians at the former place. They have addressed a letter of thanks to the Blagovestchensk officials. Such incidents are very pleasant to record.

It is stated that the Russian authorities have decided to establish their principal hospitals for war purposes at Habarovsk, Chetah, Blagovestchensk, Stretinsk, Harbin, Nikolisk and Vladivostock.

Tuesday, April 5.

It is reported that a force of Russian infantry and cavalry had an engagement with bandits at some point on the north-east of the Liaotung peninsula on the 23rd ult., and that 40 of the latter were killed.

Roumania has declared strict neutrality, which contrasts with the conduct of the Servians, who have formed a volunteer corps for Russia.

The prospect that Russia may soon seek a foreign loan of a thousand million roubles has led to a discussion in Berlin, Paris and Amsterdam as to whether it would not be a breach of neutrality to supply money to a belligerent. The Emperor of Germany is represented as saying that if China fail to observe strict neutrality, Germany and France must supply to Russia all the money she needs, and that the same principle will apply in the event of England or America helping Japan with money. This statement comes from a French paper and sounds apocryphal.

Wednesday, April 6.

From the Mukden-Shanghai Factory source it is alleged that Viceroy Alexieff paid a visit of inspection to Port Arthur on the 2nd instant, and that he found the harbour's entrance entirely unobstructed. But he was surprised at the shell-holes in the walls of the houses.

A Chinese subject who left Vladivostock on the 10th of March and reached Chefoo on the 21st of that month, is represented as saying that in the Japanese bombardment of Vladivostock on the 6th of March. several shells fell in or near the barracks on the east of the town, exploding a powder-magazine, destroying a telegraph-station and a Chinese cook-shop, and killing 3 marines and wounding 9. A Russian woman who happened to be drawing water from a well, was also killed. As to the forts, this Chinaman affirms that several shells fell in No. 5 fort and No. 9 fort, killing and wounding over 40 Russians and killing 3 Chinese coolies.

Thursday, April 7.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Petit Farisien* reported on March 19th that he had an interview with Finance Minister Kokovzoff, who expressed surprise at the recent panic on the Paris Bourse, adding that Russia had profited by buying Russian stocks at bottom prices. The Minister declared that the gold reserve in the Bank was actually increasing, and that if any metal was to be sent to the seat of war it would be silver, to the use of which the Orientals were accustomed. He said that the Russian Mint was actually casting silver bars, similar to those employed in Manchuria, for the use of the Russian authorities there. Finally, the Minister denied all knowledge of any purpose on the part of Russia to float a loan in France.

Friday, April 8.

It appears that all the talk about eggs and bean-cake being placed on the list of contraband of war by the Customs at Shanghai, has no foundation in fact. The question of vetoing the export of these staples is said not to have been considered at all. The same is true of Chefoo. but it being understood that the Russian Consul there has expressed some objection, orders have been sent to the Customs Taotai to look into the matter.

A Korean subject who has just returned from Vladivostock confirms the recently received rumours that the bombardment on the 6th of March was by no means the innocuous affair that the Russians made it out to be. A good deal of damage was done and the people of the town were so thoroughly alarmed that many effected their escape, as did also several soldiers.

The same informant says that the Russians who were at Possiet have all retired, civilians and soldiers alike, apprehending an attack by Japanese, and that there only remains a battalion at Honcheun.

M. Pavlow has arrived at Chefoo from Shanghai and is supposed to be *en route* for Tientsin. We expect that he will furnish some sensation for the public.

BOMBAST.

The action of Admiral Makaroff has provoked some ridicule in Japan. He proclaims that any ship found within the fighting zone (*sakusen kodo no hani-nai*) and not showing lights by night or colours by day will be treated as an enemy and sunk. What does the Admiral mean by the "fighting zone"? Where does there remain to Russia any maritime fighting zone unless it be the small area lying within the range of her guns at Port Arthur? The Admiral seems to pursue the tactics on which his country has traded for so long, bluff and brag. He is not in command of any fighting zone. He does not venture to emerge from Port Arthur, unless it be to creep out for a few hours when no Japanese ships are in sight, and to hurry back again as a timid leveret scurries home to her form among the hill-side rushes. The achievements of the Russian squadrons in Far Eastern waters since the war began have been indeed stupendous. They have sunk two merchant steamers, one less than 400 tons register, the other only 70 tons. There was some excuse for the sinking of the former because to carry her into port, a distance of 400 miles, might have involved the formidable contingency of falling in with some Japanese men-of-war *en route*. But why was the *Hanyei Maru* sunk? Unless the timidity of the Russians was so great that they dared not loiter even on a three or four hours' voyage, they could have carried the *Hanyei* to Port Arthur. They have a duly organized prize court at Port Arthur, and it would have been charitable to provide some occupation for it by means of the little *Hanyei*, for certainly it does not seem probable at present that any craft will be captured at a more convenient distance from the court's place of session. One is inclined to suppose that in these circumstances Admiral Makaroff would refrain from empty proclamations and vain threats, and that he would wait to accomplish something before so loudly announcing what he intends to do if he can catch any helpless merchantman without lights or colours.

That is the kind of criticism to which Admiral Makaroff is exposing himself at the hands of the Japanese, who fortunately have a sense of humour.

FENHWANGTING AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

The special correspondent of the *Asahi Shimbun* claims to have paid a visit in the middle of March to Fenhwangting and its neighbourhood. Fenhwangting is an important town on the main road from Kiulienching to Mukden. The correspondent found that between a point outside the south gate and the corner of the east gate, 500 infantry of the 14th Regiment were posted, together with 600 or 700 Cossacks. The Taotai had instructed the inhabitants of 16 neighbouring villages to supply, without charge, large baggage-carts drawn by 3 oxen or upwards for the use of the Russians, 2 for each village. It appeared, however, that the Russians were requisitioning many more, not for transport purposes, but to kill and eat the cattle. Bags of materials for making black bread were piled in great quantities near the South and East gates and were guarded by Chinese soldiers. The Russian officers were making their quarters in a temple near the West gate. All the salt obtainable had been requisitioned, doubtless for salting meat. Since the Chinese New Year the local officials had been compelled to work in Russian interests and would not entertain any complaints from the people. There was much fort building going on in the vicinity of Fenhwangting. At Saho there were 3,000 infantry, and 500 artillery with 16 guns were on the west of Antung. Some 2,000 newly raised independent cavalry were in the neighbourhood of Kiulienching, and along the Yalu about four or five thousand troops were posted. On the 20th and 21st of February 2,000 cavalry and artillery under the command of Major-General Karoff had crossed the Yalu into Korea and were still south of the river. Some 60 boats had been collected at Sakia on the north of the Yalu for the purpose of bridging the river, and iron pillars had been erected at each side of the river, but the sufficiency of boats had not yet been procured. The Russians had placed sentries over all the shops where rice, millet and corn were sold, and would not allow any of these articles to be removed. On the south bank of the river—the Korean bank—the people had fled from the villages, filling up the wells beforehand so as to prevent the Russians from taking up their quarters there.

AN IMPERIAL ORDINANCE.

The Emperor has issued an Ordinance directing that State aid shall be given to the families of non-commissioned officers and soldiers serving at the front, should it be ascertained that these families are suffering destitution owing to the absence of their bread-winners. Hitherto the case of such families has not been officially considered. It was only when men fell in battle or died of wounds or disease contracted on service that their parents, wives and children became in some degree a public charge. The new Ordinance is to apply also, during a space of three months, to families whose breadwinners are killed, are undergoing treatment for wounds or illness, or have disappeared, and to the case of men whose period of service is extended owing to their being at the front. We do not clearly understand why men killed in action should be included in the category, but apparently the explanation is that whereas the families of these men become objects of State aid even under existing regulations, some time always elapses before they receive anything; the purpose of the Ordinance is to provide that any assistance they are in the act of receiving under its provisions shall not be at once discontinued in view of the recipients coming within the purview of the normal system.

THE "MANDJOUR" AFFAIR.

The following official statement has been published.

The Russian gunboat *Mandjour* (1,224 tons) which had been staying for some time at Shanghai prior to the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese war, took on board a large quantity of coal after February 10th. On the 11th she was brought alongside the quay facing the Chinese Eastern Railway Company's godown and was taking a large quantity of ammunition on board. Upon this, on February 11th, the Japanese Consul-General at Shanghai called the attention of the Chinese local authorities to the matter. The Tao-tai of Shanghai required the commander of the *Mandjour* to leave the port as soon as possible, but the latter did not consent. The Chinese Government proclaimed their rules of neutrality, about the middle of February, according to which belligerent warships were prohibited from staying more than 24 hours in any Chinese port except in certain specified cases. Consequently, on Feb. 19th, the Imperial Government instructed the Japanese Consul-General at Shanghai to demand that the Chinese local authorities urge the departure of the *Mandjour*, pointing out that her presence at Shanghai constituted not only a menace to the trade but also a gross violation of the rules of neutrality proclaimed by the Chinese Government, and at the same time to announce that H.I.J.M.S. *Akitsushima*, which had proceeded to Woosung on Feb. 19th, would leave within 24 hours in accordance with the said rules.

Thereupon the Shanghai Tao-tai sent a note to the Russian Consul-General demanding the withdrawal of the *Mandjour* within 24 hours commencing from 5 p.m., Feb. 20th, to which the Russian Consul replied to the effect that as certain arrangements had been made between the Russian Minister in China and the Waiwu-pu, he desired to do nothing until he received instructions from the Russian Minister.

On Feb. 22nd the Imperial Government instructed the Japanese Minister in China to declare to the Chinese Government that in case of the non-withdrawal of the *Mandjour* from Shanghai within the prescribed time, the Chinese Government should, by right of neutrality, put the gunboat in such a condition during the continuance of the war as to be unable to participate in belligerent action, and that in case of failure to effect this obligation of neutrality on the part of China, the Imperial Government will be forced to advance their warship to Shanghai, and that the Chinese Government shall be held responsible for any consequences arising out of such a step.

On February 24th the Chinese Government requested the acceptance by the Imperial Government of the following arrangements agreed upon between the Chinese Government and the Russian Minister to China, by which the *Mandjour* was to be disarmed leaving her guns, rifles and ammunition in charge of the Municipal Council and the Russian Minister would solemnly promise by an official communication that the gunboat should not leave Shanghai until the termination of the war. But the Imperial Government did not regard the above arrangement as a satisfactory guarantee for the future, and replied to the Chinese Government that the Imperial Government deemed it essential either to remove the machinery necessary for navigation or to place the vessel under the direct control of the Chinese Government.

Upon this, further negotiations were carried on between the Chinese Government and the Russian Minister, and the Shanghai Taotai, on March 7th, informed the Japanese Consul-General at Shanghai that he had required the Russian Consul-General to remove the breech blocks of guns, rifles, ammunition and necessary machinery from the gunboat, and at the same time requested the withdrawal of the Japanese warship from Woosung.

On March 10th, a proposal was made to the Japanese Consul-General at Shanghai by the French Consul at the request of the Russian authorities that, if it was not objectionable to the Imperial Government, the greater part of the crew of the *Mandjour* would be sent home by a French mail steamer, and that before their departure a written pledge would be given that they would not participate in the present war. The Imperial Government replied through the Consul-General that they had no objection to sending the greater part of the crew home under written pledge not to engage in hostile acts against the Japanese in the present war. The disarmament of the *Mandjour* was slowly carried out then by removing the breech blocks of the guns, and by transhipping her ammunition to the Chinese warship *Nansoy*. Meanwhile the Shanghai Customs authorities expressed a desire to the Japanese Consul-General to leave the shells on board the ship as they feared accidents in handling the same, and the Imperial Government gave their consent thereto, and at the same time instructed the Japanese Minister at Peking to urge upon the Chinese Government to bring about a speedy solution of the *Mandjour* question.

On March 31st, the Japanese Consul-General at Shanghai telegraphed that, as it was inconvenient for the Shanghai Customs authorities to take charge of the rifles and pistols and keep them in good condition, they wished to leave them also on board *Mandjour* now that the necessary machinery as well as the ammunition were to be landed. This was also consented to by the Imperial Government.

On March 23rd, the Russian Minister to China requested the Chinese Government to cause the Japanese warship to withdraw at once from the port, on the ground that the disarmament of the Russian warship had been completed. To this the Wei-wu-pu replied that unless the necessary machinery was, in accordance with previous arrangement, removed from the Russian warship, they could not demand the withdrawal of the Japanese man-of-war. On March 28th, the *Mandjour* was moored alongside the wharf of the Chinese Eastern Railway Company and at last landed the vital part of her machinery. The written pledge given by the commander of the Russian warship (as to the crew who were to be sent home by the French mail leaving on March 30th) was handed over through the French Consul to the Japanese Consul-General at Shanghai.

On March 30th the Japanese Consul-General at Shanghai together with the commander of the *Akitsushima* inspected the arms removed from the Russian warship. As all of these proved quite satisfactory, the *Akitsushima* cleared from the port on March 31st, upon receipt of a telegraphic instruction, and the Imperial Japanese Minister at Peking has been instructed to communicate the above fact to the Chinese Government.

THE SAN-SHAN ISLAND INCIDENT.

It proves to be true that the French Representative in Tokyo addressed on the 24th instant, a remonstrance which the Russian Government asked France to convey to Japan with reference to the alleged destruction of a sanitorium on one of the San-Shan Islands on the 10th of March. This act is declared to have been contrary to Art. No. 25 of the appendix of the Hague Convention. The Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs replied that there had not yet been any report on the subject from the Japanese Admiral, but that, at any rate, the Article quoted had reference to military operations on land only and did not refer to naval operations.

In this matter the Japanese seem to be in the right. The part referred to in the Hague Convention of 1899 is distinctly limited to military operations, and though there is on record a statement that the delegates hoped on a future occasion to extend the rules so as to embrace naval operations also, it remained only a hope. Finally, the Japanese say that so far as they know, there was no sanatorium on this island: the only buildings were a naval signalling station and a few other public buildings.

SUBMARINE SIGNALLING.

Apparently an immense addition has been made to practically useful apparatus by the completion of the Mundy-Gray-Millet system of submarine signalling. Science had not yet discovered any method of warning ships against the dangers of collision on account of fogs, or against the perils that seem to result from the development of the formidable submarine torpedo-boat. All attempts to transmit trustworthy warnings through the atmosphere have proved more or less unsuccessful. But this new system, the fundamental idea of which is due to Mr. A. I. Mundy, which was carried through its initiatory stages by the late Professor Elisha Grey, and which has now been made a real live method by the industry and ability of Mr. J. B. Millet—this new system appears to be virtually infallible. For some time back it has been installed on the steamers of the Metropolitan Steamship Company, the masters of which vessels report "that they have been able, invariably, to locate, actually, the Boston lightship, upon which a submerged bell was being rung, when approaching at full speed (namely, 16 knots an hour), at distances of three miles and upward. These are the first steamers to make a practical use of the apparatus. The most striking and important use that has been made occurred on a Sunday last October when the *James S. Whitney* was approaching the Boston lightship on her return from New York. Owing to the severe gale which had been blowing for several days, the seas were mountainous. As the steamer came up Boston bay, the Boston lightship was obscured by heavy rain and fog. Not hearing the fog horn on the Boston lightship when expecting to, Capt. Grove turned to the signal apparatus, and putting the ear pieces to his ear, immediately heard the submarine bell and got his direction. Five minutes later, having meanwhile proceeded on the course so obtained, he heard, for the first time, the whistle on the lightship. No better test of the value of this invention could possibly be asked." American journals contain a great deal about this invention and it appears destined to be of immense importance in saving life and property.

GERMANY AND JAPAN.

Earl Percy, in reply to a question, stated that the British Government had no information about an alleged arrangement between Germany and Russia; an arrangement under which the former Power was to assist the latter—presumably by supplying arms and ammunition during the war with Japan—, while the latter, in return, would promote the Germany Bagdad-Railway project and would otherwise aid her aspirations in Asia Minor. This account of parliamentary proceedings is taken from telegrams in a Hawaii newspaper.

In this context may be quoted the following from the Berlin correspondent of *The Times*, under date of February 12th:—

> In previous despatches it has been pointed out that, apart from the strength of Russia's position on her Western frontier, she did not need to entertain any apprehensions regarding the attitude of her Western neighbours With Austria she is actually co-operating in the Macedonian question, while Germany has neither any inclination to attack Russia, nor has she anything to gain by doing so. In these circumstances it is somewhat surprising to be told, on the authority of the demi-semi-official *Lokalanzeiger*, that during the recent Imperial meetings at Wiesbaden and at Darmstadt Germany was sounded on this subject by Russia. It is added that the German Government may be taken to have described proposals of this as superfluous, on the ground that there was absolutely no reason why Germany should give any cause for for anxiety to her Eastern neighbour while Russia was occupied in East Asia. According to other accounts the German assurances were of a spontaneous and cordial character.
>
> It has not hitherto been the custom for Prussia or for Germany to issue a declaration of neutrality. The *Lokalanzeiger*, however, anticipates that on the present occasion an exception will be made and that German neutrality will be officially proclaimed.
>
> The *Hanover Courier* learns that the Russian Government, in anticipation of war with Japan, "made definite proposals to the Berlin Government which could only have been based upon the idea that the conflagration in East Asia would not remain localized." These proposals "would have amounted to a Russo-German alliance, and were certainly of a promising character from the German point of view, since they would not have interfered with Germany's obligations towards her old allies." It is added that Germany did not respond to these offers on the sole ground that to hove accepted them might have involved obligations which would have made it difficult for Germany to observe neutrality in all the stages through which the war may pass. This neutrality Germany will and must in all circumstances maintain in her own interest.
>
> All these hints and rumours, which are doubtless extremely inexact and misleading, may best be studied in the light of a lecture which the *National-Zeitung* administers to a section of the French Press. In this reprimand it is suggested that a systematic attempt is being made by certain French journals to produce in Russia the impression that German public opinion and its organs sympathize with Japan and are full of admiration for the masterly tactics of the Japanese navy. It is pointed out that the attitude of the German public is "calm and impartial," and a tribute is paid to the gallantry displayed by the Russian ships at Chemulpo in their encounter with a superior force. Every endeavour is being made to prevent the "tortuous paths" of diplomacy from being crossed by inconvenient manifestations of popular opinion such as the recent vigorous articles of the leading Clerical organ, the *Koelnische Volkszeitung*. In some quarters it seems to be believed that opportunities for reviving the reputation of German diplomacy will not be lacking, but as yet the occasion for efforts of this nature has not arrived. It remains to be seen whether anything can be made out of the American proposal for the neutralization of China.

RELIGIOUS SYMPATHIES IN THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

In its attitude toward the war in the Far East the Christian press of America, paradoxical as it may at first sight appear, is overwhelmingly in sympathy with the non-Christian combatant, says the *Literary Digest*. This feeling of sympathy exists, says the Boston *Congregationalist*, "not at all because Christendom has ceased to value Christianity and long for its ultimate triumph in Asia," but because it recognizes that Japan's greater toleration of religious views and her modernity in point of view offer conditions for religious propaganda and civilizing work which would be impossible under Russian domination. "In her spirit, her political and religious institutions, her agrarian life," observes the New York *Outlook*, "Russia represents the sixteenth century; Japan the twentieth." The New York *Independent* declares:

> "Russia claims to be fighting the battle of Christendom against a pagan nation. It is not so easy to say which is the Christian nation. Japan allows liberty of conscience. There are members of Christian churches who command her battle-ships, who sit in her cabinet, who preside over her parliament. There is the full civilization that has grown out of Christianity: public schools, the best education, the institutions of business and benvolence which are the product of Christianity. This has been given to Japan under the tutelage of Christian nations, frankly adopted from this and other countries. There is a consitutional government, elected rulers, courts, and freedom.
>
> "But what do we see in Russia? An absolutely autocratic government, with no local self-goverment, no congress, no constitution, no public school system, no religious liberty, the Dukhobortsi, the Jews, and the Lutheran Finns equally forced into exile, and the Armenians in the Caucasus driven to frenzy by the robbery of their churches and schools. Which is the Christian country?"

The sympathy of America, says *The Universalist Leader* (Boston), "instinctively goes out to Japan, which country has been bullied by the big neighbour into striking the blow which may involve the nations of the world." Japan is "the rising star of the East," adds *The Presbyterian Banner* (Pittsburg), "and the world hopes to see it ascend to the zenith." And *The Christian Intelligencer* (New York) comments:

> "However much as Americans we may remember the traditional friendship of Russia, may admire the presonal character of the Czar, and sympathize with the very proper aspiration for an open port, we can not but wish victory may come in the present conflict to the Sunrise Kingdom, the nation of the East which has been the first to welcome the civilization of the West.

Many religious papers, while affirming their sympathy with Japan, take the view that there are dangers, in the triumph of either combatant. In cases Japan wins, remarks *The Western Christian Advocate* (Cincinnati), "there is some reason for apprehension of a 'yellow peril' in the consequent self-assertiveness of paganism." *The Ram's Horn* (Chicago) says:

> "Civilization and Christianity especially have reason to watch with anxiety the outcome. It will be with anxiety whichever side wins, for neither Russia nor Japan is as yet fit to be the trustee of civilization in that quarter of the world. Neither of them is civilized, and [both of them are] far from Christianized. . . . Unquestionably, public opinion is with Japan. Considering that this young nation is removed only one generation from utter paganism, the progress achieved provokes the heartiest admiration; but it must be confessed that this very progress has made Japan conceited and self-assured, and in a sense farther beyond the reach of Christian appeal. It seems to many that slower development would have been better for her, permanently, if in the mean time her foundations could be laid in the solid masonry of Christian principles. Japan is not ready for so grave a trust as the leadership of Asia. . . . Though our sympathies are with Japan, prayers can not follow her into battle."

Russia's only support in the religious press, so far as we have noted, comes from Roman Catholic papers, and even these are divided in their opinions as to the merits of the controversy. The sympathies of *The Catholic Citizen* (Milwaukee) lean toward Japan. The Boston *Pilot* and the San Francisco *Monitor* favour Russia. *The New World* (Chicago) is emphatic in its support of the Russian side of the argument:

> "What cause have we to sympathize with Japan? What has Japan ever done for us, further than to take Mr. Lafcadio Hearn off our hands? Russia, on the other hand, stood by the United States during the great civil struggle, and this at a time when England was our enemy. She stood by this country during the Venezuela difficulty, morever; and would it become us, as a people, to repay her kindness with ingratitude?
>
> "Finally, if this is a Chistian nation, its sympathies ought to go out to a Christian rather than a pagan people. Crush Russia and paganism will be unified and strengthened throughout India, Korea, Japan, China, and Turkey. The Russians are schismatic Catholic, it is true, but they are Christians. If they win in the approaching conflict, Korea, Manchuria, and China will be made Christian before the century closes. If they lose, Christian civilization in Europe may begin to take flight. For our part, we can not see how Christians consistently can wish to see Russia overwhelmed. In any case, we believe the loudly trumpeted sympathy of Amerians for Japan exists chiefly on paper."

The Friends' Intelligencer (Philadelphia) expresses surprise that so few religious papers, in their comment upon the war, have emphasized the essential sinfulness of all war. Why is it taken for granted, it asks, that "war should seem inevitable," and that after twenty centuries of preaching the gospel of the "Prince of Peace," two nations should have the right to settle their differences by "fighting it out like beasts or savages"? The same paper continues:

> "It is not necessary every time we have occasion to speak of economic or political tendencies that point toward war to add a dissertation on the sinfulness and foolishness of war. But the editorial columns of a religious paper are not supposed to be devoted primarily to economics exclusive of their religious bearings.
>
> "Are we to think that whole masses of Christians are being taught by their leaders, by implication, if not in so many words, that it is impossible to be fully and completely followers of Christ? As long as we do not *believe* it possible to get along without war, it *is* impossible, and *because* of our very unbelief. Such unbelief is widely enough spread and does not need to be preached by Christians, who, in this respect at least, have not yet seen their way clear to give themselves wholly to Christ."

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

A brilliant banquet and reception were given at the United States Legation on the evening of the 30th instant. Among those that sat down to dinner were His Imperial Highness Prince Kanin, Their Excellencies Count Katsura, Marquis Oyama, Count Inouye, Baron Komura, Count Matsukata, Viscount Tanaka. Baron Kodama and General Terauchi, General Sir T. Fukushima, Colonel Crowder, Colonel Hume, Mr. Denison. Mr. R. H. Davis, Captain Marsh, Captain Manson, Mr. Egan, Mr. Bass, Mr. O. K. Davis, Mr. Copmann, Mr. Emerson, Colonel Wood, Mr. Palmer, Captain Kuhn, Mr. Fox, Mr. Laughlin, Mr. Dinwiddie and Mr. Ferguson. After dinner about a hundred and fifty of the principal personages in the capital assembled and the conversazione lasted until nearly midnight.

We regret to learn from a telegram in the *Asahi Shimbun* that on the morning of the 30th of March Mr. N. Th. Kolessow, First Interpreter of the Russian Legation in Peking, committed suicide. He discharged two barrels of a revolver into his head and one bullet entered the brain. Intemperance is said to have been the cause. Mr. Kolessow was an accomplished Chinese scholar, and his loss will be severely felt by the Legation.

We are informed that telegraphic advices have been received from the London Office of the Chartered Bank of I., A. and C. that at the approaching meeting of shareholders the Directors will recommend a dividend for the half year ended 31st December last at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum free of Income Tax, placing £75,000 to the Reserve Fund, which will then stand at £800,000, and carrying forward £63,000.

Eugene d'Albert announces in the *Frankfurter Zeitung* that German musical art at present is passing through a crisis which is not only critical for the concerns of to-day, but threatens the fruitfulness of the future. He says that, with the exception of Richard Strauss, Germany to-day contains only three great composers, and has no "young school" of coming eminence comparable to the young French school. Herr d'Albert, who is one of Germany's greatest pianists, concludes his arraignment as follows:—"The fault is directly due to the fact that Germany has become the land of materialism within the last few years. In former times we had artists who lived solely for their ideals, thinking little of material things; at the present time matters have completely changed the artist, placing his ideal, if he have one, after his love for material things. All means have become good, from the most vulgar advertisement to the most absurd seeking after foreign prestige, if the one great result is obtained of drawing the crowd and filling the theatre. It may be said that even the teachers of piano-playing have become business men exactly as in England and America. The public no longer believes in true talent, and yet the German youth does not lack in genius. There are many among the younger generation who would reach vast heights if they did not come in contact with professors who are not artists and consequently destroy the real soul of the pupil's talent. How is this evil to be remedied? First and above all, it is necessary that all those who have not an absolute confidence in the power of their vocation give up the artistic career, for every other career is open to them and will bring them in greater profits. The instructors should speak in this way to their pupils and they should also stifle their personal desire of making their pupils appear in public. Instructors should spare no pains in the formation of the vocation, for on this the entire future of the artist depends, and the pupils should be advised of the dangers and disillusions of the artistic career."

The Japanese Consul at Bombay reports that the sentiment in India is remarkably strong in Japan's favour. Innumerable offers of service come from all quarters, people being anxious to join the Japanese army in any capacity, whether as nurses or soldiers. On receipt of news of the first Japanese victories the Consul was deluged with telegrams of congratulation, and when a fund was started for the aid of soldiers' families, a sum of 20,000 rupees was subscribed in 10 days.

Prince Li, Korea's special envoy to Japan, is expected to set out on the 15th instant. It is stated that his preparations have been of a somewhat elaborate character as they included the ordering of a foreign costume and the dressing of his hair in foreign style.

Out of 700 Japanese fishermen who remained in Saghalien from last year, 22 have returned to Hakodate. They report that all the Japanese hitherto upon the east coast of the island have removed to the west coast. Everything is quiet, but there is a rumour that the Russian Government intends to arm and use as soldiers the 25,000 convicts now on the island.

The first overhead railway in Japan was opened to traffic on the 6th instant. It connects Ryogoku with Honjo on the Sobu Railway, and has a length of 75 chains. The work was commenced on the 18th of April, 1903, and the sum expended has been 1½ million *yen*, of which 600,000 *yen* was on account of the line itself. Another overhead line opened on the same day may be said to be a part of the above system. It is from Azuma-bashi to Kameido, which also is on the Sobu line. This second railway is called the Tobu Tetsudo. These lines will give facilities for flower-viewing at Mukojima and Kameido.

On the 6th instant Sir William Nicholson and Sir Ian Hamilton were received in audience by the Emperor, being presented by Sir Claude MacDonald.

To the British and Foreign Bible Society any declaration of war means sudden increase of work in a way that is hardly realised by the outside world. Before the war was declared between Japan and Russia the Society's agent in Yokohama had obtained from General Terauchi, Minister of War, permission to distribute the Scriptures among the Japanese soldiers going into active service. Fifty thousand special Japanese Gospels and 5,000 Japanese Testaments were immediately prepared, and thus the troops were furnished as they went to the front with Gospels published by British people. During the Crimean war 204,569 copies of the Scriptures were circulated among both the Allies and the enemy. In the Franco-German war the issues to the French and German armies considerably exceeded a million copies, and cost the Society over £20,000. In 1894, when China and Japan were at war, the Bible Committee in Japan distributed 113,939 copies of the Scriptures. At the present moment not only is the Society's agent in Japan supplying the troops with such Scriptures as they may require, but equal facilities have been granted the Society by the Russian authorities in Manchuria.

WEDDINGS.

The wedding of Miss Agnes Laurina Beatrice Ross, niece of Captain and Mrs. James Martin, to Mr. W. E. L. Sweet, of Kumamoto, attracted a large congregation to Christ Church on Tuesday afternoon, despite the unpropititious weather. Two hymns were sung during the service, Mrs. Field being at the organ. The charming bride, who has won a host of warm friends in Yokohama during her residence here, was given away by Capt. Martin. She wore a most becoming gown of white silk and lace, and bore a wreath of orange blossoms above her bridal veil. The bridegroon had as best man, Mr. O. M. Poole, while the officiating clergymen were the Rev. W. P. G. Field and the Rev. W. Weston. After a reception at the residence of Captain and Mrs. Martin, the happy couple left for the South.

The marriage of Mr. F. J. Hall and Miss B. M. S. Baron, of Coventry, took place on Wednesday in Christ Church, the Rev. W. P. G. Field officiating, assisted by the Rev. W. Weston. There was a large and fashionable congregation. The church was beautifully decorated with masses of cherry blossom and white lilies, and the music incidental to the occasion—the Invocatory Psalm, the hymns, "The Voice that breathed o'er Eden" and "O, Perfect Love," and the Wedding March—was most appreciatively played by Mrs. Field.

The bride was given away by Dr. E. Wheeler, at whose residence a reception was held after the ceremony. The bridesmaids, Miss Eileen Showler and Miss Doris Healing, wore Empire frocks of net over white silk, with red shoes and Dutch caps made of lace. They carried red baskets arranged with white marguerites and tied with red ribbons, and wore gold crescent brooches set with pearls, the gifts of the bridegroom. Mr. C. Gibbens acted as best man, and the ushers were Messrs. F. E. White, F. W. R. Ward, W. G. Peter, E. R. Thompson, H. Gunn and S. Wheeler. The bride wore a dress of ivory satin trimmed with ruffled chiffon and a berthe of old Honiton lace (the gift of her mother), her veil being fastened with a wreath of orange blossoms. Her bouquet was composed of bride roses and lilies of the valley, bridal wreath and myrtle. The bride's travelling costume was of cream serge trimmed with white moire silk, and black picture hat.

A meeting of the members of the Yokohama Amateur Rowing Club took place on April 5th at the Boathouse for the purpose of presenting to Mr. F. J. Hall, Captain of the Club, a token of their respect and esteem on the occasion of his approaching marriage.

Mr. H. C. Litchfield, who has been president of the Club for many years, made the presentation and referred to the long connection of Mr. Hall with the Club and to the valuable services he had rendered to it in every capacity.

Mr. HALL very briefly replied, assuring the members that he would as far as would be in his power, continue to interest himself in the affairs of the Club, and that he would endeavour to enlist the interest of his future wife in the sport with which the Club is so closely identified

NOTICES TO MARINERS.

The Minister of State for Communications notifies as follows:—

Notice is hereby given that Kawara-su Buoy, Southward of Hiro-shima, Shi-aku-seto, Inland Sea, which was notified to have been withdrawn temporarily, by the Notification No. 92 of Department of Communications, has now been replaced in its former position.

Notice is hereby given that a Buoy has been established by the Department of Communications to mark the position of the Sunken Rock Osone, the entrance to Nagasaki Harbour, Province of Hizen, as the temporary buoy moored there by Nagasaki Prefecture was withdrawn.

The Buoy is moored on the rock, in 6½ fathoms water at Low Water Spring Tides.

The Buoy is made of Iron, Conical in shape, painted red and black horizontal bands, and is surmounted by a Spherical topmark standing 10 feet above the sea.

The magnetic bearings from the Buoy are as follows:—

Kagenoo-jima Lighthouse ……	S. 73° 45′ W.
Iojima Lighthouse……………	N. 84° 5′ W.
S. W. end of Nezumi-jima ……	N. 28° 30′ W.

The Minister of State for Communications notifies that both the Staff Lights at Yokohama, Province of Musashi, and at Kobe, Province of Settsu, will be discontinued from the night of March 31st, 1904.

THE TOBACCO MONOPOLY.

THE stenographic records of the proceedings in committee show that the House of Representatives found itself much perplexed in dealing with the question of the State Monopoly of Tobacco Manufacture. Contrary to general expectation the principle of such an enterprise was not seriously called in question. There had been predictions that in view of past experience little disposition would be felt to sanction any renewal or extension of official incursions into the domain of industry, and that the tobacco-manufacturers themselves would be able to marshal formidable opposition. But these forecasts seem to have been ill-founded. The House accepted the Bill in principle. What puzzled the legislature was the problem of compensation. Something substantial had to be done for the forcibly dispossessed manufacturers. But how to do it? Originally the Government's scheme partook of the nature of confiscation: it was proposed to allot to each manufacturer a sum representing one year's net income of his business. That kind of high-handed dealing would never have secured parliamentary consent. More liberals counsel prevailed, and the Bill recently submitted to the Diet provided that each manufacturer should receive commutation amounting to the total of three years' net earnings. For the purpose of determining these earnings the Government conceived that the income tax returns would furnish the safest guide. There were 5,682 manufacturers in all, and of these 2,951 paid taxes on incomes returned as aggregating 2,836,159 *yen*. The rest reported their incomes as under 300 *yen* annually, and were consequently not liable for income tax. On these bases it appeared that the Treasury would have to pay commutation amounting to 9,100,000 *yen* in round figures, which sum it was proposed to hand over in bonds bearing 5 per cent. interest and redeemable in 7 years. But this method did not commend itself to the committee of the Lower House. It is well known that in Japan the public conscience does not acknowledge rigid obligations in the matter of income tax. People have not yet learned to think that there devolves on them any peremptory duty of assisting the Authorities to tax them. Hence, speaking broadly, the income returns furnished by the tobacco-manufacturers could not be supposed to represent their real earnings. Some members of the Committee were disposed to ignore that consideration. They took the view that if tradesfolk compiled deceptive statements the consequences must fall on the heads of the deceivers. The majority, however, while admitting the abstract justice of that theory, held that to apply it would partake of punitory proceedure, whereas the Diet's business was, not to punish the tobacco-manufacturers, but to discover some just and impartial method of buying them out. Thus far the Committee behaved in a logical manner, and had they then gone on to devise some other scheme involving an increase of the aggregate compensation, they would have been consistent. But they did not do that. They resolved to work within the Government's limits and to change only the method of distribution. In other words, they decided that the manufacturers should receive, *en bloc*, 9,100,000 *yen*, as planned by the Treasury, but that the money should be differently divided among them. Now it is evident that if this aggregate were just, then some of the manufacturers must be assumed to have over-stated their incomes by as much as others had understated theirs. That it exactly what the Committee appear to have thought. They observed a great discrepancy in the income-tax returns of the manufacturers; for whereas one company declared an income which meant that its net profits amounted to about 18 per cent. of its gross sales, the others showed profits seldom exceeding 6 per cent. Looking at these figures and failing to appreciate any valid reasons for such variations, the Committee seem to have concluded that the very high returns had been compiled with reference to the contingency of a state monopoly, and that the very low returns erred equally in the other direction. So they set aside all the returns and resolved that compensation should be paid on the basis of actual transactions, 20 per cent. of one year's gross sales being allowed to each manufacturer instead of three years' net profits. This change works out disastrously for the principal company, since, its rate of profit being about 18 per cent. of its sales, it would receive 54 per cent. of the latter under the three-years' system, whereas under the new system it will receive only 20 per cent. Now this Company—Messrs. MURAI BROTHERS—is maintained chiefly with British capital, and some people are disposed to believe that the true motive of the change made by the Committee is to discriminate against foreigners. We can not discover any evidence that such was the case. The stenographic records show that not a word on the subject of foreign capital was spoken either in the Committee-room or in the Chamber. It does indeed appear plainly enough that the Committee were startled by finding that the three-years' system would give to Messrs. MURAI BROS. more than one half of the total commutation money, leaving less than one half to be divided among the remaining 5,681 manufacturers. Any arrangement leading to such a result struck them as inequitable. But they will surely be accused of invidiously discriminating against foreigners, and experience suggests that the accusation will obtain wide credence. Certain Japanese journals, which ought to be credible, allege that strenuous lobbying was done by the manufacturers who would have suffered under the three-years' system, and that the question of foreign capital did not carry any weight. We do not see that matters are much mended by that explanation: it merely substitutes corruption for prejudice. The incident is unfortunate for it lends itself to a construction not conducive to Japan's best interests.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF JAPANESE CURRENT LITERATURE.

As indicated in former Summaries, the Department of Education has been attacked in various newspapers and magazines in connection with its hasty compilation of text-books for Primary Schools. It has now sent to the newspapers a long defence of its action, the substance of which we give below.

(1.) Certain of the books that are now being issued have been in hand over three years. This is the case with the works on Morals. It is admitted that neither these books nor those that have necessarily been compiled hastily are ideal works, and the compilers have no wish to suppress any criticism that may be offered on the part of educationists. It is said that since the books hitherto in use have been franked by the Department, they have been declared suitable for their purpose and hence there is no need of the Department's going to the expense of compiling new books. But in franking books the Department has had to be content with the best it could get. Its franking of books may be compared to that school rule which allows students who have over 60 marks to pass. It is a compromise between a very high and a very low standard. That books have been franked is no proof that they are as good as the Department considers they might be made. The books which have recently been compiled by the Department are in the opinion of the compilers no whit inferior to those used in past years. Free criticism is invited, and the compilers are ready to improve the newly issued works to any extent that may seem desirable. If by the expenditure of 200,000 *yen* even, a higher standard in the matter of text-books can be reached, previously existing abuses avoided and the minds of anxious parents throughout the country set at rest, the money will have been well spent. Hitherto the press has done next to nothing to improve the character of text-books. It has left them undiscussed (*Jūrai no kyōkwasho ga kōhyō ni yotte kairyō seraretaru no jijitsu no kinshō naru wa, jūzen shimbun zasshi no kyōkwasho no hihyō no ideshi koto hotondo zetsumu naru jijitsu wo mite mo shirubeshi.*

(2) In only printing a limited number of copies of each book the compilers have been guided by two considerations, one being the matter of expense, the other the question of the merits of the books prepared. The books are given to the world as specimens, and, instead of the compilers being afraid of criticism, they invite it. There is no objection to persons applying to the Mombushō for leave to inspect the books.

(3) The assertion that the Mombushō have insisted on their newly compiled text-books being used in places where no case of bribery occurred under the old system, is baseless. But what has happened is that books have been condemned on account of the acceptance of bribes from their publishers, and so even in places where there has been no bribery, the use of these volumes has been rendered impossible.

(4) Those who complain that in the Readers there is a scarcity of history overlook the fact that the children who use these books are taught Geography and History together in the latter half of the school year.

The other points touched on in the Mombushō defence concern the order of teaching Japanese sounds to beginners, the verb endings to be adopted, the method of spelling, and the like. Into these matters we have no space to go here.

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The whole literary world has gone crazy over the war. All the magazines discuss the situation and its probable outcome. The *Taiyō* this month is full of war articles. We shall notice some of these presently, but first we purpose giving readers some idea of the enormous interest evoked by the war by furnishing a list of the publications which have sprung into existence during the past few weeks. They are quite phenomenal. It will be observed that all the big publishing houses in the country are catering for the public in the matter of war news. These are the titles and prices, etc. of the various serials on the war, most of which are illustrated:

(1) *Nichi-Ro Sensō Jikki* (An Accurate Chronicle of the Russo-Japan War) 3 issues a month, at 10 *sen* a copy. Hakubunkan.

(2) *Nichi-Ro Sensōki*—Issued every Saturday at 10 *sen* a copy. Kinkōdō.

(3) *Nichi-Ro Sensō Jikki*—Fortnightly, 12 *sen*. Ikuzeisha.

(4) *Nichi-Ro Kōsenroku* (交戰錄)—6 issues in the month, 8 *sen*. Shunyōdo.

(5) *Nichi-Ro Sempō* (戰報)—Thrice monthly, 10 *sen*. Fuzambō.

(6) *Nichi-Ro Sensō Shōhō* (詳報)—Fortnightly, 10 *sen*. Heiji Zasshisha.

(7) *Nichi-Ro Daisensō-ki*. Twice monthly, 7 *sen*. Daigakukan.

(8) *Sei-Ro Sempō* (征露戰報). Three times a month, 12 *sen*. Jitsugyō-no-Nihonsha.

(9) *Nichi-Ro Senshi* (誌). Fortnightly, 13 *sen*. Kimbun Kan.

(10) *Shōnen Nichi-Ro Senki* (War Record for Young People). 3 times a month, 6 *sen*. Ikubunsha.

(11) *Senji Gwahō*. Monthly, 18 *sen*. Senji Gwahōsha.

(12) *Gunji Gwahō*. Weekly, 10 *sen*. Gunji Gwahōsha.

(13) *Sempō* (War News). 3 times a month, 5 *sen*. Sokumeisha. Printed in English and Japanese—for school students.

(14) *The Russo-Japan War*. Monthly, 12 *sen*. Printed in English only. Sonoya.

(15) The Kinkōdō has made an arrangement for publishing twice a quarter an English Record of the War, to be compiled by Mr. Yano Jirō, Rev. Arthur Lloyd, and some of the professors in the Military Academy. This, it is said, will be something very superior. The first number has not yet appeared.

(16) *Sei-Ro Zūye* (Illustrated Account of the Expedition Against Russia). To be issued occasionally, 15 *sen*. Fūzoku Gwahōsha.

Omitting the small pamphlets which have been pouring forth from the press, the following books are announced as on sale. *Gunjin no Komon* (Advice for Warriors) price 25 *sen*. Kinōdō. *Nichi-Ro Gunka*: Songs, compiled by Ōwada Tateki on the war and set to music, 5 *sen*.

Gunkoku no Yeisei (The Preservation of Health in War time)—price 50 *sen*, Sekibunsha. *Sensō Shōsetsu*, a novel by Emi Sui-in, 10 *sen*, Seibunsha. *Nichi-Ro no Jijyoku* (The Russo-Japanese Crisis) 20 *sen*. Kinkōdō.

Nichi-Ro Senshi (史) by the Editor of the Tōkyō *Asahi Shimbun*, Mr. Kurishima Yamanosuke, subscription price one *yen*, Itakuraya. Maruya has just published a new Japanese-Russian Dictionary, compiled by Futatsubashi Ken; price 2 *yen* 50 *sen*. A phrase book designed to teach colloquial Russian is announced by the Nankōdō at 50 *sen* a copy, called *Nichi-Ro Kwaiwa Shōkei* (*Chikamichi*). A phrase book designed to teach soldiers Chinese colloquial is announced by the Zenrin S'o in under the title *Shina-go sokusei* (速成) *Heiji Kwaiwa*, price 20 *sen*.

Another work, entitled *Nichi, Ro, Shin, Kan Kwaiwa* "A Conversation Phrase-book on Japanese, Russian, Chinese and Korean" 20 *sen*, the Kaibunsha.

The subjoined learned works have all been called forth by the war, or though previously in print have been in large demand during the past few weeks. *Senji Kokusai Kōhō* (International Law in War Time). By Dr. Takahashi Sakue, price 1 *yen* 75 *sen*, Tetsugaku Sho-in. *Sensō Tetsugaku* (War Philosophy). By Mr. Takahashi Gorō, 40 *sen*, Bunyeikaku. *Nichi-Shin Senyeki Kokusaihō-ron*. By Dr. Ariga, 1 *yen*. Tetsugaku Shoin. *Shichi hakase ikensho Kisō Tematsu*. This is an enlargement of the essay of the seven doctors which advocated war with Russia very strongly over a year ago. The book sells at 60 *sen* at the Shimizu Shoten. It is said that in its present shape it is one of the best representations pubiished on Japan's political situation in the Far East. As to war maps their name is legion. We have made a list of no less than 17 different maps. According to good authorities the best of these is a map on modern Korea and Manchuria published by the Sanseidō called *Saishin* (最新) *Man-Kan Chizu*. And as for histories of the war and the events that have led up to it so far, the Hakubunkan's *Nichi-Ro Sensō Jikki* seems to us not to have been surpassed.

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The *Taiyō's* immense size allows of its finding space for articles on other than war topics. It is pointed out in the March number of the *Kyōiku-kai* by Mr. Kubota, the Minister of Education, that the country's permanent interests will best be furthered by the attention of all civilians and of students and teachers especially to the business connected with their several callings. The war commotion has, it is felt, been overdone in many places.*

The outlines of the reform of the educational system of the country embodied in a Departmental Order issued by the Mombushō on January 25th are given in this month's *Taiyō*. We furnish the following short account of the nature of the changes to be made.

The details are yet to be decided on. The recent Order simply lays down principles to be observed in the reform which the present minister is bent on carrying out if allowed a free hand. One has to bear in mind, however, that this order was prepared before war was absolutely certain. Any changes that require extra funds, it is pretty sure, will not be effected within the next few years. Here are the bare principles as stated in the Order. (1) The alteration of our school system so as to make the connection between the various schools closer and to prevent such embarrassing of pupils as now exists. (2) The creation of Preparatory Departments in Middle Schools and the recasting of the cúrricula followed in these schools. (3) The placing of half of the High Schools under the Universities and the conversion of the other half into technical colleges. (4) The reform of the University system of education and the creation of additional Universities; the design being to set apart the two existing Universities as seats of high learning and for the encouragement of theoretical investigation of all kinds and the devotion of the newly created Universities to the training of practical men such as modern times call for. (5) The alteration of the rules of the Universities so as to allow students within certain limits to choose the subjects which they wish to study; the attendance on certain lectures only being compulsory; the rest being made voluntary. (6) The reform of the High Normal Schools and of all Provincial Normal Schools. (7) The enlargement of such technical and business schools as exist and the creation of new ones, in order to supply the increasing demand of the country for practical, well trained men. (8) The improvement and stimulation of female education. (9) The adoption of such measures as may be deemed necessary for the stamping out of the idle, purposeless, theorizing class of student and for the creation of an energetic race of boys and girls, who shall glory in work of a practical kind and be endowed with pluck to overcome all difficulties. (10) In all ordinary schools the habit of exalting intellectual culture above moral and physical culture shall be abandoned. (11) The compilation of new rules relating to Education Societies.† (12) The shortening of school courses wherever such a measure is feasible. (13) The revision of the curricula of all schools, so as to lighten the burdens of the students. (14) The further development of the half-day school system. (15) The correction of abuses connected with examinations. (16) An increase in the number of good teachers, in the improvement of methods of teaching and in the methods of conducting schools, so as to allow of greater progress being made. (17) Revision of the school fees, involving an increase of the charges in all schools but Primary and Special Schools. (18) The abolition of tedious and useless rules and restraints and the placing of more responsibility on school teachers. (19) The alteration of the rules relating to the inspection and control of private schools in the direction of allowing these institutions more liberty, except in the case of schools that abuse this privilege. Then follow a number of particulars bearing on the manner of dealing with teachers. More care is to be taken in the choice of directors of schools. The school inspection system, and the rules relating to the granting of degrees are to be revised and other minor changes are in contemplation. It will be perceived that a large number of the proposed reforms require no extra funds. These, it is to be hoped, will be put into operation. The *Taiyō* has always been a staunch supporter of Mr. Kubota and still expects great things from him.

The views of Count Ōkuma, Viscount Tani and Mr. Sasa Tomofusa, M.P., on the war are given in this month's *Taiyō*. Count Ōkuma says that the strain on the nation can be easily borne if the burdens are skilfully distributed. In taxation and in floating loans much care will have to be taken that things are not carried to excess in any one direction. We must be prepared, says the Count, to spend at least 500 million *yen* a year while the war lasts. After going into the subject of taxation the Count goes on to note the following special characteristics of the present war. (1) In the first place Japan will have to put more men into the field than she has done in any previous war. (2) In the great wars of history usually when small countries have fought successfully against big countries, the former have been more civilised than the latter, and the war has not infrequently been in reality a contest between a higher and lower type of civilisation. So it was when in a single day the Greeks destroyed the Persian fleet and so was it when England fought against the great Spanish Armada. And so it is to-day when civilised Japan finds herself confronted with barbarian Russia. (*Kondo no tatakai wa Nihon naru bummei no shōkoku* (小國) *ga Russia naru yaban no taikoku wo utsu no de, jūrai rei no nai tatakai de, Nihon wa bummei no gisen wo yaru no de aru*). (3) For many a long year there has been no battling for a principle in the way Japan is doing. There was no such war in the nineteenth century.‡ Japan fights on behalf of all civilised peoples. If she comes off victorious, it will then be seen that it is possible for a non-Christian country to act in a highly honourable, generous, and humane manner, and so the myth that these virtues exclusively belong to Christians will be effectually exploded. As one of the results of this war, certain long-standing race antipathies will be removed and international relations will enter on an entirely new era. (4) In uncivilised countries war is waged at the bidding of a despotic monarch and with the object of gaining his favour. The Russians fight for the Czar*, but this war as far as we are concerned is waged on behalf of the whole nation. It is essentially the people's war. (*Nihon no kondo no tatakai wa kokumin ga yōkyū shita no de, kokumin teki no gun to Kunshu teki no gun to shōhai wo kessuru no de aru kara, kore mata ōini rekiski-jō ni atai aru koto de arō to omou*). (5) The question of how far it will be necessary for us to extend military operations in order to obtain what we are fighting for is a difficult one. There will have to be a great decisive battle in Manchuria where the two armies will meet in full force. Supposing that we are victorious and that the Russian forces are driven out of Manchuria, a not improbable contingency would be jealousy of our power on the part of ome Western countries, and we might be forceds under these circumstances to accept terms which would not be altogether satisfactory. But if this does not occur, then we must be prepared not only to conquer Siberia, but to go as far as St. Petersburg and make our terms there. But if this be considered too great an undertaking, we may be able by negotiation with other Powers to take measures that shall prevent Russia's future incursions on Chinese territory.

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* In one large garrison town the students belonging to various schools for 6 days and 6 nights, in batches, stood by the side of a road where the soldiers were passing in order to cheer them. Study stopped and it took days after the week was over to quiet the minds of the boys in order to teach them. —(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

† These Societies, though professing to be voluntary and independent, are in reality creations of the Mombushō or of their employees.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

‡ This is certainly questionable. The Americans, for instance, maintain that their war was fought to establish a principle.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

* This reminds us of Alfred Austin's recent poem. "Moving Onward," published in the *Times* early in January. "And Muscovite legions tramping on, doing the will of the Tsar." Another verse ends "while their sons and lovers march warward, deathward, doing the will of the Tsar." But the Japanese complaint so far is that the Muscovite does not march "warward" nor "deathward," if there is any other way to go. But things may alter.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY).

Viscount Tani writes of his experience of Russian troops. He does not think that the Japanese have anything to fear from them. As warriors they have many grave defects when compared with Japanese soldiers; but still Japan will not have such easy work as when fighting against the Chinese, and she must act very cautiously.

Mr. Sasa Tomofusa speaks in high praise of the manner in which long, wearisome, temper-trying negotiations were conducted by the Katsura Cabinet. Many hard things were said against the Government while the public were in ignorance of what was going on, but to-day it appears that in continuing the negotiations as long as there was the faintest chance of this country's obtaining its object without war, the Government was winning renown for itself in foreign countries and enlisting the sympathy of all fair-minded persons on Japan's side in the event of war. For the sake of this the Katsura Cabinet cheerfully bore the charge of timidity and lack of backbone. They realised that Japan's final success depends upon her receiving the support of unprejudiced Western Powers.†

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In the form of occasional extra numbers of the *Taiyō*, the Hakubutsukan issues valuable historical and other works. On January 15th last a "History of the Japanese Imperial Diet" appeared as Vol. I. of the "History of the Meiji Era," which this big publishing house has in contemplation. The work proper covers 189 large-sized, closely printed pages. It is followed by a supplement, entitled a "History of the 36th years of Meiji" (1903). In the preface to the History of the Diet, the author, whose name is not given, says:—The compiler of this history has made it his chief object to furnish a correct acconnt of the principal business transacted by the Diet during its 19 sessions, to draw attention to the great questions discussed and to describe the conflicts between the Cabinet and the Diet during the period under review. This being a history of the Diet and not a history of Japanese politics generally, a number of political questions of interest are not treated or even mentioned here. The history of the Diet having stretched over 14 years and the changes of Cabinet during that time having been very numerous, it was only by strictly excluding all extraneous matter that the history could be kept within the prescribed limits. Lengthy and involved discussions have as a rule had to be omitted. But in the discussions on the Budget the author has deemed it necessary to go into details somewhat closely. It has been usually over the Budget that the greatest conflicts between the Diet and the Government have taken place. The work, says the author, pretends to be no more than a bare record of salients facts and there has been no attempt to present the facts in a taking manner; but great care has been exercised in the choice of material and exaggeration of every kind has been avoided. The book begins with an account of the condition of affairs prior to the opening of the Diet, a brief account of the first General Election and the choice of Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Houses, etc., and then goes on to record in order the business of the first Session. As a handy book of reference the *Gikai-Shi* will be welcomed by Japanese politicians and by foreign scholars. The whole volume, covering 263 pages, sells at 25 *sen* a copy.

The Hakubunkan announces that it proposes to collect material for an exhaustive history of the Meiji era by issuing every January histories of the kind now given to the public. The subjects to be treated hereafter are stated to be, Foreign Intercourse and Diplomacy, Finance, Military Affairs, Literature and Art, Law, Education, Production and Means of Communication. As a supplement to each volume a history of the previous year will be given; so that the reader may be able to trace clearly the steps of progress made in various particulars year by year. As the chief object of this scheme is to collect historical material of a thoroughly reliable character, the records will not voice personal or party opinions of any kind, but will be compiled in a thoroughly impartial and unimpassioned spirit.

The "History of 1903" forming the Supplement of the *Gikai-Shi*, is given under the following headings. (1) *Politics*, p. 202—p. 214. (2) *Diplomacy*, p. 214—p. 230—giving a detailed account of the Far Eastern crisis and the various negotiations with Russia, Korea and China. (3) *Military and Naval Affairs*, pp. 230, 231. (4) *Finance, Economy*, &c., p. 232—p. 240. Under this heading, Commerce, Communication, Productions, &c., are dealt with. (5) *Society and Education* p. 240—p. 250. Under this heading a number of interesting facts are recorded. Such as the establishment of the New Medical College at Fukuoka, which at present is subject to the control of the Kyōto University, but eventually will become independent, it is said; the founding of a high class School of Forestry and Agriculture at Morioka, the Conversion of the Waseda Semmon Gakkō into a University and the treatment of certain of the Tōkyō Law Schools in the same manner. (6) *Religion* p. 250—p. 253. (7) *Fine Art* p. 253—p. 258. (8) *Literature*, p. 258—p. 263. Under this heading the losses the literary world sustained last year in the deaths of Dr. Takayama, Mr. Ozaki Kōyō, Mr. Ochiai Nawobumi and Mr. Masaoka Shiki are dwelt upon. Among these four Mr. Ozaki was the most prolific writer. During the past 15 years his works have been pouring out of the press. His first novel came out in 1889, entitled *Fūryū Kyōningyō*. The next year he published "Yes and No." The works which followed up to the time of his death number nearly 60. Some of these of course were very short, but together they cover a wide area and reveal no ordinary amount of originality. He died at the age of 38. Mr. Ochiai was a native of Sendai. He studied at the Imperial University Japanese ancient literature and devoted his after-life to writing works on the Japanese language. He left the University to serve his term in the army without graduating. He was the author of a grammar called *Nihon Daibunten*, of a Dictionary called *Kotoba no Izumi*,* of an Historical Reader called *Nihon Rekishi Tokuhon*, of a "Minute Commentary" on the *Ōkagami* called 大鏡詳解, *Ōkagami Shōkai*, and of another Commentary called *Kokubun Hyōshaku*. He was engaged in the compilation of a big literary work called the 日本文學全書, *Nihon Bungakuzensho*, up to the time of his last illness.

Commenting in a general way on the history of literature in 1903 the work we are reviewing says: Funeral followed funeral. Beyond that there is little of great importance to record. But the passing away of our greatest realistic fiction-writer will probably have a marked effect on literature and turn public attention none too early to quite another class of novel, the "purpose-novel." Mr. Ozaki's fiction, continues this writer, does not go very deep into the workings of the human heart. There is realism and realism. Mr. Ozaki's was surface realism. Among purpose-novels Mr. Tokutomi Rokwa's (the brother of the Editor of the *Kokumin Shimbun*) *Kuroshiwo* stands high. Kosugi Tengwai's realistic work, *Makaze, Koikaze* (The Devil's Wind and Love's Wind) is much read. Both these works are very up-to-date in their ideas. Other novels that are attracting attention are Kōda Rohan's *Sora utsu Nami* and Kawakami Bisan's *Ishimaki Shōzaemon*, both long works and well written. Among translated plays that issued from the press during the year were "The Merchant of Venice," "Othello," "King Lear" "Hamlet," and the "Comedy of Errors."

The religious world, says this history, has not during the past year shown any tendency to stir up the philosophic world, but rather has been swayed by two philosophical works which have appeared, Mr. Kuroiwa's *Tenjin Ron* and Mr. Takahashi Gorō's *Jinseikwan*. Lovers of philosophy will be pleased to know that all Plato's works have been translated into Japanese by Dr. Matsumoto and Mr. Kimura Takatarō. This is an addition to our reference books on philosophy that is of priceless value. As to works on history there is little to be said. Dr. Tsuboi's *Shigaku Kenkyū-hō* is perhaps the only new and valuable work on this subject that appeared during the year, if the *Zoku Kokushi Taikei*, the *Yashi* (野史) and the *Nisshin Senshi*, works subscribed for a long time ago, be excepted.

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Orthographic reform looks to be a little nearer than it was a few years ago. Certain high Mombushō officials seem at last to see that the thing must come sooner or later otherwise Japan will be hopelessly handicapped in the race for precedence among the nations of the world. A few months ago Mr. Sawayanagi published an article in the *Kyōikukai* entitled *Kokumin no ichi Daimondai* (A great National Question), in which he advocates radical changes, leaning to the side of those who recommend the adoption of Roman letters. In the March number of the *Kyōikukai* Mr. Terata Yūkichi (formerly Director of the Tōkyō High Commercial School) comments on Mr. Sawayanagi's essay. While agreeing with it on the whole, he thinks that Mr. Sawayanagi has not taken into consideration the difficulties connected with writing the language used to-day either in *Kana* or *Romaji*. The number of homonyms is far too large, says Mr. Terata. The first step in the desired reform is to substitute other terms for the majority of those now in use, thus rendering the remaining ones capable of being understood without the characters. Mr. Terada, we observe, recommends the appointment of another committee of investigation. Why, such Committees are the laughing stock of the nation. Dr. Katō Hiroyuki observed a long time ago in reference to the committee of inquiry on which he himself was sitting that such bodies would never accomplish anything. They waste time over endless discussion as to methods of procedure. Unless the Mombushō has the pluck to take the bull by the horns and enforce some radical change in all their schools, the thing will never come. The settling on suitable substitutes for all the homonyms in use, as recommended by Mr. Terada, would take half a century, we should say. Homonyms could be written so as to avoid misunderstanding in an infinitely simpler way than they are now written in China and Japan by the exercise of a little ingenuity and the free use of diacritical marks. To alter the whole language in order to enable it to be represented by new symbols is certainly a very round-about way to go to work.

Under the heading the "Education of Genius" the *Kyōiku Kai* says: In the deaths of Danjurō, Kikugorō and Ozaki last year the nation sustained irreparable losses. Other men will take the places filled by these geniuses, but they will not have inherited the special talents which made these men so famous. Since the removal of the two great actors above named the stage has not been the same, and in the literary world there is a feeling of deep sadness that the pen which gave us the *Konjiki Yasha* (金色夜叉) (published in Jan. 1898) will never be used again. These, however, are not all our bereavements. In the death of Mr. Ochiai Nawobumi the lovers of our Japanese ancient literature sustained an almost irreparable loss. Then the Presidents of both Houses of the Diet have been snatched from our midst and in military circles there is mourning over the death of Major-General Tamura, who was Second in Command of the Head-Quarter Staff. It is said that geniuses are born and not made. How then can they be educated, as the title of this article suggests? There is a sense in which geniuses may be educated. Education being essentially and principally the granting of special facilities for the development of innate, intellectual powers, we can materially aid the production of geniuses by preparing suitable soil for their growth. Geniuses best thrive where intellectual freedom is, where there is no attempt to enforce conformity to stringent rules or to follow timidly one unbending system of education. To seek to mould the minds of the young according to one fixed pattern is the sure way to prevent the rise of such men as we lost last year. Given the existence of an original mind, the amount of development it undergoes will depend largely on its surroundings. If educationists can not manufacture genuises, they can create a congenial intellectual atmosphere by the aid of which gifted minds may reach a high state of perfection.

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† The protracted negotiations benefited Japan in another way; they threw Russia off her guard and made her think that this patient and polite little country would not dream of going to war without giving ample notice to the enemy to enable him to make all necessary preparations.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY).

* This work existed before, but it was greatly enlarged by Ochiai.—WRITER OF SUMMARY.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

Nearly three centuries ago, as a correspondent is at pains to point out in *The Times*, Ben Jonson foreshadowed the invention of the torpedo. In the "Staple of News," produced in 1625, there is reference to an invisible eel made for the Hollanders "to swim the haven at Kunkirk and sink all the shipping there." Cymbal describes it thus: "It is an Automa, suns under water, with a snug nose, and has a nimble tail made like an auger, with which tail she wriggles betwixt the costs (ribs) of a ship, and sinks it straight.—Pennyboy.—A most brave device, to murder their flat bottoms."

The *Pall Mall Gazette* popular vote as to the best ten novels issued in 1903 has resulted in giving Henry Seton Merriman's "Barlasch of the Guard" a percentage of 81, Mrs. Humphry Ward's "Lady Rose's Daughter" a percentage of 65, F. Marion Crawford's "Heart of Rome" 51, Whiteing's "Yellow Van" 50, Stanley Weyman's "The Long Night" 44, Frank Danby's "Pigs in Clover" 44, Ellen Fowler's "Place and Power" 37, Quiller Couch's "Hetty Wesley" 32, Beatrice Haraaden's "Kathrine Frenscham" 32, Beatrice Harraden's "Katherine Frensham" 32, and E. F. Benson's "Relentless City" 30. The deductions are made from the voting, firstly, that the public is tired of the problem novel and also the work dealing with serious social questions; secondly, that illustrations play a prominent part in the successful work.

Elwell's "Advanced Bridge" is just published by Charles Scribner's Sons. This volume, by the leading American teacher of Bridge, whose book, "Elwell on Bridge," has already become the authority, is intended to aid the student in acquiring a practical acquaintance with the various forms of attack and defense as outlined by the best players. Particular attention is given to the dealer's play of the dummd hany; the management of trumps is outlined in detail, and the underlying principles are fully illustrated by the completê play of selected hands. The writer has endeavored to make this work simple in arrangement and style, so as to be adapted to the capacity of all lovers of Bridge, and comprehensive and complete so as to be a sufficient and certain guide in the most difficult as well as in the easy situations.

In a few weeks the Scribners will publish a novel of American Navy life by Anna A. Roger, author of "Sweethearts and Wives" which will bear the title "Peace and the Vices." The action begins in Washington, moves to Japan, where the principal episodes take place, and ends on a ranch in California, on the eve of the war with Spain. The book is a refreshing variation from the ordinary run of fiction. The serious element in the story is pleasantly relieved by a love story of much originality and by secondary character studies of marked individuality. A large part of the charm of the story grows out of the fact that Mr. Kent Fellows and Adele Talty are Southern born. Humor, feeling, power, dramatic interest, suspense, all are here, blended in just such nicely balanced proportions as one would expect from the author of "Sweethearts and Wives."

A special interest attaches to "The Log of H.M.S. *Goliath*, China Station, 1900-1903," as written by J. B. Brodie and A. F. Ray, and published as No. 5 of the "Log Series" by the Westminster Press (Gerrard's Limited). The narrative, besides dealing with life at what is now the scene of war, testifies to the very good feeling which existed throughout between our English bluejackets and those of the American and Japanese ships with whom they consorted. Of the *Goliath* of the past Mr. Lionel Yexley tells the reader in a spirited introduction. The *Goliath* of to-day was commissioned for service on the China Station in March, 1900, and was paid off at Chatham in September, 1903. Most of the photographic reproductions here given represent scenes and groups on board ship, but a few of them portray Japan and the Japanese, of which and whom the text gives us many glimpses.

The modern novelist, who ventures to deal with heraldry or archæology in one of his stories, must go in fear and trembling, unless he has an absolutely wide and accurate knowledge of past years, and does not let the romancer's lawful vividness of imagination do duty in this respect. That very terrible man, the editor of the *Ancestor*, castigates two more victims of their own temerity; one of them a story-writer who has ventured to construct an ancient house at whose moat the English law had stayed. "'Every lord of the manor his own judge, jury, and executioner, the squire would say, modestly refusing to recognise the rare character of his family privileges." But as the squire possessed "a suit of Saxon armour, all of steel," anything might be expected of him. But a greater writer of to-day blunders over Charing Cross, which he recklessly describes as a beautiful old stone cross, oblivious of the fact that the Gothic toy in the Station yard was placed there in the middle of the last century by the South-Eastern Railway Company. Nor does the modern cross stand on the site of the old one, for the once famous cross stood close to where King Charles rides, looking down Whitehall—the one statue in London which, according to the experts, pleases the eye. After all it is easy to avoid writing about matters of which one is ignorant, and one of the most seductive pitfalls to be evaded is that provided by heraldry and archæology.

An interesting book is that just issued by the Rev. Morris Joseph under the title of "Judaism as Creed and Life. He tries to take a position between the Talmudists and the Liberal Jews, but leans mostly, to the conservative side. In regard to the question of the Messiah, we find him writing: "Who would dare to tell these companies of sorrowing, trusting souls that their hope is vain, their faith a chimera?"—the hope of an independent Palestine under Messiah the Prince. But there is, he thinks, a more excellent way. The prospect of more far-seeing and enlightened souls is wider and larger: "In common with all Jews, they believe in a future not only for Israel, but for all mankind. They sincerely cherish the Prophetic faith in the advent of a Golden Age of universal peace and brotherly love. But they do not lay much stress upon details. Their picture of the earthly Paradise is purposely vague as is the Jewish dream of the heavenly Eden. A half-Divine figure, who is to change the existing order of things by the waving of a magic wand, has no place in their thoughts. They believe implicitly in the Messianic Age; the idea of a Messianic Person they reject or ignore. They are inclined to agree with the old Rabbi who declared that Israel had no longer a Messiah, seeing that he had enjoyed him in King Hezekiah, meaning thereby that the prophetic utterances which seem to foreshadow a 'Prince of Peace' yet to come were fulfilled ages ago. And surely we are no more at liberty to forbid these opinions than we are free to rebuke the minds that reject them. The question whether a Messiah is to be one of the figures of the Messianic Age, or whether Israel is to be a nation once more and the Temple in Jerusalem the religious centre of the whole world, is not a vital question. We can be equally good Jews whatever view we hold on these points. They are details on which freedom of thought can be tolerated without injury to the Faith. But the same cannot be said of the Messianic Idea. That is one of the essentials of our creed, without which Judaism would have neither meaning nor life. If there is no Golden Age in store for the world, which the Jew is to bring nearer by his belief and his example, if Israel is never to behold the triumph of the great principles to which he has borne such pathetic witness, then Judaism is vain. To despair of that triumph is to confess that Judaism has no purposes to fulfil in God's scheme. It is to deny its truth. If the dogma of the Divine Unity is the foundation of our religion, the Messianic Idea is its coping-stone."

THE LAW COURTS.

HAIM v. BRETSCHNEIDER.

The hearing of this case, in which plaintiff claims *yen* 1,413.25 with interest, was resumed on April 5th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno, when two Japanese were examined as witnesses.

U. Kitagawa stated that October 1903 Mr. Yokota received from defendant an order for 450,000 cups at *sen* 7½ per piece, with a discount of twenty per cent. for lower qualities. Two months after the contract was made the delivery of fifty cases was to take place, and at the end of every forty-five days fifty cases each till the execution of the order. On Dec. 25th witness gave defendant delivery of two cases containing 3,080 cups, when a foreign gentleman inspected the porcelain in the godown of defendant. This gentleman was Mr. Haim who had been a customer of defendant for the earthenware. The whole of the cups were to be packed in three hundred cases.

Another witness, Takagi, stated that in the middle of November, 1903, Mr. Bretschneider ordered from the brother of witness about fifty cases containing sixty or seventy thousand cups. In the beginning of Dec. the witness gave delivery of one case containing fifteen hundred pieces on behalf of his brother. After having examined the porcelain, defendant refused to take delivery of them on the ground that the goods were not in unison with the sample offered, but later he paid the value of the goods. The porcelain was, however, exactly the same as the sample.

Mr. Akiyama, plaintiff's counsel asked the Court for leave to examine a foreign merchant as an expert as to commercial custom.

The case was adjourned.

A MURDERER SENTENCED.

Mr. Hara, an ex-policeman of the Kanda Station, Tokyo, who murdered a woman named Hana Miyamoto, was sentenced on April 5th in the Tokyo District Court to twelve years' penal servitude. According to the decision, the convict asked the woman for a loan of money and as she refused the request he committed the crime by strangling her with a cord. After having murdered her, he stole a gold watch belonging to the victim. He gave himself up at a police station.

JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES.

March 31, 1904, was the semi-centennial anniversary of the signing of Perry's treaty of peace and amity with Japan. As the first treaty made with a foreign nation since the time when Japan had been secluded from the world, it was the formal break-up of that double-edged policy of inclusion and exclusion. It was the formal opening of Japan to Western, or Christian, civilization, and is, therefore, worthy of a little notice in these "wide-open" days. The real opening had occurred on July 14, 1853, when the Japanese, in contravention of their own laws, received President Fillmore's letter to the Emperor: but it was on March 31, 1854, that this unlocking of Japan's door was recorded in black and white in a formal document.

The treaty itself was not very long, but need not be transcribed in full; the following synopsis will suffice for present purposes:—

I. Peace and friendship.

II. Ports of Shimoda and Hakodate open to American ships, and necessary provisions to be supplied them.

III. Relief to ship-wrecked people; expenses thereof not to be refunded.

IV. Americans to be free as in other countries, but amenable to just laws.

V. Americans at Shimoda and Hakodate not to be subject to restrictions; free to go about within defined limits.

VI. Careful deliberation in transacting business which affects the welfare of either party.

VII. Trade in open ports subject to local regulation.

VIII. Wood, water, provisions, coal, etc., to be procured through Japanese officers only.

IX. Most favoured nation clause.

X. U.S. ships restricted to the port of Shimoda and Hakodate, except when forced by stress of weather.

XI. U.S. Consuls or agents to reside at Shimoda.

XII. Ratifications to be exchanged within eighteen months.

We feel inclined, however, to quote in full Article I, which reads as follows:—

> "'There shall be a perfect, permanent and universal peace, and a sincere and cordial amity, between the United States of America on the one part, and the Empire of Japan on the other, and between their people, respectively, without exception of persons or place."

We are pleased that present indications point to the complete fulfillment of the pledges made in that article and the desire expressed in the Preamble to "establish firm, lasting and sincere friendship;" and we most sincerely trust that nothing will ever happen to disturb the perfect peace and cordial amity between the two neighbours on the opposite shores of the Pacific Ocean.

Concerning the significance of this treaty, Dr. Nitobe writes as follows:—

> "Thus did the sailor-diplomat succeed in wresting from the reluctant nation a surety of friendship. Thus did Perry, America, Aryan civilization, science and Christianity triumph. Perry's—or let me say rather America's—coming was most providentially opportune. Had it been a little earlier, when the Japanese mind had not been prepared, or a little latter when the whole country was plunged in intestine turmoil, there is no saying what might have been America's success or Japan's fate."

Truly, the glory as well as the responsibility of having introduced Japan to Western civilization falls upon the United States of America.

One incident during the negotiations impresses one both favorably and unfavorably. It is graphically described* in the biography of "Matthew Galbraith Perry" by Dr. Griffis, who thus refers to "the presents which revealed the secrets of the foreigners' power":—

> "Rifles and gun-powder, the electric telegraph the steam-locomotive and train, [the telescope,] life-boats, stoves, clocks, sewing machines, agricultural implements and machinery, standard scales, weights, measures, maps and charts, the works of Audubon and other American authors, were presented. * * * The American may proudly note how very large a share his countrymen have had in inventions and in applications of the great natural forces that have revolutionized modern society. That one mile of telegraph wire has now become thousands; and that tiny railway, with toy locomotive and one car able to hold only a child, was the germ of the railway system in the Mikado's empire. Historic truth compels us to add, that among the presents there were one hundred barrels [gallons?] of whisky, a good supply of cherry cordial and champagne. Thus did the new civilization with its good and evil confront the old. New Japan was to be born in the age of steam, electricity, the photograph, the newspaper and the printing-press; yet in the train of the culture of the West were to follow its curses and enemies. *With the sons of God comes Satan also.*"

It is, indeed, most fortunate that America has the honour of having introduced Japan to such blessings of Western civilization as those mentioned above; but it is also most unfortunate that America has likewise the disgrace and terrible responsibility of introducing the worst curses of Occidental civilization. Intemperance was already a national vice; *sake* was sufficient to cover a multitude of sins; and encouragement in liquor drinking and attendant debauchery was unnecessary. It is to the everlasting shame of America that such articles should have been included among the samples of our civilization. The wine, the champagne and the whiskey have been followed by ale, rum, beer and all other kinds of intoxicating liquors.

"Tis true 'tis pity,
And pity 'tis 'tis true."

Milwaukee, for instance, is well-known in Japan, and "it's the beer that made Milwaukee famous" here as elsewhere. It thus becomes America's enhanced responsibility and unavoidable duty, not merely to offset beer with bread, champagne with cotton, whisky with wheat, but also to instruct Japan faithfully in righteousness and temperance, in the love of God, in the consolations of Christ, in the consolations of the Holy Spirit.

It is quite encouraging to note that Americans have been, and are, foremost in all good works in Japan, in everything that makes for righteousness. The details of what they have done to advance Christian civilization in Japan may be found in such books as "The Intercourse between the United States and Japan" (Nitobe) and "America in the East" (Griffis). The assistance rendered by America and Americans to the rapidly developing civilization of New Japan has been generously given along national, political, diplomatic, social, legal, educational, scientific, agricultural, mercantile, philanthropic, moral and religious lines. And it now devolves upon the United States, not merely not to abate her efforts, but rather to increase her help, especially in this critical period in the history of New Japan.

Upon no other Christian nation presses so heavily the responsibility for the evangelization of Japan as upon the United States of America. And, in so far as the Christians of the United States fufil their duty, will Japan either praise or censure the nation which, through Perry's treaty, signed on March 31, 1854, forced her to come out of her seclusion into relations with the rest of the world.

E.W.C.

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* It is more fully described in the official report of Perry's Expedition.

AMERICAN TOPICS.

President Roosevelt has directed the transfer of Mr. John Barrett, present U. S. Minister to the Argentine Republic, to be Minister to Panama. Mr. W. W. Russell, at present *Chargé d'Affaires* at Panama, has been made Minister to Colombia, and Mr. Arthur W. Beaupré, now Minister to Colombia, has been made Minister to the Argentine Republic, to succeed Mr. Barrett.

The Supreme Court of Ohio has declared unconstitutional the law that provides a penalty of $100 fine and six months' imprisonment for any one who discharges a workman because he is a member of a labour union. The statute has been in force for more than two years, its passage being traceable to the support of legislators who feared the "labour vote" some time back.

Mr. Horace G. Burt, formerly President of the Union Pacific, has accepted the office of chief consulting engineer of the Trans-Siberian Railway at a salary of $100,000 a year. Mr. Burt is to remain in the employ of the company for at least one year. His work will be to plan improvements along the Orenburg and Tashkend, Trans-Baikal, and Trans-Siberian railways.

The annual report of Comptroller Grout of New York City shows an unexpended balance for 1903 of nearly $8,000,000 out of the $97,000,000 appropriated for that year. This unexpended surplus, added to the budget for 1904, will give the administration about $116,000,000 for current expenses of the city government, exclusive of the amount to be raised by bond issues. Bonds to the amount of $25,000,000 to $50,000,000 will probably be issued.

General George W. Davis, a member of the new Isthmian Canal Commission, told the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce at its hearing on the bill to provide a form of government for the Canal zone, that in his opinion the total cost of maintaining such a government will be about $1,000,000 a year. He did not think that from the present there was need of much additional legislation beyond what was contained in the Spooner act.

The opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of the Northern Securities Co. *vs.* the United States, involving the merger of the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern Railroad companies, was handed down on March 14th and was in favour of the Government. The decision, read by Justice Harlan, was concurred in by Justices Brown, Brewer, McKenna and Day, while the Chief Justice and Justices White, Peckham and Holmes dissented. Justice Brewer concurred in affirming the merger decision, but for different reasons than that of the majority.

Mr. Charles Carroll Whitney, Secretary of the New York Life Insurance Co., died under painfully sudden circumstances in a coach on the way to his home at No. 260 Garfield Place, Brooklyn, on March 4th. He left his office at No. 346 Broadway late in the afternoon, and when the coach got to his home the driver waited some time for him to get out. Then he opened the door. Mr. Whitney was leaning back in the seat with a half-smoked cigar in his hand. The driver thought he was merely unconscious and called a doctor, who pronounced Mr. Whitney dead.

The States which lead Washington in the average wages paid farm hands are all on the Pacific coast. They are, in order named, Nevada, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, and California. The difference is not very great between any of the States, that between California and Washington being but a few cents on the month. The wages paid in the State of Washington during 1902 were the highest ever recorded. The low-water mark was reached in 1895, when farm labourers, without board, received $28.27; and with board received $17.64. In 1902 the figures were: With board, $28.35, and without board $40.54 per month.

Gifts have been reported recently of $250,000 by Mr. J. Ogden Armour for the Armour Institute of Technology; $500,000 by the will of Mr. Louis Gans, of New York city, to various charities, principally in New York city; $25 each to 2,000 workmen and $125,000 to the workmen's hospital by Frau Krupp, the widow of the late cannon-maker; $600,000 to Boston university and $300,000 each to Radcliffe and Wellesley colleges by the will of James A. Woolson, of Cambridge, Massachusetts; $15,000 to Tuskegee institute by the will of Mrs. Annie E. Moore, of Altoona, Pennsylvania; and $80,000 to various charities by the will of Mrs. Elizabeth W. Aldrich, of New York city.

Estimates of the yearly food bill of the people of the United States show that there is business in plenty to be had by merchants who will go after it. The yearly food bill of the people of the United States is $8,000,000,000. Eight billion dollars for food alone goes over the counters and into the tills of the retailers every year, to say nothing of all the other billions which are annually spent for clothing, for boots and shoes and hats and caps and underwear and hosiery, and still other billions for crockery and hardware, etc., etc. All these billions are too large a sum to comprehend: but the figures are not exaggerated: the money is actually spent every year, actually passes into retailers hands every twelvemonth.

The American Locomotive Company has purchased the Locomotive & Machine Company of Montreal for $1,500,000, 33 per cent. of which will be paid in cash and $500,000 in 4 per cent. bonds. The financing of the purchase will be accomplished by the issue of $1,500,000 of 4 per cent. bonds by the American Locomotive Company. With the exception of the $500,000 mentioned, the bonds will be held in the treasury of the American Locomotive Company, the payment of cash being made out of the surplus. The acquisition of this plant is an advantage for the American Locomotive Company, in that is now enabled to save 35 per cent., or $6,000 to $7,300, on engines for Canadian use, on which there is now a duty to that amount.

The United States Census Bureau has given out the following preliminary statement concerning irrigation in the territory of Arizona in 1902. The industrial art of irrigation in the United States began in Arizona, and indications are found throughout the valleys of the Gila and Salt rivers that large areas now barren and forbidding were once occupied by a numerous, prehistoric race. The canals now in use in many places follow quite closely the lines of those ancient systems. These early ditches reveal engineering skill of a high order, and must have required an immense expenditure of labour. Their origin is lost, even in tradition, for they were abandoned as early as 1542, when Coronado visited these valleys in search of the "Seven cities of Cibola," but ethnologists date their operation as early as the eighth or ninth century. Portions of the beds of these ancient ditches are to-day utilized in modern systems.

The Schenectady plant of the American Locomotive Works has under way the building of the largest locomotive in the world. It is to be the Mallet articulated type, will weigh 465,000 pounds when completed, which is 207½ tons, and is intended for freight work on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. The machine will be of the tandem compound style, with a peculiar arrangement of drive wheels and cylinders. It is being built as an experiment, and is intended for use as a helper on the mountain divisions of the road. The heaviest engine now in use on the Baltimore & Ohio weighs 162½ tons. The new locomotive will have 320,000 pounds on the drivers, a tender weighing 143,000 pounds with coal capacity of 13 tons and a water capacity of 7,000 gallons. The wheel base is to be 30½ feet, the traction power 70,000 pounds, and on a perfectly level track the engine is expected to haul over 10,000 tons.

Much has been made of the last lines written by Senator Hanna, a penciled note to President Roosevelt, reading as follows:

"My Dear Mr. President: You touched a tender spot, old man, when you called personally to inquire after me this A. M. I may be worse before I can be better, but all the same such drops of kindness are good for a fellow. Sincerely yours.

"Friday, P. M. M. A. HANNA."

The next day a reply was received from the President, with a note saying that it was to be shown to the Senator when Mrs. Hanna thought best. Senator Hanna never saw the reply, which was as follows:

"Feb. 6. 1904.

"Dear Senator: Indeed, it is your letter from your sick bed which is touching, not my visit. May you very soon be with us again, old fellow, as strong in body and as vigorous in your leadership and your friendship as ever.

Faithfully yours,
"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

Exports of American manufactures in January show a larger total than ever before in the same portions of the year. In January they amounted to $38,213,352, while the highest January record on any former occasion was that of 1900, when they were $35,586.940. For the seven months ending with January they amounted to $250,214,936, and the highest record for that seven months' period in any preceding year was that ending with January, 1901, when the total was $239,564,064. By far the largest increase occurs in manufactured copper, of which the exports in the seven months ending with January, 1904, are reported at $31,552,677, against $22,514,843 in 1903 and $19,038,328 in 1902. Refined mineral oil is next in the list of manufactured articles showing an increase in export values, being for the seven months ending with January, 1904, $42,029,461, against $35,324,067 in 1903 and $40,664,900 in 1902. Iron and steel follow with a total of $59,125, 780, against $55,997,942 in the like seven months of 1903 and $57,310,128 in 1902. For January alone the exports of iron and steel were $8,171,738, against $7,437,298 in January, 1903, making the increase for the single month $734,440 and for the seven months about $3,000,000. Agricultural implements also show an increase in exports, amounting to a little over $2,000,000 for the seven months ending with January, 1904, as compared with the corresponding months of last year, and about $4,000,000 increase as compared with the seven months ending with January, 1902.

With 10,000,000-bale cotton crops at good prices, a 25,000,000-ton coal output, a 2,500,000-ton pig iron production, to says nothing of lumber, tobacco, fruit and other crops and products, the southern states are creating conditions unknown in their previous history, remarks the New York *Sun*. While the measure of prosperity has varied in the different lines, all have contributed to an unprecedented activity and a substantial increase in general wealth. Manufacturing enterprises have taken the place of the old-time plantations and have established new channels of employment for the people. The south has prospered, and its prosperity continues. The results of all this are manifest not alone in the cities, but in almost every town, village and hamlet. New buildings appear everywhere. Sewer systems, works, electric plants for lighting and for trolley lines are fast becoming as much of a necessity as they are in the north and the west, and the south has the money to pay for them. Municipal bond issues have reached a huge aggregate, and have, in general, found ready sale at good prices, often in the immediate local market. Southern ports have done an enormously increased business, and southern railways have been hard pressed to handle their traffic. The establishment of these new conditions upon a foundation of unquestionable firmness opens a broad vista. The south has not yet been an objective point for the homeseeker, to whom it really offers so much that a day will soon come when its many advantages for settlers will command wider attention and draw to it a few millions of those whose industry would contribute still further to southern development and progress.

DESULTORY NOTES ON SPORT.

Reuter evidently does not consider us a sufficiently sporting community to be interested in the Grand National Steeplechase. That very important event came off on the 25th March, but so far no public news has reached Yokohama as to the winner.

Owing to the heavy flooding of the Thames Valley, the February fixture at Windsor under National Hunt Rules had to be abandoned. There were two feet of water in the weighing room, and the racecourse rails were submerged.

The entries for the Spring Meeting of the Nippon Race Club close this afternoon, and on this occasion timely reminders have been given to those interested. It will be remembered that at the Autumn Meeting last year one owner overlooked the date, and did not send in his entries in time.

The new China ponies were measured on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, and as the measuring platform is not under cover, the Clerk of the Course had a somewhat uncomfortable time, measuring over half-a-dozen on Tuesday in the rain.

Two yachts of the local fleet were away cruising over the Easter holidays, *Nina* and *Asagao*. Leaving Yokohama after breakfast on Friday, they did such a quick run down the Bay that they were both in the harbour of Aburatsubo in time for tiffin. Splendid yachting weather was experienced until Monday afternoon, and it is surprising that other boats were not out.

The Royal Bombay Yacht Club brought their racing reason to a close with Regatta Week at the end of February. Amongst the prizes competed for during the five days' racing, was a Challenge Club presented by the Viceroy, H.E. Lord Curzon. Fine weather and an abundance of good sailing breezes helped to make the Regatta the most successful of recent years.

In Calcutta a large audience assembled at the Skating Rink to witness a glove contest between Sergt. Smith of the 10th Hussars, and Jack McAuliffe, who was starring in Kobe a couple of years ago. Smith is the champion heavyweight boxer of the Army, and having a great advantage in both weight and years, disposed of his plucky antagonist in the fifth round, and took the purse, which amounted to $10,000.

One of the most exciting incidents in the racing career of the late Lord Alington is associated with the Cambridgeshire Stakes of 1863, won by Catch' Em Alive, owned by Lord Alington (then Mr. Sturt) and Sir W. Codrington. When it came to weighing in, Sam Adams, the jockey, failed to draw the correct weight, and, of course, an objection was lodged by Lord Westmoreland, the owner of the second horse, Merry Heart, whose jockey succeeded in turning the scale. When, however, the rider of the third horse was also unable to draw the ascribed weight the scales were examined, and it was found that lead had been fixed to the bottom of the weight scale. The culprit was never discovered, although a reward was offered.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Mr. K. Nozaki, Chief Procurator of the Court of Cassation, has resigned.

The N. Y. K. have purchased the British steamer *Willowdene*, and she is now being overhauled at the Yokohama Dock.

The Empress, who has been at Hayama since Jan. 16th, returned on April 4th, arriving at Shimbashi by the 11.56 a.m. train.

The *Kokumin's* Seoul telegram states that the Russian warship *Varyag*, which was sunk at Chemulpo, will be successfully floated.

Viscount Matsudaira Naohira, a member of the Upper House, will leave to-day (April 7th) by the steamer *America Maru* for San Francisco.

A bye-election of members of the Kanagawa Prefectural Assembly will take place to-day (April 6th) at 8 a.m. in the room of the Chamber of Commerce.

The French Consul at Kobe arrived on the night of April 1st at Matsuyama, Iyo province, and paid a visit on the following day to the Russian prisoners.

Tokyo papers agree in reporting that Mr. Kurino, formerly Japanese Minister at St. Petersburg, is expected to arrive to-day (April 7th) at Nagasaki by the German mail.

Mr. Ogasawara, an official of the Imperial Household, left on April 3rd for Kyoto to inspect the Palace where the Emperor will shortly remove with the Headquarter Staff.

M. Kotake, a bluejacket of the destroyer *Asashio*, who was killed in the engagement of March 10th, has been posthumously promoted to the junior class of the Seventh Rank.

The Italian cruiser *Elba* arrived on April 3rd at Chemulpo. Four officers and twenty-five bluejackets proceeded to Seoul in order to take the place of the present guards of the legation.

The Niigata Sayetsu Steamship Company's steamer *10th Wadatsu Maru* went ashore on the morning of April 3rd off Sakata. Her cargo and crew were saved. No damage seems to have been caused.

A telegram from Nagasaki states that 11,240 casks of corned beef, which had been confiscated at that port from a foreign ship as contraband of war, were sent on April 5th to a certain place in the interior.

The *Jiji's* Kagoshima telegram reports that the steamer *Tosa Maru* went ashore on the morning of April 5th off the village of Kamiyo, Kaka district. Details are not yet known. It may be remarked that this vessel was employed to run between Sanyo and Kyushu and that she must not be confused with the *Tosa Maru* of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Prince Nashimoto, who recently returned from France via Vancouver, was appointed on April 6th an attaché on the General Staff.

It is stated by a telegram from Shimonoseki that a French steamer is now being examined by the Japanese authorities on suspicion that she carries contraband of war.

We are asked to say that the best thanks of the Commander, officers and crew of H.R.I.M. ship *Puglia* are due to all persons who kindly assisted at the funeral of the sailor Resinese Federico on the 31st March.

I. Ishitani, a student of the Tokyo Eigo Gakko, committed suicide on April 6th by jumping into the crater of the Asama volcano, in Nagano prefecture. The cause is reported to be his failure to pass certain examinations.

Baron Yamamoto, Minister for the Navy, has presented five hundred *yen* to the parents of K. Koike, a bluejacket who was killed in the second blocking operation. The money was delivered to them by Mr. Kinoshita, Governor of Saitama prefecture.

The Emperor of Korea intends to reward with special medals those who assisted the Japanese by supplying provisions, forage, etc. The Korean Government has ordered a Japanese manufacturer, through Mr. G. Hayashi, Minister at Seoul, to make the medals.

The *S.-C. Morning Post* reports that the cable ship *Scotia* which has been at work on the cable of the Commercial Pacific Co. is wrecked at Guam. It is not known whether the vessel will be a total loss or not. The *Scotia* is 4667 tons register and was on her way from Hongkong to Guam.

Marquis Oyama, Chief of the General Staff, on April 4th entertained Generals Nicholson and Hamilton, who recently arrived in Tokyo on their way to the front. Sir Claude MacDonald the British Minister, Marquis Yamagata, General Terauchi, Minister for War, etc., were also present.

The King of Siam has decorated Baron Komura, Minister for Foreign Affairs, with the first order of the White Lion, Mr. Y. Yoshida, confidential secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, with the third of the Crown, and Lieut.-Colonel T. Ozawa with the fourth of the White Lion.

Baron Yamamoto, Minister for the Navy, paid a visit on April 5th to the family of Commander Hirose, who was killed in the second blocking operation at Port Arthur, and expressed his profound condolences. The funeral of the late officer will take place on the 13th from Suikosha Naval Club, Tsukiji.

The *Modernian* has now reached its fourth number and continues to be a brightly written record of the Modern school's progress in the study as well as in the playing fields. The photographs are, as usual, interesting, though they would have stood a little more enlarging to advantage. The new assistant master is expected from England in May, we learn.

Mr. S. Kuchiami, who was arrested on Feb. 7th by the Russians at the Nan-kwan-tien station of the East China Railway on suspicion of being a military spy, arrived on April 5th at Nagasaki from Newchwang via Shanghai. He was released on March 21st after a lengthy examination and was delivered to the U. S. Consul at Newchwang.

The Tokyo Marine Insurance Company held a general meeting on April 4th, when the accounts for the last half year were submitted. The net profit was *yen* 99,699.59. Of this *yen* 4,800 was set apart as legal reserve, *yen* 45,000 to be paid as an interim dividend at the rate of six per cent., and *yen* 49,899.59 to be carried forward to the next account.

A London telegram dated March 9th said:—An Arab chief, who was permitted to visit Aden with a hundred followers, arrived with 250 armed men, and refused to reduce his escort, which became unruly and menacing. The Resident then promptly paraded the Buffs, the Bombay Infantry, and the Artillery, and sent an ultimatum to the chief to quit, when he reluctantly complied.

Probate of the will of Admiral the Hon. Sir Harry Keppel, G.C.B., who died on January 17, aged ninety-five years, has been granted to his son and sole executor, Captain Colin R. Keppel, C.B., D.S.O., by whom the testator's estate is sworn at £3,551 11s. 6d., including £3,468 14s. 9d. net personalty.

Art circles in Paris are greatly interested in the discovery of an alleged Raphael which was recently bought in Paris at a second-hand store for 44 francs. The picture is believed to be the original "La Belle Jardinière," and as the Louvre contains, as one of its most precious treasures, a picture which also purports to be the original "La Belle Jardinière," the situation is perplexing.

The citizens of Sheffield gave to the Duchess of Norfolk as a wedding present a diamond necklace, costing £1,000; and the gift received characteristic acknowledgment from the Duke. He forwarded to the Lord Mayor of Sheffield a contribution of £1,000 to the Sheffield Distress Fund, and presented the town with a park forty-eight acres in extent, in commemoration of his marriage.

In one way at least, says the *New York Commercial*, the war in the Far East is making itself felt in trade circles. The price of gum camphor, for supplies of which the world depends upon Japan, has risen steadily since the first rumour of war. Last October the wholesale price of camphor was about 58 cents a pound in bulk. The last shipment from Japan was in December, and since then prices have gone up to nearly $1 a pound in bulk at wholesale.

About 7 o'clock this morning (says the *Straits Times* of Mar. 14th) the Shell and Transport Trading Co.'s steamer *Bullmouth* arrived from Palembang with the same Co.'s steamer *Murex* in tow. Both steamers are oiltankers. It appears that about 8 o'clock on the morning of the 6th, while the *Murex* was in the Palembang river, a serious fire broke out in the stokehold. A tin of petroleum was accidentally upset and this set fire to the oil burners. The machinery and boilers were disabled. It is understood that the *Murex* will have to be docked here for three or four months to have the damage repaired.

A crusade has been started by a Liverpool paper against one of the most popular dances of the ball room—viz., the lancers. Indignant letters from correspondents have been published protesting against what one writer calls "indecency and indecorum of the modern lancers." Every mother, it is asserted, must feel ashamed of the scenes now witnessed in every ball-room, "where, instead of pretty frocks—which are almost torn off the backs of girls in the mad grip of rough young men—golf cloth or sacking will need to be worn. It is an insult to girls to bang them about and whirl them often off their feet," says another correspondent.

The *Naval and Military Record* contains the following figures relative to the coaling of warships in Hongkong last January:—

Ship.	Amount received.	Average per hour.	Greatest quantity recd. in one hour.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Leviathan	2,200	314.2	450
Amphitrite	1,650	227.5	330
Vengeance	1,500	214.28	300
Albion	1,540	205.3	280
Ocean	1,350	205.16	260
Centurion	730	104.2	190

The Rear-Admiral signalled his appreciation of the results attained by the *Leviathan*, and congratulated the officers and men on their good work.

A very old Shanghai and river hand passed away at Chinkiang on Thursday, March 24th, Captain Alphonzo T. Friend. Born some seventy years ago, at Gloucester, Mass., a town made famous by Rudyard Kipling, Captain Friend began his connection with the river more than forty years ago in one of Dent & Co.'s steamers. He subsequently joined the Shanghai Steam Navigation Co., and was in command of the paddle steamer *Szechuen* when she was lost while in charge of the pilot. A quarter of a century ago he entered the service of the Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., commanding the *Taiwo* and other steamers. He had at one time charge of the *Yuen Fah*, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s receiving ship, and when gout made it difficult for him to continue active service afloat, he took charge of the Indo-China hulk at Hankow, and then at Chinkiang where he died.

Everything that can be done is being done in France just now to stimulate popular sentiment in favour of the Russian Alliance. Among other bonds of sympathy it is being recalled that even as the Japanese Navy is the child of that of Britain, so the Russian springs direct from that of France. It was, in fact, about 1717 that Peter the Great sent 20 young Russians of good family to serve the training period of five years in the French Marines of the Guard at Brest and Toulon. The Count of Toulouse, Grand Admiral of France, under orders from Louis XV.'s Government, watched over their studies with especial care, and in 1722 the Regent handed to them their commissions as ensigns. With these credentials they betook themselves to become the instructors of cadets in their own country, and thus became the progenitors of the Russian Navy.

Bernald David (26), a Filipino, was arrested on March 31st by the Bluff Police at Hommoku, Yokohama, on a charge of having forged a diploma of the College of Engineering. He was temporarily released on the following day under surveillance. The Bluff Police on April 2nd removed all of the evidence to the office of the Public Procurator, in the Yokohama District Court. It appears that the accused arrived in Tokyo in 1896 for the sake of study. In September, 1899, he attended the mechanical department of the Engineering College and thence removed to the Practical Chemical Department, but left without graduating. He came to Yokohama taking up his residence at Idzumiyato, Kitagata. In November, 1902, he ordered from G. Okawa, printer, Otamachi, fifty diplomas of the Engineering College and also ordered S. Nagai to cut four stamps—for the President of the Imperial University and for the professors concerned—with which materials he forged a certificate.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE VALUE OF MONEY.

(To the Editor of the "Japan Mail.")

Sir,—In Brinkley's masterly "History of Japan,' Vol. V. p. 22. I read:—

"* * * speaking roughly, money is ten times as valuable in Japan as in England."

Can you enlighten me as to what the distinguished author means by that statement?

Yours truly, BARO.

Yokohama, 31st March, 1904.

[Probably that a Japanese with an income of £10 a month can live on a scale—measured by Japanese standards—about equal to that on which a European with £100 a month lives.—Ed. *J.M.*]

THE FRENCH PERFORMANCE FOR THE RED CROSS SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that the net profit of the representation given on the 23rd March by the Société Dramatique Française amounted to *yen* 462.83, which sum has been handed to His Excellency the Governor of Kanagawa.

The Société Dramatique Française desires to tender its acknowledgments to all those who rendered it such disinterested and kindly assistance: to Mme. Frique and the ladies who at her request spared no trouble in the sale of tickets in Tokyo and Yokohama; to those persons who generously took tickets and so contributed to the financial success of the representation; to the Orchestre-Bijou whose kindly assistance contributed in great part to the success of the performance; to Mr. G. G. Brady, who consented at short notice to take the place of one of the members of our Society, and whose talent is only equalled by his readiness to render his valuable assistance; to the A.D.C. who kindly lent their stage scenery to our Society; to Mr. E. J. Moss, who lent all the furniture for the various changes of scene demanded of him with the greatest generosity; to Mr. Philipson who gratuitously made numerous accessories of which we had great need; to the Public Hall Company, to Messrs. Thwaites & Co. and to the Yokohama Nursery for considerable reductions in their charges, and lastly and not the least to the Press of Yokohama, always ready to aid a good cause, which afforded us, spontaneously and generously, the publicity of their columns: to all we tender our warmest thanks.

Yours very truly,
M. J. DAYET,
Hon. Secretary.

BRITAIN'S BATTLESHIP PROGRAMME.

(To the Editor of the "Japan Mail.")

Sir,—A few weeks ago the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for War announced a new Government policy. We are to rely exclusively on the Navy to defend the country against invasion, and the Army is to be organised for service oversea. The policy involves a sea supremacy based on modern battleships. It is natural that there should be some anxiety as to the battles in programme authorised by the Committee of Defence in furtherance of this policy.

In the autumn of 1898, when we were organising the Army as a so-called second line of defence, and therefore, in a measure as a substitute for naval defence, the Government, with the complete agreement of the House of Commons, introduced supplementary estimates to provide for a programme, matching ship for ship, the £11,000,000 Russian programme of that year. In 1903, before the decision as to the new policy, we failed to respond to a similar though more threatening Russian programme, of which already four battleships are nearing the period for launching. Here, then, is a touch-stone of the earnestness of the new Government policy. If now, at the eleventh hour, the Government provide for meeting the latest Russian programme, as was done at once in 1898, they will give the best practical proof of the inauguration of the new policy. "I stand by the principle," said Lord Goschen in introducing the Supplementary Estimates on July 22, 1898, "the principle which we have followed, and intend to follow, that we must be equal in number to the fleets of any two Powers. That is the principle, as I say, we have acted upon from the first, and now, in consequence of the action of another Power, the same principle compels us to take further action by a supplementary programme. . . . . . . But, deeply as I regret that we should be forced into that position, we must take parallel action ourselves with what other Powers do —parallel action taken by other Powers." It is to be noted that Lord Goschen's Board held this programme to be necessary in order to secure "a bare equality" in efficient battleships with France and Russia. Since then we have witnessed the rise of the German Navy, the great development of the Whitehead torpedo, and the new invention of submarine boats, all of which so threaten our fleets that a substantial margin of safety over the original standard ot mere equality in numbers has become necessary. This is the view not only expressed by the Board of Admiralty, but by Lord Goschen himself and other responsible statesmen. To obtain this margin we should have built since the period of the supplementary programme of 1898 an excess of battleships over any two powers. By taking the Return of Fleets (May, 1898) and including all ships since that date, we obtain exactly what has been done.

Battleships laid down since Admiralty return (1898):

Great Britain	21*	
France	6	18
Russia	12	26
Germany	14	
United States	15	

It is evident from the above table that we have only succeeded in obtaining a margin of three battleships as against France and Russia, and that we are worse off to the extent of five battleships as against Germany and Russia. If we assume that the margin of safety is two battleships in ten—a not very large demand when we reflect that the Power which keeps the sea always has lost during war, through causes other than war, such as navigation, more battleships than her enemies, and that Jervis lost five battleships through "acts of God" prior to the battle of St Vincent—then whatever way we group the figures, taking the latest battleships only, or all the battleships in the Admiralty ret rns, or still worse only the battleships building, we have an accumulation of evicence that we are not providing the margin of safety, and we are positively losing ground.

If we take the ships building or projected from the last Admiralty Return (May, 1903), making allowance for the gross error of omitting four Russian battleships, which have since been laid down long before our own three projected battleships, we get the following as building:

Battleships now Building.

	G. Brit.	France	Russia	Germ.	U. St.
Battleships, 1st class	17†	7	12	8	14
do 2nd "	nil	1	nil	nil	nil

We are not even building to a two-Power standard, and it is in spite of this knowledge that the statement has been circulated that ths Government consider themselves absolved from the distinct promise made to the House of Commons on August 5, 1903, to lay down three battleships in April. The *Swiftsure* and *Triumph*, of 11,800 tons, were described by the Prime Minister as "not suitable for our purpose," and though wonderful results are achieved on the tonnage, with 7 in. armour and 13 in. guns they cannot be considered as in any sense a reply to the Russian programme ships of 16,500 tons. In a few weeks time the House of Commons will be deciding our naval position in the year 1907, having regard to the facts we have cited, and to the impending programmes ot foreign Powers. In the House of Lords, July 5, 1901, Lord Goschen impressed on Lord Selborne the great value of having a minimum standard to build to, for, he said, "My noble friend's view of what the standard should be was somewhat vague." He added, "I would say that it should be a two Power standard at least, but with a margin. . . . . I would only say, if my noble friend would bear it in mind, that it is a useful thing to have at least a minimum, but whether that minimum is sufficient is a matter which the Government must most carefully examine, not only with reference to two Powers with which we might be engaged, but with reference to the standard generally, and the increasing naval forces of other Powers." Throughout 1903 Lord Selborne has chosen to neglect the warning of his predecessor. The new policy of the Government to rely entirely on the Navy for the defence of the United Kingdom gives him the opportunity to retrieve a grave blunder.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
H. SEYMOUR TROWER,
Chairman of the Executive Committee.
Wm. Caius Crutchley, "Secretary."

The Navy League,
10 Victoria Street, London S.W.
February 16, 1904.

CHRISTIAN BLIND SCHOOL.

(To the Editor of the "Japan Mail.")

Sir,—Will you kindly insert the enclosed statement in the *Mail* in the interests of the work for the Blind and thus greatly oblige

Yours truly,
Gideon F. Draper.
No. 222 Bluff, April 5.

Statement of the Yokohama Christian Blind School.
For the Three Months, January—March, 1904.

EXPENDITURES.	Yen.
Teachers	105.00
Assistant	6.00
Rent	30.003
Musical Instruction	7.45
Janitor	9.00
Miscellaneous, Fuel, etc.	5.33
New Tables	5.40
Total	168.18

RECEIPTS.	Yen.
Mrs. P. A. Smith, Hiroshima	10.00
W. P. Rollstin	1.00
Miss Ethel Griffin	21.00
King's Daughters, Aoyama, Tokyo	7.00
Birthday Box, Union S. S. of Yokohama	15.30
Proceeds of Magic Lantern Exhibition; through Mr. C. Griffin	10.00
Profits from Sale of Drawn work	81.83
Tuitions	2.10
Total	148.23

The above statement for three months only is sent out now in view of my return to the United States. Miss A. B. Slate of No. 221 Bluff, Yokohama, has kindly consented to take the oversight of the School from now on but cannot assume any financial responsibility for it so that the practical sympathy shown by friends in the past will be all the more appreciated if continued during my absence.

The amount of profits from the sale of drawn work as shown above can not be duplicated during the current quarter as it represents the work of six or eight months.

Of course the expenditures given represent merely the cost of the morning's instruction. Most of the pupils support themselves by their trade of shampooing or massage, working in the afternoon and evening. One half of the item for rent, however, is for aid given to help some of the young men to a more suitable boarding place.

I take this opportunity of thanking all who have so generously helped in the past years, and hope that interest in this effort for the enlightenment of so needy a class may be greatly increased.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST AMERICAN TREATY.

Thursday's meeting at the Young Men's Christian Association Hall, Kanda, in commemoration of the half century anniversary of the opening of the country by Commodore Perry, was successful beyond all expectation, says the *Japan Times*. The spacious hall was packed to overflowing, one side of the floor being occupied by a large party of American gentlemen and ladies. On the platform were their Excellencies Count Matsukata, Count Okuma, Count Inouye, and Mr. Griscom, the American Minister, Mr. Saburo Shimada, M.P., Bishop McKim, Bishop Moore. Mr. Ehara M.P., Dr. De Forest and Mr. Honda, the two last-named gentlemen acting alternately as Chairman.

The meeting opened with a prayer by Mr. Honda. He was followed by Mr. Soroku Ebara, M.P. who in a brief speech alluded to the importance of the historic event in commemoration of which the meeting was held. Among other things he observed that, although Japan had for over two centuries been sleeping, it was not the slumber of a feeble and sickly people, but that it was the energy-giving slumber of a vigorous and healthy nation.

MR. SHIMADA'S SPEECH.

Mr. Saburo Shimada, M.P., said that the event which they were commemorating on the present occasion was pregnant with far-reaching meaning for the future not only of Japan but of Asia, and not only of Asia but of the world at large. The treaty which had been signed at the village of Yokohama half a century ago was a very simple document. It was not a treaty of commerce, but a treaty of unique character, whose principal concern was the relief of the shipwrecked and such other matters of a purely humanitarian nature. In this the eminent American sailor entrusted with this difficult mission displayed a rare sagacity and a wonderful insight into the real character of the obstacles lying in the path of the Japanese Government of those days. Perry thus succeeded in opening the door of seclusion so long and so jealously kept by Japan. From this dated a series of memorable events of the utmost importance in the history of Japan,—the restoration of administrative powers to the Imperial Court, the abolition of feudalism, and those reforms which culminated in the establishment of a constitutional form of Government. During all these years of steady progress, Japan had always enjoyed the invariable sympathy and active assistance of the Government and people of the United States. The trans-Pacific Republic by introducing Japan to the world,—continued the speaker,—had given Japan the proud position of being a harmoniser and middleman between the West and East. Japan had herself experienced a severe conflict of old and new ideas, and no doubt in her endeavours to introduce Western civilization to the rest of Asia a similar difficulty would have to be encountered. But Mr. Shimada felt sure that the wise Providence would help Japan in the discharge of her important mission as it had wonderfully helped her thus far. Then after going into some historical details about the conclusion of the memorable treaty of March 31, 1854, Mr. Shimada wished to call attention to an interesting incident to which Japan owed the advantage and pleasure of having the United States as her first and unassisted introducer to the world. Commodore Perry had been preceded by the Russian envoy, Poutiatine, whose overtures had been totally rejected by the Shogun's Government. Poutiatine subsequently met Perry at Nawa in Okinawa (Loo Choo), and Poutiatine suggested to Perry that joint pressure on the Japanese Government should be applied. This proposal was wisely rejected by the sagacious American officer, who was confident of succeeding where others had failed. Be the reason what it may why he decided not to act in common with the Russian, the result, said Mr. Shimada, was happy to Japan, who thus had the fortune of being ushered to the world by the justice-loving Republic of North America. The speaker then referred to the heavy debt of gratitude

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* Including the purchased ships *Swiftsure* and *Triumph*.

† For purposes of comparison, the *Swiftsure* and *Triumph* have been included in this total

Japan owed to Townsend Harris, whose friendly counsels saved her from many pitfalls in the path of foreign intercourse, notably in the matter of the prohibition of the importation of opium. Another instance of Japan's indebtedness to America cited by Mr. Shimada was Oguri's mission to the States, which was sent over by the Shogunate Court in response to American advice in 1859. [The date was given by Mr. Shimada as 1860, but this is a mistake, as was pointed out by the next speaker, Count Okuma.] According to all accounts, it was certain that every attention and facility was accorded it. In illustration of how solicitous the Americans were for the comfort and pleasure of the party, Mr. Shimada stated that, according to the diary kept by Miyake, an official in the suite of the Envoy, the party were treated to a Japanese dinner at Washington! The speaker was happy to be able to say that the attention paid to the party was not thrown away, for it was from the members of this mission that there arose a man—the late Count Katsu—who did much in organizing the Japanese Navy, and another and perhaps greater man—the late Mr. Fukuzawa—who did more than any other man in promoting the cause of education and the spread of liberal, enlightened ideas. Then coming to later times, Mr. Shimada called attention to the fact that American citizens were most prominent among those foreigners who assisted in the re-organization of the various branches of Japanese administration. He also referred to the sympathetic attitude invariably maintained by America in regard to the question of the abolition of extra-territoriality. Neither did he omit to mention with gratitude that it was America who led the other Powers in withdrawing their post offices from our treaty ports. Mr. Shimada then proceeded to ask the question—"Why is it that China, which has been in contact with the West much longer than we have, still lags behind us? Why is it that while China has been and is suffering from a serious religious trouble,—namely, conflicts between adherents of Christianity and non-converts,—Japan is quite free from such trouble?" Many causes doubtless conspired to this singular result. But on the present occasion, the speaker naturally confined himself to one, namely, the superior personal character of those who first represented Occidental civilization in the fields of religion and education. And many of these lofty-minded persons hailed from the great Republic on the other side of the Pacific. Who did not gratefully cherish the memories of men like Verbeck, Hepburn, Williams Thompson, Griffith, Brown and Clarke? The Americans would doubtless say that they had only done their duty, but Mr. Shimada rightly insisted that the Japanese should, and did, all the same feel keenly thankful for the unceasing sympathy and assistance given them by the Americans. Lastly the speaker referred to a peculiar bond of affinity that unites the Japanese with the Americans and the English, namely, the bond of common type of civilization. Japan, he said, had definitely identified herself with the Anglo-Saxon type of civilization, which was characterised by its love of freedom, equality, and progressiveness. This was in one sense the result of a geographical necessity. One of the very reasons of America's sending out Perry to knock at our door of seclusion had been the opening of the Pacific coast, which had brought America face to face with Japan across the sea. This geographical intimacy would be immensely increased on the completion of the Isthmian Canal. He concluded with the prophecy that the friendship that had so naturally and so auspiciously been cemented and which had produced in the past such splendid results, would be fruitful of more splendid events in the future.

Viscount Okabe, on behalf of the Beiyu Kyokai, said a few words of congratulation befitting the occasion,

At this point much interest was aroused by the singing by the Americans present of the same hymn which Commodore Perry's party had sung in the Bay of Yedo fifty years ago.

COUNT OKUMA'S SPEECH.

Count Okuma now rose, amidst loud and prolonged clapping of hands. After a few preliminary remarks, the noble speaker said that during 200 years or more of our history previous to the advent of the Tokugawa dynasty Japan had been a country of open doors. Our forefathers had always welcomed alien races, the result being the growth of a people of mixed race and mixed civilization. Why then the seclusion of more than two centuries under the Tokugawa régime? Stern circumstances, said the illustrious speaker, compelled Japan to this unfortunate course. For a long perior prior to the closing of her doors Japan had been in free and unfettered intercourse specially with Spain and Portugal. That intercourse led to the introduction of a new religion, which made such rapid progress that tradition put the number of converts at several millions within a hundred years. The first religious propagandists were men of rare nobility of character. But they were soon followed by men of inferior quality. These began to meddle with politics. People began to suspect that the real object of missionary work was to conquer the country. The home governments at Lisbon and Madrid might possibly have been innocent of any evil designs, but their missionaries in the Far East behaved in such a manner that the rulers of Japan came to the conclussion that the object and presence of foreign missionaries were inimical to the peace and tranquillity of the country. At the time Japan adopted this policy, it so chanced that Europe was also grappling with a religious trouble. It was the harrassing period of the Thirty Years' War. Centinuing, the Count observed that, regrettable as was the shutting of our doors, our isolation of 200 years was not altogether without advantages. Iyeyasu was a wonderful statesman. Mainly as the result of his foresight and prudence, the country enjoyed a profound peace for over two centuries—a peace which favoured the revival of letters, development of commerce and in general a wonderful increase of national prosperity. Moreover during the seclusion of 216 years, Japan was not altogether out of touch with the West. The light of Western civilization was all this while penetrating Japan through the little port of Nagasaki, where the Dutch, alone of all Occidental nations, were permitted to reside and trade. The result was the spread of the knowledge of medicine, astronomy, botany and other branches of Western learning among the people long before the advent of Perry. Preparations had thus been steadily made during the period of seclusion for the reception with advantage of the full flood of Western civilization. As to the historical details about the conclusion of the first treaty with America, which definitely opened the country, and as to the subsequent relations between Japan and America, Count Okuma did not think [illegible] all necessary for him to dwell at length, as the subject had already been exhaustively treated by the preceding speaker. All that remained for him was to supply what Mr. Shimada had omitted to touch or to expand what he had dismissed in a few pregnant words. It seemed to him that attention had long been directed in America to this country before Perry was sent. During 70 or 80 years before that mission left America, the Pacific coasts had been touched by more than 50 Japanese fishing craft washed away by storms. In contemplating at this distance of time the remarkable success with which Perry's mission was crowned, the Count thought it necessary to look at the personality of that eminent American officer. The success, he thought, was in a large measure due to his sagacity and his high sense of justice and freedom. It was fortunate for Japan that a man of his unique qualifications had been sent by the American Government, for otherwise Japan's awakening might possibly have been more or less deferred. Referring to the remarkable patience shown by another great American, Townsend Harris, in initiating the officials of the Shogunate Government into the elementary principles of international intercourse, his task, the Count said, demanded as much patience as an attempt at coaching a primary school boy for a university course would demand. The treaty arranged under the wise care of this man was terminable in ten years, a provision absent in later treaties, and in other respects it was the best treaty Japan ever concluded before the final Revision. Referring to the Oguri Mission to America, already alluded to by the previous speaker, Count Okuma stated that the extraordinary degree of attention shown them on the other side was proved by the fact that Congress at Washington voted $50,000 as expenses for entertaining them as national guests. One of the many beneficial results of this mission was the discovery which its members made of the importance of studying the English language. At that time Dutch was the only and prevalent European tongue cultivated in Japan. All this was changed immediately upon the return of Oguri and his suite, who set about encouraging the study of English. The Count had no doubt that the adoption of English as our standard foreign language had wide reaching effects on the mental bias of the people and the character of national development. The opening of the country was followed by a very troublous period full of untoward events, but the good seeds brought home by the Oguri Mission bore their fruits. The second important Mission, which received almost as much attention in America and which was destined to bear equally good results, was that of the late Prince Iwakura. With him were men like Okubo, Kido and Ito. Among other instances of Japanese indebtedness to Americans, the speaker referred to the fact that during thirty-two out of the thirty-seven years of the present reign, our Foreign Office had always had the benefit of the able and loyal services of American Advisers. First to serve us in that capacity was Mr. Smith, a well-known international lawyer. It was during his tenure of office that the now historic seizure of the Peruvian ship carrying slaves and their release at Yokohama took place. He was succeeded by House and Le Gendre, and finally the Foreign Office was fortunate enough to secure the services of Mr. Dension who after a distinguished service of 20 years still remained at his important post. That Americans had always been connected with Japan's foreign policy was, said the speaker, sufficiently interesting and significant to deserve mention on the present occasion. In the last war with China, Japan had reason to feel thankful for the sympathetic atitude of the American Representatives at Tokyo and Peking. Japan was now unfortunately entangled in war with a big Power. In this war she represented the aims and aspirations of the civilized world—more especially in connection with the maintenance of the principle of the open door. Japan had to draw her sword to sweep away a great obstacle in the path of the practical carrying out of that principle. Japan's success in this struggle would therefore be the success of the common policy of the commercial Powers.

RELIEF FUND PROPOSED AND ADOPTED.

The Chair hitherto occupied by Mr. Honda being now taken by Dr. De Forest, the latter introduced

The Rev. John McKim, who spoke as follows:—

"The event that we commemorate to-day is unique in the experience of individuals and of nations. A friendship forced at first upon an unwilling and suspicious people is now gratefully received and warmly reciprocated. The persistent pressure brought by Commodore Perry for admission to Japan gave outlet to regenerating forces which had been seething in the minds of Japanese patriots for several generations. It was a day on which a nation was born anew. It gave fruition to the hopes of thousands of the noblemen of old. An Empire standing for centuries in splendid isolation was received into the comity of nations, and while treasuring the glories of the past press forward to grasp the grandest possibilities of the future. Oriental by arbitrary lines of longitude, Japan is Occidental in her ideals and aspirations. Civil and religious freedom are guaranteed to every Japanese subject under the constitution. All men are equal before the law. We foreigners who have lived among you for many years, my Japanese friends, have watched with ever increasing respect and admiration your intelligent discrimination in selecting all of the good the world has to offer and which by adaptation and assimilation you have made your own. How can we Americans best commemorate in some tangible and practical form this fiftieth birthday of New Japan? Mr. Chairman, in this connection I have a proposition to offer. The Japanese people have already erected one monument in Perry's memory, a stone pillar on the lonely strip of beach at Karihama. I propose that we Americans now perpetuate his great name in another manner. This time I would have it graved, not on a pillar of stone but on the hearts of two great peoples. The mention of the gallant sailor calls to mind the hundreds of thousands of sailors and soldiers of Japan who have been called from their home in the service of their country. And I can think of nothing more after the mind of the man whose deeds we commemorate to-day on this fiftieth anniversary than the starting here, and now, by the American citizens resident in Japan of a fund for the aid of the destitute families of Japanese soldiers and sailors, to be known as the Perry Memorial Relief Fund, to be placed at the disposal of His Excellency the Minister of the Imperial Household for distribution under the command of His Imperial Majesty. Nor is it the purpose of this proposal in any way to compete or interfere with any other similar projects that have been already started, but to supplement them and to endeavour to reach sources that would not otherwise be touched. Japan's sailors and soldiers have gone to the front, many of them never to return. There are already in Tokyo alone eight hundred destitute families, with all means of support suddenly cut off, and there will be throughout the Empire many thousands in a similar position before the termination of the war. The inevitable distress already begins to stare us in the face, and I for one feel most strongly that it is our privilege as well as our duty, not only to stretch out a helping hand ourselves, but to call upon our fellow countrymen at home to assist us. Why not begin to-day to crystallize into practical and permanent form, and a form entirely consistent with our carefully preserved neutrality, the friendly feelings and charitable impulses which undoubtedly exist in the hearts of the American people? And lest I be misunderstood, I wish to add that charity is beyond the pale of politics, and therefore the proposition I now put forth has no significance whatever other than an appeal to those broad and powerful humanitarian sympathies that make of all nations of the earth one universal brotherhood."

This proposal was received by the whole party present with great and touching enthusiasm.

Count Okuma thanked the reverend gentleman for the sympathetic proposal made by him, and by way of expressing his gratitude for the sake of the poor famllies of our sailors and soldiers, he desired to be allowed the privilege of putting his own name on the subscription list.

Mr. J. W. Copman, Secretary of the American Asiatic Association, rising, said:

"Mr. N. F. Smith, President of the American Asiatic Association, is prevented on account of sickness from being present. On his behalf I may say that the gentlemen who have spoken have so clearly outlined the object under consideration that it is unnecessary for me to dwell upon it. I may say, however, I desire to say, in the name of the president of the Association that this movement will have our hearty support, and I can safely assure you that we will support the Perry Relief Fund with a subscription of 10,000 *yen* from individual members. I have great pleasure in subscribing 2,000 *yen*. I see some of my associates here, and I call upon them to add their little mite to mine."

This call met an immediate and enthusiastic response. Altogether the subscriptions promised on the spot amounted to 63,811.86 *yen*. Among the principal subscribers were Baron Hisaya Iwasaki 10,000 *yen*, Baron Mitsui 10,000 *yen*, Mr. Masuda representing the Bussan Kaisha 10,000 *yen*, Prince Shimazu 5,000 *yen*, Prince Mori 5,000 *yen*, Mr. Griscom 1,000 *yen*, Count Okuma 1,000 *yen*, Mr. B. C. Howard 1,000 *yen*, Count Matsukata 1,000 *yen*, Mr. Murai 1,000 *yen*, Mr. Frazar, 1,000 *yen*, Mr. Mendelson 500 *yen*, Mr. R. H. Davis 500 *yen*, Mr. Akaboshi 1,000 *yen*, Mr. Birch 500 *yen*, Mr. Frederick Palmer 500 *yen* (300 on behalf of *Collier's Weekly* and 200 for himself), Mr. R. Kondo 500 *yen*, Mr. M. Kato 500 *yen*, and Mr. S. Matsuo 500 *yen*.

Prof. J. T. Swift, of the Higher Normal School, said:—

"It is evident that the cause that has been put before us lies very near to the hearts of the two peoples. It is the cause of the fatherless; it is a strong cause. It needs to have opportunity to spread far beyond the limits of those represented by this assembly. I move, therefore, that this meeting instruct the Chairman to appoint a Committee with power to take such steps as shall serve and extend this movement for the fatherless in Japan in celebration of this fiftieth anniversary of our international friendship."

Baron Hisaya Iwasaki seconded the motion. It being unanimously passed, the following gentlemen were appointed as Committee:—

Mr. N. F. Smith.
Mr. J. W. Copman.
Mr. B. C. Howard.
Mr. D. H. Blake.
Prof. J. D. Swift.
Mr. V. W. Helm.
Mr. Juichi Soyeda.
Mr. Aisuke Kabayama.

The Rev. Mr. Imbrie said:—

"I take it for granted that a committee will be appointed to extend this movement to the United States. Many here present are connected with mission boards in the United States. Such boards should be asked to co-operate with the American branch of the Committee."

Mr. G. M. Fisher, Secretary of the International Committee of the Y.M.C.A., said:—

"I expect to sail for America soon and to attend the International Convention of the Young Men's Christian Association, and I shall most heartily recommend this Perry Memorial Relief Fund to the generosity of the business men represented in that convention. I am sure it ought to receive the hearty support of the men constituting the Association in America."

Bishop D. H. Moore of the Methodist Episcopal Church, said:—

"This speaker touched my heart, for I also am on my way to America to appear before the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. With my little contribution of 50 *yen* (I wish it were 50,000) I promise you to do my utmost to spread this enthusiasm of benevolence through that conference, representing as it does one million members."

Rev. H. H. Guy said:—

"I am sure the people I represent will be very glad to help."

Prof. E. W. Clement said:—

"I represent a family of six (you will pardon the personal reference.) My first child was born here. In behalf of the family of six that is so closely related to this land, I would like to subscribe 30 *yen*."

After the American national anthem had been played, Count Matsukata proposed three cheers for the President of the United States, which was heartily responded to.

After the *Kimi ga yo* was sung, H. E. Mr. Lloyd C. Griscom, Minister of the United States, said:—

"Count Matsukata has done us the honour of proposing three *banzai* for the President of the United States. I now propose that we give three rousing cheers for His Majesty the Emperor of Japan."

Mr. Griscom led in the three cheers and a tiger.

It was six o'clock when the meeting dispersed, with in most cases lighter pockets than they came with, but with the pleasing sense of having assisted at a worthy cause of humanity.

YOKOHAMA FOREIGN BOARD OF TRADE.

The annual meeting of members of the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade was held on Thursday afternoon at the offices of the Board of Trade. In the absence of Mr. R. D. Robison, Chairman, Mr. E. C. Davis took the chair and there were also present: Messrs. V. R. Bowden J. Griffin, F. G. Sale, A. J. MacLure, F. M. Tegner, C. Griffin, M. Surth, L. Serkis and the Secretary, Mr. J. E. Beale.

After waiting for a considerable time the meeting as there was no quorum present decided on the motion of Mr. F. G. Sale seconded by Mr. J. Griffin to adjourn to Friday next at 4 p.m. The report as published in another place was presented and we subjoin the accounts which were also submitted.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1903.

INCOME.

To Balance, Dec. 31st, 1902.......			2,840.47
Members' Subscriptions	96 at 35		3,360.00
Circulars sold:—			
To members.......9,277 for...		1,778.24	
To Non-Members. 996 for...		258.90	
			2,037.14
Annual Statistics		57.73	
Tea Statistics		15.90	
Annual Reports		194.00	
Customs Tariffs		287.00	
			554.63
Survey Fees			315.00
Waste Paper sold			9.34
Bank Interest			197.87
			9 314.45
Dependency, 4th Quarter. 1903			444.57

EXPENDITURE.

Salaries, Secretary and Staff		3.887.00
Printing Circulars, Statistics, Reports, &c...		535.15
Rent, Lighting, and Firing		636.50
Survey Fees..		235.00
Stationery, Advertising, and Subscription to Papers and Returns.........................		105.25
Customs Reports.....................................		360.00
Collector's Commission		169.00
P. O. Box and Telephone		70.00
Insurance..		7.50
Books of reference		17.60
Postage, Petties and Sundries		70.90
Balance H. & S. Bank	3,089.45	
Cash in Hand	131.10	
		3,220.55
		9,314.45
Balance, Jan. 1, 1904		3,220.55
Dependency to collect		444.57

E. & O. E.

Yokohama, February 19th, 1904.
J. E. BEALE, Secretary.

We have examined the vouchers and find that the above statement of Income and Expenditure is correct.

J. COX-EDWARDS, }
A. J. MCCLURE, } Auditors.

THE FACTORY GIRLS' FUND.

We are asked to acknowledge the receipt of the following subscriptions:—

	Yen.
Already acknowledged	147.30
F. W. Thomas..	5.00
G. H. B.	5.00
Misses and Master Stone	1.50
"Mildmay"	3.00
Proceeds of Miss Thomas' Concert	321.50
	483.30

FIRES.

On March 31st, at 3.50 a.m., fire broke out at Sueyoshi-cho, Yokohama, burning down eleven buildings, separated into twenty-one dwellings, and injuring four. A man was severely injured while endeavouring to save his property from the flames. Negligence is reported to be the cause.

Mr. S. Kishi, a lawyer of Tokyo, will leave on April 8th by the *Empress of China* for Vancouver, and is expected to return within a few months.

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

SOUTH AFRICA.

London, March 29.

The Hon. E. Lyttleton, Colonial Secretary, speaking in the House of Commons, said that success had been met with in dealing with the recent outbreaks of plague in South Africa. He also said the Government had declined to prevent the introduction of Chinese into the Transvaal.

SIR MICHAEL HICKS BEACH.

London, March 31.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach has announced that he will not present himself again for election to Parliament.

PARLIAMENT.

Parliament has been adjourned to the 12th of April. Mr. Balfour has said that the budget will probably be presented on April 19th.

THE FRENCH NAVY.

London, March 31.

During a lengthy debate in the French Chamber on the condition of the navy M. Lockroy sharply criticised the administration of M. Pelletan. The latter repeated the points of defence which he gave on the 16th March (that since taking office, he had reinforced the squadron in the Far East, which would be completed by a torpedo destroyer division. He had also provided for the safety of the Colonies by the organization of mobile defences in the shape of destroyers and submarines wherein nothing previously had been done. The delay in the construction of ships was due to an improvement in designs. The *personnel* of the Navy was fairly satisfactory and the Channel and Mediterranean Squadrons could sail at a moment's notice.)

M. Combes supported M. Pelletan.

The Chamber passed a resolution, promising to institute a special enquiry into the state of affairs prevailing in the fleet.

RUSSIAN SUPPLIES IN MANCHURIA.

London, April 1.

The Russian Commissariat is not sending foodstuffs to Manchuria, relying entirely on the plentiful local supplies of cattle and grain which are accumulating at Harbin.

UNREST IN KOREA.

Unruly elements in Korea are giving trouble, the country being unsafe outside the Japanese lines.

ACCIDENT TO A GERMAN LINER.

The P. & O. steamer *Marmora* takes the passengers of the *Oldenburg*, which is lying disabled at Aden.

THE THIBET MISSION ATTACKED.

London, April 1.

Reuter's correspondent at Tuna telegraphs that the Thibetans having asked the British mission to retire, Colonel Younghusband refused, with the result that two engagements were fought, wherein the Thibetans suffered most severely, and fled to the hills. Fifty or sixty of them, however, obstinately held their camp at Guru, which was finally taken by the mounted infantry and Goorkhas.

CHINA'S NEUTRALITY.

The Chinese Legation at St. Petersburg declares that China is sincerely and firmly resolved to observe neutrality, from which she will depart only in the event of the violation of Chinese territory by Russians or Japanese.

ANTARCTIC EXPLORATION.

London, April 2.

The Antarctic vessels *Discovery*, *Morning* and *Terra Nova* have arrived at Lyttleton, New Zealand. The *Morning* and *Terra Nova* reached the *Discovery* on February 14, and found all well on board. It has been ascertained that the interior of Victoria land is continuous at a height of 900 feet, and is evidently a vast continental plateau.

THIBETANS HAVE RUSSIAN RIFLES.

The *Times* finds it significant that the escort of the three Thibetan Generals were armed with rifles bearing the Russian Imperial stamp.

THE CREWS OF THE "VARYAG" AND "KORIETZ" AT HOME.

The crews of the *Varyag* and *Korietz* have arrived at Odessa, a triumphant reception being accorded them.

THE FIGHTING IN THIBET.

London, April 3.

It is officially stated the Thibetans had 300 killed and many wounded, 250 being made prisoners. The British had nine wounded. The newspapers hope that the sharp lesson administered to the Thibetans will render further fighting unnecessary.

THE ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

Later.

The Antarctic Expedition ship *Discovery* reports important geographical and other scientific results. She found that Wilkes Land does not exist. She sailed over the place where it is shown on the chart. The work of extricating the *Discovery* was a gigantic task. She had to cut her way for over eighteen miles through the ice in order to reach open water.

THE THIBET MISSION.

London, April 4.

Reuter's correspondent at Tana says that the fighting will not alter the political character of the Mission, which is still going to Gyangtse.

THE GERMAN PRESS ON THE THIBETAN SITUATION.

The Berlin newspapers consider that Russian prestige has received a severe blow, and express curiosity as to Russia's attitude towards Thibet.

A RUSSIAN CRUISER SINKS.

Reuter's St. Petersburg correspondent wires that the cruiser *Jemtchug*, completing at the Baltic yards, has begun to sink. It was found that the pipes leading from the furnaces to the sea had been left open and water was pouring into the vessel. Foul play is suspected.

THE THIBET EXPEDITION.

London, April 5.

Reuter's correspondent at Tana reports that the Chinese Amban has written to Colonel Younghusband to say that the Dalai Lama refused him transport. He is now coming to Gyangtze.

A reconnaissance made by the expedition found a strong abandoned camp six miles from the scene of the recent fight.

THE BALKAN TROUBLE.

Fighting has taken place at Cresna between a Bulgarian band and a Turkish force. Several were wounded. Large bands have appeared on the Monastir railway. Many peasants are reported to be joining the insurgents.

NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

London, April 5.

It is stated at St. Petersburg that General Atramanof, with 500 Cossacks, has occupied Unsan, thus forestalling the Japanese advancing from Chon-ju.

THE THIBETAN MISSION.

The *Novoe Vremya* regards the British advance on Thibet as an important move, thereby dominating Thibet and the Dalai Lama's Government.

RUSSIAN TRANSPORT.

London, April 6.

Prince Hilkoff, Minister for Communications, has returned to St. Petersburg to confer with the authorities. He says that the scarcity of locomotives and cars on the eastern section of the Trans-Siberian railway has been remedied. West of Irkutsk there are ten trains and beyond Lake Baikal nine goods trains and five passenger and military trains running daily in either direction. He returns in a fortnight to supervise the construction of the circum-Baikal line.

ANGLO-FRENCH RELATIONS.

London, April 7.

It is declared by the highest authority in the press that there is no hitch in the Anglo-French negotiations. All questions are now practically settled.

RUSSIA RETRENCHING.

Later.

The St. Petersburg *Official Messenger* notifies that the Government has decided to have recourse for the present to the so-called free cash reserve for war expenditure while retrenching in various directions, notably in the matter of railways. These retrenchments aggregate £13,000,000 sterling.

(Received at the Legation of France).

THE LAST ATTACK ON PORT ARTHUR.

Saigon, March 31.

On the night of the 26-27th March the Russian destroyer *Silni* went out to meet four Japanese steamers accompanied by six destroyers which came with the intention of blocking the harbour. The *Silni* sank the four steamers outside the harbour and fought off the destroyers. She had six killed and thirteen wounded and was so much injured that she was sunk but was afterwards refloated.

FRENCH NEWS.

Saigon, April 2.

The Chamber and the Senate have voted a million in aid of the losses caused by the cyclone in Reunion.

The Chamber has adjourned to the 17th of May, the Senate to the 25th.

The Thibetans attacked the Younghusband mission at Chlumbi and were repulsed with great loss.

NEWS FROM FRANCE.

Saigon, April 4.

From Liaoyang—The sanitary condition of the troops in Manchuria is satisfactory. The Russians have good relations with the Chinese who readily sell their beasts and give their houses to the soldiers.

April 5.

From St. Petersburg—King Edward has the intention of intervening after the war to settle the difficulties which divide Russia and England.

TREATIES OF ARBITRATION.

Saigon, April 7.

M. Delcasse has signed with the Netherlands an arbitration convention analogous to those that have already been signed with Great Britain, Italy, and Spain.

A NEW CABLE.

A convention has been signed between France and Holland with reference to the establishment of a submarine cable between Pontiniak and Saigon.

THE RUSSIANS ON THE YALU.

It is stated in London that the Russians have evacuated the left bank of the Yalu.

(From the "Jiji Shimpo.")

A CHOICE REGIMENT.

London, April 5.

According to the *Koelnische Zeitung*, published at Cologne, Germany, the Russian authorities are organizing a regiment consisting of convicts and mounted bandits from Saghalien and the Caucasus.

THE JAPANESE FORCES.

General Flug denies the statement that the Japanese forces have entered Manchuria.

THE THIBET EXPEDITION.

The British force has occupied Guru.

(From the "Asahi Shimbun.")

PRINCE KHILKOFF'S VIEWS.

London, April 5.

Prince Khilkoff, Minister of State for Public Works, will leave shortly for the Far East. The Minister believes that the Japanese can not destroy the railway at any point in Manchuria, and states that the line round Lake Baikal will be completed in August. He adds that the Japanese will follow the tactics of the Boers, who alternately fought and retreated, so that the present campaign will be a long one. The Minister also believes that a great engagement will take place after June 6th.

From the "China Mail."

REUNION DEVASTATED.

London, March 28.

A cyclone has passed over the Island of Reunion, utterly devastating the entire island.

All the crops have been totally destroyed, and immense damage has been done to property.

Thousands have been rendered homeless by the destruction of their houses, and many deaths are reported.

THE KAISER'S TOUR.

Kaiser William II is at present at Naples, Italy. Prince Emmanuel, the heir apparent to the Italian throne, accompanied by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the Navy (Signor Tittoni and Admiral Morin), visited the Emperor on board the Imperial yacht *Hohenzollern*, and they lunched together.

The most cordial toasts were enthusiastically drunk, and expressions of the unchanging devotion of their respective subjects to the Triple Alliance between Austria, Germany and Italy, were delivered.

The proceedings were marked throughout by the most intense fervency.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Prinz Heinrich 1	Sa. April 9
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Tremont 2	Su. April 10
America	P. M. Co.	Siberia 3	Su. April 10
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	China 4	Th. April 14
Europe	M. M. Co.	Annam 5	Th. April 14
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Shawmut	Th. April 15
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic 6	M. April 18
Canada	C. P. R.	Tartar	M. April 18
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Sa. April 23
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. April 25
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	Th. April 28
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Athenian	F. May [illegible]

1 Left Nagasaki on the 7th inst.
2 Left Hongkong on the 1st inst.
3 Left San Francisco on the 23rd ult.
4 Left Hongkong on the 5th inst.
5 Left Hongkong on the 5th inst.
6 Left San Francisco on the 2nd inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Siberia	M. April 11
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Tremont	Tu. April 12
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Bengloe	W. April 13
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Prinz Heinrich	Sa. April 16
America	P. M. Co.	China	Sa. April 16
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Shawmut	F. April 16
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Tartar	M. April 18
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Tu. April 19
Europe	M. M. Co.	Annam	F. April 22
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. April 25
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Tu. April 26
Canada	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	F. April 29
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Athenian	Sa. May 7

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Minas de Batan, American steamer, ——, Maselene Gartez, 31st Mar.,—Iloilo, Sugar.—Cie de Tabacco Philapinas.

Hyades, American steamer, 2,932, Geo. Wright, 1st April,—Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Khalif, British steamer, 2,219, Middleton, 1st April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Salazie, French steamer, 2,089, Negre, 1st April,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Volute, British steamer, 2,599, Halliday, 1st April,—Singapore via Kobe, Kerosene Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Irene, Chinese steamer, 826, H. Steeman, 2nd April,—Tientsin, General.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Ganges, British steamer, 2,721, W. Sibbold, 2nd April,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Crusader, British steamer, 2,744, F. Brown, 2nd April,—Rangoon, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Wingsang, British steamer, 1,544, N. Lamdie, 2nd April,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Aikawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,105, Hoshino, 2nd April,—Ujina, General.—Japanese.

Lydia, British steamer, 1,772, Olstenburg, 2nd April,—Formosa, Rice and Sugar.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Telemachus, British steamer, 4,802, J. W. Goodwin, 2nd April,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Prosper, Norwegian steamer, 788, Christiansen, 3rd April,—Moji, Coal.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Eretria, British steamer, 2,255, Mulcahy, 3rd April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Taiyuan, British steamer, 1,459, Dowson, 3rd April,—Hongkong, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Amagi Kan (10 guns), Japanese gunboat, 920, Capt. Minami Yoshitaka, 3rd April,—Yokosuka.

Palawan, British steamer, 2,996, J. D. Andrews, 3rd April,—London via ports, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Braemar, British steamer, 2,316, S. L. Saxby, 4th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,055, J. C. Jensen, 4th April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 4th March,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Indrasamha, British steamer, 3,367, Wm. E. Craven, 4th April,—Hongkong via ports, General.—P. & A. S.S. Co.

Stolberg, German steamer, 1,553, Zurbonsen, 4th April,—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Willowdene, British steamer, 2,716, Rigby, 4th April,—Moji, 31st March, Ballast.—Captain.

Indravelli, British steamer, 4,151, R. J. Craven, 5th April,—Portland, Oregon, Mails and General.—P. & A. S.S. Co.

Glenlogan, British steamer, 3,740, J. McGregor, 5th April,—London via ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Heinrich Menzell, German steamer, 952, Carl Ott, 5th April,—Hamburg, General.—Grosser & Co.

America Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,460, W. W. Greene, 5th April,—Kobe, General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Suevia, German steamer, 2,663, von Doehrens, 5th April,—Anping, General.—C. Illies, & Co.

E. F. Ferdinand, Austrian steamer, 3,843, C. Maccorich, 5th April,—Trieste via ports, General.—Pollak Bros.

Sheikh, British steamer, 2,828, C. Jones, 6th April,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bintang, Danish steamer, 873, Ingerman, 6th April,—Moji, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Obi, British steamer, 1,951, Davison, 6th April,—Shimidzu, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Koyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 637, Sakai, 6th April,—Moji, Coal.—Yamagata-ya.

Heathdene, British steamer, 2,277, W. J. Milburn, 6th April,—Muroran, Coal.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Teesta, British steamer, 4,428, A. M. Rait, 6th April,—Singapore, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 7th April,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Lennox, British steamer, 2,361, McNair, 31st March,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Anna, Norwegian steamer, 773, Olsen, 31st March,—Moji, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Bencleuch, British steamer, 2,679, A. W. S. Thomson, 31st March,—Kobe, General.—Cornes & Co.

Indrawadi, British steamer, 6,369, Cullington, 31st March,—Kobe, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Lisa, Swedish steamer, 998, Horndale, 31st March,—Kobe, Coal.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Malacca, British steamer, 2,616, A. F. Street, 31st March,—London via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Itinda, British steamer, 3,362, G. C. Stone, 31st March,—Kobe, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,065, J. C. Jensen, 31st March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Taisang, British steamer, 1,544, R. C. D. Bradley, 31st March,—Shanghai via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Benlomond, British steamer, 1,752, Currie, 31st March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Amagi Kan (10 guns), Japanese gunboat, 920, Com. Minami Yoshitaka, 31st March,—Yokosuka.

Hamburg, German steamer, 6,598, E. Burmeister, 2nd April,—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Hyades, American steamer, 2,932, G. Wright, 2nd April,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Phu Yen, French steamer, 1,298, N. Thomas, 2nd April,—Moji, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Khalif, British steamer, 2,219, Middleton, 4th April,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Lydia, British steamer, 1,772, Olstenburg, 4th April,—Kobe, Rice and Sugar.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Ganges, British steamer, 2,721, W. Sibbold, 4th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Clara Jebsen, German steamer, 1,303, Banainen, 4th April,—Kobe, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 5th April,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Germania, German steamrr, 924, Bruhn, 5th April,—Moji, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,065, J. C. Jensen, 5th April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Prosper, Norwegian steamer, 788, Christiansen, 5th April,—Moji, Ballast.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Irene, Chinese steamer, 826, H. Steeman, 6th April,—Osaka, General.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Indrasamha, British steamer, 3,367, Wm. E. Craven, 6th April,—Portland, Oregon, Mails and General.—P. & A. S.S. Co.

Carl, German steamer, 3,153, J. Jochinsen, 6th April,—Moji, Ballast.—C. Illies & Co.

Heinrich Menzell, German steamer, 952, Carl Ott, 6th April,—Moji, Ballast.—Grosser & Co.

Volute, British steamer, 2,599, Halliday, 6th April,—Kobe, Kerosene Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Wingsang, British steamer, 1,544, T. T. Seller, 6th April,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Eretria, British steamer, 2,255, Mulcahy, 6th April,—Hakodate, General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

America Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,360, W. W. Greene, 7th April.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Bintang, Danish steamer, 873, Ingerman, 7th April,—Otaru via ports, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Stolberg, German steamer, 1,553, Zubonsen, 7th April,—Kobe, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per French steamer *Salazie*, from Marseilles via ports:—Mr. Sarda, Mr. Adam, Mr. Percival Phillips, 6 Chinese, Mr. and Mrs. Grossi, Mr. Medina, Mr. M. Won mei-ze, Mr. Da fou, Mr. Grautoff, Mr. H. Holste, Mr. Victor, Mr. Milne, Mr. Homes, and Mr. Hawse, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Wingsang*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. G. H. Relland, Mr. G. G. Cunningham, 11 Japanese, and 3 Chinese, in cabin; 28 Japanese, and 18 Chinese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Mrs. L. L. Bailey, Mr. G. S. Beebe, Mr. W. E. Beaman, Mr. J. F. Block, Mr. W. Brunfield, Mr. M. Butterick, Mr. A. S. Church, Mr. S. C. Clark, Mr. G. Clark, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Cockrane, Hon. F. Colbourne, Capt. N. Date, Dr. W. F. Dunlop, Lieut. J. A. Edgell, Capt. W. M. Folger, Lieut. G. H. B. Foster, Mr. S. Furukawa, Mr. C. L. Goodrich, Capt. Hadano, Mr. J. H. Hanan, Mrs. Hanan, Mr. K. Hishida, Mr. S. Horinouchi, Capt. Inouye, Mr. T. Inouye, Major Ishimitsu, Mr. K. Isonoda, Major M. Kawai, Mr. K. Kimura, Mr. H. Komada, Major S. Kikuchi, Miss King, Major J. Koike, Mr. Y. Koshiyama, Mr. H. Komada, Capt. G. Konishi, Mr. Mario Leitao, Mr. E. Harold Low, Mr. G. de Man, Mrs. de Man, Mr. G. H. Medhurst, Major Mori, Mr. F. Y. Mow, Mr. C. H. McCready, Mrs. McCready, Miss M. McCready, Miss E. McCready, Mr. P. McFarlane, Mr. J. E. McWilliams, Mr. M. Nagai, Major K. Nakagawa, Capt. M. Nakayama, Major T. Nara, Mr. Y. Okamura, Mr. K. Ogata, Mr. K. Ohashi, Mr. K. S. Ouchi, Mr. W. F. Page, Lieut. S. F. G. Piggott, Mr. A. S. Piers, Mrs. Richardson, Major I. Sasaki, Mr. Kozo Sato, Mr. H. Shimazu, Mr. K. Shimuchi, Major Shioda, Mr. T. Shirai, Major Sitwell, Col. Apsley Smith, Mrs. Apsley Smith, Miss Gertrude Stern, Mr. M. Stern, Major T. Suto, Captain Tokunaga, Captain B. Thornhill, Mr. A. F. Tripp, Major K. Ugaki, Mr. H. Usin, Mr. J. D. Wainwright, U.S.N., Mr. C. Washburn, Mr. H. C. Wright, Mr. T. Yamane, Captain Yamaguchi, Capt. Yamasaki, and Lieut.-Col. A. Yoshida, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, from Hongkong via ports:—Miss Scidmore, Lieut.-Com. F. W. Coffin, U.S.N., Mr. C. Derham, Mr. R. D. Robison, Mr. Lambert, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. MacPherson, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Thomas, Mr. G. C. Bouman, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Field, Mr. P. Messer, Mr. and Mr. F. T. Tauge and child, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Benson, Mr. Iwasa, Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Harber, Mr. K. Iwai, Mr. H. Aubert, Miss Naito, Mr. and Mrs. Barto, Mr. Kaufman, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Eastlake, Mr. E. Becker, Mr. E. L. Van Nierop, Mr. and Mrs. Abegg, Mr. Allan Cameron, Mr. K. Fukushima, and Mr. Yoshikawa, in cabin; 3, in intermediate; 1, in steerage. For Vancouver:—Rev. A. D. Gring, Mrs. M. L. Johnson, Mr. Noren, Mr. Storey, Mr. and Mrs. C. Miller, Mr. H. F. Teverson, Rev. E. Bell, Mr. N. Kataoka, Mr. C. Christie, Mr. H. V. Elkington, Mr. A. Schroeder, Mrs. C. Doherty and child, Mr. H. Donkin, Mr. A. E. Leatham, Mr. H. T. Montagnier, Mr. A. G. Wise, Mr. F. O. R. Harman, Mr. H. W. D. Schmidt, Rev. B. F. West, Mrs. H. West, Miss E. Hemingway, Mr. S. S. Carruthers, Mrs. R. M. Berry, Mr. E. Field, Miss G. C. Knights, Mrs. L. S. Parker, Mr. F. Hockson, Miss Nield, Miss F. M. English, Lieut. C. L. Bland, R.G.A., Mr. R. A. Barlow, Mr. Delaconcelle, Lieut. H. V. Rhodes, Mr. H. B. Carter, Major Baker Brown, R.E., Lieut. Dunn, Mr. F. S. Brockman, Mr. and Mrs. Webb, Lieut. H. W. F. Ricketts, Mr. C. S. Moody, Mr. H. L. Finlay, Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes and child, Mr. and Mrs. Jenks, Mr. G. W. Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. Kirkland, Miss Schell, Miss M. B. Crans, Mr. S. C. Knights, Mr. A. Grossman, Mr. C. R. Bancroft, Mr. H. E. Reed, Rev. Dr. Stantz, Capt. W. Howe, Lieut. G. G. Webster, R.N., Mr. and Mrs. H. McPherson, Mr. C. E. Muller, Mr. A. Berthain, Mr. and Mrs. Stephens and infant, Mr. R. Laidlow, Mrs. Laidlow, Miss Francis, Mr. Zickermann, Mr. W. Kien, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. A. Bourne, Mr. E. Casey, Mr. L. B. Chute, Mrs. Brockman and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. D. Cranston, Mr. J. Cranston, Rev. and Mrs. Stobie and child, Capt. Seller, Rev. and Mrs. G. Douglas and child, Rev. and Mrs. E. F. P. Scholes, Miss Richardson, Dr. Pold, Mr. H. H. Horsey, and Mr. G. F. Smith, in cabin; 13, in intermediate; 172, in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Malacca*, for London via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Curtis, child and amah, Miss C. L. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. H. Newell and child, Miss Hoyt, Miss Grisswold, Mr. James Green, Mr. J. G. Hamilton, and Mr. J. M. Collum, in cabin.

Per German steamer *Hamburg*, for Europe via ports:—Miss Hill, Prince T. Shimadzu, Baron J. Shimadzu, Mr. M. Hirata, Miss Howard, Mr. E. Becker, Mr McGlew, Mr. Manke, Mr. Abegg, Mr. H. F. Ostrander, Mr. Harry Maxwell, Mr. John Latta, Mr. F. Palmer, Mr. Collins, Mr. Ehrismann, Mr. E. Stucken, Mr. B. F. Madon, Mr. Kaupmann, Mr. Brass and 2 servants, Mr. Davis and servant, Mr. Dinwiddie, Mr. Dohono, Mr. Kirton and 2 servants, Mr. McHugh, Mr. Maxwell and 2 servants, Mr. Ziegfeldt, Mrs. Ziegfeldt, Master Arnold Ziegfeldt, Mr. Gsell, Mr. Poten. Mr. J. H. Graven, Mr. R. A. Brown, Mr. Raphael Rizera, Miss M. Russell and native servant, Mr. Juan P. Nicola, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sharpe, Mrs. O. Voigt, Mr. and Mrs. Basil H. Betts, Miss A. L. Hill, Master Thomas Betts, Mr. Hasche, Mr. and Mrs. H. Collbran, Miss Anna Blumenfeld, Mr. Chujiro Kochi, Mr. H. Horiguchi, Miss K. Terazaki, Mr. Hermann Naggott, Mr. A. E. Rigby, Mr. T. Watanabe, Mr. Ng. Jack Fung, Miss Imai, Miss M A. Kobertson, Miss Veazey, Mrs. J. D. Caerother, Mr. L. Thompson, Miss Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. M. Lehmann, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Collin's 4 Japanese servants, Mr. Tong Chaw Fang, Miss T. Hashimoto, Mr. Ruhs, Mr. Char Ling Niok, Mr. and Mrs. S. Oyama, Mr. B. Sugimoto, Mr. K. Yoshioka, Mr. Y. Cheup Yuan, Mr. Liong Gang, Mr. Moohandass, Mrs. Choohermall, Mr. Chunng Huk, Dr. J. Yamada, and Mr. V. W. Helm, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. W. M. Hick, Mrs. Vilondaki, Mr. Y. Kuku, Mr. Yuen T. Chung, Mr. J. P. Kaka, Mrs. Hands, Miss E. Denbigh, Mr. G. P. Denbigh, Mr. J. Cornes, Mr. A. Milne, Mr. H. Holste, and Mr. Geo. Russell, in cabin; Mr. C. Lee On, Mr. M. A. Thompson, and Mr. J. Schultless, in intermediate; 43 Chinese, in steerage.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There is little enquiry. Small quantities of Grey Drills have changed hands, and there have been insignificant sales of Union Italians.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER YARD.
White Shirting—{40 yds. 36 in. 50 yds. 36 in.} ...	0.09 to 0.10
	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	Y. 2.85 to 3.60
Grey Shirting—9 lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.80 to 4.25
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches...	3.00 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton Italians and Satteens...	0.20 to 0.40

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	Y. 0.35 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 32 in....	0.30 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches...	0.16 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.50 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 to 65 inches ...	0.90 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5 lb per lb	0.60 to 0.66
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	9.50 to 12.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches...	0.90 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0 lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches...	1.90 to 2.25
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 5 lb, 24-25 yards, 32 nches...	2.50 to 3.65

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Y. 140.00 to 150.00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	—
Nos. 38/42, Singles	—
Nos. 32, Doubles...	145.00 to 150.00
Nos. 42, Doubles...	155.00 to 160.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/100, Plain...	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	245.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	295.00 to 305.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	425.00 to 435.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling...	Nominal.	33
Indian Broach...		26
Chinese		23

METALS.

Still a small business.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward...	Y. 4.05 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.30 to 4.60
Sheet Iron...	4.65 to 6.90
Galvanised Iron sheets	10.00 to 11.00
Wire Nails, assorted	5.15 to 5.75
Tin Plates, per box...	6.70 to 7.60
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.05
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1¼ inch)	5.00 to 5.50

KEROSENE.

The market is weak.

American	$3.10
Russian	3.20
Langkat	3.00

SUGAR.

The market is strong and continues to advance in view of the approaching increase in the consumption tax.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	Y. 6.90 to 7.30
Brown Manila...	6.90 to 7.60
Brown Daitong	5.40 to 6.80
Brown Canton...	5.90 to 8.40
White Java and Penang...	7.80 to 9.00
White Refined...	10.50 to 13.00

INDIGO.

No enquiry.

	PICUL
Java, Medium to best...	270.00 to 320.00
Calcutta, Medium to best	180.00 to 290.00
Madras (*Kurpah*), Medium to best ...	140.00 to 170.00
Madras (Dry Leaf), Medium to best ..	100.00 to 140.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Prices are nominally lower but the quality is also poorer. Spring reelings are coming in but are not very attractive. At the same time rather more business during the last three or four days at quotations.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra Best, Coarse ... ... Y.	—
Filatures—Extra, Fine	—
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	990 to 1,000
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	—
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	890 to 910
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	950 to 960
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	870 to 880
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	900 to 910
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	—
Common—Coarse	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1½	900 to 910
Re-reels—No. 2	—
Re-reels—No. 3	—
Kakedas—Extra	—
Kakedas—No. 1	920 to 925
Kakedas—No. 1½...	900 to 910
Kakedas—No. 2	880 to 890

WASTE SILK.

A moderate business in ordinary Kibiso at quotations, but there is very little life in the market and the season draws to a close.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	180 to 185
Noshi—Filatures, Good	170 to 175
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Good...	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	—
Nsohi—Joshiu, Best	130 to 135
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	120 to 125
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	150 to 160
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	140 to 145
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	70 to 80
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	60 to 70

TEA.

No transactions.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	—
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine...	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common...	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, April 7.

London silver ¼ lower and China sterling quotations ⅛ lower have caused local rates on China to rule firmer, but no change otherwise, rates closing for the mail per steamer *Empress of China* as under.

London—Bank T.T. ...	2/0⅛
— — Bills on demand...	2/0 3/16
— — 4 months' sight ...	2/0 5/16
— Private 4 months' sight...	2/0 9/16 @ ½
— — 6 months' sight...	2/0 11/16 @ ⅝
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight ...	253
— Private 4 months' sight...	257½ @ 7
— — 6 months' sight...	259 @ 8
Hongkong—Bank sight ... per $100.	86*
— Private 10 days' sight do.	88*
Shanghai—Bank sight ...	83*
— Private 10 days' sight ...	85*
India—Bank sight ...	150
— Private 30 days' sight ...	153
America—Bank sight...	49
— Private 30 days' sight ...	49¼
— Private 4 months' sight ...	50⅛
Germany—Bank sight ...	205½
— Private 4 months' sight ...	210 @ 9½
Bar Silver (London) ...	25¼

* Nominal.

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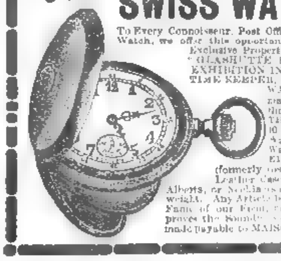

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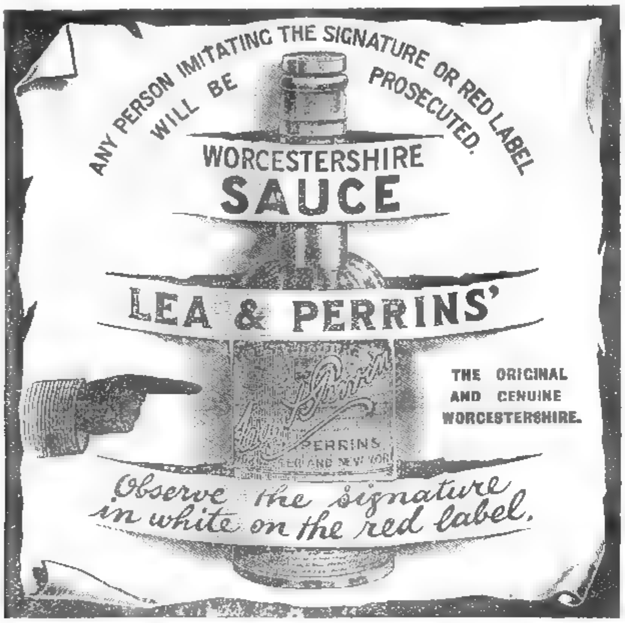

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, APRIL 16TH, 1904.

BIRTH.

On April 11, in Yamada, Ise, the wife of Rev. H. L. LATHAM, a Missionary from America, of a Daughter.

MARRIAGE.

On the 8th April, 1904, at the Grand Hotel, Yokohama, Mr. J. H. ROSENTHAL, of Yokohama, to Miss GERTRUDE M. STERN, of New York, U.S.A.

DEATH.

At his residence 694, Halsey Street, Brooklyn, New York, on March 5th, 1904, Doctor GEORGE STANLEY CLARKE, brother of Mrs. Davidson MacDonald and Mrs. Perry, Tsukiji, Tokyo.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE railway station at Kamada, between Shinagawa and Omori, was opened on April 11th.

FUNDS collected in Yokohama towards war expenses aggregated on April 11th about *yen* 75,591.72.

A SHIMONOSEKI telegram states that eight cases of small-pox were reported on April 12th. One of the patients died.

SNOW fell on April 5th in the district of Sannohe, Awomori prefecture, the depth being over two feet. One house collapsed and two persons were injured.

THE Emperor and Empress have decided to hold a Cherry-Blossom Party on April 20th at the Hama Detached Palace.

"THE GEISHA," which was being played at St. Petersburg, has had to be withdrawn owing to the anti-Japanese feeling there.

A cow belonging to K. Iida, a dairy keeper at Sarui-cho, Fukagawa, Tokyo, died on April 9th from a virulent form of rinderpest.

MR. FURUICHI, President of the Seoul-Fusan Railway Company, left Fusan on April 11th by the steamer *Kosho Maru* for Kobe.

MR. ISOBE SHIRO was on April 12th elected for Tokyo as a parliamentary representative to take the place of Mr. Akiyama, resigned.

THREE of the Russians who were treated in the Matsuyama Hospital, being recovered, left there on April 8th for Kobe on their way home.

PRINCESSES FUMI and YASU (daughters of the Emperor) who have been in Kamakura during the winter, returned to the capital on April 11th.

GENERAL TERAUCHI, Minister for the Army, entertained on the evening of April 8th high officers of the Head-quarters, at his official residence.

A MAN was crushed on April 11th by a train at the Yotsukaido station of the Sohu railway, his feet being severely injured. He was removed to the Chiba Hospital.

A TELEGRAM from Takeshiki states that according to an officer who had arrived from Chemulpo, the work of floating the *Variag* is almost brought to a successful result.

JAPANESE gold coins amounting to *yen* 2,600,000 were exported on April 8th by the steamer *Empress of China* to Vancouver and *yen* 20,000 by the *Salazie* to Hongkong.

MR. H. MATSUMURA, a director of the Naigai Fire Insurance Company Ltd., Kanda, Tokyo, has been arrested on a charge of embezzlement and of forging bank cheques.

LI MANG-ON, a Chinese passenger by the steamer *Empress of China*, which arrived on April 7th at Yokohama, committed suicide on the night before arrival by jumping into the sea. Insanity is reported to the cause.

S. WADA, a farmer in the district of Gunjo, Gifu prefecture, murdered his two children on April 9th with an axe, and attempted to commit suicide, when he was arrested. The cause is reported to be poverty.

THE *Asahi* states that the sailing vessel *Kwanon Maru* was sunk on April 6th at the entrance of Niigata during a gale. The captain and seven men were drowned. She carried dried fish from Kumaishi, Hokkaido.

EARLY on the morning of April 9th, two men armed with swords entered the dwelling of K. Mizutani, a charcoal merchant in Shin-emon cho, Nihonbashi, Tokyo, and stole several articles valued at about eighty *yen*.

ON the night of April 9th a man about forty years old, was killed on the railway near Kanagawa station. The following morning another man committed suicide in the same way on the railway near Uyeno station, Tokyo.

ACCORDING to a Chinese paper published at Yinkow, thirty-one Japanese spies and two Koreans employed by Japan have been arrested by the Russians at Port Arthur since the opening of the war. They were all transported to Siberia.

IT is reported by a telegram from Aomori that owing to the breaking of the river bank at a point near the Ashaka tunnel, a section of the O-u railway line was damaged on April 9th, traffic being suspended. Repairs will be completed in a few hours.

THE will of Mr. Edward Brook, the sewing-thread manufacturer, has been proved. The estate was sworn at £2,155,752, exclusive of heritable properties in Scotland, and of several settlements; and the amount paid for estate duty is no less than £170,580.

UNDER instructions from the Emperor, Viscount Tanaka, Minister of the Imperial Household, entertained Lieut.-Generals Sir William Nicholson and Sir Ian Hamilton on April 13th at 3 p.m. at the Shiba Detached Palace, together with several foreign war correspondents now in Tokyo.

THE steam-launch *Tsunu Maru* was damaged on April 9th in the Watarase river near Nagareyama, Gumma prefecture, and went ashore in order to avoid sinking. A hundred and four passengers were rescued by the steamer *Furukawa Maru* which was passing. The cargo was all damaged.

SEVERAL articles from the Russian destroyer *Steregustchi*, sunk by the Japanese on March 10th at Port Arthur, were brought to the Naval Department on April 12th. Among them are a coat worn by warrant officers, two life-jackets and a telescope. They will shortly be exhibited in the Yushu-kwan (Military Museum).

LORD FRANCIS HOPE, whose marriage with the American actress May Yohe provided so many topics of interest until divorce brought it to an end, was married again, very quietly, at a country registry office, on the last Saturday in February. The new Lady Francis Hope is a daughter of Mr. George Thompson, an Australian banker.

MR. H. GOTO, the proprietor of a well-known weaving factory in the district of O-ra, near Utsunomiya, seems to have been involved in the pecuniary embarassment which at present characterises the Ashikaga market. On April 10th he suspended payment on a claim of twenty thousand *yen*. The *Jiji* adds that there are others who are in such difficulties that they are on the verge of bankruptcy.

THE Emperor presented fifteen hundred *yen* on April 12th to Marquis Tokudaiji, Grand Chamberlain, who has been at Kamakura for some time on account of health. It is added by the *Jiji* that the Marquis has slightly recovered and intends to remove to another place more suitable to the state of his health. His Majesty also presented five hundred *yen* on the same day to Count Higashikuze, Vice President of the Privy Council, who is now undergoing medical treatment.

THE London *Standard* insists that the present Mission in Thibet must not turn back until Lhassa has been reached, and a British Agent established there. It has become almost peremptory that an Agency should be formed. The *Daily Telegraph* says that if the Thibetans refuse to enter into negotiations with the British at Gyangste, then the Mission would undoubtedly have to continue its advance. The *Morning Post* urges that the advance of the Mission must be continued until its object has been fully accomplished.

PORT ARTHUR.

Saturday, April 9.

The German newspaper of Shanghai publishes statements obtained from officers of merchant ships to the effect that Port Arthur is in a splendid state of preparation; that it is absolutely impregnable: that a landing could not possibly be effected any where in its vicinity; and that its garrison have ample provisions. The same journal represents the Russians as having fully completed the defences of Newchwang and amply garrisoned the place.

Monday, April 11.

There appears to be no longer any doubt that the *Boyarin* has gone to the bottom. The only question is, what happened to her. First of all she was supposed to have been sunk by a Japanese destroyer on the occasion of the second Japanese attack —13th of February. Then came news that she had struck one of the mines laid by the Japanese in connexion with the fourth attack—10th March. This intelligence arrived *viâ* a German channel, its source being St. Petersburg. And now, finally, it is alleged that according to Viceroy Alexieff the cruiser, when returning to Port Arthur from a secret mission, struck a Russian mine and went down, 9 of her crew and all her stokers and engineers being drowned. What is certain is that the *Boyarin* has never been heard of in connexion with the defense. If she exists she is doing nothing.

It appears probable that Commander Hirose's corpse was picked up by the Russians at Port Arthur and interred with all the honours on the 1st of April. From the description of the body and the articles found on it, there can be little doubt as to its identity. The Russians evidently treated the corpse as though it had been that of one of their own officers, for which act all praise is due to them.

Tuesday, April 12.

The *Hochi Shimbun* and the *Yomiuri* allege good authority for saying that the Russian garrisons of Port Arthur and Vladivostock are as follows:—

PORT ARTHUR.	
Infantry, 2 Brigades	16.000
Cavalry, 1 Company	150
Field Artillery, 2 Batteries	600
Garrison Artillery, 1 Brigade	2,400
Engineers, 2 Battalions and 2 Companies.	1,300
Torpedo Corps, 1 Company	200
Total	20,650
VLADIVOSTOCK.	
Infantry, 4 Regiments	8,000
Garrison Artillery	?

The numbers given for Port Arthur are not unlikely to be correct. Such a force would be ample to defend the place and a larger garrison would be superfluous.

Thursday, April 14.

A British steamer, the *Shanking*, which entered Chefoo on the 12th instant, reports that she was examined by a Russian cruiser on the 11th at a point some 10 miles from Liautishan, and that she observed seven Russian vessels in the offing. There is also a rumour that on the morning of the 12th eight torpedo-craft left Port Arthur for Talien. These things would seem to indicate clearly that the blocking of Port Arthur has been a partial failure, at all events.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* has a story about the adventures of the *Haimun*. On the 5th instant as the vessel was passing within thirty miles of Port Arthur, she was stopped by a Russian man-of-war. While the Russians were approaching, the *Haimun* telegraphed to Port Arthur that she was in danger of capture, and an English warship put out. That much seems pretty clear. But the rest is tinctured with romance. The Russians, we are told, being deluded into thinking that a Japanese squadron was in the vicinity, hastily desisted from their occupation of examining the *Haimun's* papers and effected their escape. But it is to be observed that the *Haimun* is a British steamer chartered by British subjects for the legitimate uses of a British newspaper. There should not be any danger of her capture by the Russians.

Friday, April 15.

There appears to have been another attack of some kind upon Port Arthur. A British steamer, the *Pokusan* (?), reports that when passing in the neighbourhood of Liautishan on the morning of the 13th instant, she heard a violent cannonade which lasted for three hours from 5 a.m. to 8 a.m. Another statement is wired from Chefoo, its original source not being indicated, to the effect that the Japanese squadron approached Port Arthur at 8 a.m. on the 13th and bombarded the place for 4 hours continuously. The *Asahi* gives the name of the ship as *Roshing*. As yet (Thursday morning) no official intelligence of this event has reached Tokyo.

The Russian Admiral, according to the *Novy Krai*, reports that the steamers sunk by the Japanese at the last blocking attempt contained some poisonous gas. Such at least is the purport of the report as it comes to us from Chefoo. He also reports that a Japanese torpedo was charged with this gas and that the noxious vapour pervaded the whole harbour, but how it escaped from the torpedo and entered the harbour there is no explanation. The Admiral further states that the sunken steamers are found not to be such old vessels after all, and that the guns with which they were armed have been raised and mounted in the forts. Finally he says that he has raised one of the steamers, namely, the one that it was necessary to raise.

How much of the perplexing character of this story is due to defective transmission, we can not tell. So far as concerns the small triumphs recorded by the Admiral, namely, that he has taken possession of and utilized 4 guns which were deliberately left to him by the Japanese, and that really the steamers sunk had more value than was at first supposed and consequently entailed a greater sacrifice on their sinkers, no one will be disposed to grudge the gallant officer's satisfaction. But the noxious gas is another question. That kind of statement has been already made by the Russians and it is of a piece evidently with their general attempt to persuade the world that the Japanese do not play the game and should be classed with a lower type of humanity than the Muscovite. We should think that the world's feeling will be one of regret to see a great nation having recourse to such paltry antics. The Japanese do not use lyddite in their shells or torpedoes. Great Britain has a monopoly of that explosive, just as France has of melinite. If they have discovered something equally effective, then all that can be said is that they do as the English and the French do. But how did the noxious gas succeed in permeating the harbour? Are we to suppose that Japanese torpedoes sailed into the harbour and discharged themselves of their deadly contents?

Then again, as to having raised one of the steamers, it is to be observed that Admiral Makaroff's report is dated the 27th of March. In other words, it is dated on the very day when the steamers were sunk. Apparently, then, the Russians possess some contrivance for picking up a vessel of two or three thousand tons from her place at the bottom of the sea and carrying her to any convenient position. Any ordinary mortals equipped with ordinary apparatus might have been sufficiently occupied in raising the four guns from the steamers during the forenoon of the day when they sank, but the Russians at Port Arthur supplemented that already remarkable achievement by snatching up one of the steamers bodily.

The Admiral's report further says that although the *Silni's* boiler was burst by the enemy's shell and although she was run ashore, she was subsequently floated off by the exertions of her crew and taken into the harbour.

Later.

A telegram received in Tokyo from St. Petersburg confirms Reuter's intelligence. It says that, according to a semi-official announcement, the *Petropavlovsk* has been sunk outside Port Arthur. only four officers escaping. Among the four was Prince Cyril, who, however, is wounded. It is a strange piece of intelligence. The *Petropavlovsk* is a line-of-battle ship, only nine years old, her displacement 10,950 tons. Such ships are not easily sunk. Even supposing that she were torpedoed forty miles from Port Arthur, she could still steam in, covering the distance in less than three hours, and secured against sinking by her watertight compartments. Moreover, if she sank at sea, and if Japanese ships were any where in her vicinity, it would have been their duty to save the crew, and we can affirm from experience that they would have discharged that duty with the utmost assiduity. If, however, the ship, after being torpedoed – it is in the last degree improbable that she was sunk by gun-fire—if after being torpedoed, she made with all speed for Port Arthur, no Japanese ship would have thought of following her to a point within range of the forts, and she may have gone down within 6 or 7 miles of her bourne. As to whether she received her death wound in action, it is not yet possible to say. There appears to be little doubt that a Japanese squadron approached Port Arthur and opened a bombardment on the morning of the 13th, though accounts vary as to the hour, and it is conceivable that Admiral Mákaroff went out of harbour to engage the Japanese. though he had never previously made any serious attempt to get within fighting range. If he did. and if a batch of torpedo-craft made a rush for the *Petropaulovsk*, the rest is easily conceived. If, again, the Admiral, true to his usual tactics, went out so soon as the Japanese ships were hull down upon the horizon, his ship may have come into contact with a floating mine left by the Japanese. When turning and making for home at full speed, she may have gone down within a short distance of succour. This latter hypothesis seems to us the most probable. In any case the incident is appalling, however much it makes for Japan's cause. There have been acts of Admiral Makaroff's which were difficult to reconcile with all naval traditions, but no one can withhold from him the credit of being a highly competent and even brilliant officer. During the brief period of his service at Port Arthur he succeded in imparting a greatly altered complexion to the naval fortunes of his country in the Far East.

Never, perhaps, did events bear quicker or more unequivocal testimony to the ability of a commanding officer. And now, just as he and his squadron began to venture to sea, the man perishes with some six hundred of his officers and men, with one of the best ships remaining to Russia in this quarter of the world. Such catastrophes make us forget for a moment the issues at stake in the war. We remember only its horrors.

Official Report (Latest).

An official report received by the Naval Department from Admiral Uriu by means of the Third Destroyer Division and published on the night of the 14th, says that on the 13th instant the Japan Squadron attacked Port Arthur and sunk a Russian line-of-battle ship, the *Petropavlovsk*, together with a destroyer. The Japanese vessels did not suffer any damage.

It will be seen from the above that the Japanese claim to have sunk the battle-ship in their attack, whereas Reuter's news, coming of course from a Russian source, represents the vessel as having struck a mine when she was returning to Port Arthur. Whichever report be correct, the *Petropavlovsk* was sent to the bottom by Japanese agency, but if she received her death-blow from a destroyer or a torpedo-boat, the exploit will be much more remarkable.

THE COSSACKS.

It is interesting to read the first Japanese appreciation of the Cossacks. An officer of rank is reported as saying that in their habits these men differ from any people he has ever met. They live more like savages than human beings. Their dress is simply a sheep's skin, and not being accompanied by any commissariat they eat whatever they find, a raw chicken being a delicacy in their opinion. Moreover, they prefer bivouacking in the open to sleeping under the shelter of a roof, and their power of covering long distances is remarkable, though in point of actual celerity they do not exceed other cavalry. It is with regard to intelligence and courage that this officer denies them any praise. He speaks as though their love of life rendered them almost comtemptible for military purposes, and as though their want of quick perception constituted a thorough disability. His judgment is based upon repeated observation of their conduct as scouts. At Chonju they had all the advantages of position, but they made no attempt to utilize them, and wasted two hours practically doing nothing. During that time Lieutenant Yoshigami with twenty Japanese troopers held his ground against 70 or 80 Cossacks on the right wing of the Japanese, and the Russians, having wasted all their temporary superiority of numbers and position, retired at once so soon as they found themselves under infantry fire.

The *Shogyo Shimpo's* correspondent sends an outline description of the Chonju fight. The fact that Chonju was occupied by the Russians having become known, a reconnaissance in force was sent out. Its advanced guard consisted of 16 troopers under Second Lieutenant Minoda. Upon these the Russians opened fire at a distance of 6,000(?) metres, killing one of the Japanese. The main body of the latter's cavalry—that is to say, the cavalry forming the reconnoitering party—then gallopped up, and having advanced rapidly towards the southern gate, took up a position on an eminence, where they dismounted and manœuvred as infantry, shooting from under cover of a temple. Lieutenant Kano, who was on the left, examined the enemy's position with a field glass, and observing an officer, fired two shots at him, bringing him down with the second. But when he was loading for a third shot he received a bullet in his left ear. One of the men ran out to bring him in, but the Russian fire became so hot that it was necessary to crawl to the place where the lieutenant lay. When dragged under cover he was found to be dead. A sergeant-major was shot almost at the same time, as was also a corporal who attempted to examine the Russian position with a glass. Three officers also were wounded. Immediately afterwards the Japanese infantry who had moved up rapidly in support, opened fire from the left flank, and the Cossacks evacuated the town. At 1.15 p.m. a body of Japanese cavalry gallopped up to the south gate and raised the Rising-sun ensign. The fight had lasted 2¼ hours, but unfortunately this correspondent tells us nothing about the range at which the main engagement was fought.

The engagement at Chonju was not the first meeting. A trooper named Inouye, now in hospital at Kokura, describes the Pakchong skirmish on the 22nd of March when a squadron of 13 Japanese troopers under Second Lieutenant Muto was drawn into a struggle with about 130 Cossacks. Inouye alleges that he and his comrades received a volley at about 30 metres, but that is scarcely credible, seeing that only one or two casualties resulted. What is interesting, however, is the evidence afforded by these various incidents that Japanese cavalry when on scouting duty is always within supporting distance of a body of infantry.

A SKIRMISH.

A skirmish is reported from the Yalu. It appears that on the 11th instant Lieutenant Yamaguchi with 5 men was sent from the gun-boat *Kaimon* to reconnoitre the estuary of the Yalu. The party of six embarked in a small boat and proceeded to Turyu-pho, which is on the left bank of the estuary, below Yong Am-pho. While there they saw a Chinese boat approach with 7 Russians on board. There was already a cavalry patrol at Turyu-pho, and the troopers joined the sailors in opening fire upon this boat. Presently another detachment of 15 or 16 Russians approached in a larger boat, and joined the engagement. Apparently the enemy retired very quickly. They were pursued by the Japanese boat but they effected their escape and landed on the opposite bank. The fight lasted an hour and twenty minutes, and the Russians had one man killed and two wounded. The Japanese did not suffer at all. In the fishing boat which the Russians had occupied, there were found ten loaded cartridges and 400 cartridge-shells. These Russians are supposed to have been troopers who were on guard. It seems strange that two Russian boats should have retreated before one Japanese, and that the Russians should have fired 400 shots without hitting anything. Doubtless Generals Flug and Dessino will have their own version of this affair. We shall probably hear that the Japanese boat was sent to the bottom with all its occupants, otherwise there would have been a captured craft and several prisoners. However, it has to be confessed that the Russians are taking no risks.

The above account was given out by the Naval Authorities. But subsequently the Head Quarter staff published a somewhat different version of apparently the same event. According to the latter statement, nine Russian soldiers disguised as Chinese were seen attempting to land some 1500 metres on the south-west of Yong Am-pho. A Japanese cavalry patrol in Yong Am-pho and a naval boat attempted to capture them, but as they escaped beyond reach they were fired upon and two or three were hit. They ultimately joined a detachment of twenty or thirty Russians who were on an island in the river.

It appears further, that Russians, disguised as Koreans or Chinese, have made several attempts to cross the river between Wiju and Yong Am-pho, but have been driven back on each occasion. On the morning of the 12th a party of Russian infantry numbering from 30 to 40 essayed to cross the most northerly of the three streams into which the river is divided by islands. A company of Japanese infantry opened fire on them, and the Russians fled, leaving one officer and twenty-one men killed. These Russians belonged to the Twelfth Regiment of Russian Rifles. The Japanese had no casualties.

MR. POWNALL ON THE WAR.

Old residents in Japan are finding ready access to English newspapers, magazines and periodicals these days. We notice that Mr. C. A. W. Pownall writes for the *Nineteenth Century and After* an article on "Russia, Japan, and Ourselves." The *Spectator* fastens on two points of Mr. Pownall's article. The first is his insistence on the falsity of the view, based on the impressions of globe-trotting tourists, that the Japanese are a light-hearted, superficial race, easy of access, and ready to take the Western man at his own valuation. Nothing, in Mr. Pownall's view can be further from the truth:—

> "A very able man, a missionary who had lived twenty years among them, and thoroughly knew their language, a very difficult one, and so a great impediment to interchange of thought, when he was asked what he thought of the Japanese character, replied: 'Between our minds and those of the Japanese there is always a curtain, which they take care is never lifted.' They are an intensely secretive, astute, and self-contained race, very difficult to understand, because of the ineradicable racial difference between them and ourselves."

Mr. Pownall's other point is that in the present contest Britons are not the stake-holders but the stake-finders; and whichever of the combatants wins, Britons lose. In conclusion, he appeals to his countrymen "to avoid undue jubilation at the first tricks in the game being scored by the player with whom, in consequence of the provocation received, we have naturally the greater sympathy."

THE "VARYAG."

It appears that the operation of raising the *Varyag* has not proceeded as far as was at first reported. Seven guns have been taken out of the vessel—presumably 6-inch pieces, of which she carries twelve—, and though at low water two-thirds of her show above the surface, at full tide her deck is a-wash. Some difficulty was experienced owing to the want of maps showing her structural arrangements. Application was made to her builders, Messrs. Cramp of Philadelphia, but they declined to supply drawings for less than $6,000 (gold). Fortunately the necessary documents have been found on board the cruiser, and work will now go on quicker, though only 3 hours daily are available.

MANCHURIA.

Saturday, April 9.

Viceroy Alexieff paid a visit to Port Arthur on the 31st ultimo, and after inspecting the place and holding lengthy conferences with those in command, returned to Mukden on the 2nd instant. Apparently the Viceroy retains some portion of his military seniority.

Russian troops are said to be massing at Tashikiao, and considerable re-inforcements are reported to have reached Liaoyang. The latter troops belong to the Warsaw and Moscow Divisions.

It is reported that virtually all the Russian store-keepers and merchants of Port Arthur have either left the place or are making preparations to do so. That is likely enough.

The *Jiji Shimpo* reports on the authority of a message from Shanghai that on the 6th instant the Russian cruiser *Bayan* stopped *The Times* despatch boat *Haimun* at a point 30 miles from Port Arthur, and released her after having searched for Japanese subjects on board. It is evident from this fact that the harbour is not sealed, so far as cruisers are concerned.

It is now denied that the Russians released the two Japanese subjects who accompanied the correspondents of the *Chicago Daily News* when the latter together with their ship were seized at Newchwang. The Americans and the steamer appear to have been set free, but the Japanese were sent on to Mukden, where it is thought that they will be executed as spies. That is hardly probable, we should think.

The latest statement from Newchwang is that the blocking of the river has not yet been effected. Seventeen junks are being prepared for the purpose.

The American gunboat which wintered at Newchwang, left that port on the 3rd and reached Shanghai on the 6th. Its officers are reported as saying that up to the 3rd all was quiet at Newchwang, but preparations had been made for the departure of the women and children at a moment's notice. The Russian gunboat *Sivoutch* was to come out of dock on the 4th and be used as a floating fort. The Russians planned the laying of mines at the mouth of the river and the arming of forts about 2 miles higher up. But the other forts were armed with such inferior weapons that they could not possibly support any resolute attack. Rumour said that there are 10,000 troops at Newchwang and 40,000 south of Mukden, but the latter figure was probably exaggerated. The Russians had proclaimed the law of siege, but the United States Consul had refused to recognize it pending international consent.

Some suspicion had attached to Chinese railway officials and the Russians had arrested the traffic manager and two others. As for the despatch-boat of the *Chicago Daily News*, the American correspondents had been released in deference to representations by their Consul, but the two Japanese had been thrown into prison.

It is stated that among the defences at the rear of Port Arthur the Russians are digging a trench 27 or 28 feet deep and 17 or 18 feet wide. It is at a distance of some 4 miles north of the fortress and it has a length of 6 miles.

Monday, April 11.

Newchwang seems to be still living under the apprehension of a Japanese attack. We read with wearisome iteration that guns are being mounted and mines laid; and then again we learn that these things are not on a scale so formidable as has been reported. The latest news is that the anticipated attack was looked for on the 7th instant, and that Viceroy Alexieff inspected the defences and the garrisons of the neighbouring towns on the 5th instant. What is chiefly interesting about this intelligence is that it shows Alexieff still in command. Apparently Kuropatkin is to act under his orders. Upon Alexieff rests the chief responsibility of bringing about the war and it is right that upon him also should rest the responsibility of conducting it. But we can not conceive that he will have any direction of active operations in the field. That is to belong to Kuropatkin undoubtedly.

Chinese subjects lately returned from Manchuria repeat previous information, namely, that the Russians in Mukden, failing to obtain the cooperation of the Chinese authorities for the purpose of collecting transport vehicles, have requisitioned them by force, thus securing over three hundred. It is probable that vehicles of this nature are a serious desideratum to the Russians. To convey a sufficient number from home would greatly tax the already strained capacities of the Trans-Asian line, and yet without a fully organized transport service it is impossible for the troops to operate at any distance from the railway. What would serve the Russians best would be to organise a corps of a hundred thousand Chinese baggage-carriers, if the Chinese could be induced to serve, which appears problematical in view of the fact that we hear nothing of any attempt to take such an obvious step. The Japanese, who know exactly from experience what kind of transport facilities are best suited to the topographical features of Manchuria, have provided hundreds of light four-wheeled carts drawn by one pony. These are capable of passing over the roughest roads and should prove very handy. In the China-Japan war an immense host of baggage-coolies were used, but it appears that such a system did not commend itself as the best possible, though it would doubtless be the best the Russians could adopt in their position.

Information from various Chinese quarters agrees in declaring that there is much embarrassment in supplying coal for the service of the Manchurian railway. Wood is now largely used. We gather that the scarcity is felt mainly at Harbin, and that coal is forwarded thither from points further south. All available rolling-stock has been in busy use lately for the purpose of sending southward from Harbin the troops carried thither from the west.

The Russians are apparently continuing to make trouble about the West Liao question. They have required the Chinese General at Mukden to convey orders to the Taotai of Chou-yang that all Japanese subjects must remove from that district. Chou-yang is outside the Great Wall but inside the Palisades. The Taotai has refused to obey the instruction. Further, the Russians claim that the whole region is within the belligerent sphere and that they are consequently justified in requisitioning whatever military stores the region can afford. The Peking Government is protesting, as is also Mr. Uchida.

General Kuropatkin arrived at Harbin on the 26th or 27th of March and was received with many ceremonies, including the usual insult offered to the God of Christianity when He is publicly supplicated to sanction the slaughter of man by man for purposes of imperial ambition. Hysteria and hypocrisy are among the prominent characteristics of national demeanour in the Occident now-a-days, but at least there remains an abiding faith in the illimitable long-suffering of a Diety who allows Himself to be thus perpetually invoked in a cause grossly opposed to all the spirit of the Christian cult.

Wednesday, April 13.

According to the *Asahi's* correspondent, the Russian forces at Liaoyang now comprise 7 regiments of infantry and 3 batteries of artillery, the infantry numbering ten thousand and the artillery 750. This estimate assigns very inferior strength to the regiments, and, for the rest, is difficult to reconcile with the accounts we have lately been hearing of the concentration of troops at Liaoyang.

The same correspondent says that, according to report, the Russian forces at the Yalu, Haicheng, Tashikiao and Liaoyang total seventy or eighty thousand. This excludes the troops at Port Arthur and Newchwang, as well as those at Mukden and various minor points.

Whatever reliance may be placed on the arithmetic of these statements, they certainly go to show that the Russian forces are much scattered, which is a disadvantage that has been apparent from the outset.

It is stated that on the day of General Kuropatkin's coming to Liaoyang, a brigade of the Guards Riflemen arrived at the same place and were despatched thence to Port Arthur by train during 3 days at the rate of 1,600 daily, namely, 2 trains of 40 carriages, each carriage carrying 20 men.

There is said to be a tolerable supply of forage for horses, but of inferior quality. The troops, however, are living mainly on red sorghum.

It would seem that some twenty thousand bandits are in the employment of the Russians near Liaoyang and that they wear Russian uniforms. They receive 15 roubles monthly, and find their own horses as well as food and forage. That is poor remuneration.

The Russians requisition horses, large and small, at a uniform rate of 3 roubles weekly. They pay 3 roubles daily for horse-waggons, but the inhabitants do everything possible to avoid supplying this demand.

The railway guards are posted at intervals of 10 miles. They have erected posts surrounded with inflammable materials all along the line, the idea being to fire these in the event of bandits' attacks at night. But the device is said to have proved defective.

From the same authority (*Asahi's* correspondence) we learn that the number of Russians who crossed the Yalu into Korea was about ten thousand and that they were guided by three Koreans, who possess Russian decorations. The number does not appear to be greatly over-stated, but in view of the very paltry results achieved by these invaders it is difficult to suppose that they mustered so strong. Ten thousand men, all mounted, operating in a country such as that between Pyongyang and the Yalu, should have proved a very serious obstacle to the advance of any army.

We hear of seven or eight Japanese carried to Liaoyang under arrest, and charged with being spies or with endeavouring to incite the bandits to wreck the railway. Among them were two Japanese women of about 20 years of age, who wore Chinese costume.

The Russians continue to seize supplies all through eastern Mongolia. That is their idea of observing the neutrality of China. The Japanese Government has protested strongly in Peking, but what can Peking do? Russia is absolutely unscrupulous and China altogether helpless. It is magnificently ridiculous that Russia should make appeals to international law. International law and international engagements receive no manner of respect at her hands unless her own convenience is consulted by respecting them.

JAPAN'S TOTAL CASUALTIES.

Japan's total casualties in the navy up to the present are as follow:—

Killed	14
Died before entering hospital	5
Died after "	4
Recovered	40
In hospital	28
Under treatment on board	23
Total	114

Divided according to the occasions, the list is:—

CASUALTIES ON THE 9TH FEBRUARY.

Killed	3
Died before entering hospital	2
Died after "	4
Recovered	37
In hospital	17
Under treatment on board	9
Total	72

CASUALTIES ON THE 24TH FEBRUARY.

Killed	1
Recovered	2
Under treatment on board	1
Total	4

CASUALTIES ON THE 10TH MARCH.

Killed	7
Died before entering hospital	2
Recovered	1
In hospital	6
Under treatment on board	7
Total	23

CASUALTIES ON THE 27TH MARCH.

Killed	3
Died before entering hospital	1
In hospital	5
Under treatment on board	6
Total	15

YOKOHAMA AND TOKYO FOREIGN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE RELIEF OF SUFFERERS BY THE WAR.

The following list of contributions thus far received by the Tokyo Committee has been sent to us for publication:—

W. H. Stone	100.00
T. B. Hohler	200.00
Sir Claude MacDonald	1,000.00
E. J. Blockhuys	100.00
R. Lehmann	100.00
Count Arco Valley	500.00
J. L. Janson	100.00
R. Heise	50.00
Julius Soper	6.00
Maud Soper	4.00
J. T. Swift	50.00
Archevêque P. M. Osouf	25.00
A. Deguy	100.00
Max Raspe, Hamburg	200.00
C. F. Oberlein	100.00
C. Refardt	100.00
G. H. Barclay	250.00
Dr. J. Scriba	100.00
Lieut.-General Sir W. Nicholson	500.00
Lieut.-General Sir Ian Hamilton	500.00
"Z"	50.00

It appears not improbable that many of the Tokyo residents have either failed to become cognizant of the organization for collecting this fund, or have hitherto postponed the pleasant duty of contributing because it is among the numerous things that can be done at any moment. But while people hesitate the objects of their tardy benevolence suffer, and as it does not often fall within the power of the foreign residents to give succour where succour is so greatly needed and where a little aid can afford so much relief, we venture to recall the charity to public recollection. Hundreds of families have been reduced to almost complete destitution by the sudden removal of their bread-winners, and thus to the sorrow of parting with fathers and husbands is added the pain of grinding penury. The Japanese themselves are giving with both hands; giving much more than their resources warrant, and the privilege of helping them, much or little, is not to be neglected.

The Yokohama Executive Committee desire to acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following sums:—

	Yen.
Already acknowledged	21,060.50
Messrs. Butterfield and Swire	1,000.00
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.	500.00
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	500.00
Canton Insurance Co. Ltd.	500.00
China Traders Insurance Co., Ltd.	500.00
Messrs. Hellyer & Co.	500.00
Mr. Frederick Hellyer, Chicago	500.00
Mr. T. W. Hellyer	500.00
Mr. C. B. Stedman	250.00
Mr. R. J. McGinnis	100.00
Mr. James S. de Benneville	50.00
Mr. M. Pors	100.00
Mr. Fr. Retz	250.00
Mr. H. J. Holm	100.50
Mr. M. Kaufmann	100.00
Mr. F. von Syburg	50.00
Mr. E. Karcher	25.00
Mr. V. Blad	25.00
Mr. J. Walter	25.00
Mr. S. Pohl	25.00
Mr. H. Luther	10.00
Mr. F. Urhan	5.00
Mr. P. Bauer	5.00
Mr. R. Sulzer	5.00
Dr. Mischke	5.00
Mr. V. Blad	50.00
Mr. L. J. Healing	50.00
Mr. F. M Tegner	50.00
Mr. James Walter	50.00
Mr. D. H. Blake	50.00
Mr. E. W. Frazar	50.00
"P.M."	25.00
Mr. M. H. F. Jackson	5.00
Mr. B. C. Lewis	5.00
"Puzzle"	5.00
Rising Sun Petroleum Co., Ltd., per Samuel Samuel & Co.	3,000.00
Crown Cork Co., Ltd., Yokohama Branch	100.00
Mrs. Gardner Warton, Tokyo	100.00
Mr. W. B. Mason	50.00
Mr. J. Adamson	25.00
Mr. W. G. Peter	15.00
Through the Offertories at Christ Church	10.00
do do do	10.00
London and Provincial Marine and General Insurance Co., Ld.	494.85
Total to date	24,865.35

THE INCREASED COST OF LIVING.

Japan is not the only place where the increased cost of living is causing a radical overhauling of the household economy of the middle classes. From the United States of North America there comes a bitter cry which finds expression in the public press. We find *Public Opinion* writing:—

> The increased cost of living is something about which there can not be any dispute. The war has affected many lines of goods and speculation has had an even more potent influence in raising the price of wheat and cotton. Flour has advanced from 25 to 50 cents a barrel in sympathy with wheat, and in some places the cost of loaf bread has been increased to six cents. Dun's index number reflects the general advance in food stuffs. This number is obtained by multiplying the prices of all necessaries of life by the country's per capital consumption. No one commodity can influence the general result because relative importance is taken into consideration in the computation of the index number. This, on March 1, was $103.61, as compared with $101.06 on the same date last year and $97 38 six months ago. This means a much greater advance in prices than the actual variation in the index number would indicate."

The *New York Commercial*, which detests the Labour Unions, viewing them as the children of the Evil One, writes very bitterly on this question, taking up the parable for that section of the community which is known in England as the lower middle class. It says:—

> While the pampered spoilsman of that organized conspiracy against American manhood, the modern labour union, is waxing sleek and fat on his $25 to $30 per week, of only 44 working hours, the countless thousands of clerks, stenographers, managers, solicitors, bookeepers, salaried employees and young professional and business men in Manhattan ruefully scan each week the ever-growing budget of living expenses presented by their devoted but tearful wives and wonder where the money is to come from to meet next month's rent.
>
> In order that the plasterer may receive 68¾ cents an hour in New York for precisely the same class of work for which he cheerfully accepts 33⅓ cents an hour in Erie, Pa., in order that the bricklayer may be glutted in this union-ridden metropolis with his ultimate pound of flesh, his 65 cents per hour; the carpenter his 56¼ cents and the other bloated monopolists of labour in the building trades corresponding or greater wages, the rent of small flats and apartments has increased fully 30 per cent. in the last three years. It is impossible for the man with a small salary, hunt prayerfully as his good wife may, to find even in the remoter parts of the city, in a respectable neighbourhood, the most modest flat or apartment that does not command from $28 to $35 per month.

But our contemporary grows gloomier as we proceed:—

> In vain the young housewife scrimps and pares: in vain after 14 hours of labour among the pots and pans in the small stuffy kitchen, or attending to the multitudinous needs of her little brood, or—for it has come to this—in communion with the scrubbing brush, the wash tub and the ironing board, she bends her poor aching head tearfully in the far corner where her husband cannot see her over one-year-before-last hat, smoothing the bedraggled plume and frayed velvet, wondering how it can possibly be rearranged so as to do service at the coming Eastertide.
>
> As for that husband, broodingly he enjoys as he may the sole indulgence left him—his one post-prandial pipe—while the murky waters of the slough of despond lap his slippered feet and the blue devils of penury, and dependence gibe and grimace about him. Down the street, the thumping of a piano calls attention to a more pretentious flat, up the steps of which presently reels a coarse, red-faced brute, redolent of whisky and smoking a very bad cigar. The curious who take the trouble to inquire will readily learn that this important personage is one of the brethren of the trowel and bludgeon—a member of the consolidated, international order of plasterers, or the like—returning from his Saturday half-holiday, spent in "study and self improvement" in the back room of a low groggery in the company of the same murderous, grafting crew that hailed the convict Parks as chief.
>
> A fancy portrait? Not a bit of it. Visit the streets of Harlem any Saturday night and you, good sir or madam, may see the same. Better yet, ask the visitor of your church, or a Salvation Army lassie or one of that heroic band of cultured men and women who live in the social settlements and with a self-sacrificing devotion which is Christ-like, have dedicated their lives to the too-often thankless task of cheering and caring for those whom the tyranny of the unions have deprived of work and driven to the ragged edge of destitution.

The same phenomenon is being seen in England. The man on a fixed salary is finding it harder and harder to keep pace with the ever-increasing cost of living: little by little luxuries are being dropped and, as we know personally, many families of gently nurtured folk who have belonged for generations to what is known as the professional classes, live on much simpler fare and spend less on clothing that do the families of the workingman *per se*. In Japan, too, among the foreign communities, a very much simpler style of life has become the rule during the past few years. Steadily and surely the cost of food-stuffs have risen, the price of domestic service has risen also, until at last it has become a necessary part of the foreign resident's life to study economy as carefully as he or she would have to do in the home lands, for salaries have not kept pace with the increased cost of living: in fact in the vast majority of cases they have remained absolutely stationary.

CHINA'S NEUTRALITY.

Monday, April 11.

It appears that although the Chinese Government is understood to have denied any intention of placing bean-cake on the list of contraband of war, the Russian Consul at Chefoo has succeeded in inducing the Taotai to interfere with the export of a quantity of this staple which the Mitsui Bussan Company was about to ship. Instructions from Peking are now awaited, but the Russians are said to be insisting that bean-cake is used for feeding horses in Japan—a use which we now learn for the first time—and that, consequently, it must be vetoed. We suspect that there is some exaggeration in all this. The Russians can scarcely be so unreasonable or the Chinese so inconsiderate. At all events the question—if there be really any question—can not be settled too quickly, for the Japanese farmer wants the fertilizer at once.

Thursday, April 14.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun's* correspondent has just returned to Peking from making a direct inspection of the West-Liao district. He reports that China is able to preserve neutrality from Shanhaikwan to Kinchow; that is to say, in the region on the west coast of the Gulf of Pechili. But thenceforth eastward to the Liao River the Russians are in actual possession. In other words, the Taling River which falls into the north-west corner of the Gulf constitutes the northern boundary of China's sphere of sovereignty, all the district between that river and the Liao being treated by Russia as belligerent territory, and stripped of everything available in the shape of supplies. About 1250 Cossacks patrol the region in parties of 50, riding hither and thither and treating the country as Russian territory. At Yingkow only a small force of Russians is posted. Niukia-tung has 3,000, Anshan-tien has 2,000, Tashikiao has 8,000, and in the fort on the bank of the Liao there are about 200. Torpedoes have been placed at the mouth of the Liao and only a small exit is available. The Russian gun-boat *Sivoutch* seems to be watching for an opportunity to escape to Port Arthur. Russia appears to have changed her strategical programme. She is sending her troops from Fenhwang to Liaoyang, and is assembling the newly arrived forces at Tashikiao. (This would mean the abandonment of any attempt to check the Japanese advance from the Yalu and the concentration of Russia's main strength at Liaoyang, while a secondary concentration took place at the junction of the Newchwang-Mukden lines. But such an estimate must be received with reserve.—Ed. *J. M.*) It is said that the enemy is not in great strength at Harbin and in its neighbourhood.

The *Asahi's* correspondent also has just visited the same region. He reports that the whole district is closely watched by the Russians, so much so that the fugitive Chinese, who are very numerous, can not escape by the Newchwang railway, and have to go round by the Shinning road. The greatly increasing number of these fugitives is said to be causing much embarrassment to General Ma. This correspondent says that the Taotai at Shanhaikwan is a very enlightened man and that he is exercising the strictest surveillance to prevent the supply of necessaries to the Russians. Several Russian officers are staying at the Railway Hotel and are evidently discharging some duties in connexion with the war. Two missionaries and several Chinese are suspected of acting as Russian spies. The attention they pay to all movements of Japanese subjects is remarkable. Westward and southward of the Taling River the troops of General Ma and Viceroy Yuan are maintaining a state of the strictest neutrality, but as to the neutrality of the rest of the district, it is a farce: the whole region is over-run by the Russians. From this correspondent also we learn that Russia seems disposed to concentrate her troops along the line of railway, namely, at Liaoyang and Tashikao, not making any resolute resistance to the advance of the Japanese until these points are reached. A new fort has been built and armed at a place called Anshan-tien, which is on the line of railway about mid-way between Haitien and Liaoyang. The British Consul at Newchwang, who happened to be the correspondent's travelling companion on the railway, and who had left Newchwang on the 11th instant, stated that although torpedoes had been placed in the river at Newchwang, the passage of merchant steamers was still possible, but what would be the case after the break up of the ice and after further defensive measures had been taken by the Russians, he could not predict. The Consul saw no sign of the departure of the Russian gunboat *Sivoutch*, but he thought that the English gunboat would soon leave the river. The correspondent agrees with his confrere that there are very few Russians in Yinkow. About 3,000 made their appearance at the place when Viceroy Alexieff recently visited it, but they withdrew immediately. Some twenty newspaper correspondents are assembled there, but they can not procure any news and are complaining bitterly.

A Chinese subject who has just returned to Peking from Yingkow, informs the *Jiji Shimpo's* correspondent that he could not observe any signs of activity on the part of the Russian troops. There were occasionally manœuvres on a small scale, but the principal occupation of the soldiers was stealing. There was no denying that great scarcity of provisions prevailed. The inhabitants paid no attention to Russian requisitions, because nothing in the shape of money came to them in return for their goods. Many were leaving the district, and those that could afford it were employing Indians (*sic.*) to guard their premises. All were longing for the approach of the Japanese. Even the children hate the Russians. Viceroy Alexieff had issued numerous proclamations calling on the people to remember how Russia had guarded them (!) for four years and urging them to respond to her requisitions with entire confidence that all payments would be duly made. But no one paid any attention to these documents. The Bandits were lying perdu in many places, awaiting their opportunity. Sometimes they might be seen at Yinkow in broad daylight. Great efforts were being to finish the forts, but they were still far from completion. Since the opening of the river some 17 steamers had come to Yingkow, but owing to the prohibition on the export of bean-cake no business could be transacted. It was said that some twenty Russian officers, disguised as merchants, were closely watching the movements of the troops of Ma and Yuan.

The *Jiji Shimpo's* Peking correspondent emplatically denies the sensational telegram sent by the London *Morning Post's* correspondent from Chefoo to the effect that anti-foreign feeling is growing in China and that the situation may be forced in spite of the Chinese Government's efforts to observe neutrality. No evidences whatever, of any such danger are discernible, according to the *Jiji's* correspondent.

Friday, April 15.

Japanese public opinion, if we may judge from the utterances of the press, is much dissatisfied with the invertebrate conduct of China in the matter of neutrality. China does not show the smallest scintilla of spirit. It would have been quite incredible without practical demonstration that any great nation should exhibit such hopeless pusillanimity. Japan is fighting for China. The issue at stake is whether China shall retain or lose three big provinces of her empire, the provinces from which her dynasty sprang. Under such circumstances any State possessing the most rudimentary instincts of manhood, would burn with shame to sit with crossed arms, and were it condemned to that paltry role, would at least be careful to avoid every act calculated to assist the enemy. But China's neutrality is benevolent towards Russia. There is no conceivable excuse for Russia's conduct in the West Liao district. It is the most flagrant, the most unwarrantable breach of neutrality ever witnessed. Russia explicitly evacuated the region in 1902 and she now possesses no more title to it than she does to the county of Kent or the island of Sheppey. Yet China tamely suffers her to over-run the whole district, to employ it as a source of supplies, and to utilize it for strategical purposes against Japan. This empire, says the *Jiji Shimpo*, does not ask for the smallest favour at China's hands; all that it seeks is fair play. But it does not understand, and it can not but resent, the idea of her giving help to the country which aims at despoiling her against the country which is giving blood and treasure to preserve her.

CHINA.

Monday, April 11.

Chefoo, on the authority of a Chinese subject who has just reached that place from Harbin, says that on the 6th instant an engagement took place at a place called Bakaro, some 13 miles from Harbin, between a thousand mounted bandits and a Russian force. The bandits had wrecked the railway in two places. This informant does not relate how the engagement ended, but he affirms that the Russians had 400 casualties, the bandits 200, which numbers we reproduce with all reserve.

Wednesday, April 13.

Mr. Davidson, who recently passed through Japan *en route* for Antung, where he is to take up the duties of United States Consul, seems to be now in Peking. His original intention, as we understood, was to travel *viâ* Shanghai to Chefoo and thence by gun-boat to Antung, but he has apparently changed his programme after consultation with the United States Minister in Peking, and will now return to Shanghai, remaining there until the war has entered another stage of development.

KOREA.

Saturday, April 9.

The Tonghaks have made a species of abortive essay. On the 28th of March news reached Pyong-yang that a party of them had taken the field at a place some 12 miles south of Pyong-yang, Lieutenant Mayeda with 8 men were sent from Pyong-yang against the insurgents and having come in contact with them, arrested 20 of their number. There does not appear to have been any conflict. The Tonghaks had a quantity of Russophil literature which they were distributing. They may be regarded, perhaps, as Pavlow relics. It was evidently easy to deal with them.

Chunghwa is near the English gold-mines at Eunsan. It is now stated that the British and American Representatives have applied to the Japanese to afford protection at the two places, Eunsan and Unsan, and that the Japanese have adopted measures entirely satisfactory to the Representatives.

Monday, April 11.

It appears that the Korean employees of the Russian Legation in Seoul are still at their posts and still conducting diplomatic business. Possibly that curious procedure is connected with the announcement recently made, or said to have been made, at St. Petersburg to the effect that although Korea is granting to Japan facilities inconsistent with any theory of neutrality, Russia does not hold the little empire responsible, being persuaded that it has yielded to *force majeure*, and Russia will therefore continue to conduct diplomatic relations with it. But, it is evidently unpermissible that Russia should invent a new variety of diplomatic relations to suit her own convenience. She can not withdraw her diplomatic and consular staff from Korea, and substitute for them Korean subjects. Under the distant manipulation of M. Pavlow such an arrangement would open the door to endless intrigues and embarrassments. Mr. Hayashi, Japan's Representative in Seoul, has therefore formally asked the Korean Government whether the business of the Russian Legation is still carried on by its quondam Korean employes. Nominally Russian interests are in French charge, and Mr. Hayashi naturally insists that there shall be practical recognition of one system or the other, not a mixture of both, which would involve many complications while obliterating all distinct traces of responsibility.

It really does seem strange that there should be this talk on Russia's side about Korea's neutrality. Has she not violated that neutrality herself just as flagrantly as the Japanese, much more flagrantly indeed. Her troops crossed the Yalu into Korean territory before the first Japanese regiment landed at Chemulpo, and her Cossacks have only now been driven across the Yalu. Anyhow no one ever yet heard of neutrality being claimed for a country which is the main object of a war.

Another question raised by Mr. Hayashi is that, according to information from Sonching, a Japanese subject was arrested at Kyong-heun, the Russians having indicated him to the Korean local officials as a spy. There are no Russians now at Kyong-heun —near the Tumen—but the man seems to be still in custody and his immediate release is demanded.

Mr. Hayashi has further asked that instructions be given to the local officials along the line of the Seoul-Fusan road, so that accommodation may be obtainable by the largely increased number of workmen now about to be employed on the railway.

The occupation of Wiju by Japanese troops and the final expulsion of all Russian forces from Korean soil has been announced by Mr. Hayashi to the Korean Government as a matter of mutual congratulation.

It appears that the number of Japanese troops, infantry and cavalry, engaged at Chonju was 400 and that the Russians totalled 600, all Cossacks. The early incidents of the fight are not described, but it would seem that the Japanese cavalry deported themselves with great valour and competence, fully refuting the somewhat low estimate hitherto formed of them by foreign observers—an estimate which we suspect to have been based on the horse rather than on the man, for certainly the Japanese trooper on his diminutive, ill-shaped, shaggy pony is anything but an imposing spectacle. There was nothing like a cavalry charge, so far as we can gather. An engagement with carbines and some manœuvring had taken place before a body of Japanese infantry—probably a company—came up at the double and opened fire at 2,000 metres. Of course, as the *Jiji Shimpo* justly remarks, if infantry can get within 600 or 700 metres of cavalry, the latter's fate is sealed. But 2.000 metres is a somewhat long range. However, the Cossacks found it too short to be endurable. They retired, but not in any confusion. Japanese accounts say that they showed fine discipline and coolness, picking up their dead and wounded with only two exceptions, and moving away in good order. They made a halt at the Tongnai river, which is about 17 miles beyond Chonju, and there re-united their force which had retreated by two roads. The affair would have been more interesting had some Russian infantry also been engaged, but it is at any rate instructive as showing that the Japanese foot-soldier has nothing to fear from the Cossacks.

It is stated that three Japanese companies, the Kajima, the Shiki, and the Kume, have contracted to assist in building the Seoul-Wiju Railway. On this subject the *Jiji Shimpo* has an article strongly advocating the rapid construction of the line, which our contemporary deems more important than the Seoul-Fusan road. Evidently there can be no comparison between the importance of the two lines from a military point. The distance from Seoul to Wiju, according to the *Jiji*, is 260 or 270 miles. According to our calculation it is 279 miles. The *Jiji's* argument, in part, is that the war must be expected to last over the winter, and that as the Tadong and the Yalu become useless after ice begins to form, this railway will be most essential.

It was very natural that many Japanese tradesmen should hasten to Pyong-yang and Chinnampo with supplies of all kinds of goods for the Japanese troops, but the thing seems to have been over-done, and these speculators are now said to be returning to Seoul with rueful countenances. Prices at the front appear to have ruled for some time at the same figures as prices in Seoul, so that no margin offered for profit. Moreover the bulk of the forces have now left Pyong-yang and Chinnampo far behind, and it is very improbable that the bad Korean roads will be again used for the passage of an army so long as the sea-route is available.

The Americans at Unsan are said to have shown the greatest satisfaction at the arrival of Japanese soldiers to guard the valuable mining property at the place. Much apprehension had been felt about Unsan. It was feared that as the Cossacks had actually penetrated southward of the town, their arrival there might be expected to precede that of the Japanese, and though the Russians mightpossibly have respected American property, they would have been pretty certain to take with regard to the numerous Japanese employees such steps as must have interrupted their continued service at the mines. It will be remembered that a telegram from St. Petersburg recently announced the occupation of Unsan by the Cossacks, and that the announcement was made with some triumph as having anticipated the Japanese. But apparently the Cossacks never got to Unsan at all. They do not seem to have ventured so far eastward.

Tuesday, April 12.

In conformity it would seem, with Marquis Ito's advice that the Court and the administration should be separated, the Koreans are talking of remodelling the Cabinet, and placing at its head a Prime Minister. But apparently the prospect of securing that high office has the effect of invigorating the rivalries of the political parties, and we read that one side is vehemently agitating on behalf of Chhim Son-heun, who represents the Lady Om section, while the adherents of the Prince Imperial are in favour of Pak Chon-yong.

It is stated that the Korean local officials who have deserted their posts in the northern regions of the empire, are very unwilling to resume their duties, first because the country has been devastated by the Russians, and secondly because they want to see the result of the battle on the Yalu before venturing into the zone of danger.

Takeshiki reports that the *Varyag* has been floated and will very soon be towed into the Japanese dock-yard.

Wednesday, April 13.

The *Jiji Shimpo* says that the southern section of the Seoul-Wiju Railway, that is, the section as far as Kaisong, will be completed in the course of next month.

Stories continue to arrive about the brutal conduct of the Cossacks towards the Koreans. The chief local official of Pakchhon, who refused to give them the assistance they desired, had his ears, his feet and his hands cut off before death was granted. So it is said, at any rate. A great deal of this kind of thing will probably be heard of and must be largely discounted.

Prince Li, Korea's Ambassador to Japan, is to leave Seoul for this country on the 15th instant. He carries various gifts from the Emperor of Korea for the Emperor of Japan.

The war correspondents of Japanese newspapers have been allowed to go to the front. They left Pyongyang on the 29th of March, and reached Sukchong on the 30th, whence their letters are now beginning to reach Tokyo. They are all agreed in stating that the condition of the roads is something terrible. One might as well be walking in paddy fields. In many cases it is better to leave the regular road and make one's way by sidepaths. These correspondents seem to have gone by the old road to Sunan (16 miles) and thence to Sukchhon (16 miles), this representing 2 days' journey. While the Russians were in the neighbourhood all the Korean population fled to the hills, but are now beginning to return. It is still rare, however, to see a young woman. The treatment this class of humanity received at the hands of the Cossacks had made them prefer any kind of misery.

Thursday, April 14.

Accounts from Seoul directly contradict the estimates made by the correspondents of the *Nichi Nichi* and the *Asahi* on the occasion of their recent visits to the West-Liao district. These correspondents affirm that the Russians are withdrawing from the Yalu and from Haicheng, and are concentrating at Liaoyang and Tashikiao. But Seoul sends a very different story. It alleges that the right bank of the Yalu is to be the scene of Russia's first great stand; that a whole *corps d'Armie*, presumably thirty thousand men at least, has been concentrated at Antung; that there is also a strong force at Kiulien; that all the Chinese houses along the river and on the central island have been cleared away; that forts have been built, and that the defenses have been in every way made as strong as possible. Both sides, therefore, are looking at each other across the river much as they did in the war of 1894.

Friday, April 15.

It is stated that the Koreans have at length ceased to be doubtful as to the direction their practical sympathies ought to take. Some of them retained until quite recently a lingering belief that though the Russians had fared badly at sea, they would more than redress the balance on shore. But now, seeing that Korea has been completely cleared of Russian troops and that the Japanese are masters of the country up to the banks of the Yalu, even these Russophils are said to have changed their minds and to be entirely in favour of clasping hands with Japan. It really does not matter very much what their mood is, but such are the reported facts.

The Koreans are said to be resting on their oars, as they generally do, in the expectation that some tide of reform will set towards their country from Japan. Whatever of active interest they display in matters of progress is limited to intrigues and disputes as to what persons shall benefit by the changes. Marqnis Ito's advice about educational reform is bearing feeble fruit in the form of a project to place all the schools under the jurisdiction of the School o Foreign Languages. The Japanese journals say that Korea is not yet ripe for reform. Truly it seems that she will be eaten before she is ripe.

The railway from Seoul to Wiju is expected to cost 2,800,000 *yen*. Its total length is 280 miles, namely, 170 miles from Seoul to Pyongyang and 110 miles from Pyongyang to Wiju. The first section, 50 miles, from Seoul to Kaisong, has been under construction for some time and will probably be completed by August. Moreover, the surveying of the remaining section of 120 miles, to Pyongyang, has been finished, and the present intention is to build the line to the latter town by the close of this year. If that project holds, there will be through communication by rail from Fusan to Pyongyang before next spring. It is stated that the road from Pyongyang to Wiju will not present many engineering difficulties. The gage is the standard.

Mr. Lefebre and another engineer have arrived in Seoul, with the intention, it is said, of protesting against the construction of the Seoul-Wiju Railway by the Japanese, but it is not expected that the protest will have much weight. The new protocol between Japan and Korea puts an altered complexion on the situation, and we are by no means sure that M. Lefebre would have had grounds for a valid protest under any circumstances.

THE NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA'S PURCHASES.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha has re-named the *Morgan* (3,781 tons) and the *Afridi* (3,808 tons) recently purchased by it. They are to be called the *Jinsen Maru* and the *Kitsuri Maru*. Another large steamer, the *Willowdene* (4,300 tons) has been purchased by the same Company, but is not yet re-named.

MEMORY THE ROMANCIST.

On a certain evening of a day in a year which need not be specified, a distinguished English poet and journalist then sojourning in Japan, called upon the writer of this note and begged him to perform a service of international importance. The service was to accompany the poet and journalist to the Imperial Hotel, in the immediate neighbourhood of which Marquis Ito happened to be staying, and to procure for the poet and journalist an interview with the statesman, inasmuch as the former had matter of vital moment to communicate to the latter. This request having been complied with, Marquis Ito was induced to repair to the Hotel, and there the poet and journalist, after due preliminaries, propounded his intelligence. It was that, according to information in his possession, the Government of Lisbon, finding itself in very straitened financial circumstances, would probably, nay almost certainly, be willing and pleased to part with Macao for a substantial consideration. Thus a unique opportunity presented itself. Japan, profiting by this timely news, of which she thus obtained a monopoly, might come into possession of an invaluable *pied à terre* in southern China, and might soon establish there a tradal entrepot which would rival, if not surpass, Hongkong. Marquis Ito listened quietly. Beyond occupying himself rather busily with his beard, he betrayed no sign of suppressed emotion. But when the poet and journalist had fully expounded his epoch-making programme there flitted across the statesmen's countenance just the reflection of a smile. His courtesy, illimitable as Japanese courtesy is, barely sufficed to control his amusement. So much gratitude was due, so much appreciation felt, for the thought and the trouble of the distinguished visitor, but unfortunately an obstacle stood in the way: Portugal was solemnly bound by treaty with China not to alienate Macao under any circumstances. The Japanese statesman gave no hint as to his own mental attitude towards the illuminating project. But neither did he hesitate for one instant to expose its utter impracticability. The career of every great man includes chequered experiences. It need not be doubted that during his arduous climb to the elevation on which he then stood, the poet and journalist had tasted much of the bitter as well as of the sweet. Nevertheless his experiences had not endowed him with induration of integument sufficient to hide every trace of suffering in the presence of a great disappointment. His self-esteem was wounded even more, perhaps, than his hopes were dashed. For had he not taken all these steps, had he not, by very exceptional contrivance, secured an interview with Japan's leading statesman at a very exceptional hour to submit a proposition which rested on his own very exceptional ignorance and to see it tumble into shattered ruins at one touch of the statesman's superior intelligence. Marquis Ito saw the pain and did what he could to alleviate it. He diverted the subject. He talked of this and of that: of the weather; of the poet's approaching departure and so on. But it may be doubted whether even the Marquis gauged the potency of the *vis mediatrix naturæ* that waited to repair the breach in the poet's self-esteem. Some years were needed indeed for the healing influence to achieve its work. It did achieve it, however. As time went by the true outlines of the incident grew fainter and fainter in the poet's mind, until at last there arose in their irksome place a bright image of what might have been, and this image became so comfortably real that at last he had the courage to dress it in the perilous raiment of the *litera scripta* and to submit it for public inspection. Here is the form it took:—

> That night again in Tokyo I had the honour of listening to him upon whom so much still depended, and was glad to find his first and last thought was to render Japan powerful enough to save herself, whatever might befall. I should not, of course, dream of repeating here any of the weighty things he uttered, since they were all heard in private conversation: yet I may be allowed to mention an instance of his alert habit of mind and swiftness of action. I had spoken of a group of islands eligible to possess, and as I had gathered not by any means out of reach of Japan's ownership if she wanted them. Without directly replying he took a swift note in Japanese, despatched a messenger to the telephone, and returned quietly to the little pipe. I saw the message afterwards; the sense of it was, "Send immediately full particulars with map and latest commercial particular report of—" well, No Man's Land. Not long afterwards I had occasion to find that he knew more about the spot in question than anybody, and the white and red flag of Japan floats over it now.

SIR ROBERT HART'S PROGRAMME OF FINANCIAL REFORM.

Sir Robert Hart's programme of financial reform, to which we have already alluded, is given as follows in our Chinese exchanges:—

1.—A reformed system of tax collection should be inaugurated in one district only in one province, and if found workable extended by degrees to the neighbouring districts and provinces, as if an attempt be made to start it in all the provinces simultaneously a lack of uniformity and some confusion must result.

2.—When a district has been selected for experiment the Government should appoint 10 intelligent and reliable officials to assist the Magistrate of the said district, and these officials can then be drafted to other districts later on so as to carry on the work with uniformity.

3.—The Magistrate of the selected district must issue proclamations requiring all land owners to send in full particulars of their properties and plans of the same for registration within a certain period, each property being divided into 4 equal sections for convenience of inspection.

4.—The Magistrate in order to save the people annoyance need not make an official survey of these properties, but he should caution land owners that any attempt to misrepresent the measurement or value of the same will be severely punished.

5.—When all properties are duly registered the Magistrate should grant a certificate to the owners, and require the taxes to be duly paid on the 1st of the 4th Moon every year, at the rate of 200 cash per mu, a complete record being kept of all certificates so issued.

6.—The issue of these notifications and the registration of the lands above referred to should take place within 3 months of the new system being inaugurated, and when this is completed the 10 officials who have been engaged on the work should be drafted to other districts in the same Prefecture to perform similar duties in new districts, and 10 other officials be taken on to serve their apprenticeship in their turn.

7.—At the end of the second 3 months these other 10 officials will, in their turn be drafted out, and so at the end of nine months all the districts in one province should be in working order.

8.—When all the returns are duly obtained each Magistrate should prepare a complete list of the lands taxable in each district and the amount due on same for the information of the Prefects who should in turn present them to the Viceroys and Governors to forward to the Board of Revenue.

9.—In the event of any owners desiring to sell their registered lands the vendors and purchasers should both apply to the Magistrate in person and have their certificates altered and the land registered afresh.

10.—Within a few days of the 1st of the 10th Moon the taxes due should be paid to the Magistrate or to a bank properly authorised to receive the same, a careful record being kept, and any landowners failing in payment should be promptly fined or punished. All such monies should be paid into the Provincial Treasury and be at the disposal of the Board of Revenue.

11.—As it is possible the yamen runners and clerks might attempt a squeeze when the landowners go to pay the required tax of 200 cash per mu, the Magistrate should be on his guard against this and punish all such proceedings with the utmost rigour of the law.

12.—At the end of the first year when the reformation of one province has been completed the officials familiar with the work can be drafted to the neighbouring provinces, the same system repeated throughout the Empire, and by the end of three years it should in this way be possible to have the system operating in all eighteen provinces.

13.—These regulations are only provisional and farther details require to be drawn up to suit local conditions in each province.

14.—The easiest and surest method of carrying the system out is to hold the various Viceroys and Governors responsible to the Board of Revenue, and every year certain reliable officials should be dispatched to certain districts to inspect the papers, certificates and accounts, and if this is done properly Tls. 400,000,000 annually should be collected.

WAR NOTES.

Saturday, April 9.

It is noted by Japanese journals that all the sons of the late Marquis Saigo are serving at the front, two in the Army and two in the Navy.

Professor Holland, of Oxford University, has addressed to Professor Takahashi of the Imperial University, a letter strongly eulogising Japan's diplomatic procedure in all the preliminary stages of the present crisis, and expressing much applause with regard to the initial operations of the war.

Wednesday, April 13.

A wealthy Chinese contractor undertook, at the beginning of the year—old style, that is to say February—to build a branch line from Liaoyang to Fenghwang. He has already completed the bed of the line through a distance of 35 Chinese *li* (12 miles, approximately).

It is alleged that the Russians at Newchwang have issued a proclamation promising a reward of 100 roubles to any one capturing a Japanese subject.

The Russian Government has ordered two flat-bottomed tugs from the yards of John Cockerill (Ltd.), near Liége, for service on the Shilka, a tributary of the Amur. There are now 41 river steamers and 29 barges, constructed by this firm, on the Amur and other Siberian rivers. The latest order, though of secondary importance, is considered significant of Russia's future intentions.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the London *Express* mails a long story of official corruption in Russia. He instances dishonesty at dockyards, and says money allowed for military and naval stores has been pocketed. The officials all around misappropriate a part of the funds passing through their hands. The correspondent declares that the corruption has been responsible for the succession of defeats Russia has suffered. He asserts the official assurances that there were coal and provisions enough at Port Arthur to enable that place to withstand a two years' siege were untrue. When 10,000 tons of coal were ordered to Port Arthur only 5,000 would reach the place, the officials dividing the cost of the remainder. There are thousands of sacks at Port Arthur supposed to contain sugar, but which in reality are filled with chipped brick. The correspondent adds that the Czar has taken a firm stand and is determined to stop the corruption.

In *L'Echo de Chine* of March 31st we find following :—

> S. E le général Dessino veut bien nous communiquer le télégramme suivant :
>
> Moukden, 30 mars 2 h. 20 s.
>
> Le 28 ct, au matin, après avoir vainement cherché à provoquer au combat la cavalerie japonaise, le général Mitchenko, avec six escadrons de cosaques, s'est approché de Chongjou où se trouvaient un escadron et une compagnie de Japonais, descendus de cheval et couronnant les hauteurs voisines.
>
> Par un feu croisé, les cosaques forcèrent l'ennemi à se réfugier dans les maisons ; trois escadrons japonais arrivant au secours de leurs camarades, furent balayés par notre feu ; l'un des trois fut dispersé et se vit forcé de se retirer en désordre sur Kasan. Les deux autres parvinrent à se frayer un passage et se réfugièrent dans la ville.
>
> Bientôt après arrivèrent quatre compagnies d'infanterie envoyées en renfort et nos cosaques se retirèrent en bon ordre.
>
> Les pertes de l'ennemi sont enormes ; on a pu voir un grand nombre de cavaliers et de chevaux tomber sous notre feu.
>
> Nous avons eu quatre officiers et douze cosaques blesses et trois cosaques tués.
>
> (Signé) Major-général FLOUG
> général quartermeister.

The conflict between this account and that of the Japanese is very striking. According to the latter it was the Russians that occupied Chonju whence they were driven by the Japanese. Moreover, the Japanese losses were 3 killed and 10 wounded. If such numbers justify the adjective "enormous" we want a new dictionary. In fact the Japanese suffered less than the Russians, for the latter, even according to General Floug's account, had 3 killed and 16 wounded. In the matter of horses the Japanese casualties were 1 killed and 7 wounded, but we have no record of the number of animals lost by the Cossacks. General Floug and General Dessino are certainly distinguishing themselves as purveyors of news. But facts are stubborn things. Whatever successes the Russians achieved, they did not succeed in holding any part of Korea.

Thursday, April 14.

The funeral of Commander Hirose took place on Wednesday. At 2 p.m. the cortege left the Naval Club in Tsukiji. There was a guard of honour consisting of 450 bluejackets with 12 officers, and altogether the dimensions of the ceremony approximated very closely to those of a state funeral. The Emperor conferred on the deceased the Fourth Class Order of the Rising Sun, the day before the burial. Aoyama was the cemetery.

General Dessino now professes to have received a letter from Mukden dated 11 a.m. on the 29th of March, to the effect that the Russian boats succeeded in sinking the four Japanese blocking steamers at a long distance from their intended berths, and that, according to subsequent investigations, they were all new steamers, constructed for the purpose, each over 2,000 tons. The dictionary will soon have to include a "Dessino" among current terms.

Tokyo newspapers say that the officers commanding the various sections of the Russian forces are :

At Yingkow (Newchwang), Lieut.-General Saharow.
At Fenghwan-teng, Lieut-General Stoessel.
At Liaoyang, Lieut.-General Linevitch.
At Port Arthur, Lieut.-General Sumilnow.

Friday, April 15.

The latest product of the Pflug-Dessino factory is a tale that on the night of the 6th a party of Russian sharp-shooters, who were lying perdu on an inland called "Samarin" in the Yalu, partly to act as scouts, partly to impede any operations of the enemy, saw three Japanese boats approaching, opened fire on them, and killed the greater part of their crews. This is said to have happened during the darkness of night. We presume, therefore, that the Russians were using rifles with electric-lit sights, which is the first recorded instance of such a performance. But we may presume something else, namely, that the story is a Pflug-Dessino canard. Nevertheless it may have some truth. The statements officially published in Tokyo on the 13th instant concerning two minor affairs on the Yalu, related to the 10th and the 12th, whereas the Pflug-Dessino story refers to the 7th. Perhaps the Cossacks did open fire on Japanese boats, but had they effected any slaughter such as they claim, or indeed any slaughter at all, the Japanese Authorities would certainly not conceal the fact.

The *Nichi Nichi* and other journals publish a statement said to have been officially compiled, showing the losses sustained by the Russian squadron up to the present. This is the list :—

TEMPORARILY INJURED.

	Tons.
Battle-ship *Poltava*	10,960
Cruiser *Diana*	6,731
" *Askold*	5,905
" *Boyarin*	3,200

These ships have been rendered fit, apparently, to resume their places in the fighting line.

DEPRIVED OF FIGHTING CAPACITY.

	Tons.
Battle-ship *Retvisan*	12,902
Battle-ship *Tsarevitch*	12,912
Cruiser *Bayan*	7,726
Gunboat *Mandjur*	1,224
Gunboat *Korietz*	1,213
Cruiser *Pallada*	6,731
Cruiser *Varyag*	6,500
Destroyer *Stereguschtchi*	240
Destroyer *Skori*	240
Destroyer *Vnushitchni*	318
Destroyer *Ryeslaitelni*	240
Transport *Enisei*	2,500

The total tonnage of vessels on the second list is 51,746 tons. If we add the *Petropaulovsk* the total tonnage becomes 62,246.

Nagasaki sends word that the following steamers captured by the Japanese from the Russians have been added to the Japanese mercantile marine under the new names indicated below, but there seems to be some doubt whether this allegation is not premature :—

Mukden—(6,000 tons)—auxiliary cruiser—to be called the *Hôten Maru* (*Hôten* is the Japanese name of "Mukden.")

Argun (4 000 tons)—auxiliary cruiser—to be called the *Rashû Maru.*

Ekaterinoslow (10,500 tons)—auxiliary cruiser—to be called the *Kangeki Maru.*

Rossia (5,000 tons)—Volunteer fleet to be called the *Seishû Maru.*

Manchuria (2,981 tons)—East Chinese Railway Co. —to be called the *Kwanto Maru.*

SAGHALIEN.

This island is now attracting much attention. Every one knows the story of the gradual extension of Russian influence there, and of the island's final inclusion in the Russian empire, Japan receiving in exchange for her rights the sole possession of the Kuriles. Saghalien has an area of 24,560 square miles and a population of about 340,000. Its capacity in the matter of marine products is said to be very great. Last year the quantity of fish taken by Japanese subjects was 113,639 *koku* valued at 1,192,404 *yen*, and the quantity taken by Russian subjects, 117,133 *koku* valued at 1,679,607 *yen*. It is believed that these amounts would be multiplied by at at least ten if the Japanese had free access to the shores of the island and unimpeded facilities in connexion with the fisheries. In the matter of fish manure Saghalien is of the utmost importance. The quantity of this staple carried thence to Japan last year was

188,458 *koku*, valued at 1,978,810 *yen*—Russians as well as Japanese being exporters—and it is evident that if this source of supply as well as the usual imports of bean-cake from Newchwang be interrupted, Japanese farmers must be greatly inconvenienced. The Japanese have now 99 fishing stations against 78 Russian, and the Japanese companies are 30, giving employment to 3,931 men, whereas the Russian companies are only 22, employing 3,251 hands. Great pressure is being brought on the Government by the fisher-folk of Hokkaido to do one of two things; namely, either to take military possession of the island and throw it open to Japanese fishing enterprise, or to allow the Hokkaido men to organise such arrangements as shall insure them against Russian interruption—to organise armed fisheries, in short.

CANCER: A MEDICAL MYSTERY.

If one-half of the so-called "cures" for cancer reported in the last twelve months were at all efficacious, mankind would soon be rid of one of the most fatal ills that flesh is heir to. Unfortunately no such belief can be entertained in view of the remarkable statement made by Dr. Herbert Snow, senior surgeon at the Cancer Hospital, Brompton-road, before the council of the hospital. Dr. Snow claimed that in the Cancer Hospital the disease has been studied as it has never been elsewhere in the world:—

> I would point to a pathological discovery of some significance, the fruit of long and elaborate research—namely, routine infection of the bone-marrow by mammary carcinoma. If not of the first order, it may not unreasonably be claimed as the most important of the last fifty years in regard to cancer. Then, again, numerous surgical operations for the cure or relief of malignant disease have either originated or have been mainly perfected here. Lastly, the particular drug-treatment, whereby we commonly succeed in arresting the course of cancer, often in a material degree, has been here formulated and settled.

By every means in their power they had sought to establish a genuine and precise cancer-science as a sure foundation for all future research, but

> In this attempt we have failed utterly and miserably. And now on all hands we find schemes of cancer research, including one under most august patronage, and our own, in the able hands of Mr. Primmer, not the least promising.

Dr. Snow held, indeed, that no real success could be chronicled till "some step is taken to clear away all the traditional lumber of past centuries":—

> On the very threshold of the subject we have to note that "cancer" is not one but many diseases, including as it does ten general and thirteen species. Each variety is established by a different cause, or chain of causes, all of which have been formulated in our published works. Each probably requires a separate line of research. Each shows some important clinical phenomenon widely differing from those presented by the rest. I have long thought that proper scientific investigation of the physiological reasons for these remarkable diversities would assuredly far advance our practical knowledge of cancer, and might even lead up eventually to the ideal non-surgical cure. But I hear no rumour of any such contemplated investigation, and feel far from sure that the attention of those gentlemen who are specially engaged in the work has even been directed to these peculiar phenomena. At present all are groping in the dark—or little more. Until this preliminary step is taken, and each cancer variety is clearly differentiated from the rest, there can be no real progress. All will continue to revolve, as heretofore, in a vicious circle.

Dr. Snow holds that a world's congress on cancer—or some equivalent measure for procuring a universally recognised classification and tabulation of facts—is the one thing needful. Till then the best efforts must come to naught, and "cancer will remain the Darkest Africa in the map of Medicine."

VLADIVOSTOCK.

Monday, April 11.

It is expected that the ice at Vladivostock will break up about the 26th or 27th of this month. We can not wonder that such a port fails to satisfy Russian ambition. It seems hard that some pacific arrangement can not be made affording to the Russians the maritime outlet they naturally crave for. But the truth is that Russia has never confined herself to using an opportunity: she always abuses it. No one wants her for a neighbour.

It is now evident that our conjecture was right as to the point from which the Japanese squadron bombarded Vladivostock on the 6th of March. A little to the north of Cape Basarghin there is a small bight called Soboru Bay, from which the town and harbour can be reached by high-angle fire at a range of from 3 to 4 miles. This bay is completely masked from all the batteries on the northern shore of the Bosporus strait, but it should not by any means be masked from those on the southern shore. It was in Soboru Bay that Admiral Kamimura placed his vessels, probably at a distance of nearly two miles from the shore, for we know that the whole coast had a frame of thick ice extending to about that distance seaward. Why the batteries on the south of the strait failed to make, or refrained from making, any reply to the Japanese fire, there is still no satisfactory explanation. But the Vladivostock journal now states that to guard against the recurrence of such incidents a powerfully armed battery has been built and armed on the shore of Soboru Bay. Our contemporary speaks of the work as though it had engrossed the attention of the garrison, and adds that even the women showed their patriotism by toiling to manufacture bags to form the revetments. A collateral reflection suggested by this story is that the strenuous denials which were made at the time as to the injury wrought by the bombardment can scarcely be reconciled with all this eagerness and anxiety to fortify the bay.

The *Novoe Krai* of the 26th of March says that much distress has been caused at Vladivostock in connexion with sales of property under judicial decisions. A great part of the mercantile population having taken its departure, there can be no purchasers of such property and it is bought in by speculators at merely nominal figures. In these circumstances the authorities have been asked to suspend the enforcement of such sales so long as the law of siege is in operation, and their decision is said to be anxiously awaited.

Possiet Bay has acquired special importance in Russian eyes as a point of concentration for forces destined to oppose any advance by a Japanese army across the Tumen towards Vladivostock. The troops said (*Asahi Shimbun*) to be assembled there at present total 6,450 of all arms, namely:—

Two regiments of the East Siberia Rifles	4,000
Two batteries of field artillery	600
One battery of mountain artillery	300
One battery of garrison artillery	300
One detachment of torpedo troops	200
Total	6,400

Thursday, April 14.

The Government of Vladivostock issued on the 2nd of March a proclamation declaring that whereas the law of siege was in force at the place, and whereas, consequently, the presence of any Japanese subjects could not be permitted, it appeared that certain Japanese subjects were still residing secretly in the town, being disguised as Chinese subjects and harboured by the latter. Any Chinese who failed to gave information of such doings or to apprehend any Japanese thus concealed, were informed by the Governor that they would be handed over to a court martial, to be dealt with according to the utmost rigour of the law.

Statistics just published give the population in Russia's Maritime Province at the close of 1901. There were, it appears, 240,000 Russians and 420,000 foreigners of all nationals. Of pure Russians the total was 185,500, and of natives there were 38,000. The naturalized Koreans totalled 16,500, and the Chinese aggregated 25,000, constituting the great bulk of the foreign population. The Koreans stood next on the list, 12,000, and the Japanese were represented by 3,300. There were only 700 foreigners of European or American blood.

THE "KOBE HERALD'S" "ILLUSTRATED WAR SUPPLEMENT."

It is a distinguishing feature of the Russo-Japanese war that although the struggle is still in its early stages, quite a mass of comparatively permanent literature has already been published with reference to its progress. By comparatively permanent literature we mean magazines and periodical devoted solely to recording the events of the conflict and compiled from maturer sources of information that those accessible to the daily newspaper. Among these publications we note one which, to much attractiveness of form, adds the advantage of being prepared with judgment and care. It is from the office of the *Kobe Herald*, and apparently the editor of that journal interested himself specially in the compilation as he writes the preface and evidently accepts responsibility for the matter. The typography and general get-up are attractive and there are several photographs of much interest. As for the contents they make a very long list. Among them is nearly all the official correspondence relating to the war—which in itself, when thus assembled, constitutes a valuable historical asset—and we need scarcely say that accounts are added of the various belligerent operations; accounts which, with the exception of that referring to the Chemulpo fight, necessarily leave a great deal to be desired inasmuch as the acts of war up to the present time have taken place outside the observation of expert correspondents. Criticism is therefore silenced, and we can only say that this "Supplement" of the Kobe journal seems to embody the best available reports. Were it permitted, however, to discuss the "Supplement's" estimate of the number of Japanese troops landed in Korea up to March 3rd, we should dissent emphatically from that estimate, and we most distinctly deny that Russia, at the same date, had between 60,000 and 75,000 men in Korea, "50,000 of them being on the north-east coast with orders to move southward in two separate columns." It is doubtful, we think, whether Russia has had as many as even one tenth of that number in the regions south of the Tumen, and if she put ten thousand across the Yalu it was probably the outside. But these are minor matters. Future information will furnish corrections. Meanwhile we congratulate the *Kobe Herald* on its enterprise and commend the "Supplement" to the public.

M. MOURAWIEFF ON THE WAR.

The Japanese public have only just now seen any verbatim reproduction of the remarks made by M. Mourawieff, President of the Permanent Court of Arbitration of the Hague, when delivering judgment in the Venezuela case; namely, the remarks animadverting on Japan's conduct in opening the present war. These are the President's words:—

> Obviously, it is neither the time nor the place for politics and we will not treat of politics, but may I say only a few words before closing this grand manifestation of the conciliatory spirit of nations, and give expression to a few personal considerations on the subject of recent events, which have alas so unfavourably changed the circumstances under which we first met within these hospitable walls. We began our labours in the midst of a more or less peaceful situation; we finish our task to the sinister sound of arms. Thus it is willed by the implacable law of history, or rather by the flagrant imperfection of the conditions which confine human nature, too often hindered in its laborious progress towards light and right. We aspire to peace with all the strength of our soul and labour for it assiduously with conviction and fervour—and, nevertheless, we are not safe from a hostile challenge, from an unexpected attack. We sincerely desire the maintenance of peace—and we are forced to accept courageously a war of legitimate self-defence in the name of the honour and dignity of our Country. In this painful conflict of heart and duty there remains one supreme consolation: warm and absolute faith in the just Providence of peoples and of battles, who will know how to distinguish between valid right and ambitious pretentions, between calm resolution and immovable constancy on the one hand and warlike zeal and passionate ardour on the other. But when the tempest, which throws the two currents, European and Asiatic, into such violent collision, shall at last have passed—and everything passes in this world!—then, we religiously believe, the thick clouds which have darkened our horizon will be scattered and a restoring calm will appear again and make the benefits, a moment forgotten, of peaceful development shine more brilliantly than ever. The Hague Arbitration, created by such generous wisdom remains what it is—a rampart of justice, of truth and of reason, a sublime hope of a better future.

It is not possible to form a very high estimate of the ideas of "light and right" that animate a jurisconsult who flagrantly abuses a position of trust as M. Mourawieff did on the above occasion. He can not have laboured under the least misconception as to the gross impropriety of which he was guilty when, from his place as chief judge of a tribunal empanelled to consider the Venezuela claims, he unjustly and unrighteously went far out of his way to drag in the question of his own country and Japan; a question having not the remotest concern for the tribunal; and when, being entrusted with the immeasurably responsible duty of presiding over a Court supposed to offer for the admiring inspection of the whole world an example of the calmest and most unbiassed administration of justice, he dishonestly utilized the occasion in the selfish interests of a belligerent State. There can never again be the slightest confidence in the decisions of the Hague Permanent Court so long as M. Mourawieff presides over it. He has deliberately disgraced and discredited a tribunal which, with the consciousness of his own injustice, untruth and unreason staring him in the face, he had nevertheless the sublime assurance to describe as "a rampart of justice, of truth and of reason." We charge M. Mourawieff of "untruth" with full deliberation, for having set out with an avowal that, it being "neither the time nor the place for politics," he "would not treat of politics," he then at once proceeded to treat of politics in the most unblushing manner. A fervid patriot, passion and prejudice may have so completely obscured his intelligence that he could honestly describe Russia—Russia the monster aggressor of the age, the deliberate violator of international covenants, the wholesale ignorer of the rights of other nations—that he could honestly describe this Russia as "laboriously progressing towards light and right," as "aspiring to peace with all the strength of her soul and labouring for it assiduously with conviction and fervour"; a blind admirer of his country, he may not have appreciated the supreme absurdity of pretending that Russia "had been forced to accept courageously a war of legitimate self-defence." Men are permitted to divest themselves of all discernment where their country is in question. But there is no excuse for M. Mourawieff as President of the Permanent Court of Arbitration. Neither the passion nor the prejudice of patriotism can extenuate the breach of trust he wittingly committed in that capacity, and so far from benefiting Russia by such a display of unfairness, he has merely shown how incapable of justice a Russian can be even when entrusted with the duty of administering it.

NEWCHWANG.

It is stated that although the Liao River has been mined at Newchwang, the entry and exit of vessels observing the rules laid down by the port authorities will not be interdicted. News continues to arrive of vigorous Russian efforts to place Newchwang in a state of complete defence, and a very considerable force is evidently posted either there or in the immediate vicinity.

From Newchwang comes news that the British gun-boat left that port on the 12th but that the Russian gun-boat could not leave for some days. It is also stated that the Russians are urging the immediate departure of all the merchant steamers at the port.

Newchwang appears to have been seized with a panic on the night of the 10th. A rumour spread at mid-night that the Japanese were coming. It seems to have been caused by the sight of certain lights which a pilot-boat was showing to indicate the route for two steamers leaving the port. The forts on the west opened fire and discharged some twenty 8-inch and 6-inch shell, but the report does not state what damage, if any, these projectlies inflicted. At the same time three hundred Russian troops opened fire on a boat full of Chinamen that was crossing the river, and killed 2 of them, wounding 5.

MURAVIEFF'S STATEMENTS IN THE HAGUE TRIBUNAL: JAPAN PROTESTS.

The following State paper has been published by the Imperial Japanese Foreign Office:

> The case relating to the settlement of the claims of Great Britain, Germany, Italy and other Powers against Venezuala, was by agreement of Great Britain, Germany and Italy submitted to the arbitration of the Hague International Arbitration Tribunal. The Russian Emperor in compliance with the request of those three Powers, named as Arbitrators Mr. N. V. Mourawieff, Secretary of State and Minister for Justice of Russia: M. H. Lammasch, member of the Upper House of the Austrian Parliament and Professor of Criminal and International Law at the University of Vienna; and Dr. F. De Martens, Permanent Member of the Council of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
>
> On the 22nd of February last, M. Mourawieff, who had been elected President, after having delivered the award upon the Venezuelan Case, took occasion to make in the formal seance of the Arbitration Court the following speech in connection with the outbreak of war between Japan and Russia:—
>
> "We aspire to peace with all the strength of our soul and labour for it assiduously with conviction and fervour; nevertheless, we are not safe from hostile challenge, or from unexpected attack. We sincerely desire the maintenance of peace yet we are forced to accept courageously a war of legitimate self-defence in the name of the honour and dignity of our Country. In this painful conflict of heart and duty there remains one supreme consolation; warm and absolute faith in the just Providence of peoples and of battles who will know how to distinguish between valid rights and ambitious pretensions, between calm resolution and immoveable constancy on the one hand and warlike zeal and passionate ardour on the other. But when the tempest, which throws the two currents, European and Asiatic, into such violent collision, shall at last have passed—and every thing passes in this world—then, we religiously believe the thick clouds which have darkened our horizon will be scattered and a beneficent calm will appear again; and make the blessings, for a moment forgotten, of peaceful development shine more brightly than ever."
>
> In view of the well known fact that the International Tribunal of Arbitration at the Hague is a sacred Court where cases of international dispute receive just and impartial examination without the indulgence in any personal feeling, the action of its President who abused his official position for the purpose of giving vent to his personal feelings cannot be too severely deprecated.
>
> Consequently, on Feb. 26th the Imperial Government instructed the Japanese Minister to the Court of the Netherlands to lodge a protest in the following sense:—
>
> "The undersigned, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, has the honour, in pursuance of instructions from his Government, to address to His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands, in his capacity as President of the Administrative Council of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the following communication:—
>
> "'Being convinced that the Permanent Court of Arbitration cannot properly be made use of, for the purpose of attacking the actions, motive or good name of any Power signatory of the Hague Convention of the 29th July, 1899, the Imperial Government of Japan, in defence of their honour and dignity and to prevent the wrongful and unseemly use of that high Court, formally and seriously protest against the disparaging remarks concerning Japan, which were made by the President of the Tribunal, organized under the Protocols of Washington of May 7th, 1903, at the meeting of the 22nd instant.
>
> "'The Imperial Government request that their protest may be placed on the records of the Permanent Court of Arbitration and that it may be given the same range of publicity as the utterances which have called it forth.'"

THE FIRST WAR CORRESPONDENT.

Probably, says the *Westminster*, the first war correspondent was Henry Crabb Robinson, who in January 1807 received a proposal from Mr. Walter that he should take up his residence at Altona and become the *Times* correspondent as long as the Napoleonic campaign in that neighbourhood had any interest to English politicians. He was to receive from the editor of the *Hamburger Correspondentum* all the public documents at his disposal and was to have also the benefit of a mass of information of which the restraints of the German press did not permit the editor to avail himself. The engagement made of Robinson "for the first time a man of business." "How I executed my task," he remarks in his well-known Diary, "may be seen by a file of the *Times*." His reports "from the banks of the Elbe," of which the first was dated in March and the last in the August, had reference to the "hopes and fears and reports which ended in the fall of Dantzic, the battle of Friedland, and the Treaty of Tilsit." The naval coalition against England which rendered it necessary to send Lord Cathcart to Copenhagen to secure the Danish fleet was the immediate cause of the *Times* correspondent's leaving Altona. In the following year (1808) he was at Corunna in a similar capacity. His business was "to collect and forward it by every vessel that left the port." "I spent time," he records in his Diary, "between the reception and transmission of intelligence in translating the public documents and in writing comments. I was anxious to conceal the nature of my occupation, but I found it necessary from time to time to take some friends into my confidence." Before that time it appears to have been the practice of enterprising editors "to bribe clerks in the foreign department of the Post Office to supply them in advance with the principal contents of the Continental newspapers translated into the English language for a weekly or annual sum."

SIR JOHN TENNIEL.

Sir John Tenniel, the great cartoonist, has just celebrated his eighty-fourth birthday. It is curious to read in a London journal that he was by no means enamoured of the prospect of being a *Punch* artist when Mark Lemon first made overtures to him. He was rather indignant than otherwise, as his line was "High Art." "Do they suppose," he once asked a friend, "that there is anything funny about me?" Little did he realise at the time against what a kindly destiny he was struggling. In the beginning, of course, Tenniel had only small things to do—initials, tail-pieces, and the like. Then in time he took over from Leech—who was by no means loth to relinquish it, by the way—the "big cut" of the week, and thenceforward it was entrusted on the rarest occasions only to any other hand. Tenniel's record in this respect, indeed, is certainly unique. Altogether, he designed over 2,000 full-page cartoons for *Punch*. It may not be generally known that one of Tenniel's admirers was John Ruskin. He compared him even to Tintoret, which was praise indeed from Ruskin. "Tenniel," he said, "has much of the largeness and symbolic mystery of imagination which belonged to the great leaders of classic art; in the shadowy masses and sweep of line of his great compositions there are tendencies which might have won his adoption into the school of Tintoret." Personally Tenniel is the most genial and lovable of men with a host of interests outside his art. In his day he was an excellent boxer and an expert swordsman, likewise a capital shot and no mean oarsman, while the splendid health which he has enjoyed throughout his life he often ascribed to his love of saddle-back exercise, which in earlier days took him not unfrequently to the hunting field. In addition, he used to be a capital after-dinner speaker and took part in private theatricals with Dickens.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

His Excellency Sir Claude MacDonald, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., entertained the following distinguished guests to dinner at the British Legation on the 6th instant:—His Excellency Marquis Sir Hirobumi Ito, His Excellency Marshal Marquis Oyama, His Excellency Count Katsura, His Excellency Count Sir Masayoshi Matsugata, His Excellency Major-General Viscount Tanaka, His Excellency Baron Komura, His Excellency Lt.-General Terauchi, His Excellency Count Inouye, Admiral Viscount Ito, Lt.-General Kodama, Baron Sannomiya, Rear Admiral Saito, Major General Ishimoto, Rear Admiral Sir G. Ijuin, Major General Sir Y. Fukushima, Lt.-General Sir W. Nicholson, Lt.-General Sir Ian Hamilton, Mr. Geo. Barclay, Colonel Crowder, U.S.A., Colonel Haldane, Lt.-Colonel Hume, Colonel Wood, Captain Marsh, Captain Kuhn, Captain Thacker, Captain Morrison, Mr. Melton Prior, and Mr. Martin Egan.

Reuter has forwarded the outlines of the Russian financial plan. Some facts as to the details are published in Tokyo. The total sum obtainable under the Budget is said to be 134,377,106 roubles, of which 18,000,000 roubles, approximately, represent last year's surplus and 115,498,366 roubles are from reductions effected in this year's expenditures. These reductions are mainly in the items of railway extension and works at Port Arthur and Vladivostock. Ordinary outlays are diminished by 16,000,000 roubles, being 3 per cent. of the total appropriations in this section, and the reductions in ordinary and extraordinary expenditures make 5 per cent. of the whole Budget, which, nevertheless, exceeds the Budget of last year by 26,000,000 roubles. The great economy is in extraordinary expenditures, namely 55,000,000 roubles, or $\frac{26}{100}$ of the total under that heading.

The *Shogyo Shimpo* publishes detailed figures showing the number of ships employed as Government transports and their tonnage. We are surprised that our contemporary should insert the figures, the publication of such matter being explicitly opposed to the regulations now in force, and of course it is not possible for us to follow the example. We confine ourselves to noting that great inconvenience is said to be felt by shippers of goods. Cargo which would be transported from Niigata to Hakodate for 57 *yen* in the beginning of February, called for an expenditure of 90 *yen* on the 20th of that month, and now costs 100 *yen*, while in the case of Niigata and Otaru the rate has risen from 57 *yen* to 120 *yen*.

There has been a slight fall—from 95⅛ to 94¼—in Russian securities, and a rise in Japanese. The figures for the latter are:—

	Now.	Previously.
4 per cents.	£62 10s.	£76 5s.
War Bonds	£77 1s. 6d.	£76 11s. 3d.
Five per cents.	£75 10s. 10d.	£75 0 7½d.

We find the following in the *North-China Daily News* from its Wei-hai-wei correspondent.—

> The establishment of wireless telegraphy here by a newspaper is not unlikely to raise an important question of international law, and the rights of neutral Powers. A British vessel, chartered by a war correspondent, by means of a wireless telegraph station on British territory, is used to inform the whole world of important military and naval movements of one belligerent, which the said belligerent might desire should not be revealed to his enemy. War correspondents, following the movements of an army on land, have their messages rigorously censored. Little control—if any—can be exercised by either belligerent over a correspondent, who transmits news from a neutral vessel via neutral territory.

This reference is necessarily to *The Times*, that being the only journal which has made arrangements for wireless telegraphy for the purpose of transmitting news from the front. We are in a position to say, therefore, that our Shanghai contemporary's correspondent is misinformed. The British vessel of which he speaks and all messages transmitted by her are as fully subject to Japanese censorship as is the matter sent over ordinary routes by duly accredited correspondents in general. It is, indeed, an absolutely inviolable condition of the employment of this vessel that no communication of any kind shall be made through her instrumentality without previous examination and sanction by the regularly appointed censors. We judge that the Shanghai journal's Wei-hai-wei correspondent is not a British subject since he plainly seeks to attribute to British action the licence of which he complains. But whatever his nationality his mistake is egregious.

On Monday Yokohama and Tokyo said good-bye to two of this country's oldest and most esteemed residents, Mr. and Mrs. James Dodds. Mr. Dodds has passed some 30 years in this settlement. He has been in every sense the best type of public man and private friend, and it is with infinite regret that we witness his final departure from our midst. Of Mrs. Dodds we need only say that her sunny presence will be as much missed in social circles as the loss of her untiring ministrations will be felt by every charitable and benevolent cause. It is when farewell has to be said to such dear friends that Japan re-assumes its character as a land of exile, and the longing becomes intense to return to a country where life is not wrenched by these painful partings. *Ave atque Vale*; the words are soon said, but their mournful echo will long be present in our hearts.

The Government has issued an Imperial Ordinance (No. 104), under date of the 8th instant, declaring that from the 10th instant Wakamatsu in Chikuzen (Fukuoka Prefecture) shall be an open port for the export of of coal and iron products, and for the importation of raw iron.

The Naval Department has been for some time in treaty for the acquisition of a coal mine at Minemura in Nagato province. It appears that the product of this mine can be prepared in bricks so as to equal the smokeless coal of Cardiff, and instead of paying 25 *yen* a ton for the latter, the Navy would have as good a home product for 10 *yen* delivered at Yokosuka or Kure. The production of the mine is estimated at 100,000 tons yearly. At present the place belongs to a company with a capital of half a million *yen*, 250,000 *yen* of which is paid up. The company has long been seeking to sell the property to the Naval Department, and seems now likely to accept the latter's offer of 200,000 *yen*. We learn that the whole transaction has been conducted with the approval of the Cabinet, and that in order to fully utilize the mine, the Sanyo Railway would have to construct a short connecting branch, which work it is willing to undertake under a State guarantee of 6 per cent. on capital involved. Our readers will not be unprepared to learn that this affair has inspired the usual suggestions of jobbery in the columns of Tokyo's scandal-mongering journals.

Speaking at a meeting of the Nippon Club held to welcome his return, Marquis Ito insisted that his mission to Korea had no political significance, being intended merely to convey to the Sovereign of that country an expression of the Japanese Emperor's good-will. So long as the Korean Sovereign did not depart from his present professed reliance on the views of the Emperor of Japan, it would be possible to feel assured as to Korean affairs. His Majesty asked Marquis Ito to remain in Korea for the purpose of giving counsel; and if that were not possible, then to return thither from time to time; or, if that might not be, then at any rate to select trustworthy men and send them in the capacity of advisers. He also asked the Marquis to give some indications of the route that Korean reforms should take, but Marquis Ito replied that he was not prepared with an immediate reply.

Marquis Tokudaiji is said to have submitted his resignation of the post of Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal. The Marquis has been ailing for some time. Seeing no prospect of speedy recovery he tendered his resignation some months ago, but the Emperor directed him to take abundant leisure for purposes of recuperation.

Now, however, in view of the pressure of duties demanding his services, the Marquis is unwilling to absent himself any longer from his post and he has again solicited permission to retire.

There can be no doubt now that Mr. William Randolph Hearst is seriously attempting to obtain the Democratic nomination at St. Louis. Of course the papers which he controls hail him as the most fit and proper personage to fill the chair now so ably occupied by President Roosevelt. The *Observer*, of Watertown, N.J., says:—

> Mr. Hearst is a man who has come into prominence within the last few years, and has become most popular with the masses of the people by the manner in which he, a wealthy man, battles for the rights of the people, not only in his own country, but for those of foreign lands as well. He has proved himself one of the most progressive young Democrats of the nation, and a man whose faith in the Democratic party can not be tempted or shaken.

The labour leaders are said to be warm in his support and the Hearst syndicate of papers publish interviews daily in which are given expressions of approval by labour organizers. But the Democratic press outside Hearst's influence is not at all content. The *Chronicle* of Augusta concludes an outspoken article thus:—"William Randolph Hearst for president! In heaven's name, has the Democratic party come to that?" As for jibes at Mr. Hearst's expense, they are in great plenty. The Nashville *American* (Dem.), for one, has formed his cabinet somewhat after this order: "Secretary of State, Mr. Hooligan; Secretary of War, Mr. E. Z. Mark; Secretary of the Navy, "Uncle" Heinie; Secretary of the Treasury, Gloomy Gus; Postmaster-general, Mr. Gaston; Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Jack; chief chambermaid at the White House, Mrs. Katzenjammer. The department of commerce is still open." The Macon *Telegraph* (Dem.) suggests the Yellow Kid for the vacant office. The Republican and Independent press are against Hearst, being almost united in the declaration that his candidacy is "an attack upon the integrity of the nation."

Japanese securities have taken an upward movement on the London market. The quotations last received are:—

4 per-cents.	£63.
5 per-cents.	£77 1s. 6d.
War-bonds	£78 12s. 1d.

It has been finally decided that the Government shall buy for 200,000 *yen* the Minemura Coal Mine, which is the property of the Nagato Sekitan Kabushiki Kaisha, headed by Baron Shibusawa and Mr. Asano. The estimate is that, including the cost price, a total sum of 1,060,000 *yen* will be required to fully equip the mine and prepare the machinery for manufacturing smokeless coal-bricks. From the beginning of next year the mine will be able to supply fuel, and its output in the first year is expected to be from 30,000 to 40.000 tons. If the saving effected be 7 or 8 *yen* a ton, as compared with Cardiff coal, there should be a fine profit from the very outset, and when the mine developes its full estimated capacity of 150,000 tons, the Government will be in a most satisfactory position. The money for this purpose is to be taken from the portion of the war fund alloted to supplying coal for the Navy.

In the New York *Evening Post* of March 2nd we find the following letter:—

> Sir: In his interesting letter on "The Future in the Far East" (February 26) your correspondent, G. B. W., seems to recommend, in effect, that if Japan wins Great Britain, France, Germany, the United States, and the other Treaty Powers, should by international agreement jointly "for the time being, maintain the integrity of China" and "dictate Japan's recompense," which, to reconcile the conflicting interests of the States in the agreement, would have to be limited to "a money indemnity and an equal voice with the great Western nations in the future of Korea"; but he is wisely doubtful of an "immediate satisfactory arrangement" on these lines.
>
> Apparently, he only suggests this plan from a natural (for an Occidental), but mistaken, belief that Japan must as a matter of course desire, as Russia, Germany, and France do, "to acquire territory upon the mainland," but, instead, Japan has voluntarily in advance explicitly bound herself not to do so, and, in addition, it is not in her interest so to do.
>
> Her aim is to save her own and her neighbours' lives as independent States by aiding all to advance in material civilization until they become strong enough unitedly to fend off the robber nations and so secure peace and prosperity. To effect this Japan knows it is best that she and her neighbours should, instead of fighting or oppressing each other, be even more friendly than, for example, the United States and Canada; so that the citizens of the three countries may be free to make each his career in the one where there is most need of him (as our countrymen are now pouring across the border into the wheat fields), and collectively do the utmost possible of good for their own nations and to the world. For in an age when the Golden Rule seems to be forgotten, to thus have a great mass of peoples, perhaps a third of the whole human race, devoted as these are to the pursuits of peace and only reluctantly fighting in self-defence, must obviously be an immeasurable benefit to the world. The benefit morally would be through the wholesome rebuke to the robber nations that are trying to despoil China, and generally through the setting of an example of national highmindedness to replace the former ennobling influences of the United States now turned robber; materially, through a grandly extended commerce.
>
> It is, therefore, manifestly in the interests of Great Britain, the United States, and all other nations who would have world-wide peace and world-wide commerce rather than the Russian military peril, constant wars, and closed doors, to see to it that Japan and her neighbors are given a fair chance to work out their own salvation in their own way, entirely free from interested meddlers, who are grossly ignorant of their characteristics and their needs. Let us have peace! FRANCIS E. WOODRUFF.
>
> Morristown, N. J., February 29.

The *North China Daily News* prints the following translation of a telegram placed at its disposal by Major-General Dessino, Russian Military Agent:—

> Port Arthur, April 2.
>
> On his arrival at Port Arthur the Imperial Lieutenant (Viceroy) Alexieff visited the *Czarevitch*, *Retvizan*, and *Pallada*, the forts, works, and hospitals.
>
> The outer roadstead is adorned with immense Japanese vessels perched on rocks, in the vicinity of the entrance to the port which remains absolutely free.
>
> The streets, the shops, and the works are full of animation. New arrivals are shown as a curiosity some houses pierced by fragments of projectiles, not a single shell having fallen into any building whatever.
>
> Life at Port Arthur continues its habitual course.
>
> PLANÇON.

YOKOHAMA LITERARY SOCIETY.

The illustrated lecture given by Mr. Cyril Allen before the members of the Yokohama Literary Society on Friday evening, proved particularly entertaining. Mr. Allen has but recently come from South Africa and his recollections of the land are therefore of the freshest. His pictures also were above the average in interest, many being taken by himself. The various races of men to be met with in Pondoland, Natal, Zululand and the Transvaal were all touched upon, as were also the different varieties of scenery to be met with in South Africa; the marriage custons of some tribes; the high spirits of the Zulu rickshaw boys, with their amazing head-dresses; while several views of places where soldiers and sailors of Great Britain are taking their last long rest "in the long green barrows of the lonely dead," were thrown upon the screen. Mr. Allen was warmly applauded at the close of his lecture, and the President in moving the formal vote of thanks, expressed the hope that the lecturer would appear before the Society in the autumn.

The musical programme was short but very enjoyable. Mrs. R. J. Ward played a Gavotte de la Reine by Feyre with her accustomed grace and skill; Mr. B. C. Foster sang "What does it matter," to the graceful accompaniment of Mrs. W. Kirkland Wilson; and Mr. Windett closed with Lionel Monckton's breezy "What oh, little girls, ye ho."

At the next meeting of the Society—the last for the present season—Dr. N. Gordon Munro will give a lecture on "Modern Life in relation to Public Health;" while upon the President will fall the pleasing duty of announcing the names of the successful competitors in the musical competition which was held in Van Schaick Hall on Saturday afternoon. Mrs Poole, Miss Mendelson, Miss Lloyd Thomas and Mr. W. Karl E. Vincent acted as the musical examiners.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN JAPAN.

The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church which meets once in four years and is the law-making body of that Church, will be held next month in the city of Los Angeles, Cal. This Conference is composed of an equal number of *Ministerial* and *lay* delegates, abut 700 in all. The Church is made up of about 130 Annual Conferences, each of which is entitled to send a ministerial delegate to the General Conference, and an extra one for every addition of *forty-five* members. There are also an equal number of lay delegates, selected by a lay-electoral conference which is composed of one layman from each church within the bounds of the conference, and which meets at the same time and place as the annual conference. Probably no other boby in the world requires so many elections—one in each of the (nearly) 20,000 churches, to select the delegates to the lay-electoral conference; and then one in each of the 130 annual conferences, and the same number of lay-electoral conferences.

The Japan Annual Conference was organized twenty years ago, and held its twenty-first session Mach 29—April 4, at Aoyama, Tokyo. It extends as far south and west as Gifu, and has 63 members and 3 probationers who must complete a four years' course of study allied to the course of study in a theological school.

The annual session just closed was memorable for several reasons:

It immediately followed a five days' session of the Japan Central Conference which was composed of the Japan Conference, the South Japan Mission Conference, and the Woman's Conference connected with each of these.

In the second place it marked the close of the four years' work in Eastern Asia, to which the last General Conference had assigned Bishop More. He now returns to report his work to the General Conference, and to be assigned to his place of residence for another four years; and where that may be he can no more tell than can the men tell where they may go whom he will appoint to work in that time.

In the third place, the Conference sent a memorial o the coming General Conference, earnestly requesting that body to permit the Methodist Episcopal Church in Japan, to unite with the other Methodist bodies in forming an independent Japanese Methodist Church. There is great unanimity of feeling in regard to the desirability of such union; and that at longest, in the not far distant future such union will become an accomplished fact.

The Conference elected Rev. Gideon F. Draper of Yokohama, as its representative to the General Conference, and the Lay-electoral Conference chose Toshio Fujiwara, an importing merchant of Tokyo, to represent them.

The reports for the year show that a great deal of hard work had been done. There were 528 adults and 79 children baptised. The total enrollement was reported to be: Probationers, 1803, Members 3369—only a small gain over the preceding year, owing to the law of the Church that if a member has been lost sight of for a year, "Removed without letter" shall be written opposite his name on the church register, and he shall no longer be counted among the members until his whereabouts shall have been discovered. One church had to write off fifty names in this way.

There are 102 Sunday schools, with 342 teachers, and 5786 scholars, and there were raised for all purposes, 12,824 *yen*.

The Ginza Publishing House reported:—

Total sales for the year 37,738 *yen*, an increase of 9,924 *yen*.

Stock on hand 21,569 *yen*, an increase of 9,256.—*Communicated*.

THE CAMPAIGN IN KOREA.

ALL accounts agree that the Japanese entered Wiju on the 4th inst, without encountering any resistance, the Russians having withdrawn even their outposts and having evacuated not only that place but also Chhang-song, which lies 41 miles higher up the river. There is some talk of a skirmish having taken place at the latter town, but confirmation is wanting. It is further alleged that north-eastern Korea has been evacuated, the enemy having withdrawn from Kyong-song, his last point of occupation on the north-eastern coast.

In these movements there can be partly traced the influence exercised by Russia's loss of the command of the sea. Had her squadrons continued to be active factors in the campaign, Japan must have chosen Fusan as her basis of operations in Korea, and the resulting delay in marching northward any force sufficient to make its influence felt in the Pyong-yang region would have enabled Russia to establish herself on the south of the Yalu so strongly as to confine the war to that region. Of course it is quite possible that the Russians have withdrawn across the Yalu because, in the absence of duly organized commissariat arrangements, they found it impossible to sustain themselves in Korea. Certain Japanese accounts, written before the withdrawal was an accomplished fact, suggest that explanation. They say that northward all the way from Kazan—which is 83 miles south of Wiju—the Russians were found to have absolutely denuded the country of everything that could sustain the life of man or beast, and of everything that could serve for fuel. They absolutely stripped the region, leaving not a chicken, nor a pig, nor an ox. They cut down even the telegraph-posts for fuel, and they fed their horses on unhulled rice, in spite of the certainty of thus destroying the animals' condition. That may explain everything. But it is also plain that the advantages of making a stand in northern Korea must have been greatly diminished by the rapidity that Japan's movements derived from the command of the sea. She began by landing a force at Chemulpo. That will rank in military history as an act of almost unprecedented daring, for, in the first place, the men were put ashore under the very muzzles of Russian guns. Had the *Varyag* and the *Koriets* opened fire upon the Japanese troops as they debarked from the transports and opened fire on the transports themselves, the sequel could not have been worse for the Russian ships than it actually was, and they would have inflicted immense loss of life and immense damage upon the Japanese. In the second place, had Admiral TOGO's attempt against Port Arthur failed, an attempt whose issue could not be foreseen when the Japanese transports entered Chemulpo, and had Admiral STARCK's squadron, instead of being crippled, remained a fleet *in esse*, the Japanese must have shifted their Korean landing to a point much further south than Chemulpo — probably Fusan—and the regiment landed at the former place during the night of the 8th of February, could not have received any immediate support and would have found itself in the proverbial situation of a column in space. It is certain that long before war broke out, and long before diplomatie relations were broken off, the Russians were preparing for an advance from Liaoyang to the Yalu, and there is apparently conclusive evidence that the Cossacks began to move south from that river not later than the 2nd of February. ALEXIEFF's plan then was—so far as may be conjectured—to get possession of Pyong-yang at least, and to place in the difficult country between that spot and the Yalu such a force as would have defied any immediate Japanese advance and thus gained time for concentrating a large army at Liaoyang and throwing it thence over the Yalu. In fact the campaign would have been offensive on the part of the Russians from the outset. But the Japanese, by their daring debarkation at Chemulpo, secured the key of northern Korea, Pyongyang; secured it just in time, for scarcely had their outposts reached the town and entrenched themselves there when the Cossack out-riders appeared at the northern gate. Meanwhile, too, the Russian squadron at Port Arthur had received a staggering blow, and the Japanese were thenceforth able not only to continue using Chemulpo as a point of debarkation, but also presently to shift the point much further north, namely, to Chinnampo, which means Pyong-yang itself. Thereafter colossal exertions might perhaps have enabled the Russians to hold the enemy between Pyong-yang and Wiju long enough for the advance of a powerful force from Liaoyang, which is 170 miles from the Yalu. That they had some such intention seems to have been indicated by the announcement that General MISCHENKO with six thousand Cossacks was prepared to harrass and impede the Japanese advance all the way north from Anju. But General MISCHENKO was finally disposed of at Chonju. He had there assembled 800 Cossacks and 8 guns, and although his losses were at first reported to have been small—which seemed probable enough seeing that he fought under cover for much of the time—later intelligence goes to indicate that his force suffered severely. The chief local official of Sonchhon, which is 20 miles north of Chonju, reports that when the retreating Cossacks passed through that place on March 29th—the day after the fight at Chonju—they carried with them 100 killed and wounded. Probably that is an exaggeration, but even one half of the number indicates a heavy loss in the case of so small a force. MISCHENKO doubtless learned on that occasion that the force under his command could not possibly offer any effective resistance, and having reported in that sense to Mukden, he received orders to re-cross the Yalu. There are now statements that the Russians are entrenching themselves vigorously on the Yalu and that they evidently mean to offer a strong resistance there. So they certainly can if the Japanese confine themselves to direct attack. But in spite of the immense difficulties of moving with any extended front in a country like north-western Korea, we can not doubt that the Japanese will be careful not to paralyse their own strength by going end on at such an obstacle as a big unbridged river commanded by hostile batteries. The Russians may have a considerable legion of all arms on the Kiulien-Antung-Tatung line, but it is a legion tied to its base by a long and very slender string, which, once broken, all entrenchments and forts on the northern bank of the river would cease to be appreciable.

THE STRATEGY OF THE RUSSIANS.

ACCOUNTS from Manchuria suggest that the Russian plan of procedure is simply what might have been expected under the circumstances. Every effort is being made to strengthen the line of communications especially at its vital points, and, as fast as possible, troops are being moved forward from Liaoyang in the direction of the Yalu. The Russians must not deliver battle at a point very close to the railway. According to present appearances their strategical position is not ideal. They have to fight with their line of communications parallel to their front. Could they persuade themselves to abandon Port Arthur and to retire upon Mukden, there awaiting a Japanese advance, the task they would set for their enemy would be enormously increased. But they can not abandon Port Arthur, neither can they make it their base. Hence they are under the necessity of fighting so as to preserve a line of communications stretching away from both of their flanks. In the event of a defeat their army would necessarily fall back in the direction of Mukden, leaving Port Arthur to its fate, and since they probably contemplate not defeat indeed but the necessity, perhaps, of having to modify their original dispositions in the face of superior Japanese concentration, they are taking full advantage of the interval anterior to actual fighting to victual and entrench Port Arthur so that, even supposing the Japanese army to be thrown between the fortress and Mukden, the place can hope to withstand an investment of many months. There is nothing disastrous in that outlook, for Port Arthur can easily be rendered almost impregnable, and long before the Japanese could reduce it, all the strength Russia is capable of putting into the Far Eastern field could be massed in the Mukden neighbourhood and moved to the relief of the fortress and to the simultaneous rolling back of the Japanese. What would be absolutely disastrous is an initial defeat of such a nature as to drive back the Russian left wing and enable the Japanese to interpose between Liaoyang and Mukden; a defeat, that is to say, which would compel the first Russian army to exchange its present northern base for a southern. In order to avoid any risk of that kind the Russians may be expected to push their line of battle forward to such a distance from the railway as will enable them, in the event of even precipitate retreat, to change front safely and to cover the railway completely in the new order of battle. These considerations appear to indicate Fenghwang as the probable locality of the first great engagement. But it is exceedingly difficult to speak with any approach to assurance. In view of the nature of the country between Pyong-yang and the Yalu it might reasonably have been expected that the Russians would have checked the Japanese advance in that region. With the exception of the coastwise road, there are no routes offering any appreciable facilities for the passage of troops, and had the Cossacks supplemented the natural difficulties of the country by a few well conceived acts of resistance, they might have made the Japanese task exceedingly difficult. Such, indeed, seems to have been their original plan. They crossed the Yalu into Korea at two points, Wiju and Chhang-song—which lies 42 miles higher up the river—and while the Wiju column moved down the coast road, the Chhang-song column advanced towards Unsan and perhaps Sajku. But these troops appear to have confined themselves to operations which can not be said to have exceeded reconnaissances. They have now re-crossed the Yalu, and we hear of great preparations for resistance on the northern bank. But these preparations may prove as abortive in practice as did the manœuvres of MISCHENKO and his six thousand Cossacks. And such, too, may be the case as to the prospect of a great fight near Fenghwang. Celerity should be the grand object of the Japanese at present. It is plain that the Russians can not concentrate their forces so as to meet an immediate advance from this side.

THE RUSSIAN WOUNDED.

THREE of the Russians wounded at Chemulpo who were under treatment at the Matsuyama Hospital, having now fully recovered, have been handed over to the French Consul at Kobe for return to Russia under pledge not to engage again in the war. These men were among those originally rescued by the *Pascal*.

In this context we desire, though at a late hour, to enter an emphatic protest against the language said to have been used by Commander SENNES of the *Pascal* on arrival at Singapore. This officer is publicly reported—and has not denied the report—to have said:—"An invitation was addressed to the Commander of the U. S. S. *Vicksburg* to join us in protesting" (*i.e.* against Admiral URIU's projected attack) "but we received no reply, this officer probably judging good not (sic) disturb himself." If Commander SENNES used such language he insulted a brother officer, though of a foreign service. In point of fact the officer commanding the *Vicksburg* had the honour of standing alone in his appreciation of what was right in the circumstances. The protest made by the captains of the *Pascal*, the *Talbot* and the *Elba* was altogether *ultra vires*. We have heard it described as an "unwarrantable impertinence," but without endorsing that extreme view there is no possibility of denying that the three officers would never have dreamed of addressing such a protest to an Admiral of Occidental nationality. The function that they arrogated did not belong to them at all, and could not properly be executed by them unless the Representatives of their respective countries in Seoul, having failed to obtain effect for diplomatic remonstrances—supposing such remonstrances necessary—had intrusted the further conduct of the matter to the naval commanders. These officers had nothing whatever to do with the neutrality of Korea as between Japan and Russia, and when Commander SENNES allowed himself to refer in most discourteous terms to the strictly proper abstinence of the Captain of the *Vicksburg*, be merely showed that his own conception of duty was temporarily obscured.

Commander SENNES then proceeded to vilipend the Japanese. He declared that when, on the 13th of February, he received telegraphic orders to proceed to Saigon with the Russian refugees, news reached him, while preparing to leave the port, that the Japanese vessels were clearing for action with the intention of attacking the *Pascal*. "This was done," he added, "despite the fact that I had taken the precaution of obtaining from the Japanese Government *sauf-conduits* which would avoid the humiliation of being stopped by the war-ships. I ignored these threats and left, though I was in readiness for all eventualities. The Japanese were longing for their human booty (*butin d'hommes*) and could not forgive me for having succoured the vanquished." It is charitable to assume that Commander SENNES was labouring under the influence of some overwhelming excitement when he penned these hysterical words, though in truth the interval between Chemulpo and Saigon should have sufficed to cool his fever. According to his own story he obtained from the Japanese authorities passes ensuring him against all interference in the discharge of his work, yet he credited an idle rumour that the Japanese ships were clearing for action with the intention of attacking him, and on the strength of that rumour, which subsequently proved wholly groundless and which, long before reaching Saigon, he must have known to be groundless, he deliberately uttered a public assertion that "the Japanese were longing for their human booty and could not forgive him for having succoured the vanquished." That officers like Commander SENNES should have the direction of war-ships at conjunctures like the present is a menace to the peace of the world. They constitute so many live sparks scattered around in the neighbourhood of a powder-magazine. Happily the Japanese supply all the *sang-froid* and patience that are conspicuously absent from the temperament of men of the *Pascal* commander's type. The Japanese go about their work quietly and placidly, unperturbed by such hysterical vapourings. They receive the Russian wounded and treat them with all kindness and skill, and having restored them to health, restore them also to their country, though all the while "longing for their human booty." We bracket M. SENNES with the editor of the *Novy Krai* who, himself a Russian, does not hesitate to declare that the merciful treatment of the Russian wounded by the Japanese is wholly attributable to the latter's crafty desire to thus win Occidental praise and to discredit the theory of the Yellow Peril. The professors of Christianity are certainly heaping honour on the head of their creed in comparison with the conduct of the "heathen" Japanese.

VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT IN TOKYO.

This entertainment took place in the examination hall of the High Commercial School of Tokyo at Kanda on the afternoon of the 9th instant. It proved a very beautiful affair and gave infinite pleasure to a large audience of Japanese and foreigners. Many little children took part in the pieces. They had been train ed with boundless care by the kind and accomplished ladies (the Misses von Fallot) to whose initiative and efforts the entertainment was due, and nothing could have been prettier or more finished than their performance. A number of young ladies also lent their services, and at times the stage presented a striking picture of sweet faces, graceful forms and bright costumes. Two numbers on the programme were glees, executed in faultless and highly pleasant style by male and female voices and vigorously applauded. A daring novelty was introduced in the shape of a Japanese version of an English farce—the well known "Joint Household"—acted in Japanese by Miss Norah and Miss Margot von Fallot. Both the fair performers spoke the Japanese words as though to the manner born, and truly it were difficult to say which scored the greater success, she who frankly looked and played the part of an austere and sour housewife, or she that sustained without in any degree exaggerating the character of a light-hearted sunny young wife not less loveable in her artlessness than in her art. "Mrs. Jarley's Waxworks" kept the house in a ripple of laughter all the time they occupied the stage. One looked for a Little Nell to speak the descriptions, but instead Mrs. Jarley herself appeared in the guise of an American lady, Mrs. Wallace, to whose extraordinarily natural and realistic acting—though not until she left the stage did one remember that she had been acting at all—we should certainly be disposed to award one of the palms of the afternoon, and another to the wax-work young lady (Miss Schereshewsky) who could not be wound up sufficiently to get through "The Last Rose of Summer" without trailing off into a series of dismal and discordant squeaks which contrasted most quaintly with the melodious notes that had preceded them. We trust that we do not violate propriety in mentioning names despite the anonymity of the programme, and that we may offer a special tribute of praise to the two ladies, Mrs. Purvis and Miss F. V. Dening, who sang the solos in the "Spanish Gypsies," and to the lady and gentleman, Mr. Horne and Miss F. V. Dening, who gave an exquisitely amusing but all too short version of the quarrelsome couple. Among the children it would be a sacrilege to attempt any discrimination, and in sober truth we have never seen such little mites acquit themselves so faultlessly and with so much talent. Children's performances on the stage are generally things to be tolerated by kindly folks and admired by fond parents only; but the ladies, specially Miss Hilda von Fallot, who organized and prepared last Saturday's pieces—and what a work it must have been though undertaken in the sweet cause of charity!—have the faculty of inspiring tiny lads and lasses to efforts genuinely pleasure-giving. This comment applies notably to the Welsh dance of Miss Stella MacDonald, the castanet dance of Miss Dorothy Barclay and Miss A. Swift, the tambourine dance of Miss Una Gubbins, and the singing and dancing of "Oh Miss, I'll give you a paper of pins" by Miss Barclay and Miss Wood. The last number wlth the exception of *Kimi ga Yo*—brought upon the stage a party of most dainty and picturesque gypsies, six of whom (the Misses Hilda, Norah and Margot von Fallot, Miss Lloyd and the Misses Squire) performed the "Fan Dance" in a manner that brought down the house. We append the programme, with the proviso that the order of the pieces was not observed, and that a passing visitor (Mr. Glossip) whose presence we owe to the war, supplemented the numbers by a very clever personification of a boy with a tooth-ache, John Roberts, and a lady dressing her hair. It should be added that the entertainment was in aid of the destitute families of soldiers, and that the recitation which stood second on the programme, and which was charmingly delivered by Miss Ivy MacDonald had been written by the Rev. Arthur Lloyd, and ran as follows:—

1.—I am just a little English maid.
As plain as you like, but solid and staid,
A blue-eyed, red-cheeked, elf,
But I've not come here to praise myself
(Though I'm worthy of praise beyond a doubt):
I want you to look away, and see
The things I am going to talk about
Instead of me.

2.—Look! here's a woman: she's wrinkled and old,
Her face is furrowed, her hands are cold,
She has only one dress, the rest are sold,
Her fire is out, she has no food.
And there she sits in mournful mood;
For her only son has gone, you see,
To fight far off for his dear countree,
And she's none upon earth to whom to flee,
But you and me.

3.—And there, again, is a wife, alone
In her silent home: her husband's gone,
The heavy cares of the house oppress
Her sad, brave, heart; and at her knee
Gather the bairns in much distress,
Hung 'ring at least for a loving caress:—
For husband and father have gone, you see,
To fight far off for their dear countree,
And they've none upon earth to whom to flee
But you and me.

4.—You and me and God above,
Who has put in our minds the idea of love,
And love means to open the door of the heart
To our brethren in sorrow, and give them a part
Of all we have. They have given, you see,
Their best, as a gift, ungrudging and free,
To fight to the death for their own countree.
Now what does God ask from you and me?

The following is the programme:—

PROGRAMME.

1.—French Game; 2.—Recitation; 3.—Welsh Dance; 4.—Glees: *a.* You stole my Love, *b.* The Maiden of the Fleur de Lys; 5.—Mrs. Jarley's Waxworks; 6.—Comic Songs; 7—Rose Dance; 8.—Song and Dance: "Oh! Miss, I'll give you a paper of pins"; 9.—A Joint Household. A farce: in Japanese; 10.—Glees: *a.* Sweet and Low, *b.* The Miller's Wooing; 11.—Spanish Gypsies. The Japanese National Anthem.

The directors of the Sanyo Railway Company met on April 13th and passed the accounts for the last half year. The net income was *yen* 1,103,969 to which *yen* 80,556, brought forward from the previous account, was added making a total of *yen* 1,184,525. The directors decided that out of the foregoing total *yen* 55,200 should be set apart as reserve; *yen* 6,500 as bonus for employees; *yen* 992,000 as dividend, at the rate of *yen* 2 per old share and *sen* 20 per new share, these rates being equivalent to four per cent per half-year; and the balance was carried forward to the next account.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

In a leading article the *Koye* (*Revue Catholique*) protests against the methods adopted by certain journalists in writing on the Russo-Japanese War. They are in the habit of constantly insisting that the war is being fought between a Christian and a non-Christian country in a manner that is calculated to stir up anti-Christian prejudice in the minds of readers. On this subject the *Koye* expresses the following sentiments:—It is possible that certain journalists may have inadvertently described the present war as a war between a Christian and a non-Christian country, but there are others who make it quite plain that in this matter they are actuated by hostility to Christianity. It is true that among foreigners there are people who speak in a boastful manner of the Christianity professed by themselves and their fellow-countrymen. But such people are ignorant, and one hardly expects intelligent journalists to pay any attention to what they say. The fact is that Christianity has no connection with this war and it is quite unfair of journalists to ignore this truth. Not only has Christianity no connection with this war, but it can have no direct and lawful connection with any appeal to physical force. It is a religion of peace, and gentleness; resignation and love are among the virtues which it seeks to cultivate. If Christianity were universally accepted and followed, strife would cease and soldiers would no longer be needed. But while recognizing that in the present state of the world resort to physical force is at times unavoidable, Christianity condemns *in toto* a war-loving spirit. Its precepts cannot be quoted as a defence of war in the abstract, nor can they be adduced as favouring the present war. The talk about the Russian troops being Christian shows great ignorance of the fact that most of them are barbarian Cossacks, who are as cruel and unchristian to-day as they were in the middle ages. The cruelty and savagery of these troops are the talk of the whole world. They may be Christian in name, but it is well known that not one single Christian sentiment influences these men. To resort to sophistry for the sake of making capital against a hated creed is surely an unworthy device for Twentieth Century Japanese journalists to follow. The present war is a Russian war with which Russian Christianity has nothing to do. When countries go to war with each other, for the time being religious distinctions are forgotten, and side by side beneath the same flag the members of divers religious sects fight for the rights of their countries. To drag in religion in order to increase the hatred with which the members of one nationality regard the members of another is a proceeding, that calls for the strongest condemnation. If the journalists are hard up for suitable epithets wherewith to describe the nations now at war, we would suggest that the combatants should be described as "bread-eaters and rice-eaters." This figure however used will do no harm. If the rice-eaters should win, we will not complain though our journalists deduce an argument from the fact in favour of rice as the mainstay of life in preference to bread. . . . . It is high time that newspaper writers realized that it is one of their duties to endeavour to pour oil on the waters of strife, instead of employing mere clap-trap arguments for increasing personal hostility among the combatants.

The *Koye* aims at keeping its readers well informed of the trend of contemporary thought among European Roman Catholics. In the March number we find an interesting article translated from a well-known Roman Catholic English journal the *Tablet*. Two subjects are commented on in a discerning manner by the *Tablet*. The first is the bearing of the present war on Roman Catholic propagandism; the second is on Mr. Herbert Spencer's influence on Japanese thought. Briefly stated, this is what the *Tablet* writes on those topics:—Though Russia is reckoned to be a Christian country, on the present occasion she is far from commanding universal sympathy among Christian nations. The reason of this is that Russia herself has in the past done little to spread Christianity among her Asiatic subjects and has invariably forbidden missionaries belonging to other Churches to teach Russian subjects. Our Roman Catholic Missionaries in Manchuria inform us that the spread of Russian power has always meant their expulsion from stations they had occupied. Hence they would far rather see Japan victorious in this war, as she adopts a liberal attitude towards alien faiths. What opposition our teaching has encountered in Japan has its source in sceptical European literature. Japan has imported a number of anti-Christian books and these are read and esteemed by the Japanese to a greater extent than they are in Europe; and even books that have ceased to attract attention in Europe are accepted as authorities in Japan. Among European writers no man has influenced Japanese thought more than Mr. Herbert Spencer. His books have greatly hindered the progress of Christianity in Japan. His advice to the Japanese given in a letter to Baron Kaneko in 1892, which has recently been made public, was to keep Europeans and Americans at arm's length as much as possible, only making use of them for business and political purposes. Mr. Spencer then quotes the example of India as to the danger of giving Europeans much power and counsels the Japanese Government to forbid mixed marriages, and not to give to foreigners the right of land-ownership or even that of a perpetual lessee.* The *Tablet* then proceeds to argue that the adoption of the conservative and exclusive policy recommended by Spencer would soon result in Japan's falling to the level of China.

The *Koye* has commenced to print a *Romaji* list of the articles and other contents of each number of the magazine as well as one written in Chinese characters—a practice which might be advantageously followed by other periodicals.

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Under the heading, "The Various Theological Colleges of Tōkyō," the *Fukuin Shimpō* in successive numbers of the paper gives the subjoined particulars. (1) *The Meiji Gakuin* (Presbyterian). This institution was founded in 1886 by combining three previously existing schools, the Itchi Yeiwa Gakkō, the Yeiwa Yobi-Kō and the Itchi Shingakkō, into one establishment. The college was divided into a general and a theological department, and was at first situated in Tsukiji, but in September, 1889, it was moved to Shirokanemura, where in the following year a Theological Hall was erected, which was subsequently greatly injured by lightning, but was at once repaired and improved in various ways. The Meiji Gakuin grounds are over 10,000 *tsubo* in extent, highly situated and from a sanitary point of view without a fault. The theological students now in the institution number 19, six of whom entered last autumn. There are besides these, 5 students in the Theological Preparatory Class. The theological students are divided into three sections named *Honkwa*, *Bekkwa* and *Kenkyūkwa*. Those belonging to the first of these sections are about 25 years of age and those belonging to the second about 30 years of age, though there is a grey-haired man in the special class, who was formerly a military man and who though old retains all the energy of his youth. Dr. Ibuka lectures on Christian Doctrine, Ecclesiastical Government, Exegetics and Christian Evidences. Dr. Imbrie takes New Testament Exposition and Old Testament History, and the Rev. S. T. Fulton lectures on the New Testament, on Hermeneutics and teaches Greek. Students who wish to be admitted into the Main Section of the college must be as well educated as graduates of a Middle School and must undergo two years of special training before entering the Theological Class. Candidates for the Special Section of the school must be over 25 years of age and must have received a general education as well as possess special qualifications for the work they contemplate undertaking. The *Kenkyūkwa*, or Investigating Section, consists of graduates of the Theological College, who take up one or more special subjects. By the writing of original essays they may win degrees of Divinity. The following is a full list of the graduates of the school since the 11th year of *Meiji*.*

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* It seems to us that since the ideas expressed in the letter referred to were not made known to the Japanese general public till quite recently, to quote this letter as a proof of Mr. Spencer's anti-Christian influence in Japan is hardly logical. The timid policy recommended by Mr. Spencer does not commend itself to Japan's leading statesmen, who do not feel flattered by being compared to Indians, who for centuries before British rule was established in India lived contentedly under a foreign yoke.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY).

Total number of graduates, 152; 139 of these having graduated in the Main School and 13 in the Special Section. Besides these 12 left the school without graduating in order to fill posts in the Church. 13 of these have died; 12 have joined other bodies; 13 have taken to business: 4 have become Theological Professors and 58 have filled various offices in the Church.

(2) The *Aoyama Gakuin* (*Shingakubu*). The grounds belonging to this institution are truly magnificent, covering over 30,000 *tsubo*. Perhaps no other private school in the country has obtained so good a site. The Methodist buildings erected on the extensive grounds are of a substantial kind. The Theological College which was built in 1884 was slightly injured by lightning in 1893, but repaired without delay. The Methodist Divinity School was first founded at 222 Bluff, Yokohama in 1879, was moved to Tsukiji three years later, where it was carried on for two years prior to its transference to Awoyama. Up to last year, dating from its establishment its graduates numbered 72. 42 of these filled offices in the Church, 9 died, and most of the remaining 21 entered Secular Middle Schools as teachers. There was not a single case of a graduate's joining another Sect. The rules respecting the qualifications of candidates for admission to the Methodist Theological Seminary differ little from those of the Meiji-gaku-in, and so we need not give them here. The chief instructors in this institution are Dr. Julius Soper, Rev. B. Chappell and the Rev. K. Honda.

(3) The *Tsukiji Rikkyō Shingakkō* (Episcopalian). This College dates from 1884. The Buildings connected with it consist of a Lecture Hall, a Library, an Assembly Hall (*Kaikwan*) and a Student's Dormitory and Boarding Establishment. The buildings were injured by an earthquake that occurred in 1893 so much that reconstruction of some parts of them was deemed necessary. Like the institutions described above, the Tsukiji College has a main and a branch special department, and it also only accepts candidates whose general education is not below that of Middle School graduates. The course extends over 4 years. Bishop McKim is the President of the College and he lectures on Ecclesiastical Government. The Rev. E. R. Woodman lectures on the Old and New Testaments, the Rev. A. R. Morris on New Testament Exegesis, the Rev. G. Wallace on History and the Old Testament, the Rev. C. T. Sweet on Christian Evidences and Theology, Bishop Awdry on Rites and Ceremonies, Mr. Imai Jūdō on Pastoral Theology and on Preaching, and Mr. Yamagata on History. Among the 32 graduates of the main department of the College 10 are serving the Church as pastors. One is doing church work in a foreign country. One has died. Seventeen have become catechists. One has left the church. There are at present 8 students in the College, belonging to the main department. The special department was only established last September. The course in this department extends over 2 years only. There are now 10 students connected with this section of the College. The subjects studied are general Theology, the Old and New Testaments, the Prayer Book, General Church History, Church Government, Christian Evidences, Pastoral Theology and Preaching. Candidates for admission to the College must be over 20 years of age, must have been baptized at least 2 years before their applications are made, and must possess other qualifications for evangelistic work.

In No. 456 of the *Fukuin Shimpō* there is an article by Mr. Sakamoto which maintains that the present war has been brought about by Providence for the purpose of placing the Japanese in a position to act as religious teachers to the whole of the Far Eastern world. The war is thus regarded as a righteous war in which Japan is God's instrument for fulfilling Divine purposes. In proof of this Mr. Sakamoto quotes passages from the prophet Isaiah. Upon this war, says this writer, depends the future religious history of China and Korea, and the Japanese must realize that they are fighting for the enlightenment of two sister nations. At the present moment this notion of Japan's being destined to act as a light to the whole of the far East has taken the fancy of the nation, and Christian writers naturally interpret events somewhat in the manner resorted to by Mr. Sakamoto.

The *Fukuin Shimpō* under the heading of "Contemporary Literature" prints an article from the pen of Dr. Anezaki on "Tolstoi and Russian Sentiment," of which the following is a brief epitome. At the present time nothing is more striking than the contrast presented by Count Tolstoi's teaching and general Russian behaviour. Tolstoi is the champion of the virtues which are conspicuously absent from the dealings of the Russian Government. Tolstoi represents the oppressed Slav and his *bête noir* is the aristocratic clique which now holds the reins of Government in Russia. The present Government is really of German origin. It utilizes all the sciences of the world for its own selfish purposes, is entirely without any respect for real religion and incapable of realizing that the oppressed races ruled by them have any inherent rights as human beings or as subjects of the Czar. Their policy is to keep the masses ignorant, in order the better to tyrannize over them. To educate the poor oppressed people whose cause he pleads is beyond Tolstoi's power; so he affords them the only solace left in the world for them—the solace of religion. The barbarism of the present Russian Government affords a striking example of the condition to which high intellectual culture unattended by any real religious or moral development may bring a nation. Tolstoi maintains that the present oligarchy was only made possible by the large influx of Germans into Russia prior to the time of Peter the Great and he adds that the present rulers of Russia are of opinion that no religion and no morality is needed in Government—science and consummate diplomacy will suffice for all purposes. Tolstoi appeals to sentiments which the rulers of Russia do not possess.

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In the *Tetsugaku Zasshi* (No. 204) we find a very long but scholarly and interesting article entitled *Kwanshū no Rinriteki Kōsatsu* (Habits regarded from an Ethical Standpoint) by Mr. Noda Yoshio, B.A. The article covers 26 closely printed pages. The writer has a good command of language and has arranged his ideas in a most clear manner. The subject treated has always seemed to us to be one of extreme importance, for as Mr. Noda remarks, there is no such moral force in the world as the force of habit, and the connection of this with religion, morality and law is found to be of an extremely complex nature. Habit has established its authority in the world beyond all manner of doubt. Upon what basis does this authority rest? This is the question that Mr. Noda sets himself to answer. We can do no more than give a bare outline of his arguments, which we will do under the nine headings of the original essay.

(1) *What is implied in the term habit.* Speaking generally that which is repeatedly practised is called a habit. But when we come to inquire what are the special properties of a habit, we find that habit is a species of law and a species of morality. It is a species of law because it determines men's actions, it makes them act in one way rather than in another way. It is a species of morality, because as a rule a man's conscience or moral sense approves of the actions that are dictated by habit. Of course there are habits that neither concern lawn or morality, but these need not be discussed here. They consist of the repetition of utterly insignificant acts which have no direct and important bearing on the lives of individuals or the life of the community of which they form a part. Regarding habit from another point of view, all morality and all law may be said to have originated with the habits of communities; for it is only after certain ways of acting have been sanctioned by general usage and other ways condemned by public opinion that morality and law begin to develop. That habit controls society precisely in the same way as morality and law control it must be evident to every one who has duly considered the subject. To ignore public opinion altogether is found to involve a severer form of punishment in some cases than imprisonment. To sum up under this heading, habit, though in many respects not so powerful a ruler as law, and though by no means so unerring a guide as a high standard of morality, may be defined as incipient law and morality.

(2) *The origin of habits and their development.*—The history of nations is embodied in their habits and languages. We can hardly imagine people living in communities without languages. But if this were possible, then their ways of acting would give us a clue to their past history. Habits usually originate with the action of some influential individual. They may in the first place be forced on communities in an arbitrary manner and afterwards followed willingly, or they may be adopted from the first voluntarily. But in all cases they possess no great authority until they have been observed for a long period. The founders of habits have frequently no intention of setting a model for the imitation of other people. They may be compared to a man who wanders across a prairie without any notion that his foot-tracks will be followed by hundreds of other persons till he proves to have been the originator of a new road. Deliberate attempts to found habits have been often found to fail. Communities will only observe distasteful customs as long as they are compelled to do so. So that as a rule habits are the product of whole communities, that is to say, they owe their position to the attitude of the public mind towards them. In the formation of habits it is doubtless true to say that great religious teachers, moralists, philosophers and heroes have figured more prominently than mere statesmen or even monarchs. Habits may be said to have an internal and an external source. The internal source is a certain bend of mind, certain fundamental moral notions, certain deep-seated national or domestic proclivities which incline the minds of the members of communities to one set of actions rather than to another. The external source is environment of every kind, race, climate, geographical position, and also great events and changes. Progress in the development of habits is determined by various factors, intellectual and moral culture, great political events and national upheavings being the principal of these.

(3) *Various kinds of habit and the relation of one kind to another.* Omitting habits that are not directly related to morality, we may say that habits are connected either (*a*) with the lives of individuals; (*b*) with social intercourse or (*c*) with the life of a community. (*a*) Each individual determines the life he or she will lead according to the special objects which each one wishes to realize. In that most of the actions determined on during each day only concern the individual who performs them, there is perhaps little morality attached to them. Most of them affect their author only and their importance is exclusively derived from their connection with the attainment of a special object in life. It is on this account that the greatest variety imaginable is to be observed in the daily lives of individuals. Of course there are certain individual actions that affect others directly or indirectly in many ways, but in the daily routine of existence these are comparatively few. (*b*) Under the category of habits connected with social intercourse come etiquette of all kinds, ceremony, dress, manners, speech both written and spoken and numerous small customs which in many cases cannot be omitted without causing offence. The object of these habits may be said to be the showing of respect to our fellow-men, and regard for their feelings and interests. (*c*)

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*The present institution was not founded till the 19th year of *Meiji*; so the figures given by the *Fukuin Shimpō* include graduates of the original Itchi Shingakkō mentioned above. The statistics given are poorly edited, and very confusing in parts.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

The customs or habits that affect the life of a community are of course more important than any others, for the simple reason that the welfare of society generally is of greater moment than the welfare of any unit composing it. The family, the clan or tribe, and the nation constitute bodies which combined go to make up world-wide society, and each of these bodies has its distinctive habits, habits which materially affect the welfare of a special circle of human beings. All these habits are necessarily far more binding than mere individual habits. Their rule may be said to be of a despotic type, not allowing of much diversity of action in many particulars.

(4) *The nature of habits and the control they exercise.* The notions and the will of a community may be said to be embodied in its habits. Though at first sight it might appear as though habits have an accidental origin, it is not really so. They have sprung up in a natural manner as a result of ages of human experience. Circumstances may arise that call for the abolition or modification of certain habits, but this does not affect the fact that communities usually insist on things being done in a fixed way. There are certain habits of communities that no religious teacher and no moralist even, to say nothing of politicians, is sufficiently influential to change. As to the power of habit over our minds, though in many cases we could if we would act contrary to the habits of the communities in which we live, we invariably find that the tendency to conformity is far stronger than the inclination to nonconformity. With women, who are guided principally by instinct and feeling, this is the case to a greater extent than with men. The control of habits over the mind is of the nature of fate, it is something from which no one can escape and which even the strongest minds only surmount occasionally by dint of tremendous resolution.

(5) *The standard of habit and the moral standard.* Our everyday actions being determined by habit, habit is of the nature of a moral standard. Most people ask what is usual rather than what is right. To act as others act, to act in a manner that society generally approves of is the aim of the majority of men and women. It is true to say that the habits of a nation represent its standard of practical morality. A few members of society may have higher moral ideals and may in practice reach a higher level of attainment, but the majority is quite satisfied with its conformity to universal, time-honoured habits. In ancient times there was no distinction between morals and habits,* but modern writers on ethics have shown that men's habitual practices and morality, though in outward form identical by no means cover the same area (*Kwanshū to dōtoku to wa dōyō no keishiki wo yū suredomo, hani wa kesshite dōitsu to iubekarazu*).

(6) *Habits and Conscience.* Habit not only becomes the standard of morality to most people, but it figures more prominently than any other agency in the development of the individual conscience. Habit is the embodiment of the moral feelings of communities as a whole and what is approved of and condemned by this standard is considered by individuals to be right or wrong. In all times many attempts have been made to educate the conscience, so that it shall appeal to a loftier standard than is attained by society generally, but these attempts are only very partially successful. Moral idealists as a rule find that the power of habit is too strong to be overcome. A child comes into the world knowing nothing of those qualities of actions we call right and wrong. It is instructed by its parents, whose moral notions usually come from the communities in which they live, and so habit moulds the conscience into whatever shape it pleases and other would-be moulding agents are treated with comparative indifference. Habit is the external embodiment of the moral consciousness of communities, the individual conscience is usually nothing more than a reflection of that consciousness.

(7) *Habit is not qualified to become an ultimate moral standard.* It must be quite plain to any one who has given the matter due thought that the established practices of society do not embody the highest attainable moral excellence. When we come to examine the origin of habits we find that many of them were formed hundreds of years ago when the state of the world was entirely different from what it is now, and that in numerous cases society has gone on blindly following them despite their palpable anachronistic character. To say that in the moral world what exists is best is to say that there is no such thing as progress in morality, ideal and practical, which is contrary to the opinion of the most competent students of this special subject. Because a habit embodied the moral consciousness of a special era it does not follow that it expresses the moral consciousness of the present generation of men and women. To say that morality makes no progress is to contradict history. If we have added to the wisdom of our forefathers in so many other fields of knowledge and research, surely we can do so also in morality. When we come to inquire into the objects of certain established usages, we find that in many cases they are no moral objects at all, in other cases they are only partially moral, in others though moral once they have long ceased to be so, and in still others circumstances have so altered that habits which were originally designed to aid morality now encourage immorality. Habit has plainly no authentic claim to be constituted an authority from which there is no appeal. The number of habits which considered morally are absolutely objectless is very numerous. The authority of those which have a moral object in view is by no means unimpeachable. Many of them embody the mere whims of former generations; they have come into existence nobody knows how or why and are observed owing to our innate conservatism. There is another reason for our not exalting habit into an ultimate standard of morality. We all have a strong feeling that as a rule we are under no moral obligation to conform to the habits of society. We usually do so because we wish to be popular, or obliging to our fellow-men and to avoid the reproach of favouring bohemianism. Our action is a concession to usage, rather than the performance of a duty. We cannot say of such action "it must or ought to be done," but only that for the sake of comfort and ease "it had better be done." Another objection to making habit a final moral standard is that there are numerous actions on which it has nothing to say. Into no part of the wide field of casuistry can this criterion of conduct be introduced. In every man's life there are a thousand moral questions to be settled in which established usages can give little aid. To sum up, habit can only be regarded as a standard in a very low state of morals; its authority will certainly be denied by all those who have reached a lofty plane of moral thought.

(8) *The conflict of habit and morality.* It is frequently said that all habits that do not agree with a lofty moral standard should be suppressed. But where the law does not interfere, the suppression of long established habits is found in practice to be no easy matter. The question of how far moral obligation makes it desirable to go in this matter is a very delicate question. Traditional habits that are manifestly injurious to society will be gradually stamped out by the strength of public opinion, but there are scores of habits concerning whose moral character there is great difference of opinion, some considering them harmful, others harmless, though perhaps useless. To head a raid against such as these is not a course to be recommended. The present age in Japan is marked by a wide departure from old customs, but how far this should be carried in the interests of morality is by no means an easy question to settle; for it must never be forgotten that national habits are to a large extent the result of national history and to take to blot that out would be most unwise.

(9) *Conclusion.* Habit is the moral standard of the majority of human beings, and among poorly developed peoples no other standard is known. Moral idealists the world over do not bow to habit as an authority from which there is no appeal and they lead attacks on such habits as they deem contrary to the highest interests of human beings. But so great is the influence of habits, so numerous are their ramifications, so sacred are their associations, so mysteriously and pleasingly do they connect the present with the hoary ages of antiquity, that no moralist in the world can afford to treat them lightly. Among the numerous influences that determine human action for far reaching effects habits are unsurpassed.

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There are several Christian organs that may be described as ably edited and well-sustained one-man organs. Such are Mr. Matsumura Kaiseki's *Keisei*, Mr. Ebina Danjō's *Shinjin* and Mr. Uchimura Kanzō's *Seisho no Kenkyū*, whose motto is *Pro Christo et Patria*. The trouble with so many periodicals issued in Japan to-day is that they are badly edited and the writing is most unequal. They publish some good articles, but a great many very twaddly ones, written in many cases by raw students. Many magazines, religious and secular, seem to have no standard at all, and their editors do not care what they publish. In the case of the three above-named organs there is always to be found something worth reading. The three men belong to a fine type of modern Japanese. The personality of each writer gives a special flavour to his language and no reader can have the slightest doubt that all three men are earnest and sincere, and, what is more, are men with an ideal and a strong belief in the mission in which in the world of Japanese Christian thought each is engaged. The *Seisho no Kenkyū* (Biblical Study) is a monthly magazine which has now reached its fiftieth number. It does not confine itself to a mere exposition of the scriptures, as its title would seem to imply, but discusses a number of current religious, moral and philosophical questions in a concise and decidedly spicy manner. Each short note has its title. Here is a specimen of Mr. Uchimura's style taken from the March number of his magazine: "A Perfect Occupation." "An occupation which pleases others and pleases oneself at the same time may be said to be a perfect occupation. It is said that poetry and art approach perfection. But both of these when compared to the pursuit of the evangelist who is independent and self-supporting must be recognized as very imperfect. The highest of all delights is to preach the gospel of Christ. It is a delight from beginning to end. The methods employed are delightful and the end in view is no less so. The sowing is a delight no less than the reaping, and when all is over then the soul enters the joy of living for ever with Christ." In the same number under the heading of "Church Questions" the following topics are discussed at great length in the form of an imaginary dialogue. "Defence of those Christians who belong to no sect. An appeal to Logic in explaining the Bible. What the Church of Christ is according to Christian experience. Finally, the character of the Japanese Church of the Future." The imaginary inquirer is supposed to be a member of one of the existing Churches. This discussion will receive attention in our next Summary.

FIRES.

On April 8th at 1.30 a.m., fire broke out at Inaho-machi, Otaru, destroying ninety-four dwellings.

A telegram from Otaru states that fire occurred in the morning of April 8th at the Otaki forest, burning down about a hundred *cho* (*cho*=about 2½ acres)

A Hiroshima correspondent reports that incendiarism is prevalent in that city. The inhabitants are on the watch, having established patrols.

On the evening of April 8th, fire broke out at the village of Kashiwano, near Kanazawa. Twenty-four buildings were destroyed and twelve damaged.

On the night of April 10th, fire broke out at the village of Nakazato, Kuji, Chiba prefecture, destroying forty buildings, including a police station.

Fire broke out early on the morning of April 12th at Honjo, Tokyo, destroying four buildings and injuring four. Incendiarism is reported to be the cause.

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* This is shown by the derivation of the word moral, the Latin *mos, moris*, meaning manner, and so men's manners, as habitual ways of acting, constituted their morals.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY).

YOKOHAMA FOREIGN BOARD OF TRADE.

The annual general meeting of members of the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade (postponed from March 31st, in consequence of the lack of a quorum) was held on Friday, April 8th, in the Rooms of the Board, Mr. E. C. Davis presiding in the absence of Mr. R. D. Robison, the Chairman. Among those present were; Messrs. V. R. Bowden, J. Griffin, S. Isaacs, W. T. Payne, E. W. Frazar, A. H. Cole Watson, D. H. Blake, M. Schellenburg, F. G. Sale, M. Kaufmann. J. C. Hartland. Jas. Dodds, J. de Cuers de Cogolin, A. J. McClure, etc.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in holding the meeting as in spite of attempts to reach members of the Committee (of whom five had to be present) and to procure the presence of additional members of the Board of Trade (of whom nine should be in attendance) it was impossible to find a quorum up to 4.30 p.m. At that hour Mr. Bickart was brought in by Mr. Isaacs who had gone out for that purpose, and Mr. F. M. Tegner entered at the same time as Mr. Payne who had left the meeting to attend to a business engagement.

The CHAIRMAN said before they took the ordinary business he should like to express the regret of the Committee and also of all present at the temporary indisposition which had prevented their Chairman presiding at that meeting. It was hoped that the trip the Cheirman had taken would have entirely restored his health.

On the motion of Mr. Griffin seconded by Mr. Hartland the minutes of last meeting were taken as read.

Mr. DAVIS then commented on the satisfactory state of the accounts which had enabled them to place a sum of *yen* 2,500 on fixed deposit.

On the proposition of Mr. Frazar seconded by Mr. Tegner the accounts as presented were approved.

The CHAIRMAN then referred to the report and said no one could consider the year 1903 a good trading year. There seemed to have been, as it were, a sort of calm before the storm which had unfortunately broken out between this country and Russia and when they added to that a very inferior rice harvest which was always a damper on trade in general, he thought there was sufficient to account for the poor trade of the year. Many of the statistics of imports and exports showed a failing off but the most notable feature of the report was the great increase of direct freight by Japanese. In raw silk the increase was from 11,800 in 1897 to 22,000 bales in 1902-03. According to the report this year would see a further increase. Of course the war would direct a portion of that trade to the hands of foreigners for the time being but the figures showed the progress of the Japanese, their increasing commercial morality and the increasing competition which foreigners would have to expect in the future, and therefore although the trade actually in the hands of the foreigners would undoubtedly be larger this year, as against 1903, yet it would probably go back to its former level later on. The chairman also referred to that portion of the report dealing with the gold reserve at the Bank of Japan. It was really very satisfactory, he said, in spite of the balance of trade being appreciably against the country.

In reply to a member the CHAIRMAN said in referring to the rice crop being a failure he was of course alluding to the crop of 1902 the effects of which would be felt in 1903.

Mr. GRIFFIN then moved that the report be adopted saying that there seemed to have been a very large trade but very little money in it.

Mr. COLE WATSON seconded and the report was approved without further comment.

The report and statement of accounts having been approved the meeting proceeded to the election of officers Appointments were made as follows: Committee:—Messrs. E. C. Davis, C. V. Sale, V. R. Bowden. M. Surth, D. H. Blake, V. A. Cæsar Hawkins, L. Mottet, W. T. Payne and J. D. Hutchison.

While the scrutineers were carrying out their duties Mr. Griffin introduced the question of the new order issued from the American Consulate with regard to the filing of original bills at the Consulate. He said he believed some of the American merchants had made a protest against this and he did not know whether it was in the province of the Board of Trade to take the matter up.

The CHAIRMAN said he thought they should represent the matter to the New York Chamber of Commerce and request them to put it before the Government at Washington. He would suggest that the American firms should protest through their Legation.

Mr. GRIFFIN said that had already been done. He wanted to know whether the Board of Trade would endorse that action or in any way add to the force of it. He thought the in-coming committee could take it into their consideration.

Mr. FRAZAR said it would help very much if the Board of Trade acted through the New York Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. SALE pointed out in connection with the order that there was no regulation for the guidance of the Consulate as to the penalties to be inflicted if the order were not observed.

Reference was also made to the Consumption Tax, the Chairman saying that it remained to be seen whether the Government could enforce it or not.

Mr. GRIFFIN thought the Consumption Tax was in violation of the Treaty.

Mr. ISAACS said it had been enforced on wool.

The CHAIRMAN said the first time his firm was called upon to pay it they would pay under protest.

Mr. ISAACS said he thought Sir Claude MacDonald had taken the matter up.

The CHAIRMAN said he understood that during the last few days Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co. had written a letter on the subject of the Consumption Tax to the Customs who had declined to receive the letter and had sent it back.

Mr. GRIFFIN said there seemed to be an increasing business year by year in imports of cereals from Rangoon, Bangkok, Saigon and other places and he wished to know if the Board of Trade was in communication with the Chambers of Commerce in those ports and did they receive any standards of the season's products. He asked the question because some matters might come up for arbitration when such standards would be needed.

The CHAIRMAN said he thought it a very desirable thing that the Chamber of Commerce in Rangoon should forward standard samples.

Mr. GRIFFIN said it would be a good thing if they were to get into communication with the other chambers of commerce and boards of trade in the East and obtain standards.

The CHAIRMAN said before they concluded the business of the meeting he wished to refer to Mr. DODDS who, they knew, and regretted to know, was leaving them. Mr. Dodds had been a very hard worker for that Board for a great number of years. He was Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce in 1892-93 and he had been for many years an indefatigable worker on successive committees having been a committee member as far back as 1874. They all sincerely regretted his departure but they felt that in leaving them he was taking a well-deserved repose und for that reason they felt it would be selfish to press him to remain. He then proposed the following resolution:—"That the members of this Board desire to place on record their keen regret at the departure of Mr. Dodds for home and to thank him for the unselfish and ungrudging way in which he has placed his valuable services at their disposal. They further unite in wishing him every possible happiness, and many years of prosperity and repose in his native country."

Mr. BLAKE seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. DODDS had left the meeting before the resolution was brought forward and the Secretary was instructed to forward a copy to him.

This concluded the proceedings.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

During the latter part of his illness the late Sir Leslie Stephen received every day a bunch of flowers from his friend Mr. George Meredith, who, though necessarily at a distance, watched the closing scene with touching anxiety.

The Russian National Anthem is the only national hymn which was adopted as such by open competition. Until the time of the Emperor Nicholas the English "God Save the King" had served Russia, but Nicholas determined to institute a genuine and native Russian anthem. He announced a competition, open to all musicians, for an original national hymn. A musical committee reduced the thousands of entries to two, and between these, the works of Glinka and Lvoff, the Czar himself decided. The highly martial character with the drums and trumpets of Lvoff's composition won the Imperial verdict, and it was decreed as henceforth the Russian National Anthem.

Under the direction of the Royal Society of Literature, Mr. Henry Frowde is about to publish two interesting works. One is the "Chronicles of Adam of Usk," edited with a translation and notes by Sir E. Maunde Thompson. This contains the complete chronicle from 1377 to 1421. The unique British Museum MSS. from which the same editor prepared an edition in 1876 was imperfect, ending with the year 1404, and lacking the concluding quire; and this was recently found among the Duke of Rutland's papers at Belvoir Castle. The other book is "Queen Elizabeth and the Levant Company," the history of a diplomatic and literary episode of the establishment of British trade with Turkey, edited by the Rev. H. G. Rosedale, D.D., with many facsimile illustrations of MSS. and plates.

Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan may be congratulated on his purchase of the original MS. of Byron's "Corsair." It is original in the sense that it is undoubtedly earlier than the MSS. in Mr. Murray's possession from which the poem was printed. From a communication to the *Athenæum* we learn that Mr. Morgan's treasure was given by Byron to his half-sister, Mrs. Leigh, from whom it descended to Mrs. Cleland, of Hawkhurst, Kent, from whom it has now passed to its present possessor. This manuscript of the "Corsair" is full of interesting corrections and cancellations. It is said that Byron composed the "Corsair", walking up and down Albemarle-street. He wrote and published the poem just ninety years ago. It was written in ten days, hut the statement, made in the "Dictionary of National Biography" for example, that he hardly touched it afterwards, would now seem to require modification. No fewer than fourteen thousand copies of the "Corsair" were sold in a single day. This poem got Byron into very hot water owing to the inclusion of the famous lines: "Weep, daughter of a royal line," Another interesting fact is that Mr. Morgan's manuscript shows the poem to have been dedicated originally, not to Moore, but to a lady.

Mr. Maarten Maartens, who has a piece running at Wyndham's Theatre in front of "Little Mary," is a warm friend of Mr. Barrie, though he once had a decidedly unpleasant experience while staying as the novelist's guest. One of Mr. Barrie's famous cricket matches, such as Writers v. Painters, or something of that sort, had been arranged, and Mr. Maartens was looking on when he had the misfortune to be bitten by a fly of some strange breed, which resulted in his being laid up for weeks with quite a serious illness. Mr. Maartens generally spends some time each year with his publisher. Mr. George Bentley, at the country house of the latter, Upton, near Slough. Maarten Maartens is but a *nom de guerre*, which for a long time was most religiously preserved. Latterly, however, the distinguished novelist has been less careful about preserving his incognito. In real life he is Joost M. W. Poorten Schwartz. Most of his time is spent at his residence near Vevey. In certain respects Mr. Maarten Maartens occupies a wholly unique position in English literature. A foreigner, a Dutchman, he has leapt to fame as a writer of fiction in English. Many suppose his books to be translations from the Dutch, but this is not the case. They are written in English first, and a translation of them into Dutch is only now being made. Dutch, says Mr. Maartens, is fine for serious prose, but for lighter literature he finds English nimbler.

It is not often the case, says the *Academy*, that the loss of one man throws a shadow over so wide an area of the intellectual field as did the death of S. Arthur Strong at the early age of forty. Librarian of the House of Lords, as well as to the Dukes of Devonshire and Portland, Professor of Arabic at University College, London, as well as Lecturer in Assyriology there and at Cambridge, his official duties were many and exacting. He had devoted no small amount of work to Oriental studies. He published in 1891, for the Pali Text Society, the *editio princeps* of the Maha Bodhi Vamsa, a difficult but valuable history written in Pali prose of the so-called Tree of Wisdom. Soon after this important work was finished, Mr. Strong devoted his attention more closely to Arabic and Assyriology. In the "Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society" there appeared, in 1891 and 1892, several articles on Assyrian Texts, in which he showed a mastery of the subject. To the new series of the "Records of the Past," edited by Professor Sayce, he contributed a number of translations. To the "Proceedings of the Society of Biblical Archæology" he contributed, in Vol. XVI., 1895, an additional note on the Adapa-Legend, some Assyrian Alliterative Texts. To "Delizsch and Haupt's Beitrazge zur Assyriologie," Vol. II, he sent a valuable article on Some Oracles to Esarhaddon and Assurbanipal, 1894. To the "Assyrian and Babylonian Record" he sent A Prayer of Assurbanipal and Three Cuneiform Texts, in 1892. The "Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society" for 1895 contains the Arabic text of a history of Kilwa, with a critical introduction the Arabic text of the "Futuh al Habashah, or Conquest of Abyssinia by Shihab al Din Ahmad," was published in 1894; and for some time before his death Mr. Strong is known to have engaged upon an edition of an Arabic history of Jakenak, Sultan of Egypt.

By the death of Canon Ainger another breach is made in the ranks of the brilliant band of writers whom Mr. Morley gathered round him when he was editing the original issue of the English Men of Letters series. Of the thirty writers responsible for the first series, sixteen have now passed away, the late Canon being the only one of these who lived to contribute a volume—the one on Crabbe—to the new series. Two of the most charming characteristics of Canon Ainger were his unfailling modesty and his all-pervading charity. His charity, it will be remembered, found play in a most unclerical apology for all the shortcomings of Elia, extending even to his delight in gin-and-water. Canon Ainger's modesty was never more patent than in regard to subjects wherein his claim to authority was undisputed. If one should praise his Life of Lamb he would invariably depreciate his own share in it and speak most warmly of those who had assisted him, notably of Mr. James Crossley, of Manchester. Mr. Crossley knew Lamb personally, and told the Canon that the best picture of the essayist extant was Mr. Brook Pulham's etching in copper made in 1825. It was Mr. Crossley, too, who described to the Canon Lamb's wonderful discourse on Milton, delivered "when, in manner, speech, and walk, Lamb was obviously under the influence of what he had drunk," but which was memorable in its "fullness of knowledge, eloquence, and profundity of critical power." Among the Canon's literary friends, of whose kindness in the matter of Lamb *personalia* he was always most sensible, were also Edward FitzGerald and Mr. W. Aldis Wright. Mr. Wright, by the way, is at present hotly engaged in defending FitzGerald against his latest biographer, Mr. Thomas Wright, of Olney, who has apparently suggested that Edward FitzGerald wrote certain things which were really from the pen of Edward Marlborough Fitzgerald, "a writer of occasional verse, with whom Edward FitzGerald had no wish to be indentified, and who caused him to avoid using his own surname."

THE LAW COURTS.

INCENDIARISM.

The trial of the Indian merchant, M. C. Fernando, No. 127, Yokohama, who was charged with incendiarism, began on April 8th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Matsuyama and Public Procurator Midzutani.

Mr. Matsuda, was employed to defend.

After the provisional examination in regard to name, nationality, age, etc., the Public Procurator stated that the accused arrived in Yokohama in the beginning of January, accompanied by his wife and a child. He intended to start business and established an office at No. 127. He at once employed a Portuguese, J. da Silva, two Japanese and a Chinese. The accused received *yen* 450 each from his Japanese and Chinese employes as their personal guarantees. The accused was in a state of pecuniary difficulty and spent all these guarantees of his employees. Later he insured some goods in an insurance office, of which the agents were Messrs. Jardine Matheson and Company, for a thousand *yen* and then set fire to a bag of sulphur which was in the sample-room, with the intention of obtaining the insurance money.

In cross-examination the accused stated that he arrived in Yokohama on Jan. 1st this year in order to start business. He rented on Jan. 26th a house at No. 127, Yokohama, and employed J. da Silva, two Japanese and a Chinese. When he arrived in Japan, his capital was about fifteen thousand *yen*. He purchased several lots of merchandise including silk and cotton goods, antimony and lacquered wares, etc., from Japanese dealers, but very little of these goods had yet been paid for. He applied to another insurance company for a policy for eight thousand *yen*, as he was expecting a shipment of sulphur amounting to over five thousand *yen*, but he did not obtain this policy. When he applied to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company for a policy of a thousand *yen*, he told his Portuguese employee to declare that some samples of sulphur were kept in the sample room, but the latter forgot to do so. A Japanese watchman kept the ten door keys of the building. There were two doors to the sample room which were locked during the night. On February 18th the accused paid *yen* 7.50 to the insurance agents as premium and the fire occurred on the night of the 22nd in the sample room where no fire had been left. A Japanese merchant from Tokyo had been smoking in that room the day of the accident while the accused was talking to him on a business affair. The accused did not remember the name or residence of this Japanese. He left the office on the evening of the day of the accident, after all the employers had gone.

The Judge—Did you set fire to the sulphur yourself in order to obtain the insurance money?

The accused—I never did. I felt quite strange when the accident happened in the room.

The accused further stated that after the fire he lodged a claim with the insurance company, but it had not yet been paid, on account of the sulphur being kept in the room and not being declared at the time of the application.

The Court read several statements given by witnesses in the preliminary trial, after which counsel for the defence asked for leave to examine two Japanese employees—Ishii and Kamaya—and an expert in order to ascertain whether sulphur left in a sample room contributed to the accident or could naturally cause a fire. The Court decided to do so on April 15th at 10 a.m.

SNAKE GOURD CASE.

The hearing of this case, instituted by Shimidzu, a snake gourd dealer, against Messrs. Winckler and Company, claiming *yen* 115.60 for merchandise sold to defendants, was resumed on April 9th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno, when M. Katayama, a commission merchant, was examined.

He stated that he sold on July 30th last some bales of snake gourds to Messrs. Winckler and Company and later he also promised on behalf of Mr. Shimidzu, a snake gourd merchant, to supply a hundred and fifty thousand snake gourds which were to be delivered between April and October last. On Aug. 3rd he delivered 12,350 pieces to the firm as a part of the contract, for which he received a payment of *yen* 250 from the firm by cheque.

This casecame up again in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno on April 12th when judgment was delivered rejecting the claim of plaintiff with costs.

TWO MURDERERS EXECUTED.

Y. Kuramochi (50), a dentist and S. Aoshika, (26) a sailor, were executed on April 9th in the Ichigaya Prison, Tokyo. They entered, in November, 1899, the dwelling of Y. Sudzuki, a farmer, in North Soma district, Ibaraki prefecture, and murdered him and stole forty-eight *yen*. They were sentenced in the Ibaraki District Court to death, from which they appealed to the Tokyo Appeal Court of Cassation. Their appeal was rejected in the latter court, and the decision given in the first Court was confirmed.

BAMBERGER v. SCHROEDER.

The hearing of this case, instituted by Mr. C. Bamberger against Mr. F. Schroeder, claiming *yen* 50.85 for boarding expenses, etc., for twenty-three days, and a counter-claim by defendant for *yen* 100 for damage done certain articles by a fire which occured on Jan. 24th this year, was resumed on April 12th in the Yokohama Local Court before Judge Kobayashi.

Mr. Iwano, police inspector of the Kaga-cho station, and Mr. and Mrs. C. Bamberger were examined as witnesses.

The policeman stated that fire broke out on Jan. 24th at 2.40 p.m. in the Central Hotel No. 74, Yamashita-cho, then in the occupation of Mr. C. Bamberger. The original place of the accident was a room in the upper story which Mrs. Bamberger occupied and where an oil stove was left burning when she left to take a walk. In less than an hour, all the rooms on the upper floor were destroyed. The cause was not exactly known but witness believed that it was attributed to an explosion of the stove.

Mr. Bamberger stated that defendant was lodging at his hotel when the accident occurred. Witness did not know how the fire broke out on Jan. 24th. He also did not know what articles Mr. Schroeder was keeping in his room, but after the accident, witness saw among the *debris* a cabinet, a box, etc., which were said to belong to his guest.

Mrs. Bamberger stated that she always attended to the rooms of guests. Mr. Schroeder lodged in a room in the upper story, but on the day of the fire he was absent in Tokyo. She was in Mr. Schroeder's room about a week before the fire to clean it, when she saw there a small table with a marble top, a number of chairs, and an old carpet belonging to him. She, however, did not know whether Mr. Schroeder had a blanket, a feather pillow, mattress, etc., in his room. She did not know the value of articles which she saw in Mr. Schroeder's room. She left an oil-stove in her room when she went for a walk. The stove was burning in its usual manner. The wick of the stove-lamp was about half an inch and the stove was about three feet in height.

The case was adjourned till April 28th.

BREACH OF CONTRACT.

Judgment was given on April 12th in the Yokohama District Court by Judge Danno, in the case filed by K. Okazaki, bicycle dealer against Messrs Bruhl Freres claiming *yen* 1,690 from defendants' firm with costs.

It may be remembered that on Oct. 12th, 1901, plaintiff made a contract with defendants to purchase seventy-five bicycles at the rate of sixty-one *yen* apiece and these were to be delivered not later than Dec. 31st the same year. Plaintiff paid *yen* 250 as bargain money to defendants in advance. Bruhl Freres deliverd twenty-five bicycles only within the contract time and the remainder were not delivered on April 1892, when the latter urged the delivery of the remaining bicycles. The machines were never delivered, and plaintiff sustained damage in consequence. The amount claimed was the difference between the price plaintiff promised to purchase the fifty bicycles at and the price he promised the third persons to supply the bicycles at.

CLAIM FOR DEPOSIT.

The hearing of a case filed by J. Toki, formerly employed by the Singer Manufacturing Company, against that firm, claiming the return of three Government loan bonds of the total face value of *yen* 150, which were deposited with the firm as a guarantee when he entered their service on Feb. 7th last, was resumed on April 14th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno.

As an alteration had been made in the composition of the Court owing to the presiding Judge having been removed to the Tokyo Appeal Court, Counsel repeated their former statements made on Nov. 26th last. After some further questions between the parties, plaintiff's Counsel asked the Court for leave to examine S. Sakurai, one of the clerks in the Kyoto branch of the defendants' firm, as a witness. The Court decided to instruct the Kyoto Local Court to examine him.

The Court then rose.

HAIM v. BRETSCHNEIDER.

The hearing of this case, in which plaintiff claims *yen* 1,413.25, was resumed on April 14th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno.

The Court announced that Mr. J. D. Hutchison, a member of the Foreign Board of Trade, whom plaintiff's counsel has asked the Court to summon as an expert on the commercial usage of the port, had written saying that he found it impossible to explain the point raised by plaintiff. Defendant's counsel asked the Court to examine T. Hayashi, a porcelain dealer, as a witness with regard to the samples of plaintiff and the goods made by defendant. The Court gave consent and declared that it would summon a competent business man, foreign or Japanese, to prove a mercantile custom in this city.

The case was adjourned till May 3rd.

AMERICAN TOPICS.

Mr. David Sears, a wealthy bachelor of Boston, has given Harvard $250,000 as a testimonial of his regard for President Eliot, who has just arrived at the venerable age of 70 years and completed his thirty-fifth year as President of the university. Some time ago it was made known that there was a deficit in the current expenses of the university and Mr. Sears, who is a graduate of Harvard, offered to make the shortage good.

Reports are again current that the Rock Island Railroad Company is determined to build a line of its own to the Pacific Coast. Surveys have been made lately which indicate that it is the intention to start the new extension from either Benson or Douglas, on the line of the El Paso and Northeastern road, and build it through to San Diego, Cal. From San Diego the news comes that the promoters of a local enterprise seeking for a direct outlet to the East from that city are working in the interest of the Rock Island.

New York commercial interests are becoming concerned over the future accommodation for the big new Cunard steamships in that port. The longest docks are 800 feet long and as the construction of the vessels will not allow them to enter the full length, the sterns project into the channel forty feet outside the head. The problem of increasing the length of the slips is made difficult to solve, because the War Department will not consent to the lengthening of the piers to 1000 feet, on the ground that it will impair the value of the channel of the North river. Some rival Eastern ports are offering to build docks 1000 feet long to accommodate the big steamships, and this is worrying New Yorkers.

The Ogden-Lucin cut-off, eliminating 145 miles of the main line of the Southern Pacific over Promontory mountain, and shortening the road by forty-three miles, was opened to regular traffic on March 8th. The first train to cross the great Salt Lake was composed of thirty-five cars of Asiatic freight. This made the run over the new road, which includes forty-three miles of trestling through the briny waters of the lake, in seven hours less time than would have been required by the Promontory route. The completed cut-off has cost $6,000,000 and is the most difficult piece of railroad engineering of the past twenty years. Several miles of the bridging across the Dead Sea of America required spliced piling 130 feet long.

Labour troubles, as a result of which many thousands of men in New York are idle, again threaten the industrial world of the United States, and the situation is expected to become as serious as the memorable troubles of a year ago. In the building trades it is estimate that 20,000 men are now out of work in New York, and that they will be increased almost daily. In addition, the printing trades are threatened by the attitude of the lithographers, 10,000 of whom are expected to be locked out throughout the country. The various unions of the Allied Lithographing Trade organizations decided not to accept the arbitration plan proposed to them by the Employers' Association. The arbitration plan was submitted individually to every workman employed by a member of the association and they were told if they did not accept the plan they would be locked out. If the men refuse to sign the agreements more than 10,000 men will be locked out. The lockout will extend all over the United States and also to Canada.

The Marquise de Merinville, who was Miss Mary Gwendolin Caldwell, a Kentucky beauty and heiress, and who gave $300,000 to found the Catholic University at Washington, is critically ill at the Buckingham Hotel, in New York. The Marquise, who arrived from Paris, is suffering from a complication of diseases, has lost her hearing and is almost totally blind. The Marquise's mother was a sister of John C. Breckinridge, one time Vice-President of the United States. She inherited $5,000,000 from her father, William Shakespeare Caldwell, and $500,000 from her mother. She was once engaged to marry Prince Murat, son of the King of Naples, but broke the engagement because of the Prince's demands that he be given absolute control of her fortune. She was married to the Marquise de Merinville in 1892, Bishop Spalding performing the ceremony. Five years ago she was given the Laetare medal by the University of Notre Dame for her services to the Catholic church.

Official announcement was made at the Navy Department in Washington on March 21st, by Rear-Admiral Henry C. Taylor, Chief of the Bureau of Navigation, of a number of changes in the ships on the European, Caribbean, South Atlantic and Asiatic squadrons. The European squadron hereafter will comprise the protected cruisers *Olympia* (flagship), *Baltimore*, *Cleveland* and *Des Moines*. Later, the squadron will be augmented by the new protected cruiser *Denver*. This squadron will return to European waters some time between April 15th and May 1st, accompanied by the battle-ship division of the North Atlantic fleet. The armoured cruiser *New York*, protected cruisers *Atlanta*, *Montgomery* and *Detroit*, and the gunboats *Bancroft* and *Nashville* and a number of smaller vessels will be added to the Caribbean squadron for the purpose of protecting the interests of the United States on the isthmus, in consequence of the beginning of the Panama canal. The *San Francisco*, upon her arrived at Shanghai, will be attached to the cruiser squadron of the Asiatic fleet.

Senator Frye's bill for the regulation of the shipping trade between the United States and the Philippine islands, as passed by the Senate, is quite different from the original bill, several amendments having been accepted which changed the effect of the bill in important particulars. The most important, of course, was that extending until July 1, 1905, the date when the coastwise laws shall go into effect between the United States and the Philippines. Another amendment excepts supplies for the Army and Navy from the provision requiring merchandise to be transported in American bottoms. This was inserted to remove the inconsistency between this act and that recently passed requiring supplies for the Army and Navy to be shipped in American vessels, under certain conditions. Another amendment offered by Senator Culberson, and agreed to, strikes out section 6 of the bill and inserts section 6 of the Philippine revenue act of March 8, 1902. This section provides that the same tonnage shall be collected on vessels from the Philippines coming into the United States as is collected on vessels from foreign countries, extends to July 1, 1905, the date of the application of the coastwise laws, and authorizes the Philippine Commission to issue licenses for lightering.

Rear-Admiral Charles O'Neil, U.S.N., was retired on March 15th on account of age. He was then detached from duty as Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance and assigned to make a personal inspection of the principal ordnance establishments in the United States and Europe. He is authorized to extend his researches to China and Japan. Rear-Admiral O'Neil was succeeded by Rear-Admiral George A. Converse of the Bureau of Equipment, whose place has been taken by Rear-Admiral Henry N. Manney. Rear-Admiral O'Neil since 1897 has been chief of the Naval Bureau of Ordnance. The Admiral entered the Navy in 1861 as master's mate on the *Cumberland*, and was present at the capture of Forts Hatteras and Clark in August of that year. He fought in the famous engagement with the *Merrimac* in 1862, and on that occasion rescued Lieutenant Morris from drowning. He was promoted to the rank of Rear-Admiral in April, 1901. Since assuming charge of the bureau Admiral O'Nell has devoted himself to the improvement of the guns, mounts and various munitions of war essential to naval vessels, and to such parts of the naval establishment as pertain to the Bureau of Ordnance, especially the magazines and navy yards. During the war with Spain the duties of this bureau were very onerous, as it devolved upon it to a keep all the vessels of the Navy, both at home and abroad, fully supplied with ammunition of all kinds, and to rapidly accumulate a reserve supply.

A devil fish has been caught under remarkable circumstances at Port Simpson by George Rudge, the officer in charge of the tide gauge, which was established there in November, 1902, by the tidal and current survey branch of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, Ottawa. The gauge is a small self-registering instrument placed in a sheltered box on a wooden column or tide well made of a plank placed against the side of the wharf. This well is about fifteen inches square and extends from about three feet above the top of the wharf to five or six feet below the level of low water. The well is made water-tight to keep out the wave motion with the exception of a small inlet in one side near the bottom, one-half an inch in width. This admits the water and also keeps out all foreign matter that might interfere with the working of a six-inch copper float which is suspended inside This float is attached to one end of a copper cord which passes over the pulley wheel of the instrument and on the other end is a counter weight of lead. For several weeks last December this cord was continually breaking and much of the record of the tides was lost. Thinking that something must be catching the float as it rose and fell with the tide, the observer in charge was ordered to open the top of the column and ascertain the trouble. Instead of finding something projecting from the side of the well he discovered a devilfish trying to climb up the sides. This at once explained the breaking of the wire, the octopus evidently catching the float and breaking the copper cord. After two hours' hard fighting the octopus was finally fished out on to the wharf by means of spears. Its weight was eighty pounds, and the arms were from eight to nine feet in length. The question is, How did the octopus get there? The only opening was the one-half inch inlet at the bottom of the well. The devilfish must have got in when very small and kept on growing until he became strong enough to do the damage mentioned. The gauge has only been in operation one year, and supposing the fish to have been washed in when first placed there, its growth at that rate is about eighty pounds a year. Another puzzle is what the devilfish lived on.

NEWS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

"First Class Men," a military novel on the pattern of Lieutenant Bilse's book, "A Little Garrison" (which related incidents of the abuse of German soldiers, told alleged actions discredible to officers, etc.), was confiscated in the Berlin book stores on March 2nd.

Mr. Charles M. Schwab, former president of the United States Steel Corporation, who is now touring Europe, broke the bank on February 27th while playing at Monte Carlo. His play at the table was watched by a great crowd of men and women. This is not the first time Mr. Schwab has accomplished the feat.

A dispatch to the London *Daily Mail* from Sydney, New South Wales, announces the sensational discovery of gold at Norseman, Western Australia. Forty ounces were extracted in the course of as many minutes and 400 ounces were taken out in a day. Many nuggets of pure gold have been found. Diggers are rushing into the district.

An attempt was made on March 18th to blow up the Odessa University. Two bombs were exploded, breaking down an inside wall and shaking the quadrangle. Nine other bombs were discovered, the fuses of which had failed to act. It is believed that an attempt was made to revenge the wholesale expulsion and arrests of students. Two students have been arrested on suspicion.

The present year, it is hoped, says a London paper, will witness a revival of the days of chivalry, which formed the most dazzling point in the Middle Ages, and proved one of the bright spots in the darkness of the time. It is proposed to revive the famous Eglinton Tournament of 1839, for the benefit of the King's College Removal Fund, providing that the thousand and one details which a performance of the kind entails can be satisfactorily arranged. Many influential houses are much interested in the scheme. and both the Duchess of Portland and the Duchess of Sutherland are expected to lend their influence to its promotion. It is impossible to say at present who will be the Queen of Beanty, but it is thought that either Princess Henry of Pless or Lady Castlereagh may consent to hold the proud position.

Radium treatment for cancer has been entirely abandoned at the Cancer Hospital in London. It was never viewed with much hope there, and in the early days of March the last unsuccessful experiment with it took place. According to the *Daily Mail*, the trials were made at the end with a case containing five grains of radium, covered only with mica sheeting, probably the largest morsel in any hospital in Europe, and the effect was always the same, though it might vary in degree. The surface of the skin became inflamed, a blister formed and dried up, but that was all. Sixteen cases have been under treatment, the longest period of a single application having been three hours, and the longest total time of application having been about twenty-five hours. The only favourable result was an occasional cessation of pain. On the other hand, several patients have complained of an increase of pain.

Mr. James C. McNally, U. S. Consul at Liege, Belgium, writes: "The Company Du Val St. Lambert of Liege is manufacturing a hardened crystal dish which in appearance closely resembles fine translucent china of uniform shape and manufacture. The resisting power of this ware is due to a special hardening process and to the quality and nature of the crystal used. It not only successfully resists the usual wear and tear, but is almost proof against breakage. "A hardened crystal dish can be substituted for a hammer in driving nails into wood, while the same ware can be put into boiling water at high degree, then plunged into ice water repeatedly without the least noticeable damage to the dish or plate. "The writer has seen plates of the usual form of this hardened were hurled to the stone floor of the warehouse and go bounding along the whole length of the building without suffering the least damage. This same firm makes glassware of the same corresponding resistance."

TEA REPORTS.

A small quantity of new tea was brought on April 12th to the Hamamatsu market. The quality proves to be good.

An *Asahi's* telegram states that the weather is generally favourable to the tea crop. Nothing is to be feared but frost, in the absence of which the crop will show an increase of over ten per cent. as compared with last year.

The output of tea in the district of Izumi is said to be good, but the crop is expected to be smaller than in the previous year.

A telegram from Tsu, Miye prefecture, says that the tea crop is expected to be good as the weather is very favourable.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

A case of cholera was reported on April 11th at Hiroshima.

Major Matsuura, who was at Chen-tu, Suchwang, has returned via Shanghai to Nagasaki.

The fall in the price of silver in Taipeh, Formosa, showed on April 12th a lapse of from *sen* 90 to *sen* 87.

Small-pox is still prevalent in Nagasaki prefecture, the cases having numbered over a hundred up to April 9th.

Mr. Kubota Beisen, a well-known artist, left Tokyo, on April 7th, for America and Europe to investigate art matters in those continents.

The French Consul at Nagasaki presented on April 10th a quantity of cigars and cigarettes to the Russians in the Saseho Naval Hospital.

Baron Komura, Minister for Foreign Affairs, paid a visit on April 10th to Marquis Ito at the official residence of the latter where he remained for several hours.

Mr. J. Ishiguro, third warrant officer, who was killed at the second blocking operation at Port Arthur, has been promoted to the junior class of the Seventh Runk.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha's steamer *Tairei Maru*, which is under construction at the Mitsu Bishi Shipbuilding Yard, Nagasaki, is expected to be completed within this month.

Mr. Saito, a well-known novelist of Tokyo, who has been suffering from consumption for some years past, died on April 13th. He wrote under the pen name of *Shojiki Shodayu.*

Mr. Usui, Osaka, has purchased the British steamer *Mongkut*, of 1,354 tons, built at Glasgow in 1883 and renamed her the *Shikoku Maru*. She is now in dock at Naniwajima, Osaka.

Y. Takahashi, a carpenter in Hatsune-cho, Shitaya, Tokyo, attempted to commit suicide on the morning of April 13th by cutting his throat with a knife. He was immediately removed to the Marumo Hospital. Poverty was the cause.

The Nankai Railway Company intends to amalgamate with the Kinki Railway Company, for which purpose the former will hold a general meeting on April 19th.

Li Chi-yong, Korean Special Envoy to the Japanese Court, and party were expected to arrive on April 21st at Tokyo. They will put up at the Seiyo-ken, Uyeno Park.

We are told that the Committee elected by the American Asiatic Association to carry out the Perry Memorial Pledge, are Messrs. F. Horne, L. H. Abel, and C. F. McWilliams.

The Governor of Nagasaki prefecture reported on April 7th that ten cases of small-pox appeared that day. Since February, the number of patients is calculated at a hundred and twenty.

The net profit of the Kwansai Railway Company for the last half year was *yen* 555,193.75 and an interim dividend is expected of five per cent. A general meeting will be held on April 28th.

Eighteen Chinese students from Hupeh, recommended by Viceroy Chang Chi-tung arrived on April 10th at Yokohama by the steamer *Bengloe.* They left immediately for Tokyo where they are to attend the Kobun Gaku-in School.

According to the *Official Gazette*, Count von Arco Valley, German Minister at Tokyo, on April 5th informed the Japanese Government that Dr. Sallmans arrived on March 30th to take the place of Baron Von Stengel as Vice-Consul at Yokohama.

A Saseho telegram states that the Russian Government presented twenty-five *yen* on April 10 through Mons. T. Harmand, French Minister at Tokyo, to the Russians who are in the Saseho Naval Hospital. The day was a Russian national holiday.

A burlesque on Mr. Tree's Japanese play has been brought out at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, London, with Arthur Roberts and Edna May as principals. It was called "The Darling of the Guards—a skittle in one throe and seven Japanese screens."

Mr. K. Yokoda, Public Procurator-in-chief of the Tokyo Appeal Court, was on April 7th, appointed Public Procurator General of the Court of Cassation. He is succeeded by Mr. Y. Kuratomi, Public Procurator-in-chief of the Osaka Appeal Court.

At a billiard match which took place recently at the Japanese Club, Ki-yu-ken, in Yokohama, Mr. A. Bosredon, a French amateur, scored 207 points in a break, playing with three balls. Such a performance on the billiard table, is equal if not superior, to that of many a professional player.

The *Asahi* states that a Norwegian steamer with contraband of war was captured on April 3rd by Japanese in Korean waters and brought to a certain base. A hundred thousand tins of corned beef valued at about a hundred and fifty thousand *yen* were confiscated and landed on the 6th at Shimonoseki.

The formal opening of the Florence Crittenton Rescue Home will be held on May 14th. Articles for sale, the proceeds to go to the sustenance of the Home, are solicited. Will the ladies send all their articles for sale on that occasion to Mrs. J. K. McCauley 356 Hyakunin Machi, Okubo, Tokyo, on or before May 10th.

Mr. Akidzuki and other members of the former Japanese Legation at St. Petersburg arrived at Nagasaki on April 7th by the German Mail steamer *Prinz Heinrich.* Mr. Kurino will arrive by the next steamer. The *Nichi Nichi* adds that two Norwegian officers and two German officers arrived by the same steamer on their way to the front.

The pretty saloon of the P. & O. steamer

Palawan was turned into a veritable fairy bower on Monday evening, loving friends of Mrs. Dodds, who with her husband and daughter is proceeding to England, sending baskets, bouquets, and clusters of beautiful flowers as parting gifts. A particularly handsome basket was sent by H. E. Governor and Madame Sufu.

The weekly report telegraphed on April 8th by Mr. Uchida, Japanese Consul General at New York says that owing to the fall in prices, transaction in raw silk have increased while the *habutae* silk market is still dull, though prices are tending downward. The matting market is also inactive and there is no demand. Cotton is steady, the closing quotations were cents 15 for present delivery, cents 14.76 for May delivery, and cents 14.45 for August delivery. The stock was 720,787 bales.

On Friday there took place at the Grand Hotel, the marriage ceremony of Mr. J. H. Rosenthal and Miss Gertrude M. Stern, of New York. The bride looked very charming in her wedding dress and was accompanied by several friends, while a number of Mr. Rosenthal's friends were present and the U. S. Consul-General attended as a guest and witness. The ceremony was performed by Acting Rabbi L. Abenheim, the wedding march being played by Mr. W. K. Vincent, and afterwards a wedding tiffin was given in the private dining room of the Grand Hotel at which about forty guests were present. Later the happy couple departed on their honeymoon.

The performances on Saturday evening at the Public Hall by Professor Grossi and Mme. Roux deserved a far better house than they were accorded. The gallery was only about half filled and there were some fifty people in the body of the hall, by whom the various feats were watched with the deepest interest, despite the fact that to many the language spoken, French, must have been unfamiliar. The general verdict was that the "show" was a rattling good one. The Professor is a first class artist and his novelty illusions were exceedingly clever; Mme. Roux was hardly less successful in her mind reading, and the programme altogether was well worth being seen. Performances will be given this evening and on Tuesaay evening and they certainly will be appreciated by all who attend them.

RICE.

Vernacular papers agree in reporting that owing to the present weather, the new crop of barley and wheat is anticipated to be prolific. This expectation has affected the rice market and caused a fall in prices. The closing quotations in Tokyo on April 12th and 13th were :—

	13th Yen.	12th Yen.
April delivery …………	12.79	12.925
May " …………	12.53	12.69
June " …………	12.63	12.78

The Osaka market was

	13th	12th
April delivery …………	12.4525	12.6125
May " …………	12.1625	12.33
June " …………	12.1975	12.3475

The Kobe market also fell.

	13th	12th
April delivery …………	12.38	12.58
May " …………	12.21	12.305
June " …………	12.22	12.311

CUSTOMS APPEAL.

Baron Sone, Minister of State for Finance, says the *Official Gazette*, delivered a decision on April 13th on an appeal filed by Mr. Charles V. Sale, the representative of Messrs. Sale and Company, L'td, against a decision of the Yokohama Customs. The firm imported some mild steel bars on Dec. 31st, 1902, and produced the certificate of origin, on which the Yokohama Customs imposed a duty in accordance with No. 241 of the tariff. The importers protested but their petition was rejected. They thereupon lodged an appeal with the Department of Finance contending that the duty should be levied under No. 217 of the tariff. The appeal was sustained.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A PUBLIC NUISANCE.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—The daily appearance of some half dozen beggars on the Maidabashi is a common nuisance. Some ladies pay them 5 *sen* whenever they pass the bridge, not liking to be followed by these fellows farther. I request the authorities to sweep the bridge clear of them at once.

Yours, etc., PRO BONO PUBLICO.

Yokohama, 9th April, 1904.

COLD STORAGE.

(To the Editor of the "Japan Mail.")

Sir:—The following extract from *Ice & Cold Storage* of Feb. 15th may be of interest to your readers in view of the recent suggestions in your paper that a cold store should be started at Yokohama for the importation of frozen meat from New Zealand, as it illustrates an interesting development in cold storage :—

"What one of the builders claimed to be the most up-to-date fruit-carrying steamer that had yet been constructed, viz, Elders and Fyffe's s. s. *Matina*, was launched last month. The refrigerating machinery (J. & E. Hall's) and cooling rooms are situated on the upper deck, the engine room being at the after end, and the cooling room at the forward end of the casing. She is to trade between Manchester and Port Limon, and will go out in ballast and bunkers. Mr. Barker, of Elders and Fyffes, mentioned after the ceremony that it was less than three years since the experiment of bringing loose bananas to this country under the cool air system was tried. It had proved a complete success, and when, in addition to their present fleet, the new boats are running, which will carry 48,000 bunches each, his company will maintain a weekly service from Port Limon to Manchester and their importations of bananas from Port Limon and Jamaica will amount to some 2½ million bunches annually, bringing the gross yearly total of importation up to about five million bunches. When it is borne in mind that previous to the adoption of the cool-air system the annual importation amounted to only 1½ million bunches, it will be realised what a tremendous impetus it has given to the trade in this fruit. A sister vessel is on the stocks in the same yard at Newcastle, and she will probably be launched this month; and a third is being built at Glasgow. The four boats at present running into Manchester on this service will be diverted to Bristol."

The importation of bananas, as mentioned above, is effected by the maintenance of some 80,000 cubic feet of space at a perfectly steady, cool temperature, by means of J. & E. Hall's patent carbonic anhydride refrigerating machines.

There are no brine pipes in the holds, but cool, dry air is circulated by steam fans, first over batteries of brine pipes, and afterwards throughout the holds by means of a specially arranged system of air trunks. The volume of air being very large and well distributed, the variation in temperature in the holds is exceedingly small.

The efficiency of this arrangement has amply been attested by the arrival of many cargoes in splendid condition on board the vessels of the Imperial Direct West Indian Mail Service, thus opening np a new trade with the West Indies, the commerce of which has been languishing to the extent of causing serious apprehension to various Colonial Ministers since the sugar trade was practically paralysed by the bounty-supported competition of beet sugar from the continent.

I am, yours, etc., VIVIAN SANGUINETTI.

Tokyo, April 8th, 1904.

THE CASE OF MR. JOHN COWEN.

(To the Editor of the "Japan Mail.")

Sir,—I enclose a cutting from your valued journal referring to me by name, and stating "Probably the Consul's action has been prompted by some reason quite apart from the general tone of the newspaper," and that "the story as it stands is scarcely credible." I agree that it is scarcely credible, were it net the fact. I enclose a longer statement, the accuracy of which is disputed in no quarter. I wish to demur to your suggestion that some other offence of mine has prompted the consular action. The steps taken against me were taken under a criminal section of the Orders in Council, and your words therefore give rise to the idea that I have committed some crime the nature of which you do not know and which you leave your readers to guess at. Thus you are doing me a grave injustice, though I feel sure that is not your intention. In the latter case, an accurate statement of the case in the *Japan Mail* would rectify matters.

Yours truly, JOHN COWEN.

[Mr. Cowen encloses copy of the subpœna served on him on Feb. 25, which we reproduced in full in these columns on March 23rd, and a verbatim reprint of the article entitled "Military Authorities v. The Press," which appeared in the *China Times* on March 7th, and which we reproduced in the *Japan Daily Mail* on March 23rd.—Ed. *J. M.*]

DOWN WITH THE RUSSIANS.

TRANSLATED FROM THE JAPANESE FOR THE "INDEPENDENT."

[I have made the following rough translation of a poem written by one of the students of the Higher Commercial College, Tokyo. I venture to hope that it may prove interesting as throwing light on the hopes and fears that are so tumultuously at work in Japanese breasts just at the moment.—A Lloyd.]

Hark! o'er Liaotung's wintry coasts
Hear ye no wail and shriek of ghosts,
Of men who fought 'midst battle's shocks
Those yellow sands and snow-clad rocks,
While every night there comes the roar
Of raging strife the dark waves o'er?
No trace of that just war[1] remains;
But see, o'er Chosen's[2] fertile plains
Dark lowers the sky, and when to rest
The sun behind Chopaku's[3] crest
Has sunk, what fate awaits the line
That ruled so long by right divine?

Hark! At the Cossack's battle cry,
Trembles and falls as though to die
The ancient king-craft of the East.
Say when the love that Heaven's priest,
In letters common to us all,[4]
Confucius taught, shall fade and fall,
What doom awaits the myriad fold
In those wide lands that bear the yoke?
Pity your brethren, if you can;
Rise, rise, and strike the foes of man.

When Amur's[5] stream was dyed with red,
Thousands were numbered with the dead;
Still murder wrought her deeds of hell,
And Kishineff its tale can tell.
Of bloodshed. Soldiers of the Czar,
They call themselves, but thieves they are;
And History, blushing, dreads to pen
Crimes that cry out to God and men.

Thou spak'st of peace: is this thy troth
And shall the mouth that swore the oath
Now have Manchuria for its prey?
No. In the East, where the young day
First sees the world, there lies a land,
Fuso[6] by name. Her stalwart band,
With blood-stained blades, shall never cease
To offer to thy God of Peace.

When lovely Peace on Eastern shores
Her holy light once more outpours,
Then, the wise Trade God's Staff[7] in hand,
We'll build the glories of our land.
But now that, on the battlefield,
Flashes the steel, to you we yield
The post of honour. Strike apace,
Brave scions of a martial race.

[1] *That just war*—*i.e.*, the war betwen China and Japan in which the "ghosts" lost their lives. The Japanese took Port Arthur in that war, and were much annoyed when Russia, Germany, and France compelled them to give it up.

[2] *Chosen* *i.e.* Korea.

[3] *Chapoku*—the name of the range of mountains which runs down the middle of Korea, forming a sort of backbone to the peninsula.

[4] In letters common to us—*i.e.* the Chinese script, which is used equally by Japan, China and Korea. Confucius is equally revered in all three countries.

[5] *Amur's stream*—the reference is to the massacres at Blagovestchensk.

[6] *Fuso*—a poetical name for Japan.

[7] *The Trade God's staff*—Mercury's staff is the badge of the Higher Commercial College.

ISABELLA II. OF SPAIN.

Isabella II. (Maria Isabella Louisa) ex-Queen of Spain, whose death is announced by telegraph, was born at Madrid on Oct. 30th, 1830. Her father, Ferdinand VII., had been induced, by the influence of his wife, to issue the Pragmatic Decree, revoking tho Salic law; and at his death, Sept. 29, 1833, his eldest daughter, then a child, was proclaimed Queen, under the regency of her mother, Maria-Christina. This event proved the signal for civil warfare, as the claims of the late king's brother were warmly supported by certain classes of the people. The war of succession lasted seven years, and the country was desolated by the struggle between the contending Carlist and Christina parties, until the Cortes confirmed the claims of Isabella by pronouncing sentence of exile on Don Carlos and his adherents. In 1840 the Queen-regnant, finding it impossible to carry on the Government without making concessions to public feeling for which she was indisposed, retired

France, resigning her power into the hands of Espartero, whom she had been previously compelled to summon to the head of affairs. For the following three years, whilst that constitutional leader was able in great measure to direct her education and training, the young Queen was subjected to purer and better influences than she had before experienced. She was declared by a decree of the Cortes to have attained her majority, Oct. 15, 1842, and took her place among the reigning sovereigns of Europe. Maria-Christina returned to Madrid in 1845, and her restoration to influence was marked by the marriage of Isabella II. to her cousin, Don Francisco d'Assisi, the elder son of her maternal uncle, Don Francisco de Paula, which took place Oct. 10, 1846. Sacrificed to the intrigues of a party whose interests were based on this uncongenial union, Isabella II. never knew the beneficial influence of domestic happiness; estrangements and reconciliations having succeeded each other alternately in her married life. It deserves special mention, however, says *Men and Women of the Time*, from which we take the above, that during her reign Spain rose to take rank among the great powers of Europe, while the internal progress of the country advanced with rapid strides. On Sept. 16, 1868, a great revolution broke out in Spain, starting with the fleet off Cadiz, and gradually spreading over the whole peninsula. The speedy result was the formation of a Republican Provisional Government under Prim, Serano, and others at Madrid, and the flight ofQueen Isabella to France. On November 6 her Majesty took up her residence in Paris, where she remained during her exile, with the exception of an interval spent at Geneva during the Franco-Prussian War. On June 25, 1870, she renounced her claims to the Spanish throne in favor of her eldest son, the Prince of the Asturias. After eight years of exile she returned to Spain, and was received at Santander by her son, the late King Alfonso XII. (July 29, 1876). Queen Isabella has had five children: 1. Infanta Marié-Isabel-Francoise-d'Assise-Christine-de-Paule-Dominga, born Dec. 20, 1851. 2. Alfonso XII., late King of Spain. 3. Infanta Maria del Pilar, born June 4, 1861. 4. Infanta Maria della Paz, born June 23, 1862; and 5. Infanta Maria Eulalie, born Feb. 12, 1864.

AMERICAN ASIATIC ASSOCIATION.

A General Meeting of the American Asiatic Association was held on Friday afternoon at U. S. Consulate, Yokohama, to take action upon the pledge given at the recent Perry Memorial service held in Tokyo, on which occasion the Association contributed its promise to raise ten thousand yen for the Perry Relief Fund for the families of Japanese soldiers and sailors at the front.

Mr. N. F. Smith, the President, set forth the object of the meeting in the following address:—A little over a stone's throw from where I am now standing, fifty years ago last Thursday, the 31st of March, Commodore Perry concluded and signed a treaty with Japan, the principal feature of which was to provide a system for the relief and aid of the shipwrecked and destitute. It was a modest and simple document, bearing upon its face and reflecting from every feature of its expression the noble and God-given principles of humanity and charity. To commemorate this event, as most and perhaps all of you are aware, a meeting was held at the Y. M. C. A. Hall, in Tokyo, at which there was a large and enthusiastic gathering composed of prominent American and Japanese citizens who vied with each other not only in recording in eulogistic terms expressions of affectionate respect to the memory of America's pioneer sailor—our own Perry, whose ashes we revere; but there was also strongly in evidence an interchange of sympathy and feeling both in speech and song, culminating in an inspiration to make the occasion one never to be forgotten, and striking the keynote that appeals to the most noble and humanitarian sympathies; and which, if carried out effectually, will make the name of Commodore Perry a household word beloved and revered by the hundreds of thousands of sailors and soldiers of Japan who have been called from their homes in the service of their country, and whose families will receive succour and help from the large assistance we hope to give in this direction through the Perry Relief Fund. This meeting was convened by the American and Japanese citizens in Tokyo, and when notice reached Yokohama that such a gathering was in contemplation, it was too late to call a special meeting of our people in Yokohama for the purpose of making plans by which we might participate as a body in the general programme of this Memorial function. Circumstances over which I had no control prevented my attending personally, but we were, notwithstanding, well represented by several members of our Executive Committee, to whom we should feel greatly indebted for the graceful and liberal manner in which they supported the initiatory motion so unanimously endorsed for the relief of those who have been deprived of the support and protection of husbands, fathers and sons. The object of calling a special meeting of our Association this afternoon, is to submit our report as a Committee, of the proceedings which took place at the Memorial meeting, and to place before you the position that all American citizens occupy in relation to it. Pledges to the extent of over *yen* 65,000, were spontaneously contributed toward the support of this grand and praiseworthy object, and I feel sure that we, as an Association, are prepared to endorse the guarantee made by our able representative on the occasion, to wit, the sum of *yen* 10,000. I would say that some 8,000, have already been subscribed towards this amount by members of our Association, so that we are still sponsors for about *yen* 2,000 more to make the balance of our guarantee good. And as your President, I do not feel warranted nor do I think it necessary to appeal to you to support the integrity of an institution such as I am proud to say ours is, so representative a type of united American interest and national brotherhood. At last Thursday's meeting, a committee was appointed and designated the Perry Memorial Relief Fund Committee, and as the humble president of that committee, I beg to ask that you will bear with me while I give you an outline of what, perhaps, will constitute the text of our appeal to all American citizens, both in Japan and in our own country. First; that it is not the purpose of our Committee to compete or interfere with any other similar projects that have been already started, but to supplement them and endeavour to reach sources that would not otherwise be touched. Second: In appealing to the American public for subscriptions to the fund, the Committee wish it to be clearly and explicitly understood that this charity is beyond the pale of politics and that its object is solely and purely humanitarian. Our aim and endeavour will be to give assistance to the needy and suffering families of the soldiers of Japan who have been called to the front fighting for their country. In order that subscribers may be assured that the funds committed to our care will be honestly and intelligently disbursed, we add the assurance that the administration and distribution of all moneys that come into the hands of our Honorary Treasurers, Mr. B. C. Howard, of Yokohama and Mr. J. Soeda, President of the Industrial Bank, Tokyo, will be under the authority and direction of His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of Japan. It is not at the instigation of the Japanese people who have given it their enthusiastic and generous support that this movement was started, but by American citizens, who have long been resident in Japan and who have learned to love the country and in many to respects admire its gentle people. The Committee feel justified, therefore, in calling upon their countrymen to aid a cause, which must appeal with equal force to all clases and conditions, and to all sections. We appeal to our soldiers and sailors, because they have had the experience and know the destitution and misery that must necessarily come to families suddenly deprived of the bread winner. We appeal to the business man, Chambers of Commerce, Boards of Trade and similar organizations, on account of their interests which are largely staked on the result of the present war; To the churches and religious organizations of all descriptions, since from them we have a right to look for assistance in a cause which is so manifestly deserving. To the labouring man, because he has perhaps already known distress and will be ready to give aid that on occasions has been so grateful to himself; to the newspapers because they are exponents of the American public, and are able and willing to give; and finally, we appeal to every American citizen on the broad ground of humanity. This is the cause of the widows and the fatherless, and as such, should demand the sympathy and assistance of all who can realize or have ever known suffering or sorrow. The generosity of the American people is proverbial, and as a more deserving object then the present one has never been presented for their consideration, it is hoped that we shall receive an overwhelmingly generous response. America is Japan's nearest Western neighbour; we were closely identified with her advent into the sphere of national life, and we have always been on terms of the most cordial friendship. It seems most natural, therefore, that American interest and sympathy should be especially enlisted in this cause. The Japanese have welcomed our advice and cherished our friendship, and we cannot now, without shame, turn a deaf ear to the cry of their fatherless children."

At the close of the address, it was announced that upwards of 8,000 *yen* had already been subscribed and in a few minutes the pledge was more than covered by contributions from those present, amounting to 2,200 *yen*. It was then determined that the good work should not stop with the reception of the pledge but that a general American subscription should be opened for the purpose, making the amount as large as possible in order to be representative of American generosity. Messrs. C. F. McWilliams, C. Gibbens, and F. W. Horne were appointed a Committee for this object.

After a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman the meeting was adjourned.—*Advertiser.*

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

RUSSIAN NAVAL REINFORCEMENTS.

London, April 8.

From St. Petersburg it is reported that Admiral the Grand-Duke Alexis, in the yacht *Svetliana*, which is being converted into a cruiser, her woodwork being replaced by iron, will join the squadron starting for the Pacific in June. The squadron will consist of the *Dimitri Donskoi*, the *Oslyabia*, the *Aurora*, four new ironclads of the *Czarewitch* type, two old and three new cruisers, two old and two new transports, two destroyers, and five torpedo-boats, the squadron also carrying nine submarine boats.

ATTACK ON THE KING OF SPAIN.

Later.

A bomb was thrown at King Alfonso while he was visiting Barcelona. He escaped unhurt.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH NEGOTIATIONS.

Reuter telegraphs that the Anglo-French negotiations have reached their closing stage. Lord Lansdowne and M. Cambon are concluding their conferences to-day. Final reference will subsequently be made to Paris.

THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN IN THE U. S.

An excited presidential campaign has begun in the United States. The Republicans will certainly nominate Roosevelt. At present there are two Democratic candidates in the field: namely Chief Justice Parker, and the great newspaper proprietor Mr. Hearst. They are supported by Mr. Bryan and Mr. Cleveland respectively.

TURKEY MOBILIZING.

London, April 8.

It is reported from Salonika that eighty battalions of Redifs have been mobilized, ostensibly to suppress the revolt of the Armenians, but really destined for Macedonia. It is expected that the Hamidies cavalry will also be mobilized.

GERMAN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

Four hundred more German troops have left Hamburg for South-west Africa.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH ENTENTE.

London, April 9.

The Anglo-French agreement has been signed.

MOBILIZATION OF RUSSIAN NAVAL RESERVES.

The naval reserves at Sebastopol have been mobilized, partly to reinforce the crews at Port Arthur and Vladivostock and partly for the Baltic vessels.

SUBSTANTIAL FRIENDSHIP.

The Japanese Consul-General at London has forwarded £11,000, the first instalment of the London fund for the relief of Japanese widows and orphans.

TURKEY AND BULGARIA.

London, April 10.

An agreement between Turkey and Bulgaria has been signed after prolonged negotiations which at one time threatened to result in a rupture of relations.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH AGREEMENT.

In the Anglo-French agreement as regards

Siam the two Powers recognize their respective spheres of influence as established by the treaty of 1896, but they explicitly guarantee the integrity of Siam and the maintenance of the *status quo*.

EX-QUEEN OF SPAIN DEAD.

Isabella, former Queen of Spain, is dead.

ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

The Anglo-French agreement is very generally approved in Britain and France. The London press, except the *Morning Post*, congratulates the Government on what the *Daily Telegraph* describes as the most satisfactory diplomatic incident recorded for centuries.

PROMOTION FOR THE "CESAREVITCH'S" COMMANDER.

London, April 11.

Captain Gregchrovich, commander of the battleship *Cesarevitch*, has been promoted to be rear-admiral for his gallantry in the presence of the enemy. He has also been appointed Commander of Port Arthur.

AUSTRIA AND ITALY.

The Austrian and Italian foreign ministers conferred for several hours at Abbazia (in Austria) on Saturday.

THE KAISER.

The Kaiser has landed at Malta.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH AGREEMENT.

The German press regards the Anglo-French Agreement with unfriendly eyes. The Italian press rejoices at its conclusion.

AUSTRIA AND ITALY.

London, April 12.

The London *Standard's* Vienna correspondent says it is anticipated that the result of the meeting between the Austrian and Italian foreign ministers at Abbazia will be that the agreement between the two countries relating to Albania will be extended to the whole of the Balkans.

CHINA'S NEUTRALITY.

The *Morning Post's* Chefoo correspondent says that the increase in the anti-foreign policy at present permeating Peking presents a grave possibility of China's neutrality being broken soon, despite official assurances to the contrary, by a general upheaval of the people.

GERMAN TROUBLES IN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

There has been renewed fighting in South-west Africa, and the Germans have dispersed 3,000 Hereros after eight hours' fighting. The Germans had three officers and twelve men killed and wounded. The loss of the Hereros was heavy.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH AGREEMENT.

London, April 12.

The official text of the agreement between England and France with reference to Siam says that the two contracting parties disclaim all ideas of annexation of territory and resolve to abstain from anything opposed to the existing treaties. They agree that their actions shall be exercised freely in each sphere of influence east and west of the river Menam.

ADMIRAL MAKAROFF AND STAFF DROWNED.

London, April 13, 4.40 p.m.

Admiral Makaroff has been drowned, along with the whole of his staff, through the sinking of the battleship *Petropavlovsk*.

THE EGYPTIAN QUESTION.

London, April 13.

A despatch from Lord Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson, British Ambassador to Paris, emphasizes French recognition of the predominant position which Great Britain holds in Egypt.

A new Kedival decree, annexed to the declaration accepted by France, will, if accepted by the other Powers, give Egypt a free hand in the disposal of her own resources.

Lord Cromer considers the time unripe for modifying the legislative and judicial systems, but when the time comes Great Britain will have grounds for counting on French co-operation in effecting the necessary changes.

THE THIBET EXPEDITION.

London, April 14.

The Thibet expedition reached its destination at Gyantsze without losing a single life.

THE "PETROPAULOVSK" AFFAIR.

The battleship *Petropaulovsk*, returning to Port Arthur, struck a mine which exploded and the ship capsized, Admiral Makaroff and his whole staff being drowned. The Captain, five other officers and 32 men were saved but mostly wounded.

(Received at the Legation of France.)

MOVEMENTS IN KOREA.

Saigon, April 8.

According to news from Seoul several Japanese transports carrying provisions have entered the estuary of the Yalu without incident and have landed their cargoes at several points on the Korean side of the Yalu.

THE FRANCO-ENGLISH ARRANGEMENT.

Saigon, April 9.

The signature of the Franco-English arrangement concerning Morocco, Egypt, &c., is imminent. It formulates the reciprocal engagements of France and Great Britain in Siam.

FRENCH NEWS.

Saigon, April 11.

Queen Isabella of Spain is dead.

A decree institutes a committee of inquiry into the state of the Navy.

The arrangement between France and England is signed. It comprises Newfoundland, West Africa, Madagascar, the New Hebrides and Siam.

England recognises France's right to watch over the tranquillity of Morocco; and France will not interfere with England's action in Egypt.

The arrangement explicitly guarantees the territorial integrity of Siam, recognising entire liberty of economical action by France and England in the Siamese provinces situated respectively to the East and the West of the basin of the River Menam.

Almost all the newspapers of France and England express entire satisfaction with the Agreement.

(From the "Jiji Shimpo.")

SIBERIAN TRANSPORTATION.

London, April 12.

As the ice on Lake Baikal is about to melt, transportation by the Siberian railway is for the time suspended. The construction of the line round the lake will not be completed till August.

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION IN SPAIN.

A plot has been discovered at Barcelona to assassinate the Premier.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Ningchow, British steamer, 4,894, James Riley, 8th April,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 7th April, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Benlomond, British steamer, 1,752, Clark, 8th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shimosa, British steamer, 2,699, Best, 8th April,—New York via ports, and Kobe, 8th April, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Rasbera, British steamer, 2,500, Morrison, 9th April,—Kobe, Coal.—Japanese.

St. Bede, British steamer, 2,288, Hartley, 9th April,—New York via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Siberia, American steamer, 5,655, J. T. Smith, 9th Feb.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 23rd March, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Ascot, British steamer, 2,786, C. L. Cox, 9th April,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Samara. British steamer, 1,790, W. Lewis, 9th April,—Muroran, Coal.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,055, J. C. Jensen, 9th April,—Yokkaichi, 8th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tremont, American steamer, 6,195, T. W. Garlick, 10th April,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

St. Irene, British steamer, 2,474, Clements, 10th April,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Ariel, Norwegian steamer, 994, Rafen, 10th April,—Moji, Coal.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Bengloe, British steamer, 1,933, J. Potter, 10th April,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Prinz Heinrich, German steamer, 3,902, R. Heintze,—Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Pingsuey, British steamer, 4,150, E. Warrall, 10th April,—Portland, Oregon, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Benalder, British steamer, 1,959, C. K. McIntosh, 11th April,—Kobe, 9th April, General.—Cornes & Co.

Ganges, British steamer, 2,721, W. Sibbold, 12th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tjipanas, Dutch steamer, 2,475, P. Zwart, 12th April,—Batavia, General.—Ed. L. van Nierop & Co.

Prosper, Norwegian steamer, 788, Christiansen, 12th April,—Muroran, Coal.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Satara, British steamer, 3,327, Heartly, 13th April,—Rangoon, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Antenor, British steamer, 3,505, R. Williams, 13th April,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Annam, French steamer, 2,338, Girard, 13th April,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. & Co.

Dean, British steamer, 958, Sinclair, [13th April,—Rangoon, Rice.—C. Illies & Co.

Fiume, German steamer, 838, Uecher, 14th April,—Karatsu, Coal.—Japandse.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,065, J. C. Jensen, 14th April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tiberius, German steamer, 2,790, Unruh, 14th April,—New York via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

John T. Winthrote, American bark, 320, W. T. Shorey, 14th April,—San Francisco.—Captain.

Lennox, British steamer, 2,361, McNair, 14th April,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

China, American steamer, 2,422, D. E. Friele, 14th April,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Braemar, British steamer, 2,316, S. L. Saxby, 8th April,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Salazie, French steamer, 2,089, Negre, 8th April,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 8th April,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Hounslow, British steamer, 1,860, H. Adshead, 8th April,—Muroran, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

O[illegible], British steamer, 1,951, Davison, 8th April,—Otaru, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Shiekh, British steamer, 2,828, C. Jones, 8th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Knight Errant, British steamer, 4,779, Kendall, 8th April,—Muroran, Ballast.—Captain.

Glenlogan, British steamer, 3,740, J. McGregor, 9th April,—London via ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Taiyuan, British steamer, 3,459, Dowson, 9th April,—Kobe, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Suevia, German steamer, 2,663, von Doehrens, 9th April,—Kobe, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Crusader, British steamer, 2,744, F. Brown, 9th April,—Moji, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Heathdene, British steamer, 2,277, W. J. Milburn, 9th April,—Muroran, Ballast.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Benlomond, British steamer, 1,752, Clark, 10th April,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Salamanca, British steamer, 882, A. E. Wilson, 10th April,—Kobe, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Siberia, American steamer, 5,655, J. T. Smith, 11th April,—Hongkong via ports; Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Puglia, Italian cruiser, 2,538, Captain Pescetto, 11th April,—Unknown.

Indravelli, British steamer, 4,151, R. J. Craven, 11th April,—Hongkong via ports Mails and General.—P. & A. S.S. Co.

Ningchow, British steamer, 4,894, James Riley, 12th April,—Portland, Or., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Telemachus, British steamer, 4,902, J. W. Goodwin, 12th April,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Macquarie, British steamer, 2,073, Jones, 12th April,—Kobe, Wheat.—Bowden Bros., Ltd.

Tremont, American steamer, 6,195, T. W. Garlick, 12th April,—Tacoma, Wash., via Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Ascot, British steamer, 2,786, C. L. Cox, 12th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Palawan, British steamer, 2,996, J. D. Andrews, 12th April,—London via ports, Mails and General.—P & O. S.N. Co.

Kitsurin Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,354, J. De La Lande, 12th April,—Ujina, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ariel, Norwegian steamer, 994, Rafen, 13th April,—Moji, Ballast.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Bengloe, British steamer, 1,933, J. Potter, 13th April,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Samara, British steamer, 1,790, W. Lewis, 13th April,—Muroran, Ballast.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Teesta, British steamer, 4,428, A. M. Rait, 14th April,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Benalder, British steamer, 1,959, C. K. McIntosh, 14th April,—London via ports, General.—Cornes & Co.

Shimosa, British steamer, 2,699, Best, 14th April,—New York via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Ganges, British steamer, 2,721, W. Sibbold, 14th April,—Naoyetsu, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per American steamer *Siberia*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Capt. C. D. Palmer, Mr. J. M. Krause and wife, Mrs. M. Mitchell, Dr. H. Kennedy and wife, Mr. W. Rohneyer, Mr. W. Giebest, Mr. K. Taigo, Mr. K. Aguri, Mr. K. Miyabara, Mr. S. Soga, Mr. T. Aoyama, Mr. M. Wake, Miss J. E. Selton, Miss J. Chase, Miss M. Turnbull, Mr. S. Takeda, Mr. S. Tsurukawa, Mr. H. Mori, Mr. R. Scherer, Mr. J. N. Boyd, Mr. T. Yoshida, Mr. Thos. P. Gladdis, Mr. G. Arone, Mr. E. Bowditch, Mrs. W. O. Ashley, Mrs. T. A. McKenzie, Miss E. B. Clark, Mrs. E. R. Dorr, Miss E. Dorr, Mr. E. Schmidt, Miss L. M. Doe, Mr. John McLean, Mr. R. S. Kitajima, Mrs. R. E. Carpenter, Mr. B. C. Vaughn, Mr. S. Inagaki, Mr. R Dunning, Mr. F. Dilke, Mr. S. Yoshida, Mr. T. Watanabe, Mr. S. Kannary, Mrs. L. C. Griscom, Mrs. F. Brownson, Miss Marie Kirule Miss N. B. Cruff, Mr. A. G. Hay and wife, Mr. L. d'Adda and wife, Mr. K. Takahashi, Mr. R. B. McKee, Mr. T. B. Holliday, Mr T. W. Hellyer, Mrs. P. N. Price, Mr. E. V. Morgan, Mr. B. Wendell Jr., Mr. S. H. Severance, Mrs. S. H. Severance, Miss M. H. Severance, Mr. G. D. Gregory, Mrs. G. D. Gregory and Mr. E. A. Magee. For Kobe:—Mr. J. M. Mur and wife, Mr. F. A. Olmstead, Mrs. A. P. Peck, Mr. K. Yamamoto, Mrs. K. Yamamoto and two children, Mr. T. Kishimoto and Mrs. T. Kishimoto and child. For Shanghai:—Mr. J. Samson, Mrs. J. Samson, Mr. E. S. Buttrick, Mr. E. S. Buttrick, Mr. E. White, Mrs. E. White and Mrs. C. Seymour. For Hongkong:—Mr. T. Shirdan, Mrs. T. Shirdan, Mr. Liang Kee Cho, Mr. F. G. Kell, Mrs. G. Malcolm and two children, Mrs. E. Young, Mr. P. S. Noon, Mr. Roger Gorman, Mr. S. C. Edmonson, Mr. R. Greig, Mr. A. R. Cliviera, Mr. F. N. Aickok, Mr. Chas. E. Morton, Mr. Z. M. Smith, Mr. James Hamilton, Mr. C. Mandlebaum, Mr. J. F. Quirk, Mr. C. W. Clifton, Miss Lottie Mollose, Mrs. J. H. Blount, Mr. H. Sutherland, Mr. T. B. Townsend, Mr. R. C. King, Mrs. R. C. King, Mr. Z. O. Dean, Mr. A. B. Tanner, Mr. C. S. Hood, Mr. S. Young, and Dr. T. Y. Soong, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Bengloe*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. and Mrs Okuda, in cabin

Per German steamer *Prinz Heinrich*, from Europe via ports:—Mr. A. Rasmusten, Mr. Meurer, Mrs. Meurer, Mr. L. Peck, Mr. de Lelande, and Mrs. Watanabe, baby and amah, in cabin; Mr. T. Gorton, Mr. J. Wolstencroft, Mr. J. Rosenthal, Mr. F. Villiers, Mr. Ch. Duce, Mrs. Duce and baby, Mr. Daisy Duce, Mr. Lilly Duce, Mr. Willy Duce, Mr. G. Witte, Mr. Th. Ward, Mr. Ch. Ward, Mr. Macquoid, Miss Richmond, Mr. A. Beverley, Mrs. Robinson, Miss Hessenancs, Mrs. de Mendonca, Mr. A. de Mendonca, Mr. B. de Mendonca, Mr. C. de Mendonca, and Mr. D. de Mendonca and amah, in second class.

Per American steamer *Tremont*, from Hongkong via ports:—Dr. Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. G. Clinton, Mr. and Mrs. Muller, Mrs. Kent, Mrs. Curtis, Mr. E. W. Turner, Mr. L. B. Cocke, Mr. F. Lewis, Mr. C. Wax, Dr. Sherman, Mr. J. Carley, Mr. and Mrs. de Forest, Mr. and Mrs. Allen, Mrs. McKay and 2 children, Capt. Ward, Mr. T. Goldsmith, Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. M. Twomby, Mr. O. D. Miller, Mr. B. G. Dickey, Mr. F. W. Rose, Mr. and Mrs. Stein and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. G. Eckley, Mrs. F. Henley, Mrs. G. B. Hart, Mrs. McNeely, Mr. R. Viegelmann, Mrs. E. M. Libeaud, Mr. E. J. Libeaud, Mr. J. D. Gilillian, Mr. J. F. McCann, Mr. F. Hope, Mr. and Mrs. Kuhnle and 2 children, Rev. D. C. Greene, Mr. S. A. Cobeou, Mr. J. Chavannes, Mr. M. Blewett, Mr. K. Miyagawa, and Mr. and Mrs. Yasukawa and child, in cabin.

Per French steamer, *Annam*, from Marseilles via ports:—Mr. Coraze, Mr. Bertin, Mr. Gavalda, Mr. Heigli, Mr. Lerog, Col. Hawkins, Mr. and Mrs. Doniger, Mr. and Mrs. Parry, Major Rud, Mrs. Hombeline, Mr. Nishioka, Mr. Sharp, Mr. Paget, Mr. Constantino, Mrs. Forum, Dr. Hathan, Mrs. Jetelmann, Mr. Papasian, Mr. Hoffmann, Mr. Muller, Mr. Lellis, and Mr. Blum, in cabin.

Per American steamer *China*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mrs. A. L. Bagnall, Miss Bagnall, Mr. S. de Masirevie, Mrs. Russell, child and servant, Miss R. Russell, Mr. Russell, Miss D. Mansbridge, Miss Greswold, Mr. G. E. Rockwood, Mrs. G. E. Rockwood, Miss M. Thompson, Mr. D. Colman, Mr. W. Schopflocher, Mr. B. Runge, Mr. W. Heitmann, Mr. E. Kronech, Mr. G. W. Brockhurst, Mr. A. E. Fearnley, Miss Trevithick, Mr. Trevithick, Miss Kayser and amah, Mr. S. E. Grindstone, Mrs. Richter, amah and infant, and Mr. E. Wallach, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Dr. W. Muller, Mr. Hugo Bing, Mr. A. Lawless, Mr. D. Kennedy, Capt. Harry Barnes, Mr. Z. Misaki, Mr. G. C. Lacey, Miss Wilkinson, Mrs. F. J. Smith, Mr. Bryan Bradley, Mr. C. W. Guerin, Mrs. Guerin and infant, Capt. J. H. Russell, Lt.-Com. McElroy, Mr. King Su Kwong, Mr. Frank Spicer, Mrs. A. Clarke, Mr. W. W. Carruth, Mr. M. E. Sandall, Mr. C. H. Goddard, Mr. Wm. Paterson, Mrs. H. K Schumake, Rev. H. W. Lingle, Mrs. W. H. Lingle, Miss D. Lingle, Miss M. Lingle, Mr. F. Bunt, Mrs. F. Bunt, Bishop Moore, Mrs. F. J. Perrine, Miss Abbey Pearson, Miss Ameria Aline, Mr. V. Dolliver, Master Kum Kwong, Mr. Funk Hon, Mr. Li Wei Ao, Mr. Tsu King Yuang, Mr. Tsu Shao Yung, Mr. Yee Shi gi, Mr. Kwokwa Kwong, Mr. E. B. Skottowe, Mr. Walter M. Castle, Mr. Lo Chi Ming, and Mrs. D. H. Moore, in cabin; Mr. A. Roma, Mr. E. A. Wickman, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. M. Krukoff, Mr. L. Koetsch, Mr. Joe Arnolsky, Mr. Paul Brossman, Mr. W. W. Nelson, and Mr. Ting Lien Shing, in Asiatic steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Salazie*, for Marseilles via ports:—Mr. C. Clark, Miss Clark, Miss Kayser and amah, Mr. H. L. Hewson, Miss E. Cabeldu, Mr. Merecki, Mr. P. M. Papasian, Mr. C. M. Pearson, Mr. C. W. Birch, Mrs. Birch, 2 children and amah, Mr. Yamamoto, Mr. C. A. Hill, Mr. H. Crane, Mr. R. Hawse, Capt. R. F. Toke, Mr. R. M. Boger, Mr. and Mrs. J. Goodkind, Mr. and Mrs. H. Engelsberg, Mr. S. R. Toombs, Mr. Arthur S. Galoska, Mr. T. Golding, Mr. S. Hayes, and Mrs. Smith, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. H. Absell, Major Baker-Brown, Mr. C. R. Bancroft, Mr. P. Barlow, Rev. Eugene Bell, Mr. L. Berrick, Mr. A. Berthain, Mrs. R. M. Berry, Miss E. Blackstock, Lieut. C. L. Bland, Mrs. F. S. A. Bourne, Mr. F. S. A. Bourne, Mrs. Brockman, Mr. F. S. Brockman and child, Mr. H. B. Carter, Mr. S. S. Carruthers, Mr. E. Casey, Mr. U. S. Chace, Mr. C. Christy, Mr. L. V. Chute, Miss M. B. Crans, Mr. A. D. Cranston, Mrs. A. D. Cranston, Mr. J. Cranston, Mr. Davidson, Mrs. Davidson, Mr. C. H. Deere, Mr. Delacourcelle, Mrs. C. Doherty and child, Mr. H. Donkin, Rev. Geo. Douglas, Mrs. Geo. Douglas and child, Rev. G. F. Draper, Lieut. Dunn, Mr. H. V. Elkington, Miss F. M. English, Mr. E. Field, Mr. H. S. Finlay, Mr. Flemming, Miss Francis, Rev. A. D. Gring, Mr. A. Grossman, Mr. F. B. Harman, Count Hatzfeldt, Miss E. Hemmingway, Mr. S. Hirst, Mr. F. Hocson, Mr. H. H. Horsoy, Capt. Howe, Mr. Jenks, Mrs. Jenks, Rev. H. B. Johnson, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. N. Kataoka, Mr. Kien, Mr. Kirkland, Mrs. Kirkland, Mr. S. Kishi, Miss G. C. Knight, Miss H. Knight, Mr. R. Laidlaw, Mrs. R. Laidlaw, Mr. A. E. Leatham, Mr. H. A. MacPherson, Mrs. H. A. MacPherson, Mr. C. Miller, Mrs. C. Miller, Mr. C. Moody, Mr. H. F. Montaigner, Mr. C. E. Muller, Mr. O Nakamura, Miss Neild, Mrs. Noren, Mr. G. W. Palmer, Mrs. L. S. Parker, Mr. Priest, Mrs. Priest, Dr. Polk, Mr. H. E. Reed, Lieut. H. V. Rhodes, Mr. Rhodes, Mrs. Rhodes and child, Capt. A. D. Ricardo, Miss Richardson, Lieut. H. W. F. Ricketts, Mr. M. Russell, Master W. Russell, Mr. T. D. Rust, Mrs. T. D. Rust, Miss Schell, Mr. H. W. Schmidt, Rev. E. F. P. Scholes, Mrs. E. F. P. Scholes, Mr. A. Schroader, Mr. G. F. Smith, Rev. Stephens, Mrs. Stephens and child, Mr. Storer, Rev. Stobie, Mrs. Stobie and child, Rev. Dr. Stuntz, Mr. H. F. Teverson, Mr. K. Waragaya, Mr. F. F. Weaver, Mr. A. C. Weaver, Mr. Webb, Mrs. Webb, Lieut. G. G. Webster, Rev. B. F. West, Mr. Harold West, Mr. A. G. Wise, Capt. Zeller, and Mr. A. Zickerman, in cabin; Mr. C. S. Reifsnider, Mr. J. Refsnider, Mr. A. Ikeda, Mr. A. Fukushima, Mr. C. Matsuura, Mr. S. Okazaki, Mr. K. Kamiya, Mr. Z. Kobayashi, Mr. Y. Kobayashi, Mr. M. Kajishima, Mr. H. Mori, Mr. K. Iwai, Mr. [illegible] Noguchi, and Mr. N. Hashimoto, in intermediate; 49 Japanese, in steerage.

Per American steamer *Siberia*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. F. E. Barto, Mrs. F. E. Barto, Mrs. J. H. Blount, Mr. J. N. Boyd, Mrs. J. N. Boyd, Mr. C. S. Buttrick, Mrs. C. S. Buttrick, Mr. D. Calman, Mr. Liang Kee Cho, Mr. C. W. Clifton, Mrs. E. M. Davis, Mrs. O. K. Davis and child, Mr. Z. O. Dean, Mr. A. G. Denbigh, Mr. F. Dilke, Mr. R. Dunning, Mr. S. C. Edmondson, Mr. S. Elphinstone, Mr. Thos. P. Gaddis, Mr. Roger Gorman, Mr. E Greig, Mr. Jas. Hamilton, Mr. C. S. Hard, Mr T. W. Hellyer, Mr. E. M. Hickok, Mr. Wm. Hohmeyer, Mr. T. B. Holliday, Mr. F. M. Jonas, Mrs. N. Jones, Mr. F. G. Kell, Mr. R. C. King, Mrs. R. C. King, Mr. T. Kishimoto, Mrs. T. Kishimoto and infant, Sir. Bryan Leighton, Dr. T. Y. Loong, Mrs. G. Malcolm and 2 children, Mr. C. Mandelbaum, Mrs. W. Maxwell and amah, Miss Lottie McHose, Mr. T. D. McKay and servant, Mr. R. B. McKee, Mr. M. J. McCallum, Mr. J. M. Mur, Mrs. J. M. Mur, Mrs. H. M. Newson, Mrs. P. S. Noon, Mr. C. E. Norton, Mr. A. M. Oliviera, Mr. F. H. Olmsted, Mrs. A. G. Peck, Mr. J. F. Quirk, Mr. B. Runge, Mr. J. Samson, Mrs. J. Samson, Mr. Bown Ping Sang, Mr. Rudolph Scherer, Mr. W. Schopflocher, Mr. S. L. Severance, Mrs. S. L. Severance, Miss M. H. Severance, Mrs. C. Seymour, Mr. T. Shirdan, Mrs. T. Shirdan, Mr. Z. M. Smith, Mr. H. Sutherland, Mr. A. D. Tanner, Mr. T. B. Townsend, Mr. Ed. L. Van Nierop, Mr. E. White, Mrs. E. White, Mrs. Henry Wiley, Miss R. Wiley, Master H. Wiley, Miss E. Wiley, Mr. K. Yamamoto, Mrs. K. Yamamoto and 2 children, Mrs. Mrs. F. Young and Mr. So Zong in cabin.

Per American steamer *Tremont* for Tacoma Wash., via Victoria B.C.:—Mr. and Mrs. Allen, Mr. H. M. Blewett, Mr. J. Carley, Mr. G. Chavannes, Mr. L. B. Cocke, Mrs. Curtis, Mr. R. B. Dickey, Mr. and Mrs. G. Eckley, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Elliott and child, Miss A. Ermatinger, Mr. J. Fagnant, Dr. J. C. Ferguson, Mr. J. D. Gilillian, Mr. M. M. Goldsmith, Mrs. G. B. Hart, Mrs. F. Henley, Mr. C. H. Hope, Mrs. G. E. Jenkins, Mrs. Kent, Mr. and Mrs. Kuhnle, and 2 children, Mr. F. Lewis, Mr. J. Lindley, Mr. J. F. McCann, Mrs. McKay and 2 children and maid, Mrs. McNeely, Mr. O. D. Miller, Capt. and Mrs. J. W. Rigby and child, Mr. F. W. Rose, Dr. B. V. Sherman and servant, Mrs. Stein and 2 children, Mr. E. W. Turner, Mrs. M. Twomby, Mr. R. Viegelmann, Capt. D. H. Ward, Mr. C. Wax, Mr. and Mrs. Wong How and children, Messrs. Kwong Chun Yi, L. G. Wang, C. C. Wang, Chi Kno Hsing, Chi Kni Lin, Mr. and Mrs. A. Hamano, and Messrs. S. Hibe, S. Inanishi, S. Miyake, E. Nakamura, S. Miura and D. Yoshimura in cabin.

Per British steamer *Palawan*, for London via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. James Dodds, Miss Dodds, Mr. H. M. Arnould, Capt. Townsend, Mr. Graham, Mr. P. Siverton, Mr. G. Pocock, Mr. F. Hunter, Mr. D. Cooper, Mr. D. J. Evans, Mr. M. R. Charlton, Mr. T. Porter, Miss Sato and infant, Mr. and Mrs. P. Dourille, Miss Dourille, Mr. K. Dodds, Mr. and Mrs. Clegg, Miss Scott, Mr. W. Grautoff, Mr. Bethell, and Mr. Cowan, in cabin; 22 Europeans, in steerage.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line	Steamer	Date
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Shawmut	F. April 15
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic*	M. April 18
Canada	C. P. R.	Tartar	M. April 18
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Sa. April 23
Europe	N D. Lloyd	Bayern	Sa April 23
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. April 25
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Hyades	W. April 27
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co	Em. of India	Th. April 28
Europe	M. M Co.	Polynesien	Th April 28
America	P. M. Co	Korea	W. May 4
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Athenian	F. May 6
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Siberia	M. May 9

Left San Francisco on the 2nd ins.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line	Steamer	Date
Europe	N D. Lloyd	Prinz Heinrich	Sa. April 16
America	P. M. Co.	China	Sa. April 16
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Shawmut	Sa April 16
Hongkong	C. P. R Co	Tartar	M. April 18
Hongkong	O. & O. Co	Coptic	Tu April 19
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Tai Sang	W. April 20
Europe	M. M. Co	Annam	F. April 22
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. April 25
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Tu April 26
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Hyades	Th. April 28
Canada	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	F April 29
Hongkong	P. M. Co	Korea	Th May 5
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co	Athenian	Sa. May 7

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

No change to report.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER YARD.
White Shirting—{40 yds. 36 in. 50 yds. 36 in.} ...	0.09 to 0.10
	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	V. 2.85 to 3.60
Grey Shirting—9lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.80 to 4.25
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches...	3.00 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton Italians and Satteens,..	0.20 to 0.40

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	V. 0.35 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 32 in...	0.30 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches...	0.16 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.50 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 to 65 inches ...	0.90 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0.60 to 0.66
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	9.50 to 12.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches...	0.90 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches...	1.90 to 2.25
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 5lb, 24-25 yards, 32 nches...	2.50 to 3.65

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	V. 140.00 to 150.00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	—
Nos. 38/42, Singles	—
Nos. 32, Doubles...	145.00 to 150.00
Nos. 42, Doubles...	155.00 to 160.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/100, Plain...	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	245.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	295.00 to 305.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	425.00 to 435.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling...	Nominal.	33
Indian Broach...		26
Chinese		23

METALS.

Nothing doing.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ⅜ inch and upward...	V. 4.05 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.30 to 4.60
Sheet Iron...	4.65 to 6.90
Galvanised Iron sheets	10.00 to 11.00
Wire Nails, assorted	5.15 to 5.75
Tin Plates, per box...	6.70 to 7.60
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.05
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1¾ inch)	5.00 to 5.50

KEROSENE.

The market is still weak.

American	$3.10
Russian	3.20
Langkat	3.00

SUGAR.

Nothing new to report.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	V. 6.90 to 7.30
Brown Manila...	6.90 to 7.60
Brown Daitong	5.40 to 6.80
Brown Canton...	5.90 to 8.40
White Java and Penang...	7.80 to 9.00
White Refined...	10.50 to 13.00

INDIGO.

No special feature to report.

	PICUL
Java, Medium to best...	270.00 to 320.00
Calcutta, Medium to best	180.00 to 290.00
Madras (*Kurpah*), Medium to best ...	140.00 to 170.00
Madras (Dry Leaf), Medium to best ..	100.00 to 140.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

It has been a slow dragging market. Holders being free sellers, buyers during the last few days are somewhat attracted by the low prices, although the quality of present stock is not very satisfactory. Prices are more or less nominal and a bold operator could probably secure productions if he is willing to take the silk *tale quale*.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra Best, Coarse	Y. —
Filatures—Extra, Fine	—
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	970 to 980
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	—
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	890 to 900
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	940 to 950
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	870 to 880
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	900 to 910
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	—
Common—Coarse	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1½	900 to 910
Re-reels—No. 2	—
Re-reels—No. 3	—
Kakedas—Extra	—
Kakedas—No. 1	920 to 925
Kakedas—No. 1½...	900 to 910
Kakedas—No. 2	880 to 890

WILD WITH ECZEMA

And Other Itching, Burning, Scaly Eruptions with Loss of Hair.

Speedy Cure Treatment.

Bathe the affected parts with Hot Water and Cuticura Soap, to cleanse the surface of crusts and scales, and soften the thickened cuticle. Dry, without hard rubbing, and apply Cuticura Ointment freely, to allay itching, irritation, and inflammation, and soothe and heal, and lastly take Cuticura Resolvent Pills, to cool and cleanse the blood. A single set is often sufficient to cure the most torturing, disfiguring, itching, burning, scaly, pimply humours, eczemas, rashes, irritations, and chafings, with loss of hair, when all else fails.

The agonizing itching and burning of the skin, as in eczema; the frightful scaling, as in psoriasis; the loss of hair and crusting of the scalp, as in scalled head; the facial disfigurement, as in pimples and ringworm; the awful suffering of infants and the anxiety of worn-out parents, as in milk crust, tetter, and salt rheum,—all demand a remedy of almost superhuman virtues to successfully cope with them. Such are the CUTICURA remedies, the purest, sweetest, most speedy and economical curatives for the skin, scalp, and blood ever compounded. Mothers are their warmest friends.

Millions of Women Use Cuticura Soap

Assisted by CUTICURA OINTMENT for preserving, purifying, and beautifying the skin, for cleansing the scalp of crusts, scales, and dandruff, and the stopping of falling hair, for softening, whitening, and soothing red, rough, and sore hands, for baby rashes and chafings, in the form of baths for annoying irritations and inflammations of women, or too free or offensive perspiration, in the form of washes for ulcerative weaknesses, and many sanative, antiseptic purposes which readily suggest themselves, as well as for all the purposes of the toilet, bath, and nursery.

CUTICURA RESOLVENT PILLS (Chocolate Coated) are a new, tasteless, odourless, economical substitute for the celebrated liquid CUTICURA RESOLVENT, as well as for all other blood purifiers and humour cures. Put up in screw-cap pocket vials, containing 60 doses.

CUTICURA REMEDIES are sold throughout the world. Australian Depot: R. Towns & Co., Sydney. British Depot: 27-28, Charterhouse Sq., London. French Depot: 5 Rue de la Paix, Paris. POTTER DRUG AND CHEM. CORP., Sole Props., Boston, U. S. A.

WASTE SILK.

There has been rather more doing this week in medium and low grades at quotations. Prices are nominally reduced but good quality is very scarce.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	170 to 175
Noshi—Filatures, Good	160 to 165
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Good...	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	—
Nsohi—Joshiu, Best	120 to 125
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	110 to 115
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	140 to 150
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	130 to 135
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	70 to 80
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	60 to 70

TEA.

Nothing doing.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	—
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine...	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, April 14.

London silver $\frac{3}{16}$ higher and China sterling quotations ¼ to ⅜ higher have caused local rates on China to rule lower, other rates remaining steady.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0¼
— — Bills on demand.............	2/0$\frac{5}{16}$
— — 4 months' sight	2/0$\frac{8}{16}$
— Private 4 months' sight.............	2/0$\frac{9}{16}$ @ ½
— — 6 months' sight.............	2/0$\frac{11}{16}$ @ ⅝
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	253
— Private 4 months' sight......	257½ @ 7
— — 6 months' sight......	259 @ 8
Hongkong—Bank sight ....per $100.	87⅓*
— Private 10 days' sight do.	85*
Shanghai—Bank sight	84½*
— Private 10 days' sight	87*
India—Bank sight	150
— Private 30 days' sight	153
America—Bank sight........................	49
— Private 30 days' sight	49¾
— Private 4 months' sight	50⅛
Germany—Bank sight	205½
— Private 4 months' sight	210 @ 9½
Bar Silver (London)	24$\frac{11}{16}$

* Nominal.

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, APRIL 23RD, 1904.

DEATH.

On board the P. & O. steamer *Formosa*, at Moji, on Monday evening, April 18th, JAMES JOHNSTONE, of Yokohama, aged 60 years.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

BARONS IWASAKI and Mitsui were decorated on April 18th with the Sacred Treasure of the Third Class.

THE Minister of State for Finance and Baroness Sone proceeded on April 17th to their villa at Katase.

CONTINENTAL telegrams report an improvement in Russian feeling towards Great Britain, due to French influence.

THE issue of £5,000,000 worth of bonds on account of the Irish Land Act has been subscribed seven times over.

THE Nippon Fire Insurance Company, Osaka, held a general meeting on April 16th and declared an interim dividend of 7½ per cent.

ENGLAND beat Scotland in the last Association International of the season on April 9th, the score being:—England 1, Scotland *nil*.

THE net income of the Nankai Railway Company for the last half year was *yen* 161,608 and the interim devidend declared is four per cent.

MR. T. HIGUCHI, President of the 2nd Bank, Yokohama, died on the night of April 13th. He had been suffering from brain-troubles since the 4th.

A *Jiji's* Nagasaki telegram reports that the Government intends to purchase a smokeless coal mine, at Amakusa, Kumamoto, belonging to Prince Mori.

R. TAKADA, a policeman of the Kotobuki-cho station, Yokohama, was arrested on April 15th on a charge of having received a bribe of *yen* 5.20 from a gambler.

A WOMAN of about twenty years old was found on the night of April 14th killed on the railway near Yokohama station. The police believe that she committed suicide.

JAPANESE gold coins amounting to *yen* 4,300,000, British gold coins valued at *yen* 35,146 and French gold coins at *yen* 3,126 were exported on April 16th by the *China* for America.

TAKE KOBAYASHI (78), mother of a merchant in Koishikawa, Tokyo, committed suicide on the morning of April 16th by hanging herself with a cord. Poverty is reported to the cause.

THE condition of Lieut.-General Baron T. Nagayama, who has been suffering from consumption is reported to be very serious. He has been promoted to the Junior Class of Second Rank.

TELEGRAMS dated April 16th from Maebashi, Fukushima and Karuizawa report that snow fell since the previous night. The tea and mulberry leavesare reported to have been damaged.

THE small steamer *Tosa Maru*, which went ashore off the district of Kuka, Yamaguchi prefecture, was floated on the morning of April 14th. She was brought to Komatsu for repairs.

SINCE the opening of the war Japanese ship-owing firms have purchased sixteen foreign ships of 44,060 tons in all. Besides these, four ships representing 9,127 tons, are now under negotiation.

THE *Nichi Nichi* states that on April 14th two trains on the Kyushu railway collided on the section between Doda-gawa and Gotoji. Several persons were killed and injured. Details are still reserved

THE Russian crew of the *Ekaterinoslav* and seven others captured by the Japanese, who were released at the Saseho Naval station, arrived on April 14th at Nagasaki by the steamer *Nagato Maru*. They will leave there for Shanghai.

THE *Jiji* states that the steamer *Yatsuna Maru* went ashore on the night of April 15th off Tsurusaki, Oita prefecture. Details are not yet known. She is insured by the Teikoku Marine Insurance Company for thirty thousand *yen*.

THE kerosene works at Nagaoka, Niigata prefecture, seem to be most productive. The interim dividend of the Takarada Kerosene Oil Company for the last half-year has been declared at twenty per cent., the net profit being four hundred and ninety thousand *yen*.

THE appeal of the *Niroku Shimbun*, which was ordered to suppend publication by the Tokyo District Court, was rejected on April 10th by the Tokyo Appeal Court, this tribunal confirming the original sentence. The proprietor of the paper will appeal to the Court of Cassation.

THE Osaka Shosen Kaisha's new steamer *Tairei Maru* (1,300 tons) built at the Mitsu Bishi Shipbuilding Yard, Nagasaki, performed a trial trip on April 19th, in which she ran at a speed of 12.74 knots. The ship will be delivered this month to the owners.

IT is reported by the *Official Gazette* that Baron Sone, Minister of Finance, has been promoted to the Junior Class of the Second Rank, General Baron Yamaguchi, to the Senior Class of the Third Rank; and General Terauchi, Minister for War, to the Junior Class of the Third Rank.

THE residence of the Chief Surgeon of the British Naval Hospital, No. 115 Bluff, was entered on the night of April 15th by a burglar during the absence of the inmates. Twenty-two articles valued at about *yen* 540, including a lady's necklace of pearls to the value of *yen* 120, were stolen.

IN connexion with the present state of affairs, prefectural assemblies throughout the Empire have all reduced the expenditures of the local governments for this year. The proposed expenses were *yen* 48,684,259, from which *yen* 8,003,731 was cut leaving a balance of *yen* 40,680,528.

MR. Y. KAMINISHI, Councillor of the Fukui prefectural office, was sentenced on April 15th in the Urawa District Court to two months' imprisonment with hard labour and a fine of eight *yen*. The charge against him was that he had received a bribe of *yen* 405 from a timber merchant when he was in service at the Saitama Forestry Bureau.

ACCORDING to investigations by the Union Guild of Cotton Spinning Companies in Osaka, cotton stocks throughout the Empire at the end of February were 214,099 bales and the import in March was 37,120 bales, making a total of 251,219 bales. During March the factories throughout the Empire consumed 61,274 bales leaving a balance of 189,855 bales in stock.

T. SAKAI, the nominal editor of the *Heimin Shimbun*, was sentenced on April 16th in the Tokyo Appeal Court to two months' minor imprisonment. He had been sentenced in the Tokyo District Court to four months' minor imprisonment and the paper had been suppressed. The charge was that the paper had agitated against the opening of war. The paper is an organ of the socialists.

REAR-ADMIRAL SAIRO, Vice-Minister, and several other officers of the Navy, and editors of the leading papers in Tokyo held a social meeting on the evening of April 14th at the Naval Club, Suiko-sha, when Commander Inouchi and two other officers gave speeches with regard to military affairs and alluded to points which the papers must pay careful attention to during the present war.

THE *Kobe Herald* on Saturday published the full text of the judgment given by the Osaka Appeal Court in the appeal in the Hiogo International Hospital case. Judgment was in favour of appellants (the Japanese landlords) and the hospital trustees were ordered to remove all the buildings from No. 34, Yamamoto-dori, Ichome, Kobe, within three months of the date of the judgment. The appellants were authorized to undertake the removal themselves at the expense of respondents in case the latter fail to do so. Costs were given against both parties, two-thirds against appellants and one-third against the respondents.

PORT ARTHUR.

Saturday, April 16.

The Foreign Office in Tokyo publishes a Reuter telegram of which St. Petersburg is the source. It is a message sent by Admiral Uftomsky from St. Petersburg on the night of the 15th instant. The Admiral says that during the fight in the forenoon, the destroyer *Beztraschni* or *Blestyaschtchi*—we can not clearly distinguish which is meant—got separated from her consorts owing to bad weather, was surrounded by the Japanese vessels and sunk. He further reports that during the manœuvres of the line-of-battle ships, by which form of expression he may be understood to mean "during the fight," the *Pobieda* came into contact with a mine. It exploded amidships on her port-side but she succeeded in reaching the harbour without any casualties to her crew.

The *Pobieda* is a new ship of 12,674 tons, a finer vessel than even the *Petropavlovsk*.

The *Retvisan* and the *Tsarevich* are—or were—the two most powerful ships in Russia's Far-Eastern Squadron. Their displacement is 12,700 tons: their armour is from 10 inches to 6 inches, and each carries as main armament four 12-inch guns and twelve 6-inch. These two were disposed of in the first night attack on February 9th. Then follow, in order of strength, the *Peresviet* and the *Pobieda*—displacement 12.674 tons; armour from 9-inches to 6-inches; and main armament four 10-inch and ten 6-inch guns. Of these the *Pobieda* is now put effectually *hors de combat*. Finally we have the three ships *Poltava*, *Petropavlovsk* and *Sevastopol*. Their displacement is 10.950 tons; armour from 10 inches to 5 inches, and armament, four 12-inch and twelve 6-inch guns. Of these the *Petropavlovsk* has been sunk, the *Pobieda* has been torpedoed and the *Poltava* was struck below the water-line in the fight on the 9th February. Of the seven fine battle-ships on the Far-Eastern station two months ago, there now remain, therefore, only three fit to fight, namely:

The *Peresviet*	12,674 tons.
The *Sevastopol*	10,950 „
The *Poltava*	10,950 „

And it is very problematical whether the *Poltava* could go into action. The Port Arthur squadron is thus completely deprived of capacity to meet the Japanese fleet.

It will be observed that the Russian account attributes the disaster of the *Pobieda* also to a torpedo-mine. We are driven then to one of two conclusions, namely, that Admiral Togo, with extraordinary foresight and skill, managed to lay a field of mines in the area where he expected the Russian ships to manœuvre; or that what really happened was plain straight-forward torpedoing by Japanese craft. The public will not be left much larger in uncertainty, but it must be confessed that at present the situation is most perplexing. Nothing is certain except that the Russians have sustained a disaster more crushing than even the affair of the 9th of February.

A still later telegram than the above says that, according to Admiral Uftomsky only 5 men were saved from the Russian destroyer sunk by the Japanese.

The same message adds that immediately on arriving at the scene of combat the *Pobieda* was struck on the port side by a fish torpedo.

A telegram to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* dated at Chefoo on the 15th at mid-day says that a Chinese vessel reports having heard the sound of cannonading in the forenoon and afternoon of the 14th, and having seen search lights during the night. It is therefore conjectured thnt Admiral Togo is continuing his attack.

It is alleged that a number of the torpedoes laid by the Russian in Talien Bay broke adrift in a storm, and a bunch of some thirty of these missiles, all connected by chains were cast ashore on one of the Chanshan islands. Picked up by fishermen, they were sold for four dollars each to the natives, but when the latter were breaking them up, one of the torpedoes exploded and killed four men.

Monday, April 18.

From the Miao Islands comes confirmation of the statement that the action at Port Arthur continued throughout the 14th, and did not cease at 8 a.m. as originally reported.

Shanghai, not to be out-done in the news-manufacturing line, sends a story that several Russian cruisers, caught between two fires—this seems to be a replica of General Pflug's cross-fire at Chonju—and unable to enter the harbour, were captured by the Japanese; a wonderful tale.

The Port Arthur journal publishes a statement from which it would seem that the body of Chief Warrant-officer Sugino was buried at the same time with that of Commander Hirose. Both corpses were taken from the water in the vicinity of the *Fukui Maru*, and both were interred at the same time, the Russians paying them all honour, and making for their interment the same arrangements as they would have made for their own dead of similar rank.

The *Novy Krai* observes that it may be some comfort to the families of these brave men to learn how their remains were treated even by their enemies. That is a fine spirit, and our Port Arthur contemporary may be assured that by no people could it be more appreciated than by the Japanese.

What an extraordinarily dramatic story the whole incident makes! The long and close friendship between Hirose and Sugino. The intervention of Hirose to obtain permission for Sugino to take part in the second blocking expedition. The protracted search made by Hirose for his comrade in the hold and on the deck of the *Fukui Maru* as she lay sinking under a storm of Russian shot and shell. The death of Hirose himself immediately afterwards, a death due, in all human probability to that loyal search. The gathering up of the two corpses by the Russians, ignorant of their identity or their noble story, and their interment at Port Arthur with all due honours. And finally the death of Admiral Makaroff at the very time when Hirose's obsequies were being performed in Tokyo. The facts of the tale are far more eloquent than any words that might be employed in telling it.

A telegram from Paris dated the 15th instant confirms the previously received statement of Russian losses, namely, that the destroyer *Beztraschni*, becoming separated from her consorts in a fog, was sunk by the Japanese, only 5 of her crew being rescued, and that the *Pobieda*, torpedoed amid-ships on the starboard side, was seriously injured but succeeded in reaching the port. She had no casualties among her crew. Some days previously the *Sevastopol* and the *Poltava* had collided at the entrance to the harbour and received some damage.

This expression, "some days previously," is not borne out by other telegrams which report that the accident to the battle-ships occurred at the time when the Russian vessels were making for the harbour after the *Petropavlovsk* disaster. That seems much more probable. Had the collision happened "some days previously," it is inconceivable that it should not have been announced until other losses had to be reported. There is no difficulty in imagining the confusion into which the Russian squadron was thrown by the sinking of the *Petropavlovsk* and the torpedoing of the *Pobieda*, which doubtless occurred simultaneously or immediately afterwards. A collision when half a dozen ships are hastening to pass the narrow entrance of a harbour is not strange. Besides, Admiral Togo states that the *Poltava* was among the vessels which issued from Port Arthur on the morning of the 13th, and had she been in collision with the *Sevastopol* some days previously, she would probably have been under repair on the 13th inst.

Tuesday, April 19.

The *Asahi* publishes a Chefoo telegram, ascribed to a thoroughly trustworthy source, in the sense that from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on the 16th instant the sound of cannonading was heard in the direction of Port Arthur. Our contemporary conjectures that this was due to some false alarm such as that which recently perturbed Newchwang, and led to firing from the land batteries on some pilot junks; but there is difficulty in imagining that Port Arthur should be seized by a panic on a bright spring morning long after sun-rise.

Viceroy Alexieff reports with reference to the bombardment by the *Nisshin* and the *Kasuga* on the 15th instant that no damage whatever was done to the town or the shipping; that the enemy fired 185 shells; that the forts and the *Pobieda* replied; and that several Russian soldiers and some Chinese were wounded. The Viceroy further states that 14 ships took part in the bombardment whereas we know that there were only two cruisers. His Excellency's reference to the *Pobieda* is significant. Does he intend to convey an indirect intimation that her torpedo experience has not impaired her fighting strength, or is he preparing the public to hear of her conversion into a stationary battery of the *Retvisan* type, one foot on sea and one on shore?

Incidentally it may be observed that the Plancon-Dessino, or Pflug-Dessino, factory has a hard problem. It has been declaring lately that the Japanese squadron would not face the Russians, and with regard to the affair on the 13th it has told us that the Russians retreated in the face of an overwhelming superiority on the Japanese side. Was the superiority so overwhelming? The Japanese had 6 battle-ships, 2 first-class cruisers and four second-class cruisers. The Russians had five battle-ships, 3 first-class cruisers (the *Bayan*, the *Pallada* and the *Askold*) and 1 second-class cruiser (the *Novik*). Nine fighting ships on one side and 12 on the other. If a battle was to be postponed until greater equality of force could be assured, postponement was likely to be indefinite.

Wednesday, April 20.

The *Nisshin* and the *Kasuga* seem to have won golden opinions in their first fight. It will be remembered that after the Japanese ships had several times bombarded Port Arthur with high-angle fire from the shelter of Liautishan promontory, the Russians were reported to have built and armed a fort on a site chosen so as to command this part of the coast. Hence, when the *Nisshin* and the *Kasuga* were ordered, on the 15th instant, to steam to Pigeon Bay and repeat the experiment of high-angle fire, they had to deal with this fort. Admiral Togo's report shows that they silenced it by way of preliminary to bombarding the town. The fire of the two new cruisers is said to have been most effective, and Japanese naval officers speak with enthusiasm of the sighting apparatus with which the guns are furnished. They say that it is superior to anything in the navy. These same officers also combat strongly the depreciatory view entertained in some quarters about high-angle fire. They claim that such fire is of unquestionable value, first because the enemy has virtually no protection against it, and, secondly, because the damage wrought is much greater than the opponents of this kind of gunnery are disposed to admit. It was by high angle fire that Wei-hai-wei was reduced in 1895, and the Russians at Port Arthur have suffered so much by it that they at least must appreciate its value.

The truth is that the Japanese are repeating at Port Arthur the tactics they followed at Wei-hai-wei nine years ago. Torpedo attacks and high-angle fire were the weapons they used then and they are using the same weapons now.

Thursday, April 21.

Chefoo telegraphs (*Jiji Shimpo* correspondent) that at [illegible] a.m. on the 19th searchlights were observed in active use in the direction of Port Arthur and the sound of cannonading was heard. It is presumed that another Japanese attack has taken place.

It appears that the Russians have increased their apparatus of search-lights. Originally they had only four light-stations but on the occasion of the recent attack there were six. Accounts differ, however, as to the effect of these lights. One statement is that the *Koriu Maru* and her consorts found themselves full in the field of the lights and were compelled to stop their engines. For a moment it seemed that they must abandon the enterprise but fortunately a few shots aimed at the most troublesome of the lights resulted in its extinction. That is one account. But another and more credible is that the Russian search-lights did not prove any impediment. On the contrary, they served as beacons. It was a wet foggy night; so thick that the units of the little squadron lost touch of each other *en route* for the place of operations. But happily they came together again on the ground, and it may be observed *en passant* that this faculty of Japanese seamen to reach their objective point without accident even under the most adverse conditions shows excellent management. Arrived at the place where, or whereabouts, the mines were to be laid, the destroyers and the *Koriu Maru* derived much aid from the Russian search-lights and accomplished their purpose without difficulty. The officers of the destroyers say that they had never gone so close to the port previously, and that, considering all the circumstances as well as the *denouement* of escape with no serious casualty, they have reason to be thankful to heaven.

The Russian destroyer, *Beztraschni*, which was sunk on the morning of the 13th in the neighbourhood of the promontory called Sien-sang, which lies to the south-east of Golden Hill Fort, appears to have been on guard duty for the night. She was on her way back to the harbour when she fell in with the Japanese. It will be remembered that Admiral Togo describes the action as of ten minutes' duration. Admiral Togo's despatches, however, always err markedly on the side of reserve. The officers of the destroyer squadron are understood to say that five or six minutes sufficed to seal the fate of the unfortunate *Beztraschni*. The very first shower of shells discharged at her struck her boiler and machinery, and a terrible explosion followed, in the midst of which she went to the bottom.

The dramatic incident of the sudden apparition of a strong Japanese fleet emerging from the mist, whereas the Russians had imagined themselves in pursuit of a squadron of four weak cruisers, only, is mentioned in the Japanese narratives, as well it may be. Much praise is given to this cruiser squadron for manœuvering so successfully as to draw the Russians out of port. When the latter apprehended that they had fallen into something like a trap, they retreated with all speed and in some disorder. As for the unfortunate flag-ship, when she struck the mine she immediately became enveloped in a cloud of smoke and steam, which concealed her for some minutes. When it cleared away, she had ceased to be a ship on the sea and was represented by her masts only. Such extraordinary celerity of doom and such indications would seem to imply that the mine called into activity some agents of destruction within the ship herself. The explosion of her boilers would scarcely account for it, but it is conceivable that some of her own torpedoes were ignited. She had six torpedo tubes, four of them being above water behind 5-inch armour. Possibly she carried a number of loaded torpedoes, and if one or two of these were exploded by the mine the result is easy to conceive. In the battle of the Yalu the Japanese flag-ship *Matsushima* was hulled by a 10.2-inch shell which killed four men at the port torpedo-tube and passed very close to a loaded Whitehead torpedo which, had it exploded, would have destroyed the ship. On the Chinese side when their ships went into action they had torpedoes in their tubes and others charged, ready on deck to reload. We know that the *Chen Yuen* and the *Ching Yuen*, at all events, got rid of all their torpedoes when they came under the fire of the Japanese, and that the former vessel did not adopt this precaution a moment too soon for she had hardly discharged her dangerous cargo when her stern tube was struck by a shell. It is quite conceivable that the torpedoes carried by the *Petropavlovsk* herself contributed materially to her destruction.

As to the remaining Russian ships, they evidently imagined themselves entangled in a field of their own mines. That is shown by their resort to showering a hail of quick-fired projectiles into the surrounding sea as they retreated. Some Japanese officers think that the forts assisted in this matter, but we doubt it.

The distance was too great to allow any accurate observation of the second Russian ship, which seemed to be disabled. She looked like the *Pobieda*, and there can be little doubt that she too struck a Japanese mine. That is all the Japanese say, but of course the Russian report makes the matter clear.

On the occasion of the second mine-laying operation, namely the night of the 14th and 15th, the Japanese squadron was fired on by the forts but sustained no damage.

The bombardment by the *Kasuga* and the *Nisshin* appears to have been quite a spectacle. It began at 10 a.m. and lasted until noon. The two vessels steamed round to Pigeon Bay and commenced operations by engaging the fort that the Russians had erected precisely to guard against a renewed attack from this quarter. The fort is said to have been very soon silenced, the heavy Japanese shells taking conspicuous effect on it. Meanwhile the ships of the Japanese main squadron were lying off the harbour just out of effective range of the forts. The officers had chairs on deck and were seated there watching the results of the high-angle fire, just as though they were part of the audience at a wrestling match. Whenever a shell from the *Kasuga* or the *Nisshin* went home and worked manifest damage, these onlooking officers and the men of their ships would raise a cheer and clap hands. A veritable circus in short. To what are the Russians reduced when they have no choice but to thus afford sport for their enemies!

It was the *Yashima* that espied the triplet of buoyant torpedo-mines on the morning of the 15th, and exploded then harmlessly with a shell from her Hotchkiss 3-pounders. The supposition is that this bunch of mines had broken adrift from its moorings during the heavy wind and sea of the preceding five days.

Chefoo insists that the *Askold* and another Russian cruiser were badly hurt in an engagement on the 14th. What engagement? We know of none.

Friday, April 22.

An officer of the Japanese torpedo squadrons that were engaged at Port Arthur on the 13th instant, is represented by the *Asahi Shimbun* as alleging that in addition to the *Petropavlovsk* two or three of the Russian vessels struck the Japanese mines and suffered grave injuries. As to the rapid sinking of the flag-ship, this officer thinks that the mine fired her forward magazine, and that the ship was practically torn across.

The principal newspapers of Germany and Austria are reported to have criticized Admiral Makaroff very severely for want of perception and forethought. It certainly does appear strange in the eyes of even the least expert observer that the Russian Admiral should have conceived the serious idea of annihilating the four Japanese cruisers sent to challenge him. They were all vessels of nearly 24 knots speed, and if there was to be anything like getting to close range, the Russian cruisers *Bayan*, *Askold*, and *Novik* alone could have had any hope of accomplishing the feat. The fourth Russian cruiser, *Pallada*, is a 20-knot boat and as for the battle-ships *Peresviet*, *Pobieda*, *Poltava*, *Petropavlovsk* and *Sevastopol*, the best of them can not exceed 18 knots. It seems, therefore, that Makaroff must have known the hopelessness of carrying any overwhelming force to an effective position against such vessels as the Japanese cruisers, the slowest of which was the *Yoshino* (23.8 knots). What then did he go out for? If he did not recognise a decoy, he ought to have recognised it.

The *Neue Freie Press* alleges that Admiral Togo had his base at the Miao Islands, and that the fact had been stated in British newspapers, so that it should have been well known to Makaroff. The question is, however, was it a fact. The Miao Islands are Chinese territory. A Japanese squadron could not make them its base without distinctly violating Chinese neutrality, as Makaroff himself seems to have done when he sank the *Hanyei Maru*.

The Berlin *Tageblatt*, which has hitherto been very Russophil, now admits that the Russians were quite wrong in alleging that their catastrophe was due to their own mines, and says they have been manifestly outmanœuvred. The same paper notes that the Japanese ships manage to destroy Russian mines instead of being destroyed by them.

THE "PETROPAVLOVSK" DISASTER.

Saturday, April 16.

According to information received in Japan the loss of life on the *Petropavlovsk* was as follows:

The Admiral and his Chief of Staff.
Three Staff Officers.
Six Officers of the Staff.
Four non-Combatant Officers of the Staff.
One Colonel of the Staff.
Seven Combatant Officers.
Three Non-combatant Officers.
596 combatant warrant, and petty officers and men.

Profound emotion has been caused in St. Petersburg by the news of the destruction of the *Petropalovsk*, with 800 victims. Five officers and two bluejackets were saved. Admiral Alexieff has taken the naval command.

The Captain and and the chief medical offier were severely wounded. Prince Cyril was slightly wounded. Five officers and 32 men were more or less injured.

It may be noted that in 1902 the late Admiral Makaroff received the First Class Order of the Rising Sun. He was in his 56th year at the time of his death.

In the absence of official intelligence, which may be expected at any moment, various versions of the loss of the *Petropavlovsk* are circulated. The director of the East Chinese Railway at Port Arthur telegraphs—or is said to have telegraphed—to Chefoo that the Russian squadron having gone out on the morning of the 13th to engage the Japanese, was on its way back to the harbour when the flag-ship struck one of the Russian mines and went down. But if that version be accepted, how are we to account for the fact that only 38 officers and men were saved out of a crew of some seven hundred? The flag-ship sinking in broad daylight, at the mouth of her own harbour, within bowshot of the Russian forts and within arm's length of her consorts, and yet carrying down with her nearly the whole of her crew, is an almost inconceivable spectacle. We are not surprised, therefore, to learn that the same official sent a later telegram to Chefoo denying that the ship was sunk by a Russian mine and explaining that she was torpedoed by a Japanese craft. Takeshiki's story is that during the night of the 12th the Japanese laid some thirty mines near the entrance to the harbour, and then stood in the next day to entice the Russians out, with the result that after a sharp engagement, in which the enemy suffered heavily, the *Petropavlovsk*, on her way home, struck one of the mines. This, too, is difficult of credence, since the ship should have struck on her way out of the harbour if the mines were laid as suggested. On the whole the most reasonable conjecture is that she was struck fairly by a Japanese torpedo while in action, that the incident led to a precipitate retreat on the part of the whole squadron and that the *Petropavlovsk* sunk before reaching the port. Even that hypothesis, however, leaves us marvelling how a destroyer or torpedo-boat could approach a line-of-battle ship in daylight, and how so few of the latter's crew were saved.

Shanghai telegraphs a story of its own. It says that on the morning of the 13th at 7 o'clock five Japanese ships approached Port Arthur and finding the *Bayan* outside, attacked her. The *Askold* and another cruiser (three-funnelled) came to the *Bayan's* assistance. The engagement lasted 15 minutes, and the *Bayan*, severely injured, escaped to the shelter of the forts. In this account we hear nothing whatever of the *Petropavlovsk* nor yet of the destroyer which the Japanese claim to have sunk. Of course it is possible that Shanghai's report refers to a cruiser engagement independent of the operations of the main squadron.

One fact emerges quite clearly, namely, that the harbour is not blocked. The Russian ships seem to experience no serious difficulty in making their ingress and egress. There is, however, a statement attributed to the officers of the British ship *Espiegle*, which was apparently on her way from Newchwang at the time of the engagement. They are reported to have said that the cruisers found outside when the Japanese squadron approached were unable to get in and suffered severely. It may be that although the blocking operation was not entirely successful, it impeded the entrance sufficiently to render ingress difficult at a moment of crisis.

Of course it is to be remembered in connexion with the heavy loss of life, that a vessel does not carry her boats into action. The *Petropavlovsk* had little means of saving the lives of her own people.

The *Hochi Shimbun* recalls the fact that Admiral Makaroff was in command of the Russian Far-Eastern Squadron in 1895 when the Powers of the Triple Alliance compelled Japan to surrender Liaotung. Admiral Ting perished by his own hand in the sequel of his unsuccessful attempt to defend Wei-hai-wei against Japan's attacks. Admiral Makaroff has now perished in his attempt to defend Port Arthur.

It will be everywhere recalled that the Admiral was a strenuous advocate of the potentialities of the torpedo. And now, so far as we can see, he has perished by a torpedo.

The Japanese note that just as the people of Tokyo were following Commander Hirose to his grave, Admiral Makaroff was perishing in the Liaotung Sea. Superstitious folks would be disposed to draw strange inferences.

Monday, April 18.

Meanwhile the Plancon-Dessino intelligence department has been at work. On the 13th General Dessino published in Shanghai a statement from M. Plancon in Mukden to the effect that on the morning of the 13th a Japanese squadron appeared off Port Arthur, and Admiral Makaroff went out to encounter it. But on seeing the Russian ships the Japanese retired to a long distance, and Makaroff returned to harbour. This story has several grains of truth. Admiral Makaroff, to his honour be it said, did go out to meet the Japanese. The rest is known.

On the following day, however, M. Plancon ceased to conceal the facts. He telegraphed to General Dessino that the *Petropavlovsk*, when returning to port, struck a Russian mine and went down, taking with her Admiral Makaroff and all the crew with the exceptions already reported.

It is noteworthy that all the Russian reports seek to attribute the sinking of the ship to a Russian torpedo. Their view evidently is that less disgrace is involved in blundering fatally than in falling by the enemy's hand. That is matter of opinion, but we entertain not the least doubt as to the opinion Makaroff himself would have entertained. Meanwhile the Plancon-Dessino factory has set a problem for itself. It tells us that the enemy having retired beyond reach, Admiral Makaroff returned to port. So then he entered the harbour in a leisurely manner, unpressed by the Japanese, and without any reason for hurry or confusion. Under such circumstances how did the *Petropavlovsk* manage to run on a mine laid by the Russians themselves? What a cruelly inglorious death these people assign to their own hero!

It appears that the Japanese ships employed in the operations at Port Arthur on the 12th and the 13th were the six line-of-battle ships, *Mikasa, Hatsuse, Asahi, Shikishima, Yashima* and *Fuji*; the two first-class cruisers, *Nisshin* and *Kasuga*, and the four second-class cruisers, *Kasagi, Chitose, Takasago* and *Yoshino*. The three Destroyer Divisions consisted of the *Ikazuchi* the *Inazuma* the *Akebono*, the *Oboro*, the *Harusame*, the *Murasame*, the *Hayatori*, the *Asagiri*, the *Murakumo*, the *Yugiri*, the *Shiranui* and the *Kagero*. Finally there was a Torpedo-boat Squadron, namely, the *Hayabusa*, the *Kasasagi*, the *Manazuru* and the *Chidori*.

There were twenty-eight vessels in all, and the *Koriu Maru* made a twenty-ninth. The *Koriu* is a merchant steamer. Her part was limited to transporting the torpedoes which were laid so successfully. We presume that Chief Engineer Taneda Migihachiro, and Captain Oda Kiyozo were on board, as these two officers are specially trained in the business of laying torpedo-mines, and great skill must have been employed to lay mines in such a position without attracting the attention of the Russians.

ADMIRAL TOGO'S REPORT.

The Admiral's report has at last reached the Naval Department in Tokyo. It came at 5 p.m. on the 16th, and it says:—

The united squadron, as previously arranged, commenced operations on the 11th instant and proceeded to make an eighth attack upon Port Arthur. The Fourth and Fifth Destroyer Squadrons and the Fourteenth Torpedo-boat Squadron, accompanying the transport *Koryo Maru*, advanced during the night of the 12th instant towards the harbour, and passing through the field of the enemy's search-lights to the immediate vicinity of the port, laid torpedo-mines at various places by a rapid process.

At dawn on the 13th the Second Destroyer Squadron, to which a special duty had been entrusted, steamed to the promontory of Sien-sang, and while steering thence in a south-easterly direction observed a four-funelled destroyer of the enemy coming up from the east and heading for the port. The squadron intercepted this destroyer and after a fight of about 10 minutes, sunk her. At the same time another Russian destroyer was sighted coming round Liautishan promontory, and the squadron proceeded to attack her, but the range being long, she succeeded in effecting her escape. The squadron sustained little injury in this encounter, the total casualties beng two men of the *Inazuma* slightly wounded. With regard to the crew of the enemy's destroyer that was sunk, there was no time to save them as the enemy's cruiser *Bayan* was seen approaching.

At 8 a.m. the Third Principal Squadron approached the port for the double purpose of protecting the Second Destroyer squadron and reconnoitering. At 9 a.m. the enemy's cruiser *Bayan* steamed out boldly and opened fire on our vessels which replied leisurely and drove her off. Immediately afterwards the *Novik*, the *Diana*, the *Askold*, the *Petropavlovsk*, the *Pobieda*, the *Poltava* and other vessels, issuing to the assistance of the *Bayan*, advanced to the attack. Our Third Squadron, while replying to the fire of these ships, retreated slowly to the south-east, drawing the enemy after it to a point about 15 nautical miles from the port. The Third Squadron then signalled by wireless telegraphy to the First Principal Squadron, which was waiting at a distance of some thirty nautical miles under cover of a fog. This Squadron immediately advanced at full speed, and the enemy sighting its approach, put about and made for the harbour, our ships following in hot pursuit. In the haste of attempting to escape, the leading vessel of the enemy's squadron, a ship resembling the *Petropavlovsk*, was seen to strike one of the mines laid by us during the night, and shortly afterwards she went to the bottom. This incident seemed to throw the enemy into much confusion, and it appeared that another of their vessels was disabled, but owing to the disorder that reigned in these squadrons it was difficult to distinguish anything clearly. This was at half-past ten in the forenoon. Thereafter the remaining ships of the enemy, keeping up a perpetual fire over the sea in their immediate vicinity, retired into the harbour. By noon no vestige of them remained outside. In the encounter between the enemy's ships and our Third Squadron, the latter did not suffer at all, and it is probable that the enemy's losses also were small. Our First Squadron did not get within range of the Russian ships.

On the same day at 1 p.m. the squadron left the neighbourhood of Port Arthur and repaired to a previously appointed rendezvous where the night was passed. On the next day, the 14th instant, at 1 p.m. we again advanced towards Port Arthur and on the following morning, at 3 a.m., the Second, Fourth, and Fifth Destroyer Squadrons and the Ninth Torpedo-boat Squadron went to the mouth of the harbour and discharged a certain duty entrusted to them. At 7 a.m. on the same day our Third Principal Squadron proceeded to the vicinity of the port to reconnoitre. None of the enemy's vessels was observed, and everything seemed quiet in the harbour. At 9 a.m. the First Principal Squadron, when steaming towards the place, observed three floating mines of the enemy which had broken loose from their moorings. These we destroyed. At 10 a.m. the *Nisshin* and the *Kasuga* were sent round to the west of Liautishan whence, for about 2 hours, they bombarded the place with high-angle fire. The enemy's forts and the ships in the harbour replied from time to time, but our vessels did not suffer any injury. This was the first occasion on which the above two vessels were engaged. Their fire seems to have been very successful, and they were able to silence the newly constructed Russian battery on the west of Liautishan. At 1 p.m. the squadron returned to their base. Our squadrons did not lose a single man in these combined operations. They achieved some success, and this together with the immunity they enjoyed is attributable to His Majesty's virtues. Our men displayed much valour and resolution. It is matter for special thankfulness and congratulation that our torpedo-craft and other ships, though steaming again and again in seas dotted with the enemy's mines, have never met with a single disaster. We owe this to the protection of heaven.

Stockholm reports that the news of the latest reverses at Port Arthur has produced a feeling of the profoundest depression in St. Petersburg, and that even in military circles the situation is regarded with the utmost gloominess.

It is noticeable that Admiral Togo never by any chance reports an incident unless he is quite certain of it. He does not even claim to have recognised the *Petropavlovsk*, but speaks merely of a ship resembling her. He says nothing of the torpedoing of the *Pobieda*, which evidently happened when the squadrons were from ten to fifteen miles apart. His statement is only that one of the enemy's vessels seemed to be disabled.

It is also noticeable that the deadly potentialities of the destroyer react upon the fate of its crew. Admiral Togo explains that owing to the approach of the *Bayan* his Second Destroyer Squadron could do nothing to save the crew of the *Bestraschni*. And the *Bayan* saved only 5 out of the destroyer's crew of some 50, the *Bayan* herself being evidently afraid of lingering in the neighbourhood of the Japanese torpedo-craft. A destroyer is a terrible instrument of war; terrible to the enemy and terrible to its own crew.

The mystery of the enormous loss resulting from the sinking of the *Petropavlovsk* remains to be solved. She was accompanied by a number of ships. The evidence is that she was leading them home to the harbour. Yet only a mere handful of her people were rescued. Men-of-war do not carry all their boats when they go into action, but they are not entirely denuded of them, and it is hard to understand how the gallant Admiral and his officers and men perished in such a wholesale manner.

As for Admiral Togo's strategy, it is now quite plain. During the night he laid a field of mines outside Port Arthur. In the morning he sent in a weak squadron of cruisers. The Russians, seeing, as they supposed, an easy prey and naturally longing for some success after their long record of disasters moved out to attack. The Japanese cruisers retreated, drawing the enemy after them. Then at a given signal Admiral Togo with a powerful squadron emerged from the fog. The Russians naturally put about and made all speed for the harbour, crossing the field of newly laid mines. We know the result. They claim that the mines were their own. That is an insult to the memory of Admiral Makaroff. It is a thousand times better to be unfortunate than incompetent.

Tuesday, April 19.

The Times' correspondent wires from the *Haimun* that he believes Port Arthur to be now sealed. That is an important opinion and it may prove correct in view of Admiral Togo's latest doings. The Japanese commander has evidently ceased his attempts to seal the place by sinking ships and has had recourse to mines. After the sinking of the *Petropavlovsk* and after the remainder of the Russian squadron had taken refuge in port with the *Pobieda* also disabled, Admiral Togo's report shows that he again sent in his torpedo-craft to discharge "a certain duty" and that they discharged it successfully. That can only mean that they laid mines in the avenue or avenues of exit, and it is probable that the Russians will be very chary of venturing out. One incident of the affair on the 13th is very significant. Admiral Togo tells us that after the torpedoing of the *Petropavlovsk* and after the apparent disablement of the *Pobieda*, the Russian ships were thrown into confusion, and steamed towards Port Arthur, discharging their guns into the sea in their immediate vicinity. That was plainly a manœuvre intended to blow up any mines that might have been adjacent to them, and in the face of such fact it sounds strange to be told that the unfortunate flag-ship and her consort ran on their own mines by accident.

A Japanese officer of the naval staff is represented as saying that the place where the *Petropavlovsk* sank was about a nautical mile from the entrance to Port Arthur, on the south-east of Hwangkin-shan fort, near a rock called Luchin.

It is stated that Captain Oda Kiyozo, who with Chief Engineer Taneda superintended the laying of the mechanical mines which blew up the *Petropavlovsk* and disabled the *Pobieda*, is the inventor of an important process which ensures the mooring of the mine in an effective position under all conditions of tide or depth of water. For this invention Captain Oda received the Fifth Class Order of the Rising Sun, but his first opportunity of utilizing the invention was on the 12th instant. Presumably the mines subsequently laid were also under the direction of Captain Oda and Chief Engineer Taneda. Roughly speaking these mechanical mines have to be laid at a distance from each other equal in feet to the number of pounds of explosive with which they are charged: otherwise the explosion of one would fire the others. Therefore there is always a danger of a ship passing innocuously through a line of mines, and therefore they are generally laid in two complementary lines. The naval staff officer quoted above indicates a place within a mile of the harbour's mouth as the field of the mines, but even there it must have been very difficult to select a site with any degree of assurance that the Russian ships would pass over it. Captain Oda had command of torpedo-boat No. 23 which sank the *Laiyuen* in Weihaiwei harbour in 1895. The *Koriu Maru* from which the mines were laid is a torpedo transport vessel of 2,700 tons and 15 knots, recently constructed.

Wednesday, April 20.

Very great regret is expressed by Japanese naval officers at their inability to save the lives of Admiral Makaroff and at least a large number of the crew of the *Petropavlovsk*. It was their duty to save them, they say, and it would have been their sincere pleasure. But in that region there generally prevails throughout the whole spring a strong southerly wind, and it happened that such a wind was blowing with great violence on the day of the disaster. Had boats put off to the scene of the catastrophe they could not have rejoined the ships but would inevitably have been blown towards the harbour. Thus the Japanese had to look on idly. Nothing is said by these officers about the failure of the Russian ships to save the Admiral and his comrades, but so far as the people on shore were concerned it is plain that they too must have been paralysed by the difficulties which deterred the Japanese. If boats could not have rowed back to the Japanese squadron in the teeth of the wind, neither could they have rowed out from the harbour to the *Petropavlovsk*.

Thursday, April 21.

There is a suspicion in Japan that Prince Cyril was really lost and that the report as to his having been wounded was put abroad by the Russians to soften the shock of the greater disaster. We sincerely trust that the suspicion is ill-founded.

Shanghai alleges, on the authority of Major-General Dessino, that Commander Crown of the *Mandjur* was among those lost with the *Petropavlovsk*. But the captain of the *Mandjur* was under parole not to take any further part in the war. Very strong evidence will be needed to prove thathe violated his promise.

THE RUSSIAN DISPOSITIONS.

Monday, April 18.

It is difficult to make out exactly what force the Russians have on the right bank of the Yalu or whether they intend to make a resolute stand there. Below Wiju, at a place called Sanhatsu, where the Yalu is divided by islands into three streams, a force of 3,000 infantry with 10 guns is said to be posted, but at Tatung-kou, near the mouth of the river, we hear of only 50 troopers and 100 foot-soldiers. Above Wiju there is a place called Suku-chin where the river is fordable. It was here that the Japanese crossed in 1894, and the Russians are said to be guarding the spot with a battalion of infantry 500 strong. They have also placed bodies of 20 or 30 sharp-shooters on the islands in the stream to watch the Japanese and harrass them. In Kiulien they are said to have 2,000 cavalry and infantry with 30 guns; in Takushan they have 300 infantry; in Fenhwang 3,000 infantry, and in Antung it is reported that twenty thousand are concentrated. All these details we gather from the *Asahi* and the *Kokumin*, whose correspondents have collected them at the front. They make an intelligible *ensemble*, for they show the Russians disposed so as to render the passage of the river as difficult as possible and prepared to strike a heavy blow from Antung at whatever point the Japanese choose for their advance. The total force detailed above is from twenty to thirty thousand, which figure we take to be a close approximation to the truth. It would not however, indicate any intention of making a very stubborn stand at the Yalu. Rather the strategy would seem to aim at delaying the Japanese advance as much as possible in order to gain time to effect a heavy concentration in the neighbourhood of Fenhwang, or perhaps, at a point nearer to Liaoyang.

In other quarters the reports show 2,000 Russians at Yingkow (Newchwang) and 2,000 between that place and Kaiping, with 22 guns mounted in the Yingkow forts. That disposition may be summed up by saying that 4,000 men are guarding the north-eastern littoral of the Gulf of Pechili, to prevent a landing at Newchwang or between Newchwang and the Liaotung Peninsula. Connected with this precaution is the massing of 10,000 men at Tashikiao, where the railways from Newchwang to Port Arthur and from Mukden to Port Arthur join. These ten thousand men could be despatched at a moment's notice—presumably—to any point on the west coast of Liaotung menaced by the Japanese.

It may be assumed that there are twenty thousand men at least in Port Arthur, but as to the force at Dalny we have no information. Yet it is evident that Dalny must be the basis of operations for guarding the east coast of Liaotung and the north-western littoral of the Yellow Sea. If we assume ten thousand men assigned to the latter duty, then the four forces hitherto enumerated—namely, those having their bases at Tashikiao, Port Arthur, Dalny and Antung — represent an aggregate of from seventy to eighty thousand men. There must also be a large force at Vladivostock, and in the districts adjacent. Then at Mukden and Liaoyang are concentrated perhaps as many more as all the above put together. It is guess work at best, but it serves to convey some general idea of the field of operations, and to suggest how greatly the Russian forces have to be scattered. They would find immense difficulty in putting a hundred thousand combatives into the fighting line at any point.

Thursday, April 21.

There appears to be no doubt that the Russians are about to make a determined stand at the Yalu. They have fortified the line from Kiulien to Antung and probably southward as far as Tatung-kou, and they are said to have massed fifty thousand men of all arms at this position. Frequent skirmishes are said to be taking place in the neighbourhood of the island of Fusan, which is in mid-stream at Sukchin above Wiju. The Russians make essays to cross the river, and are driven back by the fire of the Japanese, who, in turn cross over and carry off the bodies of any that have fallen on the enemy's side. It is stated that the Russians offer resolute resistance to any movements on the part of Japanese cavalry, but that they show great caution about getting within range of the infantry. A big battle is expected before many days have passed, but there is nothing said about the strategy which is to culminate in fighting. Nothing is less likely than that the Japanese will attempt to cross in the face of the enemy's entrenchments. They may, however, essay the passage along a very extended front; that is to say, cross at several points simultaneously. What seems more probable, however, is that a strong turning movement has been in progress for some time and that it will culminate in a few days.

Men who have just returned from the front describe the Russian cavalry as very efficient. The horses seem to thrive on a diet of rice and straw, which is by no means ideal fodder. When a trooper wants to use his carbine he makes his horse lie down and digs a shelter trench to protect the animal, which remains perfectly quiet until its master puts his hand on the bridle when the animal leaps up at once and gallops off.

The Russians that have crossed the Tumen and pushed south as far as Sonchin are supposed to be intended as a diversion; in other words, to draw off a portion of the Japanese forces from the Yalu. They threaten to advance to the neighbourhood of Pyong-yang, but it is a very long ride from Kilju to Pyong-yang.

RUSSIA'S CONFIDENCE.

The confidence of the Russians is magnificent. We have already reproduced some of the utterances of St. Petersburg journals —utterances that sound strangely discordant with recent events—and now we find in the Paris correspondence of *The Times* an account of an interview granted by General Sakharoff to a representative of the *Figaro*. General Sakharoff was then Chief of the Russian General Staff and Acting Minister of War. He speaks of 400,000 men as the minimum of the army Russia will send to Manchuria, and of 200,000 men as the approximate maximum of Japan's force. As to the duration of the war, he opines that it will last until it has reached "its logical and necessary conclusion" for he thinks that "Russia will not be in a humour to give it up before she has quite finished." He does not know the name of the Japanese General commanding in Korea, and he affects to be quite indifferent on the subject. "They have marquises," he says, "barons, generalissimos and marshals. All that is very fine and makes an effect, but is it really serious? We shall see."

That is precisely the kind of mood that brought about the war. Russia was so persuaded of her own majestic might that she could not credit the notion of any Oriental nation defying her. General Sakharoff spoke at the end of February. He is now in Manchuria, where he commands the First Army Corps. If one of the graces of Russian gallantry is to publicly insult a foe, then General Sakharoff is graceful and gallant. We think with pleasure that Anglo-Saxon ideals are different. And for the Japanese there is this to be said, that just as they entered upon the present terrible struggle quietly and resolutely, so their successes have not provoked them to the smallest display of boastfulness or assurance. They are going on steadily and coolly, and not once has a responsible officer, politician or publicist in this country attempted to ridicule or insult Russia. She is left to blow her own trumpet without awakening any echoes.

"L'ECHO DE CHINE."

We are constrained to express our assent with the protest that the *Echo de Chine* makes against accusations of having sold itself to Russia for the manufacture of misleading telegrams. No journal published in the Far East can claim to have completely avoided the publication of erroneous intelligence since this war broke out. We certainly make no such claim on our own account. It is virtually impossible to avoid all mistakes, and it is virtually impossible to guarantee our judgment against being coloured, more or less, by our sympathies. The sympathy of England is with Japan. The sympathy of France is with Russia. There is no legitimate fault to be found with either sentiment. The French, who are an eminently generous people, would surely approve and applaud Japan, just as they have always approved and applauded the weaker of two combatants, were they not bound to Russia by the ties of an alliance which they consider essential to their national well-being. We are persuaded that their position is fully appreciated in Japan and that no one resents it. If events present themselves to Russia's friends in an aspect different from that worn by them in the eyes of Japan's friends, why should either side upbraid or attribute evil motives to the other? The truth probably lies between the two, and each is brought a little nearer to it by union of efforts.

MARQUIS ITO AND THE PERRY MEMORIAL RELIEF FUND.

Marquis Ito has subscribed *yen* 1,500 to the Perry Memorial Relief Fund, and has addressed the following letter to the Committee:—

Tokyo, April 20, 1904.

GENTLEMEN,—Having upon my return from Korea heard of the admirable endeavour on the part of the American citizens here to raise a fund in commemoration of Commodore Perry, I hasten to request you to accept *yen* 1,500 as my contribution to the Fund. Permit me at the same time to express my warmest sympathy with the work, which will not only perpetuate the memory of your great Commodore, already so revered and beloved here, but will also carry home to every one of us, even to the poorest families, the traditional friendly feeling of Americans towards our countrymen.

It is an enterprise which, to a certain extent, may be interpreted as an endeavour on the part of those who first introduced us to Western ideals to lead us farther in the universal comity of humanitarian principles before which national frontiers vanish and ought to vanish.

I hope sincerely that the work will be crowned with the utmost success.

Yours truly,

HIROBUMI ITO, Marquis.

KOREA.

Saturday, April 16.

There is again talk of an appearance of Russian troops at Kyong-song, which, as our readers doubtless remember, lies on the north-eastern coast of Korean. A squadron of 40 cavalry have arrived at the place and are said to be the advanced guard of a force of five thousand. It is not easy to see what this move means. Apparently it has no special meaning, for there is nothing to be achieved by Russian troops in that quarter unless they are designed to oppose an anticipated advance against Vladivostock.

Prince Li Chi-yong left Seoul on the 14th instant *en route* for Japan. His departure is well timed, since it falls at the time when the Russians have completely evacuated north-western Korea.

A telegram to the Foreign Office in Tokyo announces that a conflagration broke out in the Hamyong Palace in Seoul on the night of the 15th instant, and that, with the exception of the foreign-style wing, nearly the whole edifice was destroyed. The Emperor has removed to the Imperial Household Department building near the United States Legation. It is supposed that the fire had its origin in some accident connected with the repair of the heating apparatus of the Palace.

Monday, April 18.

There is a story from Seoul that the Russophil Li Hakkeun, before leaving Korea for Shanghai,—as previously reported—made an agreement with a French citizen whose name is not mentioned. The provisions were that all building of forts or construction of harbours should be entrusted to the French; that all essential surveys, of a military or other nature, should be performed by Frenchmen, and that if military or other experts were needed, they should be engaged from France. This agreement is said to have received the sanction of the Court, and there is much trouble now between the latter and the Foreign Office in Seoul.

It is stated that when Li Yong-ik left Korea recently for Japan, a sum of 226,900 *yen* of public money was lodged with the First Bank in his name; and that he has now been required to make it payable to another official, from which fact the improbability of his speedy return to Korea is inferred.

The Korean Government is said to have agreed that Japanese fishermen shall be free to ply their trade on the west coast of Korea as they do on the east. Formal consent has not yet been given, however.

According to statistics compiled at the end of February, the number of Japanese subjects then in Masampo was 16,082; the number in Chemulpo 6,991; and the number in Seoul 5,137. These numbers have since increased on the arrival of every steamer. Many are said to have been disappointed in their purpose, and to be now in considerable distress.

The *Shogyo Shimpo* recommends that Japan should assist the Korean Sovereign to re-build his palace, or should even undertake the work *in toto*. Korea has done much to aid the Japanese troops and some return ought to be made if possible.

There are many rumours about the burning of the Korean palace, but the view now prevailing in Seoul is that it was incendiarism. All the records of the dynasty and all the heir-looms of the Imperial family are said to have been destroyed, so that the loss is very great. The material loss alone is put at four million *yen*. Naturally the incident has caused great consternation among the Koreans, who attach a superstitious import to every unusual occurrence.

The recently reported re-appearance of Russian troops in north-eastern Korea, especially at Kyong-song, is considered to have been an unsubstantial menace. There is no evidence that the Russians have any appreciable force in that region. Nevertheless the fact that the telegraph station at Kyong-song has been seized by Russian soldiers seems indisputable, and it is further reported that the Tonghaks in the vicinity are again making themselves troublesome. A body of some 30 Russians pushed southward as far at Kilju on the 15th inst., and the intelligence of their presence there has induced the Japanese residents of Sonchin to withdraw by the steamer *Haginoura Maru*. There is still nearly a foot of snow in the districts where these movements are said to be taking place.

The Russians are said to have placed mines in the Tumen, and to have interdicted all Korean craft from entering Possiet Bay.

Tuesday, April 19.

The party of Cossacks, 33 in number, who rode into Kilju on the 15th instant, remained there one night and pushed on the following day, to Sonchin, where they took possession of the telegraph office. All the Japanese residents of Sonchin had withdrawn by the steamer *Haginoura Maru* on the evening (or morning) of the very day when the Russians entered the place. Indeed it is alleged that the Cossacks came into view just as the steamer was leaving the harbour. The number that withdrew was 58 and there remained a Mr. Kanada, a missionary, and Messrs. Grierson and Drop (?). The fugitives had been in full possession of information as to the arrival of the Russians in the district northward of Kilju, and had telegraphed to Yuensan for a steamer, but they contemplated remaining until the 18th at Sonchin for the purpose of completing their arrangements. On the 16th, however, a Korean scout rode in at top speed to report that the Cossacks were in sight, and the Japanese, after assembling at the Consulate and giving vent to a loud *banzai*, went on board the steamer without any confusion or perturbation.

What this movement of the Cossacks means it is hard to say. It seems to be merely an attempted diversion. If the Russians were in great strength it is not difficult to see that they might threaten a line of communications, which we conjecture to be of some importance. "Conjecture" is the only word to use, for whether the Japanese are engaged in any turning movement, and, if so, what the locality of the movement is, we can not tell. Probably the purpose of the Cossacks is merely to harrass and plunder. Their retreat to the Tumen is likely to be heard of soon.

Wednesday, April 20.

The latest reports (*Nichi Nichi's* correspondence) indicate that the disposition of the Russian forces on the northern bank of the Yalu is 4,500 at Kiulien; 1,000 at a place which we do not identify but which is said to be four miles north-west of Kiulien. At Antung there are 4,000, and from thence to Tatung-kou at the mouth of the river there are small detachments posted at intervals of less than 2 miles. Between Tatung-kou and Takushan there are 180 Cossacks and between Antung and Fenghwang there are some 20,000 of all arms.

For the benefit of those unfamiliar with these geographical names, we may explain that the above detail is simply a disposition to oppose any crossing of the Yalu between Kiulien and the mouth of the river. Antung is the base of the defending force. From Antung it would concentrate on any threatened point, and by the Antung-Fenghwang road it would retreat in case of defeat, gathering accessions of strength as it retired. Kiulien is opposite to Wiju and the distance between the two places is something less than three miles. They look at each other across the river and across an island in mid-stream. A little lower down six islands lie in the bed of the river, which is divided by them into 3 channels, the aggregate width of the three being 2 miles. There is a ford near Wiju, and at Changsong, 42 miles above Wiju, the river narrows to from 1,000 yards to 600 but has a depth of from 12 feet to 30. In fact, the Yalu is a most formidable obstacle. No army could cross it in the face of magazine rifles held tolerably straight.

The *Jiji Shimpo's* correspondent writes from Yuensan that the people of Hamyong-do, which is the north-eastern province of Korea, though nominally favourable to the Japanese, are at heart friends of Russia. The local officials are all nominees or creatures of the prominent Russophil Li Yong-ik. Thus, though the posts and telegraphs are under Japanese control, every movement of the Japanese troops, whether in the north-east of Korea or along the Pyongyang-Yalu line, is reported from village to village and communicated to the Russians. It is for that reason that the latter are able to essay such raids as the one just now made against Kilju and Sonchin. The correspondent believes that until Japan makes her hand felt heavily right up to the Tumen and even beyond it, the Koreans in Hamyong-do will never be cured of their hereditary habits of clinging to the big Northern Power.

There appears to be a sharp dispute between the two political parties in Seoul. The Prince Imperial's party, namely, the Min, condemn the idea of rebuilding the palace on its old site as the expense will be very great. They suggest that the former Eastern Palace be restored, which can be done at an outlay of half a million *yen*, and the Min offer to find all the money themselves. It appears, however, that this programme does not at all please the Emperor, When Min Yong-hwan urged the adoption of the programme, His Majesty cried out that the Eastern Palace is frequented by a demon. On the other hand, the imperial inclinations turn towards the suggestion of the Lady Om's partizans, who advise the rebuilding of the palace just destroyed by fire, and advocate the expenditure of five million *yen*, two millions of the amount to be at once furnished by the Household Department. It is to be noticed, however, that these figures are not confirmed. Other purveyors of intelligence aver that the utmost economy will be exercised and the work will be done in 60 days.

The German Representative in Seoul is reported to be busily utilizing the present opportunity to obtain for his countrymen some mining concessions in Korea. The time is not very opportunely chosen, but probably that consideration is not efficient.

Thursday, April 21.

Every one remembers how bewildered the public used to be about Yong Ampo. What had the Russians done there? What buildings had they erected? Were there any forts among their constructions? Often these questions were asked, but never did they receive any thoroughly satisfactory answer. A valuable bit of evidence is furnished by a missionary, Mr. Kearns, who speaks as an eye-witness. In an article appearing in the *Korea Review* he says:—"The writer visited Yong Ampo in December (last December) and was courteously received by the Russian officer in charge, who was interested in hearing of his American neighbours forty-five miles away and asked a great many questions about the people and the surrounding country. He stated, what was apparent, that their building operations had stopped for the winter, but that they expected to do greater things the following summer and would employ a great many labourers. He also said frankly that, while there were only a hundred or so of his countrymen in Yong Ampo for the winter, he hoped in the coming summer to see many more. The communications were poor from Yong Ampo to the railway (at Liaoyang) but Chinese carts made fairly good time and mail was reasonably quick. A walk about the place showed seven or eight neat brick dwellings, large barracks and stables and a substantial break-water, a very creditable performance for one summer's work. No fortifications of any kind were apparent, though they might easily have been concealed in the surrounding hills. The Russians with one or two exceptions were all military men." In short, Yong Ampo was nothing more or less than a military station. Wiju and Yong Ampo are now at length open marts. The editor of the *Korea Review* writes:—"It was only the stress of war that brought this about. The Russian Minister succeeded, so long as he was here (Seoul), in blinding the Government to its own best interests, but now the thing has been accomplished, and with the opening of these ports of course the Timber Concession falls to the ground. How many millions this will save to the Korean Government it is hard to say, but the Korean people are to be congratulated on having escaped so easily." We may add that the barracks at Yong Ampo is to-day occupied by Japanese soldiers.

It is stated that the Korean Representative at the Russian court, who recently withdrew to Paris, has returned to St. Petersburg and is engaged in some negotiations with the Russian Government.

In the face of the evidence furnished by the *Korea Review* it will be necessary, apparently, to modify the generally received hypothesis that the Korean is a craven and a weakling whom any Occidental can intimidate. The following extracts deserve attention:—

> News came from the north lately that a hundred or more Russians entered the far northern town of Kan-ge and took people's grain and other food and offered insults to the women of the town. The prefect called together a strong force of tiger-hunters, who form a regular guild throughout the north, and set upon the Russians and inflicted severe injuries. We do not yet know which side suffered the more, but it seems that the Koreans drove the obnoxious intruders across the Yalu. News of such things enrages the Koreans all over the country and the officers in the army are asking that they be sent to aid the Japanese.
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> Since the above was written we learn that the Korean tiger-hunters in the north are taking things into their own hands. Most foreigners imagine that the Koreans are a mild people who have no fight in them, but if so they have never heard or have forgotten how these hunters stood their ground against the French on the island of Kang-wha in 1866, and against the Americans in 1872. They fought with conspicuous bravery, and in the fight with the Americans they stood their ground until every one of them was killed. The reports that are coming from the north at the present time show that these hunters have lost none of their old-time prowess, and though poorly armed and without anything that could be called proper military training they are attacking the Russians whenever they can get at them on Korean soil.
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> In the town of Yang-hyun a band of Russian cavalry attacked and seized the Korean telegraph office, but the Korean hunters rallied and surrounded the Russians, and in the fight that followed they drove the Russians out, although the Koreans suffered heavier losses than the Russians. This was doubtless due to the fact that the Russians are much better armed than the Koreans.

Friday, April 22.

There appears to be much dispute about the building of a new palace in Seoul. The Emperor will have nothing to say to the old palace which he formerly occupied. His Majesty has superstitious objections to it. Therefore a new palace must be erected and the question is how to get money for the purpose. There are four projects, a domestic loan, the sale of ranks, an increase of the land tax and a foreign loan. To increase the land tax seems to be the most feasible plan, but no decision has been come to, and it must occur to every one that any increase of taxation would be very difficult at a time when a large part of the empire is over-run with foreign troops. Meanwhile Li Ha-yong has been appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs.

It is stated that the Koreans in the north-west of the country are now thoroughly friendly to the Japanese, and that traffic between Pyong-yang and Wiju is as secure as it was before the outbreak of war.

The Cossacks who recently rode into Sonchin have cut the telegraph between that place and Yuensan. News from that quarter is therefore difficult to obtain, but it is alleged that the two British subjects residing in Sonchin and the four American citizens in Kilju are safe. These thirty-three Cossacks are reported to have pushed southward as far as Puk-Chhon, which is 70 miles south of Sonchin. They do not seem to be supported by any force. Indeed the state of the country and the roads is such, owing to the spring thaw, that there would be almost unsuperable difficulty in moving any large body of men in that region. Apparently, therefore, these Cossacks are merely a raiding party, or a reconnaissance in the air. They are said to have burned the Japanese settlement at Sonchin, and their retreat northward is expected at an early date. It is reported that the Korean officials of Sonchin went out to meet them and give them welcome when they arrived.

It is believed that a general engagement is imminent at the Yalu. The Russians have fortified Kiulien and Antung, and have connected the two places by entrenchments which render communication secure. They have also posted troops and built a fort on the island of Fusan, which is in mid-stream between Wiju and Kiulien, and they have laid mines in the river. These mines are said to be occasionally carried away by the current and dashed against the rocks where they explode harmlessly. Frequent interchanges of shots take place between the outposts of the two armies.

THE BRITISH PRESS.

English newspapers are said to be very outspoken in their praise of Japanese naval strategy. It is seldom, they write, that the manœuvres of a fleet can be fully adjusted to a strategical plan of such difficulty, and still more seldom that such signal results are achieved. These papers further think that whatever hope Russia may have entertained of recovering her naval position in the Far East, must now be abandoned.

CHINA.

Saturday, April 16.

The Manchurian Hunghutzes are said to be very active along the littoral of the Yellow Sea. They are heard of at Pitzwo—where the Japanese landed in 1894—, at Taku-shan and at Chuan-ho, and it is said that they give the Russians much trouble, constantly assailing and harrassing them. In the event of a Japanese landing at any point along this littoral, the Hunghutzes might be very useful auxiliaries.

There was a rumour recently that Japanese troops had debarked at Pitzwo, but probably it had its origin in the fact that a Japanese destroyer called there last month in search of water and fresheggs.

Monday, April 18.

Viceroy Chang Chih-tung is reported to be lying seriously ill at Hankow.

It is stated that the British and American Consuls at Newchwang have received orders to withdraw and that the exodus of large numbers of Chinese is causing much confusion.

Chefoo telegraphs that the Russian gunboat *Sivoutch* left Newchwang on the night of the 15th.

The Russians, in proportion as the difficulty of provisioning their troops increases, are extending their field of foraging. They are now requisitioning supplies not only from the whole of the West-Liao region but also from Mongolia. The lowest orders of the population, finding it impossible to subsist in view of the heavy rise of prices, are flying in great numbers beyond the field of operations.

The Manchurian railway is now used for military purposes only, and the greatest precautions are adopted to guard it. Rumour says that the Russians are buying up the Hunghutze—a doubtful purchase.

The Chinese Governor-General of Manchuria is said to be living a life of retirement, disregarding the constant demands and menaces addressed to him by the Russians, but lamenting that he is not with the Governor of Kirin who, in similar circumstances, committed suicide.

The Russians are now said to be spending money freely in Manchuria. A private in the ranks of the Hunghutze receives from 15 to 20 roubles monthly, an officer 60 or 70 roubles, and a chief 500 roubles.

General Kuropatkin is expected to start soon for Fenghwang.

The families of the Chinese subjects who were shot in the false alarm at Newchwang on the night of the 11th have been paid 500 dollars each by the Russian Consul.

In the interval between Yingkow *viâ* Liaoyang to Fenghwang bodies of from 200 to 500 Russian troops are posted at points 20 miles apart, and there is one commissariat station in every length of 40 miles.

Tuesday, April 19.

The news of Viceroy Chang's condition is of the most alarming character. He is said to be in the greatest danger, and we judge from the tone of the telegram that no hopes whatever are entertained of his recovery.

Wednesday, April 20.

M. Lessar has been pressing his objections to the employment of Japanese officers for the purpose of drilling Chinese troops in the metropolitan province. He claims that China is under agreement to engage Russians if she have any need of foreign military instructors. This protest having been forwarded by the Chinese

Government to Viceroy Yuan, he made reply that the story about the projected engagement of Japanese officers was unfounded. That ought to settle the matter for the present at all events. Probably Russia's objection is based on the conviction that should the Chinese be drawn into the present struggle, the presence of Japanese officers with their troops might add appreciably to the latter's competence.

It is believed that the Russian Government has admitted the justice of Japan's protest against the veto on the export of bean-cake from Newchwang. The Chinese Authorities forwarded the protest, endorsing it fully, and Mr. Lessar transmitted it to St. Petersburg, with the result that instructions were given to remove the veto in consideration of a guarantee given by an exporter that the commodity is to be used for manure, not for horse-food. All this is only a rumour; it has no official authority. We have never heard of bean-cake being fed to horses in Japan, nor can we see what value would attach to the alleged guarantee, seeing that Russia would not have any means of enforcing it.

Since the above was written, the Tokyo Foreign Office has issued a statement in the sense that an agreement on the subject of the export of bean-cake from Chefoo has been made between the Japanese Consul and the Customs Taotai. Its gist is that a merchant exporting this staple to Japan must furnish security either in money, or in a bank's note, or in a reputable Chinese tradesman's guarantee, that the commodity, on arrival in Japan, will be used solely as a fertilizer. When the bean-cake reaches Japan, the Chinese Consul at the place of landing will be communicated with by the importer, and when he has been satisfied that the staple is to be sold for agricultural purposes only, he will communicate the fact to the Chefoo Customs Taotai, who will then repay the security money or release the guarantee.

Presumably the bean-cake to be exported from Chefoo is the Manchurian product, for Japan has hitherto obtained virtually her whole supply of the staple from Newchwang. Chefoo, thus, is to be a half-way house since there can be no direct dealings of Japanese merchants at Newchwang. But what a fuss about nothing at all! Horses don't eat bean-cake, and there is not the faintest reason for classing it as contraband of war.

Governor-General Tseng, of Manchuria, has submitted his resignation and prayed that his successor may be appointed. The unfortunate man would have welcomed suicide as a relief from the cares of office had family reasons allowed him to die by his own hand. Who will take his place?

Thursday, April 21.

The Commissioner of Customs at Shanghai has given notice that the export of bran will be permitted provided that its destination be not any place within the area of the fighting between Russia and Japan. The staple can therefore be brought to any part of the latter empire, but must not be shipped direct for either Korea or Manchuria.

There is a rumour that the Russophil Li Hak-keun, who recently proceeded to Shanghai for the purpose of meeting M. Pavlow, has had a fall from his horse and is mortally injured.

Friday, April 22.

It is alleged that there is much friction among Chinese high officials at present. Prince Ching, Prince Su, Wang Wen-shao, Lee Tien-lin, Na Tung and Ku Tun-ki are all said to be on the worst possible terms. M. Lessar also is depicted as fishing assiduously in these troubled waters, which is likely enough.

There is no news of Chang Chih-tung's condition.

RUSSIA'S RESPECT FOR KOREAN NEUTRALITY.

Some time ago we noted a statement in a report sent from the chief local official in Wiju to the Seoul Government. The statement was that on the 2nd of February a detachment of Russian soldiers passed southward into Korean territory. It often happens that such incidental remarks are of the highest historical value, for since they are made without any *arrière pensée*, without the least idea of establishing or refuting any controversial question, their good faith can not be doubted. Now if Russian troops, few or many, crossed the Yalu and passed through Wiju moving southward on the 2nd of February, then it follows that Russia invaded Korea four days before the rupture of diplomatic relations in Tokyo, and 6 days before the first Japanese soldier landed at Chemulpo.

But it will be said, and said with justice, that the testimony of a solitary Korean official has little weight. An interesting confirmation now presents itself. On the main road from Pyong-yang to the Yalu there lies a town called Son-chhon—by some its name is transliterated into Sun-ch'un—, being 55 miles from Wiju and 110 miles from Pyong-yang. At this place there used to be a flourishing Presbyterian mission, which of course has been more or less broken up by the war. A member of this mission, the Rev. Mr. Kearns, has published in the *Korea Review* a most interesting account of the mission's experience in connexion with the outbreak of war. In his account he writes:—"Early in February we heard of the threatened riots in Seoul and of the coming of the foreign legation guards. * * * Russian scouts also began to be seen to the west of us, and about February 10th twenty of them passed through Sun-chun and went down the main road toward Peng-yang." Here, then, we learn that twenty Russian scouts had reached a town 55 miles from the Korean frontier about the 10th of February and were pushing southward. When did these Cossacks cross the Yalu and whence had they come originally? They did not ride 55 miles in one day. If they passed through Sonchhon on the 10th they must have crossed the Yalu on the 7th at latest. That is to say, they crossed the Yalu and entered Korean territory two days before the landing of the first Japanese soldier at Chemulpo.

Mr. Kearns, however, uses the qualifier "about," which of course weakens the accuracy of his testimony. But he unconsciously offers another bit of evidence. He writes:—"The great event of the year, the annual Bible class, had been scheduled to begin on the 18th (of February). This is a sort of Chautauqua assembly that brings hundreds of Christians from all over the province * * * In spite of the anxious times a larger number appeared for the opening day than ever before, many coming even from the towns near the Yalu river, *on the opposite bank of which a large Russian force was lying.*" Thus before the middle of February the Russians had moved a considerable force to the north bank of the Yalu. When did this movement begin and what was its point of origin? Its point of origin was Liaoyang, 135 miles distant. No one need be told that troops do not move over a distance of 135 miles in a week or ten days, especially when the season is mid-winter and a Manchurian winter at that. These troops massed on the north bank of the Yalu before the middle of February, and sending mounted patrols across the river into Korean territory as early as the 7th of February, if not as early as the 2nd, must have moved over from Liaoyang in January at latest, and in point of fact we have collateral evidence that the concentration towards the Yalu began in December. Under these circumstances can anything be more extravagant or unjust than Russia's attempt to set up the neutrality of Korea against the Japanese when she herself had already violated it with the most complete indifference?

THE TORPEDO.

American journals have had a great deal to say about the potentialities of the torpedo, their deductions being drawn from the events of the present war. But we can not see that they have said anything new. All the experiences now garnered by the Russians at such heavy cost have been foreseen and discussed. For example, here is an extract from the fascinating work "The Story of the Sea," published nine years ago:—

> But by night, when the look-out men can see not a yard into the thick wall of darkness, when the whistling of the wind and the restless shuffle of the hastening seas drown all other sounds, how will a ship of war fare then in the presence of a determined torpedo-boat attack? That is a problem which the actual experience of war has not yet fully solved. There are many who hold that a ship so attacked will have fallen on evil times. Much, it is true, may be done by a bright look-out, and then, are there not always the quick-firing guns discharging their eight or ten shells in a minute? Is there not also the ingenious contrivance by which a little glow of electric light on fore-sight and back-sight enables the gunner to align his gun, even in the darkest night? Lastly is there not the electric projector, with its gigantic ray, capable of piercing the darkness for over a mile, and of searching out a complete circle round the threatened ship? Yes; all these things there undoubtedly are, but there is reason to doubt whether, armed with them all, the peril will not be great—nay, deadly in the extreme. A sharp look-out may catch a glimpse of a fleeting spark upon the waters, which his practised eye tells him is neither a star reflected from the sky above, nor yet a scatter of phosphorus sparks from the sea below, but the glint from an open furnace door, the glare from an over-pressed funnel, or the ray from a carelessly-displayed hand-lantern. Nay, more, the look-out may even hear, above the sough of the wind and the plash of the ship's counter as she plunges forward with each coming wave, the beat of high-pressure engines forcing the twin screws of the torpedo-boat through the water at 350 revolutions a minute. But, if he hear this, then indeed the peril is close at hand.
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> Grant, however, that he be warned, and warned while the enemy is still comparatively distant; grant that the hail rings through the ship, "torpedo-boat on the starboard quarter," and that, in instant response to the bugle call, the ship's company are at their posts without a moment's delay, will his alertness even then save the ship? Doubtless, at the first sound of alarm, every man will be ready at the post to which, in time of war, he will already have been assigned. Guns will be loaded, ammunition will be handy, the dynamos will be ready to supply the full current to the electric light. It is fair and reasonable to assume that every preparation which prudence, skill, and experience can suggest will have been made. But what then? The gunners at the quick-firing guns on the starboard quater of the ship stand by, keen and ready, each with the wooden crutch of the 6-pounder or 3-pounder gun fitted into his shoulder, his right hand on the pistol trigger, or the electric button. Science has supplied him with electric sights, and he has under his hand a gun which will shoot as accurately on the sights up to 1,200 yards as a pea-rifle up to forty yards. But what does this accuracy mean? It means that an error of half a degree in the elevation produces an error of 300 yards. It means that if the object be

clearly seen, if it be stationary, if its range be ascertained, then, if the gun be properly laid the shot will, as a matter of absolute certainty, strike the object ten times out of ten. But what are the circumstances here? The object dimly seen through the night is approaching on a diagonal line at the rate of 800 yards in every minute. Every second it changes both its position and direction in relation to the gun. Nor is this all; the same heave of the sea which is making the torpedo-boat lift her fore-foot out of the water at every rise is making the big ship roll slowly through an arc of 20 degrees, and the roll passed on to the nine or sixteen feet barrels of the quick-firing guns is causing the muzzle of the gun to describe great circles in the air, now dipping far below, now rising high above the flying form of the torpedo boat.

No; laying by the sights on a dark night may be tried, but the chances against its success are infinitely great. But it will be said, "Why not make use of the artificial daylight which lies stored within your dynamos?" Why not flood the sea with the bright beam of the electric light, and show up the enemy, black and sharp, upon an illuminated sea?" Such an aid may be sought, and probably will often be sought; but to those who have studied the effect of the electric light used from a ship it must seem more than doubtful whether the danger will not be aggravated rather than diminished. It is true that a projector placed low down on the ship's side may succeed in showing up the enemy, and such practice as can be made in its deceiving glamour may possibly, within the short interval allowed, bring the boat to a standstill. True, also, that the dazzling ray may confuse and mislead the crew of the torpedo-boat. But, after all, a man who is trying to find the Eddystone Light-house has a good chance of not missing his way, and a 20,000 candle-power lamp is as fine a guide as may be to the big ship's whereabouts. Still where there is a single torpedo-boat, the electric light may serve a single ship. But suppose there be two, three, or four boats; and the chances—nay, it may be said the certainties—are that nowadays the torpedo-boats will hunt in groups, what then will be the protection afforded by the electric beam? Where the great white rays light upon the waters there, indeed, is day as at noon in the sunshine; but go one foot outside the sharply-defined edges of the beam on either side; there there is no "penumbra," no half-light; the transition from light to darkness, from white to black, from day to night, is intense and complete. A boat within this dark area is hidden as effectually as if she were the other side of the world. The eyes of those on the ship, dazzled by looking into the bright ray, will not pierce the thick blackness which contrasts so sharply with it, and a boat may come almost along side without being detected by the keenest look-out as long as it keeps out side the pathway of light through which its less fortunate companion is making its way. Probably, therefore, in most cases where a single ship is attacked at night by a group of torpedo-boats, the truest safety will be found in keeping under way and maintaining a bright look-out through the darkness, and using the quick-firing guns as a sportsman uses his gun. Ask a first-rate shot whether, when he stands behind a bank and brings down right and left the whirring grouse that are driven over his head, he aligns, back-sight and fore-sight, and goes through the routine of a volunteer recruit at a rifle-butt. Assuredly he will tell you that long practice has brought hand, eye, and brain to work together by an unerring instinct, that direction, elevation, allowance for flight, are all included in one operation which follows the impulse of the will, as surely as the foot is guided to its place in running or walking, or the hand to the mouth when eating. That is how a sportman hits a moving object, and that is how the best value will be got out of the quick-firing guns, especially at night. The gun, it must be remembered, pivots and swings as easily upon its stand as a shot-gun in the hand of a sportsman. The aim is taken from the shoulder by means of the long wooden crutch lined with india-rubber, which is attached to the gun, and the firing is instantaneous at the will of the man who takes the aim. Practice will undoubtedly do for the seaman gunner what it does for sportsman on shore, and the direct and most effective shooting with the quick-firing gun will be made by the man who has learnt to know his weapon, and to make aiming and pointing a matter of instinct, rather than a matter of drill.

But be the vigilance of the look-out and the skill of the gunners what it may, there can be little doubt that the risk to a single ship attacked at night by a group of torpedo-boats will be very grave indeed. He will be an unwise officer who runs a risk. It has already fallen to the lot of one British officer to have to protect himself against just such an attack as that described. Hobart Pasha, when commanding the Turkish Fleet in the Black Sea in 1877, was for many nights exposed to attack by groups of boats armed both with the spar and Whitehead torpedo. Neither attack nor defence had at that time reached its present pitch of perfection in the matter of appliances, nor can it be said that the skill and discipline of either Turkish or Russian sailors were in exact correspondence with what might be expected from the carefully-trained crews of the Western Powers. But the main conditions of the problem were then what they would be now, and it is therefore interesting to note how Hobart Pasha met them. He recognised at once that the difficulty of repelling a combined attack made in the darkness must be very great. Night after night, therefore, he gave strict orders that all lights should be extinguished, that the ship should steam away into the darkness under the shadow of the coast, and there, using all possible vigilance in the event of discovery, lie hidden from the torpedo-boats which were searching for her. The sea is wide, the hours of night are short, and woe betide the torpedo-boat that is found in broad daylight near to a fast and heavily-armed ship in anything like a sea way! The Russians sought, but they did not find. Only once did the boast armed with the Whitehead torpedo, discover the Admiral's ship, and dark, indeed, would have been her fate if the weapons used had been the perfected instruments of to-day and had been in the hands of highly-trained specialists. Four torpedoes were actually fired; one struck the ship's cable and glanced off, another struck the ship's bow and also passed off without explosion; it appears to have been at half-cock. Two other torpedoes missed the ship, ran ashore, and were picked up by the Turks. Fortune favoured Hobart Pasha but the terrible nature of the risk which followed the discovery of his ship in the darkness was made clear enough.

That the torpedo-boat at night, especially if acting in company, is a most terrible and dangerous enemy is beyond doubt. It the daytime, however, it must be admitted, that its terrors are greatly diminished. In the first place, it is seen from the mast-head as soon as it is on the horizon, and forwarned is forearmed. In the second place, the quick-firing gun in daylight asserts its full and tremendous power; no need to take elaborate calculations as to range. A shot beyond and a shot short of the object—a "bracket," as the gunners call it—give the range, which must needs lie between the two ranges tried for the experimental shots. Then, as each shell strikes the water or explodes and shows the exact error of the aim, that aim can be corrected with certainty, and crash goes the 6-or 12-pound shell through the thin scantling of the boat; or, better still, pierces the shell of the high-pressure boiler. Scotched or killed, the boat is at the mercy of the ship, and the danger is over. Moreover, it must not be forgotten that the torpedo-boat which runs her twenty or twenty-five knots on the measured mile in smooth water is a very different performer when the sea rises and checks and buffets her with every wave. Her crew see the big ship suddenly bearing down, and they realise that, from being the hunter, they have become the hunted. Full speed ahead is the only chance. A stern chase is a long chase, and engines and boilers will doubtless be pressed to their fullest capacity. But lucky will be the torpedo-boat crew if before long they are not aware that the big ship astern of them is gradually showing up larger and larger against the horizon; lucky if they are not made aware of her proximity by seeing the flash from one of her bow-guns, followed by the springing of a great fountain of water high into the air beside them, as a shell from a 6-inch gun comes hurtling through the air from the steady platform of the cruiser. Then all will depend upon good engines, good stoking, the number of hours of daylight, the proximity of a friendly port, and the shooting of the enemy—and luck. Given daylight, a tumble of sea, and a fair chase, the odds on the cruiser are very long ones indeed.

The Russians in Port Arthur are situated pretty much as Hobart Pasha was situated in 1877, with some material differences; namely, that the projectiles used now are much more effective than they were then; that they are in the hands of men exceptionally qualified for using them successfully; and above all that the Russian squadron can not seek security by stealing away under cover of darkness to the shelter of some friendly shore. We must not forget to note that the work done by the torpedo in this war has been wholly one-sided: it has accomplished nothing whatever for the Russians. Only once do we hear of the Russians attempting to use torpedoes, and that was in the action on the 9th of February when the *Novik* is said to have fired two of these missiles at the *Iwate* from a distance of 3,000 yards. They failed, of course. But had the Russians known where to go in search of the Japanese squadron, had they been acquainted with its whereabouts, night after night, as the Japanese were acquainted with the whereabouts of the Russians, can it be doubted that a man of Admiral Makaroff's stamp would have sent out his destroyers questing? He would surely have done so, and then the people who now write excitedly about what has happened and talk of it as epoch-making, would have larger grounds to be perturbed. When naval experts come to examine the matter carefully their verdict will be that against a squadron lying inert for week after week at a fixed point the potentialities of the torpedo have always been fully recognised, and have not now proved more formidable than would have been predicted by any one competent to predict.

TORPEDO MINES.

It was a mistake to say that Chief Constructor Taneda was on board the *Koriu Maru* when she laid the mines which proved destructive to the *Petropavlovsk*. He is now at Yokosuka, where he has charge of the torpedo department. This officer has stated some facts with regard to the Oda mine. It is called a "special mine" in the Japanese navy. Commander Oda devoted much thought and great labour to perfecting it, and he was assisted by Commander Takebe, Captain Kubota and Chief-warrant Officer Takenaga. The efforts of the inventor were devoted chiefly to devising an automatic apparatus (*jidô sôchi*) which should ensure the successful adjustment of the mine and its unerring position. He and his associates appear also to have busied themselves with the means of ignition and the explosive for charging the mine, but as to these points they are purposely vague, and we can only gather that Chief Constructor Taneda attributes high excellence to their work. He alleges that whereas the ordinary torpedo-mine can not be counted on to accomplish more than the flooding of one water-tight compartment of a battle-ship at the rate of some 50 tons per hour, this Oda mine operates over a much wider area and with much more destructive force, so that a ship struck by it is virtually doomed. Speaking in general terms—and broad facts alone can be gathered from the accounts thus far published—one of the most notable features of the Oda mine is that it has merely to be dropped overboard. It can be absolutely trusted to adjust itself in the desired position and to remain there. Such facility is plainly of the highest importance where the laying of mines has to be undertaken within the field of an enemy's searchlights and within effective range of his guns. A moment's thought is needed to appreciate the perils of such an enterprise, for whereas the worst that a vessel has to fear usually from hostile fire is the bursting of a shell on board, the crew of a torpedo-transport know that should a shell find them, it will probably explode the whole of their own cargo of projectiles, blowing into small fragments the ship and all the souls she carries. To get the work of laying mines done with the utmost celerity under such circumstances, and, at the same time, not to sacrifice efficiency to speed, is a prime object, and the Oda apparatus seems eminently fitted for the purpose. Nevertheless even these facts do not fully explain the singular rapidity of the *Petropavlovsk's* catastrophe, and Japanese experts are disposed to think that the unfortunate ship struck two or even three mines. We have already explained that mines have to be separated by an interval in feet equal, approximately, to the number of pounds of explosive with which they are charged. Were they placed closer, the firing of one would probably explode the others. Consequently where 300lbs., say, of explosive are used, the mines must be 100 yards apart, and thus there is evident possibility of a ship passing scatheless through a line of mines. Hence the custom is to lay them in two lines so that the mines of one line shall occupy the intervals between the mines in the other line. It is conceivable that immediately on being struck by the first mine the *Petropavlovsk* changed her course so as to come into contact with a mine in the second line, or possibly she may have been steering diagonally across the two lines. Only the most terrible injuries can account for her sinking within a short distance of harbour. She should have been able to make Port Arthur without difficulty.

THE REJOINDER OF "THE TIMES."

We quote without any preface the following portion of a leading article from *The Times*:—

> It is an instructive and also an amusing coincidence that at a moment when the whole of the Russian and pro-Russian Press machinery is being employed in a concerted effort to deter us from displaying our legitimate sympathies with our Japanese allies, and in warning us of the danger of provoking Russia to declare war upon us, if we are misguided enough to show that we do not wish her to annihilate the most civilized and cultivated people in Asia, M. de Plehve has been publicly expressing his profound satisfaction and delight "to find that Germany sympathizes with Russia." It is a mere confusion of ideas to pretend, as Prince Mestchersky pretended a few days ago, and as some people in this country seem to imagine, that because it is our duty as a State to observe the legal obligations of neutrality, it is also our duty as a people to affect indifference between our allies and their adversaries. We have as much right to cherish and to avow our sympathies with Japan as France, our friend and neighbour, has to cherish and to avow her sympathies with Russia, or as Germany, who is not an ally of Russia, has to proclaim her good wishes for the success of that "bulwark against all revolutionary forces."
>
> Russia has no just or reasonable ground of complaint against English newspapers so long as they report fairly all facts which are in her favour, and do not distort them to her prejudice in their comments. She has no right to claim that they shall assume a judicial impartiality between her and Japan; just as we had no right to claim, that the Russian Press should pretend to wish equally well to us and to our enemies in the Boer war. Did responsible English papers invent and propagate malignant falsehoods to the injury of Russia and of her soldiers, or indulge in the insulting and provocative language with which we were but too familiar in many Continental journals at that time, there might be some ground for the complaints which are re-echoed with such sudden unanimity from one end of Europe to the other, and which even some English papers have been duped into reflecting. But no such accusation is, or can be, made with truth against the chief organs of the English Press. The accusers themselves admit as much, and take refuge in vague generalities. If Russia were so intent upon going to war with us as she is represented in some quarters to be, she would hardly be dissuaded by any amount of newspaper articles, however sympathetic and respectful to her, and however unfair to the nation whom she has compelled to defend herself by arms. We do not, however, believe that Russia is at all so rash or in so excited a mood as it is the cue of her champions to represent her. They will find some reasons for our doubts in the very candid and instructive statements which M. de Lanessan, the former French Minister of Marine, is reported to have made to a representative of the *Figaro*. We shall continue to "back our friends," as is our English way, but always without injustice to their enemies. If that course gives offence, the blame is not ours.

A pound of new green tea from Formosa was received on April 20th in Kobe. The quality proves to be very good.

WAR NOTES.

Saturday, April 16.

The St. Petersburg *Viedomosti* considers, according to translations in the *Literary Digest*, that "before Russia's eyes a prospect opens which is without a parallel in majesty, wonder and significance," and also observes that "The English may rejoice all they like at the spectacle presented by their allies, whom they have educated in the school of hypocrisy and hate. The demons have shown the stuff they are made of. But there is no doubt that the punishment toward which they are hastening will long serve as a fearful lesson to those who dream of compromising the proud might of Russia." The *Russ* thinks that the Port Arthur fleet's answer to the attacks made upon it will be prompt, but nevertheless wonders somewhat that it does not assume the offensive and thinks that it may be "suffering from the ebb and flow of the tides." But the *Russ* concludes that:—"Our illustrious naval heroes will show the insolent enemy the meaning of Russian capacity. The mighty shades of the heroes of Tachesme, of Navarino, of Sinope, consecrate their successors to triumph on the field of battle. And when the turn of the land forces has come, when once the Russian soldier faces the Japanese he will prove to them how senselessly the troops of the Mikado behaved when they undertook to confront such an antagonist in war."

It is stated that nothing is yet known as to the fate of the Japanese subjects captured by the Russians from the steamer *Hanyei Maru*, nor as to the fate of the two Japanese taken out of the despatch-boat of the *Chicago Daily News*. On what pretext Russia holds these men prisoners it is hard to understand. Rumour alleged that the two men taken from the despatch-boat had been sent to Mukden for execution. Of course no thinking person credited such a story. The men were simply acting as interpreters to the correspondent of the *Daily News*, and Newchwang being an open port they had an unquestionable right to go there with their employers. According to the most rudimentary rules of civilized warfare they should have been released simultaneously with their ship, and as for the crew of the *Hanyei Maru*, there was no excuse for holding them prisoners at Port Arthur even for an hour, provided that means of sending them away were available. But although the *Hanyei Maru* was sunk on the 26th of March, the men are still held at Port Arthur.

Our readers will have understood, though for the sake of precaution it may be well to mention, that the steamers captured from the Russians have not yet been definitively added to the Japanese mercantile marine. The legal preliminaries have not been fully satisfied, and until they are, no final step will be taken, of course. But in the meanwhile the ships and their appurtenances have been duly valued, and they will be employed by the Japanese, the latter holding themselves responsible in the amount of the valuation should restitution be ultimately decreed by law. The change of the six ships' original names to Japanese terms is a mere matter of conveniences. We say "six ships" because, although five only were catalogued in our recent notice, there is another to be added, namely, a second *Manchuria* (6,000 tons), the property of the East Asia Steamer Company. In fact, two *Manchurias* have been captured, one belonging to the East Chinese Railway Company and having a tonnage of 2,981, the other a large ship owned by the East Asia Steamer Company.

Monday, April 18.

It is stated that an epidemic of smallpox prevails at Liaoyang and that some 300 cases occur daily. This is partly confirmed by the account of a Chinaman who recently returned from Mukden. He says that a train containing 350 sick men from Port Arthur reached Mukden a few days ago *en route* for Harbin and that 20 or 30 patients are sent to the latter place from Mukden every day. It will greatly hamper the railway facilities if a stream of invalids has to be carried back constantly. But we can easily conceive that to make efficient hospital arrangements at Mukden or Liaoyang would be precisely one of the cruellest difficulties of the Russian commanders.

The *Asahi's* Peking correspondent telegraphs that a military telephone with six exchanges has been completed between Port Arthur and St. Petersburg. What an achievement! We trust that M. Plancon or General Pflug will utilize this fine opportunity.

The Russians are said to be laying a military line between Liaoyang and Fenghwang. Twenty miles have been laid but over a hundred remain. If that be true it points to a determined stand at Fenghwang.

There is talk of an attempt to press into the ranks every Russian of whatever profession at Kirin, the result being that many civilians have adopted the tonsure and the queue and fled in Chinese costume.

Vladivostock's ice has not yet melted though the Tumen is flowing free. Reports continue to arrive showing the Russians entering Korea at Kyong-song, seizing the telegraph office and threatening Sonchin. But no one seems to regard these incidents very seriously.

It will be remembered that a statement was recently made with reference to a skirmish at the Yalu on the morning of the 12th, when an officer and twenty-two Russian soldiers were supposed to have been shot in connexion with an attempt to cross the most northerly branch of the Yalu below Wiju. This is now officially corrected in the sense that the enemy's losses were one officer and a private killed and several wounded.

It is alleged that the Governor of Vladivostock has issued orders that in case of the town falling into Japanese hands, everything must be burned. The four cruisers go out of port in the day-time but return invariably at night. No torpedo-mines have yet been laid; the garrison relies on the batteries solely. It would seem that No. 6 battery received much injury during the Japanese bombardment and that vigorous steps have been taken to repair it. The total number of troops in the place is said to be seven thousand, no steps having been taken to increase the garrison since the war begun.

All the above details were obtained by the *Asahi's* and the *Jiji's* correspondents from Koreans who lately visited Vladivostock or north-eastern Korea.

Tuesday, April 19.

Every one remembers the story that at the time of the first Japanese attack on Port Arthur, the Russian naval officers were for the most part, on shore attending a party at the house of their Admiral. The tale has now to be relegated to the limbo of inventions. We find the following in *The Times* of March 9th:—"The *Peterburgskiya Viedomosti* to-day publishes a letter from the wife of Admiral Starck denying the reports current in St. Petersburg society that she gave a grand ball to the officers of the Russian squadron on the occasion of her name day, thus taking them away from their duty on board their ships at the time of the first Japanese torpedo attack at Port Arthur. Mme. Starck states that the officers did no more than offer her their congratulations in the course of the day, and that all were at their posts in the evening, including Admiral Starck himself."

It was claimed in St. Petersburg that up to February 17th the number of Russian troops despatched to Manchuria was 217,000 men. Assuming that there were 150,000 eastward of Lake Baikal when war broke out on the 9th of February, we are thus asked to believe that 67,000 were despatched in 8 days, or at the rate of over 8,000 daily. That is a little too tall.

The Russians are said to have removed the bridge of boats which they had thrown over the Yalu. This news comes from Chefoo. It sounds rather stale. We imagine that the bridge was destroyed long before the Japanese troops arrived at the river.

Wednesday, April 20.

It is stated that the Russians at Vladivostock have executed Captain Shimono, of the Japanese Infantry, and his interpreter, Mr. Tsuzuki, on a charge of being spies. These men were arrested in February, and were found guilty in spite of the remonstrances of the Japanese Commercial Agent. There appears to be an impression that their execution was an act of great injustice and cruelty, but the details are not stated.

The Vladivostock journal of the 18th of March says that it has been decided to raise a force of volunteers in Harbin to act as railway guards.

The same paper in a later issue speaks of a great rise in the price of provisions throughout the districts along the railway.

By the 23rd of March the ice in the Vladivostock region is said to have virtually disappeared.

Thursday, April 21.

It turns out that the Japanese had 5 men hurt during the last operations at Port Arthur. In every case the injuries are of the most trifling nature.

The press of Europe now considers that Russia's naval power in the Far East is completely shattered, and the newspapers of Great Britain are loud in their praises of the Japanese navy.

Japanese securities are rising on the London market.

Admiral Skrydloff, now in command of the Baltic Squadron, has been appointed to succeed Admiral Makaroff. The nomination of Admiral Alexieff was only temporary.

Friday, April 22.

It is reported in Europe that Viceroy Alexieff has been instructed to refrain from any naval operations pending the arrival of Admiral Skrydloff. If that be true, the next thing to be looked for in normal circumstances would be the resignation of Viceroy Alexieff, for such a slight must be unendurable. But Alexieff is in the face of the enemy. He can not resign. And apparently he is not to have any opportunity of retrieving his fast fading reputation.

Says the *North China Daily News*:—

> The historian of the present war will be interested in the following fact, which is not generally known, but which is very important in its bearing on the charge that the first Japanese torpedo attack on Port Arthur, on the morning of the 9th of February, was a treacherous surprise. On the morning of the 8th of February, the Admiral in Command at Port Arthur sent for the chief Government pilot and asked if there was any merchant steamer leaving Port Arthur that day. "No," was the reply, "but there is one leaving to-morrow morning." "You must arrange for her to leave this afternoon," said the admiral; and accordingly at 6.30 p.m. on the 8th, when the Japanese fleet was still 60 miles off, the Norwegian steamer *Kamor* left the port with thirty Russian refugees, including the families of the Admiral and chief pilot.

THE ENDLESS PURSUIT OF WEALTH.

In the United States, says the *Banker's Magazine*, leaders in every line of activity, in politics and business, have been conspicuously prone to die, as it is said, in harness. The death of Mark Hanna is a case in point. But the list of those distinguished for their successful attainment of wealth and fame, who have continued their activities long after the advance of age and the diminution of physical strength must have warned them of the approaching end, is a very long one. In the older countries of Europe, on whose civilization that of the United States is founded, it seems easier for men who have more or less successfully attained the object they aimed at to retire and enjoy freely the prizes they have gained, although even there the old barbaric struggle is in many cases kept up to the end. Public opinion there, too, is more tolerant of those who lay off the harness before being compelled to do so by the decree of fate. In this country, however, there seems to exist in the mind of the ordinary man a certain contempt for those who give up the strenuous path of labour and ambition before their strength has wasted away. The successful men of the United States who have sprung from the masses are imbued with this opinion. Until within the last twenty-five years the idea of retiring from active life and settling down to a life in which personal tastes and proclivities could be followed, was regarded as at least eccentric. There have always been two necessary steps to be taken before retirement from active life could with safety be accomplished; one was the acquirement of wealth, and the other provision for its safe-keeping. As civilization progresses the second and more important step can be more easily managed. The individual no longer has to depend upon his own efforts to guard the store set aside for his future support. The power of corporations, originally directed simply to the accumulation of wealth, is now to a very great extent applied to its conservation. In Great Britain there has always been a wealthy leisured class, and naturally there has been a systematization of the manners and customs consequent on such an association of wealth and leisure. Public opinion is more tolerant of a man who wishes to do what he likes with his own than it has yet become in the United States. The existence of a leisured class able and willing to enjoy their lives rationally and intelligently, is a check on the wilder exhibitions of leisure on the part of suddenly acquired wealth. It also holds out something beyond mere money-getting as the goal of successful life. It encourages retirement after reasonable fortune has been gained, and discourages to some extent the piling up of exaggerated redundancy. The effect of a more philosophical view of life on the part of our business men will tend to a more even distribution of wealth, and a leveling of the inequalities now so frequently pointed out.

FOREIGN VISITORS TO JAPAN.

The Committee of the Welcome Society held a meeting on the 19th instant to consider the best means of dispelling apprehensions which appear to have interrupted the usual stream of foreign tourists to Japan. It was decided that counsel should be taken with the various municipalities and chambers of commerce throughout the country, for the purpose of making widely known the fact that no inconveniences of any considerable character need be anticipated by persons visiting Japan at present. We observe that in connexion with this question one of the Kobe journals—the *Kobe Chronicle*—has endeavoured to create an impression unfavourable to travel in Japan, by alleging that foreigners coming here are objects of suspicion to the police and to the local officials. Kobe appears to be conspicuously unfortunate in its relations with the Japanese. Foreigners living elsewhere see nothing to indicate that the country is at war.

BANK OF ENGLAND REDUCES DIVIDEND.

The Bank of England, at its semi-annual meeting in March, only declared a dividend of 4½ per cent. for the past six months. This was the first time in seven years that the dividend has been below 10 per cent. per annum. The Governor of the Bank said the profits for the six months ended February 29 were £663,041, and that after providing for the dividend the amount of the "rest" on that date was £3,018,780. The profits of the bank in the corresponding six months a year ago were £739,815; in 1902, £738,896; in 1901, £725,596, and in 1900, £736,149. Since 1897 the Bank of England has paid annually 10 per cent. In 1896 8½ per cent. was paid, 3½ per cent. in the first half and 5 per cent. in the second. In 1895 8¼ per cent. was paid, 4 per cent. in the first and 4¼ per cent. in the second half of the year. Highest and lowest prices for Bank of England stock in the first two months of 1904 have been, respectively, 316 and 311½. The highest and lowest figures of previous years are as follows:

	HIGH.	LOW.
1903	331½	311
1902	336	323½
1901	342	320
1900	349	326
1899	361½	325

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

A telegram to the Specie Bank from London, dated the 15th instant, shows continued appreciation of Japanese securities. The 4 per-cents. are now quoted at £64; the 5 per-cent. war bonds at £79-12s. 6d., and the 5 per-cent. consols at £77-11s. 8d. On the other hand, the Russian 4 per-cents., which had been quoted at £95 on the 11th, fell to £94-10s. on the 13th. It is probable that news from Port Arthur had something to do with this result.

It is not to be believed for one instant that the Russian Government has made the declaration attributed to it by some Washington news-mongers—the declaration that any newspaper correspondent using wireless telegraphy shall be treated as a spy and shot. Such an intimation would be obviously addressed to the correspondents on the Japanese side, and if the Japanese are ready to allow wireless telegraphy, the Russians have nothing whatever to say. Besides it is a monstrously absurd notion on the face of it that whereas a correspondent is always at liberty to use the telegraphic wires for transmitting his intelligence, he becomes a spy from the moment that he has recourse to wireless telegraphy. Some correspondent who, being himself without access to a wireless system, experiences horrible jealousy of his more fortunate confreres, has concocted this wild canard.

Writing about Kiaochau the *Hongkong Daily Press* says:—

It is true that Germany is spending money very freely on this possession, and that it is not at present paying any interest on that expenditure; but the German Government look confidently to the time when the capital now being laid out will yield good results, if not directly then indirectly by feeding German trade and shipping. Already the trade of Kiaochau has increased enormously, the returns for 1903 showing that it had doubled as compared with the trade of the preceding year. Meantime six factory buildings and a silk spinning mill have been built, a concession acquired for a steam corn mill, numerous houses and godowns have arisen, a brewery is being established, and a fourth brickfield has been opened. Mining syndicates are also busily engaged in exploring the hinterland of the Colony, and the results of their labours (Shantung being fairly rich in minerals) will no doubt soon be apparent. The work of afforestation is being systematically carried on, as our German friends believe very strongly in the ameliatory influences of forests on the climate, and it is asserted that the young plantations already established have had a beneficial effect on the rainfall and have increased the fruitfulness of the soil. Altogether the German Government have reason to believe that the money so freely lavished on their Far Eastern dependency has not been wasted, and that an object lesson for the Chinese in North China has been created by their efforts.

It is, however, when we come to regard the work done on the Shantung Railway that we in Hongkong find our object lesson. The concession for making the railway was acquired in 1899, the same year in which the British-Chinese Corporation obtained their concession to construct a railway from Kowloon to Canton, to join the line to be built by the Belgian-American Syndicate from Wuchang to Canton.

Early in 1903, the first section of the Shantung Railway, namely from Tsingtao to Chon-tsun, a distance of 303 kilometres, was opened to regular traffic. It was expected that the remaining portion, to Tsinan-fu, the capital of Shantung, would be completed by the 1st June, 1904, but the contractors have anticipated this date by nearly three months, for the first through train to Tsinan-fu was run on the 15th ultimo. The whole distance, 406 kilometres, or 252 miles, from Tsingtao to Tsinan-fu, is therefore now open to traffic, within about five years of the date of securing the concession.

The *Asahi Shimbun* publishes the following letter, said to have been sent from a number of Polish youths studying in Austria, to the students of the Imperial University in Tokyo:—

To THE YOUTH OF JAPAN.
VIVAT JAPAN!

The Youth of Poland send their fervent wishes for a glorious Victory, and a fraternal request that the case of the Poles serving in the Russian army may receive careful and sympathetic consideration. Their hearts and souls are with you, though they are forced to fight against you.

LEMBERG in Galicia (Austria).
February 16th, 1904.

The Emperor, in accordance with the Constitution, has ordered that elections to the House of Peers shall take place for representatives of the three lowest orders of nobility, namely Counts, Viscounts and Barons. The number to be elected is 17 Counts, 70 Viscounts and 61 Barons. These peers hold their seats for a term of seven years, and the present is the third election since the promulgation of the Constitution. Marquises and Princes have a hereditary right to sit.

Japan has asked for an extension of time by three months in presenting her reply to the foreign case in the matter of the House Tax. The reply should have been handed in on the 28th of May. Its presentation will now be deferred until the 28th of Aug. The explanation of the delay is that Japanese officialdom has been otherwise engaged.

Japanese securities continue to rise rapidly on the London market. Attempts made by Messrs. Illies and Company to purchase are stated by Japanese papers to have elicited a quotation of £87 for five-per-cent. bonds which were selling at £80 a few days ago.

DEATH OF MR. JAMES JOHNSTONE.

An event which will arouse general regret, is the death of Mr. James Johnstone, of Messrs. Johnstone and Cain, No. 7, Yokohama. Mr. Johnstone, who had been suffering from nervous trouble and insomnia, left on a visit home in the *Wakasa Maru* on her last trip previous to the outbreak of war, and on his arrival in England met one of his daughters who had already spent some months there. They started for Japan in the *Kanagawa Maru*, but the commencement of hostilities detained that vessel at Malta, and Mr. Johnstone decided to sent his daughter out in the P. & O. steamer *Palawan*, he following in the P. & O. steamer *Formosa*. His health showed great improvement on the voyage, and from Shanghai especially the report was exceedingly favourable. He was expected to reach Yokohama in a day or two.

The deceased gentleman, who was a native of Stirling, came out to Japan some thirty years ago and after engaging in business in Tokyo, entered the employment of the Mitsu Bishi Co., afterwards the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, where he continued for years to occupy the post of head of the Stores Department. He left to enter upon business in his own name. An acute and enterprising man, he had acquired many interests in addition to those centring in his own office. Prior to his departure for home he was Chairman of the Yokohama Engine and Ironworks, and of Helm Bros., and he had been Chairman of North and Rae, besides being associated with mining and other projects. A large circle of friends, who knew in some degree of his many but inconspicuous good deeds, and who appreciated his kindly nature and sterling character will think of him with affection.

Mr. Johnstone was twice married and leaves a son and daughter by his first marriage, and four children of whom two, a son and a daughter, are grown up, by the second marriage. To his widow and her family the sympathy of the community will be respectfully offered.

THE AMERICAN NURSING PARTY.

Mrs. McGee, M.D., and her party, consisting of the following ladies, Nurses Sophia Newell, Ella B. King, Mary E. Gladwin, Elizabeth R. Kratz, Minnie Cooke, Alice Kemmer, Genevieve Russell, Adele Neeb, and Adelaide Mackereth, arrived off Yokohama by the steamer *Shawmut*, on the evening of the 21st from America, their mission being to assist in the work of the Red Cross Society. The *Asahi* has an account of Mrs. McGee's career which seems to be worthy of credit. According to this she was born at Washington in 1864 and was educated at Cambridge and Geneva. In 1888 she married Professor W. T. McGee, after which she attended medical classes in Columbia university. Having graduated there she engaged in the practice of medicine for five or six years, and when the Hispano-American war broke out she went to the Philippines accompanied by a number of nurses to take part in field hospital work. She held an official position up to Dec. 31st, 1900. She is the first lady in the United States who has held an army commission. It is stated that the expenses of these nurses will be defrayed from a fund subscribed in America for that purpose.

The *Asahi* reports that Italy has postponed the International Exhibition, which it was proposed to hold in 1905 at Milan, till 1906, in the belief that with the war in the Far East the enterprise can not be carried out successfully.

THE BOOKSHELF.

"*Masterpieces Selected from the Kôrin School.*"

THE Second volume of this remarkable and beautiful work has been published by the *Shimbi Shoin*. It contains 28 plates, 15 of them coloured. The whole are reproductions from Korin, no other celebrity of his school being represented. There are many varieties of motive—landscapes and sea-scapes, studies of moving life and still life, flowers and foliage, portraits and historical scenes. All show traits of the artist's genius. One of the most interesting facts demonstrated by the work is that Kôrin could be at once profoundly realistic and thoroughly conventional. At one moment we find him reducing even scenic features to the semblance of an arabesque or a scroll-pattern, at another he shows us a drawing in which every detail is redolent of life; and yet again we find him producing with a minimum of effort broad results which are neither purely conventional nor absolutely realistic, but in which the master seems to have set himself to demonstrate the points where the two styles melt into each other. One does not look for the caricaturist in Kôrin. Yet that his imagination sometimes took playful flights is shown by his painting—reproduced in the volume before us—of "The Thirty-six Poets." Mr. Tajima, with admirable gravity, tells us that "all these poets were most estimable persons, whose verses have influence sufficient to make heaven and earth tremble, to suppress even devils and to compel mercy from the merciless." They did not have any of those effects upon Kôrin. He depicted them as thirty-six most comical looking persons, their fat faces eloquent of inanity and their poets' frensy breathing burlesque. For Kôrin there was evidently only one kind of poetry, the poetry of the brush, and what a master he was of that art! This fine volume reveals him faithfully.

Au Japon, by A. B. DE GUERVILLE; Paris, Alphonse Lemerre.

MR. DE GUERVILLE served as a correspondent for leading American journals during the China-Japan war, and wrote such interesting accounts of the operations in the field that many people must have wondered at his subsequent silence. The reason is now explained. After leaving the East he underwent a terrible experience, barely escaping death from tuberculosis and owing his recovery after years of suffering to the system and the care of Doctor Otto Walther at the sanatorium of Nordrach-Colonie. One of the first uses to which he put his restored faculties was to write a book, "Au Japon," in which he recounts some of his experiences in this country and sets forth his opinions about what he saw and heard. It is not a formidable work. There are only 280 pages of 200 words each, making a volume easily read from cover to cover in two hours. The style is thoroughly French; that is to say, light, clear and graceful, and the matter is always interesting. What strikes us especially is that the author takes much trouble to contradict the gross exaggerations published in 1895 about the Port Arthur affair. Mr. de Guerville was among the newspaper correspondents who entered the place immediately after the fight and he is therefore in a position to speak positively. His final verdict is this:—"If in a town bombarded during several days by 48 cannon which threw hundreds of shells and thousands of shrapnel, and which was taken by assault by troops directed against the sea-forts, only 120 bodies were found, that proves very conclusively that there was no butchery and no general massacre." He treats this question at some length and forcibly, but we shall not follow his arguments, because the world long ago arrived at the conclusion that, with the exception, perhaps, of a small fraction, all the talk of atrocities committed by Japanese troops at Port Arthur must be regarded as a newspaper sensation deliberately conceived and created by men who cared much more about advertising themselves than about speaking the truth. This Port Arthur chapter is the last in "Au Japon," and is also one of the very few chapters written quite seriously. The rest are pervaded by a vein of humour often decidedly *risqué*, which, while it adds largely to the attractiveness of the book, suggests that the author relies as much on his imagination as on his memory. Thus he devotes a chapter to "La Vraie Madame Chrysantheme," the gist being that no such fair lady ever existed in the flesh, "Loti" having merely described a type. That is more than probable, and what is certain is that "Loti's" knowledge proved itself signally defective in some most cardinal points. Some of the traits he assigned to "Madame Chrysantheme," the unreservedly mercenary traits above all, are conspicuously absent in the women of Japan, concerning whom no greater libel was ever penned than "Pierre Loti's" libel. But it must be confessed that M. de Guerville also writes some most unblushing slanders. For example, he gives us in one chapter a detailed account of how, being received at the house of a Japanese provincial Governor, he was invited to take his morning bath in the garden—a beautiful garden at that—, the Governor, his wife, his three daughters and their maid-servants all standing by in a state of absolute nudity and waiting to enter the bath in their turn. The whole of this chapter it a pure romance: that is all that can be said about it. Nothing of the kind ever happened to M. de Guerville, or could possibly have happened to him, unless his "Governor" and the latter's family happened to be a party of lunatics. But many travellers' tales have been recounted about the methods of the bath in Japan and M. de Guerville may be forgiven, perhaps, for having drawn a bow to which a dozen other romancists had already put their hands. The trouble is that in all his descriptions one detects, if not the same indifference to truth, certainly a magnificent freedom of exaggeration. It is enough for him to have constructed a striking story, be the materials what they may. We can only say, therefore, that his book is entertaining, and that to take it seriously from cover to cover would be imbecile.

Impressions of Japan. By GEO. H. RITTNER. London, JOHN MURRAY.

THIS is a singular book. In outward appearance it has everything to recommend it—beautiful type, beautiful binding, beautiful paper, and beautiful illustrations. But certainly not beautiful writing. "Rugged" is approximately the proper adjective to apply to the style, and readers must divest themselves of any prejudice against liberties with syntax and grammer if they intend to go through the book from cover to cover. A great many people will do that, we imagine; and among them those having no knowledge of Japan will be surprised and interested, while the *cognoscentes* will be at times pleased and at times exasperated. We, when we had turned the last page, found ourselves seeking to answer a question which involuntarily framed itself, "Why was this book written?" From first to last it contains no new information. Every recorded fact is taken from familiar sources and every fact recorded is familiar. Many facts, too, are marshalled merely for padding purposes, and whatever attractiveness they have derived from the manner of their telling by others, we can not recognise that Mr. Rittner has much embellished them. Yet we are compelled to acknowledge that his work has a *raison d'être.* In the first place it is redolent of love for Japan; permeated from preface to finis with Japanese atmosphere. There is no fine writing. We hear nothing about hills with tender contours bathed in opalescent air; about incomparable curves of peerless mountains; about booming songs of sweet-voiced bells on autumn eves, and so on. Yet we taste the flavour of Japan in every chapter. In the second place, Mr. Rittner has a mind to speak and speaks his mind. The courage of his opinions is with him in abundance. He calls a spade a spade, and he conveys the impression that were there any possibility of calling it by a still more uncomplimentary name, he would so call it. A few samples of his method are these:—

> "How much more beautiful, I say, is all this (Japanese costume) than a European dress, in most cases chosen without a particle of taste and a hat to match—a hat forsooth! I feel almost ashamed to apply such a word to a flower-garden surrounded by enormous ostrich feathers—, few colours harmonizing, everything clashing."
>
> "In no country in the world do a people or a country appeal to ones feeling as they do in the land of the Rising Sun. * * Such is Japan—a land not only of flowers, scenery and gardens which in their beauty surpass the imagination of man, but a land also of people with whom few can cope, no matter in what."
>
> "Japan, if she continues to modernise her women as rapidly as she has done, is doomed to have the whole of her society brought down to that point to which the society of Europe has become degraded. It is difficult even to say in which country in Europe it is worst."
>
> "Why are the Japanese a band of rogues in business, who will put their names to any document, enter upon any contract, and the next moment repudiate it and their signatures also? The answer is simple and contained in the one word, 'civilization.'"
>
> "Civilization has brought the lower class women of Japan down to the lowest level of the women of our own countries—stamped out every particle of purity they possessed."
>
> "The greatest harm which civilization has produced in the Eastern countries is that caused by the missionaries."

These quotations convey a tolerably accurate impression of the author's style of diction and trend of thought. His views are absolutely final about everything. Need it be said that he commits numerous mistakes; men so positive invariably do, for in many cases their conclusions must be more radical than the opportunities they have enjoyed of verifying them. For example, discussing one of the best known facts about Japan, he says:—"Originally these *daimyos* were soldiers. * * * Gradually they became extinct and gave place to the *samurai.*" Where Mr. Rittner obtained that wonderful fancy we can not imagine. It is as strange as his assertion that the *netsuke* is a "*necessaire* in which they keep all the paraphernalia necessary for a smoker, as pipe, tobacco, matches and cigarettes." What a notion! The *netsuke* a *necessaire!* And then he affirms that it depends upon how a guest has behaved whether his innkeeper employs at parting the salutation *mata irrasshai* (come again) or *sayonara* (good bye). With regard to a theatre his account is:—"When the curtain descended, instead of handclapping, the audience jumped up and rushed to the curtain, which they lifted, and watched with huge interest the setting of the next scene." If anybody ever saw anything of the kind in a Japanese theatre, his experience differs wholly from ours. It is even stranger, however, to be told that "in the East conventionality was unheard of"; that "every man thought, said and did what he liked, dressed as he choose, and went where he wanted, no man to forbid him, or call him eccentric, no formula upon which, if he wished to conform to the rules of Society, he was forced to act." Really we think, on mature consideration, that a more wholesale blunder was never penned about Japan than this assertion of Mr. Rittner's. Yet we say again that his book is redolent of Japan, and that in reading it we seem to recall the impressions produced upon our own minds in the days, now alas! far, far distant, when this delightful country and its loveable people were a novelty to us. Therefore we frankly commend Mr. Rittner's work, with the exception of the chapter about "missionaries and religion," which we consider prejudiced to the verge of mania.

"The Nanso Meigwa-yen."

THE *Shimbi Shoin* (Shitaya Nicho-machi No. 52) are supplementing their beautiful publications by a series of ten volumes called the *Nanso Meigwa-yen* (garden of celebrated pictures of the Southern Sung). Each volume contains ten plates, so that the series, when completed, will show a hundred specimens of the finest Chinese masterpieces in Japanese collections. The originals cover the *Sung*, *Yuan*, *Ming* and *Tsin* dynasties down to the *Keio* epoch of the Japanese calendar; in other words, they represent an era extending from the eleventh century down to the middle of the nineteenth. It need scarcely be said that many collections have been placed under requisition for the purposes of this work. In the two volumes thus far published the collection of Baron Iwasaki (Yanosuke) is very largely represented, and there are pictures from the Imperial Museum, from Viscount Okubo, Mr. Nagai, Prince Sanjo, Viscount Yamanouchi, Count Matsukata, and others. All students of Far-Eastern art have learned the fact that to Japanese collections they must go for really fine and representative examples of Chinese painting. Undoubtedly many grand pictures are preserved in China, but they are virtually inaccessible to foreigners, and there has resulted an extraordinarily false conception of Chinese pictorial art; a conception founded on the gaudy daubs purchasable for so many farthings at any paper-hanger's shop in any of the Middle Kingdom's cities. Quite recently reproductions of these wretched affairs were gravely laid before the European public as types to be studied. But the sober truth is that the Chinese painter of early mediœval days had not a peer in the world of his time, and further that upon him the Japanese artist founded himself. Indeed it is with many connoisseurs a moot point whether the proverb of a stream being unable to mount higher than its source does not apply to the relation between Japanese and Chinese painting. On the whole we do not think that it does apply, yet are we compelled to admit that in some directions the Chinese have never been surpassed. To any one interested in this question, to any one interested in the history of art, to any one interested in things of beauty, it should be matter for thankfulness that the enterprise of the *Shimbi Shoin* has taken this direction. In previous publications Chinese masterpieces have been produced here and there, but now for the first time are the public to possess a collection of truly representative examples, authenticated, dated and described. It is Japan's pleasant task thus to introduce to the world the teacher at whose feet she reverentially sat in bygone centuries, and it will delight many a foreign student to trace in these volumes the models of styles made illustrious in Japan by such men as Sesshu, Sesson, Motonobu, Tanyu and their successors. All the pictures are in black and white: there are no colours. That is an advantage in some respects, and a loss in others. So far as the first two volumes go, there is not a plate that could have been spared, and we look forward with extreme pleasure to the completion of the series.

"*Great Masters*": London, Wm. Heinemann.

We have received from the publisher, Mr. William Heinemann, London, Parts VIII to X of "*Great Masters.*" Allusion has already been made in our columns to this series. It is to comprise a hundred reproductions of "the finest works of the most famous painters down to the year 1800," and there is added an interesting introduction with descriptive text by Sir Martin Conway. Scarcely an artist of celebrity is omitted, and the reproductions are the most finished work of which the technical competence of the time is capable. Here we make the intimate acquaintance of Reynolds, Van Dyck, Gainsborough, Rembrandt, Holbein, Rubens, Raphael, Watteau, Titian, Murillo, Velasquez and Botticelli, to say nothing of minor lights. Such a series needs no description, but we have to add that if subscribed for *en bloc* the 25 parts cost only £5, an extraordinary low figure, while payment in advance secures a handsome portfolio.

THE TOKYO DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL SOCIETY.

This Society gave a performance at the Shorai-Kwai in Tokyo on the 18th instant, in aid of the families of men at the front. Two pieces were represented, the caste in each consisting of only two persons. The first was Charles Marsham Rae's "A Fair Encounter." A pretty young widow, *Lady Clara* (Madame la Baronne d'Anethan), is engaged to a youth whose sister, *Mrs. Celia Grenville* (Miss Bovill), anxious to discover the character of her brother's fiancée, disguises herself as a lady's maid and enters *Lady Clara's* service. There are some curious complications which end in an outburst of mutual affection, but there are no situations and the humour of the dialogue is thin. Of course such incidents occur only in the pages of playwrights; but a farce is never condemned for being unnatural. Its faults in that respect impose a heavier burden on the actors than on the audience. A great deal of acting is needed to carry off Charles Marsham Rae's conception, and a great deal of acting was happily available on the little stage of the Shorei-kai. The fair widow had to show herself at once frivolous and earnest, spiteful and forgiving, jealous and magnanimous; and she exhibited all these moods with entire sincerity, being neither too abrupt in her transitions nor too emphatic in her climaxes. It sounds like a mere platitude to say that she had never been seen to greater advantage, yet no truer form of expression suggests itself, and we therefore use it deliberately though conscious that it means much in the case of a lady whose record includes so many successes. Miss Bovill was seen for the first time, and it would be pleasant to hope that she may be persuaded to appear frequently hereafter. She has many talents—remarkable self-possession, charming elocution, much grace of movement and an unusual power of suggesting emotion without betraying it. To superpose the character of a maid-servant on that of a fine lady, neither wholly concealing the latter nor caricaturing the former, is not an easy feat, nor could one have reasonably looked for its thoroughly successful achievement by an amateur. Natural ability must have been supplemented in this case by close study and by discriminating stage direction, which last is understood to have been supplied by Mrs. Wood.

The second piece, "The Highwayman," is from the pen of Mr. Justin McCarthy and it abounds in the graces of diction and delicacies of conception peculiar to the *literateurs* whose school Justin McCarthy ornaments. *Lady Betty Bassett* (Mrs. Barclay) has turned her beautiful face away from *Sir Harry Bellairs* (Mr. Brady), believing him untrue. She loves him still, however, and he, stung by the injustice she does him and embittered by her slights and his friends' jeers, makes a wager that he will compel her to give him her hand once more in a gavotte. His plan is to masquerade as a highwayman who robs male travellers but asks nothing from ladies except the pleasure of a dance. In that character he enters *Lady Betty's* boudoir, forces her to dance at the muzzle of a pistol, reveals himself, is forced by her, at the muzzle of the same pistol, to write a confession of his villainy which she then tears up, and the denouement is easily conceived. It all happens in the eighteenth century, a time remote enough to render anything conceivable, and dialogue and deed are alike delightfully redolent of an ancient age. But even Justin McCarthy does not avoid the playwright's perpetual solecism of making actors explain by speech things which the march of events alone should elucidate. Where and when except upon an inartistic stage has there ever been found a human being who interrupted the course of momentous incidents to review in monologue the part he has played in them? The fitness of things is shockingly dislocated when *Sir Harry Bellairs*, seated, a burglar, in *Lady Betty's* boudoir, is compelled to soliloquise aloud as to how he came there and what he intends to do there. Even Mr. Brady could not make this natural, but for the rest he well satisfied the requirements of a difficult, an exceedingly difficult, part. He is an imposing personality on the stage and among his fine histrionic faculties the first place belongs, perhaps, to the glimpses he affords of latent resource. There seems to be always a reserve of force which appeals to the imagination of the onlooker as much as what is actually revealed evokes his emotion. Mr. Brady has been seen in many *rôles* in Yokohama and Tokyo, but the part of *Harry Bellairs* is different from anything previously attempted by him and he may confidently add it to his triumphs. He has commanded applause hitherto by vividly accentuated displays, whether in farce or in tragedy, but the eighteenth-century nobleman of Justin McCarthy's conception is not a person wearing his heart on his sleeve or proclaiming his passion loudly with either voice or gesture, though he is nevertheless required to reveal both passion and heart. That is where Mr. Brady's success could not have been confidently inferred from his past, and since he succeeded he has a new title to praise. It must be confessed, however, that he had much to inspire him. There was novelty, doubtless, in finding himself obliged to play up to his *vis-à-vis* instead of being played up to by the whole caste, and surely he could not choose but climb industriously in order to reach the level of Mrs. Barclay as *Lady Betty Bassett*. In appearance she seemed to have stepped out of a picture of the time of Justin McCarthy's imagination, and in acting her alternations of tenderness and hauteur, of womanly gentleness and proud self-assertion, all accompanied by well adjusted gesture and pretty by-play, made not merely a passing impression but a permanent memory. Such effects are seldom produced upon an amateur stage, and the critic has simply to take off his hat.

If the *dramatis personæ* were few the same is true of the scenes. Each play began and ended in one chamber. Perhaps that made it possible to bestow unusual care on apparatus and decoration, for the rooms looked at once congruous and picturesque.

There was also music, and music of a quality much to be praised—an orchestra composed, we gather, of the string bands of the Imperial Household and the Music School, with Professor Junker as conductor and the Misses Koda as leading violins. In the cause of a most worthy charity all gave service which a crowded house rewarded with vehement applause and with a monetary contribution doubtless substantial.

PROGRAMME.

"Midsummer Night's Dream,"...Wedding March
.......................*Mendelssohn.*

Instructors and Students of Tokyo Academy of Music assisted by the Imperial Band.

"A Fair Encounter," by Chas. Marsham Rae.

Lady Clara ....Baroness d'Anethan.
Celia Grenville...............................Miss Bovill.

Three Dances from "Henry VIII." ....*German.*
(*a.*) Morris Dance,
(*b.*) Shepherds' Dance,
(*c.*) Torch Dance.

"Artist's Life" ....*Strauss.*

"The Highwayman," an original duologue, by Justin Huntley McCarthy.

Lady Betty Bassett.......................Mrs. Barclay.
Sir Harry Bellairs ....Mr. Brady.
Time—18th Century.

"National Anthem."

THE INTERNATIONAL FETE.

The ladies of Yokohama who rallied round Mrs. J. P. Mollison when she sent out her appeal on behalf of the wives and children of Japanese soldiers and sailors called to the front, are to be heartily congratulated upon the unqualified success of the International Fête which was the outcome of their strenuous exertions. Yokohama's foreign community has never turned a deaf ear to the appeals of charity and whenever an opportunity has presented the fairer sex have always vied with the sterner in responding nobly to the call upon their talents, their time, and their large stock of good nature. The object which Mrs. Mollison and her host of friends had at heart was in itself enough to awaken responsive echoes in every bosom, but in a fairly long experience of Yokohama we have seldom seen a finer spirit of harmonious comradeship displayed than that exhibited in everything connected with the International Fête, and as a natural result the hundred and one items which were crowded into the plethoric programme attained one and all the success deserved and striven for. The attendance was enormous, standing room being at a premium early in the evening.

The Public Hall was set out in the form of a village fair, with booths running all round the sides. These sheltered stalls of many nationalities, as set out in the following list:—

Flowers (English):—Mrs. Mollison, Mrs. Hawkins, Mrs. C. H. Wilson, Mrs. Abbott, and the Misses Thomas. Tea and Coffee (American):—Mrs. Thorn, Mrs. Poole, Mrs. McIvor, and Mrs. Frazar. German:—Mrs. Kleensang, Mrs. Levedag, and Miss Retz. Scots—Mrs. Drummond and Miss Cameron. Turkish:—Mrs. Holm, Mrs. Kaufmann, and Miss Meier. Danish:—Mrs. Tegner, and Mrs. Blad. Candy (International):—Miss Manley, Miss Abenheim, and Miss Abbey.

In addition to these there was an International Post Office, housed in a palatial-looking building, which was under the charge of Mrs. Bengen, Mrs. Surth, Mrs. Strauss, Mrs. Abegg, and Mrs. W. Kirkland Wilson. These ladies, like the other stall-holders, were attired in fancy costumes, and they encouraged business by exhibiting such "Postal Notices" as, "Now's the time to sign a chit," "Step in and write a letter to your honey," etc. The Post Office did a roaring business, and its energetic "clerks" must have netted a good round sum. But every one did good business, so far as we could see. Mrs. H. J. Sharp's Missing Word Competition "caught on" from the very start; while Mrs. Heckert, as a Fortune Teller, was besieged from an early hour. The Raffles department, under the direction of Mrs. V. R. Bowden, Mrs. Hubbard and Mrs. Greig did not fall behind its competitors in "raking in the shekels"; while as for the Ascot Race Game, run by Messrs. O. Strome, P. A. Cox and Murray Mollison, it spun along merrily all the evening. Mrs. W. K. Wilson's Fish Pond was another great draw. Two other devices for attracting the nimble dollar were *The Yokohama American* and *The British Meteor*, newspapers of international amity, issued specially for the occasion. The former was sold by Miss Gigray; while the British journal was energetically hawked around by Master John Mollison and Master Jack Kenderdine attired in the robes and decorated with the jingling bells of the *go-gai-hito* which have been so much *en evidence* throughout Japan of late. These papers, by the way, contained much original matter, Mr. J. P. Mollison contributing to the *British Meteor*, a sporting reminiscence of the early sixties, while an echo of the war was found in the following lyric:—

MUKDEN TARRADIDDLES.

(With apologies to Dr. Watts.)

How doth the Chefoo strategist
  Improve each censored cable,
Converting it by natty twist
  Into egregious fable?

How airily the Mukden lyre
  Seconds his specious leader,
Until the yarn that Europe buys
  Doth flabbergast the reader.

But yellower still it turneth yet
  As westward it must go,
Until at last its pa-ri-ents
  Their offspring hardly know.

The decorations throughout the Hall were very pretty. National flags of course were the predominating feature, but here and there one chanced upon an appropriate motto. For instance, under the Geneva Cross, hung the legend, "Charity is the scope of all God's command." Over the stage was suspended,

For since kind heaven with wealth our realm has blest
Give it to heaven, by aiding the distrest.

While over the Scots stall ran the legend—"Charity begins at hame, but shouldna end there." This last stall, we should mention, was uniquely decorated with the armorial bearings of the famous Scottish clans, the work, we believe, of that patriotic son of old Gaul, Mr. C. Murray Duff.

So much for the material side of the Fête. A long programme of vocal and instrumental music, dances and tableaux was also arranged and passed off to the satisfaction of everybody. Beginning with the "El Capitan March" of Sousa's, spiritedly played by the Bijou Orchestra—now we notice considerably augmented—the curtain first rose on the spectacular tableau taken from the "Healing Scene" in the last act of "Ben Hur." It is the moment when Christ, passing along the highway, brings health and cleansing to the mother and sister of the Hebrew patriot. The figure of the Divine Healer is not seen, only the two sorrow-laden lepers and a band of Hebrew men and maidens bearing palm-branches. As the curtain rose the chorus of "The Palms" (*Faure*) was heard, the organ being played by Mr. W. Karl E. Vincent. The grouping was highly effective and the singing delightful, so much so that the audience expressed its pleasure in rounds of applause. Those taking part in this tableau were:—

Mrs. E. V. Thorn, Miss E. Baker (the two central figures, mother and sister of "Ben Hur"). Miss M. Sharp, Miss Poole, the Misses Hall (3), the Misses Madge and May Cameron, Miss Edith Mendelson, Miss Waddilove, Miss Gardiner, Miss Parker, the Misses Anna and Molly Tripler, Miss V. Irwine the Misses Alice and Elsie Blundell, Miss Dora Talbot, Miss Norah Stone, Miss Manley, Miss Wilson, Miss Stone, the Misses Nora and Ray Tipple, Miss Leslie McWilliams, Miss Bertie Cahusac, Miss Gladys Scott, and Mrs. Pearson. Messrs. W. B. White, J. F. Drummond, J. H. Goodban, Alan Bishop, and R. Bowden, Masters Dyer Neville, Alan Tipple, Basil Cahusac, and Norman Brockhurst.

Chorus of "The Palms":—Mesdames Baker, Irwine, Brockhurst, Thwaites, A. Bellamy Brown, and Kenderdine. Misses K. Cameron, A. Mendelson, and B. Sharp. Messrs C. Palmer, S. Wheeler, M. Mollison, W. J. Waddilove, B. C. Foster, Gracey, Cooper, P. Walker, and Brockhurst.

Following came a song by a new comer, Mr. Cooper, who gave an exquisite rendering of *Balfe's* famous, "When other lips." Mr. Cooper is the possessor of a true tenor voice and the house was well pleased with him. The next tableaux was taken from "Carmen." Here we were taken to the land of sunny Spain and were shown *Carmen* reading her fate: three times the cards have told her that she will meet with a violent death, and the truth of their tragic message is driven home to her just as the scene is disclosed. The tableaux would have been better for a little more light, but it met with well-deserved and hearty applause. The players were:—

Carmen, Mrs. A. Bellamy Brown. Misses Rogers, A. Mendelson and B. Sharp. Messrs. Palmer, Mollison, Wheeler, Waddilove, White, Goodban, Drummond and Brockhurst.

The Scottish ballad, "Caller Herrin,'" sympathetically sung by Mrs. E. C. Irwine, was followed by "Comin' thro the Rye," a perfect little gem. The third tableaux, "Cleopatra," next claimed attention. *Cleopatra*, surrounded by her maidens, is slowly sinking under the effects of the asp's fatal kiss. The grouping was highly effective and the full light thrown on the ladies allowed the gorgeous details to be seen to the greatest advantage. The participants were:—

Cleopatra, Miss Lloyd Thomas. The Misses Parker, B. Sharp, A. Mendelson, L. Hall, and Wilson.

Item No. 7 was a French Gavotte. It took one in fancy back to the gay days of yore when Louis XIV. and his light-hearted court danced away the time in the fairy-glades of beautiful Versailles. The ladies and gentlemen taking part, dressed *a la Pompadour*, were:—

Mdme. Carrillon, Mdme. Barnont, Mdme. La Croix, Mlle. Eymard, Mons. Lacroix, Mons. Proton, Mons. Carrillon and Mons. Cherfils

"Father O'Flynn," given by Mr. Brady in character, took the house by storm, and the chorus was lustily trolled forth in response to the singer's lead. An encore followed as naturally as sunshine after rain. The last tableaux, entitled "The Garden of Flowers" was, perhaps, the loveliest of all. The Flowers were:—

The Misses E. Baker, M. Sharp, Stone, Waddilove, Rogers, Poole, V. Irwine, E. Mendelson, K. Hall, and M. Thomas. Mr. Alan Bishop, "The Knight."

The great success attending the Tableaux is due in large measure to Mrs. Thos. S. Baker, and Mrs. B. C. Howard, who initiated and arranged them, and to Mr. and Mrs. C. F. McWilliams and Mr E. Beart who stage-managed and mounted them. The Hall presented a gay appearance when they closed, for the various performers, in their strikingly becoming costumes, mingled with the gaily-clothed stall-holders and the audience generally, creating for onlookers a most charming effect. The Bijou Orchestra brought the first part to a close with a selection, "Navajo," by *E van Alstyne*.

When our representative left the Second Part had not begun. It included:—

Bijou Waltz, by B. R. Berrick, written specially for and dedicated to the Ladies International Fête.

THE BIJOU ORCHESTRA.

German Volkslied:—
  Miss. Kayser, Mrs. Schmid, Mrs. Orth, Miss Meier, Miss Retz, Baron von Stengel, Mr. Schmid Scharff, Dr. Mattholius, Mr. Steiner, and Mr. Hosch.

Welsh Song, "The Cambrian War Song." (In Character)

MISS LLOYD THOMAS.

Plantation Melody and Cake Walk, introducing "Honey just stay in your own back yard," and "Don't make dem Scandalous Eyes at me."

Miss Virginia	Mr. C. H. Thorn.
Mr. Jackson	Mr. L. E. McChesney.
Sambo	Mr. C. Aslet.
Pete	Mr. S. Bernard.

Selection.—"The Myriad Dancer," *T. S. Allen*.

THE BIJOU ORCHESTRA.

The International Fête, which opened so auspiciously on Friday evening, was continued on Saturday, and again success attended the efforts of Mrs. J. P. Mollison and her friends. The afternoon was devoted to the little folks and despite the rain the Hall was crowded, many of the tiny lads and lassies coming in fancy costumes. Preference, among the laddies, seem to fall on Japanese characters—pilgrims, gardeners, rikishamen, etc.—but among the maiden throng fancy roamed more free, though the majority gave their preference to the styles of Miss Dolly Varden or Madame la Pompadour. The stall-holders again appeared in their attractive costumes, but Mrs. Mollison had changed the exquisite robes of "San Toy," worn the previous night, for an afternoon gown in the English manner. The newspaper sellers were again *en evidence*; the post-office messengers even more busily engaged than the night before; while the candy stall had to send out for fresh supplies ere the afternoon wore to its close.

Among the new attractions was a striking *séance* arranged by Mr. Frederic Villiers, the famous war-correspondent, and Baron Ward, entitled the "Bombardment of Port Arthur"—this was realistic to the last degree, and drew a constant stream of visitors.

The Bijou Orchestra again started the ball merrily rolling, and then Miss E. Burdett Leach's calisthenic class was announced. It consisted of Miss Iris Irwine, Miss Dorcas Surth, Miss Dorothy Austen, Master F. Booth, Miss Marjorie Brown, Miss Doris Healing, Miss Kathleen Potts, Miss Dorothy Hayes, Miss Madeline Mollison, Miss Joan Hartland, Miss Connie Hall, Master J. Mollison, Master H. Cowan, Miss Janet Jones, Miss Marion Cowan, and Miss Dorothea Blake. The youngest of these was "rising four." The drill began with a waving and weaving of coloured scarves, then some small tots marched on bearing flowers which they gave, after sundry evolutions, to the bigger ones in exchange for the scarves and then marched off again. The whole drill was faultlessly carried out and was warmly applauded.

The next item "La Cachuca" was daintily performed by Miss Winnie Sharp, who, at the mature age of 7, made her first appearance on any stage. So charmingly did she go through the graceful steps that she was asked to do it again, and when she had complied was rewarded with a huge basket of flowers, a bouquet, and something that looked suspiciously like a packet of chocolates, all of which she was at first far too shy to annex. Mr. Brady having sung Chevalier's French *chanson* "Tink-a-tink," the curtain rose on a pretty childish tableaux, "Snow-white and the Seven Dwarfs." This took immensely and one small mannikin discussing the events of the afternoon at breakfast next morning gave it as his opinion that he liked this item the best of all. The next number in which little ones took part was a Fan Drill, arranged we believe by Mrs. N. W. McIvor. The maidens taking part were dressed in "powder and patches" and presented the daintiest picture possible. They had to repeat their dance before the audience would let them go. The players were:—Miss A. Walter, Miss Sybil Howard, Miss Iris Irwine, Miss Helen McIvor, Miss H. McIvor, Miss L. McWilliams, Miss H. Payne, and Miss Marjorie Abel.

The Tableaux, "The Garden of Flowers" and "Cleopatra," were repeated, and again received hearty recognition. The "Flowers" by the way, were Miss Baker (Lily of the Valley), Miss M. Thomas (Chrysanthemum), Miss Rogers (Christmas Rose), Miss E. Mendelson (Poppy), Miss Stone (Marguerite), Miss Kathleen Hall (Wistaria), Miss Mabel Sharp (Poinsettia), Miss Waddilove (Tiger Lily), Miss Lily Hall (Convolvulus), Miss Vera Irwine (Carnation) and Miss Eleanor Poole (Sunflower.) The French Gavotte was repeated with infinite success; while the concluding piece, the Plantation scene, evoked heartier roars of laughter, perhaps, than on the previous evening.

After dinner the Hall was again the scene of great festivity. The prizes in the raffles, the missing word competition, etc., were announced, dancing was indulged in, the children's dances were repeated; several songs were sung, among them being two by Mr. Cooper which confirmed the favourable opinion formed the previous evening; and then at the end Mr. V. R. Bowden mounted the rostrum and auctioned off the "remainders" amid a scene of the greatest jollity. And so, from first to last, the International Fête maintained its reputation of being the greatest fun-distributor we have had in Yokohama for a long time.

DUNDAS OF DUNDAS.

Capt. Adam Alexander Duncan Dundas, R.N., of Dundas, of Inchgarvie House, South Queensferry, died on Sunday, March 6, at Inchgarvie, at the age of 82. The eldest surviving son of the late Mr. James Dundas, of Dundas, Linlithgowshire, and a grandson of Admiral the first Viscount Duncan, the eminent naval commander and victor of Camperdown, he was born in 1822, and obtained a commission in the Navy, in which he served for 27 years, in August, 1843, being placed on the commanders Retired List in April 1870. Capt. Dundas, who succeeded his father as Chief of Dundas in 1881, and who was a magistrate for Linlithgowshire, married in 1856 Charlotte Maria, youngest daughter of the Rear-Admiral Charles Hope. Capt. Dundas was well known in Japan and the news of his death will be received with deep regret by his many friends here. He figures in many of Wirgman's cartoons in the older issues of the *Japan Punch*—*Communicated.*

LITERARY GOSSIP.

The only way to kill the Baconian craze, according to a recent reviewer of Mr. Churton Collins's " Studies in Shakespeare," is by the way of kindness. "The truth is (he says) that an *idée fixe*, like the Baconian craze, will never yield to the methods of the bludgeon; it needs a calmer and more persuasive style, more consciousness of the stronger points, few as they are, of the craze—in a word, more good temper and less excitement."

Dramatic critics seem doomed to be a persecuted race. Scarcely have the thunders of the Jones-Bourchier-Walkley explosion died away, when a still more terrible insult to the tribe of critics occurs at Cambridge. "We regret," says the current number of the *Granta*, "that no criticism of 'My Lady Virtue' can appear this week, as our dramatic critic was progged last Tuesday night on Parker's Piece, and has been gated for the rest of the term."

There are some good stories of the great Duchess of Marlborough in Mrs. Arthur Colville's newly-published book. On one occasion she was entertaining all her relations at a gigantic family dinner. "What a glorious sight," she said, "it is to see such a number of branches flourishing from the same root." A male cousin, sitting at a safe distance, commented on this in a whisper. "Alas!" he said, "the branches would flourish far better if the root were underground."

Sir William Anson, who takes the late Mr. Lecky's place as Trustee of the National Portrait Gallery, is a quite bewilderingly versatile man. A Counsel very learned in the Law, on some branches of which he has written standard treatises; an M.P. and Minister of the Crown; Chancellor of a diocese and Warden of an Oxford college; and an ex-Alderman and Chairman of Quarter Sessions, he has as many characters as might serve to equip half a dozen ordinary men.

The latest musical play produced in London is called "The Cingalese" and we note that one of the characters has a song to sing about Japan. One verse runs:—

There's a land where the morning ever
Comes new from the Eastern deep,
And the light is red upon Fuji's head
When the West is all asleep.
And in spite of the hills that sever,
And spite of the waves that run,
I long to be by the Inland Sea,
In the Land of the Rising Sun!

In his " Diplomatic Reminiscences." which he wrote twelve years ago, Lord Augustus Loftus, whose death is announced, gives many interesting stories connected with his long and distinguished career as a representative of the Court of St. James. His first appointment in diplomacy synchronised to a day with the beginning of the Victorian era, for it was dated on the June 20th which saw the death of William IV. The mother of Lord Augustus was Lady of the Bedchamber to Queen Adelaide, and he has told how, when he dined at the Pavilion at Brighton, the King asked him what profession he intended to adopt. He hoped, he said, to serve His Majesty in the Diplomatic Service, to which the King replied good-naturedly, "And so you shall, my boy, and I will look after you."

"Marlowe's mighty line" has been venerated by poets for three and a half centuries, but of Marlowe himself comparatively little is familiar. There should be a welcome, therefore, for Mr. John H. Ingram's work on "Christopher Marlowe and His Associates," which will be published shortly by Mr. Grant Richards. The book will contain many new facts about the poet's ancestry, his life in London, and his connection with Shakespeare. A copious bibliography and many illustrations from photographs of original documents will also form part of the book.

Mr. Thomas Verrinder, of the Grosvenor Gallery Library, gives in an interview in the March *Book Monthly* some interesting particulars concerning the tastes of readers in the West End of London. Many of the leaders in the world of law are great readers of novels. The same is also said of prominent military men. One famous scientific man whom Mr. Verrinder mentions reads regularly six novels although "bishops do so occasionally." But the most industrious novel-reader Mr. Verrinder has ever known was "a lady who averaged eleven hundred volumes of fiction a year."

Mr. Henry Harland, the author of "My Friend Prospero," published by Messrs. McClure, Phillips & Company, was not born in St. Petersburg, Russia, as has been stated and as is to be found recorded in "Who's Who." Authorities differ on this subject. Mr. Harland himself has taken issue with the legal records which declare that he was born in Brooklyn, and says that he prefers to have been born in Norwich, Connecticut, because he likes the place. The public, in return for the pleasure it has received from his books, will probably let him have his own way. So let it be recorded that Henry Harland was born in Norwich, Conn., 1861.

Macaulay on Croker's Boswell is matched, in severity at all events, by Mr. J. Hall Griffin's examination, in the current *Athenæum*, of Mr. G. K. Chesterton's recent monograph on Browning. After a long array of accusing instances, Mr. Griffin concludes:—"With some knowledge of what has been written on Browning's life and works, I must honestly say that I know of no volume so carelessly inaccurate and so unconsciously misleading as that of Mr. Chesterton. I can but endorse the words of one who is in all respects qualified to speak: 'I have never dipped into it without drawing up bucketsful of blunders. The fundamental facts being often wrongly stated, the conclusions based upon them are even grotesque.'"

Few people, in all probability, are aware how great is the number of words in the English vocabulary of sport which have been grafted from other languages. Attention has been called to the matter by the proposal of the Automobile Club that the words "chauffeur" and "garage" should henceforward be known as "motorman" and "motorhouse." It is very patriotic of the Automobile Club to try to eliminate alien words from the language, but their task will not be an easy one. It is difficult to think of the guardian spirit of the car as a "motorman." One calls him a chauffeur in much the same spirit as that of the cricket professional in speaking of the "yorker." It seems the only suitable name.

A most interesting new catacomb and subterranean basilica has just been brought to light in Rome, near the cemetery of Comodilla. The basilica is not large, but its artistic importance is so great that it almost marks an epoch. All its walls are covered with paintings, some in a perfect state of preservation, and in strong contrast, by their strong, correct drawing, and artistic feeling, to the crude and conventional reproductions, Byzantine in character, found in all the other catacombs. Whereas, too, other catacombs have all been rifled, this one, which is of the fifth and sixth centuries, as attested by the monumental inscriptions, is intact, even to the nails on which the funeral wreaths were hung. Some skeletons found on the ground indicated that there had been a landslip, and that the worshippers had been entombed—the disaster, perhaps, preserving the catacomb from the Goths.

Most English people remember the singer of "We don't want to fight, but by Jingo if we do." It was the late George MacDermott. Few, however, could name the writer of the song, G. W. Hunt, the veteran lyrist of the music-hall stage, who has just passed away. "Poor Uncle Sam," written at the time of the American Civil War, was one of the best-known of his earlier efforts, and "The German Band," sung by Arthur Lloyd, was another, while "Up in a Balloon" is still remembered. It was at the London Pavilion that the "Jingo" song was first heard; very soon it was in everybody's mouth. To this day "Jingo" serves as a catchword.

THE LAW COURTS.

INCENDIARISM.

The trial of M. C. Fernando, who is charged with incendiarism, was resumed on April 15th in the criminal section of the Yokohama District Court before Judge Matsuyama and Public Procurator Midzutani, when three Japanese were examined as witnesses.

Yukawa, a jinrikisha coolie, stated that he was employed by the accused. On Feb. 22nd, at about 6.30 p.m., he carried the accused to a place near No. 127, after which he returned to his room and went to bed. Meanwhile he was awakened by an alarm of fire which seemed to have broken out in the office of the accused. He did not know anything about the cause of the accident but he struggled to put out the fire, assisting the firemen from the police station.

Mr. Iwata was examined as an expert. He stated that he is a civil engineer of the Kanagawa Kencho. The Court, having showed witness a quantity of sulphur found in the sample room of the accused, and which is alleged to have been the origin of the accident, asked the civil engineer (1) Whether the sulphur could cause fire of itself; (2) How long it would take to cause such a fire so that flames could extend through a room, providing thirteen or fourteen *kwamme* (kwamme=3.75 kilos.) were kept in a closed room; and (3) What effect would be caused if the sulphur was stirred up by a stick as such like cane. The expert replied that he had first to analyse the sulphur and he could then present his opinion in writing within a week.

M. Kanaya stated that he was employed on Jan. 26th by accused as a cashier under condition that witness should pay the petty office expenses on behalf of the accused until March 16th, when the money, which was expected to amount to between two hundred and five hundred *yen*, should be refunded. The witness paid about two hundred *yen*, from Jan. 26th to Feb. 22nd, when the fire occurred. The accused did not refund the money and even his salary was left unpaid, despete repeated applications. The witness did not know of the fire which broke out in the office until the following morning because he was living at a distance from the place; and he did not hear the fire alarm. Before the accident many Japanese merchants came to the office and urged the accused to pay for goods supplied, but the accused asked them to wait a little longer. After the fire, the accused was very busy, it seems, for he expected to receive money from an insurance office, having lodged a claim with the insurance office, and with this in view spoke of employing a lawyer to press the matter, etc.

The Court—Did the accused intend to pay the Japanese dealers, whom he owed for various merchandise, with money which he expected to receive from the insurance office after the fire?

Witness—I don't know what his intention was.

Witness further stated that some pieces of matting valued at about *yen* 250 were sent from Kobe before the fire and about 30 or 35 tons of sulphur from Tokyo; this arrived after the accident. The latter goods were now stored in the Customs compound. The accused was often in trouble with K. Ishii, one of his employees, but witness did not know the cause.

The case was adjourned till April 27th.

CLAIM ON WOOLLEN YARN.

The Yokohama Agent of the Etablishments Orosdi-Back has initiated a case in the Tokyo District Court through Mr. S. Sawa, a lawyer, against Mr. A. Saito, proprietor of a woollen yarn factory in the village of Osaki near Shinagawa claiming six thousand *yen* for woollen yarn which plaintiff supplied to defendant.

LIBEL CASE.

The trial of the nominal editor and the publisher of the *Chuo Shimbun* will take place on April 20th in the Tokyo District Court before Judge Ishii. The charge is that they published in their paper of February 22nd a statement that Mr. Ikariyama, Chief of the Kaga-cho police, had a private connection with M. Takahashi who was convicted in the Yokohama District Court of having been in the service of Russia as a spy.

CAMPHOR MONOPOLY CASE.

The hearing of the appeal in the camphor monopoly case—instituted by Messrs. Samuel, Samuel and Co. against a judgment give in favour of Mr. Hioki, liquidator of the bankrupt estate of Messrs. Mourilyan, Heimann and Co.—which was adjourned on September 29th last and which was to have been resumed on April 19th in the Tokyo Appeal Court, before Judge K. Sudzuki was again postponed *sine die* to suit the convenience of the Court.

ALLEGED INFRINGEMENT OF THE COMMERCIAL LAW.

Mr. R. Kondo, President and other directors of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, who had been sentenced in the District Court to a fine of five *yen* each on a charge of an alleged contravention of the Commercial Law, and who appealed to the Tokyo Appeal Court against the decision, were acquitted on April 19th, the original sentence being quashed.

MODERN LIFE IN RELATION TO HEALTH.

[Read before the Yokohama Literary Society on Friday, April 22nd, by N. Gordon Munro, M.B. and C.M., Edin.]

When we hear people talk of blue blood and ancient descent, we are apt to forget that Man has been a creature of some importance for at least 100,000 years and that no one can trace his lineage for more than a fraction of one per cent. of this interval. It is impossible to say how long the human race has existed or to hazard more than the merest guess as to the time that has elapsed since its pioneers left the arboreal stage and took to footing it as erect animals. We know, however, that Man was virtually the conqueror of the animal world before the glacial period. We know that he was then sufficiently cultured to draw fairly exact likenesses, on ivory and horn, of animals and other objects at a time when he was the contemporary of the European rhinocerous, the lion whose effigy survives in the British coat of arms, and the woolly mammoth.

I think that the white races of Europe owe their superior physique and stamina to the long probation which their ancestors endured throughout the wintry glacial epoch. I believe that our fair skins gradually evolved from the filtered light of the cloudy skies and the garments of skin which covered the bodies and probably also the faces of those early ancestors. The thousands of years of hardihood, the outdoor life which had to be faced in order to secure the scanty food supply of that barren period and the ingenuity, and skill needed to ward off starvation, the attacks of enemies and the biting cold, have combined to make our race what it is, the highest on this planet. When we consider what the conditions of life were during those ages, we must wonder that the human race survived at all. We can look back with pride on those remote ancestors whose pictures none of us can hang in the family gallery. Perhaps it is just as well that we cannot shew their photographs to our children and friends, but we can admire them in the abstract and can have nothing but praise for the pluck and resourceful energy which carried them through the glacial period and laid the foundation of modern European culture and civilisation.

In common with the rest of the human race, these lives were threatened with premature extinction, not only through starvation, exposure and violence, but also by disease. When sickness befell them there was no doctor to call in, to feel their pulse and to administer those dainty draughts called medicine, which are the joy of the sick and whose memory clings lovingly to the palate after health has been restored. The *bête noir* of modern times, namely the microbe and its special set, were then unknown to fame, and if our ancestors did not escape their venomous attacks, a sufficient number survived them, for we are here to prove it. Yet, they had no medicines.

I remember that once, shooting up a creek in India, I fired at something which moved amongst the rushes where a small stream joined the creek. I found that I had shot a jackal and the poor thing was entirely skin and bone. Near by was its bed where the shallow water enabled it to drink without taxing its strength, and I came to the conclusion that I had interrupted a "rest cure." I felt quite sorry and ashamed that I had done so and was much impressed with the thought that the human race, during at least 99 per cent. of its duration, and probably for a greater proportion of its existence, had been treated during its sickness by the simple plan of rest, abstinence from food and that greatest and best medicines and beverages, *Aqua Pura*, pure water.

It was reported to me not long ago that a certain medicine man took it upon himself to say to a patient that the resources of modern science were such that a physician who could not cure any fever within five days had no right to practice his profession. I do not know whether the gentleman had ever seen a case of typhoid fever, but I do know that he was talking nonsense and that in this, as in some other fevers, I would prefer to be treated by the method of primitive man rather than by his resources of modern science.

The resources of modern science are indeed great and it would be folly to decry them, though worse than folly to exaggerate them for selfish ends. We know what medical science has done for that dreadful scourge diphtheria. We know what has been done towards the prevention of small-pox. We know that steps are being made in the right direction towards the cure of typhoid, cholera, plague and that fell disease, consumption, in its various forms. We trust that the day is near at hand when we shall be able to assist nature to throw off these pests by the natural means which are now being tried. Early man, and I may add, the beast of the field, who lies down to rest and starve during sickness, worked out his own salvation in acquiring protection, or immunity against the invading host of microbes whose poison threatened his life. The nature of the living body is such that it acquires in time this immunity to most infectious diseases, and the modern method of treatment by antitoxin aims at imparting this immunising substance to the body before it is too late. When we have succeeded in doing so with certainty, then shall come the crowning triumph of medicine for all ages to come. In the meantime we must be content to assist nature with the means at hand and not try to hamper the activities of the body by injudicious drugging. In these fevers, plenty of fresh air and water, with but little food will usually effect a cure without medicine. I am not pleading for abstention from medicine in all cases. We know that in influenza, the pains can be almost immediately relieved and probably the fever cut short, by the use of medicine, and that malaria can usually be speedily cured by appropriate treatment. But what I do wish to impress upon you is the fact that in these days of scientific progress, we are too apt to lose sight of the fact that during the course of infectious fevers, medicines are not always necessary or expedient and that each one of us carries within his body a laboratory for the production of special medicines for the cure of special diseases.

I will go further than this and say that many of the ills which afflict humanity, apart from those infectious disorders which we have been speaking of, can either be prevented by simple means, or cured by the "rest cure" of our distant forefathers. That is to say, by leading a more natural life we can either avoid most of the non-infectious diseases, or by calling in the force of gravitation to assist, instead of hampering our organic functions, and by resting also our organs when sick instead of giving them useless work to do in digesting food that we cannot assimilate, we can gain the victory over many of the ills that flesh is heir to.

In this connection, the prevention and treatment of disease are intimately associated, for the means which are employed to cure a disease also tend to prevent its development. There is a condition of health which resists the attack of infectious disease, just as there is a condition of body which enables one to acquire immunity when the disease has taken hold. If twenty people drink water containing the microbes of cholera, probably not one-half of them will contract the disease. During an epidemic of diphtheria, many persons who remain in good health, go about with the bacilli of this infectious disorder in their mouths. With consumption too, although we have all, or nearly all, been exposed to its infection, yet most of us remain exempt from it. In Yokohama, we all inhale germ-laden dust from time to time, yet we do not all "catch cold" or suffer from influenza. At sunset, I have seen the dust on the Bluff road at the top of Jizo-zaka give quite a rosy hue to the atmosphere for a height of about fifteen feet, just as did the volcanic dust in Europe after the eruption of Krakatoa. There was not a breath of air at the time and I concluded that we would have had to walk about on very high stilts in order to get our heads above this impure atmosphere. I shall not weary you with instances to show that we have gradually become immune to some infectious diseases, not only in the sense of throwing off the disease when it has gained a foothold, but also in warding off its onslaught. This faculty which we have acquired in varying degree during the course of our evolution, is a very important one and must be taken into consideration in formulating a standard of health.

When we see a man with a large and somewhat stout frame, and perhaps rather florid complexion, who eats and drinks well, we are apt to picture him in our minds as the embodiment of health. His robust figure and appearance of physical strength impress us with the idea that he can "throw off anything," or that he can easily "get the better" of any invading microbes which may attempt to feast upon his ample tissues. I do not think that this idea is altogether well founded. With regard to longevity at least, I think it may be said that persons below the average degree of robustness, including the gentler sex, have proved their ability to withstand the stress and strains of life as well, if not better, than those who seem to have more than the average health and strength. It would seem, indeed, as if the more robust specimens of humanity were less prepared to encounter a sudden attack from those torpedo-like foes called pathogenic microbes, than those who have less tissue to defend. I do not intend to convey the impression that the nearer one approaches the state of emaciation the better one is capable of resisting infection, or that in order to live it is necessary to look as if one were about to die. But what I do emphatically say, as the result of fifteen years' observation, is that the apparently robust are not a whit more healthy, in the sense of resisting infectious disease, than the apparently frail, if we except those cases where there is loss of flesh from actually existing disease.

Although it is well to distinguish between the *appearance* of health and the capacity for maintaining it, in the sense of warding off infectious and other disorders, we ought to bear in mind that physical development, so far as it is not incompatible with inward health or stamina, is an ideal which the human race should try to realise.

We should remember that, just as our ancestors of the glacial period laid the foundation of our superior stamina and physique, not through foreknowledge but by force of circumstances, so we, who have the foreknowledge that we are responsible to posterity for their physical as well as mental endowments should constantly strive to realise a higher ideal in both these respects. There can be no question that the flocking of humanity into cities is tending to undo the task of physical development which has been accomplished through thousands of years of open air vicissitude. The contraction of available light and air, especially in the poorer quarters, both within and without doors, the change of food and, perhaps more than anything else, the specialisation of muscular toil in ill-ventilated buildings are producing a decided state of physical degeneration. This is accentuated by the increasing indulgence in alcohol, especially amongst the lower classes in Europe, and especially, I regret to say, in Great Britain. Amongst the middle and upper classes, this process of degeneration is not so evident, because the conditions of life are favourable to freer contact with light and fresh air. A fair proportion seek exercise in the open air and notwithstanding what has been said about "flannelled fools," these athletes are doing good work for future humanity. I only wish that physical exercise in the open air, or under such conditions of ventilation as would ensure free access to pure air, could be made compulsory for the young of both sexes. Not only the fathers but also the mothers of future generations should contribute their quota of improvement to the race and for this purpose the physical education of girls and young women should be made more general and effective. Scientific physical training is now beginning to take the place of those aimless movements which, twenty years ago, used to produce the maximum of strain with the minimum of development. We are not all built alike. In some, the chest is too flat and in others too oval towards the front to perfectly fulfil the function of admitting air to every part of the lungs; thus, not only is the in take of oxygen deficient in amount, but the normal expansion of the lungs is hindered and they thus become more prone to disease. There is another point too in this connection which is frequently overlooked, namely the work which is done by both chest and lungs in assisting the heart to circulate the blood through the body. That this is of great importance is seen by the forced respiration which takes place on walking up hill, or putting any other strain on the action of the heart. This forced respiration not only brings more air into the lungs, but it greatly assists the heart by filling and emptying the great veins in the chest, thereby hastening the return of blood to this organ and diminishing the resistance to its outflow. You will understand then, that the delopment of the chest and of the special muscles that move it, is of the highest importance and exercises for this object should be undertaken daily by both young and old.

Next in importance to these exercises, is the necessity of sleeping in an atmosphere of fresh air. We spend, on the average, about eight hours out of the twenty-four in sleep, or at least in bed, and thus one-third of the life-time of a human being is passed in this stationary manner. Some people do think of opening the window an inch or two during the hours of sleep; a few may allow a foot or more of space for ventilation; the great majority have the bedroom window closely shut. In Japan, the houses are so well constructed that it is fortunately impossible to exclude air entirely by means of a window, or even a wall. I would point out, however, that, however well intentioned, this system of ventilation is not sufficiently under control to be effective. The modern idea of ventilation is not to have the air oozing placidly through the walls of your parlour and cooling your back as you sit at the fire, but to enable one to regulate the supply with the least possible amount of draught. Now, a fire, that is to say in its proper place, is an excellent means of removing foul air, but its warmth has the disadvantage of creating a difference in pressure between the outside atmosphere and the air of the room. Thus it follows that in Japan our faces may be roasting from the radiant heat of the fire, while universal space seems to be concentrating in a chilly stream on our backs. If there is no fire in your bedroom, there is little fear of a draught while the door is shut, even if the window be wide open. If you are afraid of this, a low screen will entirely obviate it. It is better to have the bedroom facing the south, not only to avoid the force of the North wind, but to have the sun in the morning during exercise. It is not, however, an absolute necessity. There is no harm in the North wind, if it does not concentrate too much on your person. As Shakespeare sings, "its sting is not so sharp, although its breath be rude." My advice is to keep your venetians shut and if you have not been accustomed to sleep in fresh air open your window about two inches further each day until you have it opened at least two feet. If the wind is blowing very strongly, the space may be somewhat less. If you prefer to open the window from the top, and fear that the window may blow too strongly upon you, this simple device which I now draw, and which can be hooked on to the upper part of the window, will afford ample protection. Personally I prefer to open the lower sash and to use a screen on very windy nights. I have grown quite to like the North wind and to think, with the great poet that "it is not so unkind as Man's ingratitude." I feel sure that wrapped up in warm blankets, with the face well exposed to the air, even if there be a breeze, there will be not the least danger of "catching cold," while a short experience will convince you that it is infinitely more healthy than using up all the cubic feet of fresh air which your room contains and trusting to the porosity of your walls for the rest. Your sleep will be deeper and more refreshing, and you will awake in the morning with a feeling of well being, unless you have been dining out the previous evening, which will go far to reconcile you with the wind, be it North or South. There is a popular superstition that the evening air is unhealthy. In Japan there are occasions when it is not very savoury, but these are momentary and otherwise I am sure that the evening air of Yokohama is quite as healthy as that during the day.

Our Japanese friends, with all the great progress which they have made, have not advanced much in sanitation, and the drains of this city especially, leave much to be desired. Owing to the system, very absurd in an earthquake country, of combining the storm water and domestic drainage; owing to the entire absence of traps and ventilators on our drains, and largely due also to the fact that those of the Bluff system run down at such an angle that no water is left to act as a stopvalve, it may be truly said that the Bluff drains are the main ventilators for the sewers of Motomachi and Kitagata. When the wind moves in certain directions, when the sun heats the air on the Bluff and also after a rainstorm, the effluvia of sewer gas is not to be denied. Some years ago, I wrote to the sanitary authority to explain how easy and inexpensive it would be to have ventilated syphon traps on the drains, but nothing was done. I trust that when the present troubles have been tided over and prosperity has again set in, the local sanitary authority may see fit to remedy this very dangerous state of affairs. I fear that this may seem too much of a digression from the immediate question of indulging in fresh air during slumber, but as it has a very important bearing upon the health of the Foreign community here, it is not perhaps out of place. I would not, however, regard this condition as a distinct contradication to sleeping with open windows, for there is likely to be less sewer gas during the night than the day and in any event the outer air, though far from ideal, is likely to be fresher than the same air which has received further contamination after hours in an inhabited bedroom. It ought however to be ascertained that there are no drain exits within at least ten yards of the bedroom window and I think that there can be no question that a bedroom in an upper story is preferable to one on the ground floor. When possible also, the bedroom window should not face the street. Every one has heard of the open air treatment of consumption and of the great benefit which, in many cases, has been derived through it. If its success was at first somewhat overrated in respect to absolute cure in marked cases of this disease, there can be no doubt that it has wrought many a cure in the early stages and that many useful lives have been prolonged even in advanced cases. The experience of the South African war has clearly proved that typhoid fever is accompanied by a very much less mortality when treated in the open air, and I am convinced that pneumonia is a much less deadly affection when the patient has free access to the air even in the coldest weather. I mention these points in order to convince you that fresh air, even when cold, is no enemy, but on the contrary, the beneficent friend of mankind. When people talk in an aggrieved way about having "caught cold" they are seldom aware that they are suffering from an infection by sundry microbes which have triumphed, it is true, on account of the floodgates of the circulation having temporarily lost their adjustment through loss of heat. This is not, however, due to the air, which is itself not a good conductor of heat, but to the rapid movement of it which carries away heat from the transpiring surface of the insufficently protected skin. In the Artic regions, where the cold is cold, such a thing as "catching cold" is practically unknown, for the reason that there are not enough microbes "to go round." These gentry don't seem to hanker after the Arctic regions; probably because they are more liable themselves to catch cold there than their would-be victims.

While we are speaking about air, let me ask you: what is the rationale of the happy effects so often produced by a "change of air"? In Yokohama we know that a run down to Kamakura or to Miyanoshita for a few days, or longer if we are lucky, often seems to clear away the cobwebs from our minds, to soothe our nerves and to invigorate our bodies. What brings this about is rather a puzzling question, which some of you may be able to answer better than I can. So far as I can see there are several factors to be considered. This change of feeling is not entirely dependent upon change of place, for even in Yokohama we may have not only depression of spirits and bodily vigour, but we occasionally experience a rebound to a state of joyous elevation, without, I may add, any artificial stimulation.

It seems to me that there are five conditions in relation to the atmosphere that may affect our well-being in Japan. I will presently mention others which are unconnected with the air and which are more under individual control. These five conditions act more or less conjointly, like the ingredients of a cocktail, but their physiological action is not so easily ascertained. They are, firstly, temperature. The relation between fluctuations of temperature and bodily health is obvious to all and need not detain us here. The body of man is so constituted that the nerves of the skin over any one part, are connected, through central stations, called ganglia, with the underlying organs, and thus it is that local chilling or heating profoundly modifies the circulation of the parts beneath. We do not need to suppose that the cold or heat actually penetrates to these deeper parts, though it may occasionally do so; the disturbance of the delicately adjusted apparatus for the circulation of blood and lymph, in the case of a "chill," for instance, is quite sufficient to diminish our resistance to local or general infection and render us more liable to "catch" disease. Time does not permit us to dwell on this subject, so I shall only mention in passing, that the temperature of the air affects the proportion of oxygen which it contains and thus may have some influence on our feelings and functions.

Secondly, the degree of moisture in the atmosphere is not without influence on our bodily condition. In Yokohama we are surrounded by sea and by cultivated land which is mostly of that moist and generous nature which we associate with the poetic word "paddy." From these sources the neighbouring atmosphere acquires a liberal proportion of aqueous vapour. The hygrometer shews that the local atmosphere is frequently saturated with water. This is twenty-five per cent. more than it ought to be for human comfort, and the consequences are not conductive to health. In the presence of moisture, the air contains less oxygen and the water in the air also conducts away too much heat in cool weather, while it tends to prevent radiation of heat during the warm days of summer, by lessening evaporation from the skin.

With regard to the third condition, we note that the moisture arising from the soil is accompanied by organic matter in the form of gas and finely divided particles and that the dust which blows from it when dry, is also full of organic matter, both dead and living. The oxygen of the air attacks this matter, especially under the influence of sunlight, and is used up in the process. The air coming from the sea and the uplands contains much ozone and has to cross the rising exhalations from the ground. This active form of oxygen finds employment in oxidising the organic material in the air and probably reaches us in deficient amount. When we go to the seaside, where we get the breeze directly from the Pacific, or to some place above the paddy level, such as Shoji, we experience a feeling of exhilaration which is probably due to the presence of ozone and the freer supply of oxygen. At the higher altitudes, though the amount of oxygen is not so great as at the sea level, it is amply compensated for by freer respiration and diminished moisture. We can scarcely doubt that the drainage system in use on the Bluff is partly responsible for a deficiency of oxygen in our local atmosphere.

The fourth condition relates to the pressure of the atmosphere upon the surface of the earth and everything thereon. This has a bearing upon health which is empirically recognised, but I am not aware that it has received the scientific attention which its importance demands. The extent of body surface which the average man presents to the atmosphere is about thirteen hundred square inches. If we take fourteen and a half pounds as the normal atmospheric pressure, about the level of Yokohama, this will give a total pressure on the surface of our bodies of something like nineteen thousand pounds. As the total amount of surface which our lungs expose to the air is stated to be a hundred times as much as that of the body, it will be understood that, between inside and outside pressure, we have to stand a good deal of squeezing. In the case of the lungs, however, the pressure on one side of an air sac is usually counteracted by that on the other side, so that the total inward pressure on the chest is less than might be supposed. Still, this pressure must tell considerably on the blood vessels which run in the walls of these air sacs, so that variations in the atmospheric pressure must affect the circulation in this manner. The body consists of about sixty-five per cent. of water, which is incompressible, and about five per cent. of ash, so that there is only about thirty per cent. of compressible matter in suspension or solution. This includes the active ingredients of our nerves, muscles and other organs, and these must bear the greater strain when the atmospheric pressure changes. A rise or fall of an inch in the barometer means a difference of nearly half a pound of pressure on each square inch of our bodies, so that without considering the effect thus produced on the lungs, there would be a difference of pressure of about six hundred pounds, or four times the weight of an ordinary man! When we consider also that the amount of oxygen varies directly with the pressure of the atmosphere we can readily understand why the rise and fall of the barometer should correspond with variations in our feelings and health.

Fifthly, the probability that variations in the electrical state of the atmosphere may have a decided influence on our bodily condition is one that should be kept in mind. It has occurred to me that the high backbone of mountains in this long and narrow island with the evaporation from the lower lands, may tend to produce different electrical conditions from those that prevail elsewhere. It cannot be gainsaid that such electrical conditions do modify our physiological activities, but how they do is a subject that admits of considerable discussion, and cannot occupy us here. I would only remark that these five conditions of the atmosphere vary, not only rom time to time, but have a different order of prominence in different localities, so that at the seaside and on the hills, pure air can be enjoyed under different auspices, suitable to different persons, or states of health for the time being.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

FIRES.

Early on the morning of April 15th, fire occurred in the Onkata Yarn Factory, Minami-Tama-gori, near Tokyo, burning down the whole building. The cause was a lamp which was upset in the room of an engineer in the compound.

We have already briefly alluded to the fire which occurred at Hirosaki on the 16th April. A correspondent writes that the flames broke out in the upstairs room of a photographer's shortly before noon, when all the men were below at dinner. The fire having got a start, made considerable headway and the photographer's shop, together with the Methodist Episcopal Church and parsonage, which adjoined, were completely destroyed, and another building was partially damaged. The loss is put at about *yen* 7,500, which is partly covered by insurance.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha's steamer *Hitaka Maru* took fire on the afternoon of April 12th while lying at Otaru, Hokkaido. The flames were extinguished before serious damage was done, except to about a hundred and fifty pieces of cargo, which were stained. The origin of the accident is believed to be some inflammable materials among the cargo. The ship left on the 14th for her destination.

Hongkong was treated to the spectacle of an alarming fire on Sunday afternoon, April 10th. The fire broke out in No. 22 Godown, Chater-road, Kowloon, belonging to the H. and K. Wharf and Godown Company, and it quickly spread to Godown 21. This was apparantly stored with merchandise and goods of the most inflammable character possible—kerosene, crackers, percussion-caps, candles, saltpetre, and opium being among the materials lodged there. Shortly after three o'clock a tremendous explosion occurred. A great sheet of flame was thrown skywards some 300 feet high while voluminous clouds of smoke ascended from the building and enshrouded the locality in blinding mist. Bricks, and charred logs were flung about like so many pebbles, windows were shattered, and in some cases crockery standing on the tables of houses in the neighbourhood was broken by the shock. In Tsimshatsui Police Station several plates of glass were broken and china-ware was destroyed. All over Kowloon the shock was felt, and in Hongkong even there was distinct appreciation of the disturbance. The *Hongkong Daily Press* says that the last of the explosions—which occurred every half hour or so—took place about half-past five. The godowns which were destroyed or damaged extend from Chater Road on the west to the Water Police Basin on the east.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

A case of cholera is reported from the district of Higashi-nari near Osaka.

A pipe of the Ujina water works burst on the night of April 17th.

The Italian cruiser *Puglia* left Kobe on April 18th for Chemulpo.

The Fusan (Korea) branch of the First Bank has issued three denominations of notes —*sen* 10, 20, and 50.

A lantern procession took place on the night of April 18th in Yokohama, starting from the Public Gardens.

The German warship *Fuerst Bismarck* arrived on April 18th at Shimonoseki, accompanied by a torpedo-destroyer.

We note that, owing to the indisposition of Mr. E. H. Cox, Mr. John Cowen has resumed the editorship of the *China Times*. He has not been deported. In fact, he appears to have emerged successfully from his struggle with the authorities.

During the first half of April, 2,826 bales of raw silk were brought from the interior and 2,430 bales were sold and exported abroad.

A Sapporo telegram reports that the fund collected in Hokkaido towards the war expenses aggregated on April 18th *yen* 198,069.

According to information from Tientsin, states a *Jiji's* Nagasaki telegram, five Japanese women are detained by the Russians at Liaoyang.

The total cost of constructing the Jubilee Road at Hongkong was $115,272.27, including a sum of $524 25 contributed by the Government. The road is five miles long.

Mr. Li-chi Yong and his party left Shimonoseki on April 19th by the 10 a.m. train for Kobe accompanied by Mr. Watanabe, an official of the Board of Ceremonies.

I. Homma, a student of the Meiji Law College, is reported to have committed suicide by drinking morphine. The cause is stated to be heavy debts contracted by irregularities of conduct.

The *Jiji* and *Asahi* agree in reporting that a scandal has occurred at the Kure Naval Station in connexion with the supply of provisions, and that several officers, etc., were to be arrested on April 20th.

A torpedo-boat which was under construction at the Kawasaki Shipbuilding Yard, Kobe, was completed in the beginning of this month, and another about ready, is expected to run her trial trip on April 21st.

During March, the export of tea from Yokohama to America was as follows: to San Francisco, 79,820 lbs.; to New York, 277,355 lbs.; to Canada, 51,912 lbs.; Chicago, 85,250 lbs.; and to the Pacific coast generally 21,448 lbs.

In the Varsity boat-race Oxford led as far as Hammersmith. Cambridge then, having the better station, gradually overhauled Oxford, was slightly ahead at Thorneycroft's and led by two-and-a-half lengths at Barnes Bridge, winning eventually by four lengths.

According to a telegram received from London on April 18th by the Yokohama Specie Bank, Japanese four-per-cent. bonds rose £2¼ making a quotation of £66.5, five-per-cent. bonds rose £2.8.7, making £80.0.3 and war loan bonds, £2.11, making £82.3.6.

An official telegram from Kobe states that a case of small-pox was reported on April 16th among the crew of the British steamer *Shimosa* which arrived there the previous day from New York via Manila, Shanghai and other ports. The patient was removed to the Quarantine Station.

The Crown Prince proceeded on April 17th at 11 a.m. to the Naval Staff Office accompanied by Lieut.-General Prince Arisugawa, where he gave audience to the Minister of the Navy, the Chief of Staff and other high officers. The Chief of Staff gave details of the eight engagement at Port Arthur.

During the latest engagement at Port Arthur, two eagles were caught on one of the masts of the cruiser *Idzumo* and after the fight another was caught on the same ship, then on her way to the base. These birds were named *Ichiro* (first son), *Jiro* (second son), and *Saburo* (third son). They will be sent to the Imperial Headquarters.

News brought by a British steamer, says the *Jiji's* Nagasaki correspondent, states that a Chinese war-ship with the armament of the Russian gun-boat *Mandjur* has been sunk at Shanghai. A later telegram to the same paper reports that the Chinese warship is probably the *Nam Foo*. Details are not yet given.

Just a hundred years ago (says the *New York World*) Napoleon Bonaparte became Emperor of France and the march on Moscow was foreshadowed. This year Louis Napoleon, exiled Prince of the Second Empire, will lead into Manchuria the cavalry of the Czar. This is one way in which history plays her grim jokes.

The Chugoku Railway Company will issue debentures amounting to *yen* 360,000 in order to construct a new line. The company has decided to raise a loan of *yen* 720,000.

T. Nakahira, an engraver, in the village of Urauchi, Takaoka, Kochi prefecture, was arrested on April 20th on a charge of having forged 5-*yen* notes amounting to fifty thousand *yen*.

According to the captain of a British steamer which arrived on April 20th from Tientsin, says the *Jiji's* correspondent, the Russian authorities propose to classify wool as contraband of war.

. The U.S. Minister in Tokyo, on April 13th informed the Department of Foreign Affairs, that Mr. George H. Scidmore had been appointed a special adviser to the Legation and would take up the duties of Councillor.

As part of the harbour construction scheme, the Osaka City Assembly decided on April 20th to build four godowns each of five hundred *tsubo*, and four piers for cargo, for which purposes the Assembly decided to spend *yen* 126,223.

We are informed that the net amount accruing for Bishop Moore's lecture on the "Battle of Chemulpo" was *yen* 137.34. This was divided between the Funds for the relief of distressed soldiers, &c., and poor children, *yen* 85.00 being handed to the former and *yen* 52.34 to the latter.

Plague, according to the *Friend of India*, is still increasing in the Provinces, the Punjab, Bengal, and Central Provinces. For the week ended 12th March there were 28,919 deaths from plague. Rangoon has been declared free from plague.

A telegram from Chiba says that J. Kudzufu, a farmer in the village of Suga, Katori district, murdered his grandmother on the night of April 12th and reported at the police station that the act was perpetrated by a burglar. The police, having, however, ascertained the true facts, arrested the man as well as his mother and wife on the 19th.

The *Asahi* has an Okayama telegram reporting rude treatment of the girls of the High Female School by their teachers. It appears that the teachers examined the female students in a nude state because a daughter of Mr. Higaki, the Governor, complained of having lost money in the institution. All the parents of the girls have protested at the Kencho against the conduct of the teachers and the educational inspectors are now investigating the affair.

We acknowledge receipt of the list of lighthouses, light-vessels, buoys and beacons on the coast and rivers of China issued by the Imperial Maritime Customs. It is corrected to December 1st, 1903 and therefore includes the Port Arthur lights "under the Russian Government's administration." The work which, with the list of foreign and Chinese staff runs to 60 pages, is marked by the lucidity that always characterises these publications and the coloured charts are almost works of art.

The largest grape vine in the world is growing in the Carpinteria Valley, 12 miles east of Santa Barbara, California, and is called La Para Grande. It was started from a cutting 61 years ago by a young Spanish woman, Dona Ayala. It is 8ft. 4in. in circumference at its base, and one of the horizontal branches measures more than 3ft. in circumference. The trellis covers about a third of an acre and 60 heavy posts support it. The vine produces as many as 5,000 bunches annually, at a conservative estimate.

A French gentleman who declares himself to be a correspondent of the *Petit Journal* and the *Revue de la Mode* was injured on April 14th at Ishikawa-machi, Yokohama, by a stone which was thrown at him. Previous to the accident, the foreigner had taken a jinrikisha at the railway station and at Kame-no-hashi he had trouble with the coolie as to the fare, but matters were settled by a policeman. The correspondent was on his way to his house at Omarudani, Ishikawa, Naka-machi.

Tokyo papers agree in saying that owing to the difference in the price of Japanese 5-per-cent. bonds in London and the price ruling in Japan, a number of these securities valued at about twenty-five thousand *yen* were placed on the Tokyo stock market a few days since through a foreign firm in Yokohama. The buyer was the Yama-Ichi Shoten, leading sharebrokers. The *Nichi Nichi* adds that securities valued at three hundred thousand *yen* will be submitted to the native market in the middle of next month.

The Scottish engineer who is reported to have given the Russians considerable assistance in the repair of the damaged warships in Port Arthur is Mr. John Gilchrist, from Clydeside, says the *China Mail*. He was formerly an engineer on one of the *Empress* liners running between Hongkong and Canada, and was employed for some years in the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company's establishment at Hunghom. For several seasons, Mr. Gilchrist was one of Hongkong's leading amateur vocalists. After leaving Hongkong, he returned to England, and established himself as a consulting engineer, but he returned to the East soon after, and was, we believe, at the Amoy Dock for a short period before establishing himself at Dalny and Port Arthur.

The Mayors of Yokohama, Tokyo, Nagoya, Kyoto, Osaka, Kobe and Nagasaki have circulated a telegram to prominent cities abroad, the purport of the message running as follows: In reply to numerous enquiries and to clear away some mis-understandings which may be prevalent abroad, the Mayors of the leading cities in Japan are willing to guarantee that the conditions at present prevailing throughout the Empire are not different from those noticeable in ordinary years. Despite the serious situation caused by the war the social peace is not disturbed and no inconvenience or damage would be occasioned to any persons who will pay a visit either on business or pleasure to Japan. Transportation by sea or land is securely guaranteed, and there will not be any suspension of communications with this country and sorrounding waters, outside of course the arena of war. Under the protection of the Japanese army and navy there need be no fear that a foreign foe will invade the dominions of the Empire.

The war receives a full share of attention from the *Sphere* and the *Graphic*. The former in its issue of March 12th has several groups of maps and plans which ought to be of the greatest service to all who are interested in the war and desire to follow the course of events. One is a bird's-eye map of the Liau-tung Peninsula accompanied by two views of Port Arthur, a key map showing the position of the Kwang-tung Peninsula and a chart of the locality with soundings. There are also maps and views of Vladivostock and Dalny, a bird's-eye map of Korea and views of Seoul and Chemulpo, besides a variety of sketches more less connected with the war. The *Sphere* is very readable and interesting. The *Graphic* similarly devotes a large portion of its space to sketches illustrating the progress of hostilities, one of the most striking of which is a view taken from the Russian steamer *Mongolia* on her last trip from Shanghai to Dalny, which shows the search-light demonstration that accompanied the first engagement at Port Arthur.

We read that possibly the latest thing in electrical development is the talking searchlight. The telephonic quality of the electric light ray will be extensively illustrated at the World's Fair in St. Louis. "A large searchlight will be erected and a far-distant operator may speak into it. It has been discovered that vibrations of the human voice are carried by a ray the same as by wire. Experiments in St. Louis have demonstrated that the voice can be heard many feet from the arc light. At present, a concave mirror is necessary to focus the word-carrying rays into the telephone held to the ear of the listener. It is possible, however, that future development will make this unnecessary in the searchlight telephone at the World's Fair. One of the searchlights to be erected here is the largest in the world. It has 5,000,000 candle power and may be seen across the entire State of Missouri, a distance of over 250 miles. All that is necessary to speak to one for a distance of a mile or more is to connect the ray with the telephone."

THE WAR TAXES.

Mr. S. Saito, Director of the Revenue Superintending Bureau, Yokohama, hands us the following translation of the special war tax law which will come in force on April 1st:—

LAW NO. 3.

(PROMULGATED 31ST MARCH, 1904.)

Extraordinary Special Taxes.

Art. 1.—To defray expenditures arising from a special contingency the land tax, business tax, income tax, sake tax, sugar consumption tax, soy tax, registration tax, exchange tax, shooting license tax, mining tax, and various import duties shall be increased, and a consumption tax shall be imposed on woollen textiles and kerosene oil, and the civil suit stamp duty shall also be increased in accordance with this law.

Art. 2.—Land tax, business tax, income tax, sake tax, sugar consumption tax, soy tax, registration tax, exchange tax, shooting license tax, mining tax, and import duties on beverages and comestibles, clothing and accessories, kerosene oil, sugar, molasses, syrup, silk tissues, liquors and tobacco shall be increased and levied according to the following rate besides the amounts of the taxes fixed in those laws and regulations respectively:—

1. Land Tax.
   Urban building land, $\frac{5.5}{100}$ of the assessed value of land.
   Rural building land, $\frac{3.5}{100}$ of the assessed value of land.
   Other land, $\frac{1.8}{100}$ of the assessed value of land.
2. Business tax, $\frac{7}{10}$ of the amount of the tax according to the business tax law.
3. —Income tax.
   Income of 1st and 2nd class, $\frac{7}{10}$ of the amount of the tax according to the income tax law.
4. Sake Tax.
   Sake under the tax law for the manufacture of sake.
   1st, 50 *sen* per *koku*.
   2nd, 50 *sen* per *koku*.
   3rd, 2½ *sen* for each degree of alcohol.
   Beer, 50 *sen* per *koku*.
   Alcohol and alcoholic liquors (containing quantities of alcohol over 20° in 100 per cent. of the original liquor) 2½ *sen* for each unit of pure alcohol per *koku* of original liquor.
   Sake export duty of Okinawa Prefecture.
   Sake, to be imposed according to clause 1 of Art. 1 in the regulations as to sake export duty in Okinawa Prefecture, 50 *sen* per *koku*.
   Sake, to be imposed according to Clause 2 of the same Article of the same regulations.
   2½ *sen* for each unit of pure alcohol contained in 100 per cent. per *koku* of the original liquor.
5. Sugar consumption tax.
   Class 1, *yen* 1.00 per picul.
   Class 2, *yen* 3.00 per picul.
   Class 3, *yen* 3.30 per picul.
   Class 4, *yen* 3.70 per picul.
6. Soy Tax.
   According to the principal clause of Art. 2 in the Regulation as to the Soy Tax, Soy 50 *sen* per *koku* of Moromi.
   Tamari, 50 *sen* per *koku* of refined.
   According to the special clause of Art. 2 in the same regulations.
   Soy, 25 *sen* per *koku* of Moromi.
   Tamari, 25 *sen* per *koku* of refined.
7. Registration Tax.
   With regard to the registration of immovable property.
   Acquisition of ownership by legal inheritance, 3/1,000 of the value of immovable property.
   Aquisition of ownership by inheritance other than legal inheritance or by succession to an estate left by a deceased person, 5/1,000 of the value of immovable property.
   Acquisition of ownership by will, donation or otherwise without consideration, 10/1,000 of the value of immovable property.
   Acquisition of ownership from any cause other than those specified above, 5/1,000 of the value of immovable property. Preservation of ownership obtained formerly, 3/1,000 of the value of immovable property.

Creation of hereditary property of nobles, 5/1,000 of the value of immovable property.

With regard to the registration of vessels. Acquisition of ownership by legal inheritance, 2/1,000 of the value of a vessel. Acquisition of ownership by inheritance other than legal inheritance or by succession to an estate left by a deceased person, 5/1,000 of the value of a vessel.

Acquisition of ownership by will, donation or otherwise without consideration, 20/1,000 of the value of a vessel.

Acquisition of ownership from any cause other than specified above, 5/1,000 of the value of a vessel.

Preservation of ownership obtained formerly, 2/1,000 of the value of a vessel.

Registration tax according to Art. 6 and Art. 6 B. of the Registration Tax Law.

Rate of tax, a proportion of a thousandth on the basis of assessment.

Amount of tax decided for each place and each case.

When amount	of tax is	10 *yen*,	5 *yen*.
„	„	5 *yen*,	2 *yen*.
„	„	3 *yen*,	2 *yen*.
„	„	2 *yen*,	1 *yen*.
„	„	1 *yen*,	50 *sen*.
„	„	50 *sen*,	20 *sen*.

With regard to the registration of mines.

For trial working 25 *yen*.

For ordinary working 50 *yen*.

For the increase of area for trial working or correction as to the increase or decrease of area of the same, 10 *yen*.

For increase of area of mining or correction as to the increase or decrease of area of the same, 25 *yen*.

For purchase or transfer, 25 *yen*.

8. Exchange Tax.

Merchandise and valuable bonds, 3/10,000 of each contracted amount of sale.

National and local bonds, 2/10,000 of each contracted amount of sale.

9. Shooting License Tax.

1st class, 10 *yen*.
2nd class, 5 *yen*.
3rd class, 1 *yen*.

10. Mining Tax, 10 *sen* a year per thousand *tsubo* of mining area.

11. Import Duty.

Goods mentioned in Group 2 of the Table of Import Duty affixed to the Law of the rate of Customs Duty, Confectionary and Sweetmeats excepted, 5 per cent, *ad valorem*.

Confectionary and Sweetmeats.

(A). Confectionary, 10 per cent. *ad valorem*.
(B). Prepared with Sugar, Molasses or Syrup, 5 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Silk, manufactured or mixed, mentioned in Group 3 of the Table of Import duty affixed to the Law of the rate of Customs duty, 20 per cent. *ad valorem*. Alcohol, 3 *sen* per litre.

Other Alcohol, mixed, 3 *sen* per litre. Various alcoholic medicines, (opium tincture excepted), 3 *sen* per litre.

Kerosene oil, 20 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Sugar (below No. 15, Dutch colour standard), 25 per cent. *ad valcrem*.

Molasses. 20 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Syrup, 20 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Chinese silk crapes, 10 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Chinese pongee, 10 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Chinese silk satins, 10 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Chinese silk printed satins, 10 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Silk faced cotton satins, 10 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Silk embroidered and silk cloth embroidered, 10 per cent. *ad valorem*.

All other various silk tissues (whether pure silk or mixed), 10 per cent. *ad valorem*.

All manufactured tobacco, 100 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Chinese liquors (brewed), 20 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Sake, 20 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Various wines, liquors and spirits containing quantities of alcohol of over 50 per cent. in 100 per cent of the original; 5 *rin* for every ten litres, increasing for each unit of quantities of pure alcohol.

Art. 3. Consumption Tax shall be imposed on Woollen Textiles and Kerosene Oil at the following rates:—

1. Woollen textiles,—15/100 of the value.
2. Kerosene Oil,—*sen* 3.2 per gallon.

Woollen textiles above described shall be all made of woollen cloth, woollen cloth and silk mixtures and woollen cloth and cotton mixtures, irrespective of the quantity of wool.

Art. 4.—The following Stamps shall be used besides those to be used on writs of complaint and documents of statement or application regarding other civil suits.

1. Writ of complaint for 1st instance.

Regarding a claim of right of property.

Under five *yen* value of things in dispute, 5 *sen*.

Under ten *yen* value of things in dispute, 10 *sen*.

Under twenty *yen* value of things in dispute, 20 *sen*.

Under fifty *yen* value of things in dispute, 30 *sen*.

Under seventy-five *yen* value of things in dispute, 30 *sen*.

Under a hundred *yen* value of things in dispute, 50 *sen*.

Under two hundred and fifty *yen* value of things in dispute, 50 *sen*.

Under five hundred *yen* value of things in dispute, 2 *yen*.

Under seven hundred and fifty *yen* value of things in dispute, 2 *yen*.

Under a thousand *yen* value of things in dispute, 3 *yen*.

Under two thousand five hundred *yen* value of things in dispute, 5 *yen*.

Under five thousand *yen* value of things in dispute, 5 *yen*.

For each thousand *yen* over five thousand *yen* value of things, 1 *yen*.

Regarding a claim not on a right of property, 50 *sen*.

2. Writ of an appeal to a superior court. Half the amount of increased stamp duty to be used in first instance.

3. Writ of an appeal to a supreme court. Same amount as increased stamp duties to be used in first instance.

4. An application for order of payment. Exceeding ten *yen* value of things in dispute, the difference between 20 *sen* and half the amount of stamps to be used in 1st instance in accordance with this law and the law of civil suits stamp duty. In case a complaint belongs to a local court according to the provisions of Art. 390 in the Law of Civil Procedure or if a complaint is to be made to a district court according to the provisions of Clause No. 2 of Art. 391 in the same law the aforesaid difference in amount shall be reckoned with the amount of stamps to be used in case of a complaint.

5. Other statements or applications.

Statement for change of date, postponement of discussion or appointment of date of discussion. Statement for continuing proceedings in a suit which is ceased or suspended, 20 *sen*.

Application for entering a secondary party, 20 *sen*.

Application for rejection, 20 *sen*.

Statement for reconciliation, 20 *sen*.

Application for deciding amount of costs, 20 *sen*.

Statement demanding provisional execution, 20 *sen*.

Statement of suspending or continuing compulsory execution and countermanding proceedings of execution, 20 *sen*.

Claim for distribution, 20 sen.

Statement for liquidation or for rehabilitation of a person in liquidation, 20 *sen*.

Statement for compulsory sale of property by public auction or for compulsory supervision of property, 20 *sen*.

Application for attaching a right of credit or other property, 20 *sen*.

Statement in cases covered by Arts. 732 to 734 in the Law of Civil Procedure, 20 *sen*.

Statement for evidence to be examined, 50 *sen*.

Statement demanding judgment to be given, 50 *sen*.

Statement demanding original copy of execution, 50 *sen*.

For each copy when other original copies are demanded, 50 *sen*.

Application for temporary seizure or disposal of property, 50 *sen*.

Statement for adversary, 50 *sen*.

Statement for objection, 50 *sen*.

Writ of answer and other statements or applications not mentioned specially, 5 *sen*.

All documents of statement or application mentioned as follows shall have increased stamps of 80 *sen* besides the stamps to be used in accordance with the law of civil suits stamp duty.

1. Application for subrogation.
2. Statement for sale by auction according to the Law of Auction.
3. Statement for adversary regarding subrogation, sale by auction according to the Law of Auction or registration of immovable property.

In case the of value of things in dispute is under 20 *yen* the provisions of No. 5 of the 1st clause do not apply.

The provisions of the 1st clause of this article apply correspondingly to a writ of complaint demanding a second trial or to an application for reverting to the original state.

Art. 5.—The documents of an application or a statement regarding non-procedure in mercantile matters shall have increased stamps as follows in addition to those to be used in accordance with the law of stamps in case of non-procedure in mercantile matters.

1. Application mentioned as below.

Statement for adversary, 50 *sen*.

Application for sentence of bankruptcy made by a creditor, 50 *sen*.

Application for adjournment of payment 50 *sen*.

2. Other applications and statements, 5 *sen*.

Regarding procedure in a bank ruptcy the following increased stamps shall be used in addition to those to be used in accordance with the law of stamps in case of non-procedure in mercantile matters.

Amount of value of a foundation, (Zaidan)

Under	5	*yen*	....	10 *sen*.
„	10	„	....	20 „
„	20	„	....	40 „
„	50	„	....	60 „
„	75	„	....	60 „
„	100	„	....	1.00 *yen*.
„	250	„	....	1.00 „
„	500	„	....	4.00 „
„	750	„	....	4.00 „
„	1,000	„	....	6.00 „
„	2,500	„	....	10.00 „
„	5,000	„	....	10.00 „

	Yen.
For each thousand *yen* over five thousand *yen*	2.00

The aforesaid provisions apply correspondingly to cases under Art. 6 and Art. 7 of the law of stamps referring to non-procedure in mercantile matters.

In case of increased stamps having to be used according to the provisions of Clause 2 of this article, the provisions of Art. 5 of the law of stamps referring to non-procedure in mercantile matters apply correspondingly.

Art. 6.—Consumption tax shall not be imposed according to the ordinance, in the cases mentioned as follows:—

Woollen textiles or kerosene oil to be exported abroad.

Woollen textiles or kerosene oil to be consumed by manufacturers.

Art. 7.—When woollen textiles or kerosene oil are to be taken from a manufactory, customs or bonded warehouse, the consumption tax on them shall be collected from the person taking delivery.

Art. 8.—According to ordinance the Government may postpone the collection of consumption tax on woollen textiles or kerosene oil.

Art. 9.—Any person taking delivery of woollen textiles from a manufactory, custom house or bonded warehouse shall make a declaration of its value to the Government.

In case neither the aforesaid declaration nor the value declared is considered proper the Government shall appraise the value of the goods.

When a person taking delivery of woollen textiles objects to the value so appraised he may send in an application of objection at once.

When an application of objection is sent in, over two appraisers shall be selected and on their opinions the Government shall decide the matter.

When the difference between the value stated by an objector and that appraised according to Clause 2 is greater than the difference between the value appraised according to Clause 2 and that of the foregoing paragraph, the expense of the appraisement shall be borne by the objector.

Art. 10.—Except in cases corresponding to Art. 6 or Art. 8, woollen textiles and kerosene oil shall not be taken from a manufactory, customs or bonded warehouse prior to payment of consumption tax.

Art. 11.—Except in cases corresponding to Art. 6 or Art. 8, manufacturers of woollen textiles or kerosene oil shall not deliver woollen textiles or kerosene oil to others for removal outside the manufactory.

Art. 12.—Persons wishing to manufacture woollen textiles or kerosene oil shall send in an application to the Government, except in cases where it is for their own use.

Art. 13.—Manufacturers of woollen textiles or kerosene oil are not allowed to sell woollen textiles or kerosene oil at the places of their respective manufacture.

Art. 14.—Manufacturers as well as sellers of woollen textiles or kerosene oil are required to provide account books in which the quantity manufactured, received or delivered, shall be entered in detail.

Art. 15.—Revenue officers are empowered to enter manufactories or places for the sale of woollen textiles or kerosene oil, to inspect such woollen textiles or kerosene oil, the materials, plant, machinery and buildings as well as books and documents. A revenue officer may, if he thinks it necessary for the purpose of supervision, put seals on the things referred to in the foregoing paragraph.

Art. 16.—Revenue officers are empowered to inspect woollen textiles or kerosene oil in transport or to inquire as to the place whence they have been taken or where they are to be taken to.

In cases under the foregoing paragraph, the revenue officers, should they consider it necessary for supervision, may suspend transport or put seals on goods vessels or vehicles.

Art. 17.—Offenders against any of the following items shall be liable to a fine corresponding to five times the amount of taxes leviable for consumption and the taxes shall be collected at once.

In no case, however, shall the amount of the fine fall below 10 *yen*.

1. When a person manufactures woollen textiles or kerosene oil without presenting a report to the Government except where these are to be used for one's own consumption.
2. When a person has assigned to others or used woollen textiles or kerosene oil which have, where the collection of the tax has been delayed without the depositing of security with the Government, been taken delivery of or been removed from the manufactory, customs or bonded warehouse.
3. When a person has offended against the provisions of Art. 10 and Art. 11.

Art. 18.—Offenders against one of the following items shall be liable to a fine of from 3 *yen* to 30 *yen*.

1. In case any manufacturer or seller of woollen textiles or kerosene oil is known to have made false entries in his books, or misrepresentations of facts, or has failed to state particulars with regard to the manufacture, receipt or delivery of woollen textiles or kerosene oil.
2. In case a person has opposed, evaded or impeded the revenue officers in the discharge of their duties. When provided for in the Criminal Code, the provisions thereof shall be applied.

Art. 19.—With regard to offenders against this law or ordinances issued according to this law, those provisions of the Penal Code which relate to mitigation, aggravation and concurrence of offences shall not be applied.

Art. 20.—When manufacturers or sellers of woollen textiles or kerosene oil are minors or persons adjudged incompetent, the penal regulation to be applied to the person conducting the business according to this law or the provisions of ordinances issued in accordance with this law, shall be applied to the legal representative, except in case of a minor who has the same capacity as that of an adult in regard to business matters.

Art. 21.—When the agent of a manufacturer or seller of woollen textiles or kerosene oil, or the head or members of the family of such manufacturer or seller, or any person living with him, or his employee, or any other person engaged in his business shall violate this law or the provisions of ordinances issued in accordance with this law, the manufacturer or the seller shall be punished.

Art. 22.—Hokkaido, (Ezo province) *Fu*, *Ken* (prefectures) *Shi*, (cities) *Cho*, (towns) *Son* (villages) as well as other public divisions are not allowed to impose taxes on the land except in the case of additional land tax or *tanbetsuwari* tax within limitations as follows:

1. In Hokkaido, *Fu*, *Ken* and *Ku*, (wards) 1st or 2nd class *Cho*, *Son*, of Hokkaido and *Ku* (wards) or the Island of Makiri in Okinawa Prefecture.—When imposing the additional tax only, $\frac{8}{10}$ of the land tax. When imposing *tanbetsuwari* tax only, 40 *sen* average per *tanbu* (about a quarter of an acre).

   In case of imposing both additional tax and *tanbetsuwari* tax, the whole amount of the *tanbetsuwari* tax may not be imposed beyond the difference between $\frac{8}{10}$ of the amount of the land tax with the *tanbetsu* and the whole amount of the additional tax.
2. Other public bodies. When imposing the additional tax only, $\frac{1}{10}$ of the land tax. When imposing the *tanbetsuwari* tax only, 40 *sen* on an average per *tanbu*.

   In case of imposing both additional tax and *tanbetsuwari* tax, the whole amount of *tanbetsuwari* tax may not be imposed beyond the difference between $\frac{3}{10}$ of the amount of land tax with *tanbetsuwari* and the whole amount of the additional tax.

   Public bodies except Hokkaido and *Fu* and *Ken* are not allowed to impose additional tax exceeding the amount of $\frac{3}{10}$ of the business tax and the income tax.

   With regard to the increased amount of the land tax, business tax and income tax in accordance with Art. 2, the additional tax may not be imposed.

   In case the expenditures of *Fu* or *Ken* have been apportioned to *Shi*, *Cho*, and *Son*; within that apportioned amount, *Shi*, *Cho*, and *Son*, may, after receiving the permission of the Ministers of Finance and the Home Department impose the additional tax or *tanbetsuwari* tax or impose both additional tax and *tanbetsuwari* tax irrespective of the limitations in Art. 1 or Art. 2. In case it is wished to repay the original amounts or to pay interest on debts incurred prior to the 36th fiscal year of *Meiji* or to defray expenditures on rebuilding works damaged by extraordinary calamity or in case that expenditures have been apportioned, additional tax or *tanbetsuwari* tax or both exceeding the amount of the restrictions in Clauses 1 and 2 shall be imposed with the permission of the Ministers of Finance and the Home Department.

   With regard to building ground or places for the drying of marine products in Hokkaido additional tax or *tanbetsuwari* tax or both the additional tax and *tanbetsuwari* tax exceeding the amount of the restrictions in Clause 1 shall be imposed with the permission of the Ministers of the Finance and Home Departments.

   Should it be desired to defray expenditures for the advantage of using water, additional tax or *tanbetsuwari* tax, or otherwise both the additional tax and *tanbetsuwari* tax exceeding the amount of the limitations of clause 1 shall be imposed with the permission of the Ministers of Finance and the Home Department. Limitations under Clauses 1 and 2 shall not prevent the application of special ordinances and regulations under which rates of tax have been fixed.

ADDITIONAL RULES.

Art. 23.—This law shall be enforced on the date of its promulgation. But import duties shall not come into force until six months have elapsed after the promulgation of the law.

With regard to land tax, business tax and income tax this law shall be enforced from the 37th fiscal year of *Meiji*.

The restrictions in the amounts of tax under Art. 22 shall be applied from the 37th fiscal year of *Meiji*. Should the aggregate or the rate of taxation in Hokkaido, *Fu*, *Ken*, *Shi*, *Cho*, *Son*, and other public divisions conflict with the provisions of this law, the conflicting part only shall lose its effect.

Art. 24.—Except for his own use any person manufacturing woollen textiles or kerosene oil prior to the operation of this law and wishing to continue such manufacture must report that fact to the Government within one month in accordance with this law.

During the period referred to in the foregoing paragraph such manufacture may be continued.

Art. 25—With regard to sugar of the 1st class, molasses or kerosene oil, when six months have elapsed after the operation of this law, the consumption tax shall not be imposed.

With regard to sugar of the 2nd class, when six months have elapsed after the operation of this law, No. 5 of Art. 2 shall not be applied, but the consumption tax shall be increased to 2 *yen* 30 *sen* per 100 piculs and imposed.

Art. 26.—With regard to sugar which is under No. 15 Dutch colour standard or molasses, when stored in a bonded warehouse, after the operation of this law the rate of import duties in force at the time when the goods are taken out shall be applied.

Art. 27.—After peace is restored this law shall be abolished at the end of the following year.

REGULATIONS FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE SPECIAL WAR TAX LAW.

IMPERIAL ORDINANCE No. 86.

Art. 1.—Manufacturers or persons intending to manufacture, as mentioned in the present ordinance, do not include those who are engaged in manufacture or those who intend to manufacture for their own exclusive uses.

Art. 2.—Persons who intend to carry on the manufacture of woollen textiles or kerosene oil (must) specify their manufactories and products to the Revenue Office under the jurisdiction of which are such works.

Art. 3.—Whenever that is deemed necessary, the competent Revenue Office shall order the submission of the plans of manufactories of woollen textiles (or kerosene), as well as inventories of machinery and implements required in such works, and such manufacturers must comply with such order.

Art. 4.—When manufacturers of woollen textiles (or kerosene) are about to remove their manufactories they must notify their new works to the competent Revenue Office.

Art. 5.—If a manufacturer of woollen textiles (or kerosene) wishes to carry on his operations for a fixed period, he must previously state the beginning and end of each period to the competent Revenue Office.

Art. 6.—If any change takes place in connection with the statement submitted under Arts 3 and 5 or the plans or inventories under Art. 3, such change must be reported to the competent Revenue Office.

Art. 7.—When a person succeeds a manufacturer of woollen (textiles or kerosene), he shall notify the same to the competent Revenue Office.

When a person intends to transfer the business of manufacturing woollen textiles (or kerosene) to others, he shall state the fact to the competent Revenue Office in a document signed by him jointly with the transferee.

Art. 8.—When a manufacturer of woollen textiles (or kerosene) ceases such business he shall state the fact to the competent Revenue Office.

Art. 9.—When a person desires exemption from the tax on woollen textiles (or kerosene) to be exported abroad, he must obtain the consent of the competent Revenue Office by previous application, stating the route of transport, the destination, and the port of entry.

Whenever deemed necessary, the competent Revenue office Offixes its seal on the articles referred to in the above paragraph, or transports the same in its own custody, or requires the deposit of securities proportionate to the amount of the tax.

In exporting woollen textiles (or kerosene) so exempted from the tax an export license or other document of similar effect shall be presented to the competent Revenue office.

If after the withdrawal of woollen textiles (or kerosene) from a manufactory, customs or bonded warehouse, the export license or document of similar effect does not follow within three months, the goods involved shall be considered not to have been exported and the tax shall consequently be collected from the person who took delivery.

Art. 10.—Should a manufacturer desire exemption from the tax on woollen textiles (or kerosene) for his own use, he must have the previous consent of the competent Revenue Office for the removal of such articles from the manufactory.

Art. 11.—When woollen textiles (or kerosene) come under one of the following cases, the period for the collection of the tax shall be extended:—

1. When securities exceeding the amount of the tax are deposited.
2. When woollen textiles (or kerosene) are removed from a manufactory or warehouse for transference to another manufactory or a warehouse.

In the case of No. 1 of the foregoing article, the prolongation can not exceed three months.

In the case of No. 2 of the foregoing article if woollen textiles (or kerosene) so stored have been taken out from the warehouse, they are regarded as if they were taken from the manufactory.

The provisions of Clauses 1 and 2 of Art. 9, are also applicable to No. 2, Clause 1 of the present article.

Art. 12.—If a person desires to remove woollen tesctiles (or kerosene) from a manufactory, he must so notify the competed Revenue Office; with regard to woollen textiles their value must also be stated.

Art. 13.—In districts where there is no Treasury office, revenue officials can collect the taxes. In the above case, revenue officials can notify verbally that payment of the tax is required.

Art. 14.—Securities acceptable as deposits under the present ordinance must either be cash or such papers of value as are deemed proper by the competent Revenue Office. After depositing securities, the relative receipt shall be transmitted to the competent Revenue Office by the depositor.

Art. 15.—In case the papers so deposited fall in value, the competent Revenue Office is authorized to request the deposit of additional securities.

Should any one fail in making such further deposit the competent Revenue Office shall collect the consumption tax at once.

Art. 16.—When payment of the consumption tax has been made or exemption from the same has been decided upon after the deposit of securities, the competent Revenue Office shall take the necessary steps to return the deposit to the parties concerned.

Art. 17.—In the collection of the tax, if there are securities deposited such securities shall be appropriated to payment of the taxes. In the appropriation of securities for payment of the tax, papers of value so deposited shall be sold at auction; and the proceeds therefrom shall be used for payment of the tax as well as for defraying expenses caused by the auction.

If the proceeds still fail to cover the amount, a further exaction is effected; if there is an excess the same shall be returned to the parties concerned.

Art. 18.—Manufacturers of woollen textiles (or kerosene) shall enter at least the following items on their register books:

1. Kind of materials, quantities of the same, dates of receipt, if received from others, addresses, names or firm, names of parties from whom delivery of the said materials was taken.
2. Kind and quantities of materials used and the day on which the same are put in use.
3. Kind and quantities manufactured and the date of manufacture.
4. Kind quantities, and value of the same, dates of delivery; addresses, names or firm-names of those to whom delivery is made.

Art. 19.—Dealers in woollen textiles (or kerosene) must at least enter on their register books the following items:—

1. Kind and quantities received and the value of the same, dates of receipt, addresses, names, or

firm-names of those from whom delivery is taken.

2. Kind and quantities sold the value of the same, dates of sale, addresses, names and firm-names of the buyers.

In the case of retail-dealers, names and addresses of the purchasers as provided in the preceding paragraph need not be entered.

Art. 20.—If a statement has been made to the competent revenue officials, sent to a manufactory or warehouse on duty, or consent has been asked from such officials, such statement or consent made to or given by the officials is valid as a statement to or consent of the competent Revenue Office.

Art. 21.—Revenue officials shall not disclose to others information connected with manufacturers or sellers of woollen textiles (or kerosene) and the business relating thereto obtained in their official capacity.

Art. 22.—Affairs connected with the Revenue Office under these regulations shall be transacted by the competent Customs authority when woollen textiles (or kerosene) have been removed from customs or bonded warehouses.

SUPPLEMENTARY.

The present ordinance shall come into force from the day of promulgation.

When a statement is required under Art. 24 of the Extraordinary Special Taxation Law, such statement shall be made to the Competent Revenue Office.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BRITANNIA'S SONS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir.—May I again avail myself of the courtesy of your columns to acquaint those who were interested in this movement, of the manner in which it has developed.

It was suggested last year that the graves of the British Sailors, Soldiers and Marines, in our local cemetery, should have some little attention given to them, beyond the general oversight constantly and faithfully extended by the Cemetery Committee. The British Admiral then in Yokohama supported the movement, and permitted a party of men from the fleet to clean and repaint the head-stones, etc.,—while the British residents showed their appreciation by subscribing for rose-bushes to be planted upon many of the graves. These rose-bushes have proved successful,—blossoming well, not only in the summer but also in the late autumn, and promising to do even better this year. The subscriptions being more than sufficient for this feature of the work, it was developed to the extent of placing white wooden crosses at the head of several of the un-named mounds, beneath which it was supposed that many of Britannia's sons had been laid to rest. In the late autumn, daffodil bulbs were planted, and these are now in bloom, and although the blossoms are somewhat straggling, they are better than nothing. The price of the 450 rose-bushes, the cost and erection of the 250 crosses, and the purchase and planting of the 800 bulbs have exhausted the sum of *yen* 159.00 which resulted from the donations, and the matter can now be closed by the fulfilment of the suggestion regarding the planting of primrose-roots, which will blossom perennially and thus prove a permanent decoration to the graves.

As the primrose season is now closing, roots which have passed their flowering season can be purchased at a very low price, (about 2-*sen* each), and it is hoped that we may have at least one thousand,—which will brighten the cemetery and prove of lasting adornment to the graves in question. No money is asked for. Those desiring to help in this movement are requested to send primrose-roots to Mr. C. Holgate, who has kindly consented to take charge of them, and attend to their planting.

A side issue of this movement has been the distribution of bunches of primroses to "Britannia's Sons" who are still above the sod, (and therefore better able to appreciate them),—a little band of lads and lassies, having, for two successive years, visited the ships and hospitals with bright nosegays of the yellow blossoms. Many a tender heart beneath a rough weather-beaten exterior has had fond memories awakened by these reminders of the primrose-carpeted woodlands of the "old country," and it is hoped that this distribution may be repeated annually. It was suggested that some primroses might hereafter be gathered for this purpose from those planted in the Cemetery, if they were sufficiently profuse, but this idea has met with the disapproval of some who cannot sanction the plucking of flowers from the graves of the dead, even for so laudable a purpose.

Thanking you for the space you have permitted me to use for making this matter public,

Yours faithfully, CLARENCE GRIFFIN.

Yokohama, April 16th, 1904.

"Why do we wait and coldly stint our praises,
And leave our reverent homage un-expressed,
Till brave hearts lie beneath a roof of daisies,
Then heap with flowers each hallowed place of rest."

"For every year the veteran ranks are broken,
And every year new graves await our flowers;
Ah! Why not give to living hearts some token
Of half the love and pride that throb through ours."

"Bring blooms to crown the dead; but, in your giving,
Forget not hearts that still can strive and ache,
O give your richest ga,rlands to the living,
Who offered all in youth, for honour's sake."

THE NAGASAKI HOTEL, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders of the above company was held at the Nagasaki Hotel on Wednesday, 13th inst, when there were present, Messrs F. Ringer (Chairman), R. I. Bowie, A. L. Jordan (Directors), Mullerbeeck, Buckland, Mansbridge, Carnduff, Measor, Smart, Boeddinghaus, R. H. Powers and Inman (Secretary), representing *yen* 46,200 of the issued Capital, *yen* 130,000.

The Seretary read the Notice calling the Meeting.

The Chairman—Gentlemen, the object of the meeting has been advertised and you are all aware of the business. Dr Bowie will explain the reason for calling this meeting.

Dr. Bowie—Gentlmen, it is with regret that the Directors have had to call this Extraordinary Meeting of Shareholders for the purpose of asking you to vote for the voluntary liquidation of the Company, but I can assure you that we have only done so after very long deliberation on the matter. The Capital of the Company is, as you are aware *yen* 130,000.00 all of which is fully paid up; and in June, 1898, Debentures were issued to the amount of *yen* 170,000.00 at 7 per cent. interest per annum. The holders of these Debentures have first claim on the property of the Company, in fact should the resolution be carried, the face value of these Debentures immediately becomes payable—as to how this is to be effected will be a matter entirely in the hands of the Official Liquidator, and I shall ask you later to recommed to the Court at Hongkong a gentleman to act for the Company in this capacity. There is of course interest due on these Debentures, payable on the 1st of January last, amounting to *yen* 5,950.00, which we regret to say is still unpaid and which it will be impossible to pay before the 1st of July next—this was our principal reason for calling this Meeting. There is also an amount of *yen* 7,775 owing to Messrs. Holme Ringer & Co. for cash advanced, for which they have requested payment and declined to negotiate the Company's cheques for any further amounts; the other liabilities of the Company do not amount to *yen* 3,000 and can be squared by selling a portion of the Stock. So far I have not mentioned the Interest due on the 2nd issue of Debentures (*yen* 93,000) amounting to *yen* 6,510, which is a second claim on the Company after the First Issue Debenture Holders have been dealt with, and until that is done the holders of these cannot obtain payment. The receipts of the Company at present amount to under *yen* 5,000 per month. You will therefore agree with me that it is impossible to make a profit of *yen* 18,410 per annum (amount of Interest payable) out of such takings. You may ask why did we not call this meeting before—my answer is that the receipts have hitherto been on an average, *yen* 8,000 per mouth, in our estimation quite sufficient to pay the above interest. For our present hopeless position we wish you to understand that we do not blame anyone connected with the Company, time has proved to us that our Capital was too large, and having done our best for you all we wish is to be relieved of our duties—nothing further remains for me but to propose the following resolutions:—

(1) That the company go into voluntary liquidation.

(2) That Mr. P. J. Buckland be appointed Liquidator.

The danger to us of running our necks into a noose was so great that we think it best that our action, in the selection of a Liquidator, should be approved by the Court at Hongkong.

Mr. Carnduff duly seconded these motions.

The Chairman asked if anybody had any amendments to propose, if not the resolution to the effect that the Company go into voluntary liquidation would be put to the vote first.

A vote was taken and the resolution carried unanimously.

The Chairman then said "Well, now, Gentlemen, it rests with you as to whom you wish to appoint Liquidator. Dr. Bowie has proposed and Mr. Carnduff seconded that Mr. Buckland be recommended."

This being put to the meeting was unanimously carried.

Mr. Mullerbeeck asked what capital was represented amongst the shareholders at the Meeting.

The Chairman—*Yen* 46,000—it is only necessary that one tenth of the capital, *yen* 130,000, should be represented so that it is quite in order.

Dr. Bowie—I think the matter has been extensively discussed and is well known amongst all the shareholders, while the law is certainly being complied with, besides it would be folly to allow this matter to go from bad to worse; as regards the other shareholders I think they would vote for whatever is the best thing to be done.

Mr. Mullerbeeck stated that he did not think there were sufficient shareholders present to pass such an important resolution.

The Chairman—The Shareholders could appoint proxies if unable to attend themselves. The resolution must be confirmed at an Extraordinary Meeting of Shareholders which will be held on the 27th April, so this will give the other shareholders a chance.

Dr. Bowie—I understand that the passing of this resolution releases the Directors from their responsibility.

The Chairman.—I am afraid we cannot be released until the Liquidator is confirmed by the Court.

Dr. Bowie expressed the hope that the Liquidator would not close the Hotel as it would be a great loss, not only financially but also as to the prestige of Nagasaki. He also hoped that under the guidance of Mr. Buckland it would be proved that such a step as this would not be necessary.

Mr. Carnduff then proposed a vote of thanks to the Drirectors, which was duly seconded by Mr. Buckland, and the meeting terminated.—*Nagasaki Press.*

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Special Service.)

THE THIBET QUESTION.

London, April 15.

In the debate on the Thibet Question, Mr. Brodrick defended Lord Curzon against the allegation that he had been showing a desire for expeditions or for an undue assertion of British interests. There had been only three expeditions in Lord Curzon's term of office. This number was greatly exceeded by those undertaken by his predecessors.

A BIG GUN DISASTER.

Later.

A twelve inch gun in one of the turrets of the U.S. battleship *Missouri*, engaging in gun practice off Pensacola, exploded. Five officers and twenty-one men were killed,

THE RUSSIAN SQUADRON.

The squadron of Admiral Virenius has re-entered the Baltic.

A NIGHT ACTION.

In the course of a night action off Portsmouth the torpedo boat destroyer *Teazer* grounded and will probably go to pieces.

ANOTHER ATTACK IN THIBET.

London, April 15.

The Thibetans again opposed the British Mission, at the Red Idol Gorge. Three hundred Thibetans were killed, the British loss being ten wounded.

MOURNING FOR MAKAROFF.

The Tsar and Tsaritza attended a memorial service in the Admiralty Church, the Tsaritza weeping throughout the ceremony. In St. Petersburg the city is in mourning, amusements have been cancelled, and the cafés are closed.

"THE TEASER" FLOATED.

The British torpedo-boat-destroyer *Teaser* has been refloated.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN RETURNS.

London, April 16.

Mr. Chamberlain has returned from Egypt.

RUSSIA AND WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

It is stated at Washington that the Russian Government has given notice to the newspapers that correspondents using wireless telegraphy will be treated as spies and shot.

REPORTED RUSSIAN PURCHASES OF GERMAN STEAMERS.

In the Reichstag, Herr Bebel, the Socialist leader, drew attention to the reported sale of German liners to Russia as a breach of neutrality.

Count von Bülow, the Chancellor, said that such sale was permissible, according to International law, as hitherto understood, but that at any rate the question was a doubtful one.

GERMAN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

London, April 17.

There was another fight between the Germans and the Hereros on the 13th of March. Two German officers and six men were killed; one officer and twelve men wounded.

The total losses hitherto have been fifteen officers and eighty-one men killed; ten officers and fifty-nine men wounded.

ACTIVITY IN THE BALKANS.

London, April 18.

Turkey is sending troops to Metrovitza, Albania, in response to the Austrian concentration on the frontier. Greek bands are active in Macedonia. One band attacked and killed 18 Turkish tax-gatherers.

ATTACKING A RAILWAY BRIDGE.

It is reported from St. Petersburg that two Japanese officers, disguised as lamas, have been brought to Harbin. They were caught endeavouring to destroy the bridge over the river Nonni with gun-cotton.

THE MAD MULLAH.

London April 19.

The Mad Mullah has escaped to Italian territory, routed. It has been decided to discontinue the British operations and to reduce the field force.

THE THIBET EXPEDITION.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Lambert asked whether it was proposed to advance to Lhassa in the event of the negotiations at Gyangtze breaking down.

Mr. St. John Brodrick replied that it was not in the public interest to make any statement of the Government's intentions or to discuss such an eventuality.

FATAL CARRIAGE ACCIDENT.

London, April 20.

Major Burt, of the Guards, has been killed through a carriage accident in Piccadilly.

PENSION FOR MRS. MAKAROFF.

The widow of Admiral Makaroff has been granted a pension of 20,000 roubles.

LINES DRAWING CLOSE.

It is reported from St. Petersburg that only 600 yards now intervene between the Japanese outposts and the foremost Russian outposts on the islands on the Yalu.

VICE-ADMIRAL SKRYDLOFF.

Vice-Admiral Skrydloff has arrived at St. Petersburg before proceeding to the East. He received a most extraordinary popular ovation and was conjured to save the honour of the Navy.

NEW YORK'S DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION.

The New York Democratic State convention has nominated Judge Parker, of Boston, for President.

THE BRITISH BUDGET DEFICIT.

The Budget deficit of Great Britain is put at £5,415,000. It is estimated that the revenue for the coming year will be £139,006,000; and the expenditure £143,880,000.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Austin Chamberlain, refuses to suspend the Sinking Fund, but proposes to realise a million's worth of unclaimed stock. He adds a penny to the Income Tax and 2d. a pound on tea.

NOTE.—On April 23rd, 1903, the Chancellor of the Exchequer estimated the Revenue for 1903-1904 at £154,770,000, and Expenditure at £144,270,000, leaving a nominal surplus of £10,500,000. He accordingly knocked 4d. off the Income Tax (£8,500,000) and abolished the Corn Duty (£2,000,000); leaving thus a surplus of £316,000 for contingencies. Unforeseen circumstances have wiped out this entirely and have piled up instead a big deficit. The Income Tax is now brought up to a shilling per £. The Sinking Fund is in connection with the paying off of the National Debt. The National Debt now totals £759,943,282, or roughly, £17 18s. 7¾d. per head of the population of the United Kingdom.

THE BRITISH BUDGET.

London, April 21.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer's tea resolution was adopted in the House of Commons, after an amendment moved by Mr. Lough in favour of a tax of sixpence per pound had been rejected, by a vote of 265 to 193.

Tobacco receives an additional sixpence per pound: cigars a shilling; cigarettes under the new rate pay three shillings; and threepence is imposed upon tobacco stripped before importation. These proposals were adopted by a vote of 200 to 106.

The papers generally receive the Budget with favour, but the Conservative organs simultaneously insist upon the urgent necessity for reducing the national expenditure, especially in view of the increase in the income tax.

The *Daily News* vehemently denounces the increase in the tea tax.

(RECEIVED AT THE LEGATION OF FRANCE.)

ALEXIEFF ASKS LEAVE TO RETIRE.

Saigon, April 21.

Admiral Alexieff has asked to be relieved of his functions as Viceroy.

ENGLISH STATESMEN AND RUSSIAN AGREEMENTS.

(RECEIVED AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE.)

During a debate in the House of Commons on the subject of Thibet and the recently concluded Anglo-French convention, Lord George Hamilton and Mr. A. J. Balfour spoke about the possibility of England concluding with Russia a convention similar to that just arranged with France, viz., the settling of all points of friction between the two countries, especially those in Asia. From the remarks of the two speakers it appeared that whereas both would desire such a convention, they appreciated the great obstacles which lay in the way of its conclusion.

Lord George Hamilton said that the desire to conclude with Russia an agreement settling the spheres of interest of the two countries in Asia had become weaker in recent years. Without attempting to say that Russian sincerity could not be trusted, it had to be confessed that there was difficulty in accepting promises made by her high officials. Many evidences has been furnished that Russian Ministers of the Crown do not recognise any general responsibility, and that what one promised the others do not consider themselves obliged to perform.

Mr. Balfour said that in making any treaty with Russia it would be necessary to take into account that even though a certain procedure were not the policy of the central government it might be adopted by the men at the front for reasons suggested by their own ambitions. It was not so easy as some people seemed to imagine to effect a settlement of current questions by means of a signed and sealed document.

The Times, writing on this subject on the 20th inst., said that any person of common sense could see without the exercise of much intelligence that a convention with Russia as to pending questions could not be regarded in the same light as the recently concluded convention with France. A treaty with Russia might not be impossible but it would be extremely difficult.

RUSSIAN SUBMARINES.

It is stated from St. Petersburg that one of the five submarines destined for the Far East was packed in sections on the 19th inst. and despatched overland.

(SPECIAL TO THE "JAPAN MAIL.")

THE TANSAN CASE AT SINGAPORE.

Kobe, April 18.

In the Tansan case at Singapore—Wilkinson versus MacAlister—the appeal against the Chief Justice's decision has been disallowed. Victory therefore rests with Mr. Wilkinson.

DEATH OF MR. J. JOHNSTONE.

Kobe, April 19.

Mr. Jas. Johnstone died suddenly aboard the P. & O. steamer *Formosa* yesterday evening.

(FROM THE "JIJI SHIMPO.")

THE BALTIC SQUADRON.

London, April 19.

The Tzar being desirous that the Baltic squadron should leave on July 15th for the Far East, the Naval authorities are now making the necessary preparations.

THE BRITISH BUDGET.

In the Budget, the Government propose to increase the tax on tea and tobacco.

(FROM THE "ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

RUSSIA'S FINANCES.

London, April 19.

According to information from a trustworthy source, Russia has defrayed a part of the war expenses from the reserve fund for the redemption of foreign loans, so that there has arisen a deficit in this fund. Consequently, Russia is pressed to raise another loan in order to pay interest on the present loans within a few months.

(FROM THE "N.-C. DAILY NEWS.")

THE KAISER'S HOLIDAY.

London, April 12.

The Kaiser has been staying at Malta since Saturday, sightseeing and participating in a series of most cordial luncheons, receptions and dinners ashore and aboard the *Hohenzollern* and British men-of-war.

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.

Hongkong, April 11.

It is reported from Singapore:—The natives of Kawang, British Borneo, are rising. They attacked the settlement, between Jesselton and Papar, at night time, and massacred twenty and wounded many.

THE SETTLEMENT OF THE EGYPTIAN QUESTION.

London, April 13.

A dispatch from Lord Lansdowne, British Foreign Minister, to Sir E. J. Monson, British Ambassador to France, emphasises the recognition by France of the predominant position of Great Britain in Egypt. A new Khedivial decree annexed to the declaration and accepted by France will, if accepted by the other Powers, give Egypt a free hand in the disposal of her own resources. The functions of the *Caisse de la Dette* will be strictly limited to receiving the revenues assigned to the service of the public debt of Egypt, and paying the coupons. It will have no right to interfere with the general administration of the country. The surplus funds in the hands of the *Caisse*, which now amount to £5,500,000 sterling, will be handed to the Egyptian Government. There is a reasonable hope that no serious obstacle will be placed in the way of the promulgation of the Khedivial decree by other Powers, whose holdings of the Egyptian debt are quite insignificant. Should unexpected obstacles arise, England can connt on the support of French diplomacy to overcome them. Lord Cromer. the British Agent at Cairo, considers that the time is not yet ripe for modifying the legislative and judicial systems in Egypt, but when the time comes, we have sufficient grounds for counting on French co-operation in effecting the necessary changes.

AH-SIN ON SOUTH AFRICAN MINING.

You wanchee my go Aflic side along that mine?
Eyah! can do!
Suppose you puttee book, what thing my first mus' sign,
And talkee tlue.

That coolie pidgin olo tim' no muchee good,
So some man say,
You can secure that coolie catchee plenty food,
Yes, ebly day?

How long you tluly wanchee mus' that side man-man?
One-two-three year?
You savey olo tim' so soon come back no can,
Man largee fear.

You wanchee alla coolie, dig too muchee stlong
Way down below;
You wanchee he, you savey, work too muchee long,
Lit' topside go.

But s'pose that wagee alla plopah Aflic side
Have settlee tlue,
Mus' wanchee savey when from mine can go topside,
What thing can do?

Man talkee alla coolie inside compound stay,
No walkee't all
How can so fashion? all same plison ebely day
Inside four wall.

My welly glad work welly hard downside all day,
S'pose talkee so,
Only my nighty tim' too muchee likee play,
All coolie so.

S'pose by am bye my three year pidgin finishee,
All same that book,
You can secure my Cheena go acloss that sea
'Long flen' Alook?

S'pose my die that Aflic side? Eyah! No wanchee so!
Mus' savee tlue,
You can secure my Cheena inside coffin go?
Dead coolie do.

What thing you talkee? How so muchee can secure
For coolie man?
That Madalin mus' *tung-tmg tung si* make sure
S'pose he can.

My thinkee p'laps more better Cheena side my stop,
Catch chancee small,
My father welly sick—can go see he chop-chop
S'pose he call.

My savey Cheena chow-chow—nicee girlee see,
P'laps fan-tan play,
Who man can makee muchee bobbely 'long me
S'pose Cheena stay?

"SHANGHAI" in *L. & C. Express.*

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong............	O. & O. Co.	Doric 1	[illegible]. April 23
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan 2	W. April 27
Hongkong............	N. P. Co.	Hyades	W. April 27
Hongkong............	C. P. R. Co	Em. of India 3	Th. April 28
Europe	M. M. Co.	Polynesien 4	Th April 28
America	P. M. Co.	Korea 5	W. May 4
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Athenian	F. May 6
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Bayern	Sa. May 7
Hongkong............	P. M. Co.	Siberia	M. May 9
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Sa. May 14

1 Left Hongkong on the 16th inst.
2 Left Vancouver on the 15th inst.
3 Left Hongkong on the 20th inst.
4 Left Hongkong on the 19th inst
5 Left San Francisco on the 16th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	F. April 22
Europe	M. M. Co.	Annam	F. April 22
Hongkong............	N. P. Co.	Shawmut	Sa April 23
America...............	O. & O. Co.	Doric	W. April 27
Hongkong............	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	W. April 27
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Wingsang	W. April 27
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Hyades	Th. April 28
Canada	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	F. April 29
Hongkong............	P. M. Co.	Korea	Th. May 5
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co	Athenian	Sa. May 7
America...............	P. M. Co.	Siberia	W. May 11
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Bayern	Sa. May 14

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Eretria, British steamer, 2,255, Mulcahy, 15th April,—Otaru, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gonar, British steamer, 1,988, A. Cunningham, 15th April,—Saseho, 12th April, Ballast.—Captain.

Artemisia, German steamer, 3,656, Gronmeier, 16th April,—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Shiekh, British steamer, 2,828, C. Jones, 16th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Taisang, British steamer, 1,544, R. C. D. Bradley, 17th April,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Heathdene, British steamer, 2,277, W. J. Milburn, 17th April,—Muroran, Coal.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Oopack, British steamer, 2,517, Barber, 17th April,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Yat Shing, British steamer, 1,424, Sellar, 17th April,—Barry, Coal.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Tartar, British steamer, 2,768, F. W. Evans, 18th April,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Shrewsbury, British steamer, 2,079, Sheppard, 18th April,—Rangoon, Rice.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Khalif, British steamer, 2,219, Middleton, 18th April,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bergenhaus, Norwegian steamer, 2,344, Svendson, 19th April.—Rangoon, Rice.—Otto Reimers & Co.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,055, J. C. Jensen, 19th April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ismaila, British steamer, 3,381, R. W. Gunblett, 19th April,—Rangoon, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Ariel, Norwegian steamer, 994, Rafen, 20th April,—Moji, Coal.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Lugano, German steamer, 2,963, Breckvoldt, 20th April,—Rangoon, Rice.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Upada, British steamer, 3,382, Sheldrick, 20th April,—Kangoon, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Ascot, British steamer, 2,186, C. L. Cox, 20th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sophie Rickmers, German steamer, 2,262, Pape, 20th April,—Java, Sugar.—Raspe & Co.

Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, F. H. Armstrong, 20th April,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Samara, British steamer, 1,790, W. Lewis, 21st April,—Muroran, Coal.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Loyal, German steamer, 911, Bukeman, 21st April,—Kobe, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Braemar, British steamer, 2,316, S. L. Saxby, 21st April,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,065, J. C. Jensen, 15th April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Minas de Batan, American steamer, ——, M. Gartez, 15th April,—Karatsu, Ballast.—Cie de Tabacco Philapinas.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, K. Sato, 15th April,—Bonin Islands, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

St. Bede, British steamer, 2,288, Heartley, 15th April,—Kuchinotsu, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Lennox, British steamer, 2,361, McNair, 16th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tiberius, German steamer, 2,790, Unruh, 16th April,—Kobe, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Prinz Heinrich, German steamer, 3,902, R. Heintze, 16th April,—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nacht.

China, American steamer, 3,186, D. E. Friele, 16th April,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Pingsuey, British steamer, 4,150, E. Warrall, 17th April,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Fiume, German steamer, 838, Uecher, 17th April,—Karatsu, Ballast.—Japanese.

Tjipanas, Dutch steamer, 2,475, P. Zwart, 17th April,—Kobe, General.—Ed. L. van Nierop & Co.

Rasbera, British steamer, 2,500, Morrison, 17th April,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Allantis, American steamer, 960, M. Coco, 18th April,—Karatsu, Ballast.—Captain.

Yat Shing, British steamer, 1,424, Sellar, 18th April,—Yokosuka, Coal.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Colombo Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,726, G. Lapraik, 18th April,—Ujina.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sheikh, British steamer, 2,828, C. Jones, 19th April,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Deans, British steamer, 958, Sinclair, 19th April,—Kobe, Rice.—C. Illies & Co.

Tartar, British steamer, 2,768, F. W. Evans, 19th April,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Heathdene, British steamer, 2,277, W. J. Milburn, 20th April,—Muroran, Ballast.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Taisang, British steamer, 1,544, R. C. D. Bradley, 20th April.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,055, J. C. Jensen, 21st April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Taisang*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. Matsuura, Mr. Saito, Miss Saito, Capt. Ekstrand, Mr. Sakai, Mr. and Mrs. Shindo, Mr. Herbert Bethell, Mr. Hiraga, and Mrs. Nakamura, in cabin; 44 Japanese, and 6 Chinese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Tartar*, from Vancouver:—Mr. and Mrs. P. Willis, and Mr. R. H. Ryan, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per German steamer *Prinz Heinrich*, for Europe via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. A. Rasmussen, Mrs. Frank Winfield, Mr. and Mrs. Oakey, Mr. T. Caldwell Anderson, Mr. A. Milne and servant, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Thomas, Dr. Haberer and servant, Mr. J. Sellis, Mr. W. Heitman, Mr. Barnes, Mr. E. Baumgartner, Mrs. A. J. Balles, Mrs. C. Eckland, Mr. Mendelson and servant, Mr. Solomon, Mr. James Hayes, Mr. H. Kessler, Mr. A. T. Guterres, Capt. Morton, Baron von Stengel, Mr. and Mrs. Limo, Miss St. Clair, Mrs. Lederer, Mr. L. L. Bailey, Mrs. L. L. Bailey, Mr. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Bryan, Mr. Emile Schmidt, Mr. and Mrs. A. Lohmeyer, Mr. Refardt, Mrs. Unite, Mr. Hill, Mr. Ota, Mr. J. Aoyagi, Mr. Niels Brunn, Mr. Ranchand, Mr. Pawsey, Miss Isabel A. Unite, Miss Hill, Mrs. Hill and 3 children, Mrs. and Miss Woodman, Master Woodman, Mr. Y. Murakami, Mr. E. Hozio, Mr. G. Brady, Mr. Nishigori, Prof. and Mrs. Grossier, Miss Medina Miquel, and Mr. Howard, in cabin.

Per American steamer *China*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. E. S. Benson, Mrs. E. S. Benson, Miss Bertha Berner, Mr. Hugo Bing, Col. Wm. K. Bodley, Mr. Bryan Bradley, Miss Brooksmith, Mr. Harry Bubb, Mr. T. Bunt, Mrs. T. Bunt, Mr. W. M. Carruth, Mr. Walter M. Castle, Mrs. Walter M. Castle, Mrs. A. Clark, Mrs. A. R. Cockrill, Mrs. F. Dorr, Miss C. Dorr, Mr. V. Dolliver, Mr. Bernard Faymonville, Mr. Tosio Fujiwara, Mr. Galen M. Fisher, Miss Gradwell, Mr. C. H. Goddard, Mr. W. V. Gonzenbach, Mrs. W. V. Gonzenbach, Mr. C. W. Guerin, Mrs. C. W. Guerin and child, Mr. J. Gustorf, Miss M. Hasegawa, Mr. Victor Hermann, Mr. Tong Hon, Mr. G. Kernan, Mr. David Kennedy, Miss A. P. Klein, Mr. J. G. Kniesche, Mr. L. Kindler von Knobloch, Mr. Li Wei Ko, Mr. King Sui Kong, Mr. Kwok Wah Kwong, Master Hsu Kun Kwong, Mr. Z. Kusaba, Mr. G. C. Lacy, Mr. A. Lawles, Mr. Ho Leong, Mr. Tan Sui Ley, Rev. W. H. Lingle, Mrs. W. H. Lingle, Miss D. Lingle, Miss M. Lingle, Lieut.-Com. G. W. McElroy, U.S.N., Dr. J. S. McFarland, Mr. A. C. McLachlan, Mrs. Clara A. Melvin, Mr. F. P. Meserve, Mr. Lo Chi Ming, Bishop D. H. Moore, Mrs. D. H. Moore and maid, Dr. W. Muller, Dr. V. Murray, Mr. Wm. Patterson, Miss Abbey B. Pearson, Mr. F. J. Perrine, Mr. F. Reichelt, Mrs. F. Reichelt, Capt. J. H. Reichelt, Capt. J. H. Russell, Mr. M. E. Sandall, Dr. H. K. Shumaker, Major D. Wilmot Sitwell, Mr. F. R. Skottowe, Mrs. J. F. Smith, Mr. Frank W. Spicer, Mrs. Leland Stanford, maid and valet, Mr. W. R. Tucker, Mr. A. G. Morey Weale, Mr. W. B. White, Mrs. W. B. White, Miss Wilkinson, Mr. C. W. Yale, Mr. Yee Shi Yi, Mr. Tsu King Yuan, and Mr. Tsu Shao Yung, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Coptic*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. F. E. Fernald, Mr. H. Goto, Rev. A. Oltmans, Mrs. A. Oltmans and three children, Mr. Otis A. Poole, Mr. J. Becker, Mr. S. M. Vanclain, Jr., Mr. T. H. Spry, and Mr. T. Matsuoka, in cabin. For Kobe:—Mr. A. C. Bryer, Mrs. H. V. Henson, Mr. W. O. Morse, and Mr. Wm. J. Schroth, in cabin. For Nagasaki:—Mr. P. A. Crosthwaite, Mr. E. Quackenbush, Mr. B. Weil, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Cochrane, Miss Ellen Cochrane, and Miss M. Cochrane, in cabin. For Manila:—Mr. L. E. Glover, Mr. C. B. Lehmer, Mr. Geo. Middleton, Mr. T. G. Neal, Mr. Geo. W. Read, Jr., Mr. M. X. C. Weinberger, and Mr. A. E. Yeager, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. Ludovic Brignaudy, Mr. H. Eca da Silva, Mr. Fred W. Hartford, Mr. J. A. Kalbach, Mr. B. Wrightman, Wong Fook, and Mr. F. M. Brooks, in cabin.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw and Waste Silk shipped per steamer *Prinz Heinrich*:—

	Raw.				Waste.			
Sieber & Co.........	69	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sulzer Rudolph & Co.	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ulysse Pila & Co....	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jewett and Bent ...	10	—	—	—	56	—	—	—
Dell'Oro & Co.......	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—
	109	—	—	—	63	—	—	—

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There is no change in the condition of the market.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER YARD.
White Shirting—{40 yds. 36 in. 50 yds. 36 in.} ...	0.09 to 0.10
	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	Y. 2.85 to 3.60
Grey Shirting—9 lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.80 to 4.25
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches...	3.00 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton Italians and Satteens...	0.20 to 0.40

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	Y. 0.35 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 32 in....	0.30 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches...	0.16 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.50 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 to 65 inches ...	0.90 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5 lb per lb	0.60 to 0.66
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	9.50 to 12.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches...	0.90 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0 lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches...	1.90 to 2.25
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 5 lb, 24-25 yards, 32 nches...	2.50 to 3.65

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Y. 140.00 to 150.00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	—
Nos. 38/42, Singles	—
Nos. 32, Doubles...	145.00 to 150.00
Nos. 42, Doubles...	155.00 to 160.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/100, Plain...	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	245.00 to 255.00
Nos, 2/80, Gassed	295.00 to 305.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	425.00 to 435.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling...	Nominal.	33
Indian Broach...		26
Chinese		23

METALS.

There is very little business passing.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward...	Y. 4.05 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.30 to 4.60
Sheet Iron...	4.65 to 6.90
Galvanised Iron sheets	10.00 to 11.00
Wire Nails, assorted	5.15 to 5.75
Tin Plates, per box...	6.70 to 7.60
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.05
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1¼ inch)	5.00 to 5.50

KEROSENE.

The market is somewhat firmer.

American	$3.24
Russian	3.05
Langkat	3.15

SUGAR.

The new prices imposed by the increase in the consumption tax have retarded business and there has been little doing.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	Y. 7.00 to 7.50
Brown Manila...	7.10 to 7.80
Brown Daitong	5.90 to 7.30
Brown Canton...	6.40 to 8.40
White Java and Penang...	8.20 to 9.10
White Refined...	10.50 to 13.00

INDIGO.

There is no business passing.

	PICUL.
Java, Medium to best...	270.00 to 320.00
Calcutta, Medium to best	180.00 to 290.00
Madras (*Kurpah*), Medium to best ...	140.00 to 170.00
Madras (Dry Leaf), Medium to best ..	100.00 to 140.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Market weak and irregular. Prices lower and sellers are anxious to clear off old stocks before new season begins. Buyers operating currently as the market declines. So far the weather is eminently favourable for the New crop.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra Best, Coarse ... ... Y.	—
Filatures—Extra, Fine	—
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	950 to 960
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	—
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	880 to 900
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	900 to 910
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	860 to 870
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	880 to 890
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	—
Common—Coarse	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1½	880 to 900
Re-reels—No. 2	—
Re-reels—No. 3	—
Kakedas—Extra	—
Kakedas—No. 1	900 to 910
Kakedas—No. 1½	880 to 890
Kakedas—No. 2	860 to 870

FOR BABY'S SKIN SCALP AND HAIR

Something for Mothers to Think About

EVERY CHILD born into the world with an inherited or early developed tendency to distressing, disfiguring humours of the skin, scalp, and blood, becomes an object of the most tender solicitude, not only because of its suffering but because of the dreadful fear that the disfiguration is to be lifelong and mar its future happiness and prosperity. Hence it becomes the duty of mothers of such afflicted children to acquaint themselves with the best, the purest, and most effective treatment available, viz., THE CUTICURA TREATMENT.

Warm baths with CUTICURA SOAP, to cleanse the skin of crusts and scales and soften the thickened cuticle, gentle anointings with CUTICURA OINTMENT, to instantly allay itching, irritation, and inflammation, and soothe and heal, to be followed in the severer cases by mild doses of CUTICURA RESOLVENT PILLS (see below), to cool and cleanse the blood, are all that can be desired for the alleviation of the suffering of skin-tortured infants and children and the comfort of worn-out, worried mothers. A single set is often sufficient to cure when the best physicians fail.

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Assisted by CUTICURA OINTMENT, for preserving, purifying, and beautifying the skin, for cleansing the scalp of crusts, scales, and dandruff, and the stopping of falling hair, for softening, whitening, and soothing red, rough, and sore hands, for baby rashes, itchings, and chafings, in the form of baths for annoying irritations and inflammations, or too free or offensive perspiration, in the form of washes for ulcerative weaknesses, and for many sanative, antiseptic purposes which readily suggest themselves to women, especially mothers, and for all the purposes of the toilet, bath, and nursery.

CUTICURA RESOLVENT PILLS (Chocolate Coated) are prepared to meet the wants of delicate women, and sensitive children, and are pure, sweet, and tasteless. They are beyond question the most successful blood purifiers and humour cures yet compounded.

CUTICURA REMEDIES are sold throughout the world. Australian Depot: R. Towns & Co., Sydney. British Depot: 27-28, Charterhouse Sq., London. French Depot: 5 Rue de la Paix, Paris. POTTER DRUG AND CHEM. CORP., Sole Props., Boston, U. S. A. "All about the Skin," free.

WASTE SILK.

No change to report. Market weak and irregular in sympathy with Raw Silk.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	170 to 175
Noshi—Filatures, Good	160 to 165
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Good...	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	—
Nsohi—Joshiu, Best	120 to 125
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	110 to 115
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	140 to 150
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	130 to 135
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	70 to 80
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	60 to 70

TEA.

No business as yet. No new leaf has come in.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	—
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine...	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, April 21.

London silver $\frac{3}{16}$ higher and China sterling quotations ⅛ to ¼ higher have caused local rates on China to decline accordingly, but in other rates an advance has taken place, more particularly for Private Paper.

London—Bank T.T. ...	2/0⅝
— — Bills on demand...	2/0$\frac{11}{16}$
— — 4 months' sight ...	2/0$\frac{15}{16}$
— Private 4 months' sight...	2/0⅝ @ $\frac{9}{16}$
— — 6 months' sight...	2/0¾ @ $\frac{13}{16}$
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight ...	253½
— Private 4 months' sight...	258 @ 7⅛
— — 6 months' sight...	259½ @ 9
Hongkong—Bank sight ... per $100.	87½
— Private 10 days' sight do.	85
Shanghai—Bank sight ...	83
— Private 10 days' sight ...	85½
India—Bank sight ...	150⅛
— Private 30 days' sight ...	153
America—Bank sight...	49⅛
— Private 30 days' sight ...	49⅜
— Private 4 months' sight ...	50⅛
Germany—Bank sight ...	206
— Private 4 months' sight ...	210
Bar Silver (London) ...	24$\frac{13}{16}$

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, April 21.

Langfeldts changed hands at *yen* 45, at this price a few more shares are obtainable. Grand Hotels can be had at *yen* 230, offers for shares are wanted. Nickels, sellers at *yen* 35. Kirin Breweries, sellers at *yen* 100, buyers offer *yen* 90. Engine and Iron Works remain at *yen* 96, sales. Y. U. C. debentures, can be had at *yen* 109.

	YEN.	
Brett & Co. Limited ...	8½	Nominal.
Club Hotel, Limited ...	70	Nominal.
Grand Hotel, Limited ...	230	Sellers.
Helm Bros., Limited ...	45	Sales.
Langfeldt & Co., Limited...	45	Sellers.
C. Nickel & Co., Limited ...	35	Sellers.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Founders...	450	Nominal.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Ordinary...	75	Buyers.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Preference.	70	Nominal.
Japan Brewery Co., Limited ...	100	Sellers.
Yokohama E. & I. Works ...	96	Sales.

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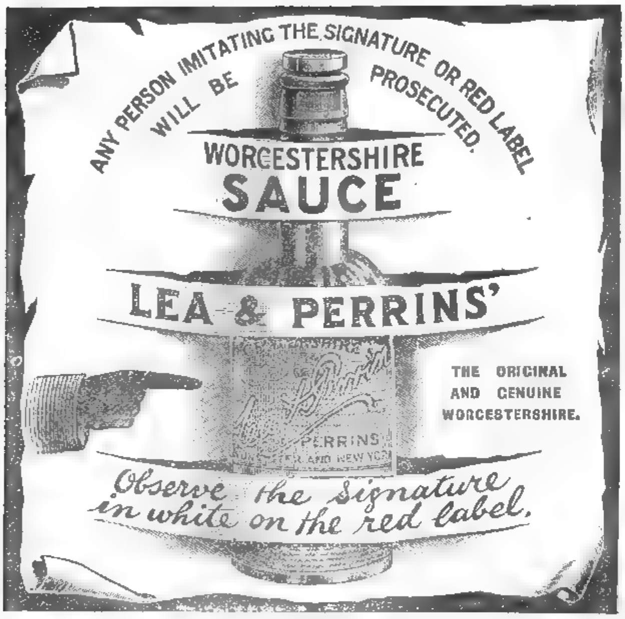

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, APRIL 30TH, 1904.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

A RATHER severe shock of earthquake was felt on April 24th at 8 a.m. at Morioka.

THE Czar, it is stated, has refused to permit Prince Bonaparte to proceed to the Far East.

A CASE of dysentery was reported on April 25th at Tobe-machi, Yokohama, the patient being a youth.

TEMPORARY loans to the Government from the Bank of Japan aggregated forty-five million *yen* at the end of last week.

THE radium treatment of cancer in the Cancer Hospital, London, has been abandoned because it has proved a failure.

THE net income for last half-year of the Tobu Railway Company was *yen* 44,035 and the interim dividend is declared at two per cent.

ACCORDING to the *Official Gazette*, Mr. Edward Julian King has been appointed Acting-Consul of the United States in Hokkaido. Baron Komura, Minister for Foreign Affairs, presented him on April 23rd with his exequatur.

DURING a gale, two junks capsized on April 6th off Miyake island. Four fishermen were drowned and one is missing.

M. RATARD, Consul-General of France in Shanghai, has been made by the Czar a Commander of the Order of St. Stanislas.

A MATSUYAMA telegram states that another batch of five Russians left the hospital there on April 21st for Kobe on their way home.

MARQUIS ITO entertained the Ministers of State and high officers of the Army and Navy on the evening of April 23rd at the Mitsui Club.

THE profit for the last half-year of the Narita Railway Company was *yen* 52,043 and an interim dividend has been declared of two per cent.

THE *Nichi Nichi* reports that Mr. S. Hirai acting superintendent of the Railway Industry Bureau, was attacked on April 25th by scarlet fever.

THREE MEN entered the village office of Nasu, near Utsunomiya, on the night of April 21st and stole *yen* 730 from an iron safe, which they broke into.

MR. S. KURINO, formerly Japanese Minister at St. Petersburg is reported to have arrived at Hongkong. He will change steamers at Shanghai for home.

A BULLET broke a window in a train on April 24th at 1 p.m. at a point between Oji and Tabata near Tokyo. No injury was sustained by the passengers.

OWING to heavy rain on the night of April 24th, all the rivers in Yamaguchi prefecture overflowed their banks, causing considerable damage to dwellings and fields.

THE *Sado Maru*, of the Nippon Yusen Line, with 6,000 tons of coal aboard from Wales, has evaded Russian cruisers and arrived safe at Capetown on her way to Japan.

FIFTY-THREE cases of new tea were put on the Yokohama Market on April 26th. The first business between Japanese and foreign traders opened the previous day.

THE dwelling of Mr. G. Mitsui, a wealthy merchant in Kyoto, was destroyed by a fire which occurred on April 21st. A defective kitchen stove was the cause.

COUNTESS OTANI, wife of the Lord Abbot of the Honganji Temple, paid a visit on April 22nd to the Crown Princess, her younger sister. She will leave Tokyo this morning for Kyoto.

MR. G. YOSHIDA, ex-member of the Lower House, and his mother were arrested on April 26th at Tsuchiura, Mito prefecture. The charge against them has not yet been reported.

MR. OYA, of Osaka, has purchased the British steamer *Bendawa*, of 2,316 tons, for *yen* 160,000. She will shortly arrive at Kobe where she will be delivered to her new owner. She was built in 1882 in England.

W. NAKAI, a shoemaker at Shinagawa, attempted to murder his wife on the night of April 24th by hitting her on the head with a club while she was asleep, inflicting severe injuries. The cause is reported to be jealousy.

IT is stated by the *Jiji* that Mr. H. Abe, a well-known speculator in Osaka, has purchased Japanese loan bonds valued at two hundred thousand *yen* on the London market through Messrs. Samuel, Samuel and Company.

AFTER an inspection of Gibraltar, the Kaiser is said to have remarked that he was not surprised that it was impregnable. "It surpasses expectations," he added. "It is grand, like everything English."

VISCOUNT YOSHIKAWA, Minister for Home Affairs, gave a permit on April 27th to two Chinamen Ting and Kwan, No. 151 and No. 139, respectively, in Yokohama, who had applied for papers of naturalization.

MR. M. FUKUCHI, who has been instructed by the Minister for Agriculture and Commerce to investigate fine arts and other industries in the United States, left Japan on April 27th by the steamer *Doric* for San Francisco.

THE London cabman is noted for his up-to-date repartee. One of them demolished another of his kind the other day by shouting: "You fit to drive a keb! Why, you ain't fit to command a Russian battle-ship, you ain't."

A TELEGRAM from Moji reports that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's chartered steamer *Babelsburg* will confine her present voyage to Chemulpo as there is a fear of her striking some of the torpedo mines floating in the Gulf of Pechili.

THE Russian Minister of Finance has decided to acquire five million roubles of preference shares in the Enzelier-Teheran Railway Company, and 11,875,000 roubles of shares in the Discount and Loan Bank of Persia. Both amounts are nominal.

BEING unable to repay a loan, the Kawamura Bank, Gifu, had its property seized on April 25th by the Mitsui Bank, and the former accordingly suspended payment. The depositors, consisting of over seven hundred persons, are panic-stricken.

COMMANDER THOMAS JACKSON, R.N., of H.M.S. *Rosario*, has been appointed Naval Attaché to H. M. Legation at Tokyo, and Lieut. Gerard W. Vivian, R.N., of H.M. S. *Vengeance*, succeeds Commander Jackson in the command of the *Rosario*.

T. TAGUCHI, a conductor at the Iida-machi railway station, Tokyo, was arrested on April 21st on a charge of having stolen several goods transported by train from Yamanashi to Tokyo. The value of the stolen goods is estimated at over six thousand *yen*.

FIRE broke out on April 24th at 1 p.m. at the village of Yoshiwara, Shimo-Nomi, near Kanazawa, Ishikawa prefecture, burning down fifty dwellings, seventeen godowns, and sixty-five sheds. One person was killed. The homeless people are being relieved by the local government.

THE *Hochi* states that Lieutenant K. Nomi, of the Infantry (retired), committed suicide on the night of April 25th at Hiroshima. He left a letter addressed to the commander of the Fifth Division in which he stated that he was too ashamed to live after being suspected by the police of being a spy of Russia.

A SASEHO telegram states that two officers, Aides-de-Camp of the Emperor and the Crown Prince, paid a visit on April 18th to Admiral Togo's United Squadron to convey the compliments of His Majesty and those of His Highness. The Commissioners stayed for four days on board the flag-ship *Mikasa*, visiting all the vessels in turn, and leaving on the 21st. The officers also paid a visit to Saseho Naval Hospital where they conveyed the consolation of the Emperor and Crown Prince to the wounded bluejackets.

TORPEDO ATTACK AT YUENSAN.

Wednesday, April 27.

It is uncertain whether any lives were lost or any wounds suffered on the occasion of the sinking of the *Goyo Maru* in Yuensan harbour. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, which was the first newspaper to publish intelligence of the affair, says that on the appearance of the two Russian torpedo-boats the Japanese Consul ordered the crew of the *Goyo Maru* to land, but that the Russians sunk the little steamer before there was time for her people to leave her, and that the injuries to life and limb have not yet been ascertained. On the other hand the *Hochi Shimbun* alleges that the *Goyo Maru* had been chartered by the representative of a London journal and that her officers and crew were fortunately on shore at the time of the incident. Whichever version be correct, it appears that the Russians did not adopt the precaution of warning the crew to leave the steamer before they opened fire on her. We can not forget, however, that a similar story was circulated with regard to the first steamer sunk by the Russians, the *Nagonoura Maru*, and that subsequent news acquitted the Russians of the inhumanity ascribed to them. Very likely the case of the *Goyo Maru* will be a repetition of that experience. As to the ship having been chartered by a British subject, the *Jiji Shimpo* does not confirm that theory. It alleges that she was navigating in the service of her owner, Mr. Hori Rikitaro, and that she had left Fusan on the 19th instant with a miscellaneous cargo for Yuensan. She was an old vessel, built in 1884 and her boilers were renewed in 1899 at Osaka. Her gross tonnage was 600 tons; her registered tonnage 378. She was insured for 55,000 *yen* and she had a crew of 38 all told. It would seem that a torpedo was used to destroy her. We can scarcely conceive that the Russians would have used cannon inside the harbour. But the reports vary. The official statement uses the term *gekichin* (sunk by gun-fire), and certain other versions say *kōchin* (sunk by a torpedo).

Thursday, April 28.

The *Goyo Maru* was sunk by a torpedo. It now appears that the Russians ordered the crew of the little steamer to leave her and that they removed her log book and charts before sinking her. They allowed two hours for the crew to debark, but they did not trouble themselves at all about any question of contraband of war. The torpedo did its work effectually. It made a breach 24 feet by 12 in the vessel's side and she sank in 4 fathoms of water. Thereafter the torpedo-boats left the port at 5 p.m. They disappeared steering north-east. Four men-of-war were seen outside, but they did not enter the port, and it is not stated at what time and in what direction they steamed away. The whole affair seems to have been a hurried raid, and the Russian ships, having sunk the *Goyo Maru*, appear to have returned to Vladivostock. The Japanese inhabitants of the settlement fled to the neighbouring villages. Some of them camped out for the night, suffering considerably as the weather was very inclement. On the following day the male adults returned, but the old people and the women did not venture to do so, the reputation of Russian soldiery being deterrent. It appears from the accounts that there is a small detachment of Japanese guards in Yuensan.

On the day following the above incidents, namely, the 26th instant, a Japanese merchant steamer reached Yuensan from Tanchhon, which lies about 160 miles north of Yuensan. She had not seen anything whatever of the Russians.

Japanese officers are said to regard the recent doings of the Russians in north-eastern Korea as an attempt to create a diversion. It will have been noted that there has been a combined operation by land and by sea; the Cossacks riding down from the Tumen to Kyongsong, Kilju, and finally Tan-chhon, and the Vladivostock squadron emerging from the shelter of the port and putting in an appearance at Yuensan. Probably the Floug-Dessino factory will represent these incidents as part of a grand strategical undertaking by General Kuropatkin, having for its object the "scissoring" of the Japanese army on the Yalu. But we apprehend that the Japanese themselves will not be greatly disturbed by such efforts. Of course the Yuensan episode has interrupted maritime communication with that place. The Authorities have given warning that the route is temporarily unsafe, and the Osaka Shosen Kaisha has suspended the sailing of its steamers. That state of affairs will not last long, however, and there is good reason to hope that the Japanese will not allow themselves to be even partially diverted from their main purpose by these Russian raids. For they are simply raids. On the one hand we have the Cossacks riding into a Korean town and setting the torch to the dwellings of peaceful civilians; on the other we have the Vladivostock Squadron hurrying down to Yuensan, destroying a little merchantman of 370 tons and hurrying away again. It is extremely paltry. The Russians have not ventured even to make a capture. So greatly have they dreaded the risk of falling in with the Japanese at sea that they have made all speed to destroy in succession each of three small steamers which had the misfortune to fall into their hands. Prize courts become wholly superfluous in such warfare. After vessels have been sent to the bottom of the sea, it is too late to ask any questions about the nature of the ship or her cargo.

Friday, April 29.

An account from Seoul says that at noon on the 25th instant four Russian cruisers and two torpedo-boats arrived off Yuensan. The torpedo-boats entered the harbour and observing that the *Goyo Maru* had steam up preparatory to departing, one of the torpedoers sent a gig in which there was a Japanese-speaking officer. He warned the crew of the *Goyo Maru* to leave her immediately, which they had no sooner done than a torpedo was discharged striking the little steamer in the neighbourhood of her engines and raising a column of water 10 feet high. The steamer sunk in 4 hours. The Japanese and Korean inhabitants of the place fled in confusion to the neighbouring country, but they returned subsequently, the Russians having taken their departure, and things are now in a normal condition.

It is estimated that the *Goyo Maru*, together with her cargo of dried fish and other goods, was worth 100,000 *yen*.

In consequence of the above incident, steamship service to Yuensan was temporarily suspended, but it has now been resumed, the *Tetorigawa Maru*, of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, having proceeded on her voyage as usual.

It is reported from Otsu, Shiga prefecture, that in the district of Yasu, the silkworm eggs were hatched on April 24th. This is the earliest hatching in the prefecture.

SONCHIN AND THE YALU.

Saturday, April 23.

The Cossacks who entered Sonchin on the 16th instant remained there one night and retired to Kilju on the following day. What they effected was to drive out the Japanese residents, and to burn the whole Japanese settlement, with, apparently, the sole exception of the school. Why they spared the latter it is hard to say. They also destroyed the telegraph office and carried off the telegraphic instruments. Of course such doings are very inconvenient. They inflict loss on the Japanese and they create an uneasy feeling in the minds of the Koreans, who naturally draw their own inferences from the unimpeded success of any Russian raid. Enterprises of the kind are essentially congenial to the Cossack, who rides without any commissariat, and can harry and harrass wherever no serious opposition has to be encountered. Sonchin—written also Songchin and Songjin—is about 120 miles north of Yuensan (or Gensan) on the eastern coast of Korea. It was opened to foreign trade in 1899, and it has a native population of 600 or 700. There were about 100 foreign residents before the war broke out. The Japanese element (58 persons) consisted chiefly of small storekeepers and coolies, so that the loss of their property can not have been great.

Monday, April 25.

The latest reports from the Yalu indicate that the Russians occupy the northern bank in force from Tatung-kou to Chhang-song. The latter place is 42 miles above Wiju, and between these two is Sukchin, where the river is fordable. The region from Kiulien to Chhang-song on the northern bank is intersected by four tributaries of the Yalu, all running nearly at right angles to the river and greatly facilitating the work of defense since they strengthen the Russian left wing. On the main island in mid-stream opposite to Wiju a considerable force of Russian infantry is posted, and with them are a number of boats which have been fitted up so as to assist the defense as well as to aid in the retreat of the infantry should that be necessary. We have already explained that below Wiju the river is divided by islands into three streams and it is stated that all the islands in the second stream have been denuded of inhabitants and are occupied by troops. The Cossacks are posted in large force on the bank, where they scout actively to guard against any turning movement. The Russians, it is said, explain their retreat from Korea by saying that the country was not large enough for the extensive operations necessary to give effect to their great force.

The *Asahi Shimbun's* correspondence from the front bears out the view already expressed in these columns, namely, that as the Russian forces on the Yalu are not large enough to warrant extension in strength sufficient to oppose the crossing of the river at any point from Tatung-kow to Wiwon, the strategy adopted is merely to distribute parties of observation along the bank, concentrating the main force at Fenghwang, whence any threatened point can be quickly re-inforced. The distance from Kiulien to Fenghwang is only 38 miles, and troops could easily be moved up in the event of a serious menace at any place between Tatung and Kiulien. The weakness of the Russian position is that it can be assailed from both flanks as well as from the front. A Japanese corps can cross the river above Kiulien and move against the left flank of the Antung-Kiulien position, and another force can land between Tatung and Takushan and move against the right flank or threaten the communications. It does not look as though the Russians were capable of making a very determined stand at the Yalu.

The Cossacks appear to have done as much damage as they possibly could at Sonchin, but it is said that they spared a portion of the telegraph at the solicitation of the local officials. Rumour says that there are 150 of these raiders at Ungkwi Bay, 250 of them at Kyongsang and about as many more at Kilju and in its vicinity.

The Russians appear to have destroyed everything that bore the semblance of a foreign residence in Sonchin. They did not attempt to discriminate between foreign property and Japanese property. Had a fight taken place in the town and had this destruction been wrought in the heat and confusion of battle, discrimination would not have been possible. But there was no resistance whatever. The Russians were in undisturbed possession of the town and their movements were quite deliberate. It appears that they passed from the Japanese settlement to the general foreign quarter and burned anything they could find there. Sonchin is an open port and foreigners were residing there in strict accord with their treaty rights. Even the Taiping rebels showed more discrimination than the Cossacks.

Tuesday, April 26.

The *Jiji Shimpo* has intelligence from north-east Korea that although the people are nominally friendly to the Japanese, they secretly favour the Russians. On the occasion of the recent raid by 33 Cossacks to Kilju and Songchin, it is stated that the Korean inhabitants went out to welcome the raiders. Such action, however, does not appears to have any signal significance. The Koreans would be likely to adopt that course merely to save their own persons and property. But it is alleged that the inroad of the Cossacks has produced a marked effect in stimulating Russophil feeling, and that even the Tonghaks are beginning to raise their heads. There would be little difficulty in sending a small force to Songchin and Kilju, or even up to the Tumen. That region is still in a scarcely traversable condition, however. A small detachment of Cossacks could move throughout it without serious difficulty, but for infantry, artillery and land-transport corps the roads can scarcely yet have become negotiable.

It appears to be concluded in military circles that the locality of the skirmish reported by Viceroy Alexieff as having occurred on the 21st—not the 22nd—was about 2½ miles from Yong Am-pho, but whether up-stream or down-stream there is no indication. The Viceroy speaks of a river called "Pomato-ko" and the *Asahi* of an island called "Masukihi," both of which names are totally unfamiliar. The affair itself being insignificant, would not attract attention except in so far as it might furnish an index to the general movement now in progress. If we accept the Yong-Ampho version, the incident resolves itself into an inexplicable attempt on the part of a Russian detachment to approach the Japanese side of the Yalu. Thirty-two men, commanded by two officers, in three boats, making their way across a wide river to a shore known to be occupied by the enemy, can not possibly be construed as an offensive enterprise and appears to have none of the ordinary features of a reconnaissance. But if the unidentified river spoken of by the Viceroy were one of the affluents of the Yalu between Kiulien and Changsong, then indeed the incident would be significant. That hypothesis, however, is not consistent with the statement that the Japanese were holding the "southern" shore, and we are obliged to dismiss the incident as inexplicable without further information.

Wednesday, April 27.

The report that the Cossacks had retired to the Tumen after destroying as much private property as possible at Songchin, appears to have been incorrect. These raiders have pushed on to Tanchon, which is some 15 miles south of Songchin, on the coast. Rumour also says that the Russian troops from Possiet have advanced *viâ* Kyongsong and are now making their way southward, all the inhabitants fleeing before them.

This raid can have no object except to create a feeling of unrest in Korea and to encourage the Tonghaks and other law-breakers to take the field. Russia is now treating Korea openly as a belligerent, and it is time that the Koreans took some measures to protect themselves, if they be at all capable of self-protection. Some time ago an impression prevailed that there were Japanese troops in Yuensan, but apparently such is not the case.

Thursday, April 28.

General Kuropatkin's somewhat inexplicable telegram indicates that things are not so quiet on the Yalu as would be supposed from other intelligence. The "Siampoussiki" of which the General speaks is a perplexing name. The only place which has an appellation at all similar, so far as we know, is Shankiaputsz, which lies a short distance inland from Antung. If this identification be correct, a part of the Japanese army has crossed at a point about 31 miles down-stream from Antung. We should have expected to learn, however, that the crossing had been disputed, whereas General Kuropatkin speaks only of strengthening his outposts. It can not be imagined that this crossing of the Yalu is an independent movement. Probably some flanking operation accompanies it. But there we enter the realm of conjecture, which it is forbidden to invade.

No Japanese news whatever comes from the Yalu district. Whatever may be going on there has been enveloped in an impenetrable mist—an intentional mist, of course.

The inhabitants of Songchin did not escape a moment too soon. It appears that as the *Haginoura Maru* was leaving the port with the 42 refugees, they observed three Cossacks riding into the town. The *Haginoura Maru* reached Yuensan on the 17th instant, and eight days later the unfortunate refugees had the chagrin of seeing two Russian torpedo-boats enter the harbour of their place of supposed security. Doubtless these refugees swelled the number of those that fled from the settlement to the neighbouring villages on the 25th instant. At Songchin the Cossacks burned the consulate, the customs office and its warehouse, the school, 11 private dwellings and 8 godowns. The total loss inflicted by them was sixty thousand *yen*. Then they rode as far as Tan-chhon, which is 35 miles further south—not 15 as incorrectly stated in our last notice—, but what has since become of them we have no news.

Friday, April 29.

From the Floug-Dessino factory the world learns, by a telegram dated the 26th instant, that on a day unnamed a cavalry patrol of the First Battalion of the Nerchinsk Cossacks under Captain Kerchakoff rode southward and having taken possession of Kyong-song, sent forward a detachment under Captain Ladachi (?). The latter proceeded to Kilju and subsequently to Songchin and destroyed some Japanese warehouses containing beans and cereals. They also took possession of the Japanese consulate and there found that their coming had been telegraphed to Yuensan and that they were reported to be five thousand strong. The consul, the chief of the gendarmes, and a staff officer had effected their escape. The Cossacks learned that there were 50 Japanese soldiers at Pakchhong (110 miles south of Songchin), 500 at Hamheung, which is still further south and 2,000 at Yuensan. That night—*i.e.* the night when the Cossacks occupied Songchin—several Japanese vessels approached the coast using search-lights.

It will be observed that the Cossacks say nothing of having burned private residences, whereas Japanese accounts are very explicit as to that.

THE KOREAN AMBASSADOR.

Prince Li Chi-yong arrived in Tokyo at 3.14 p.m. on the 22nd instant. He was accompanied by a staff of 12 persons, and was received at the station by a numerous company. He proceeded to the Seiyo-ken in Uyeno, escorted by a guard of honour.

Prince Li Chi-yong, the Korean Ambassador, was received in audience by the Emperor on the 25th instant, and had the honour of lunching with His Majesty. Among those present at lunch were Marquis Ito, Baron Komura, Viscount Tanaka, Prince Iwakura, Viscount Kagawa, Baron Sannomiya, Mr. Tsuzuki Keiroku and the other members of Marquis Ito's staff on the occasion of his recent visit to Seoul. Prince Li offered to the Emperor and Empress a number of presents sent by the Sovereign of Korea, the Prince Imperial, the Princess Imperial, Lady Om and several Princes of the Blood.

In the evening the Korean Ambassador gave a brilliant party at the Imperial Hotel. About 380 guests attended.

The Korean Ambassador and the members of his suite have received Orders from the First Class to the Sixth.

THE LIGHTHOUSES OF JAPAN.

We have received from the Director of the Lighthouse Office in Yokohama a copy of the "Todai Yoran," an abridged description of the Lighthouses which now stud the islands of Japan. The book, which is most handsomely turned out, is entirely in Japanese with the exception of the chapter-headings and index, which are given in English. Unfortunately the Lighthouse Office did not see fit to have these headings revised by a competent person, and in consequence we have such blunders as "Illuminating spparatus etc."; "Kii Channd,"; "Kudako Chanel." The photographs which are bound up in the volume are most interesting and those depicting the lights in the Inland Sea particularly artistic, as perhaps is only natural considering the picturesque setting of nearly all the islands, nooks and headlands of that lovely portion of Japan. The book is bound in Japanese style, having a handsome brocade cover, and neat silk ties. We presume that copies of the "Todai Yoran" will be on sale and can be had on application to the Department, but as to that we have no present knowledge.

PORT ARTHUR.

Saturday, April 23.

It is confidently stated in France that the cruiser *Boyarin* struck a mine on the 11th February when returning from Dalny and went to the bottom, all her crew of 334 being saved with the exception of 9 or 10 men. The mine she struck was supposed to be one of the 398 torpedoes which were scattered abroad at the time of the less of the *Enissei*. At all events the *Boyarin* has never once been heard of in any of the operations since the beginning of the war. She was a new vessel of 3,200 tons and 22½ knots.

The Port Arthur journal says that the five men rescued from the destroyer *Beztraschni* were covered with wounds and that they were picked up by the *Bayan*. From the same authority we further learn that the *Petropavlovsk* struck two mines and the *Pobieda* had a hole above the water-line but that she managed to return to harbour. It is not easy to understand how a mine striking a ship several feet below the surface of the water could make a hole above her water-line. Evidently if the injury showed above the water-line it must have extended from beneath. The same journal alleges that Prince Cyril was insensible when picked up.

Monday, April 25.

A ship which has just entered Saseho denies that any renewed attack has been made on Port Arthur. This vessel appears to have visited the Japanese naval base, wherever that may be, on the 20th instant. She there saw all the ships assembled. Tents were spread on shore, and the men were engaged in wrestling and other sports. Evidently, therefore, the story that another attack took place on the 19th instant is untrue.

A vast number of torpedoes must have been expended in this war. Some 400 went adrift when the *Enissei* blew up, and probably hundreds more are moored here and there along the coasts of the Yellow Sea and the Gulf of Pechili, while others are lying at the bottom or cruising around. A torpedo fired in practice comes to the surface at the end of its run if it has not struck its object, but a torpedo fired in war sinks under similar circumstances. A torpedo mine, however, if carried away by the tide or the current, may remain buoyant for an indefinite period, and would then constitute a serious menace to ships. The Russian vessels are said to be in great danger if they attempt to enter Talien Bay from Port Arthur, and Tokyo newspapers report that a steamer bound from Moji to Taku has given up her voyage.

Tuesday, April 26.

With reference to the destruction of a steam-launch at Port Arthur by a so-called Russian torpedo-mine, every one has probably put a mental note of interrogation after the adjective "Russian." Viceroy Alexieff says that a number of steam-launches were engaged laying mines when the accident occurred. "Launch" may be only an approximate description of the vessels engaged, for the laying of torpedo-mines by little craft like a steam-launch is a very novel operation. Of course the Viceroy credits his own account, but nevertheless it may have been a Japanese mine that did the work. The main difficulty in accepting the latter hypothesis is that steam-launches do not draw enough water to come into contact with torpedo-mines, which are generally at least ten feet below the surface. What appears most probable is that the launch collided with a torpedo which had broken away from its moorings—one of the many dangerous travellers said to be cruising about in the neighbourhood of Liaotung. The Russians are certainly very unfortunate.

A person of unmentioned nationality—probably Chinese—who lately returned to Shanhaikwan from Port Arthur, describes the latter place as the scene of great preparations to resist attack. Several lines of palisades have been erected and numbers of workmen are engaged repairing the forts. He adds that every vessel appearing outside the port, whether large or small, is cannonaded and destroyed, for which item of intelligence he obviously drew upon his own imagination.

The Japanese taken from the *Hanyei Maru* are said to be still detained on board an unused man-of-war at Port Arthur. With what object or on what pretext the Russians hold these men no one seems to be aware. Their capture in the first instance appears to have been altogether illegal, for they were not engaged in any act of war and they were within the territorial waters of a neutral Power, China. It is a new kind of warfare that civilians should be seized in neutral territory when engaged in the pursuit of a peaceful and legitimate object, that they should be carried off to the enemy's territory and there held prisoners.

Friday, April 29.

The United States Consul at Newchwang is said to have reported that the two Japanese subjects recently taken by the Russians from the S.S. *Fawan* and held prisoners ever since, are now to be released and sent to either Tientsin or Chefoo. In the course of time, presumably, we shall learn on what pretext the Russians seized these men. At present the act seems to have been absolutely lawless. The *Fawan* belonged to a neutral Power, was flying the flag of a neutral State, was chartered by citizens of a neutral republic for legitimate and peaceful purposes, and was riding in a port open by treaty to the ships of all the Treaty Powers. The Russians had no manner of right, so far as we can see, to hale Japanese subjects out of the ship. But their conception of right is plainly elastic. They were engaged searching the *Haimun* for a Japanese subject said to be on board in the capacity of interpreter when a signal from the *Bayan* induced them to abandon their quest hastily. The *Haimun* is a British vessel. She was navigating the high seas and a Japanese subject should have been as safe on board her as he would be on one of the P. & O. steamers.

FOREIGN OPINIONS ON THE WAR.

When the news of Russia's recent naval reverse reached Paris, it was half believed and half doubted, but the general feeling seems to have been naturally one of regret for the sake of the country's ally. Telegrams of condolence were sent to St. Petersburg by the President, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the chief municipal authority in the capital and others. Presently, however, the facts came to be known, and it was clearly seen that the Russian ships had suffered, not by an accident, but by a deliberate design on Japan's part. M. Clemenceau seems to have been the first to break the silence of stupified surprise. He published a remarkably outspoken article, in which he appears to have indulged his faculty of satire without limit. With regard to Russia's military leaders he refrained from criticism, but as to her naval commanders he declared plainly that the situation had become ludicrous, and that Russia's plight was that of a jackass leading a tiger. He even went so far as as to say that the Russian officers of to-day might be classed with the French officers of 1870, whereas the Japanese ranked with the Germans. The *Soleil* of the 14th inst. published a letter from St. Petersburg describing the consternation and confusion in that city as extraordinary, and saying that there were symptoms of a mood of superstitious pessimism. Other French journals wrote in the sense that Russia's naval power in the Far East had received a crushing blow, and while all showed an evident and proper desire to avoid saying anything which might hurt the feelings of their ally, there was an obvious conviction that the importance of the event should not be under-rated. The *Figaro*, while fully admitting Makaroff's defeat, paid a tribute to his bravery, and spoke in the most unqualified terms about the ability and skill shown by the Japanese officers, who seemed not only to have acquired the theory of naval warfare in the fullest degree but also to have learned how to apply its principles in the field of actual warfare.

As to the unfortunate Admiral's bravery, no one will raise a dissentient voice. But we are curious to learn what naval men will say about the flagship having led the retreat into Port Arthur. The place for the battleships at such a time would have been in the rear, covering the weaker craft, whereas the *Petropavlovsk*, at all events, appears to have been in the van.

A German newspaper, referring to the manner in which the present war was commenced, notes that out of 117 wars which took place between 1700 and 1870 between Western Powers 107 began without any declaration, and 41 were begun by surprises. Of the 107 wars begun without any declaration only 47 took place before the close of the 18th century, the rest were all between 1800 and 1870. Therefore the procedure adopted by Japan last February was strictly in accord with the law of nations.

American newspapers, according to telegrams received in Tokyo, were prepared at first to accept the Russian statement that the sinking of the *Petropavlovsk* had been caused by accidental contact with a Russian mine. They consequently had nothing to express except profound sympathy with the illustrious officer who had met his end in such an inglorious manner. But when it became quite clear that the supposed accident was really the result of Admiral Togo's strategy, they spoke with enthusiasm of the skill shown by the Japanese commander, and declared that Russia's sea-power in the Far East must now be held to have been hopelessly shattered. It would seem also that this phase of the war inspired some very eulogistic reviews of the success achieved by Japan in assimilating within a very brief period the best results of Occidental science and experience.

It is scarcely worth referring to the question which Russia attempted to raise at the outset of the war, namely, that Japan had violated international law by attacking Russia without an open declaration of intention to do so. Professor Westlake has addressed a letter to Professor Takahashi on the subject, in which the English expert dismisses Russia's pretext as puerile. It was indeed puerile, not unworthy to rank with her naval operations thus far.

KOREA.

Saturday, April 23.

The *Jiji Shimpo* raises its powerful voice in favour of assisting the Emperor of Korea to rebuild his Palace. Our contemporary argues that the Koreans are exceedingly superstitious and that many of them firmly believe in the prediction that the present dynasty will come to an end in 500 years from its elevation to the throne. That period is now approaching its close, and if the people see their sovereign condemned to take up his abode in a cheap, insignificant Palace, they will regard it as the beginning of the end. A million or two of *yen* should not be grudged by Japan in such a case. The pending arrival of a princely ambassador from Korea would be an appropriate occasion for rendering this aid.

It is stated that there are signs of an outbreak of insurgents and bandits in the southern province of Korea, namely, Chollado. They call themselves the "loyal party" (*shôgi-to*), and are said to number some thousands. Requisitions for military assistance have been addressed to Seoul.

Monday, April 25.

The United States Minister in Seoul is sending back 70 out of the 100 marines who were landed for the protection of the Legation just before the war commenced.

General Pflug telegraphs to General Dessino in Shanghai that there are skirmishes daily at the Yalu, but that no engagement of any consequence has taken place.

Six hundred Korean troops have been sent from Pyong-yang to Yuensan for the purpose of guarding the frontiers of Hamgyong-do.

The disturbance in Korea's southern province—Chollado—seems to be assuming somewhat large dimensions. The self-styled loyalists are said to be allied with the Tonghaks and also with the Roman Catholic elements of the population. These last, being wholly under the influence of French priests, are hostile to Japan, and are also looked upon with dislike by a large section of the people owing to the special status they have always claimed and enjoyed *vis-à-vis* the law.

The two senior officers of the Korean troops in the Pakchong district have been deprived of their command at the instance of Mr. Hayashi on a charge of being secretly in collusion with the Russians. Evidence of the fact has been obtained, and the two officers are to be tried by Court-martial.

It is stated that the Emperor of Korea is disposed to collect funds for re-building his palace by the simple process of ordering the principal families and officials to find it. His Majesty has required the Min family to furnish two million *yen*, but their complete compliance seems doubtful. The Ministers of the United States and Great Britain are said to have indirectly suggested the repair of the old palace formerly occupied, and in deference to their view the repairs are not unlikely to be undertaken. But that will be only an additional outlay, for the Sovereign is determined not to live there.

Wednesday, April 27.

As to the Japanese inhabitants of Yuensan, they do not appear to have suffered at all, but they are said to be now discussing the propriety of withdrawing from the place.

We learn from the *Jiji Shimpo* that the total length of Seoul-Fusan line is 268 miles, and that it is divided nearly equally by Yongdong, which lies 130 miles south of Seoul and 138 miles north of Fusan. Work is being carried on vigorously from Yongdong in both directions, and from Fusan and Seoul towards the north and south respectively. The whole will be finished, it is expected, by the end of this year. Already construction trains are running from Fusan to Chhongdo (50 miles) and from Seoul to Phyongthak (50 miles). A section of 38 miles southward from Phyongthak and 13 miles northward from Chhongdo will be finished by June or July, making 151 miles open in all. The portion not actually commenced but only surveyed is 117 miles. There is a very difficult piece of tunnelling at Sanghyon in the 13 mile section beyond Chhongdo. The tunnel is 3,960 feet long, and not more than one half has been pierced. It can not be finished speedily, and the intention is to carry a temporary line over the hill so as not to delay the opening of the service. Two bridges of from 1,200 to 1,300 feet, and one of 2,000 feet have to be built.

Thursday, April 28.

A struggle for political power is said to have commenced between Cho Pyong-sik and Li Do-chai. The former is President of the Privy Council, the latter, Minister of Home Affairs.

At length an official has been found willing to proceed to Wiju in the capacity of local headman. Such a person is wanted for the purpose of administering affairs so as to avoid needless inconvenience to the Japanese, but not unnaturally the Koreans, who set a high value on their skins, would prefer to await pending developments on the Yalu before undertaking to discharge duties at Wiju.

The Korean Foreign Office is said to be much perturbed because its conferences and discussions with the Foreign Representatives find their way into the press. Extra guards have been posted and other precautions adopted. It has long been remarked of China and Korea that the preservation of official secrets seems scarcely attainable there.

The rebuilding of the palace continues to be a subject of much dispute. No probability of success appears to have attended the Emperor's idea of obtaining funds by a system of compulsory contributions, and the view now dominant is that the best and cheapest plan would be to repair the palace at Songdo and to remove the imperial capital thither. We should imagine that such a change must provoke great opposition in Seoul.

Friday, April 29.

It is reported that the three southern provinces of Korea are in a very disturbed condition—that is to say, the provinces of Chollado, Kyongsang-do and Chhungchhong-do. Bands of insurgents, 40 or 50 strong, rove hither and thither, committing all kinds of depredations and even venturing in some cases to sack the offices of the local administration and to break open the jails for the purpose of releasing the prisoners. Urgent applications for assistance have been made to the central Government, but the latter does not appear to have yet emerged from the deliberative stage. It is very plain, though indeed the discovery is not novel, that the administration of Korean affairs is about as bad as possible and that the interposition of a strong and competent hand would be an immense benefit to the nation.

News from Ulsan, on the east coast of Korea, says that the war has inured to the benefit of Japanese whale-fishers at all events. They are doing a fine business.

CHINA.

Saturday, April 23.

The Peking correspondent of the *Tokyo Asahi* represents Chinese official opinion in a disquieting light. He says that the chief local officials at Mukden and Kirin have repeatedly urged upon their Government the view that the troublesome questions raised by Russia and the unreasonable demands preferred by her are designed to make China commit a breach of neutrality. The same estimate of the situation is attributed to the Shanghai Taotai. The Peking authorities have gradually been brought round to this opinion and have determined that no further concessions of any kind shall be made to Russia, the policy of conciliation and yielding having been carried to its utmost limits. Instructions in that sense have been addressed to Viceroy Yuan, and have elicited from him a long reply by telegram. As for General Ma, he has been ordered to maintain a circumspect demeanour, and not to resort to hostilities without explicit instructions from Peking. The correspondent ascribes this stiffening of China's back indirectly to a gradual growth of patriotic feeling among the Chinese people, and directly to the successes achieved by the Japanese navy, which have induced the Chinese Government to conclude that the moment for striking in has come.

All this is very vague. It may be in great part a subjective account, for every one must have foreseen from the outset that in the presence of Japanese successes the Chinese nation would awake to a keener sense of its own pusillanimity, and the *Asahi's* correspondent may now be detecting evidence of a mood which exists less in reality than in his own estimate. Yet there is always a strong possibility that Chinese patience may break down when the main foundation of timidity is struck away. The question of the West-Liao region must have tried her self-restraint very severely. Viceroy Alexieff, in his recent proclamation to the Manchurian officials and people, spoke openly of Russia having restored the West-Liao region to China, and took much credit for the magnanimous good faith shown by St. Petersburg in so doing. Yet, all the while Russia was deliberately treating the region as belligerent territory, over-running it with her troops, drawing supplies from it, and otherwise showing that she did not regard it as any part of China proper though her Viceroy of Far-Eastern Asia claimed to have restored it to the Chinese empire. No Western nation with a particle of self-respect would tamely endure such treatment for a moment, and if Russia have any material or military interest in keeping China quiet during the present crisis, the methods adopted by her officials in this part of the world do not seem likely to promote that interest. Nevertheless we confess ourselves very sceptical, extremely sceptical, about China assuming the initiative. If there is to be trouble, it must be forced by the Russians. What kind of situation would be created by some Japanese successes on land, however, is another question. Then, indeed, the Chinese might strike in.

Monday, April 25.

A portrait of the Empress Dowager of China having been finished by Miss Carles in Peking after half a year's toil, the artist proposed to display it for inspection by the members of the Foreign Corps Diplomatique before sending it to its destination, the St. Louis Exhibition. The Empress-Dowager, hearing of this intention, intimated that she should consider it an insult were her portrait carried by common coolies. Therefore the authorities caused a railway to be constructed from the palace where the picture was painted to the Sungwan Gate, the cost of the whole arrangement being about ten thousand *yen*. The *Asahi's* correspondent is responsible for this tale, of which we do not believe a word.

General Ma is said to have thirteen battalions, or 6,500 men, at Chaoyang, and is credited with the intention of advancing his head-quarters to Kinchow should the land operations of the Japanese extend to the neighbourhood of Yingkow.

All steamers bound for Newchwang are required to anchor at a distance of at least a mile from the forts. Otherwise no responsibility will be taken for any accident that may happen to them on account of torpedoes.

The Hunghutzes in the neighbourhood of Kirin are said (*Jiji Shimpo's* Tientsin correspondent) to be a formidable body, including in their ranks several Chinese officials who owe their removal from office to Russia's interference and are therefore bitterly hostile to that Power. These people only await an opportunity to make their force felt.

The Russians at Liaoyang are reported to have requisitioned all the horse-fodder in the region, to the great embarrassment of the inhabitants, but as the Russians are now well supplied the people's feelings do not trouble them much.

All the foreign residents of Newchwang and many of the Chinese are said to have removed to places southward of Shanhaikwan, where they will remain unless a Japanese force lands at Newchwang. In the latter event they declare their intention of returning at once to their old quarters. The story sounds a little exaggerated.

There are said (*Jiji Shimpo*) to be 20 foreign correspondents now in Newchwang. The *Asahi Shimbun* reports that the Russians have allowed the following to proceed to Mukden:—Two correspondents of *Collyer's Weekly*, one of the *Morning Post*, one of the Paris and New York *Herald*, one of the *Lutin*, one of an Italian paper, and one of the American Associated Press. Permission has been refused to the correspondents of *The Times*, the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Daily Mail*, the New York *World*, the New York *Journal* and the San Francisco *Examiner*.

There would be a pretty outcry did Japan attempt to exercise discrimination that Russia employs unchallenged. It will be observed that only one correspondent of an English journal has been allowed to go forward.

Tuesday, April 26.

The *Asahi's* Peking correspondent states that when the corpse of the Governor of Kirin, who had committed suicide to escape Russian exactions, reached Mukden, Governor-General Tseng made three attempts to go out of the gates of Mukden to meet the cortege, but on each occasion he was turned back by Russian soldiers. Tseng showed signs of extreme exasperation. He withdrew to an inner room of his *yamên* and shutting the door to all visitors, penned his resignation which was at once sent to Peking. It has not yet elicited any reply. General Tseng's position is certainly one of the most embarrassing conceivable. He is nominally a high Chinese official with authority to administer affairs in Manchuria, but the Russians do not leave to him a shred of authority unless he employs it so as to suit their convenience.

A telegram to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* says that the Russian troops are making increased inroads into the West Liao region. They are even alleged to be building a fort on the Taling River, which enters the Gulf of Pechili just north of Kinchow. Representations are said to have been made to the Russian Government *viâ* the Chinese Legation in Peking, but they have not elicited any reply. St. Petersburg is scarcely in a position to interfere with measures which the military authorities in Manchuria may deem essential, but it is beyond question that in all this matter Russia is deliberately violating China's neutrality. Either the alleged rendition of the West Liao region in 1902 was a pure farce, or Russia has now no manner of right to post troops there.

A report from Mukden to a Chinese newspaper quoted by the *Nippon* says that the Russians have burned or destroyed three sections of the old imperial palace in Mukden. This outrage is not explained, and, if true, will be much resented by the Chinese Government.

Wednesday, April 27.

The Honan Company's steamers, the *Genko Maru* and the *Shoko Maru*, made their opening voyages most successfully, reaching Changsha and Shantan without difficulty. At both places elaborate ceremonies were held to inaugurate the opening of the service. The people of Hunan being of a warlike disposition, are particularly friendly to Japan, and it is stated that they exhibit the greatest delight whenever news comes of a Japanese success. Several of the men occupying important official positions in the locality were educated in Japan.

Thursday, April 28.

Tientsin sends news to the *Asahi*, under date of the 26th instant, that the Russians have ordered all the Chinese inhabitants of Antung to remove within ten days, and the Governor of the place has advised them to go Kaulimun, which lies near Fenghwang, and is the point where the eastern road from Takushan strikes the Kiulien-Fenghwang route. This would indicate that the Russians intend to make a stand at Antung.

General Floug announces through General Dessino that there is no news whatever from the Yalu, and that things are quiet at Newchwang, Port Arthur and elsewhere. North-western Mongolia is also tranquil and the people on the border are said to be showing much friendliness towards the Russians. It is interesting to find that north-western Mongolia is included in the sphere of the Floug-Dessino operations.

Extreme precautions to guard against surprise are reported from Newchwang. No lights are allowed during the night on board steamers or junks in the river, and it is said that orders have been issued to shoot any one violating this veto.

Between Mukden and Kirin the Hunghutzes are said to be exceptionally active. Changtu is particularly mentioned as the scene of their disturbances.

It is stated that the junk traffic at Kiaochow has become extraordinarily active of late, and strong suspicions are entertained that supplies are being forwarded from thence to the Russians on the Liao.

The Germans are said to be carrying on with a very high hand in railway matters. They had applied for a charter to extend their Shantung line from Chinan to Tientsin, and the Shantung officials had answered that the question was under consideration by Viceroy Yuan. But the Germans, without waiting for any decision, despatched experts to survey the proposed route. This action so greatly incensed Viceroy Yuan that he is said to have advised peremptory refusal of the concession.

The Chinese cruiser *Haitien* is reported to have run on a rock at the Elliot Islands near Woosung on the 25th instant. She had gone out to meet the steamer *Shinchi*, which was carrying the portrait of the Empress Dowager for the St. Louis Exhibition. The *Haitien* is one of China's best cruisers; a vessel of 4,300 tons built at Elswick.

M. Lessar is reported (*Asahi* correspondence) to have been engaged in an interesting discussion with Prince Ching. His Russian Excellency went to the Foreign Office in Peking carrying an extract from a despatch said to have been written by the Chinese Representative in Tokyo to the Prince. This extract, M. Lessar claimed, was a clear proof that the Chinese Government entertained the intention of practically sympathising with Japan in a manner inconsistent with any theory of strict neutrality. Prince Ching asked where M. Lessar had obtained the despatch. The Minister explained that it had been given to him by such and such an official of the Wai-wu-pu. "Then," said Prince Ching, laughing, "the man made an inexcusable attempt to deceive your Excellency's illustrious perspicacity, and we shall at once have him decapitated." Subsequently the Prince seems to have commuted the sentence to one of dismissal in deference to M. Lessar's entreaties.

The Shanghai Customs Inspector is said to have been instructed from Peking that beans and bean-cake, provided they do not come from Newchwang and provided they are certified by a consul to be not destined for the belligerent area, may be exported. That is extraordinary. Why should the Newchwang products be excluded?

Friday, April 29.

News comes from Peking that Wang Shau has been arrested and condemned to imprisonment for life. This man was supposed to be one of the leaders of reform and to have had relations with Kang Yu-wei. But he was not in any sense an active agitator. His life was one of quiet scholastic effort. A few days ago he proceeded from the private school over which he presides to the Waiwupu where he had an interview with Na Tung, and immediately afterwards he found himself in the hands of the police. The event is said to have struck terror into the hearts of the reformers who apprehend another official raid against their lives and properties. But in these matters the public at large are little qualified to pass judgment. It is known that Wang Shau was a reformer and that in the seclusion of his school he awaited the dawn of a new political situation. Therefore the conclusion is immediately formed that for that reason and for no other his arrest has been effected. There may, however, be many other reasons.

Viceroy Yuan is said (*Asahi's* correspondence) to foresee that in the sequel of the Russo-Japanese war a conference of the Powers will be held in Europe, and that if China is not represented, her interests will suffer greatly. His Excellency is therefore adopting active measures to avert any misfortune of that kind. He is alleged to have already addressed the Foreign Powers on the subject through their representatives. The Viceroy is certainly determined to lose nothing by want of prevision. Experience has taught him that where China's vital interests have to be disposed of, the habit of Western States is not necessarily to consult China.

It is reported that the condition of the cruiser *Haitien* is hopeless. She can not be floated. A rather hasty conclusion, one is disposed to think. China's navy may be said to consist in the main of 5 modern cruisers, two, the *Haitien* and the *Haichi* (each 4,300 tons), built at Elswick; and three, the *Hai-yung*, *Haishew* and *Haishen* (each of 2,950 tons), built at Stettin. The loss of the *Haitien* would be a great blow.

The Japanese ladies of Chefoo have held a bazaar which is said to have been a great success. All the foreigners in the settlement attended and the things were sold off in five hours, realizing a total of 1,600 *yen*, of which 800 *yen* was net profit. This money is to be divided between the Red Cross Hospital and the *Gunjin Kiugo-kai*.

EXECUTION OF TWO JAPANESE.

Monday, April 25.

So far as can be understood from the Russian report attributed to General Kuropatkin, the names of the two Japanese officers said to have been shot at Mukden in the sequel of trial by court-martial were Oki and Fukuoka. But no such persons can be identified, it is said, among the officers whose names are borne on the Japanese roll. At the very outset of the war a rumour was circulated that a party of Japanese officers had been seized by the Russians at Wiju. They were said to number five, and to have been accompanied by two women, one the wife of an officer, the other an interpreter. The officers had worn their uniform from first to last and could scarcely have been arraigned as spies. They were said to have been so greatly maltreated that their leader—a Major—committed suicide. The rest were all killed. This account was published by one or two Tokyo journals at the time and it now stands in magazine records of the war. But it has never been confirmed, and obviously it needs much confirmation, for though the Russians were smarting under a sense of the Port Arthur surprise on the 9th of February, it is scarcely conceivable that they should thus behave towards officers who were known to be such and who had not attempted any disguise. There is a supposition that the two officers now reported to have been executed at Mukden were those remaining from the five captured in Wiju, but the names—Fukuoka Stewo and Oki Teisuke—can not be identified, it is said. Neither is it all likely that men captured early in February would have been held prisoners until the middle of April without having their cases disposed of.

Tuesday, April 26.

It is still strenuously insisted that no Japanese officers called Oki and "Fukuoka" could possibly have been seized by the Russians in Manchuria and executed at Mukden. The conjecture is that the men were civilians, and that if they described themselves as officers it was probably in the hope of obtaining gentle treatment. Reuter's agent gives the names as "Yokota" and "Aoki," but so far as that is concerned the Russian official report must be accepted as the more trustworthy.

Wednesday, April 27.

One of the two unfortunate Japanese whom the Russians fusilladed at Mukden has been identified. His name was not Ōki Teisuke, but Oki Teisuke. He was not an officer at all, but an ordinary civilian, 32 years of age, who had studied law and engineering in Tokyo and had gained some repute as a proficient in *jujutsu*. His father is a judge in the Naha Court (Riukiu) and the son had been travelling in China and Manchuria for two or three years, his chief object being to teach *jujutsu*. It is said that he was a man of powerful physique but kind and placable disposition. General Kuropatkin's notion that he was an officer of rank is ridiculed in Japan. Nothing is yet known as to the identity of the other man executed, Fukuoka Sutewo, but the strong probability is that he too had no military status of any kind. What was the charge against these men, we wonder. All that Russian soldiers and Russian ships have hitherto accomplished in the war has been to sink small merchantmen, destroy private houses and shoot wandering civilians. Oki and Fukuoka may have represented themselves as officers for the sake of avoiding an ignominious death, but death in some form must have been assured before they made such an avowal. Of what crime then had they been guilty?

THE PROGRESSISTS AND THE WAR.

The Progressists have appointed a committee to consider the Party's attitude with regard to finances for the war and after the war. They held a meeting for the purpose on the 22nd instant. Count Okuma spoke. He said that although the fighting at sea had been nearly brought to a conclusion, a long struggle on land must still be anticipated. The nation was showing the greatest patriotism in providing funds, but undoubtedly much inconvenience was experienced owing to tradal and manufacturing depression, which would probably affect the people's means of sustenance in the long run. Moreover Japanese banking was still in its infancy. The banks had not more than four hundred or five hundred millions of hard money among them, and the mere prospect of this being disturbed had led to talk about the necessity of devising means for saving. To save money was certainly advisable, but nothing could be more unwise than saving which impaired the country's earning capacities. A man might dispense with one meal out of three, but if, at the same time, he shrank into his shell and gave up his work or refrained from all enterprise, he would really be squandering not saving, since he would be wasting his productive capacities. War had recuperative as well as destructive effects. A nation should not be intimidated by it. The duty of the people was to reduce its destructive effects to a minimum and reap a maximum of advantage from its recuperative influences. In considering the means to that end, practical considerations were more important than theoretical, and the Count therefore advised that consultation be held with chambers of commerce, commercial companies and emigration agencies.

Mr. Oishi Masami also spoke at some length. He emphatically denied the probability of the war terminating in a brief period, and he urged the necessity not only of being prepared for a lengthy struggle but also of determining what course should be pursued even in the event of final success. He predicted that whatever might be Japan's achievements in the field she would not be allowed to reap the full fruits of her victories, and he indicated Germany as the Power that would take the lead in subjecting her to the coercion of several states in union. Should Japan's forces get the better of the struggle on land, and should it become plain that Russia's hope of ultimate success was evanescent, then the signs of foreign interference would inevitably show themselves. It was not in Germany's interests that Japan should be fully benefited. The best way to avert this conjuncture was to open Korea and Manchuria as fast as possible to the trade, travel and residence of all the nations, so that they would possess material reasons for perpetuating the state of affairs introduced by Japan. When England's trade with the continent of Europe was interrupted by the Napoleonic wars, she bestirred herself to find other markets. It was then that she turned her attention to South America, and began to acquire the profits which subsequently added so much to her wealth. Japan's trade did not suffer appreciably from this war. The only section affected was the trade with North China, which did not represent more than 10 million *yen* annually. There was no excuse whatever for merchants and manufacturers who lost heart because such a war confronted them. If Japan won she would ensure the integrity of China and would enjoy preferential rights in trade. This, then, was the time to think seriously of the best way to deal with the opportunities that might offer.

A committee of 20 was nominated by Count Okuma, its principal members being Messrs. Oishi, Hatoyama, Seki, Komuchi and Koezuka.

ENGLAND AND AMERICA IN THE TIME OF THE GREAT WAR.

With many Americans, perhaps the great majority, it is still an article of rooted faith that in the time of the great struggle between North and South, the British Government under Lord Palmerston desired to recognise, and sought to bring about the recognition, of the Southern States. The following letter on the subject has just been published in the United States:—

26, James Street May 30, 1889.

Dear Sir,—Having expressed my interest in the portions of your work which I read on the day of its arrival, I think it would be less than ingenuous if I did not, after reading what relates to the Cabinet of Lord Palmerston, in page 56 and in the following chapter, make some reference to it.

Allow me to assure you that so far as that Cabinet is concerned you have been entirely misled in regard to matters of fact. As a member of it and now nearly its sole surviving member, I can state that it never at any time dealt with the subject of recognizing the Southern States in your great civil war, excepting when it learned the proposition of the Emperor Napolen III and declined to entertain that proposition without qualification, hesitation, delay or dissent.

In the debate which took place on Mr. Roebuck's proposal for the negotiation Lord Russell took no part and could take none, as he was a member of the House of Lords. I spoke for the Cabinet.

You will, I am sure, be glad to learn that there is no foundation for a charge which, had it been true, might have aided in keping alive angry sentiments happily gone by. You are, of course, at liberty to publish this letter.

To your reference in page 70, as a record of impressions which I am not entitled to use, I can make no objection, though you are probably aware that they were many years ago the subject of a detailed explanation from me to the American government, and of a most handsome reply from Mr. Hamilton Fish.

I remain, dear sir, your very faithful servant,

W. E. GLADSTONE.

Henry Clews, Esq.

I hereby certify that I have compared the above with the original letter written and signed by W. E. Gladstone and that it is a true and accurate copy thereof.

W. M. BRADEN.
Commissioner of Deeds for the
City of New York.

WAR NOTES.

Saturday, April 23.

It is stated that some Russian torpedoes which have broken adrift from their moorings at Dalny or Port Arthur have been sighted off the Shantung promontory and that navigation in those waters has become very dangerous.

Twenty thousand Russian troops are reported to have reached Mukden.

Mines have been laid in the Liao River above the forts. We have been hearing of these mines for a long time. Probably they have materialized at last.

Monday, April 25.

Peking authorities estimate the total force of Russian troops eastward of Lake Baikal at 200,000 of all arms. As for Reuter's St. Petersburg telegram that 300,000 had already assembled and that no more are needed, a later telegram from London alleges that General Kuropatkin is waiting for another hundred thousand before he commences military operations.

It is reported from Chefoo that at 4 p.m. on the 22nd instant the despatch-boat *Fawan* of the *Chicago Daily News* was stopped by two Russian destroyers at a place 8 miles (nautical) from Port Arthur, and subjected to strict examination. The Russians carried her to within 3 miles of the port. They confined the whole crew in the hold while investigations were in progress and their search seemed to be directed chiefly to finding whether the vessel possessed any apparatus for wireless telegraphy, but one imagines that such a quest should not have demanded much scrutiny. The *Fawan* saw a number of war-ships with steam up near the entrance to the port. (*Jiji's* correspondence).

A telegram from Shanghai, professing to give a true account of the state of affairs in East Asia, alleges that the total number of Russian troops which passed through Irkutsk from the beginning of the War up to the 26th of March was 46,000. In other words, the re-inforcements sent eastward by Russia did not exceed that total. The allegation is important but scarcely credible.

Tuesday, April 26.

The *Shanghai Mercury* quotes a Chinaman as saying that on the 19th instant at Tashikiao he saw two Japanese subjects of about 30 years of age escorted as prisoners by four or five Russians. One of the Japanese had a bandage round his arm.

Thursday, April 28.

Russian newspapers are reported to have agreed in condemning the *Novosti's* suggestion that the intervention of a foreign Power should be accepted at this juncture. They say that Russia can not hear of mediation until she has been victorious in the field.

London telegraphs that the ice has broken up at Vladivostock and that several Japanese cruisers have been seen in the vicinity of the port. But it is to be observed that Vladivostock has two avenues of ingress and egress, one in Amur Bay the other in the Sea of Japan. Unless a very large force were employed by the Japanese they could not watch both places.

Viceroy Alexieff's resignation was apparently real though the question seems to have been deferred in deference to the Tsar's wish. If any one deserves to suffer for this war Alexieff is the man. So far as the world knows, he is mainly responsible for it, and there has been nothing in his conduct of the operations to redeem the initial error. His resignation in the face of the enemy was alone wanting to crown the wretched record. Very different was the spirit shown by General Kelly-Kenny in South Africa. Owing to a peculiar arrangement made by Lord Roberts, Lord Kitchener took the command at Paardeberg although Kelly-Kenny was his senior. General Kelly-Kenny behaved with such self-denying tact under these difficult circumstances that Kitchener did not even suspect his dissatisfaction. In a despatch penned subsequently Kelly-Kenny wrote:—"This is not the time to mention personal matters, and until the present operations are concluded I prefer to subject myself to any humiliation rather than raise the question of the command." A little of the same spirit would well have become Alexieff.

THE WAR TAXES.

We observe that the *Japan Herald*, replying to an article published in these columns with reference to the War Taxes, accuses us of suggesting that foreigners "wish to differentiate themselves at such a crisis as the present from the people among whom they live." That is exactly what we did not do. Our words were:—"We may fairly assume at the outset that ninety-nine foreigners out of every hundred residing in Japan have no desire to raise this question at all, and *are entirely unwilling to differentiate themselves at such a crisis as the present from the people among whom they live.*" The *Japan Herald* has therefore to choose between on the one hand, admitting that it deliberately and grossly perverted our language by attributing to us a statement diametrically the opposite of our explicit assertion, or, on the other, confessing that the plainest and most unequivocal English is unintelligible to it.

The *Japan Herald* further declares itself unable to imagine such a thing as "a contribution imposed by an extraordinary exercise of power and collected by extraordinary machinery." Has our contemporary never heard of such a thing as commandeering provisions, animals, vehicles and other articles for military uses? Perhaps it does not know that this very operation has been going on in Japan under the eyes of those that have eyes to see. Many Japanese subjects, for example, have been obliged to surrender their carriage-horses and saddle-horses to the War Department at prices representing only a fraction of the animals' original cost. The foreign residents, being protected by treaty against similar "extraordinary contributions," are not compelled to give up their horses and thus it happens we can look forward to the usual spring races next month.

Occasion may be taken to correct another error made by the *Japan Herald*. It has alleged that the billeting of soldiers upon foreign residents is forbidden by the treaties. There is no such veto in the treaties. On the contrary, a proposal to insert such a veto had to be set aside because no exemption of the kind is extended by European Powers to foreigners residing within their borders. The Japanese would be strictly warranted in billeting soldiers upon foreign residents precisely as they are billeted upon Japanese subjects. But, in point of fact, the Japanese have most carefully avoided subjecting foreigners to this inconvenience. With the exception of a few, a very few, Japanese houses rented to foreigners, no foreign residence has been required to receive Japanese soldiers. For this forbearance an expression of grateful recognition would be appropriate, whereas what the Japanese actually hear is a journalistic complaint that they have violated the treaties.

RUSSIAN PRISONERS.

The Russian sailors who have been under treatment at Matsuyama hospital have now recovered completely, and will be allowed to return to their country in a few days. In connexion with this we may mention that among many of the Russians an idea seems to prevail that should they fall into Japanese hands they will meet with the greatest cruelty. The two wounded men taken from the destroyer *Steregustchi* are said to have been in a state of extreme nervousness at first, as also were their two unwounded comrades, who were rescued from the water. One of the latter was a shoemaker by trade, and when he found that instead of ill-treatment he was to have everything he wished for, his delight expressed itself in an absorbing desire to make a pair of boots for the commander of the ship. It was this extravagant belief, doubtless, that led to the terrible fate of two other men on the destroyer. They fled into the forecastle, and barricaded themselves there. Nothing would induce them to come out, and there can be little doubt that they sank with the vessel when she went down some time after being cast loose by the Japanese, who found it impossible to tow her. Possibly these wild notions are encouraged by the officers in order to make the men fight to the death. But they may have another effect.

Rumour says that the *Pobieda* suffered such injury from the explosion of the mine with which she came in contact as to preclude all possibility of making her fit again for the fighting line with the resources available at Port Arthur. It is further stated that another Russian man-of-war, some days prior to the last affair, came into collision with one of the sunken Japanese steamers and is now in dock undergoing repairs.

MARQUIS ITO ON THE WAR.

The following two letters having been translated into Japanese and published by the *Kokumin Shimbun*, the originals have been kindly placed at our disposal:—

New York, February 17, 1904.

DEAR MARQUIS,—I read with a good deal of interest a statement published in our papers here, which purported to come from you, setting forth your country's position in connection with the present war. Most of us here sympathize with your country in this contest as we consider it has been made absolutely necessary in self-defence on the ground that Russian sovereignty over Manchuria would mean very soon thereafter its extension to Korea, and in that event your country would have the menace of a very bad neighbour and your people be hemmed in for all time from natural expansion. Under such circumstances all your commercial people would surely be driven out of Manchuria and Korea precisely as the Jews have been driven out of Russia; besides which, Russian sovereignty would not likely be confined to Manchuria—it would be very sure to extend further into China, which would soon mean not only the closed door to Japan, but to all other commercial nations. I congratulate you on the brilliant successes already achieved. There is much rejoicing here in consequence of them.

An effort has been made by the representatives of Russia to try and convince our people that Russia during the time of our Civil War was our friend and that we ought to be hers now, as an evidence of which they claim that she sent her fleet to New York, where it was anchored for some time, under sealed orders to give us aid in the event of it becoming necessary. This version is entirely incorrect, as I know of my own knowledge. At this time there was an effort being made by Napoleon III, then Emperor of France, to get England to join him in the recognition of the Southern Confederacy, which Mr. Lincoln and his cabinet were thoroughly aware of, and the South, it was understood, was to give a strong justification for taking that position, hence, their plan was to make a descent on Washington, capture the capital and the archives of the Government, and that being done foreign recognition would be in order. The rebel army had gathered around Washington in great force and it looked to be a critical period. At this dark moment Mr. Seward, Secretary of State, obtained information that a Russian fleet was in South American waters, and he conceived the idea that if the fleet could be induced to come to New York, it would give the impression to both France and England that an alliance had been effected between Russia and this country, and it would postpone action on their part leading to a recognition of the Southern Confederacy, which at that time would have been potential in serious consequences. He consequently sent a very cordial invitation to the officer in command and his associates to bring the fleet on a visit to New York, which was accepted, and the fleet appeared accordingly, producing the effect intended. Soon, thereafter, however, our army protecting Washington had time to recuperate after the defeat at Bull Run, and the battle of Gettysburg was fought resulting in a great victory to the Union side, which turned the tide, and then one victory after the other followed in rapid succession until the end came.

The above version differs very materially from the one that has been given out by the friends of Russia —that the fleet came here under sealed orders. In 1871 Duke Alexius visited New York with a similar Russian fleet, of which he was in chief command. A Committee of New York citizens, of which I was an active member, was appointed to meet him on arrival in the bay to extend to him the hospitality of the city and various entertainments that had been arranged for him and his officers. During the Duke's visit here I therefore saw much of him and in one of my talks with him I spoke abut the previous fleet coming to New York, how it happened to come to New York, etc. He seemed to be perfectly familiar with all the circumstances and acquiesced in the statement I made.

My information about it was obtained directly from Mr. Seward himself, so that my version of Russia's attitude at that time is certainly the correct one, thus showing it was not the intention of Russia to help us by her fleet, but that it was simply a shrewd device of Secretary of State Seward to make it appear so; in other words, it was a bluff, and worked to perfection, for the idea struck terror to the intrigues of the French Emperor.

Since your brilliant successes already attained, we are expecting a short, quick and decisive termination of the war, ending in your favour, With best wishes that this may be the result, I remain, very truly yours,

HENRY CLEWS.

Tokyo, April 14th 1904.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to your letter of Feb. 17th, let me first of all thank you most sincerely for the constant sympathy you have shown with our country's cause. Your friendly efforts on the occasion of the Sino-Japanese war are still fresh in my memory and in the memory of all those who have heard of them. And in general the sympathetic attitude of public opinion in your country is a great encouragement to us in our faith that in fighting for our own future security and undisturbed enjoyment of the fruits of civilization, we are to a certain extent fighting also for the common cause of all. Just as you say, the supremacy of Russia in Korea would mean not only a constant menace to the very existence of our island empire, but would also mean the wholesale destruction of our commercial and industrial interests already legitimately vested there in the past, not to mention the loss of a natural outlet for our expanding people. The constant policy of Russia in this part of the globe has steadily inclined towards monopolization of the natural resources of any country she conquers and annexes. Her Manchurian policy is an irrefutable evidence of the above statement. So that in fighting for our own interests, we are at the same time fighting for the principal of "fair competition all round" in these new markets of the world. I am indeed very sorry that the negotiations, conducted on our side with sincere *bona fides*, were not crowned with the success so earnestly desired. If the Russian Government had been a little more inspired by the spirit of moderation, and of toleration for the legitimate interests of others, things would not have come to this pass. As it was, there remained no other way for us but to try to enforce by arms what we could not effect by reason. And we had to do so ere it would have become too late, for Russia was steadily and rapidly augmenting her fighting forces available in this part of her empire, so that before long the sheer mass of her fighting power would have made it a folly for us to attempt to resist her unscrupulous march onward. Thus our present enterprise has been nothing but a coolly thought-out step in the cause of state necessity.

And I am much gratified to see that you, as well as the general public opinion of your country have understood our motive in its true light.

Hoping that you are enjoying as robust health as when I saw you last in New York, and also hoping to be able to see you again in no distant future.

I remain, Yours sincerely, ITO HIROBUMI.

THE GOTEMBA LEPERS.

We translate Father Bertrand's beautiful and touching appeal on behalf of the unfortunates for whose sake he may be said to have given his life:—

The year has passed so quickly that last year seems like yesterday, even like to-day. Once more a note dated from Gotemba Japan; "Oh mon Dieu! here he is again with his lepers," then with a not very benevolent sigh, "This good Father would do better to leave us in peace." That is certainly what more than one charitable person will say. I have not the right to complain; it is true that I am troublesome but everything is said to be relative in this world.

I live among such sufferings, am witness to such pain that I do not hesitate to come and tell you with confidence about these things, because I know you would be discontented with me if I doubted your feelings in this respect.

During the year which has just come to a close, twelve of our poor sufferers have been freed from their troubles and passed into a better life; nineteen of them were baptized. Fifteen new patients have just been admitted to the hospital. At present our interesting community consists of 77 persons, 54 men and 23 women.

Of happy mood and always content, they gaily struggle "for life" against their terrible enemy. For is it surprising, for the rest, that they find themselves happy? In their peaceful republic, they ignore the graver cares that agitate the society of other men. One has no reason to be envious of the other; nobody possesses anything, and within some slight degrees of unsightliness they all resemble one another. The most able-bodied among them, when they see those more seriously afflicted, do not think of becoming boastful. They say to themselves that their turn is not far off, and this thought fills them in a singular manner with kindness and compassion for one another.

Among the afflicted who entered the hospital this year, there was one man who had been hidden by his family for three years in a press (or closet). They had spread a thick covering at the bottom of the closet and there he slept night and day.

The only moment when he was allowed to "put his nose out of doors" was in the evening, and even then it was on condition that no visitor was in the house. As soon as somebody came he was obliged to enter his closet and not make a sound or a movement.

In time his poor swollen feet refused to do their work and he could no longer walk. When he went to the leper-house and could see the day-light and breathe at ease in the open air under a bright sun and beautiful blue sky, he seemed to say to himself in his naïve joy: "Is it possible that so many small birds and large beasts freely enjoy these beautiful things and that I have been so long deprived of them?"

Of all the deaths this year, the most touching and the most innocent was that of a little girl of fourteen. Her mother, also a leper, died here three years ago. In her last moments, she begged, she conjured me to receive her daughter and to take care of her in her stead. I promised to do so. The first time I saw this child was at Kusatsu station where she had been with other lepers, to take the sulphur treatment. Naturally I wished to speak to her of her mother; but when she saw this stranger "this horror of a man," with a long beard, she was filled with such fear that I could not approach her. She was brought to the hospital by her grandmother, soon became accustomed to it, and was no longer afraid of me. She was baptized and received her First Communion with much good will. Soon after, consumption declared itself and she felt that the end was not far off. From that time the only desire she had was to be confirmed "If she could live until the arrival of Monseigneur: she would die peacefully after that." At last Monseigneur came and her desire was satisfied. For a week she had not been able to get up and I told her that she could not go to the chapel. "Oh, but I will go, I will have enough strength to do that," she said. In the end she was confirmed. Now that her wish was gratified and she saw no hope of recovery, she asked to receive Extreme Unction whileshe could pray and understand the ceremony. Then she received the scapular as she wished in order to show when she appeared before God that she belonged to the Blessed Virgin.—"That you are a Christian is a sufficient sign" I said to her.—"Yes, but I wish a sign that can be seen. When I present myself at the gate of paradise and they are unwelling to open for me I shall ask for the Blessed Virgin, show her this, and then she will let me in." This simple little child died some days afterward and certainly she must have been well received in heaven. Each time I went to see her she asked me to pray for her, promising in return that when she went to heaven she would pray for the others and for her benefactors "that she might take them all with her."

To console the most abandoned, to save the most unfortunate of men, I have need of your aid; my goodwill is not sufficient. God wishes that each one of us should take his part. . . . You will not refuse yours.

That will be the best of your consolation.

I am, uniting in charity and humanity with you, your most humble and respectful servant.

Joseph Bertrand, Miss Apost.

NOTE.—The offerings may be addressed to the Catholic Archbishopric of Tokio.

To M. L'Abbé Guérin, Catholic Mission, 80 Yokohama Tokyo.

To M. Delmas, Directeur du Seminaire des Missions Etrangères, Rue du Bac, 128 Paris.

To M. Joseph Bertrand, Director of the Leper Hospital of Gotemba (Shizuoka-ken), Japan.

To the "Japan Mail," Yokohama.

"VERITAS PREVALEBIT."

In "The German Official Account of the War in South Africa" the following passage appears:—

"In view of the many errors disseminated at the time by a badly informed Press throughout the whole world as to the conduct of the war by the English, it is the duty of a truth-loving account, compiled from a knowledge of the actual circumstances, to lay stress upon the fact that the behaviour of the British was as chivalrous and humane as that of the Boers always was, so long as they were opposed by the regular Boer forces which were distinguishable as such. But, after the occupation of Bloemfontein, the loosely organized and badly disciplined forces of the Boers broke up. Those still in the field were often merely irregulars and no longer recognisable externally as combatants. By degrees they adopted guerilla tactics which, by obliterating the distinction between a really combatant force and a hostile population, were bound naturally to arouse a constantly increasing feeling of bitterness among the British troops, which were often menaced, and this not only explains much of their severity but also justifies it. If, therefore, the English authorities subsequently adopted on several occasions increasingly severe reprisals, which often made their conduct of the war appear harsh, yet they did so, in the majority of cases, only in accordance with their duty, and the justifiable protection of the lives of those under their command. Military history teaches, besides, that the bitterness aroused on both sides during a war increases in proportion to its duration, while humane and chivalrons feeling becomes, of course, blunted."

We wonder how the German nation have received this testimony; whether they regret the cruel injustice they did to the British army throughout the South African War. The verdict of their own Great General Staff ought to be conclusive, but we have not yet heard that the journals which occupied themselves so assiduously in slandering the English soldier have endeavoured to repair the injury by acknowledging their error.

MRS. RICHARDSON AND DR. McGEE.

Japanese papers speak with much gratitude of Mrs. Richardson, an English lady who has arrived in Japan to take part in the duty of nursing wounded soldiers. Many applications in that sense were made to the Japanese Legation in London, and it was finally decided that a small number should be endorsed. Mrs. Richardson was the first to receive permission. She had letters of introduction from Lady Dilke and Mrs. Westlake. Dr. McGee and her party arrived by the *Shawmut*.

It is impossible not to admire the fine spirit shown by these ladies in coming to a far-distant country on an errand of humanity. But we do not entertain similar respect for their discernment. They ought to comprehend, one imagines, that valuable as their services may be, the inconvenience and embarrassment connected with their presence in the field more than outweigh the importance of any aid they can render. That they have no means of making themselves intelligible either to their patients or their fellow-nurses except through the medium of an interpreter is an impediment sufficient in itself to militate almost fatally against their usefulness. But when we add that, their mode of life being totally different from that of the Japanese nurses, a special commissariat and special conveniences have to be provided for them, it becomes at once evident, ungracious as the statement must seem, that, on the whole, their absence would be preferable to their presence. Some of these ladies act solely under the impulse of sweet if unreasoning charity when they come to the Far East on such an errand. But some are influenced by an imagination that no proper hospital organization exists in Japan, and that for them it is reserved to be the pioneers and directors of a great reform. That is a fallacy. They can teach nothing to the Japanese in these matters. Need we say that we speak thus with reluctance, and under the pressure of a conviction that the unvarnished truth is best for all parties in the circumstances.

Dr. A. N. McGee and her party of Red Cross nurses landed on Friday at 9.50 a.m. from the *Shawmut* at the English Hatoba, where the lady members of the Yokohama branches of the Japan Red Cross Society, the Patriotic Ladies Association, the Military Relief Society, and other public bodies, the pupils of the Ferris' Seminary, the Kanagawa High Female School, etc., and the female members of several religious bodies welcomed them most warmly. Governor and Madame Sufu were also present with three carriages from the Kencho, in which the new. comers were conveyed to the Union Church. After a very warm welcome there they went to the Grand Hotel where the authorities of the Kencho had made preparations for them. In the afternoon they were entertained at a welcome reception on the Bluff.

Dr. McGee and her party, who stayed over night in the Grand Hotel, left Yokohama on Saturday by the 9.10 a.m. train for Tokyo. Madame Sufu and many Japanese ladies belonging to various bodies saw them off at the railway station. On arrival at Shimbashi, they were welcomed by many ladies of high rank, by nurses of the Japan Red Cross Society, Governor Senke, Mayor Ozaki, Mr. Nagasaki, Chief Secretary of the Imperial Household, and other gentlemen. The American ladies proceeded to the Atago-kan Hotel in carriages sent by the Japan Red Cross Society.

AN INTERESTING DISCOVERY AT THEBES.

An interesting account of the discovery at Thebes of the tomb of Queen Hatshepsu, the builder of the temple of Dêr-el-Bâhari, appears in *The Times*. Like the other Royal sepulchres in the Valley of the Tombs of the Kings at Thebes, we are told, the tomb of "the Great Queen" consists for the most part of a corridor sloping downward at a somewhat sharp angle into the heart of a limestone mountain. The work of clearing out the tomb has just been brought to a conclusion, thanks to the liberality of an American gentleman, Mr. Theodore M. Davis, and the engineering skill of Mr. Howard Carter, the Inspector of Egyptian Antiquities. The direction taken by the long corridor of the tomb is most remarkable. The entrance is in the axis of the temple of Dêr el-Bâhari, which stands on the other side of the cliff, and it was natural to suppose that the corridor was intended to lead to the temple. Instead of doing so, it suddenly curves southward, and, after continuing for more than sixty mètres in a southerly direction, once more turns to the west. At a distance of fifty-six métres a chamber is reached—the extreme point attained by Lepsius; then, after another sixty metres, there is a second chamber, and after thirty-six metres more a third. From this third chamber a passage curves inward and leads to the burial chamber, in which two sarcophagi have just been found. The sarcophagi are of hard sandstone which has been polished like a copper disc, and are covered with beautifully formed hieroglyphics. From these we learn that one of the sarcophagi contained the mummy of Hatshepsu, the other that of her father Thothmes I. The lids of the sarcophagi lie on the floor, and by the side of that of Hatshepsu is a canopic jar of polished sandstone. The sarcophagi are empty; the mummy of Thothmes I., in fact, was one of those which were found in the pit at Dêr-el-Bâhari, and is now in the Cairo museum. The mummy of Hatshepsu may still be lying in one of the unexplored side-chambers of the tomb, where it would have been deposited for the sake of safety in some period of danger. But the work of completely clearing out the burial chamber and such side-chambers as exist will be a long one.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

Mr. Kudo Kokan, the prominent politician, died suddenly at about 6 p.m. on the 22nd instant. He was engaged in a game of draughts when he was suddenly seized with a fit of blood-vomiting and expired in five minutes. Mr. Kudo had always been an uncompromising advocate of a strong foreign policy, and his latest appeal to public opinion was as a denouncer of any weak yielding to Russia. He had sat in the Lower House of the Diet from its opening day.

We are asked to state that the proceeds of the Variety Entertainment in Tokyo on April 9th were 580 *yen* and the expenses were 150 *yen*; 200 *yen* was sent to Marchioness Nabeshima for the Patriotic Fund, and 230 *yen* to Paymaster General Murakami of the Navy for charitable purposes connected with that branch of the Service.

Japanese journals state that the number of war correspondents who have gone to the front to join the First Army is altogether 38, namely 22 Japanese and 16 foreigners. The number waiting to accompany the Second Army is 151, namely, 83 Japanese and 68 foreigners. As for details, the foreign correspondents already sent are 8 English, 6 American, 1 French and 1 German; while those waiting to go are 28 English, 28 American, 7 French, 1 German, 3 Italian and 1 Austrian.

M. Souveroche, writing in *l'Illustration* and translated into *Public Opinion*, gives a most interesting comparison of the rifles carried by the Russian soldier and the Japanese. As to the mechanism for loading, the advantage is conceded to the Arisaka weapon, which, however, has the drawback of being more difficult to clean. The striking differences are first that the Russian ball (German silver) weighs 14 grams and the whole cartridge 26 grams, whereas the Japanese ball, (hard lead with a covering of German silver) weighs only 10 grams and the cartridge has a weight of 22½ grams. The meaning of these things is that a soldier who carries 100 cartridges into action is weighted to an extent of only 2250 grams in the Japanese army whereas the corresponding figure in the Russian army is 2,600 grams, the Japanese soldier's load being thus lighter by 350 grams. In other words, the Japanese can take into action 115 cartridges against the Russian's 100. But of course the lighter bullet is not so accurate in its flight, especially in windy weather. The second point is that whereas the initial velocity of the Russian bullet is only 620 metres, the velocity of the Japanese is 725 metres; whence it results that while the zone of maximum danger for the Russian weapon does not exceed 500 metres, it is nearly 700 metres for the Japanese, and the penetration also of the latter is much greater. From these facts the French expert concludes that the Japanese arm "will be very dangerous at ordinary combat distances and that the great tension of the trajectory will give the Japanese a superiority which their adversaries will be obliged to consider." In the case of each alike the magazine contains 5 cartridges, and the rapidity of fire is the same. So also is the weight of the piece, which fact is thought to be in favour of the Russians who are bigger and stronger men than the Japanese.

It is stated that Russia is bringing strong pressure to bear on Turkey to induce the latter to pay up the remaining portion of the indemnity due since the war of 1877.

A British steamer is to be sent to Saghalien at the close of this month to bring off Japanese fishermen who wintered there. There are some 700 of these men and besides these there are some 200 who have already withdrawn to Wakanai, where they are awaiting an opportunity to get home. The steamer, a vessel of 3,775 tons, will take them all to their destination, presumably Hakodate.

The *N. C. Herald*, at the request of the Japanese Consul-General in Shanghai, publishes the following:—

> "In answer to inquiries too numerous for individual replies, and in hope of correcting some erroneous impressions that exist abroad, we, mayors of the principal cities of Japan, beg to give our assurance that normal conditions prevail throughout the Empire of Japan in war which is as orderly as Japan in peace. Business men and travellers who contemplate visiting our country will encounter no inconvenience and will be exposed to no danger. The ordinary means of communication by land and sea are not and cannot be interrupted. Japan and its territorial waters are not within the war zone; and the positions and advantages of our fleet and armies insure Japan against invasion.
>
> "(Signed) Mayors of Tokyo, Yokohama, Osaka, Nagasaki, Kyoto, Kobe, and Nagoya."

We desire to supplement this by saying that our own experience, the experience of foreign residents in general, and the experience of many tourists with whom we have spoken, emphatically confirm the statement of the Mayors of Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagasaki, Kyoto, Kobe and Nagoya. It has been the wonder and admiration of numerous observers that the Japanese people preserve, at this great crisis of their national destiny, a demeanour extraordinarily calm and self-possessed, and that a foreigner may travel throughout the length and breadth of the country without being in any way inconveniently aware that Japan is engaged in a life-and-death struggle with a Western Power. One foreign journal alone in Japan has attempted to create an uneasy impression in the minds of tourists, and one foreigner has supported it. The foreigner is a correspondent of the *Figaro* and the journal is the *Kobe Chronicle*, which now enjoys the reputation of being the sole and only English newspaper in the Far East which under the hypocritical guise of frank friendship neglects few opportunities of injuring Japan.

Speaking at Johnsonville in March, Mr. Seddon said the exports of New Zealand last year amounted to £15,000,000, a wonderful record, considering the Colony had only a population equal to the city of Glasgow. On the Government lines of railway there was a net increase in revenue of over £90,000 for the 11 months of this year, as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The customs had increased £200,000. The total increase of revenue for the financial year, as compared with last year, amounted to over £600,000, and the surplus would be considerably larger than last year.

The *Shogyo Shimpo*, referring to Mr. Takahashi's visit to England, says that two reports are circulated with reference to a foreign loan. One is that a strong syndicate has been formed with the intention of floating a loan of 15 millions sterling on the security of the Government railways or the customs revenue; the other, that the syndicate contemplates an immediate loan of 5 millions without any material security. Our contemporary notes, however, that no news in this sense has reached the Bank of Japan, a fact which throws doubt on the whole story.

A report which was current in Kobe on April 22nd, and was referred to by one of the Kobe papers, to the effect that Mr. M. Ginsburg, of the firm of Ginsburg & Co., had been shot by the Russians at Harbin seems to be without foundation, as we learn on the best authority that. Mr. Ginsburg left Harbin about the 18th of last month and should now be in St. Petersburg.

A severe shock of earthquake was experienced in south Formosa on the afternoon of the 25th instant. Telegrams from Tainan announce that 37 houses were overthrown, 130 damaged, 2 persons killed and 13 injured. The same earthquake seems to have been felt in Japan but as to that the records have not yet been collected.

Five American citizens who reached Yokohama by sea on the 25th instant, were found in a grove at Yoyogi-mura in the Shinjuku suburb of Tokyo on the following day. It appears that they had been engaged in whale fishing on the coast of Hokkaido when their schooner was wrecked. Her crew escaped in small parties, and these five men managed to reach Yokohama. They had only 4 *yen* in their possession, and with that sum they thought they could make their way overland to Kobe. But they lacked the essential preliminary of knowing the road, and thus their journey ended in the suburbs of Tokyo, whence they were sent by the police to the U.S. Consulate in Yokohama·

Several junior officials of the naval commissariat department at Kure have been arrested on a charge of dishonest practices in connexion with supplying provisions to the ships. It is stated that twelve men are now under detention.

A man who has journeyed two million miles may reasonably claim that he has earned a period of rest. This is the remarkable record of Mr. Robert Maybank, who has just retired after serving the London and South-Western Railway for fifty-two years, and one of whose many memories is that he acted as fireman of the Royal train which brought the King from Windsor to Waterloo on that March day in 1863 when he met his bride "from over the sea." As a feat of travelling Mr. Maybank's record will surely be hard to beat. He has, however, or had, a rival in Mr. John Higginbottom, an express-driver on the Midland Railway, who retired a year or two ago after running nearly two million miles without the least approach to an accident. Compared with such feats of travelling the most phenomenal pedestrian records seem poor, even that of Thomas Phipps, who for fifty-eight years carried letters between Kingham and the adjacent villages and Chipping Norton, covering 400,000 miles on foot. But the champion traveller of the world is surely Mrs. Crossley, of Indianapolis, who has crossed the Atlantic seventy times, and is now on her twenty-fifth journey round the world.

FIRES.

On the 27th instant at 8 p.m. the jail at Osaka was destroyed by fire. Some of the prisoners who were in for grave crimes, attempted to escape and the wardens were obliged to use their swords. There is also a suspicion that some were burned to death.

On the morning of April 27th, fire broke out in the Konakiyama weaving factory belonging to the Fuji Cotton Spinning Company, Tokyo. The flames immediately spread throughout and destroyed the buildings, which àre thirteen hundred *tsubo* in extent. Four sets of weaving machinery were damaged but over a hundred female workers escaped without injury. The loss is estimated at about a hundred thousand *yen*. It is said by the *Jiji* that the factory was insured with the National, Phôenix, Manchester and other fire insurance companies for over a hundred and eleven thousand *yen*. The cause was the heating of a bearing.

On the night of April 26th, fire took place in a compound at Meguro, Tokyo, but was put out before serious damage could be done. The cause is not yet known.

YOKOHAMA LITERARY SOCIETY.

The Yokohama Literary Society brought its nineteenth session to a close last night, when Van Schaick Hall was again the scene of much pleasureable enjoyment. The lecture by Dr. Munro on "Modern Life and Public Health" was in the speaker's happiest vein and the frequent flashes of humour appealed to the fancy of his many hearers. The musical programme comprised the following five numbers, and it may be noted that the pianoforte selections were the two which Miss Blundell interpreted in the recent musical competition, in which she came out at the top of the list:—

1.—Piano Solos ...(*a*) "Au Matin"............*Godard.*
(*b*) "Toccata" ....*Chaminade*
Miss Elsie Blundell.

2.—Songs......(*a*) "Forest's Greeting"... } *Reiniche.*
(*b*) "Spring Flowers"...... }
Mrs. Jas. Walter, with Violin Obligato by
Mr. H. A. Poole.

3.—Violin Solo ......"Air Varie"............*De Beriot.*
Mr. H. A. Poole.

4.—Song ....Welcome" ....*Denza.*
Miss Lloyd Thomas.

5.—Song ......"Beloved, it is Morn" ....
...*Florence Aylward.*
Mr. A. E. Cooper.

The President, in distributing the prizes and certificates won at the late musical competition, said that the Committee would have liked to have seen a bigger list of entries in both divisions, but of course they must not expect too great things at the start. "Great oaks from little acorns grow," said the adage, and he hoped that now the musical competitions had been successfully inaugurated they would continue a regular feature in the Society's work, while their value would increase as the years rolled on. The prizes had been awarded this year to the following: Senior Division—1st, Miss Elsie Blundell; 2nd, Miss Flora Diack. Junior Division: 1st, Miss Muriel Cain; 2nd, Miss G. Kenderdine and Miss Edna Mendelson (bracketted equal); 3rd, Miss Georgie Tresize.

THE LATE MR. JOHNSTONE.

On Saturday afternoon the mortal remains of the late Mr. James Johnstone, whose sudden death on board the P. & O. steamer *Formosa* at Moji on April 18th we have already chronicled, were consigned to their last resting place in the Yokohama Cemetery. After the arrival of the steamer at Kobe and the holding of an inquiry, the body had been taken ashore and conveyed to Kasugano where, in accordance it is understood with the wishes of the deceased gentleman, it was cremated. The ashes were brought by train to Yokohama on Friday.

The obsequies were, also in conformity with the known desires of the deceased, of the simplest kind; friends were requested to abstain from sending flowers, the only tribute of that nature being the beautiful wreath of his widow.

At 2 p.m. the Masonic body (Star in the East) of which Mr. Johnstone was a member of long standing, opened a Lodge of Sorrow, after which the brethren proceeded to the Bluff, these and members of the other degrees to which the deceased belonged bearing the usual emblematic sprig of evergreen.

In the vicinity of the residence, No. 133 Bluff, there was by three o'clock a large assemblage of mourners of many nationalities. Within the house a short service was conducted by the Rev. W. P. G. Field, and the silver-mounted oaken coffin draped with velvet was then placed in the hearse and so conveyed to the Cemetery followed by a long procession of mourners. Beside the hearse walked the pall-bearers, Dr. Wheeler, and Messrs. A. R. G. Clark, A. R. Weigall, James Walter, H. C. Litchfield, Burnham, B. Gillett, and A. Patterson, and Mr. J. L. Robertson was chief mourner, being followed by Messrs. J. W. Cain, A. Cameron, and J. J. Mahlmann, the executors.

Arrived at the Cemetery, where a considerable number of residents awaited the hearse, the coffin was carried to the grave (on the highest terrace of the grounds) and, as Mr. Field performed the concluding part of the burial service, was lowered to rest. The final tribute to the memory of their departed friend was then paid by those present, the Masonic brethren throwing their sprigs of evergreen upon the coffin.

TEA REPORTS.

The Yokohama Tea Guild held a meeting on April 21st and fixed the quotations for new tea, which is now being put on the market, as follows:—

	Yen.
Choicest (*tenka-ichi*)	55
Choice (*mare-o-gashira*)......................	50
First Class (*mami-gashira*)	45
Common (*mami*)	40

It may be remarked that the prices are generally 20 per cent. lower than those of last year.

The Japanese tea exporters, Otani Shoten, Hori Shoten, Nakamura Shoten and Sudzuki Shoten in Yokohama intend to send their samples by the *Doric*, which is to leave on April 27th for San Francisco.

The Japanese tea traders in Yokohama have informed the manufacturers that the former will charge *sen* 10 per 60 *kin* for storage and fire insurance on leaf consigned by the latter.

It is reported by Tokyo papers that the Department of Agriculture and Commerce has decided to give a subsidy of between *yen* 30,000 and *yen* 50,000 to the Central Tea Guild, which intends to enlarge its business abroad. The subsidy is believed to be paid to the guild under conditions specially imposed by the authorities.

Mr. Kamei, Governor of Shidzuoka prefecture, paid a visit on April 22nd to the Department of Home Affairs accompanied by eight tea manufacturers to complain that ships and trains are now insufficient to carry their output to the markets in the open-ports or abroad, the effect of which is that they will lose their chance of sending the product to foreign countries.

FOREIGN RESIDENTS AND TAXATION.

SOME attention has been devoted journalistically to the question whether foreigners residing in Japan under treaty are legally liable for increases of taxation or for new taxes imposed to meet belligerent outlays. Those that have interested themselves in the discussion hitherto appear to have arrived easily at the conclusion that no such liability exists, and they base their contention on the 3rd Article of the Franco-Japanese Treaty of 1898, which says:—

> Japanese in France or French in Japan shall not be required, under any pretext, to undergo charges or pay taxes, imposts, contributions or licenses, under any denomination whatever, other or higher than those which are or shall be imposed on the nationals or dependents of the most favoured nation.
>
> They shall not be required to perform any obligatory service either in the army or in the navy, or in the guards or national militia. They shall be exempt from all contributions imposed instead of personal service, from all forced loans and *from every other extraordinary contribution whatever.*

It is upon the italicised words in the above article that the title to exemption is based. Now we may fairly assume at the outset that ninety-nine foreigners out of every hundred residing in Japan have no desire to raise this question at all, and are entirely unwilling to differentiate themselves at such a crisis as the present from the people among whom they live. The problem is therefore virtually academic and anything here written will be read, we trust, in that light.

Several considerations suggest themselves. There is first the consideration of phraseology. If the Article quoted be carefully read, it will be seen that the italicised words do not contain any reference to war. They speak merely of every other extraordinary contribution, whatever be its nature. Accurate analysis of the Article shows that it guarantees the foreign resident against (1) having to pay higher taxes than natives; (2) having to serve as a conscript in either the army or the navy; (3) having to purchase exemption from forced labour in any form; (4) having to lend money to the State under compulsion; and (5) having to make any other extraordinary contribution. Which of these exemptions covers increased taxation to defray belligerent outlays? War taxes certainly do not belong to the category of "extraordinary contributions." An "extraordinary contribution" is not a tax imposed by the duly constituted legislative authority and collected by ordinary process of law. An "extraordinary contribution" is a payment imposed by an extraordinary exercise of power and collected by extraordinary machinery. It appears plain that the intention of the Article is simply to secure foreign residents, first, againt fiscal discrimination in every form; secondly, against conscription, and thirdly against compulsory service of any kind or against forced purchase of immunity from such service.

The next consideration suggesting itself is that the article has explicitly reciprocal force. Whatever privileges or exemptions it secures to foreigners residing in Japan, the same exemptions and privileges are secured to Japanese residing in the territories of the Treaty Powers. Now suppose that France were under the necessity of augmenting a tax, say, in order to defray the expenses of war. Does any one imagine that Japanese subjects carrying on business in France and subject to taxation there, would be exempted from the increased rate? They would merely expose themselves to ridicule by attempting to assert such a claim. It is a fact familiar to every student of recent history that both Great Britain and the United States of America have actually levied from foreigners and natives alike taxation increases which were explicitly designated "war taxes" and were definitely imposed for belligerent purposes. Assuredly neither the Government of England nor that of America would admit for a moment that such taxes could be described as "military exactions or contributions."

The next consideration, and the only further consideration inviting attention, is that the foreign residents are already paying war taxes and have been paying them ever since the revised treaties went into force. Not taxes for the direct purpose of carrying on a war, but certainly taxes necessitated by expenditures incurred in war or on account of warlike preparations. A very considerable part of the fiscal burdens borne by the Japanese people when foreigners passed under their jurisdiction were newly imposed taxes, or new increments of taxation, necessary for the service of public debts contracted on account of military and naval expansions planned in the sequel of that war. If there be any validity in the present plea of exemption from war taxes, then the whole fiscal system of Japan should have been carefully scrutinized when foreign residents passed under it, with the object of securing them against payments destined to meet military or naval expenditures. That is the obvious and insuperable difficulty of claiming any exemption from payments that go into the general exchequer of the State. And indeed it is more than doubtful whether the treaties were ever intended to confer such exemption. Their negotiators did not think of seeking for the foreign resident a fiscal status better than that of the native. They merely stipulated that the foreigner should not be discriminated against in the matter of taxes or of any payment or contribution whatsoever to the public exchequer, and that his person should be safe against conscription or forced service of any kind. It would be a plain and flagrant injustice that foreigners living in a country, enjoying its protection and earning a livelihood there, should not contribute, equally with natives, —military service excepted—to the maintenance of the State's existence.

THE MILITARY OPERATIONS.

A VERY timely article is published by the *Yorozu Choho* with reference to the rate of progress of military operations. Some impatience has been shown by observers, who without noting the essential points of difference between ships and battalions are surprised that while the navy has done so much, the army should have done so little. But the question is, has the army done little? The army has transported itself to the Yalu, and that alone is no small achievement. If we refer to the war of 1894, it appears that whereas the order for mobilization was issued on the 5th of June, the two Divisions that marched from Seoul and from Yuensan respectively, did not come together under the walls of Pyong-yang until the 15th of September, on which day the chief land battle of the war was fought there. The 17th of October found these two Divisions on the banks of the Yalu. Thus it appears that an interval of 133 days was required to carry two Divisions from Japan to the Yalu. Now on the present occasion the mobilization order was issued on the 7th of February and the van of an army of three Divisions reached the Yalu on the 6th of April, an interval of 58 days. We are not permitted to speak explicitly of numbers, but it will not be a violation of the veto to note that three Divisions of the Japanese army to-day represent a force nearly three times as large as two Divisions represented in 1894. The net result is that 58 days' work has accomplished in 1904 three times as much as 133 days accomplished in 1894. Nor is that the whole story. When the troops landed in Korea ten years ago, the time was early summer; the roads were in their best condition and the climatic conditions most favourable for campaigning. When the troops landed there in 1904, they found all these things as unfavourable as possible. Immense difficulties have had to be encountered. The van of the army seems to have moved with comparative ease, there being still sufficient frost to consolidate the paths and bridge the rivers. But every passing day produced a change for the worse. Soon it became impossible to drag artillery, and the troops, instead of pushing forward, had to devote themselves to the task of road-making. These things do not occur to an ordinary onlooker, but to the mind of military men they are doubtless plain and significant. So far from complaining that time has been wasted, the sentiment should be one of admiration that so much has been done so quickly. After all, we must remember that great risks attended these over-sea operations at the outset. The ocean paths were not secure against attack. Even the heavy blow delivered at Port Arthur in the beginning did not insure security, nor have the successive subsequent blows insured it altogether. A newspaper is not free to discuss these matters in full detail, but when the historian takes pen in hand his conclusion will certainly be that greater haste on the part of the Japanese would have meant worse speed, and that the movements which the present situation dictates, the movements which it was necessarily expected to dictate. could not have been attempted earlier, Probably we are now within a few days of those movements, and the general public will then understand the facts.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF JAPANESE CURRENT LITERATURE.

As a result of investigations instituted by the Japanese Foreign Office a very useful book covering some 500 pages has recently been issued by the *Kokumin Shimbun* printing office entitled *Siberia oyobi Manshū*, price 1 *yen*. The information given in this book was collected for the Foreign Office by a Vladivostock Japanese merchant named Kawakami Toshihiko. The part described principally is that traversed by the railway. Much information is given about places situated on the banks of the river Amur, and the province of Kirin is minutely described. Reference is made to no less than 170 volumes which have been written by Russians or Chinese on the parts explored. The work treats of the commerce, industry, communications and local Government of Siberia and Manchuria. The information on Northern Manchuria is very full. It is stated in this book that throughout the vast region described what is most marked is the absence of sanitary arrangements, the paucity of medical men and the very low standard of education. Referring to the latter point, this book says that since 1894 great efforts have been made to provide schools for the inhabitants of Eastern and Western Siberia; the schools in Eastern Siberia having been increased fourfold, those in Western Siberia ninefold, yet taking the whole of these regions into calculation, there are only 227 children out of every 1,000 sent to school. Until quite recently no newspapers or magazines were published, but in 1901 there were 56 such publications in circulation. At the close of this book the following remarks occur. For a very long time the world was entirely ignorant of the real state of Siberia, and as a consequence its barrenness was greatly exaggerated. In most parts of Siberia agriculture flourishes, and as for Western Siberia there are numerous districts where the people are as prosperous as any of the inhabitants of European Russia. Russia has done everything possible to encourage people to settle in Eastern Siberia, and agriculture in Amur is rapidly progressing. The prosperity of Western Siberia has been such that at present the one line of railway is quite insufficient for transporting the produce of that region. Though at present Eastern Siberia is comparatively backward, it will one day become as populous and flourishing as Western Siberia is now.

The *Kyūchū Gishiki Ryaku* (General Account of Court Ceremonies), lately issued by the Minyūsha, was compiled by Mr. Hirata Hisahi, one of the staff of the *Kokumin Shimbun*. It covers 377 pages and sells at 1 *yen* a copy. Court ceremonies form a subject that few Japanese and fewer foreigners know much about. This work gives an historical account of their origin, the manner of performance and their significance.

The *Bōyeki Jijō*, published by the Hakubunkan, price 65 *sen*, is a work on Japanese Commerce compiled by Mr. Henry Satoh. It is founded on the collection of articles of commerce made by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. It covers 478 pages. Mr. Satoh dwells on the important function filled by public exhibitions in determining wherein national commercial strength lies. In modern times international competition is so great that every nation has to safeguard its own produce against the produce of rival countries as far as possible. Even a free-trading country like England is coming round to the view that preferential tariffs are absolutely necessary to the prosperity of a country situated as England is. Japan's trade has been making rapid strides, reaching 500 million *yen* in 1901 and 530 million *yen* in 1902. The interesting fact connected with this is the development of Japanese industry. The Fifth Domestic Exhibition held at Ōsaka revealed the fact that out of the 324,000 exhibits sent 170,938 were industrial products. Of late years industry has progressed so rapidly that the home demand for numerous articles is supplied by Japanese factories, and Japan is beginning to send articles to other countries in such quantities that exports have already exceeded imports. Articles of commerce consist of: (1) Raw produce; (2) partly manufactured goods; (3) wholly manufactured goods. The bulk of commercial profit is derived from the third class of goods, but it is here that Japan comes into competition with other countries; so that though she can supply China and Korea with her manufactured goods, she cannot compete with Europe and America, where the art of manufacturing goods at a cheap rate is far more developed than it is here. It is most desirable that we should pay attention to what is being done in the industrial line abroad, says Mr. Satoh, but the prospects of Japan's being able to outsell Occidentals in certain lines of trade are decidedly not bright. Japan will have to keep to her own special line of art-industry and to take steps to open markets in China. Exhibitions in China for Japanese goods should be encouraged, says Mr. Satoh. He also recommends that more students be sent to China to investigate the state of commerce in that country.

* * *

Among the war articles published in the April *Taiyō* we have only space to notice one or two. Mr. Shimada Saburō furnishes a forecast of the future course of events in the Far East in an article entitled "Twenty Years after the War—a Forecast." He says that no Western Power but Russia is at all likely to disturb the peace of the Far East. America, England, Germany and France all want peace, and public opinion in these countries would never sanction large expenditures on aggressive warfare in China. Trade in the Far East is what alone these countries are bent on, and for this a long peace is essential. Supposing we are victorious, as we expect to be, continues Mr. Shimada, one of the conditions of peace must be the reversion of Saghalien to us, Russia must have no naval or military base in this part of the woold. To keep Russia away from the Far East would lighten the burdens of humanity generally not only in this part of the world but in Europe. Were it not for fear of Russian aggression, England would not need such a fleet as she now has in the Far East. It is about seventy years since Tocqueville predicted that a century hence there would only be two gigantic Powers in the world, Russia and America. Russia, following old world methods, relies solely on the sword for her expansion;* whereas America, representing the new world, relies on the plough. These two great Powers ten years hence will certainly come into conflict in the Pacific Ocean. The opening of the Panama canal will give greater prominence to the wide difference that exists between Russian aims and American aims. If America has to largely increase her fleet, that fleet will be certainly used to maintain the peace of the world and to oppose mere ambitious aggression and bullying. The whole of the Far Eastern world will be altered by the opening of that canal. East and West will be brought close enough together to allow of a strong alliance being made between the peace-loving and law-abiding nations against the blustering, law-breaking Powers. If Japan wins all along the line against Russia, the need for her keeping up such expensive armaments as she has now will no longer exist; for most certainly the Far East will be defended against Russian aggression by the combination of other Powers.† Then Japan will enter on a new struggle, the struggle for preeminence in trade and industry, when her rivals will be England, America, Germany and France. China, too, will then become a formidable rival.

Even though as a nation we do well when an appeal is made to the sword, if it is found that we are invariably worsted in tradal and industrial competition our future success is not to be anticipated. Hitherto we have not utilized the benefits which success in arms has given us. Even in Korea we allowed railway construction to be undertaken by others before we became earnest about it. Success in this war will have its dangers for us. We shall try to educate the Chinese and we may help them to take measures against future aggression and spoliation. Then the notion that there is an actual "yellow peril" will take greater hold of the minds of Occidentals. There will be only one way open to us if we desire to show the groundlessness of the idea that we may one day combine against Western civilisation, and that will consist in living up to the standard of that civilisation *through successive years of peace*, thus proving to the world that the wars in which we have during the past 10 years been engaged were not of our seeking but were forced upon us. The feelings with which we shall be regarded will be those with which many Englishmen regarded America when her civil war ended. A nation that is drunk with victory is in a dangerous mood, said the English, and the victorious American armies might be tempted to march against the Canadians. But the Americans gave no cause for any such suspicions. They returned to their wonted peaceful ways and showed that they knew when to sheath the sword as well as when to draw it. Their self-control enlisted the admiration of the English nation. It is my hope that we may follow the example of the Americans and gain the respect of the whole world for our steady pursuit of peaceful aims and occupations.

Dr. Ariga contributes to the April *Taiyō* an article on "The Regulations and Usages of Civilised Warfare," of which we furnish a brief epitome. Japan's reputation thoughout the world will be greatly affected by the way in which she conducts this war. Ten years ago when at war with China even, a country which has no respect whatever for Occidental canons or usages, Japan strove hard to conduct hostilities in a manner that should be above reproach and she was eminently successful. When during the Boxer disturbances certain European troops committed atrocities, Japan's protest was joined to that of other Powers. We Japanese are apt to think that the Russian standard of conduct is a very low one. But in this matter these is a vast difference between the standard of the Russian people, who are mostly Slavs, and that of the Russian Court whose members have no Slav blood in their veins, who come from a noble stock. The present House of Romanoff traces its connection with the famous Ruric. From the days of Alexander I. onward the Czars of Russia have constantly sided with the most advanced European countries in the advocacy of the establishment of more humane regulations in time of war. Whatever may be the practices of her troops, it is to the highest standard of civilisation embodied in the articles of the Geneva Convention that Russia will appeal when criticising us. We must resolve to act up to this standard throughout the war. The Russian Government cannot possibly openly sanction conduct of which the Russian Court strongly disapproves. In this country we have taken special care that our Naval and Military officers shall be well acquainted with international law. In both the Naval and Military Academies lectures on this subject are regularly given. The Japanese Government has done all that lies in its power to acquaint all officers with the usages of civilised warfare. What is to be regretted, however, is the ignorance of the general public of what is right and proper in the attitude of belligerents to each other and to neutral nations. And occasionally the newspapers contain some very ignorant and mischievous remarks on acts whose significance is not properly understood. It was supposed by some that had Russia bombarded a defenceless town in Hokkaidō, she would have been acting contrary to international law. But that is not so. This practice is allowed. As for Russia's stopping and searching ships for contraband of war, of which many writers complain, that, too, is within her rights. Hearing that Japanese are expelled from Russian territory, some ask why we allow Russians to remain in Japan? Others ask, why when hostilities commenced we did not at once seize all the Russian merchant ships in our harbours without giving them notice to quit? Others write as though the cutting of the submarine cable between Nagasaki and Shanghai by the enemy was illegal. Some ask whether no neutral nations can trade in articles that constitute contraband of war? Some doubt whether the correspondence of Russians should be forwarded by the Japanese postal authorities. On these and a hundred other subjects our Japanese public is quite ill-informed, and it is important that newspapers and magazines should give information on these points; for it is not enough that our Government should respect the canons of civilised warfare, our people must do so also, if the record of this big war is to be kept free from disfiguring blots. To this matter I call the attention of all earnest and serious-minded men*.

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* She relies far more on diplomacy. She avoids the use of the sword whenever possible. Mr. Shimada somewhat overstates his case here.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

† Mr. Shimada seems to think that England, America and Japan will unite their forces against those of Russia and any Powers that perchance might support her.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

Among the character sketches published this month by the *Taiyō* one is on Count Mutsu and Baron Komura, regarding them in thè capacity of Foreign Ministers at critical times in the nation's history. The writer, Mr. Toyabe Shuntei, wields a very powerful pen. When negotiations of a delicate and important kind are proceeding much depends, says Mr. Toyabe on the character and ability of the Foreign Minister. The names of these two men will go down to posterity crowned with glory on account of the part they played in the two big wars which Japan has had to wage. Before the China-Japan war no statesman had a firmer grasp of the real situation than the late Count Mutsu. At such a time a strong-minded and talented Foreign Minister leads the nation. No one can can say that in the early part or even in the summer of last year Japan anticipated that a war with Russia would become inevitable. Not only did the nation not expect war, but the Government of the time did not anticipate it. (*Nichi-Shin senyeki wa katsute kokumin no yoki* (豫期) *sesarishi tokoro naru nomi narazu, osoraku wa toki no seifu mo mata kore wo yoki sesarishi naran*). The official documents containing the negotiations prove conclusively that our Foreign Minister stuck to his points through thick and thin without regard to possible consequences. There is little doubt that in his own mind Baron Komura foresaw the inevitableness of war a long time ago. Certain it is that the late Prince Konoe was so satisfied that Baron Komura did not mean to succumb to Russian bluff, that he dissolved the anti-Russian Dōmeikai of which he was President, in perfect confidence that the objects of the Society would be realized by the Japanese Government, and that there was no cause for further agitation on the subject. Prince Konoe trusted Baron Komura implicitly. The Baron was not Prime Minister, nor was he backed by a party. But he had confidence in himself. (*Kare wa jiko no hoka nani-bito wo mo, nani mono wo mo tanomazareba nari.*†) In diplomacy he showed rare straightforwardness and rare patience. The negotiations were kept on a high level throughout, and this could only be done by a man who possessed a lofty ideal.

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Dr. Katō Hiroyuki has recently published a pamphlet on the present situation entitled *Shinkwagaku yori kwansatsu shitaru Nichi-Ro no Ummei* (The Destiny of Russia and Japan regarded from an Evolutionary point of view) Dr. Katō believes that the higher types of civilisation are bound to get the better of the lower types when they come into conflict with them. He says that Russia's barbarism is too well known to the world to need lengthy demonstration. In her intercourse with other countries Russia respects neither law nor morality. Her methods in dealing with other nations are those of the highway robber. The two countries are in thought at the opposite poles and that they should go to war was inevitable. Dr. Katô is of opinion that the present union of the Japanese nation is something unparalleled and he attributes it to the feeling of loyalty to the Emperor which exists everywhere. Dr. Katō's essay covers 88 pages. It contains little that is new. At the close the author thus sums up the position and the ideals of the two countries:—

Japan.—Her subjects only desire to serve their Sovereign and their country loyally.

Russia.—Among her subjects not a few have no regard at all for the Czar and concoct plots against the Royal family.

Japan governs constitutionally and makes a point of bowing to public opinion.

Russia governs arbitrarily and despotically in open defiance of public opinion.

Japan makes no distinction between the rights and obligations of different classes of society. High and low are treated alike.

Russia allows her nobility to rule the common people with a rod of iron.

Japan, while consulting her own interests, strives to preserve peace among all civilised countries.

Russia, in the furtherance of her selfish interests, is prepared to turn the world upside down.

Japan is keen about education and general enlightenment.

Russia cares nothing for these things, and in this matter ranks low among nations.

Japan both in diplomacy and in war respects international law.

Russia in both diplomacy and war gives no heed to international law.

Japan's treatment of other countries is marked by gentlemanly courtesy.

Russia's attitude to other countries is that of a low-class person (惡漢, *Akkan*, rascal).

Japan, having that fitness which insures survival, will become more and more prosperous.

Russia, being altogether out of harmony with the present age of civilisation, is doomed to destruction.

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A few months ago Dr. Takahashi Sakae, the well-known Japanese authority on International Law and Diplomacy, published a book entitled *Manshū mondai Kaiketsu* (The Solution of the Manchurian Problem), which is dedicated to the late Prince Konoe, who is referred to as a man who hastened his death by his devotion to Japan's interests in the Far East. As might have been anticipated Dr. Takahashi's work is a most clear and scholarly exposition of the cause of the present war. The work is divided into six chapters. Here is the list of contents. Chap. I. The most important points in the collision between Russia and Japan. (1) Japan's policy. (2) Russia's policy. (3) Summing up. Chap. II. The solution of the Manchurian Problem. (1) The Solution of this problem is at once one of our rights and one of our duties. (a) Why a right? (b) Why a duty? (2) The Manchurian question is a question intimately connected with Japan's national existence. (a) General statement of this aspect of the subject. (b) Instances of steps taken by other countries in self defence Chap. III. The best way of dealing with Manchuria—the creation of a buffer territory (緩衝地) *Kwanshōchi.* (1) The meaning of "buffer territory." (2) The portion of Manchuria that should constitute such territory. (3) Answers to the arguments of those who object to the creation of such a state. Chap. IV. The next best way of dealing with the Manchurian question.—The withdrawal of Russian troops from Manchuria. (1) The reasons for demanding withdrawal. (2) Instances of withdrawals demanded elsewhere. Chap. V. The Time for the Solution of the Manchurian Problem. Chap. VI. Schemes for settling the Manchurian Problem. The circumstances which led to the publication of the views of the Seven Professors. Various essays and newspaper articles bearing on the question. Dr. Takahashi's book sells at 60 *sen* a copy.

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The *Chūō Kōron* in an article entitled "New Conservatism" argues that in some respects Japan is going ahead too fast and that she cannot afford to lose her hold of the many heirlooms she has received from past ages. The novel position in which she is now placed should not be allowed to make her forget her traditions and her peculiar ideals. In one sense she is a very old Power. Let her not despise the rôle she has played in her long normal life under the spell of these abnormal months. Rather than Romanticism the *Chūō Kōron* would see the spirit of neo-classicalism holding sway over men's minds.

The *Chūō Kōron* publishes an interesting article written by Mr. Tomita Tadanori, head of one of the sections of the Patents Bureau entitled "The Progress of Industry and Patents," of which the follows is the gist:—It is quite common to hear it said that in the matter of inventions Japan is nowhere. Now, it is perfectly true that a large number of patents issued to our people are not for articles which can be put into general everyday use or for methods bearing on practical life. But to a certain extent this is the case with all countries. In every country at the present time the majority of inventions consist of improvements or new adaptations of old methods, instruments or appliances. Watt's steam-engine was a very poor thing compared to a first-class engine to-day. The inventors of to-day are not as a rule the originators of something that in all its parts is absolutely new. They are perhaps not entitled to be called great inventors. But nevertheless it is satisfactory to find that at no period in our national history has the development of this branch of human activity and resourcefulness ceased. The various articles now in use have been gradually improved till they have reached their present form. This is the case with household utensils of all kinds, with foot-gear, clothes, lights, and so on. Had we been in the habit of granting patents for ages, we should have a pretty good record to-day as compared with other countries, though perhaps it is true to say that our inventions have kept more to things ornamental than things useful. But in the matter of inventions every country has its special proclivities, and the class of articles originated is determined by the customs in vogue in each country, and by national standards of civilisation. It is unreasonable to expect that new inventions should as a rule do more than supply a national want. Inventions that benefit the whole world alike are very few. Since the issue of the Patents Regulations in July, 1885, down to the end of last year the total number of patents granted by the Patents Bureau was 6,992. Of these 871 were granted to foreigners and 6,121 to Japanese. In recent years they have constantly increased in number as well as in importance. The inventions of recent years have been principally connected with industrial machinery or appliances. They have covered a very wide area, including almost every industry known to our people. Treating them in order, inventions connected with industrial machines stand first. Next come chemical inventions and new methods of using electric power. In this country ingenuity has been shown in devising a number of small hand-worked machines of various kinds rather than in the production of huge factory works. Since foreigners have been allowed to take out patents in this country, our industry has been benefited in many ways and there is likely to be much more of this in future. It seems to be a fact that many Japanese engaged in industry are careless about patenting the machines they use or the methods they follow, and it sometimes happens that foreigners step in and obtain patents for things which Japanese have been using for some time.

Comparing our country with America we find that in the United States the total number of patents granted since 1832 down to the end of last year was 748,566. Those for last year only were 31,046. There were of course among these not a few which were for articles or methods that were not of much use to people generally, but American inventions suffice to show that America in the matter of industry leads the world. To show the activity of mind of certain American artizans and other specialists, I may mention the fact that between the years 1872 and 1900 there were no less than 39 Americans who had each received patents for over one hundred different articles or appliances, while there are individuals that have accomplished more wonderful inventive feats than this, Edison, the great electrician, for instance, being the author of no less than 742 inventions. In the United States the inventive faculties of women are in a high state of development, as is evinced by the fact that between 1790 and 1895 there were no less than 5,535 women inventors in that country. Our industry is now making rapid progress and everywhere manual labour is being replaced by machines. There is a great call for such thinking mechanics as America possesses in large numbers, for men who are something more than machine-working automata. We must aim at contributing something to other countries in the way of approved methods, appliances or instruments, in return for all we have borrowed from the West. The following table shows the number of patents granted every year since 1885: 1885, 99; 1886, 205; 1887, 109; 1888, 183; 1889, 209; 1890, 240; 1891, 367; 1892, 379; 1893, 318; 1894, 326; 1895, 223; 1896, 169; 1897, 188; 1898, 293; 1899, 597; 1900, 586; 1901, 606; 1902, 871; 1903, 1,024. Patents were granted to foreigners from November, 1897, and between that time and the end of 1903 no less than 871 were issued to them as stated above.

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* Dr. Ariga's earnest article ends thus:—*Sore ni tsuite kōshū no jimoku* (耳目) *taru Shimbun Zasshi ga kōhō kwannen no fukyū ni tsutomete, tenka wo shidô* (指導) *suru koto ga hitsuyō de aru to omou. Yotte Nichi-Ro sensō no appare butai wo rippa ni yenji-owaru koto ni nesshin no hitobito wa, kono ichiji ni mo ōbun no chūi wo harawaren koto wo kibō suru no de aru.*

† The last paragraph in the article is a fine specimen of Mr. Toyabe's style, well worthy of the attention of students of Japanese.—(Writer of Summary).

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The Dōbunkan announces the publication at an early date of an Oriental Historical Encyclopædia called the *Tōyō Rekishi Daijiten*, to be eventually sold at 7 *yen* a copy, now offered at 5 *yen*, subscription price. It covers 1,300 pages and treats of every important subject connected with the Eastern world, giving short biographies of all noted men, geographical descriptions of countries, accounts of various customs, usages, etc. Though the type used is small, the printing is clear.

The Kinkōdō has published a work written by Mr. Yoshida Kumajirō, B.A., entitled *Shakaiteki Kyōikugaku Kōgi.* (Education discussed from a sociological standpoint). The author maintains that no system of education which is not based on sociological conditions and wants can ever be thoroughly successful. A study of ethnology, sociology, and of evolution generally is absolutely essential to a thorough understanding of the educational question awaiting solution. Mr. Yoshida writes as a specialist, and his work is said to be up to date in every sense of the word. It sells at 1 *yen* a copy.

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The *Kokkagaku Zasshi* is a monthly semi-political and semi-business magazine which has now reached its 206th number. The articles published in this periodical are mostly contributed by University professors and graduates. The magazine is not one of the high and dry type which so many learned institutions the world over produce. It discusses a number of the vital questions of the day. In a recent number we find an article by Mr. Ukita on "Imperial Socialism." As is hinted at in the title, this essay is an attempt to show that Japanese Socialism need not necessarily become and is not likely to become a menace to the authority of the State. At the close of his article on this point he says, *Shakai shugi ga okonawareru to kokutai ga abunai, kokka ga kiken de aru to iu koto wa gō mo arubeki hazu ga nai to omou. Koto ni gakumon wo shita hito ni sō iu kangae ga arubeki hazu wa nai to omoimasu.* Mr. Ukita thinks that the Imperialism of the future will most certainly have to rely largely on the strength of Socialism in order to realize its principal objects.

MODERN LIFE IN RELATION TO HEALTH.

[Read before the Yokohama Literary Society on Friday, April 22nd, by N. Gordon Munro, M.B. and C.M., Edin.]

(CONCLUDED FROM LAST ISSUE.)

The beneficial effect of a change to the country is doubtless enhanced by the cessation from work, and particularly from worry, which the holiday too briefly ensures. In this country perhaps more than in any other, worry is apt to obtrude itself throughout the daily task, and sometimes renders it almost insupportable. This worry and its accompanying irritability do not always arise from external causes, such as business problems and anxieties. Sometimes it arises from overwork, but then the gauge of overwork depends more upon the mental attitude than on the strength of the worker. It is not uncommon to find that the amount of work to be undertaken is less than was formerly accomplished with ease, but that the worker is imbued with a fixed idea that the day's toil is too much for his capacity. He is unusually irritable and has lapses of memory which are trivial but annoying. He has difficulty in concentrating his mind on his work, and, especially in the early part of the afternoon, he has some confusion of thought and feels as if a weight were pressing on his head. Occasionally he suffers from insomnia and even when he sleeps soundly he awakes unrefreshed. Notwithstanding his dread of the long day's labour, the time flies past with such lightning rapidity that, when evening comes he feels as if he had been a spectator of a cinematographic show. He has a tendency to what is called "divided personality" and he is apt to think that he is on the verge of insanity. When he goes into the country, all this disappears like magic. Not only the rest and change of air contribute to this result; there is that subtle psychological process, namely, freshening of the faculties through change of scene. There is some reason to think that even the physiological processes of man are controlled by sub-conscious intelligence, the physical degree of mind which takes its cue from the habits of bygone ages. It may be that this change of scene awakens certain sub-conscious impressions in the fundamental strata of the nervous system and thus revives the latent energy inherited from early man. It may be that the result is rather due to the suggestion of serenity and placid strength—the "strength of the hills," and the soothing effect of the greens and gentle greys. Here, in some sheltered bower, his thoughts lose their tumultuous presentation and conform to the quietude of his surroundings; to use the words of a 17th century poet,

> "Annihilating all that's made
> To a green thought, in a green shade."

There is a great temptation to undertake long and tiresome walking excursions, under the stimulus of fresh air and beautiful scenery, but in such cases as this it is wiser to limit one's self to a modest stroll once or twice daily. On his return to work he may prove quite capable of undertaking with ease the labour that previously seemed so hopelessly beyond his powers and this happy state may continue for some time. It happens frequently, however, that the improvement is only temporary and he again drifts into the condition which I have roughly sketched. As to the cause of this, I have given due credit to the influences bearing on him from his surroundings. I have omitted to mention something which, I am pursuaded, has more to do with the production of such a condition than anything else, that is the question of eating and drinking in relation to work.

We may be sure that our early ancestors did not suffer from "nerves" and such like ills of mental life as afflict modern humanity. Business was conducted on "cash principles" and such a thing as "failure to take delivery" was unknown. The business man had no godown rent and fire insurance to pay, nor did the question of an overdraft trouble him in any way, He had worries of his own, but they were of a more personal kind; the problem as to where the next meal was to come from was not infrequently on top. His idea was to eat when he was hungry, but there must have been many times, during the glacial period especially, when he was hungry for long before he could get a substantial meal. As things improved, and especially after man had entered upon the agricultural stage of civilization, the necessity for concerted labour led to the establishment of regular meal hours. In itself, this habit of regular meals, is no doubt an advantage, but it has one great drawback, namely, that persons are induced to eat at times when they are not hungry, or rather when they have no natural craving for food. So ingrained has become the habit of eating at certain hours that we experience a feeling of depression at stated times, which we call hunger, but which is by no means a reliable indication as to the necessity for food. It is to be regarded as a call for a stimulant, in this case both mechanical and chemical, which habit has rendered periodic. The amount of food consumed by the well-to-do and even by many who cannot afford it, is greatly in excess, not only of human requirements, but of our capacity of storing it.

If we only stop to consider that those who eat too much, whose appetites are as those defined by the school-boy, "Appy when you're eating and tight when you're done," when we think that those people are helping to raise the price of provender by creating a demand in excess of the supply, it becomes a nice question whether they should be worshipped as patrons of trade, or execrated as spoilers of the poor. Seriously though, the habit of overeating is the most wasteful of all practices, if we except that of alcoholic, or other drug indulgence. It is a fertile source of disease, from gout and rheumatism to dyspepsia, which latter has been defined, with humourous truth, as the result of putting "a square meal into a round stomach." The higher branches of the culinary art have for their object the disguising of edible substances in such a way as to astonish and tickle the jaded sense of taste. The numerous condiments that are sold, from Worseandworse Sauce to Mangle Relish, all bear witness to the fact that if we do not all live to eat, at least many live by tempting others to eat.

I take it that we all know what it is to have eaten too much and that we have all repented of it for a time, but few of us realise that we habitually eat too much and that much mental as well as physical derangement results from it. The majority of us certainly eat too much, and usually too frequently, which is quite as bad. Apart from indigestion, there are two names which have become household words within the last ten years and which testify to the errors of living and especially of diet, in modern times. I refer to "Uric Acid" and "Appendicitis." With regard to the former, I can only say here that it is a product of imperfect oxidation, which has been credited with the causation of nearly every disease under the sun, but which we can safely associate with the production of gout, rheumatism, and excessive mental irritability. The defective oxidation upon which its presence depends has been traced to the liver, whose functions have become insufficient for the needs of the interior economy, either through past or present errors of diet. Thus is justified the question, is life worth living? and the answer that it depends upon the liver. Inasmuch, however, as exercise, particularly in the air, increases oxidation it is certain that the amount of food which can be safely taken, depends largely upon the amount of physical work accomplished daily. There are a few persons who are not benefited by much physical work and there are others who immediately feel below par when they miss their exercise for a single day. To both of these classes I would say, "take exercise in moderation whenever you can;" very light dumbbells in the morning before an open window, and from half to an hour's brisk walk later in the day, with a cup of tea or milk in between if there is much craving for food. Then you can say goodbye to uric acid. If you have inherited this insufficient functioning of the liver, called a gouty constitution, then you must be careful about mixing a meat diet with sugar-forming food. In this case it is well to take very little meat. I do not think that a purely vegetarian diet is essential to health, though it can be made quite sufficient. I tried it for a year, but I am inclined to think that mixed diet is preferable, if only one does not eat too much.

The question as to when to eat is a very important one and depends upon the hours of occupation more than on anything else. I favour a light breakfast in the early morning, say at seven, or half past, nothing during the day, except a glass of milk or a cup of tea, perhaps with one biscuit as a sop to the petulant stomach until it has grown accustomed to a less exciting existence. A good appetite will then be waiting for dinner, which may be a full, moderate meal, to be followed by rest or some pleasant relaxation. Some persons prefer to go without breakfast, but it is a matter for individual convenience as long as only two meals are partaken of daily. It is most inadvisable to do mental or physical work immediately after a meal. Thinking and moving both imply the increased flow of blood to the active parts and the same applies in even greater degree to the process of digestion. The presence of this blood is necessary to the performance of the function, whether it be of thought, movement or digestion, and this blood cannot be taken from one part during its activity without impairing its function. To attempt to carry on the two important functions of thinking and digestion is the same as if one were to attempt to irrigate two fields simultaneously with water which only suffices for one at a time. I am confident that, if business or professional men, who have to think in the afternoon, will only forego the heavy tiffin which is set up for them to devour as a sort of pious offering to propitiate the evil spirit within, they will feel infinitely better, be much less irritable, and have a perfectly clear head for the daily task. Of course where actual nerve debility has followed long standing indiscretion in diet and work, a period of rest will also be necessary.

In speaking of diet, there is another point to which I would like to refer, if you do not think that my homely remarks are too obvions. Most of us eat too rapidly, in fact we "bolt" our food, so that it is not properly masticated. Modern life is so full of other interests that we are apt to rush through our meals. This is a fertile source of dyspepsia and has been neatly stated in what I think is an American witticism, "Lightning lunches are followed by thundering pains." It is well to bear in mind that our stomachs have no teeth and that when once food has passed the portals in which nature has placed special apparatus, not only for its discrimination but for its trituration and partial digestion, it has gone beyond recall. The teeth are of the highest importance and if our modern habits of eating are leading to their premature decay, our modern dentists are quite capable of maintaining them for us as efficient organs. On the other hand, the "resources of modern science" are not yet equal to giving us new stomachs, and we must be careful not to throw an unnecessary amount of work upon them. The proper trituration of the food does indeed save our other digestive organs a vast amount of work which they are specially adapted to. At the same time the conversion of starch into grape sugar goes on apace and as this cannot very well go on in the stomach, owing to the acid in the latter, an excess of undigested starch is liable to act as a foreign body and undergo fermentation. It is for this reason that pastry is not easily digested, the starch granules being surrounded by envelopes of fat which prevent contact with the sugar converting ferment of the saliva. I believe that Gladstone had some rule about masticating each mouthful so many times before swallowing it, and this is helpful. If, however, we could only get into the habit of giving ourselves ample leisure to eat and of masticating our food until it is reduced to the fine pulp that is the only state suitable for stomach digestion, any further rule would be superfluous.

In connection with errors of diet the now familiar trouble, appendicitis, may call for a passing mention. There can be no doubt that any impediment to the free return of blood through the liver is a strong favouring cause of those infections which bear this name. The part most liable to this infection is a survival of an intestinal pouch which may have been of use in the very earliest days of humanity, but which has undergone contraction and degeneration, and which is called the appendix. It has been the fashion for surgeons to hunt and to exterminate this offending member whenever it is out of sorts. We have read and heard of them, some claiming to have removed fifty, some five hundred, and perhaps even five thousand. I confess that this sort of thing suggests the "bag" of a day's snipe shooting, or perhaps even more the tally of scalps which used to be such a source of happiness to the red Indian of yore. I would be the last to deny that the operation for removal is not of the highest value in selected cases and, unfortunately, it is sometimes the only hope in those fulminating cases where it is of least avail. A more reasonable view of its treatment, however, has now set in and absolute abstinence from everything but water, with absolute rest, will usually effect a cure, or at least such improvement as will enable the patient to be operated on with little risk by an experienced specialist.

I feel it incumbent on me to tell you even at the risk of again wearying you with obvious facts, that the alcoholic habits of modern life are responsible for such evil results to the health both of body and mind that the good which alcohol is said to effect is entirely nullified, if ever such good resulted from its indulgence. I think that there may be some cases where alcohol has been used with beneficial effect as a medicine. As the result of fifteen years' experience in the practice of medicine, I cannot candidly say that I have ever seen any such result from its use as can be had by other medication. When a person falls down in a faint it is usual to fly to the brandy bottle and administer a stiff dose. The person recovers and the result is at once attributed to the use of the alcohol. There could be no greater mistake. The person recovers because he has reached the ground and because therefore his brain no longer gets its nourishment against the force of gravity. The giving of the alcohol is a purely incidental occurrence, which has no connection with his recovery. It cannot be too widely understood, that alcohol is a narcotic and that its narcotic effects begin within one minute of its reception. It is true that it quickens the beat of the heart, but it does so by paralysing its regulating mechanism. One's thoughts come faster and more freely, up to a certain point, not because this drug brings new thoughts, but because it paralyses inhibition and our thoughts are less under control. I will not say that this is invariably a harmful thing, and poor humanity might enjoy the more generous flow of thought without much harm, if the effects would only end there. Unfortunately we know that those effects do not end here, but that the inclination for further narcosis has a marked tendency to become an ever-increasing habit which sears body and mind, reducing man to a level lower than the beast and bringing untold misery upon those whose lot is cast with him.

Let me in conclusion say that in this complex set of conditions which is called "modern life," it is absolutely essential for health as for happiness, that we regulate our conduct so as to assist and protect each other. To give only one instance in point, there are many infectious disorders, both of a grave and mild type that could be prevented fron invading the domiciles of our friends or acquaintances. When our children have measles or whooping cough, or even an influenza cold, let us see that infection is not carried elsewhere to cause distress or annoyance to our neighbours. It is by such small but very potent considerations of mutual help that the fabric of humanity has been reared, and it is by these that it must stand or fall.

YOKOHAMA AND TOKYO FOREIGN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE RELIEF OF SUFFERERS BY THE WAR.

The Yokohama Executive Committee desire to acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following sums:—

	Yen.
Already acknowledged	24,865.35
Messrs C. & J. Favre Brandt	500.00
International Banking Corporation	500.00
Messrs Martin & Co. (1st Inst.)	100.00
"Japan Daily Mail"	100.00
Mr. E. H. Tuska	100.00
Mr. D. Chellaram	100.00
Messrs Khujesta Khursedjee & Co.	100.00
Through the Offertories of Christ Church	50.00
Miss E. Bourchier Smith	20.00
Mr. D. Colman	20.00
Mr. B. Faymonville	10.00
Mr. E. S. Benson	10.00
Mr. Albert Hoyt	10.00
Mr. George F. Curtis	5.00
Mr. W. von Gouzenbach	5.00
Total received to date	26,495.35

AMATEUR THEATRICALS.

Yokohama extended a very warm welcome on Saturday evening to the members of the Tokyo Dramatic and Musical Association. The Public Hall was crowded, extra seating accommodation having to be provided, and as every one arrived with a punctuality that cannot be too highly commended, the proceedings began at the hour named in the advertisements, nine o'clock, with the house all quiet and expectant. It is welcome indeed to chronicle such an improvement in public manners, after the trying experiences of a few years back, and we hope that there will be no retrograding to the fashion of other days. We have already given an extended notice of the plays on the occasion of their performance in Tokyo earlier in the week, so that nothing remains but to say that Yokohama has seldom had the pleasure of seeing a more finished piece of work than that of La Baronne d'Anethan as *Lady Clara*; or a more able character-study than that of Miss Bovill as *Celia Grenville*. Both ladies were recalled and both received bouquets galore amid the tumultuous plaudits of a delighted house.

The second play, "The Highwayman," for all its artificiality, was capitally given. Mrs. Barclay made a delightful old-world picture in her powder and patches and eighteenth century clothes, while her playing was perfect. As for Mr. Brady, he has seldom pleased us better, and though the house rather thoughtlessly laughed aloud when he first produced his "barker," its mood changed under the compelling power of his dominant personality and the closing speeches were followed with rapt attention. Needless to say, the *gavotte* had to be danced twice before the audience allowed the duologue to proceed; and even then it was inclined to ask for more. Mrs. Barclay was rewarded with banks of flowers A word should be added regarding the setting of the scenes. The first piece, being in the present day, showed a lady's boudoir typical of the time; the second bore the austere impress of two centuries ago. Nothing could have been in sharper contrast—the bewildering litter and over-crowding of the 20th; the chaste simplicity of the eighteenth century.

The music provided by the Bijou Orchestra was of an equally high class with the acting. It included:

March	"Hands across the sea"	Sousa
Selections	"The Prince of Pilsen"	Luders
Interlude	"The Myriad Dancer"	Allen
March	"Uncle Sammy"	Holzmann

THE LAW COURTS.

THE LAST OF THE JOVANSEN—CLUB HOTEL CASE.

Our readers will be interested to learn that the action brought by A. Jovansen against the Club Hotel, Ltd., and known during its slow progress as the Jovansen—Club-Hotel case has at length reached an end. The following exemplication of judgment has been issued in the Tokyo Court of Appeal:—

In re the matter of an appeal case between the above parties in respect to a claim for damages (Case No. 701 (*Ne*) for the year 1903) the Court hereby render judgment as follows:

It is ordered and adjudged:—

1. That portion of the former judgment ordering the defendants to pay to the plaintiff the sum of *yen* 2,050, together with costs, is rescinded and cancelled; and the claim of the respondent is dismissed.

2. All costs, both in first and second instance, are to be borne by the respondent.

NAIGAI BOYEKI KAISHA v J. L. O. EYTON.

This case came up again in the Yokohama District Court on April 22nd when judgement was delivered:—

1.—Defendant was ordered to pay *yen* 121 to plaintiffs' firm.

2.—The parties to bear the costs, half each.

CLAIM ON SHARES.

The hearing of the case instituted by Mr. R. J. Ward against B. Sho, a share-broker, claiming *yen* 8,515.60, began on April 23rd in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno.

Messrs Masujima and Hiraoka represented plaintiff and Messrs Shioiri and Ijichi defendant.

At the outset of the proceedings defendant's counsel asked the Court to dismiss the case on the ground that defendant, the proprietor of Tokumiya, had no domicile in Yokohama, and so the matter could not come within the jurisdiction of the Yokohama Court.

The Court did not give a decision upon this objection. Plaintiff's counsel stated that plaintiff ordered defendant to purchase 110 shares and to deliver them in the end of April, and paid the latter *yen* 2,159,60 on Feb. 2nd last as bargain money. On Feb. 12th last plaintiff sold the 110 shares through defendant for *yen* 19,833, making a profit of *yen* 4,411. Having taken off *yen* 55, due the broker, there remained a balance of *yen* 4,356. On Aug. 20th last, plaintiff further invested *yen* 2,000 in shares through the same broker under a promise of being paid back the whole amount at the end of the same month. Payment had not yet been made although plaintiff had often urged defendant to do so. Counsel asked the court to order defendant to produce the stamp used by him and to compare it with the seal impressed on the documents presented as evidence.

Defendant's counsel held that the proprietor of Tokumiya, No. 87, Yokohama was Mr. N. Morito and not B. Sho, though the latter used the same firm name.

The Court gave consent to the application of plaintiff as to the stamp and adjourned the case till May 5th.

CLAIM ON A PROMISSORY NOTE.

On April 21st, in the Kobe Chiho Saibansho, the hearing was resumed of the action in which Kitamura Umekichi, of Kobe, sues Frank Tonnochy for the sum of *yen* 600, lent on the latter's note of hand in February last and payable a month later. Plaintiff was represented by counsel, but defendant did not appear and judgment was given in default.

OBJECTION TO SEIZURE OF PROPERTY.

The hearing of this case, instituted by Mr. H. V. Gielen against Mr. H. J. Jewett, was resumed on April 26th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno when H. Mita, a representative of the bailiff who seized the business books at the office and godown of plaintiff, was examined as a witness.

He stated that on August 10th last he seized the business books which were in the custody of plaintiff. He found six or seven books in the office and several in the third-story of a godown. Some were kept in boxes and others were tied in bundles. He did not know what was in the books. While he was seizing the books, he was told by one of the Japanese in the office that some had been torn-up and put into the fire. But he added that he could not exactly reply to the Court as to the alleged fact of certain books being torn-up.

After hearing Counsel, the Court advised the parties to settle the case out of the Court, urging that it seemed the dispute had arisen from mutual misunderstanding.

Plaintiff's counsel refused to settle the case out of Court.

The case was again adjourned.

ALLEGED INCENDIARISM.

The trial of M. C. Fernando, who is charged with incendiarism, was resumed on April 27th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Matsuyama and Public Procurator Midzutani.

The Court read the statement given by Mr. Iwata, an official of the Yokohama Hygienic Laboratory, who had been called in to analyze the sulphur found in the sample room of the office where the fire occurred. He found (1) that the sulphur would not of itself cause fire; (2) in consequence of the room in which the sulphur was kept being closed it could not of itself cause the fire; (3) it would not cause fire even though it was stirred up with a stick or a cane; and (4) 13 or 14 *kwamme* of sulphur would take six or eight hours to burn and the fire would probably extinguish itself before the whole mass was consumed.

K. Ishii, a Japanese employed by the accused, was examined. He stated that he was employed by the defendant on January 26th as a clerk. On Feb. 22nd fire took place in the office of the accused, but witness did not know of the accident until he came to the office the following morning. He did not stir the sulphur in the sample room with a cane the previous day. He was told by the accused that the latter had thirty thousand *yen* deposited with the Yokohama Specie Bank. The accused seemed to have rejoiced at the fire, but later appeared disappointed when the insurance agent refused to pay the insurance money.

Counsel employed for the defence presented to the Court a letter from a customer in Colombo which stated that accused was not involved in monetary distress.

The Public Procurator made a brief speech in which he stated that the evidence against accused was sufficient for conviction and that he should be punished under Art. 403 of the Penal Code—"Whosoever shall have willingly set fire to buildings or any other structures belonging to another, not serving as dwellings, shall be punished with penal servitude for life."

Mr. Matsuda, defendant's counsel, strongly protested against the Public Procurator's argument, stating that there was no direct evidence against the accused. He asked that the man be acquitted on the ground of insufficient evidence.

The trial being concluded, the Court declared that sentence would be delivered on April 29th at 9 a.m.

TRIAL OF A DIRECTOR.

Mr. J. Matano, one of the directors of the Chuo Commercial Bank, who was charged with fraud, was acquitted on April 26th in the Tokyo District Court on the ground that the evidence against him was insufficient.

It may be remembered that the shareholders prosecuted the director on the ground that he appropriated money belonging to the bank by means of fraud.

BAMBERGER *v.* SCHROEDER.

The hearing of this case, in which plaintiff claims *yen* 50.85 and defendant counter-claims for *yen* 99.99 was resumed on April 28th in the Yokohama Local Court when defendant's counsel asked the Court for leave to examine two Japanese, late employees of the Central Hotel, No. 74.

The Court granted the application and adjourned the case till May 10th.

CLAIM ON THE H. & S. BANK.

This case, instituted by Mr. D. Nanoomal, an Indian merchant, against the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, claiming *yen* 300, came up on April 28th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno.

Mr. R. Ideura appeared for plaintiff and Mr. Masujima for defendants.

Plaintiff's counsel stated that his client received on Nov. 27th last a letter from a customer, Mr. Dhananal Chellam, in Hongkong, in which he said that an order for *habutae* silk valued at five thousand *yen* was enclosed, and that the money was to be remitted by telegraphic transfer through the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, before Dec. 5th or 7th and that the goods were to be shipped before Jan. 4th or 5th. Plaintiff had thus to await notice from the bank, which often had business with him in similar transactions. The bank received the money from its Hongkong branch by telegram on Dec. 14th but delayed sending notice of its receipt to plaintiff until the 29th of the same month, so that the latter failed to ship the goods on the date fixed by his customer. Consequently plaintiff lost the commission, five per cent., on five thousand *yen*, which would have come from his customer, and another commission of one per cent. from the Japanese trader; the two commissions making a total of three hundred *yen*. Defendants should be held responsible for this loss as it was due to their negligence.

Defendants' Counsel asked the Court to adjourn the proceedings, as defendants were investigating the reasons for the delay in giving notice of the arrival of the telegraphic transfer. If it was found to be a defect on the part of the bank, defendants would of course be glad to pay the damage claimed by plaintiff. Counsel added that at present he could not reply to the points raised in the petition.

The case was adjourned till May 24th when the bank will present the results of its investigations.

A SILK TRANSACTION.

The hearing of this case, instituted by Messrs. W. M. Strachan and Company against M. Sarasawa, *habutae* silk dealer, claiming *yen* 422.30, was resumed in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno on April 28th.

S. Kato, a silk broker, was examined as a witness. He stated that he established a branch office in January, 1902, at Fukui, Echizen province, and kept it till May, 1903. During this period, he was carrying on business with a firm at No. 95, Yokohama. After May, 1903, when he was about to close his branch in consequence of dullness of trade the foreign firm induced him to continue the branch under promise that the firm would assist him at the rate of two hundred *yen* per month. Witness then removed his branch to the office of defendant, paying a hundred *yen* per month as sundry expenses. The witness was engaged in selling *habutae* silk to several foreign firms in Yokohama, but he did not use his name in the transactions in order to avoid bad feeling with the foreign firm at No. 95, with whom he had a special connection. In August last, he concluded a contract with Messrs. Strachan and Company to supply *habutae* silk, on behalf of defendant, but it was really a business deal on the part of witness and did not concern defendant. Before the conclusion of the contract, witness asked Sarasawa, defendant, to supply silk to Messrs. Strachan and Company but the latter refused as there was a difference of *sen* 10 per 100 *momme* in price. Witness accepted the order as a speculation, anticipating that some fluctuation would occur in the market. Forty-five days intervened between the date of the contract and the delivery of the goods. Of about twelve hundred pieces of silk promised to Messrs. Strachan and Company, nearly one half was offered by defendant. Witness signed the contract as the representative of defendant.

Defendant's counsel presented some letters addressed to defendant, as evidence, as to which witness gave a brief explanation.

Plaintiff's counsel asked the Court to consent to examine a Japanese who took part in the business, but the Court rejected the application, after which, having summarized the evidence, the parties entered on a brief discussion.

The Court adjourned the case till May 3rd, when Judgment will be delivered.

A ROBBER.

The preliminary examination of Y. Mikami (25) who is charged with having murdered on the night of March 4th, 1903, a woman by strangling her to death and then robbed the house of fifteen *yen* and some articles, has concluded in the Tokyo District Court. The man was committed for trial.

A LAWYER CONVICTED.

The appeal of Mr. R. Yuiki, a Tokyo barrister, sentenced in the Tokyo District Court to four months' imprisonment with hard labour, a fine of five *yen*, and six months' police surveillance on a charge of fraud, was rejected by the Court of Cassation. The sentence having been confirmed, he was removed on April 21st to prison.

A MURDERER SENTENCED.

Y. Udagawa (38), a farmer, in the village of Ekita, Minami-Adachi, near Tokyo, who murdered his father in February last after a dispute as to the succession of property, was sentenced to death on April 25th in the Tokyo District Court.

LIBEL CASES.

The appeal of C. Arakawa and M. Nagasawa, nominal editor and publisher respectively of the *Yorodzu* against the sentence given on February

27th in the Tokyo District Court, which case was lodged by Mr. A. Hofmann, of the Kobe branch of Messrs. H. Ahrens and Company, was again called on April 13th in the Tokyo Appeal Court before Judge Miyake and Public Procurator Tanabashi, when a decision was rendered rejecting the appeal.

On April 22nd, the trial of M. Irii and N. Tsuchiya, nominal editor and publisher of the *Chuo Shimbun*, at the instance of Mr. Ikariyama, Chief of the Kaga-cho police, Yokohama, took place in the Tokyo District Court before Judge Ishii and Public Procurator Oba. After the examination a lengthy discussion between the Public Procurator and the lawyers employed in defence followed. Counsel then asked the Court for leave to examine Arimatsu, Sakai, Hasegawa and Sekimoto as to the relations between the chief of police and M. Takahashi who was convicted in the Yokohama District Court of having been in Russian service as a spy. The Court rejected the application. The case was adjourned till April 27th at 9 a.m. when judgment will be delivered.

On April 26th the hearing of the case lodged by Mr. S. Isaacs against Mr. Max Isaacs, claiming twelve thousand *yen*, on the ground that defendant, in the course of the proceedings in another case made a statement which was defamatory to the reputation of plaintiff, was resumed in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno. Mr. M. J. Dayet was called as a witness.

Plaintiff's Counsel asked that the Court be closed to the public on the ground that this case had arisen through another case in which a father and brothers were concerned and that any details given by the witness might be injurious to social order.

Without giving a decision as to this application, the Court examined Mr. Dayet.

The witness stated that he was manager in Yokohama for the branch of Messrs. R. Isaacs and Bro., whose head office was in New York. During his service with the firm he informed the head office of some suspicious points in the business, but he said nothing regarding the business books.

Cross-examined—He entered their employ in 1899 in the Hongkong branch of the firm; in 1900 he came to Kobe, entering the branch there, and in October, 1901, he was moved to Yokohama, leaving the branch here in April or May, 1903. Before he removed to the Yokohama office, Mr. S. Isaacs was managing the firm as a partner.

Mr. Sawada, defendant's counsel, further cross-examined—"What was the kind of information you supplied to the head office if it was not with regard to the business books as you just stated to the Court? Was it made with regard to any important documents in the business?"

Upon this question being put, Mr. Masujima, plaintiff's counsel, again asked that the Court be closed, and stated that he did not like to have the details of the case published abroad, as they were concerned with the private matters of a family.

Defendant's counsel said that it were better for plaintiff to withdraw the case if the latter did not like to have the details published abroad.

The Court then excluded the public and at the close of the examination of Mr. Dayet adjourned the case till April 28th.

On April 28th, the case between Mr. S. Isaacs and Mr. Max Isaacs was resumed in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno.

At the outset of the proceedings, Mr. Sawada, defendant's counsel, asked the Court not to exclude the public any further as it had decided at the previous hearing, stating that if the Court was again closed sensational rumours would be circulated among the public whereas the present dispute between the brothers was of the slightest. Perhaps Mr. S. Isaacs had no idea of vexing his younger brother, Mr. Max Isaacs, when he proceeded against him for stating in the proceedings in another case that he had suspicions regarding certain entries in the business books. The doubts of Mr. Max Isaacs seem to have originatod from the letter written by Mr. Dayet to the father in New York.

Mr. Masujima, Plaintiff's counsel, asked that the public be excluded but the Court rejected his application, declaring that the nature of the present hearing was not likely to prove injurious to public order. Counsel presented several letters as evidence and stated that according to them, defendant attempted willfully to defame the reputation of plaintiff.

Defendant's counsel refused to accept the evidence and gave a lengthy explanation regarding the letters.

Plaintiff's counsel further stated that in May, 1898, Mr. R. Isaacs and his two sons established a firm at Manila under the name of the Manila Commercial Company with a nominal capital of $750,000, which was divided into 7,500 shares. Of these shares 2,150 were to be held by the promoters and the rest by others. Mr. Max Isaacs and his elder sister's husband, Mr. Henry Blum, went to the port without giving notice to Mr. S. Isaacs and they took up the whole of the shares, leaving 216 shares only for Mr. S. Isaacs. Having a great affection for the youngest son, Mr. Max Isaacs, the father, defrayed the money necessary to acquire these shares. Thus came about the first collision between the members of the family, which dispute led subsequently to the institution of a suit to recover possession of certain business books. Counsel entered on an explanation of the circumstances of the present state of the dispute between the members of the Isaacs family.

Defendant's counsel denied the truth of the statement, contending that it had no necessary connection with the present case.

Counsel thereupon entered on a lengthy discussion, after which the case was adjourned till May 3rd when judgment will be rendered.

CUSTOMS APPEALS.

Baron Sone, Minister of Finance, delivered a decision on April 18th on an appeal lodged by M. L. Bobsien, representative of Messrs. A. Oestman, No. 47, Kobe, against the Kobe Customs. It appears that the firm imported a hundred cases of methyl-alcohol on which the Customs imposed duty at the rate of *sen* 42 per litre in accordance with No. 69-A of the specific tariff. The importers contended that the duty should be ten per cent *ad valorem* under No. 69-B. The appeal was rejected.

The Minister gave, on April 19th, another decision on an appeal filed by Messrs. E. H. Hunter and Company, Kobe. The firm imported a bundle of galvanized mild steel wire rope in July last on which the Kobe Customs imposed duty at the rate of *yen* 2.654 per 100 *kin* under No. 245 of the specific tariff. The importers held that the duty should be *yen* 1.28 per 100 *kin* in accordance with No. 229 of the same tariff. The appeal was not sustained on the ground that the nature of the goods in dispute was not wire-rope made with mild steel.

Baron Sone, Minister for Finance, according to the *Official Gazette*, has delivered a decision on an appeal filed by Mr. R. Schuffner, No. 25, Yokohama. The latter imported on Sept. 27th last a case containing ten dozens of tanned sheep leather on which the customs imposed a duty of fifteen per cent. *ad valorem* in accordance with No. 197 of the tariff. The importer contended that the staple should be treated under No. 197-1 with specific duty at the rate of *yen* 12.706 per 100 *kin* as the leather was coloured and refined. The appeal was rejected on the ground that the leather in dispute was provided for in No. 197 of the tariff.

The Minister rendered another decision on the same day on an appeal lodged by the Hiromi Shokai, Osaka. This firm imported forty-two pieces of checked woollen tweeds on Aug. 28th last, producing the certificate of origin, on which the Osaka Customs imposed duty at *sen* 093 per square yard under No. 337 of the tariff. The importers held that the duty should be *ad valorem* ten per cent. under No. 340 of the same tariff as the cloth was woven of shoddy wool while No. 337 provided for stuff woven of worsted yarn only. The appeal was dismissed on the ground that the goods in dispute were tweeds though the material consists of inferior wool and though its original cost is cheaper than other woollen cloth.

AMERICAN TOPICS.

The New York State Board of Mediation and Arbitration announces that there were more strikes and lockouts in that State last year than in any previous year, with the possible exception of 1886.

The Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co. has announced its intention to erect a $1,000,000 structure on its present site at Broad and Clinton streets, Newark. The building will be occupied solely for the concern's business.

Toward the building of its 18,714 miles of railway, the Canadian Government has contributed at the average rate of $9,166 a mile of railway constructed, the provincial governments at the rate of $1,757, and the municipalities at the rate of $873 a mile.

Tulare Lake, in California, once navigable by steamers, is now perfectly dry. A man on foot can cross it safely at any point, and in some places the ground is hard enough for a team to drive over. The cause of this condition is the draining of Kern and King Rivers.

The much-advertised manuscript of a part of "Paradise Lost" has been sold privately to an American collector, who wishes for the present to remain unknown. The manuscript is now on the way to the United States. The price paid for it is not divulged, but it is assumed that it was more than £5,000, at which it was bought in when offered at auction in January.

Overtures of peace have been made to the suspended members of the American Red Cross by counsel for Miss Clara Barton and other officials of the society. The proposition offered to the remonstrants is in effect to abandon the investigation in progress in exchange for the election of some prominent man to succeed Miss Barton. Instead of viewing a compromise with favour, the suspended members are preparing to file additional charges.

Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan left New York in April for London, where he will probably remain the rest of his life. Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, Jr. by this time has been fully initiated into the mysteries of the house at the corner of Wall and Broad streets, and he is now ready to take up his father's work. The man who was master of Wall-street a year ago has so arranged his affairs that he can leave everything in the hands of his son.

A fossil, says a dispatch from Lacon, Ill., pronounced by scientists to be that of a great prehistoric bird, has been brought from Eureka Springs, Mo., where it was discovered in a bed of limestone. The fossil is of a large size and appears to be that of a bird on the alert. The head is turned slightly to one side, while the body is squatted close to the ground, the feet barely showing on the under side of the strange formation. Scientists say the fossil is a relic of the cretaceous period.

Mr. Michael Cudahy, the Omaha packer, is said to be at the back of a project to build a new process oil refinery at Crawford, one capable, when worked to its full capacity, of refining 1,000 barrels of oil per day. The Standard Oil Co. has, it is said, offered the patentee $150,000 for the patent, but he wants $500,000. By this process it is claimed that oil can be refined for 6 cents per barrel cheaper than the means now employed, besides getting a better grade of oil.

Both houses of the New York Legislature have passed a bill authorizing the payment by the State of New York of a pension of $72 a month to Hiram Cronk, the last American survivor of the War of 1812. Both Republicans and Democrats supported the bill for a pension and the sum of $72 was agreed to after a Senator had declared that Cronk was in want. Cronk is in his 105th year. His health began to fail two years ago and since then he has been an invalid. Until 1900 he received a pension from the Government of $8 a month, when it was raised to $25.

Commander George L. Dyer, commanding the U.S. cruiser *Albany*, of the Asiatic fleet, has been assigned to duty as Naval Governor of the island of Guam, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Commander Willam E. Sewell. Commander Dyer was appointed to the Naval Academy from Maine in 1866 and graduated four years later. After serving on various vessels he was assigned to the flagship *Charleston* in 1890 for duty as flag-lieutenant of the Pacific staff of Rear-Admiral George Brown. He later served on the Pacific Coast in the *San Francisco*, the *Thetis* and *Mohican*.

Statistics of Methodist Episcopal foreign missions show that from 1899 to 1908 there was an increase of membership of 17 per cent, or from 182,104 to 216,476, an increase of 34,372. In Korea the number of converts was nearly doubled in these years, in the Philippines it grew from a mere handful to 7842, and in Bombay from 3443 to 10,985. The gifts of the church to foreign missionary work increased from $920,680 to $1,262,573, and the value of the property grew from $5,410,938 to $6,655,058. Certainly these figures show that there is no lack of enthusiasm in the Methodist church in the work of converting heathen.

The story of a guide, confirmed on March 30 by a party of woodmen, is that Bald mountain, Maine, disappeared on the night of March 21st, the date of the New England earthquake. Bald mountain was in Tobique valley, a few miles from the New Brunswick line. At its base were boiling springs, and near by an extensive deposit which an analysis had shown to be composed of melted rock and earth, all indicating the presence of an extinct volcano. Where Bald mountain stood is now only a large shallow lake, and the theory of the woodsmen is that the subsidence of the mountain on March 21st was the cause of the earthquake.

The largest sum ever paid an insurance company by an individual has been deposited with the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York by Eben Smith of Denver, Col., who has placed in the company's hands over $620,000. Under the terms of his contract Mr. Smith receives an annual income for life, and at his death his son and daughter and his six grandchildren, in addition to large cash payments, will receive annual incomes for life. Mr. Smith asked his trust company how he could best make these provisions for himself and for his entire family, and was advised that the Mutual Life contract offered him the best way for carrying out his plans.

The Silk Association of America held its annual meeting on March 22 and elected the following officers: President, Joseph W. Congdon; first vice-president, George L. Montgomery; second vice-president, William Skinner; third vice-president, Jerome C. Read; treasurer, Charles F. Homer. Managers: George C. Andreae, R. Arai, C. L. Auger, Milo M Belding Jr., H. W. Boettger, Frank W. Cheney, John E. Cowdin, W. E. Eaton, Ewald Fleitmann, Jacques Huber, C. H. Hutchins, Albert Gould Jennings, Julius Kaufmann, Julius Kayser, Catholina Lambert, Russell Murray, Arthur Ryle, J. Noble Stearns, H. A. Van Liew and Jacob Weidmann.

Superintendent Tittman of the United States Coast Survey, in a recent description of his work, stated that he had since its inception made about 30,000 square miles of topographic surveys, sounded minutely nearly 300,000 square miles of water, and made deep-sea soundings over little less than a million square miles. It has completed a first survey of the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific coasts of the United States, and its triangulations cover between 300,000 and 400,000 square miles. It has published over 500 charts, besides the Coast Pilot volumes of the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, and carefully studied the laws of the earth's magnetism (these latter being now investigated through magnetic observatories in co-operation with foreign governments), and its geodetic work is also being carried on with international co-operation.

One of the most extraordinary things to be seen at the World's Fair is the gigantic steel bird cage erected by the National Government. It extends 200 by 180 feet over the tops of large trees, and includes streams of running water and swimming pools, where the aquatic birds may disport themselves. People are allowed to go in the cage and wander about as in a strange forest, inhabited by a marvelous variety of bird life. There is a wonderful collection of tropical birds in the cage, as well as birds from the temperate zone. There is most anything, from the giant condor, the eagle and the albatross, down to the smallest humming bird, which is hardly larger than a grasshopper.

Negotiations are on, says the *New York Commercial*, between the Merchants' Association and Attorney General Knox, looking to a settlement of the compensation to be allotted W. Wickham Smith for his services as special prosecutor in the Japanese silk cases. At the time the inquiry into the silk irregularities was reopened in 1902 the Government had no fund to pay Mr. Smith. As it was considered important to carry on the investigation the Merchants' Association agreed to raise a fund and see to it that Mr. Smith received an adequate fee at the conclusion of his services in the event of the Government failing to make the payment. William F. King of the Merchants' Association had a conference with Attorney-General Knox regarding Mr. Smith's compensation. He told Mr. Knox he did not consider $50,000 an exorbitant fee for Mr. Smith. It is understood that if the Government does not pay Mr. Smith the full $50,000, the Merchants' Association will make up the difference.

Says the *San Francisco Chronicle*:—Minister Allen, of Seoul, has been annoyed recently by hundreds of letters calling for information in regard to ginseng, postage stamps, mining concessions and the chances of Americans securing employment in Korea. Therefore he has prepared a circular letter which he mails to all inquirers who send stamps. In this letter he explains that there is no profit in growing ginseng, although the United States Department of Agriculture will give all needed information on the subject. Korean postage stamps may be secured from any stamp dealer. The Korean Government is not granting any mining concessions now, nor is it in need of any foreign assistants such as mining engineers, teachers, physicians, or army officers. He adds that the Emperor of Korea did not marry a foreign woman, and that the story of "Emily Brown" is a pure fabrication. Hence there is no demand in the Korean palace for foreign women in any capacity. These direct statements by Minister Allen ought to discourage the American letter writers who have been making his life a burden by their inquiries.

Lieutenant-Commander Edgar Townsend Warburton, chief engineer of the battle-ship *Maine*, committed suicide in his cabin on board that vessel, while in Pensacola harbour, on April 1st. A bullet from a revolver was sent through his brain and death resulted within forty minutes. The executive officer of the ship was passing the door of Commander Warburton's cabin when he was startled by the report of a revolver within. The bullet, after passing through the brain, came through the door and struck the rail of the ship, barely missing the executive officer. The latter notified the other officers and the door of the commander's cabin was forced open. He was found lying on the floor in a pool of blood and a revolver was grasped in his right hand. The Commander expired shortly afterwards. No cause is known for the suicide. Commander Warburton appeared to be in the best of health and spirits and in a few weeks would have been assigned to shore duty. Many of the officers express the belief that death was the result of an accident. Commander Warburton had been chief of engineers of the *Maine* since that vessel was in commission. He was formerly on the *Indiana*. The body was shipped to Philadelphia, where his wife resides.

By the end of next year it is likely that the last horse car will have disappeared from the streets of New York and that electric cars will be running on the thoroughfares where now the antiquated vehicles still bump and thrash as they rumble along. Omnibuses were the first public vehicles with regular routes in New York. Fifty years ago they ran everywhere; Broadway was full of them. At one time, says a correspondent of the Pittsburg *Dispatch*, there were 26 lines of stages, all running for some part of their route along Broadway. But late in the 40s and early in the 50s the horse cars came into use—another modern improvement. In the early 70s there were barely half a dozen stage lines left. The Fifth, the Madison, the Fourth and the Ninth Avenue lines, and the Bloomingdale line up Broadway from Thirty-third street, were the chief, if not the only, lines. Then came the bobtail cars, in which the passenger had to pay his own fare—when the law required cars to carry conductors as well as drivers the bobtail cars went elsewhere; it did not pay to run them. To prevent the erection of the Sixth avenue elevated road the Sixth avenue surface line put on double-decked cars, with seats on top, but even these could not stand in the way of progress, and the first cross girder of the elevated road put them out of action. In 1844 came the Broadway railroad steal and the boodle Aldermen. The stages left Broadway in 1885. There were only three lines left to go. In the same year came the cable road on upper Tenth avenue; then the cable crept down Broadway and Third avenue, and then came the underground trolley, the best form of street traction yet devised.

According to the New York State Bureau of Labour Statistics, in no other year in the past decade, with the possible exception of 1902, were the workingmen of the State so well remunerated as in 1903. The only unfavourable symptom of last year manifested itself in a restriction of construction work. Owing to tight money, railway companies in many instances deferred the completion of improvements which they had begun in 1902 or early in 1903, and for the same reason the erection of new buildings in the large cities was postponed or abandoned. Labour disputes, which occurred in the building trades of New York, Rochester, Albany, etc., in the summer of 1903, somewhat increased this stagnation, but did not cause it. On the other hand, the construction of small dwelling, and tenement houses, which is on a less speculative basis than that of business structures, was carried forward on a large scale, so that, on the whole, employment in the building trades was nearly as good in 1903 as in 1902. Statistics of employment indicate that among the 400,000 wage earners belonging to labour organizations (of whom about 30 per cent. are in the various building trades) the relative amount of time lost in 1903 was fourteen days out of each 100, as compared with thirteen days in 1902 and seventeen days in 1901, the best of recent years. The hours of labour were shortened for thousands of workers in 1903. Whereas in 1902 59 per cent. of the factory operatives of New York state worked ten hours a day, in 1903 the percentage fell to 51. The proportion of employees working only nine hours a day correspondingly increased—from 32.6 per cent. in 1902 to 39.6 per cent. in 1903. The eight-hour movement made progress in the building trades and in a few manufacturing industries.

The fact that the war news hereafter from Asia for Europe will pass through the United States is a striking illustration of the centricity of the American continent in the world's affairs. All the war news collected by the great European news agencies—British, French, German, Italian and others—is being transmitted to London by way of America's Pacific cable and the United States, and is being delivered on the way to the American newspapers taking Associated Press dispatches, says the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*.

Along till Saturday last all this matter was sent by way of India to London and was repeated from that point for New York. Under the new arrangement, by which the news for Europe goes east by way of the Pacific ocean and the United States instead of, as hitherto, going westward by way of India and the Asiatic continent, the United States, gets the news before it reaches Europe, and will have the first chance to publish it. Hereafter New York instead of London is to be news clearing house for the world for intelligence from the Russo-Japanese war. Nicholas II will be able to get word from Alexieff quicker by way of the United States than he will by way of Siberia or any other Asiatic route. The people of St. Louis, New York, Chicago and San Francisco will learn earlier about the movements of Russian troops in Manchuria than the Czar himself.

SUICIDE OF MR. M. J. SACHS.

The dead body of Mr. M. J. Sachs, whom many will remember in Yokohama as a former resident here, was found on the Bund foreshore at Shanghai, shortly after 8 o'clock on April 16. A native constable discovered the budy, and at once reported the matter at the Central Station, when Police Sergeant Roach was sent to the spot and found the corpse with the mouth badly burnt, lying at about high water-mark. By the side of the deceased was found a broken tumbler which smelt very strongly of carbolic acid; there were also some pieces of blue glass lying near by, which were apparently the remains of a bottle.

The Danish Consul subsequently held an enquiry.

RAIN AND STORM.

There have been very heavy rains in the southern district of the main island and in the north of Kyushu, resulting in floods that destroyed roads and bridges. At Ujina and in its neighbourhood the downpour was accompanied by strong winds.

Owing to heavy rains since the night of the 24th, the rivers in Fukuoka prefecture overflowed their banks with the result that two hundred houses were flooded, and the railway between Tagawa and Ikejiri was damaged.

Owing to the overflowing of the River Chikugo, near Kurume, a section of the Kyushu Railway was damaged. It was repaired, however, on the morning of the 26th.

A section of the railway between Nagasaki and Kumamoto was damaged and the line between Saigawa and Toyotsu was interrupted by a landslip caused by the heavy rain. Repairs in both cases were completed on the morning of the 26th.

A heavy gale was experienced at Ujina on the night of the 25th, eighty-five small sheds which were used as shops being broken down.

Rain has fallen for several days at Hiroshima and all the canals overflowed, in consequence of which many bridges were damaged.

Owing to inundations caused by the heavy rains for several days past, the Nakaidzumi-Kaneda and Kaneda-Sachibukuro sections of the Kyushu Railway have been damaged and traffic is suspended.

The River Tenjin, Yamaguchi prefecture, overflowed during the rains, and seventy-five *ken* of its banks and three bridges were destroyed. A pupil of the Miyanoura school and an old woman were drowned.

Yokohama experienced a heavy continuous blow from the south-east from Friday afternoon till Wednesday morning, but beyond the uprooting of trees, little damage was done.

A New York correspondent says the steamship piers in that city present a curious spectacle, being about equally crowded with Russians evading conscription, and Japanese hurrying home for military duty.

TRANSLATIONS FROM THE RUSSIAN.

The *Shanghai Mercury* makes the following translations from the *Novi Krai* of March 30th:—

After the usual church service, a parade consisting of parts of several regiments was held on the grounds adjoining the church in commemoration of the sixth year of the occupation of Port Arthur. Colonel Gandurin commanded the parade whilst the band of the 14th East Siberian Sharpshooters' Regiment contributed the music.

Amongst those present were the chief of the P. A. Kinchow Army Division as also Lieut-General Stessel.

After receiving the report from the parade commander, and the parade present were put through a few movements, Lieut.-General Stessel approached the forces and said:—

To-day exactly six years ago, the Russian flag was hoisted by Prince Vladimirovich on the Golden Hill, who at the present moment is again amongst us serving on the fleet of the Pacific Ocean. Port Arthur was occupied by the 9th East Siberian Sharpshooters' regiment without a single shot and now after six years of hardship in constructing the forts, town, etc., we find ourselves obliged to defend the place against a neighbouring country who wish to take it out of our hands. Not imagining for a single moment that they will ever accomplish this, I am convinced that the flag is there to stay even in the event of another war. We now congratulate our Emperor (this was immediately followed by "hurrahs" which were prolonged till the ordar was given to stop) "Men, I have already said that the flag was hoisted by Prince Vladimirovich who is at the present moment again with us in the fleet fighting in the battle. We wish his Royal Highness long life and prosperity (Cries again of prolonged "hurrah")

After this Lieut.-General Stessel read to the parade a telegram received from His Highness Viceroy Alexeieff in which the Viceroy congratulated Lieut-General Stessel and his forces on the sixth year of occupation of Port Arthur (cries of "hurrah.")

After this Lieut-General Stessel said, "On the theatre of war has arrived the commander of the Manchurian forces, General Adjutant Kuropatkin under whom, I don't imagine for a single moment we will not be able to stand against our foe should they ever come to us. For congratulating General Adjutant Kuropatkin (cries of hurrah.")

Then cheers were given for Vice Admiral Makaroff, the fleet and General Linovitch.

After the usual conclusion ceremonies, the forces were marched back to their respective posts.

On the 26th inst. part of our fleet cleared from the inner harbour for a cruise round the adjacent islands.

At 10.15 a.m. torpedo-boat *Vinimatelini* in accordance with instructions signalled from the *Novik*, proceeded to inspect several junks that were close by. On her journey she noticed off the small island of Gokigano a small steamer towing a barge. She immediately gave chase and when within cables fired a blank shot across her bows. On the steamer was immediately hoisted the Japanese flag but not the one that meant surrender. She kept on full steam ahead until a second blank shot was fired —when she stopped. Immediately she stopped many persons from the steamer were making their way to the towed barge with the idea evidently of breaking loose from the steamer and making good their escape.

Seeing this, the *Vinimatelini* lowered a boat at once, which under Midshipman Pini, was despatched to inspect the junk while the torpedo-boat herself went towards the *Hanyen Maru* and brought her in tow to the cruiser *Novik*.

The Commander of the *Novik* with several officers accordingly proceeded to inspect their prize. At the same moment the boat lowered from the *Vinimatelini* returned with 4 Japanese prisoners, a quantity of telegrams, etc. Upon searching the *Hanyen Maru* several Japanese and Chinese were found, besides sundry papers, charts, signal books, wireless telegraphy instrument, etc., two torpedoes (self explosive). After conveying all the people to the *Novik* it was found that one of the Chinese was in reality a Japanese in Chinese costume with a false queue. Upon the conclusion of the inspection the commander of the *Novik* left several of his own crew on board, and took the vessel in tow with the idea of returning to Port Arthur with the prize. After proceeding several miles the towing lines parted. The Commander of the *Novik* then decided that in view of the slow speed of the steamer it would not be advisable for her to proceed herself in case the enemy was met. Towing being impossible, orders were given, after taking off the crew and men, to sink the ship. This was accordingly done. The whole fleet then formed up in order and returned to Port Arthur reaching there at 2 p.m. It may also be interesting to record that these are our first Japanese guests in Port Arthur, and comprise 9 Japanese and 11 Chinese.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Dr. W. N. Whitney is expected to arrive in Yokohama about the 5th of June. He left Southampton on April 19th.

Misses Takakura, Yanagihara, Chigusa and twenty-one other Court Ladies have donated *yen* 1,045 to the Volunteer Nurse section of the Japan Red Cross Society.

The London *Times'* steamer *Haimun* arrived on April 21st at Nagasaki from Wei-hai-wei, which she left on the 19th. She will enter dock for repairs. Dr. Morrison, Peking correspondent of *The Times*, was on board.

The Bishop of California baptized six adults on the evening of Palm Sunday in the San Francisco Mission to the Japanese, 1304, Post Street. The founder of this mission was Doctor Motoda, on his first visit to the United States.

The Japanese Consul at Lyons telegraphed on April 23rd that the present quotation of raw silk is believed to be the extreme bottom price since it began to go gradually downward. There is, however, no prospect of better things discernible.

The German Steel Trust is about to open negotiations with the British and American Steel Companies, for the purpose of delimiting the respective fields of interest of all the companies in the world's markets, so as to obviate the existing competition.

We learn that in the athletic sports held at Kobe on Saturday, under the auspices of the K.R. and A. C., Mr. W. M. Carst broke the Kobe record for a long jump, clearing 19ft. 11in. The Yokohama record is 20ft. 11½in., made by J. F. Drummond in May, 1902.

A telegram from Kobe states that Yuen Shisong, ex-compradore of the Russo-Chinese Bank, who brought a case against the bank, has seized twenty-nine thousand *yen* of the Kwansen Trading Company, Kyoto, which money the Japanese firm had to pay to the bank.

Captain Babin, of of the French steamer *Briss Huel*, which has been lately in these waters, was staying for the night with a friend in Brooklyn, New York, and was found on the 29th of January dead in his bed, aspyhxiated by gas from a burner that had not been turned off.

Rear-Admiral K. Kimotsuki, Chief of the Naval Hydrographic Office, states the *Official Gasette*, issued a notice on April 27th to the effect that according to information given by the Dutch Consul at Kobe, mines have been found floating some forty miles off Shantung promontory, China.

The Meiji Fire Insurance Company held a general meeting on April 20th at which the accounts for the year from April 1st, 1903, to March 31st, 1904 were submitted. The net income was *yen* 122,794.54, of which *yen* 42,500 was to paid to the shareholders as a dividend at the rate of 17 per cent.

The *Jiji* states that two Finns who arrived secretly on April 26th at Nagasaki from Shanghai have been arrested. They will be sent home by the next mail steamer. It is alleged that they intended to sell a plan drawn by a British officer named Fisher. The Japanese paper does not describe the alleged plan.

On the night of April 23rd, a locomotive collided with a train which had just arrived at Shimonoseki station. An engineer was killed, a conductor severely and two firemen slightly injured. The passengers are all safe. Both locomotives sustained severe damage. The negligence of a pointsman seems to have been the cause.

Hungary is now manufacturing salt briquettes for export to tropical countries. A plant erected at the Ausee salt mines turns out from 40,000 to 50,000 briquettes every twenty-four hours, each weighing two pounds. Salt put up in this form contains only 1 per cent. of moisture. The briquettes are manufactured by putting loose salt under hydraulic pressure of 200 atmospheres.

Mr. James Hutchison, of Goomtee Estate, Darjeeling, has been selected by the Indian Tea Association as the deputation to visit Formosa, leaving immediately.

A telegram from Hiroshima states that Lieutenant T. Yamoshishi of the army was sentenced on April 27th by court martial to fifteen days imprisonment with hard labour and deprived of his rank.

According to the *Jiji*, a telegram has been received in Yokohama from a trustworthy source to the effect that the new Russian loan amounting to eight hundred million francs has been issued in Paris under the guarantee of a Brussels syndicate. The price was ninety-eight francs, interest being at the rate of five per cent.

Marchioness Nabeshima entertained Mrs. Richardson, and Dr. McGee and her party on the evening of April 26th, when Mrs. Wood, wife of the Military Attaché of the U.S. Legation, Marchioness Oyama, Countess Matsudaira, Viscountess Tanaka and other peeresses and some officials of the Imperial Household were present.

The *Jiji* states that the correspondent of the London *Chronicle*, who had been arrested at Newchwang by the Russians, but was released, arrived on April 27th at Nagasaki via Shanghai. According to him, thirty thousand Russian soldiers are now at Newchwang, and the Chinese inhabitants on the frontier are in sympathy with the Russians.

The gentle art of the pluralist still flourishes in odd corners of England. In a recent breach of promise case, the defendant was discovered to be clerk to a firm of well-known solicitors, who were clerks to the Justices of the Soho Division; parish constable, sexton, sub-inspector of nuisances, coroner's officer, verger, vestry messenger, rent collector, and licensing clerk.

Weeks after death had taken place, the remains of M. Thibaut, a wealthy Parisian recluse, were recently found in a mummified condition in the bedroom which he had occupied. M. Thibaut bequeathed the bulk of his fortune to the English Society of Friends, and directed that it should be devoted to the advocacy of peace. The sum of £56,000 sterling was found hidden behind pictures and under carpets.

From a report published by Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson, P.C.M.O., we learn that the estimated population of Hongkong in 1903 was 325,631. There were 1034 births and 6185 deaths, 1251 of which were from plague. The birth-rate was 3.17 per 1000 as compared with 3.8 in 1902. The death-rate was 18.9 per 1000 as compared with 21.7 in 1902. For the non-Chinese population the death-rate was only 16.6 per 1000.

In the course of a speech before the United Service Institution, on March 20th, Field-Marshal Lord Roberts said the centre of international gravity had shifted to the Pacific. There the dominating factors in the serious complications of the future would be found, owing to the extraordinary development and progress of that part of the world, and also in view of the early completion of the Panama Canal.

Mr. Uchida, Japanese Consul-General at New York, telegraphing his weekly report on April 22nd, said that owing to a fall in price, the demand for raw silk and habutae had increased since the previous report. There was no change in matting. Cotton for future delivery was very inactive as there was no demand from the spinning factories. The quotations were: cents 13.76 for May delivery; cents 15.54 for August delivery; and cents 14 for present delivery. The stock throughout the country was 605,959 bales.

It was stated by a passenger who arrived at Shimonoseki on April 21st by a steamer from Taku, China, that on the 17th thirteen merchant ships were lying at that port, but their cargoes were still on board as there were no lighters to land them. The state of trade is generally very dull and all merchandise is left on the market untouched. A company of Russian guards is in Tientsin, and the officers in disguise go back and forth between that port and Newchwang in junks. It is reported that General Kuropatkin has arrived at Fenghwantien. It is added that Viceroy Yuan has despatched three hundred soldiers to Peking to act as Imperial Body Guards.

The Russians have a curious word to express that condition of slovenly unpreparedness in which a great crisis has almost always found their country. It is "khelátnost," and it means, literally, "dressing-gowniness"—the condition of the man who does not trouble to put on his coat and waistcoat in time for the business of the day. It is as admirably expressive of the national temper as "manana"—"to-morrow"—is of the Spanish. The Russians use it without sense of shame, and seem to regard it as a sufficient and satisfactory explanation of almost all national misfortunes.

On March 12th the first electric train to run on a main line in England made the journey from Liverpool and Southport—an appropriate choice, since Liverpool was the scene of George Stephenson's first successful demonstration of the capability of the steam-driven locomotive. The trial was in every way a success, and the train, weighing 140 tons and measuring over eighty yards in length, with capacity for carrying 270 passengers, travelled smoothly, quietly, and well at a speed of sixty miles an hour.

At Sydney, N.S. Wales, on March 12, the Half-Mile Swimming World's record was broken, and the World's Champion, R. Cavill, defeated by a lad named B. Keran, who is not yet 17 years of age. The former record stood at 11 min. 50⅗ seconds, but Keran won in 11 min. 29⅗ seconds, Cavill finishing second, in 11 min. 40⅗ seconds. Four days later, the two met in the quarter-mile championship of Australasia, when Cavill turned the tables on his opponent by winning by two yards in 5 min. 26 secs.—another World's record, the previous best being 5 min. 28 secs. The World's Competition record for one mile, cycling, was lowered by Floyd Macfarland, from U.S.A., on the same day at Sydney to 1 min. 49 secs.

The World says:—Lieut.-Colonel Gough, of the Rifle Brigade, who was decorated with the Victoria Cross by the King the other day, in recognition of his services in Somaliland, has joined the Staff College as a student to qualify for the certificate. He was specially selected for the Camberley course by Lord Roberts before he volunteered for service against the Mullah, in acknowledgment of the high character he gained in the field in South Africa. Colonel Gough is the third member of his family to receive the Victoria Cross. His father, Sir Charles Gough, won his in the stirring days of the Mutiny, as did also his uncle, the veteran Sir Hugh Gough.

THE SALE OF TOBACCO.

ORDINANCE NO. 13 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.

REGULATIONS FOR THE SALE OF TOBACCO.

Art. I.—Jobbers, or wholesalers of tobacco shall be nominated by the Minister of Finance.

Persons who have been continuously engaged in the manufacture of tobacco or engaged in business as brokers of manufactured tobacco for more than one year prior to the date of the promulgation of the Tobacco Monopoly Law, and paid income tax for the 36th year of Meiji (not including the amount specified in a supplementary report or personal declaration made after the issue of these Regulations), may on application be appointed as wholesalers of tobacco exclusively at the time of the enforcement of these Regulations.

In case, however, the number of persons who desire to obtain the status of wholesalers in the same district is so numerous that there is reason to apprehend the possibility of the actual condition of affairs being seriously affected or altered thereby, the Minister of Finance may exclusively appoint those who have been engaged in the manufacture of tobacco, in the order of the amount of the income tax paid by them, and withhold appointment when the nominees have reached the proper number.

Any person desiring to become a wholesaler as prescribed in the foregoing article must forward an application (Form No. 1) not later than the 10th of May in the 37th year of *Meiji* (1904).

Art. II.—Persons mentioned below can not be nominated as jobbers or retailers of tobacco:—

1. Tobacco growers and persons staying or living in the same house.
2. Those who, acting contrary to the Tobacco Monopoly Law Taxation Regulations, have undergone a penalty exceeding that of fine, and in whose case two years have not elapsed since.
3. Those who, having received a sentence of insolvency or bankruptcy are to abide by it from the time that it was affirmed until their rehabilitation shall have been established.
4. Those who have been dealt with as defaulters of national tax or as guilty of corresponding offences, and have not yet passed one year.
5. Those who have received a sentence of, or more severe than imprisonment, and those who, having received a sentence of imprisonment or upwards, are to abide by it from such time until judgement shall be satisfied.
6. Those who are under deprivation or suspension of public rights.
7. Those who have failed to pay in full the value of tobacco purchased, even after the expiration of the period of payment.

Art. III.—Any person who is appointed as a wholesaler or retailer of tobacco may continue business for five years from the date of appointment.

In case of the death of a wholesaler or retailer of tobacco, his heir or successor may continue his business for the remaining period of operation provided a report be sent to the Minister of Finance.

Art. IV.—Any wholesaler or retailer of tobacco who desires to abandon his business must report the fact to the Minister of Finance thirty days prior to the date of abandonment.

Art. V.—In the cases mentioned below the Minister of Finance may withdraw the nomination of a wholesaler or retailer, except in the case of Paragraph 3 which will not be applied to retailers:—

1. When a wholesaler or retailer has neglected the obligations prescribed in these Regulations, or failed to fulfil such obligations even after they have received warning from the authorities concerned.
2. When he falls within the purview of any of the paragraphs of Art. II.
3. When sales of tobacco do not exceed 5,000 *yen* a year.

Art. VI.—The value of tobacco to be purchased by a wholesaler shall be determined by making a regular discount upon the fixed price thereof.

Art. VII.—In case a wholesaler desires to purchase tobacco he must forward, not later than the 5th of each month, an application for the purchase of tobacco for the next month, to the factory or place of storage designated by the Minister of Finance.

Art. VIII.—No wholesaler of tobacco is allowed to take delivery of goods before he has paid the value thereof.

Art. IX.—Tobacco purchased by a wholesaler shall be delivered from the factory or the place of storage.

The expense of the transport of tobacco from the factory or the place of storage to the district of a wholesaler shall be disbursed by the Government at regular rates. No such expense, however, shall be paid to a wholesaler in the district where a factory or place of storage exists, or in other districts of a corresponding nature.

Art. X.—No wholesaler is allowed to pursue the additional business of a retailer, nor can he occupy the same place of business.

Art. XI.—The places of business of wholesalers of tobacco shall be limited to one each. But in the case of tobacco manufacturers who own more than two factories, or of brokers of manufactured tobacco who are possessed of branches or agencies, transactions may be carried on exclusively in such places.

Art. XII.—No wholesaler of tobacco is allowed to change his place of business without obtaining the permission of the Minister of Finance.

Art. XIII.—In case a wholesaler of tobacco has to pursue an additional occupation, he must provide a suitable partition between one place of business and the other.

Art. XIV.—In case the price of tobacco is lowered or reduced a wholesaler of tobacco may apply to the factory designated by the Minister of Finance, within 15 days from the date of the enforcement of the altered value, for repayment of the difference between the value of tobacco purchased at the former rate and held until the day of the enforcement of the altered price, and the amount shall be calculated in accordance with the altered value.

In the case specified above, the documents as well as a statement of accounts concerning repayment, which together may be taken as evidence in regard to the classification and name of the tobacco, its distinctions as to wrappers, as well as its quantity or amount, must be presented at the factory.

Art. XV.—In case it is found that the manufactured tobacco has deteriorated in quality or its wrappers have been damaged, the wholesaler may apply for exchange at the factory designated by the Minister of Finance. In this case, however, the wholesaler is required to prepare a minute statement of particulars concerning such tobacco, preserving the latter to be inspected by the authorities concerned, and forward the same to the factory, together with a certificate from them.

In the above case, if the exchange is attributable to circumstances for which the wholesaler is to be held responsible, or if the caase of exchange lies in circumstances for which a retailer is responsible in the case of tobacco which has been received from him either for exchange or repurchase, the wholesaler must pay (to the Government) a sum of money corresponding to the amount of diminution in the value thereof.

Art. XVI.—In case a retailer claims exchange in accordance with Art. XXII. or repurchase in accordance with XXIV., the wholesaler is in no way allowed to refuse.

Art. XVII.—Wholesalers of tobacco are required to prepare account-books as per Form Nos. 3 and 4 and to present a monthly return of receipts and payments connected with tobacco, to the supervising Branch Monopoly Office, not later than the 5th of the ensuing month.

Art. XVIII.—In case there is no successor to his business on the death of a wholesaler of tobacco, or his nomination has been withdrawn, or his business is entirely relinquished, application may be made to the factory designated by the Minister of Finance, asking for the repurchase of the tobacco actually on hand.

In the above case, if it is found that the quality of the tobacco has deteriorated owing to circumstances for which the wholesaler is responsible, or that its wrappers have been damaged from causes for which a retailer is to be held responsible, in the case of tobacco which has been received from the latter for the purpose of either exchange or repurchase, a sum of money corresponding to the amount of diminution in value shall be deducted from the sums to be refunded.

Art. XIX.—Retailers of tobacco shall be appointed by the Minister of Finance. Manufacturers of tobacco or brokers in manufactured tobacco, who were not nominated as jobbers or wholesalers at the time of the promulgation of these regulations, and others who have undertaken the retail business of manufactured tobacco, or were engaged in the sale or purchase of leaf tobacco, may be nominated as retailers exclusively at the time of these Regulations coming into operation.

In case any person desires to become a retailer of tobacco in conformity with the above provisions, he must forward an application to the supervising Branch Monopoly Office by the 10th of May in the 37th year of *Meiji* (1904).

Art XX.—Tobacco retailers are not allowed to buy tobacco from any person other than a wholesaler.

Art. XXI.—Tobacco retailers are required to exhibit a price list of tobacco in the most prominent part of their business premises.

Art. XXII.—In case it is found that manufactured tobacco has suffered deterioration or its wrappers have been damaged, the retailer of tobacco may apply to have the same exchanged by the wholesaler from whom it was purchased.

In this case, however, the retailer must prepare a minute statement of particulars connected with it, and, preserving it separately to be inspected by the authorities concerned, forward the same to the wholesaler together with a certificate obtained from them.

In the case specified above, if the necessity for exchange has arisen from causes for which the retailer himself is to be held responsible, the retailer in question must pay for the diminution in value.

Art. XXIII.—Retailers of tobacco are required to prepare account books (Form No. 7) as well as a monthly return of receipts and payments connected with tobacco, and present them to the supervising Branch Monopoly Office, not later than the 5th of October and the 5th of April every year.

Art. XXIV.—In case there is no successor to the business of a retailer on his death, or his nomination has been withdrawn, or his business relinquished, application may be made to the wholesaler from which tobacco was purchased, asking for the re-purchase of the goods actually on hand.

In such cases, however, if it is found that the quality of the tobacco has deteriorated or its wrappers have been damaged, a sum of money corresponding to the diminution in value shall be deducted from the sums to be refunded.

Art. XXV.—The documents to be presented to the Minister of Finance as specified in these Regulations must be forwarded through the supervising Branch Monopoly Office.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PARTY OF AMERICAN NURSES.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Allow me to add a few words to supplement the note in the *Japan Mail* of the 23rd dealing with the practical side of the coming of the American Nurses. The thought I would express is one that was doubtless in the mind of the writer of the note.

Sympathy in America did not end in the expression of good wishes, valuable though this immaterial form is. It took form in the shape of a contribution to the fund for the relief of the families of soldiers, and beyond this it took a form far higher when it became incarnate in this party of Nurses. The beauty of poetry is not to be finally disposed of by weighing, analysing, and labelling, nor is a poetic deed such as this. But Tennyson has said it all in the Moral attached to "The Day Dream," and we may rejoice that some still dream dreams in the day:—

So, Lady Flora, take my lay,
And if you find no moral there,
Go, look in any glass and say,
What moral is in being fair.
Oh, to what uses shall we put
The wildweed flower that simply blows?
And is there any moral shut
Within the bosom of the rose?

* * * liberal applications lie
In Art like Nature, dearest friend;
So 'twere to cramp its use if I
Should hook it to some useful end.

I am, Sir, yours, etc., F. M.

PEARLS AND GREY DAYS.

[By Frances Campbell, in the "Westminster."]

The days are like jewels on a thin gold chain, each with a different colour, sparkle, and light, all its own. They mark the line of life, and we look back and count them all. The colourless gems of childhood, that were yet so rare because of their exceeding purity. The precious stones of early youth, and the more polished jewels of maturity. Diamonds cut into innumerable facets by keen egoism, chrysolite that was first love and borrowed the light of the sun. Turquoise that was the solidification of ineffable happiness, and ruby formed from the heart's blood. Each the expression of sheer triumphant life, each the embodiment of a day lived to its uttermost; till we come to the pearl, and with it the Grey Day. Look you; on the chain of life, it follows the blood-red gem which glows with the fire of a tropic dawn. Do you remember how that precious thing was made? With what agony we passed through our Passion towards the crucifixion of Self, and woke on the morrow to the stillness of the Grey Day, and the rounding of the Pearl!

After the agony there is surcease from sorrow—no more poignant pangs, no hopes, no fears. After the pain the silvery silence of the low grey sky, the drifting silvery cloud, the tall bare outline of the trees against the shifting shadow-lights; for it is in winter that the Grey Day comes, the leaf is fallen and the bough bare, and there is reason for this, as the Soul will see. There are no bird-songs on hill or in wood or fell, the mists hover across the silent hills, dimly vast, smooth as the bosom of Hertha asleep under the autumn leaves. The winds are low; they do not reach the tree-tops to move the feathery interlacing of twig and spray. The Soul is snatched across the border-line between Time and Eternity, and sits in that vast silence to which her suffering has opened the portal. And there she is, alone and hearkens to the voice of Wisdom. There is no interpretation of what the voice says. Only the Soul understands. She may not put it into speech, and the mortal part lets her craving fall away like a garment, and is re-born.

Then in this interspace comes Misery, and touches eyes and ears, and bids her look out and see; and lo! the hidden things are plain to view. The tones, that were too high and too low; the infinitesimal things that are given to the ministry of beauty, and serve the seeing eye—the songs that the earth-bound cannot hear. The height of the stars is not too high nor the abyss too deep but what sympathy can reach to them; and only suffering can bestow that marvellous intuition which makes the world merely a place of call. On the Grey Day the suddenly opened eye sees the earth green as emerald. She had never noted the beauty or the charm, but for the greyness overhead and around. Each faded bracken is gemmed with a thousand stars; the patch of moss on that boulder by the wayside is spread by the Fairies with softest brown velvet, for the display of those vermillion goblets, filled to the brim with nectar. There is a beauty now in the eye of age, in the wasted cheek, in the steadfast brow. The eye is open, and can see a thousand tints and forms hidden before because of the blindness of egoism and selfishness. A thousand impressions, strange and lovely, steal in on the newly awakened sense—the sixth sense, which is only to be bought with the sacrifice of Self, and is like fixed quicksilver in an amber ring. A potent thing from which nothing can ever be hid. Thus the pearl among the days is finished and moulded. The Soul looks at it as she sits aloof in the grey isolation which surrounds her, and lets it slip on the golden chain without thought of the canker-worm hidden at its core. All the heart-agonies, the sorrow, the desolation that went to fold and conceal the misery that lies enwrapped in those iridescent depths, are forgotton in the utter loveliness of the perfect gem. Nor can the Soul ever again sink to that plane on which sorrow met her. She lives on a higher level now, where the old joys look sordid and mean, and the new ones are the joys of others and not her own. She wears her chain of jewels at the banquet of the wretched and find happiness in comforting their woes. There, too, she finds a life undreamt of—tastes of the goblet of Life, and finds its exceeding bitter, and past all reckoning sweet, because of the bitterness. She is thankul now for the fennel which floats to her lips on the brimming wine, and looks back without repining to that day when she first raised it to her kiss, thinking it Hippocrene, taste of laughter and the sun, only to find it nauseous, maddeningly heady, and dark with those waters that start from the hidden fountain in the heart. Now the goblet is crowned with bitter leaves. That is what the Grey Day leaves to us all: a fennel wreath! She sits at its close with the perfect pearl dropped on the long chain, and the victor's wreath about her brows, her eyes alight with strength and calm peace. The tumult and the struggle are over, she has fought her own battle, now she lends her strength and knowledge to others. She hears the call of the afflicted, the low cry of unconsoled sorrow, the echo of an anguish that was once her own and out of her peace she gives comfort, the quiet and waiting of the Grey Day. When others sink in the mire of their doubt and misery this Soul speaks with resolution and holds up the jewel-chain of life, so that the pearl may shine, a white light in the shadowy way, towards which the most hopeless may struggle, for its meaning is clear to all. Thus the pearl is a treasure whose every layer is a ransom for some other soul, whose value would never have been realised had it not been for the fiery ordeal of terrible suffering, and the strength which comes of victory. These three may come to us all—the Ordeal, the Grey Day which follows it, and the pearl of great price made from the heart-pangs and the tears of sorrow. And it is, perhaps, the only jewel of all the long chain of days that we may take in our hands and carry with us to the White Throne.

POPULAR FEELING IN RUSSIA.

[From a St. Petersburg Correspondent.]

I have just made a trip through a considerable part of European Russian and Southern Finland, and while so doing I took the opportunity of studying the effect of the war upon the masses in Russia. Everywhere I was assured that the possibility of war was not even dreamt of as late as the 6th February, either by the masses or the "popes," by the *literati* or the merchants. One finds an easy excuse for this want of foresight in the prevailing system of secrecy and official tutelage, which by this recent fiasco stands condemned for ever. Intelligent people charge the Russian Government with having been as completely out-done by the Japanese as the stupid *moujik* by the mountebank in the Russian tale. It is declared an overwhelming shame that despite the "experienced" Minister at the Court of Tokyo, who served there twenty years ago, and despite his staff of interpreters and military and naval *attachés*, the dangerous degree of Japan's readiness for action was entirely overlooked. This error of judgment is taken as evidence of the complete incompetency of the Russian higher officialdom.

The masses in all the "Governments" I visited showed signs of being stirred up from their old resigned brooding; that flash of lightning from the cloudless sky stirred them like a miracle. Moreover, the recent extraordinary measures by the police and the Government invite them to think it over. There are patriotic meetings, calls for voluntary war contributions, leave-takings with the companies of soldiers singled out for new Siberian Regiments. As far as the police control these arrangements, everything passes off in perfect order. But he who goes among the crowds and compares his impressions with those of former years of general excitement, cannot fail to be struck by the remarkable change of the tone. The loyal manifestations are often performed with an obvious consciousness of irony; the lead being taken by notorious Nihilists or semi-Nihilists, or more often still, by people known for their reforming ideas.

Even more than the craft-guilds of artisans or the guild merchants, the masses of the *moujiks* and *rabotuchs* (peasants and labourers), the pedlers and coachmen appreciate the value of every participation in political manifestations. They are now imbued with the desire of putting in their vote when not only demands for the State but proposals for the betterment of their state are at issue. The ordered displays of feeling have prepared them for showing their own craving for a form of existence more worthy of human beings. This side-issue of the patriotic arrangements is by many officials declared to be of great political importance, and even of considerable danger to the existing order of things. Those Nihilist "patriots" who shout loudest when the cheers are given for the Tsar and for the War know how to make capital for their own propaganda. They demonstrate that now the Tsar wishes to hear the voice of his people directly, *i.e.*, without official intermediation. The most remarkable point is the disappearance of the former distrust of the academic class by the masses of the people. Formerly nothing was easier than to inflame the mob to use their fists freely on the riotous university students. Now the bystanders listen attentively when an uniformed lad, who is not even allowed to wear the national cockade on his regulation cap, cunningly tells them how many versts it is to Port Arthur, explaining that beyond Holy Russia the whole of the treeless and severely cold Siberian steppe is to be traversed until one comes to the vast country of Manchuria belonging to the Chinese, and that at the further end of it the Japanese are met, who received Port Arthur by right of conquest ten years ago, but were compelled to cede it to the Tsar. Many a peasant is quite awe-stricken when he hears that his son who has been enlisted for the Siberian Army, is to travel thousands of versts, first by the Manchurian and then by the Eastern Chinese Railways, ere he comes to the country of Korea where the Japanese are to be displaced at the point of the bayonet.

Under these conditions one cannot be surprised that the leave-taking at the railway stations is always depressing, tears being shed abundantly and the attitude of the young soldiers showing so much of despondency. It is felt that these lads go even further east than the emigrants to Eastern Siberia, of whom never any more is heard after their departure. Though the officers tell the relatives that by the Tsar's Lieutenant in the Kwantung territory everything is provided for receiving the soldiers, how many *moujiks* are there who have ever heard of the Lieutenancy created by the Ukase of July 31 (O. S.) or have a conception what Kwantung may mean?

On the other hand, the philanthropic agitators find it very easy to appeal to the understanding of the masses kindly brought together by the thoughtful authorities. About Tolstoy and his benevolent plans, about organisations of labourers, about the extension of facilities of learning, everybody has in our times of social activity heard something already. Now he is told that those riots of students and factory hands are in some way connected with these ideals. The ill-treated rioters thus appear as martyrs in a laudable cause. There are cases on record when throngs of *moujiks* purposely served as a wall for forbidden assemblages of students, and willingly suffered under the *baton* of the attacking police and the knouts of the Cossacks, in order to gain time for the endangered students to save themselves by bye-streets and lanes. The masses are easily persuaded that, by this fraternisation with the students, they are not opposing the real wishes of the Tsar, who has shown his desire for improving the intellectual standard and the welfare of the masses by his glorious Institution inscribed "Emperor Nicolas II.'s People's Palace" and by his public proclamations against the horrors of war.

Of all effects caused by this war up to the present, I consider this disappearance of antagonism between the students and the masses as the greatest change of the situation in Russia proper. For the upholding of the power of the bureaucracy it is about the most dangerous turn that could have come about.—*H. K. Daily Press.*

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

RESIGNATION OF VICEROY ALEXIEFF.

London, April 22.

Viceroy Alexieff has resigned, having found himself practically superseded except in civil affairs. Moreover, the appointment of Admiral Skrydloff, who is notoriously hostile to Viceroy Alexieff, was made without consulting him.

BRITISH MISSION TO THIBET.

The House of Lords has adopted a resolution authorising the Thibet expedition.

GREAT FIRE IN TORONTO.

Later.

A large fire has occurred in Toronto by which 130 buildings were destroyed. The loss is estimated at thirteen million dollars.

BULGARIAN PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

In pursuance of the agreement of April 9th, 495 Bulgarian prisoners at Salonika have been released; 311 others died in prison.

KUROPATKIN'S FORCES.

Reuter's correspondent at St. Petersburg says that General Kuropatkin has now 300,000 troops at his disposal. As this is sufficient for the present the despatch of further forces has been suspended.

ALEXIEFF'S REPORTED RESIGNATION.

Later.

It is not officially admitted at St. Petersburg that Viceroy Alexieff has resigned, though it is thought a way may be found to smooth matters temporarily.

THE BRITISH INCOME TAX.

London, April 23.

The House of Commons has adopted the Income Tax proposal by a vote of 214 to 116.

EXECUTION OF JAPANESE OFFICERS.

General Kuropatkin telegraphs that the Japanese officers captured on the 18th inst., named Sutewo Fukuoka and Teisuke Oki (captured while attempting to blow up Nonni bridge with guncotton) have been court-martialled at Kharbin, and sentenced to be hanged, but in view of their rank he had them shot, after rejecting their petition to spare their lives.

RUMOURED LARGE RUSSIAN LOAN.

Later.

It is reported in Paris that negotiations are proceeding with a view to the floating of a large Russian loan, possibly of thirty-two millions sterling.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

London, April 24.

The contract formally transferring the Panama Canal to the United States has been signed in Paris.

STRIKE ON HUNGARIAN RAILWAYS.

There is a strike on the Hungarian railways, involving 30,000 hands. The railways are almost paralysed. The negotiations have been without result. The prices of foodstuffs in Buda-Pesth are rising rapidly. The Government has called out the railway reserve regiment.

RUSSIAN LAUNCH TORPEDOED.

Viceroy Alexieff reports that while some launches were laying mines at Port Arthur one of the mines exploded under a launch and killed a lieutenant and all the men on board.

GREAT RECEPTION AT ROME.

London, April 25.

M. Loubet has arrived at Rome. King Emmanuel met him at the station and they proceeded to the Palace. He had a most enthusiastic and cordial ovation from enormous crowds. The whole city was gaily decorated. The scene was one of unsurpassed brilliancy and magnificence. The French and Italian Press emphasises the political importance of this rapprochement.

THE HUNGARIAN RAILWAY STRIKE.

The Hungarian railway strikers have accepted the Government's terms and have returned to work.

A POLISH PLOT.

A plot has been discovered to secure the independence of Poland and to blow up two new Russian cruisers which are arming on the Neva.

ALEXIEFF'S RESIGNATION NOT ACCEPTED.

London, April 26.

News from St. Petersburg is to the effect that the Czar has refused to accept Viceroy Alexieff's resignation at present, pointing out that at such a grave moment it is the duty of every Russian to forget private differences. The resignation was thereupon withdrawn, but it is believed that this is only a temporary arrangement pending Admiral Skrydloff's arrival.

PRINCE PU LUN IN WASHINGTON.

Prince Pu Lun (the Chinese Prince who passed through Japan at the end of last month) is meeting with exceptional hospitality in Washington. Mr. John Hay, Secretary of State, entertained him at dinner on April 24th, and President Roosevelt received him on the following day.

ROYAL VISIT TO IRELAND.

King Edward and Queen Alexandra have started for Ireland.

RUSSIA BUYS COMMERCE DESTROYERS.

The Russian Government has purchased indirectly nine German liners which will be fitted up as cruisers and will, it is reported, be used to prey on Japanese commerce.

DEATH OF REAR-ADMIRAL HENRY MAY.

London, April 27.

Rear-Admiral Henry May, C.B., is dead.

[There are two Rear-Admirals bearing the name of May. One is Henry John May, C.B., and the other is William Henry May, M. V. O., who is a Lord of the Admiralty and Controller of the Navy. The telegram therefore is not without ambiguity, but reasons which it is not necessary to set forth lead to the conclusion that the former officer is meant. The deceased was born in 1853, and entered the Navy in 1866. His service record reads:—Lieutenant of the *Superb* at the bombardment of Alexandria, 11th July. 1882; promoted; and during Egyptian war (Egyptian Medal, Alex. Clasp, Khedive's Bronze Star); Assistant Secretary to the Ordnance Committee for some time; Commander in command of *Racer*, at Suakin, in December, 1888; Senior Officer, and commanded the Naval Brigade at the defeat of the Dervishes at Gemaizah, near Suakin, by Sir F. Grenfell (Sirdar). K.B.C., 20th December, 1888; mentioned in despatches (Gemaizah Clasp); promoted to Captain for this service; Member of the Ordnance Committee, November, 1889, to August, 1890: Inspector of Warlike Stores for the Navy. August, 1890, to October, 1892; Osmanieh of the 3rd Class; C.B. on Her late Majesty's birthday, 24th May, 1892; Member of the Ordnance Committee; Member of the Committee of the Royal United Service Institution; Captain R.N. College.

The deceased officer married in 1883 Constance, daughter of Admiral Sir W. R. Mends, G. C.B.—ED. *J.M.*]

OPERATIONS ON THE YALU.

A telegram from General Kuropatkin states that the Japanese during the last few days have been actively preparing bridges at the Yalu to effect a passage at various points near Wiju. Two companies of infantry and a small detachment of cavalry actually crossed fifty kilometres below Siampoussiki, upon which the Russian outposts were strengthened.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO IRELAND.

Later.

Their Majesties King Edward and Queen Alexandra landed at Kingstown amid torrents of rain but received an enthusiastic welcome.

LABOUR MINISTRY IN AUSTRALIA.

A Labour Ministry has been formed in Australia. The Attorney-General is the only one who is not a member of the Labour party.

THE RUSSIAN BALTIC FLEET.

London, April 28.

The Russian Admiralty proposes to despatch the Baltic fleet by the Suez Canal, sending the colliers by the Cape and appointing a rendezvous in the Indian Ocean.

RUSSIA AND WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

It is understood that the Russian contention regarding wireless telegraphy meets with a good deal of support among naval and military men of the Maritime Powers.

(Received at the Legation of France.)

MORALE EXCELLENT.

Saigon, April 24.

Viceroy Alexieff reports that the morale of the squadron at Port Arthur is excellent.

FRENCH STATESMEN VISIT ITALY.

April 25.

M. Loubet and M. Delcassé have set out for Italy.

THE DESTRUCTION OF A LAUNCH.

It is announced in St. Petersburg that a steam launch while laying mines at Port Arthur was blown up, and 21 lives were lost.

SKIRMISHING ON THE YALU.

There have been some skirmishes on the Yalu.

MARINE STRIKE AT MARSEILLES.

The officers of the mercantile marine at Marseilles have gone on strike. The shipping service is suspended.

M. LOUBET.

M. Loubet is expected at Rome, where there is great animation and enthusiasm.

ITALIANS ACCLAIM THE FRENCH PRESIDENT.

Saigon, April 26.

The President of the Republic was cheered from the station to the Quirinal and had to appear twice on the balcony. The enthusiasm was indescribable. The city was magnificently decorated. After a private dinner at the Quirinal the President was present at a torchlight procession. On the forenoon of the next day he lunched at the French Embassy. There were renewed acclamations. Demonstrations took place in all the principal towns of Italy.

April 27.

The President of the Republic continues to be acclaimed with the same enthusiasm.

THE STRIKE AT MARSEILLES.

Saigon, April 28.

Work is almost completely interrupted at Marseilles owing to the strike, but otherwise everything is calm.

M. LOUBET AT ROME.

The Fête programme in connexion with the visit of M. Loubet to Rome continues without any special incident, in the midst of acclamations.

(Received at the Foreign Office in Tokyo.)

AUSTRALIAN POLITICS.

Sydney, May 22.

The Labour Party having contrived the rejection of the Government's Labour Bill, a change of the Federated Ministry is expected.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH AGREEMENT.

In connexion with the Anglo-French agreement, several Russian journals have remarked that Germany's isolation has been accentuated and that there is no course for her except to cultivate Russia's friendship more assiduously than ever. To this the *Vossische Zeitung* replies that Russia may think what she pleases about this matter. There are some Russians who imagine that Germany will take the lead in urging China to dispense with the services of Japanese military instructors. That is a most erroneous notion. There is no reason why Germany should go out of her way to assist a Power which extends its own political and military influence in China quite irrespectively of the interests of other Powers, especially of Germany. Even though China turn her face away from Russia and place reliance on Japan, that would not constitute any reason for Germany departing from the attitude of circumspection that she has adopted. It would be quite unreasonable to affirm that China is guilty of any violation of neutrality merely because she employs Japanese military experts to train her army. For it is not only China's right but also her duty to adopt such measures as may enable her to protect herself against Russian aggression. Germany is not to be expected to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for Russia. Neither is it to be supposed that because Russian journals depict Germany as having become isolated, she will be induced to change the policy deliberately adopted by her.

AMERICAN GUARDS LEAVE SEOUL.

Later.

Seventy men of the American Legation guard at Seoul have been sent away and will return at once to Manila, the number remaining being 27.

STEAM LAUNCH BLOWN UP.

A telegram from Viceroy Alexieff says that on the 22nd instant when several steam launches were engaged in laying torpedoes, one of the launches was accidentally blown up, a lieutenant and 20 men being killed.

THE EXECUTIONS AT MUKDEN.

Reuter's correspondent wires that the names of the two Japanese officers shot by the Russians at Mukden were Yokota and Aoki.

RUSSIAN SCOUTS SUFFER HEAVILY.

Viceroy Alexieff reports that a scouting party of Russians shot two Japanese soldiers near an island on the Yalu. (The name of the island is mentioned, but we cannot identify it.) The Viceroy further reports that a detachment of Russian troops numbering 32, under two officers, proceeded in three boats to the south of the River (an unintelligible name) and were observed by a Japanese force which opened fire, killing three men, severely wounding one officer and 11 men, and slightly wounding one officer and four men, (a total of 20 casualties out of 34).

THE EMPEROR OF KOREA.

The Emperor of Korea has expressed his desire to distribute 300 *yen* among the Japanese soldiers and gensdarmes who assisted in extinguishing the recent conflagration.

U.S. PERRY MEMORIAL FUND.

The movement for raising a Perry Memorial Fund in Aid of the Families of Men at the Front has been warmly approved in the United States. A committee of twenty influential citizens has been formed to promote the work, with Mr. S. L. Woodford as president and Mr. I. Foord as secretary.

PRINCE CYRIL.

On the 17th instant the Port Arthur journal stated that on the journey from Port Arthur to Mukden Prince Cyril's condition became somewhat dangerous.

THE "POBIEDA."

It is further stated that the injury suffered by the *Pobieda* amidships on the starboard side was due to a torpedo.

TO COMMAND PIGEON BAY.

The Vladivostock journal of the 15th instant alleged that a fort had been erected to command Pigeon Bay and that it had been armed with guns from the *Tsarevitch* and the *Retvisan*.

THE EAST CHINA RAILWAY.

In the same journal it was stated that 33 locomotives and 1,155 wagons had been sent from the Ussuri Railway to the East China Railway, and that the service of the former railway would probably be suspended.

A SAPIENT CONJECTURE.

The *Novy Krai* of the 19th instant conjectures that the *Petropavlovsk* was sunk by a torpedo discharged by a Japanese submarine.

THE YUENSAN AFFAIR.

It was at 12.30 p.m. on the 25th instant that two Russian torpedo-boats fired on and sunk the Japanese steamer *Goyo Maru* in Yuensan harbour. The torpedo-boats steamed out at 1 p.m. Four Russian men-of-war were seen in the offing, but nothing was visible of them at 5 p.m. The Japanese residents of the Settlement escaped to the neighbouring country.

(Received at the Naval Department in Tokyo.)

RUSSIAN DESCENT ON YUENSAN.

On the 25th instant two Russian torpedo boats entered the harbour of Yuensan and sank a Japanese steamer of 352 tons. This was a vessel engaged in the coasting trade, and the property of Mr. Hori. Subsequently a Russian man-of-war was seen standing towards the harbour. The Japanese women, children and old people seem to have escaped from the settlement.

[There are various rumours, but the above facts seem trustworthy.—Ed. *J.M.*]

JAPANESE SQUADRON IN THE YALU.

Admiral Hosoya, who commands the Third Squadron, forwards this report from the Captain of the *Maya*:

This squadron, as previously arranged, entered the estuary of the Yalu on April 25th. On the way up the enemy opened fire on us with field guns from a position on the river's bank opposite Yongampo. The range was long and they did not touch us. Subsequently we sighted some of the enemy's cavalry on an island in the river. We opened fire on them and dispersed them. On April 26th 100 Cossack cavalry opened fire on one of our launches. Our torpedo-boat No. 60 replied. The enemy, leaving several wounded upon the field, took cover behind a hill. There were no casualties on our side. At 5 p.m. on the same day the enemy opened fire on our squadron from the direction of Antsushan. We replied and at half past five, the enemy's fire having ceased, we also ceased firing.

We had no casualties.

(Received in Tokyo.)

WRECK OF THE "KINSHU MARU."

On April 26th the *Kinshu Maru*, a steamer belonging to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, was wrecked in the neighbourhood of Yuensan. The cause of the catastrophe and the number of lives lost have not yet been ascertained. The steamer was of 3,850 tons burden and 2,389 tons register. She was built in 1892.

(FROM THE "JIJI SHIMPO.")

CHINESE CRUISER A TOTAL WRECK.

Shanghai, April 27.

The Chinese cruiser *Haitien*, which recently went ashore off Woosung, is in such a condition that she can not be floated.

(FROM THE "N.-C. DAILY NEWS.")

DEATH OF VERESTCHAGIN.

London, April 16.

The painter Verestchagin, who was a guest of Admiral Makaroff on the *Petropavlovsk*, is among the drowned.

[Note:—Verestchagin was born at Tchereponeto in Novgorod on the 26th October, 1842, and entered the navy at seventeen years of age. He afterwards studied art at Paris under Gérôme, as well as at the Ecole des Beaux Arts and the St. Petersburg Academy. His travels took him through Turkestan, China, and India. He served in the Caucasus and in the Turkish war; saw the storming of Plevna, and again visited India in 1882-4, where he painted twenty illustrations of Indian history. His war pictures, for which he is more famous than his treatment of sacred subjects, include a cycle of twenty illustrating the campaign in Turkestan. Many of his pictures are collected and preserved in the Tretjakoff collection at Moscow. On board the *Petropavlovsk* he was the honoured guest of the ill-fated Admiral who so untimely accompanied him to that bourne where is no strife or war.—*N.-C. D. N.*]

THE TEA DUTY.

London, April 20.

Opinion in parliamentary circles is unanimous in condemning the increase in the tea duty.

THE AGREEMENTS WITH SIAM.

In the House of Commons, Earl Percy, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, stated that the agreements between Great Britain and Siam, relative to the Siamese dependencies in the Malay Peninsula, were strictly confidential, and it was not intended to publish them, in deference to the wish of the Siamese Government.

CHINA'S NEUTRALITY.

Peking, April 22.

Several telegrams received from the Tartar Generals of Kirin and Fêngtien provinces have stated that the Russian Government is vexing China whenever and in whatever way it can find a chance. The inclination must be to make China abandon its attitude of neutrality.

The Chinese Government seems to have decided to take a strong policy against Russia.

A few days ago the Government telegraphed to Viceroy Yuan Shih-kai to make war preparations secretly, and at the same time telegraphed to General Ma instructing him to keep a quiet and careful watch and await later orders.

A Chinese from Chaoyang states that General Ma's troops in that place are estimated at thirteen battalions, and it is believed that as soon as fighting breaks out between Russia and Japan near Newchwang, General Ma will transfer his camp to Chinchou to prevent the escape of the Russian troops.

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.

London, April 22.

The Government has approved of the appointment of Mr. Edward P. Guerritz, Sessions Judge at Labuan, and Judge of the High Court and Judicial Commissioner at Sandakan, as Acting Governor of British North Borneo.

(FROM THE "SHANGHAI MERCURY.")

FATAL BRAWL AT SINGAPORE.

Hongkong, April 20.

At Singapore at midnight on the 30th a brawl took place between English and Germans in a house of illfame, when a German engineer named Wurzburg was shot dead by a member of the Stanley troupe. He is now charged with the crime of murder.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

An auctioneer has been claiming that he once sold under the hammer "the house in Yorkshire in which 'Nicholas Nickleby' was written." It is difficult to see how anybody could have achieved that feat, however accomplished he might be in other directions. "Nicholas Nickleby" was not written in Yorkshire.

Interesting books still fetch high prices in England. At a recent auction conducted by Puttick and Simpson, the following volumes from the library of a clergyman changed hands:—"Horæ Beatæ Mariæ Virginis," MS. on vellum, written by a French scribe of the fifteenth century, £79; first edition of Oliver Goldsmith's "The Vicar of Wakefield," 1766, £75; and "Dives and Pauper," black letter, the second dated production of Pynson's Press, 1493, £41.

Among the historic revivals of street names in London might not "Grub Street" be allowed to reappear? "Groubs," says the *County Gentleman*, were the feathers of arrows, and it was in this street that the craftsmen who finished off the arrows had their shops. Later, when bows and arrows went out of fashion, "Groub" Street, which had been shortened to Grub Street, became a home of small printers, and a writer for "Grub Street" became synonymous with a literary hack. Later it became a drawback to the letting value, and the name was changed to Milton-lane.

Apropos of a case recently tried, when a solicitor in the City of London refused to puy the "Trophy-tax," which was originally imposed to defray the expenses of the City Militia and was resisted in this case because the tax is no longer used for its original purpose, it may be interesting to recall that Dr. Johnson was once drawn (*i.e.* selected by lot) for the Trained Bands of the City of London. Says Boswell: "It may be believed that he did not serve in person; but the idea, with all its circumstances, is certainly laughable. He upon that occasion provided himself with a musket and with a sword and belt, which I have seen hanging in his closet."

The collection of Nelson papers in the Department of Manuscripts in the British Museum has been increased by a series of letters written by Lord Nelson in 1799 and presented to the museum by the Navy Records Society, which received the letters as a gift from Mrs. Sinclair. Among other Nelson documents recently acquired by the department are the instructions issued by Lord Nelson to the officers under his command as to the tactics to be employed under various circumstances in case of their falling in with the enemy's fleet. These instructions were circulated during the campaign which ended in the victory of Trafalgar.

Attention has frequently been called to the excellent series of Thin Paper Classics which Messrs. Newnes are issuing. The works of Shakespeare, Milton, Burns, Bacon, Keats, Lamb, and many other of the great names in English literature find a place among the editions, and the latest volume to be added is "Tennyson's Poems, 1830-1859." The volume extends to over six hundred pages, but is exceedingly compact, and the fine, clear type, opaque paper, and lambskin binding render it one to have and to cherish. A portrait, printed on vellum, by Edmund J. Sullivan of the "mighty man of song whose deep-mouth'd music rolls through all the land" appears as a frontispiece.

A new story is going the rounds concerning Mr. Christie Murray, the novelist and some smart cockney lads. As is well known, he wears habitually a Quaker hat, from beneath which his white hair flows in ample volume. Alighting hurriedly from a hansom in Fleet-street, the other day, Mr. Murray collided with two newspaper boys, and made some quick comment on their being in the way. The youngsters gazed at him for a moment, and when one of them had carefully noted the features of the novelist—the long white hair, the fresh, clean-shaven face, the black velvet coat, and the Puritan hat, he blurted out: "Bill, I'm jiggered if it ain't old Quaker Oats come to life!"

From his writings one would not gather that Maxim Gorki was a humorist. But a short time ago, asked by his publisher to write his own biography, Gorki sent in the following account of his career:—In 1878 I was apprenticed to a shoemaker; 1879, I was apprenticed to a designer; 1880, scullion on board a packet boat; 1883, I worked for a baker; 1884, I became a porter; 1885, baker; 1886, chorister in a troupe of strolling opera players; 1887, I sold apples in the streets; 1888, I attempted to commit suicide; 1890, copyist in a lawyer's office; 1891, I crossed Russia on foot; 1892, I was a labourer in the workshops of a railway. In the same year I pulished my first story.

A most interesting Bunyan relic is about to find its way into the auction-room, being nothing less than the warrant on which the author of the "Pilgrim's Progress" was arrested just two hundred and thirty years ago, and imprisoned for six months in Bedford Gaol. The warrant, which is to be sold by Messrs. Sotheby, is signed by thirteen justices of the peace, six baronets, and seven esqiures. It sets forth, in the quaint language of the age, that "one John Bunnyon of yor said Towne Tynker hath divers times within one Month last past in contempt of his Majties good Lawes preached or teached at a Conventicle Meeteing or assembly under color or p'tence of exercise of Religion in other manner than according to the Liturgie or practise of the Church of England."

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Tacoma............	N. P. Co.	Pleiades	Sa. April 30
America	P. M. Co.	Korea [1]	W. May 4
Hongkong............	N. P. Co.	Hyades	Th. May 5
Hongkong............	C. P. R. Co.	Athenian	F. May 6
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Bayern	Sa. May 7
Hongkong............	P. M. Co.	Siberia	M. May 9
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic [2]	Sa. May 14
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. May 16
Hongkong............	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	Th. May 19
Hongkong............	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Sa. May 21

[1] Left San Francisco on the 16th inst.

[2] Left San Francisco on the 26th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Canada	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	F. April 29
Hongkong............	N. P. Co.	Pleiades	Su. May 1
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Hengloe	W. May 4
Hongkong............	P. M. Co.	Korea	Th. May 5
Europe	M. M. Co.	Polynesien	F. May 6
Tacoma............	N. P. Co.	Hyades	F. May 6
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Athenian	Sa. May 7
America............	P. M. Co.	Siberia	W. May 11
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Bayern	Sa. May 14
Hongkong............	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Su. May 15
America............	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Tu. May 24
Hongkong............	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. May 16

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Ferndene, British steamer, 2,148, Fisher, 22nd April,—Rangoon, Rice.—Dodwell & Co.

Shawmut, American steamer, 6,195, Wm. Smith, 22nd April,—Tacoma, Wash., via Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Formosa, British steamer, 2,616, B. H. W. Snow, 22nd April,—London via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Benledi, British steamer, 1,481, Bridgeland, 22nd April,—Karatsu, Coal.—Japanese.

Benlawers, British steamers, 1,484, H. W. Bee, 23rd April,—London via ports, General.—Cornes & Co.

Arabia, German steamer, 2,868, Bahle, 23rd April,—New York, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Prosper, Norwegian steamer, 788, Christiansen, 23rd April,—Moji, Coal.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,055, J. C. Jensen, 24th April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wingsang, British steamer, 1,544, Wm. Lambie, 24th April,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Meridian, British steamer, 2,248, Timmouth, 24th April,—Cardiff, Coal —Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Ulabrand, Norwegian steamer, 1,269, Anderson, 24th April,—Rangoon, Rice.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Lennox, British steamer, 2,361, McNair, 24th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Doric, British steamer, 2,936, Harry Smith, 25th April,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Sullberg, German steamer, 782, H. Meyer, 25th April,—Tientsin, General.—N. Y. K.

Monmouthshire, British steamer, 3,296, H. N. Vyvyan, 26th April,—London via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Huron, British steamer, 1,990, Walsh, 26th April,—Moji, Coal.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Regina Elena, Italian bark, 2,365, G. Ameglio, 26th April,—New York, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Tetartos, German steamer, 1,812, Dessler, 26th April,—Anping, Sugar and Rice.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Glenturret, British steamer 3,026, R. Webster, 26th April,—London via ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Benlomond, British steamer, 1,752, Clark, 27th April,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yat Shing, British steamer, 1,424, Thos. H. Sellar, 27th April,—Yokosuka, Ballast.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Terge Viken, Norwegian steamer, 2,304, Gulliksen, 27th April,—Rangoon, Rice.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Heathdene, British steamer, 2,277, W. J. Milburn, 27th April,—Muroran, Coal.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 28th April,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, E. Beetham, 28th April,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Marburg, German steamer, 3,888, Stern, 28th April,—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Polynesien, French steamer, 3,903, Le Coispellier, 28th April,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, F. H. Armstrong, 22nd April,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Annam, French steamer, 2,338, Girard, 22nd April,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Oopack, British steamer, 2,517, Baker, 22nd April,—Moji, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Khalif, British steamer, 2,219, Middleton, 22nd April,—Kobe, General.—N. Y. K.

Artemisia, German steamer, 3,656, Gronmeier, 22nd April,—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Loyal, German steamer, 911, Bukeman, 22nd April,—Hakodate, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Satara, British steamer, 3,327, Hartly, 22nd April,—Moji, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Eretria, British steamer, 2,255, Mulcahy, 22nd April,—Kobe, General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bergenhaus, Norwegian steamer, 2,344, Svendson, 23rd April,—Yokkaichi, Rice.—Otto Reimers & Co.

Shawmut, American steamer, 6,195, Wm. Smith, 23rd April,—Manila via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Samara, British steamer, 1,790, W. Lewis, 23rd April,—Muroran, Ballast.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Ariel, Norwegian steamer, 994, Rafen, 23rd April,—Karatsu, Ballast.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Ascott, British steamer, 2,786, C. L. Cox, 23rd April,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ismaila, British steamer, 3,381, A. E. Stebbins, 24th April,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Braemar, British steamer, 2,316, S. L. Saxby, 24th April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Prosper, Norwegian steamer, 788, Christiansen, 24th April,—Kobe, Ballast.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Benledi, British steamer, 1,481, Bridgeland, 24th April,—Kobe, Ballast.—Japanese.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,055, Jensen, 25th April,—Yokkaichi, General.—N. Y. K.

Upada, British steamer, 3,382, Sheldrick, 26th April,—Kobe, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Antenor, British steamer, 3,505, R. Williams, 26th April,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Benlawers, British steamers, 1,484, H. W. Bee, 26th April,—Kobe, General.—Cornes & Co.

Formosa, British steamer, 2,616, B. H. W. Snow, 26th April,—London via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Doric, British steamer, 3,936, Harry Smith, 27th April,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Lennox, British steamer, 2,361, McNair, 27th April,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sullberg, German steamer, 782, H. Meyer, 27th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yat Shing, British steamer, 1,424, Thos. H. Seelar, 27th April,—Moji, Ballast.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Monmouthshire, British steamer, 3,296, H. N. Vyvian, 28th April,—Karatsu, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, F. Beetham, 28th April,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per American steamer *Shawmut*, from Tacoma, Wash.:—Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Chapin, Miss F. Conrad, Miss M. Cooke, Miss M. B. Gladwin, Mr. H. H. Johnson, Miss E. B. King, Mr. H. W. Knight, Miss E. Kratz, Miss A. Mackerrett, Dr. A. N. McGee, Miss Neil, Miss S. E. Newell, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Nicholls, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Russell, Miss G. Russell, Mr. J. A. Wilkes, Mr. Dong York, and Mrs. Jong See and 2 children, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Wingsang*, from Shanghai via ports.—Mrs. Yamashita, Mr. T. Bucking, and Mr. C. Carlsen, in cabin; Mr. Gergain, Mr. Huen, Mr. Meadows, Miss Mayekawa, Mr. Guasa, and Mr. L. Guasa, in second class.

Per British steamer *Doric*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. N. J. Patterson, Mrs. W. N. Pickard, Mr. J. C. Edwards, Mr. A. P. Ferl, Miss A. Dunlap, Mrs. H. Krusi, Mr. E. G. Bauger, Mr. G. Bayfield, Mr. H. Krusi, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Solomon, Mr. Jas. Hayes, Capt. Stewart, Capt. H. Barnes, Sir. F. Treves, Mrs. D. Radcliffe, Mr. W. W. Wilson, Mrs. M. J. Patterson, Mr. R. W. Gurnutt, Mrs. J. C. Edwards, Mr. G. R. Summers, Mr. Earl B. Shaw, Mrs. K. C. Palmer, Mr. B. C. Howard, Mrs. Smith, Mr. H. Blum, Mrs. Thomas, Capt Steadman, Mr. J. J. Davis, Mrs. K. Stewart, Miss Daugaday, Lady Treves, Mr. E. Mildeberger, Mr. E. B. Smith, Mr. W. N. Pickard, For San Francisco:—Judge Waite, Miss M. Bousall, Master P. Jones, Mrs. A. W. Hastings, Mrs. A. A. Williamson, 2 children and maid, Miss E. S. Cole, Miss K. Sanitwoonzse, Mrs. R. W. Wells and infant, Mr. R. M. Shearer, Mr. C. H. Pullaway, Mrs. G. W. Gilbert, Rev. C. B. Newton, Miss A. B. Jones, Mr. J. Polglase, Rev. I. A. Robb and 3 children, Miss J. B. Torrence, Mrs. G. B. McFarlane, Mr. H. F. Merrill, Miss Merrill, Lieut. Buchholz, Mrs. C. S. Barff, Mr. R. H. Schneelock, Mr. T. Wessell, Miss L. Beecroft, Mrs. E. E. Jones, Hon. C. A. Willard, Mrs. J. J. Lossius, Miss B. Moller, Mr. R. W. Wells, Mrs. R. M. Shearer, Mr. G. W. Gilbert, Miss B. F. Brustgruen, Mrs. C. B. Newton, Miss M. E. Pratt, Miss L. R. Rogers, Dr. G. B. McFarlane, Mrs. Byrnes, Mrs. H. E. Merrill, Capt. A. Knights, Lieut. Forstmann, Mr. J. Conner, Mrs. Sommers and Capt. A. Fick in cabin. Overland rejoining at Yokohama:—Mr. A. A. Williamson.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. J. O. Bakken, Mr. W. G. Parkes, Mr. and Mrs. Gunn and child, Mrs. and Miss Wood, Mr. I. Furse, Lieut. Warleigh, R.N., Mrs. E. W. Clark, Miss Houghton, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Welch, Mr. G. H. Drummond, Mr. and Mrs. Keenan, Mrs. J. Beck, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Wright, Mrs. Corlies, Mr. J. D. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. McGee, Mr. and Mrs. Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Barclay, Mr. S. Murese, Mr. Bates, Mr. Thane, Miss Reid, Miss Laughton, Miss Peacock, Mr. J. W. Copmann, Mr. J. Westphalen, Mrs. White and infant, Mr. J. Green, Mr. J. Jacob, Mr. Miyaka, Mr. K. Yendo, Mrs. E. M. Davis, Mr. T. Tetzuka, Mr. Paxton, Mr. Richter, Mr. T. W. Hellyer, Mrs. Strauss, Miss Scott, Miss Esdale, Mr. C. T. Purvis, Mr. J. Briggs, Mr. J. T. Hamilton, and Miss Clarke in cabin; 21 intermediate, and 312 in steerage. For Vancouver, B.C.:—Mrs. A. Foy, Mr. and Mrs. J. Collis, Mr. Hart Buck, Mr. B. D. Stowell, Mr. F. R. Adams, Mr. F. O. Rinker, Mr. H. Hewitt, Dr. and Mrs. Mazelhaes and 2 children, Mr. E. Sharp, Mr. W. M. Cameron, Mr. E. W. Rutter, Lieut. B. S. Browne, Lieut.-Engineer N. C. Rush, R.N., Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, Mr. H. B. Holmes, Mr. C. D. Upington, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Watson, Mr. J. O. Bachelor, Mrs. Dr. Ellis, Mr. G. C. Linha, Miss Williams, Mr. A. S. Piers, Mr. P. McFarlane, Lieut.-Col. Rowcroft, Mrs. R. H. Stokes, Lieut. and Mrs. A. Potter, Judge J. F. Cooper, Mr. F. T. Baines-Hewitt, Mr. H. E. Cutler, Mr. and Mrs. S. Fawnes, Rev. A. P. Begg, Miss Howard, Miss Gregg, Mr. and Mrs. C. Temperley, Mr. and Mrs. Teesdale Smith, son and maid, Mr. Temperley's valet. Dr. and Mrs. Peters, Rev. W. P. Bashart, Miss L. King, Mr. and Mrs. J. Cooper, Mr. A. Fleet, Mr. E. C. Pearce, Lieut. F. S. Cooper, Mr. K. Meyer, Mr. J. H. Teesdale, Capt. N. E. Mason, U.S.N., Mrs. Nathan, Mr. and Mrs. Crompton, and familyt, Mr. Settle, U.S.N., Mr. and Mrs. G. Main, Miss L. Sloan, Mr. and Mrs. McLeish and 2 daughters, Mr. A. Shewan, Mr. J. Hunt, Miss M. James, Mr. O. R. Coales, Mr. A. Granzella, Miss E. Payne, Mr. G. Moner, Mr. E. Serra, Mr. A. E. Cooper, and Mr. E. F. Darflinger in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. T. Asaka, Mr. Baggallay, Mr. A. B. Brent, Mr. Burgoyne, Mr. A. Campbell, Mr. Cravan, Miss E. Fraser, Capt. Gundlach, Mr. E. C. Hochapfel, Mr. H. R. Hunt, Mr. E. Klamke, Mr. Henry Lapp, Mrs. E. Marston, Mrs. E. C. Mills, Mrs. Mills, Mr. H. D. Morrison, Mr. J. G. MacKenzie, Mr. G. K. Nuttall, Mrs. Osnow, Mrs. Rafael, Mr. A. S. F. Rankin, Dr. F. Sato, Mr. Schro h, Mr. W. J. Smith, Mr. Taverner, Mr. E. B. Ward, Mrs. Ward, Miss Ward, Mr. C. Washburn, Mr. Weiss, Mr. A. Wortman and Mr. S. Yamamoto in cabin.

Per French steamer *Polynesien*, from Marseilles via ports:—M. le Baron Stelli, Mr. and Mrs. Sanchis, Mr. Scandella, Mr. Herrera, Mr. Ch. Pettit, Mr. Positano, Mr. Kawahara, Mrs. du Eros, Mrs. Cartier, Mr. and Mrs. Pearse, Mr. Hell, Mr. Rolland, Mr. Patin, Mrs. Reyes, 2 infants, and amah, Mr. H. C. Groves, Mr. Henri Loy, Mr. Zeng Koé-zé, Mr. Chas. F. Rhine, Mr. G. W. Colton, Com. Jackson, Mrs. C. Kuhn, Mr. Schudler, Mr. and Mrs. Conrad, Mrs. Miyasaki, Dr. Schluter, Mrs. D. Satow, 1 infant, Mr. Boker, Mr. Erboloh, Mr. Chappel, Dr. Paira Mall, Mr. Baird Reid, and servant, Mr. and Mrs. Souberan, Messrs. Yoshida and Furuya, Mr. Takashima, Mr. Arthur V. Pinson, Mr. Janseus, and Rev. W. D. Davies in cabin; 16 in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Annam*, for Marseilles via ports:—Major Mugabure, Rev. Pere Guerin, Mr. Justman Jacob, Mr. E. Blum, Mr. John Westphalen, Baronne de Corvizart, Mr. D. Corvizart, Mr. J. Schœninger, Mr. H. Blum, Miss B. Johnstone, Mr. Ch. Laurent, Mr. Ernest Wallach, Mr. D. Becker, Mr. N. Kondo, Mr. T. Ogilvy, Mr. J. Smith, Mr. T. Ishida, Mr. Fong In Nen, Mr. Gustaf Jausson, Mr. Emile Nilsen, Mr. Massheus Larsen, Mr. Erik Lundgren, Mr. A. M. Bhagwagar, Mr. W. E. Boling, Mr. Kok A. Ming, Mr. Pava Lip Tjay, and 43 Chinese students, in cabin; 4 sailors, in steerage.

Per American steamer *Shawmut*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. F. F. Brears, Mr. S. A. Cobean, Capt. Colquhoun, Col. F. Hawkins, Mr. H. Johnson, Mr. H. W. Knight, Dr. A. S. Nathan, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Nichols, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Russell, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Sharpe, Mrs. and Miss Saunders, Miss F. Conrad, Mr. F. W. Stein, Mr. Doug Yok, and Mrs. Jong See and two children, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Coptic*, for Hongkong via ports:— Mr Ludovic Brignandy, Mr. F. M. Brooks, Mr. W. H. Cochrane, Mrs. W. H. Cochrane, Miss Ellen Cochrane, Miss M. Cochrane, Mr. T. L. Colton, Mr. J. W. Copmann, Mr. P. A. Crosthwaite, Mr. Wong Fook, Mr. L. E. Glover, Mr. Thos. B. Glover, Mr. A. W. Gordon, Mr. Fred. W. Hartford, Mrs. H. V. Henson, Mr. B. C. Howard, Mr. E. C. Jeffery, Mr. J. A. Kalbach, Mrs. J. A. Kalbach, Mr. J. M. Krause, Mrs. J. M. Krause, Mr. C. B. Lehmer, Mrs. A. F. McKenzie, Mr. Geo. Middleton, Mr. W. O. Morse, Mr. T. G. Neal, Mrs. S. C. Pass and child, Mrs. P. M. Price, Mr. E. Quackenbush, Mr. Geo. W. Read, Jr., Mr. G. E. Rockwood, Mrs. G. E. Rockwood, Mr. S. Saito, Mr. Wm. J. Schroth, Mr. H. Eca da Silva, Mr. B. Weil, Mr. M. X. C. Weinberger, Mr. B. Wightman, and Mr. A. E. Yeager, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Formosa*, for London via ports:—Capt. Clements, Mr. W. A. Grebst, Mr. W. Atkinson, Mr. F. Bridalecombe, Mr. F. Chaloner, Mr. J. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. H. Bullard, Mr. H. Bullard, Jr., Miss Bullard and two children, Mr. E. P. Fishwick, Mr. Sutherland, Mr. G. Barnes, Mr. T. Withers, Mr. C. W. Robison, Mr. W. T. Osborne, Mr. F. W. Petrie, Mr. J. G. Cook, Mr. J. W. Donaldson, Mr. Bailey, Mr. R. James, Mr. Heke, Mr. Craven, Mr. Peck, and Mr. J. E. Clements, in cabin; 20 Europeans, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Doric*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mrs. C. S. Barff, Capt. H. Barnes, Mr. Louis Basch, Miss L. Beecroft, Mr. C. Bernard, Miss Bonsall, Mr. Edward L. D. Boyle, Mr. L. Bramsen, Miss Brustgruen, Mrs. Byrnes, Miss E. S. Cole, Mr. J. Connor, Mr. C. Craig, Miss Helen Edgerton, Capt. A. Fick, Lieut. Forstmann, Mr. C. H. Fullaway, Mr. G. W. Gilbert, Mrs. G. W. Gilbert, Mr. J. Hammernik, Miss I. Harris, Mrs. A. W. Hastings, Mr. C. Isono, Mr. E. V. Jeltes, Miss A. B. Jones, Mrs. E. E. Jones, Master Preston Jones, Dr. I. Katsuki, Dr. T. Katsunuma, Mrs. H. L. Keith, Mr. D. Kerr, Mr. M. Lallouette, Mrs. J. J. Lossius, Mr. G. H. Mallory, Dr. G. B. McFarlane, Mrs. G. B. McFarlane, Mr. J. Meurer, Mrs. J. Meurer, Mr. H. F. Merrill, Mrs. H. F. Merrill, Miss H. Merrill, Miss F. Meyers, Miss B. Moller, Mr. Walter Moller, Rev. C. B. Newton, Mrs. C. B. Newton, Mr. J. Polglase, Miss M. E. Pratt, Rev. R. I. Robb and child, Miss Alice Robb, Master R. Robb, Miss L. R. Rogers, Mrs. M. M. Rudd, Miss K. Sanitwoonzse, Mr. D. M. Scott, Mrs. D. M. Scott, Mr. R. H. Schneelock, Mr. R. M. Shearer, Mr. Earl Shaw, Mrs. Summers, Miss J. B. Torrence, Judge F. G. Waite, Mr. R. W. Wells, Mrs. R. W. Wells and child, Mr. Th. Wessel, Hon. C. A. Willard, Mr. A. A. Williamson, and Mrs. A. A. Williamson, two children and maid, in cabin.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw & Waste silk shipped per steamer *Annam*:—

	RAW.				WASTE.			
	Lyon.	Option.	Marseilles		France.	Suisse.	M'chester.	
H. Bernardin & Co.	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
L. Gouilloud.........	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jardine, Matheson & Co................	—	120	—	—	—	—	—	—
Otto Streuli.........	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sieber & Co.	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	—
Herbert Dent & Co.	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—
Jardine, Matheson & Co................	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Jewett and Bent ...	—	—	—	—	—	20	60	—
Ulysse Pila & Co...	—	—	—	—	48	—	—	—
Total............	40	136	—	—	64	20	60	—

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The market is dull and little business is passing.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER YARD.
White Shirting—{40 yds. 36 in. / 50 yds. 36 in.} ...	0.09 to 0.10
	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	Y. 2.85 to 3.60
Grey Shirting—9 lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.80 to 4.25
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches...	3.00 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton Italians and Satteens...	0.20 to 0.40

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	Y. 0.35 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 32 in....	0.30 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches...	0.16 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.50 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 to 65 inches ...	0.90 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5 lb per lb	0.60 to 0.66
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	9.50 to 12.00
Victoria Lawns, [illegible] yards, 42-3 inches...	0.90 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0 lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches...	1.90 to 2.25
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 5 lb, 24-25 yards, 32 nches...	2.50 to 3.65

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Y. 140.00 to 150.00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	—
Nos. 38/42, Singles	—
Nos. 32, Doubles...	145.00 to 150.00
Nos. 42, Doubles...	155.00 to 160.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/100, Plain...	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	245.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	295.00 to 305.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	425.00 to 435.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling...	Nominal.	33
Indian Broach...		26
Chinese		23

METALS.

Hardly anything doing.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward...	Y. 4.05 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.30 to 4.60
Sheet Iron...	4.65 to 6.90
Galvanised Iron sheets	10.00 to 11.00
Wire Nails, assorted	5.15 to 5.75
Tin Plates, per box...	6.70 to 7.60
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.05
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1¼ inch)	5.00 to 5.50

KEROSENE.

No special change to note.

American	$3.24
Russian	3.05
Langkat	3.15

SUGAR.

Nothing new to report.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	Y. 7.00 to 7.50
Brown Manila...	7.10 to 7.80
Brown Dailong	5.90 to 7.30
Brown Canton...	6.40 to 8.40
White Java and Penang...	8.20 to 9.10
White Refined...	10.50 to 13.00

INDIGO.

No business.

	PICUL.
Java, Medium to best...	270.00 to 320.00
Calcutta, Medium to best	180.00 to 290.00
Madras (*Kurpah*), Medium to best ...	140.00 to 170.00
Madras (Dry Leaf), Medium to best...	100.00 to 140.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Buyers operated freely at the low rates ruling but business has been checked by holders asking more money. We leave quotations unchanged, for doubtless old prices will be accepted after a little delay to see how things go. Crop prospects remain good.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra Best, Coarse	Y.	—	
Filatures—Extra, Fine		—	
Filatures—Extra, Coarse		950 to	960
Filatures—No. 1, Fine		—	
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse		880 to	900
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine		900 to	910
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse		860 to	870
Filatures—No. 2, Fine		880 to	890
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse		—	
Common—Coarse		—	
Re-reels—Extra		—	
Re-reels—No. 1		—	
Re-reels—No. 1½		880 to	900
Re-reels—No. 2		—	
Re-reels—No. 3		—	
Kakedas—Extra		—	
Kakedas—No. 1		900 to	910
Kakedas—No. 1½...		880 to	890
Kakedas—No. 2		860 to	870

Skin-Tortured Babies
AND TIRED MOTHERS
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INSTANT RELIEF and refreshing sleep for Skin-tortured Babies and rest for Tired Mothers in warm baths with CUTICURA SOAP, and gentle anointings with CUTICURA OINTMENT, the great skin cure and purest of emollients, to be followed in severe cases by mild doses of CUTICURA RESOLVENT PILLS, to cool and cleanse the blood. This is the purest, sweetest, most speedy, permanent, and economical treatment for torturing, disfiguring, itching, burning, bleeding, scaly, crusted, and pimply humours, eczemas, rashes, irritations, and itchings, with loss of hair, of infants and children, yet compounded.

MILLIONS USE CUTICURA SOAP

Assisted by CUTICURA OINTMENT, for preserving, purifying, and beautifying the skin, for cleansing the scalp of crusts, scales, and dandruff, and the stopping of falling hair, for softening, whitening, and soothing red, rough, and sore hands, for baby rashes, itchings, and chafings, in the form of baths for annoying irritations and inflammations, or too free or offensive perspiration, in the form of washes for ulcerative weaknesses, and for many sanative, antiseptic purposes which readily suggest themselves to women, especially mothers, and for all the purposes of the toilet, bath, and nursery. No other *medicated* soap ever compounded is to be compared with it for preserving, purifying, and beautifying the skin, scalp, hair, and hands. No other foreign or domestic *toilet* soap, however expensive, is to be compared with it for all the purposes of the toilet, bath, and nursery. Thus it combines in ONE SOAP at ONE PRICE, the BEST skin and complexion soap, and the BEST toilet and BEST baby soap in the world.

CUTICURA RESOLVENT PILLS (Chocolate Coated) are a new, tasteless, odourless, economical substitute for the celebrated liquid CUTICURA RESOLVENT, as well as for all other blood purifiers and humour cures. Put up in screw-cap pocket vials, containing 60 doses.

CUTICURA REMEDIES are sold throughout the world. Australian Depot: R. TOWNS & Co., Sydney. British Depot: 27-28, Charterhouse Sq., London. French Depot: 5 Rue de la Paix, Paris. POTTER DRUG AND CHEM. CORP., Sole Props., Boston, U. S. A.

WASTE SILK.

Market steady. Some business done in Filature Kibiso at quotations, and there is rather a better tone in the advices from consuming centres.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	170 to 175
Noshi—Filatures, Good	160 to 165
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Good...	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	—
Nsobi—Joshiu, Best	120 to 125
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	110 to 115
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	140 to 150
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	130 to 135
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	70 to 80
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	60 to 70

TEA.

There have been arrivals of new crop on a small scale and parcels have changed hands but the market is not yet fairly opened.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	55
Choice	50
Finest	45
Fine...	40
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common...	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, April 29.

London silver ⅜ higher and China sterling quotation ⅛ to ¼ higher have caused local rates on China to rule lower but have not affected other rates, which close for the outgoing mail per steamer *Empress of India* as under.

London—Bank T.T. ...	2/0⅝ @ $\frac{9}{16}$
— — Bills on demand ...	2/0$\frac{11}{16}$ @ ⅝
— — 4 months' sight ...	2/0¾ @ $\frac{11}{16}$
— Private 4 months' sight ...	2/0⅞ @ $\frac{13}{16}$
— — 6 months' sight ...	2/0¾ @ $\frac{11}{16}$
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight ...	253½
— Private 4 months' sight ...	258 @ 7½
— — 6 months' sight ...	259½ @ 9
Hongkong—Bank sight ... per $100.	90
— Private 10 days' sight do.	87½
Shanghai—Bank sight ...	80
— Private 10 days' sight ...	82½
India—Bank sight ...	150¼
— Private 30 days' sight ...	152¾
America—Bank sight ...	49⅜ @ ¼
— Private 30 days' sight ...	49⅞
— Private 4 months' sight ...	50⅝
Germany—Bank sight ...	205½ @ 6
— Private 4 months' sight ...	210
Bar Silver (London) ...	25⅜

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, April 29.

Helms, buyers at *yen* 45, sellers at *yen* 50. Grand Hotels, sellers at *yen* 230. Langfeldts a few shares on offer at *yen* 45. Nickels, sellers at *yen* 35. Engine and Iron Works, sales at *yen* 96, Kirin Breweries, sellers at *yen* 100.

	YEN.	
Brett & Co. Limited ...	8½	Nominal.
Club Hotel, Limited ...	70	Nominal.
Grand Hotel, Limited ...	230	Sellers.
Helm Bros., Limited ...	45	Buyers.
Langfeldt & Co., Limited...	45	Sellers.
C. Nickel & Co., Limited ...	35	Sellers.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Founders...	450	Nominal.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Ordinary...	75	Buyers.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Preference.	70	Nominal.
Japan Brewery Co., Limited ...	100	Sellers.
Yokohama E. & I. Works ...	96	Sales.

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAY 7TH, 1904.

MARRIAGES.

On May 2nd, at Spremberg, Germany, EDMUND TROELTSCH, of Wasungen, to MARTHA, third daughter of Mrs. CARL RICHARD, of Spremberg.

On May 4th, 1904, at the British Consulate-General, before E. M. Hobart Hampden, Esq., Acting Consul-General, and afterwards at Christ Church, Yokohama, by the Rev. W. P. G. Field, M.A., HORACE WILFRED, eldest son of FREDERICK C. BUCKLAND, Sevenoaks, Kent, England, to CATHERINE ELIZABETH, eldest daughter of WALTER FINCH PAGE, of Dzushi, Japan.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THREE cases of small-pox were reported on April 28th at Moji.

GENERAL VISCOUNT S. SAKUMA has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Tokyo Guards.

DURING April, the foreign trade of Hakodate was: exports, *yen* 12,593; imports, *yen* 16,421.

IT is rumoured that the Duke of Sutherland will succeed Earl Minto as Governor-General of Canada.

THE estimated cost of H.M.S. *Glory's* refit by the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company was £28,142.

THE death was announced on April 13 of Chow Khoon Tan, mother of the Queen of Siam and Princess Devawongse Svasti.

GENERAL TERAUCHI, Minister for War, sent Colonel Nagayama, his Aide-de camp, on May 1st to the residence of the widow of Captain Sakurai, (who went down in the transport *Kinshu Maru*), to convey a message of condolence.

OWING to a landslip a coolie was killed on April 30th below the Hachiman-yato hill, Yokohama, where he was working.

SIR JAMES LYLE MACKAY, K.C.I.E., has been elected a director of the Suez Canal in succession to Sir E. S. Dawes, K.C.M.G.

THE Tokyo Bay Steamship Company's steamer *Taura Maru* went ashore on May 1st at 10 a.m. off Yokosuka and sank. All the crew were saved.

COLONEL S. HORIBA, who was connected with a libel case in the Court of Cassation was deprived on April 28th of the Sixth Rank and Third Class of Merit.

MR. OURA, Minister for Communications, inspected, on May 1st, the construction work on the railway line between Maidzuru and Higashi-Maidzuru.

ACCORDING to a passenger who arrived on April 28th at Shimonoseki the Japanese commenced on the 22nd to remove the torpedoes laid by the Russians in the Yalu near Yong-Ampho.

A MAN named Asano, a former official of the Takasaki Tax Bureau, who was charged with having set fire to the office, was sentenced to death on May 2nd in the Maebashi District Court.

MARQUIS ITO entertained Prince Li Chi-yong and his party on April 28th at noon at his villa in Oiso. Marquis Yamagata, Governor Sufu and some officials of the Imperial Household were present.

ON Friday the Order of the Sacred Treasure (5th class) was conferred upon Mr. Wm. George Smith, of No. 2 Hiroo-cho, Azabu, as a recognition of his services as English teacher at the Nobles' School (Gakushu-in).

A FERRY boat with soldiers of the 12th company of the 25th regiment capsized on May 2nd on the Toyohira river, Sapporo, the result being that three men were drowned. They were on their way to the barracks from drill.

NINETEEN RUSSIANS, seven Chinese and five Germans of the crews of the Russian ships detained at Saseho since their seizure, having been released, were to arrive on May 2nd at Nagasaki, there to embark for their homes.

WITH the approval of Her Majesty the Queen and the sanction of the Japanese Government, Miss Ethel McCaul, R.R.C., accompanied by Miss Elaine St. Aubyn, has left for Japan to see and report on the working of the Japanese Red Cross Society.

THE Dato Meldrum, otherwise Mr. James Meldrum, of Johore, who died there on the 11th, aged 83, was one of the oldest European residents in the Straits, having come out originally in May, 1848, from Calcutta by the paddlewheel steamer *Eliza Penelope*.

THE Russian reverses are the principal topic in Afghanistan. The Amir, lately reviewing his regiments, referred eloquently to the success of Japan, and expressed the hope that his army would give a similar account of themselves if necessity arose.

ACCORDING to Mr. Tanimoto, purser of the steamer *Independent*, chartered by the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, which arrived on April 28th at Kobe from Taku, China, which she left on the 24th, business at Chefoo and Tientsin is entirely suspended. Cargo is very scarce. Fears with regard to the alleged floating mines are prevalent at all the Chinese ports.

THE nominal editor and publisher of the *Chuo Shimbun* were each sentenced in the Tokyo District Court on April 27th to two months' imprisonment with hard labour and a fine of *yen* 5 on the charge of having published an article insulting Mr. Ikariyama, Chief of the Kagacho Police.

THE Naniwa Railway Company held a general meeting on April 28th at Nara and declared an interim dividend for the last half-year at the rate of 2 per cent. The shareholders elected a committee consisting of eleven to consider a proposal with regard to amalgamation with the Kinki Railway Company.

COUNT MATSUKATA, President of the Japan Red Cross Society, telegraphed on April 28th to the President of the U. S. Red Cross Society with reference to the arrival of Dr. McGee and her party, and at the same time expressed his cordial thanks for the valuable assistance which he anticipates will be rendered by those ladies.

A SIMLA telegram dated April 8th says:—The plague mortality continues to rise in Upper India, the Punjab last week returning 19,000 deaths and the United Provinces 8,000. Elsewhere there is little change in connection with the disease, but this serious outbreak has raised the weekly total of deaths from plague throughout India from 43,000 to 46,000.

NOT long ago, the *Globe* records, a heavy load of old iron was being carried in a cart down the Strand. The lumbering vehicle blocked the traffic, and the British 'bus-driver began to search eagerly in his mind for some suitable comment. At last he found one. "Nah, then," he said, with asperity, "get on there with yer Russian Navy."

THE first consignments of building material for the new floating dock at Kiaochau have left Germany. The dock will consist of five separate pontoons, with a total loading capacity of 16,000 tons, and will be able to accommodate the largest battleship in the German Navy, as well as the big liners of the Hamburg and Bremen Steamship Companies.

THE latest news of the everlasting Acheen war comes from Pangkalan Brandan:—The last expedition under von Daalen, which set out on 29th February, was very successful. It is unnecessary to speak of many small skirmishes, for mention is needed only of the large engagements which were at Rercho, Pasir, Pepareg, and Kotta Lintang in the course of which 541 Bataks were shot by the Dutch troops; 310 dead was the result of the fight at Pepareg. Rajah Bukit and all his followers fled to the mountains. The Dutch casualties were 3 killed and 30 wounded. The expedition is advancing.

A MOVING story of cruel sufferings and gallant rescue at sea comes from Havre, where the British ship *Cairnisia* has just landed the crew of the new Brunswick timber ship, *Mary A Troop*, whom they had picked up in mid-ocean. The vessel had become water-logged after being struck by a fearful cyclone, and the crew of 13 men and the captain's wife had to take hurriedly to a raft, with nothing to support life but 10 tins of condensed milk and one of preserved apricots. In this way they drifted for 26 days, enduring unspeakable agonies from hunger and thirst. One of the men died in a state of madness, and the others were reduced to a truly pitiable condition when picked up.

SUCCESSFUL CROSSING OF THE YALU BY THE JAPANESE ARMY.

Saturday, April 30.

The *Nichi Nichi's* correspondent, Mr. Kuroda, sends a detailed account of the skirmish at the Yalu on the 7th of April. It was an insignificant affair in one sense, but very curious in another. A party of 14 Japanese soldiers put off from Wiju in a small boat and crossed to the first island to make a reconnaissance. Seven remained in the boat and 7 landed. During the absence of the latter, the men in the boat were discovered by a detachment of 70 Russian sharpshooters. Unwilling to be taken prisoners, the 7 plunged into the river, but owing to the floating ice and the extreme cold, only 1 reached the other side, the remaining 6 being swept away. The Russians, thinking they had disposed of the whole, went away, and after an interval the seven scouts returned, found the boat and escaped in her.

The same correspondent describes the first encounter between reconnaissance parties. It took place on the 11th, but was nothing more than an interchange of shots. On the 12th an attempt was made by a party of Russians under a lieutenant to cross to the Japanese side by the regular route from Kiulien to Wiju. They embarked in three boats and, coming under the fire of a detachment of Japanese infantry under Captain Matsui, were driven back, leaving three dead and having several wounded. Captain Matsui called for volunteers to cross to the island whence the Russians had embarked and to bring back the bodies lying there. Among them was the corpse of the lieutenant in command. In his bosom were found three photographs, one of an old lady, apparently his mother, another of a young woman, doubtless his wife, and the third a picture of children. The officer himself seemed to be about 30 years of age. The Japanese were deeply moved by the spectacle. They buried the body with military honours, interring on either side the corpses of the corporal and private who had shared the lieutenant's fate. Tablets were erected to mark the spot.

There is no Japanese official news from the Yalu but some statements are made by Generals Floug and Dessino. They are rather confused statements, chiefly owing to the impossibility of identifying the names of places which have been in the first instance transformed into Russian guise and then transliterated into Japanese *kana*. The gist of the matter seems to be, however, that after three days' preparation the Japanese began to throw bridges over the Yalu during the night of the 25th and 26th. Two bridges were constructed. One, apparently a pontoon bridge, was at a point 15 versts above Wiju; the other, a bridge of boats, was at a point below Wiju, but how far below the account does not say. During the building of these bridges several gunboats and torpedo-boats entered the estuary and aided the military operations, using search-lights and quick-firers. On the night of the 26th, the Japanese began to cross by these bridges, but the artillery fire of the Russians smashed the bridge above Wiju and it became unserviceable. The lower bridge, however, was crossed safely, and a force of Japanese infantry with artillery advanced against Kiulien-ching at noon, but was repulsed by the Russian fire.

That is the sum of what Generals Floug and Dessino have to tell. We can be quite sure, from past experience, that their story does not err on the side of favouring the Japanese. The one indisputable fact which emerges is that the Japanese have succeeded in crossing the Yalu. The destruction of the bridge above Wiju matters little since they have secured a passage lower down, which passage will of course remain available unless the Russians can drive them back across the river. As to the so-called advance against Kiulien, the strong probability is that the Japanese forces did not essay the assault of the place immediately after crossing the river, but that they advanced a certain distance inland to take up a good covering position.

As to time—the night of the 25th—the Floug-Dessino report tallies with that already received from Captain Hosoya as to the naval operations in the estuary of the Yalu. It appears pretty plain that without the assistance of the gunboats and torpedo-craft the crossing of the river below Wiju might have fared as did the attempt to cross above.

An interesting feature of the naval operations in the estuary is that torpedo-boats engaged land batteries. Both probably had guns of the same calibre. The batteries failed to touch the boats and we have no information as to the effect of the latter's fire on the former, but the Japanese say that the field guns ceased firing.

It is to be observed that according to a London telegram, General Kuropatkin has ordered the withdrawal of the troops from the Yalu.

A Chinese junk left Tatung-kou on the 22nd April and reached Chefoo on the 28th. She reports that at Kiulien there are 1,000 Russian troops; at Antung 2,000 under General Mischenko; on hills in the neighbourhood there are 15 guns; at Tatung-kou there are 500 men, and at Takushan 1,000 men with 6 guns. The Russians had laid torpedo-mines near Yong Am-pho but the Japanese removed them. Originally the Russians had three small steamers at Antung, but one of them ran ashore and another, which set out a few days ago for Takushan, has not been heard of.

A Japanese who reached Chefoo on the same day says that the roads in northern Korea are now tolerably good and that the Japanese army is in high spirits. On the island of Fusan (Hu-shan) opposite Wiju there were 2 battalions of Russian troops with 40 guns. (These are doubtless the guns that destroyed the Japanese bridge. Ed. *J. M.*) The Russians had of late showed signs of assuming the offensive. Their headquarters were at Fenghwang, and reinforcements were constantly moving up from Liaoyang. It was said that Kuropatkin himself had set out from Liaoyang to assume the direction of operations. There are about 20,000 Russians in Fenghwang; some 12,000 in Antung; about 9,000 in Kiulien; and some 2 or 3 companies at Tatung-kou. The enemy had laid mines at various places in the river near Tatung and Kiulien, but these had all been discovered. The defences at Chansong (above Wiju) were weak. The Russians had burned all the trees on the islands in the river.

Later.

There is another short official report from the Yalu. The gist of it is that on the 29th of April a squadron of torpedo-boats opened fire on the enemy's position on the right bank of the river in the estuary below Yong Am-pho. No reply being made by the Russians, the boats returned to their base. Thereafter a squadron of armed launches—probably carrying 37-m.m. guns—steamed up stream (the position taken seems to have been above the second island) and opened fire upon a body of about 150 Russians who, leaving many killed and wounded, retreated behind a hill called Santaolingtau. The former operation concluded at 10.55 a.m. The time of the latter is not stated but presumably it was also in the morning. The Japanese sustained no loss.

Another report from the same source shows that exactly similar operations were undertaken on the 30th April. On this occasion, however, the Russians replied to the fire of the torpedo-craft below Yong Am-pho, and it is stated that the launches were confronted by a force of 400 Russian infantry and cavalry, with whom were artillery also, but we fail to discover from the report whether the artillery were included in the 400. The engagement seems to have been brisk and the Russians were driven back, the launches having no casualties. The operations were evidently preliminary to or a part of some larger programme of which we shall soon hear.

Sunday, May 1.

Official Reports from the Yalu.

General Kuroki's official reports from the Yalu began to reach the War Department in Tokyo on the 27th instant and their publication commenced on the forenoon of the 1st. The first of these reports says:—

(1) By way of preliminary to bridging the river a reconnaissance in strength was made by the Guards on the 26th instant, on which occasion they took possession of the island called Kuli-tao (the second in order counting from the Korean side of the river above Wiju). A section of the Second Division simultaneously obtained possession of Keumchong island (which is the first island in the river immediately opposite to Wiju). The enemy retired precipitately to Kiulien. In these engagements our casualties were, in the Guards Division, —— killed (the number is illegible), severely wounded 4, slightly wounded 16; in the Second Division no killed or wounded. The enemy were seen to carry off many killed and wounded.

One of the enemy's wounded who was tended by our hospital corps was found to belong to the Twenty-Second Regiment of the East Siberia Rifles. He said that the 23rd and 24th Regiments of the Brigade were also in front; that the brigade was under the command of Major General Tsurumieff; that each regiment consisted of two battalions, and that attached to each was a squadron (140 strong) of mounted scouts.

The enemy have 8 guns (9½ cent.) mounted on a hill behind Kiulien and with these they opened fire upon our troops at Sohotung. They appear to have also two Hotchkiss pieces on an elevation in the island of Husan. The only firing done on this day by our artillery at Won-hwa-tong was when they discharged 3 shells at a body of the enemy, apparently a commanding officer's staff on Husan.

(2). The enemy's artillery at Kiulien opened on our men at about noon on the 26th. A private of the Guards was wounded by a shell. On the 27th also this fire was renewed from time to time. Our artillery did not reply. The body of Ensign Senioroff was found on the bank opposite Kuli tao and was interred at the back of Wiju.

(3) On the evening of the 25th instant a naval squadron under Captain Nakagawa entered Yong Am-pho. It consisted of the gun-boats *Uji* and *Maya*, two torpedo boats, and 2 armed steamers. The *Uji* was fired on

by the enemy at Antsu-shan. On the morning of the 26th a torpedo-boat and a launch proceeded to sound the river higher up near Antsu-shan. From 5 to 5.30 p.m. the squadron engaged the enemy at Antsu-shan and silenced his guns. It also fired upon a body of about 100 cavalry. The squadron had no casualties.

(4) On the 28th the enemy were observed to be engaged on some works to the north of Kuilien, They fired upon our men from time to time. Ninety-five corpses of horses were found on the bank opposite Kuli-tao (these had been shot in the engagement on the 26th) and 6 were captured alive.

(5) On the 28th instant two companies of the Guards crossed to Husan to reconnoitre, and sent a detachment to Yielcha-won, where 30 of the enemy had taken up a defensive position. These were driven off. The enemy left 5 dead upon the field. They belonged to the Twenty-second Regiment of Rifles. About this time the enemy opened fire on us from a battery to the south-east of Yushu-kao, but he failed to inflict any injury. From batteries in the vicinity of Kiulien the enemy frequently opened high-angle fire, and his shells fell on the west of Kuli-tao, Wiju, Soha-tang and Hoinhwa-tong. This was to oppose an attack from our side. Even during the night this fire was occasionally renewed. His practice was weak and, on the whole, ineffective. It inflicted no injury. We did not reply. The Twelfth Division, having dispersed a force of the enemy from the opposite bank of the river at Sukuchin, proceeded to bridge the river at that place.

(6). At 3 a.m. on the 30th instant the Twelfth Division finished the construction of a bridge over the Yalu at Sukuchin (this is the place where the Japanese crossed in 1894), and passing over the river, reached the position originally indicated. This movement was completed at 6 p m.

(7). At dawn the Second Regiment of Field Artillery and the Regiment of Heavy Artillery reached their appointed position. At 10.40 a.m. the enemy's guns, posted on eminences to the north and east of Kiulien-ching, opened fire on our scouts who, setting out from Keumchang, had crossed the first two branches of the Yalu and reached Chung-gang-dai (a small hamlet situated on the island that lies between the second and third streams of the river). This fire commenced the action. Our guns replied and the fire soon grew hot. At 11.15 a.m. the enemy's guns at Kiulien ceased firing (or were silenced, the expression is not clear). Eight guns mounted by the enemy on a hill at Makau opened fire on a bridge thrown by our men over the river at Kuli-tao (the first island on the Korean side of the river just above Wiju). The artillery of the Guard replied. After about 10 minutes' engagement the enemy's guns ceased firing. At 12.30 p.m. the enemy's artillery at Kiulien and Makau again came into action, but at 1.20 p.m. was again silenced by our fire. It appeared that our fire had inflicted great injury on the enemy. We had 5 officers slightly wounded, 2 non-commissioned officers and men killed and 22 wounded.

(8) The bridge thrown over the main (central) stream of the Yalu having been completely finished by 1 p.m., the troops crossed in force to Husan island and advanced to occupy the highlands.

(9) The naval squadron under Captain Hosoya took part in the fight at positions below Antung. A sharp fight took place between 400 infantry and cavalry of the enemy and the naval armed launches.

(10) The army is to continue the attack as planned at dawn to-morrow (1st).

(11) The enemy's shells have a high initial velocity and their time fuses are set for ranges of 7,500 metres and over.

LATER REPORT.

At dawn the army commenced the attack. as planned, with artillery. At 7.05 a.m. the enemy's guns on Yushukan were silenced. From 7.30 a.m. the various Divisions advanced, covered by artillery fire. Between 8.15 a.m. and 9 a.m. the high grounds from Kiulien to the north of Makau and Yushukan were captured.

The enemy numbered 30,000, with a front extending four miles.

Monday, May 2.

DETAILS OF THE FIGHTING.

It appears that in order to cross the Ai River the men of the Twelfth Division had to wade in water up to their arm pits. It was an exceedingly difficult matter for them to keep their rifles and ammunition dry, but they succeeded. Fighting in wet garments was an additional hardship, and we can not but express sincere admiration for the conduct of these gallant men.

The troops the enemy had in position on the Yalu consisted of the whole of the Third Division of Rifles; two regiments of the Sixth Division of Rifles, namely, the 22nd and the 24th Regiments; General Mischenko's Cossacks, two brigades; and a brigade of artillery with 40 field-guns and eight machine-guns. Roughly speaking these forces represent two Divisions, or at least 25,000 combatants.

The latest report puts the Japanese killed and wounded at between 700 and 800. No estimate can be formed on this side as to the Russian casualties. In addition to losing 28 guns, they had twenty officers and a large number of rank and file made prisoners. It is further stated that captures continue to be made, the long boots of the Russian soldier incapacitating him for flight.

With the twenty-eight guns there were also captured their teams and wagons. Concerning these guns there is a perplexity. In stating the enemy's strength, General Kuroki assigns to him 40 field-pieces and 8 machine guns as his total force of artillery. But in stating the captures, the same report speaks of 28 machine guns and a large quantity of rifles and ammunition. Probably this second report errs as to the nature of the guns taken.

During the 1st instant the naval squadron rendered every possible assistance. The gunboats *Maya* and *Uji* ascended the river to Antsu-shan and Lutankan, respectively, and the torpedo-boats went as far as Sztan. These various craft engaged the enemy at two or three places. The squadron opened fire on the Russian position near Antung. Between 1 and 2 p.m. a conflagration was observed in Antung. According to the statements of natives, this was caused by the Russians themselves. They set fire to Antung and evacuated it. To burn the town on leaving it was an act of wanton destruction.

The left wing of the Japanese army in its final advance extended to a distance of 7½ miles below Wiju. The Guards were in the centre. The reserves advanced along the Kiulien-Liao-yang road, being thus virtually in the rear of the Guards. The right wing, which consisted of the Twelfth Division, extended 13 miles above Winj Thus, orughly speak ing, the length of front covered by the three Divisions in their advance was 20 miles, but of course they were not equally distributed throughout the whole distance.

The Japanese took into the field one or two batteries of heavy guns; that is to say, guns of very much larger calibre than is usual in field-pieces. These guns are said to have proved most effective. Without the assistance of the Navy it would not have been possible to transport them. They were, in fact, carried over-sea to the estuary of the Yalu. To their fire a Russian officer who was among the prisoners attributes the wounding of the Russian Commander-in-chief and a General of Division.

The Russians retreated upon Fenghwang, which is only some 38 miles from Wiju. Probably they will make another stand there.

Tuesday, May 3.

All the leading Japanese journals published on Tuesday morning an analysis of the Battle of the Yalu, showing that their view of the strategical features corresponds almost exactly with that taken by ourselves. There was nothing particularly novel in the disposition. Novelties are scarcely possible where the problem to be solved is perfectly familiar and the means of solution to be employed dictate sameness of method by their very nature. To cross a river in the face of a powerful enemy it is essential, first, to silence his artillery, in part at any rate, and, secondly, to conceal the point at which the passage is to be seriously attempted. As to concealment, it is merely a question of degree. There can not be any effectual hiding of such doings. Thousands of men throwing a bridge over a big river make an object that can not possibly be hidden from the view of an enemy posted on commanding heights. The so-called concealment, then, consists simply in organizing several similar movements, any one of which may be cardinal, though in reality all but one are secondary. If the enemy can be so far deceived as to fail in distinguishing on which movement reliance is chiefly placed, and if he thus can be induced to divide his forces for the purpose of devoting attention equally to all the movements, the object of strategy is sufficiently attained. At the battle of the Yalu General Kuroki organized four crossing movements; one by the fleet operating in the estuary of the river; one by the Second Division, operating at a short distance below Wiju; one by the Guards, operating just above Wiju; and one by the Twelfth Division, operating at Sukuchin, 13 miles above Wiju. The last was the really important effort. It was directed along a line which carried the Division behind Tiger's Hill to heights on the bank of the Ai River, an affluent of the Yalu which encircles a group of hills lying behind Kiulien-ching (the walled town opposite to Wiju). The duty before the Twelfth, then, would be to wade across the Ai—the water being breast deep—and carry by assault the enemy's entrenched positions upon the eminences called Yushu-kau and Ma-kau, the capture of which by the Japanese would render Kiulien completely untenable for the Russians. As for the other Divisions, the Guards, crossing just above Wiju, were to move against that town, and then against the heights of Hoh-mu on the opposite bank of a river of the same name. These heights had been chosen by the Russians as a rallying point in rear of Kiulien. They covered the main road and thus secured the retreat of the Kiulien garrison and of the forces posted on the Yushu-kau and Ma-kau heights.

The Second Division, after passing the river, was to incline down stream towards Antung, and then, turning northward, was to pass the Laoku-kau heights, capturing them if necessary, thereafter placing itself athwart the Kiulien-Liaoyang road so as to cut off the enemy's retreat. There was, very little probability of the Russians continuing to hold Antung while a large force of the Japanese interposed between that town and Kiulien as well as between it and the main road to Liaoyang. In fact, the chief duty of the Second Division was to threaten the communications in rear of Antung and Kiulien.

The artillery duel which took place throughout two days prior to the crossing movements, showed a decided superiority on the Japanese side. How much of this was due to superior gunnery, how much to heavier metal, how much to a larger park, we can not tell. The Russian field artillery are armed with the French gun; a weapon of great force firing 20 rounds a minute. Each battery consists of 6 guns and therefore discharges 120 shells per minute. The calibre is 8.5-cent. but the gun labours under the disadvantage of being very heavy. According to official reports, the Russian park consisted of 48 pieces, out of which the Japanese captured 28, and the captured guns were all of the machine type. On the other hand, General Kuroki, in a telegram sent to Tokyo while the artillery duel was in progress, said that the enemy's batteries crowning the heights above the Ai River were firing 9.5-centimetre shells with a time-fuze set for a range of 7,500 metres. It is difficult, therefore, to tell what was the composition of the Russian park. The probability is that some of these heavy 9.5-cent. guns would have been among the pieces captured, but they were not. On the Japanese side there was the Arisaka field gun, a weapon corresponding in many features with the German field piece, and there were also some heavier guns, of which the censorship regulations forbid us to speak in detail, though we may say that they appear to have been carried by the navy to the mouth of the Yalu, and that they proved very effective.

The operations of the naval flotilla in the estuary of the Yalu helped, doubtless, to divide the attention of the Russians. Moreover, they contributed materially to the evacuation of Antung. For, on the 1st instant, the gun-boat *Uji*, supported by torpedo-vessels and armed launches, pushed up the river to a point within range of Antung, which town, being simultaneously threatened by the turning movement of the Second Division, was evacuated by the Russians.

On the 30th the bridge built across the first branch of the river at Sukuchin by the Twelfth Division having been completed, the Division crossed this branch at dawn and took possession of the central island, namely Tiger's Hill Island. The Guards Division, similarly crossing the first branch to the island of Ku-li-do, commenced an artillery duel with the Russians posted on the Makau eminences behind Kiulien; and the Second Division, crossing to the island Keumchong, engaged the Russian guns in Kiulien. The fire of the two Divisions had practically silenced the Russian artillery before noon on the 30th, and the Second Division, crossing the central branch of the river, took up a position on the opposite island of Chung-gang-dai, being thus separated from Kiulien by only one branch of the stream. The Guards, however, do not seem to have advanced equally on their side until a later hour. The Russian batteries on Makau re-opened fire against their position in the afternoon, and a second artillery fight took place. Meanwhile the Twelfth Division had been engaged bridging the central branch of the Yalu, and at 9 p.m. the Division crossed to Tiger's Hill Island, where it appears to have taken up a position that evening. The sum of the matter, so far as we know, is that the three Divisions, at nightfall on the 30th, found themselves confronting the furthest branch of the Yalu. This they crossed on the morning of the 1st, after another artillery engagement, and the Second Division turned down-stream towards Antung, which town it passed on its left flank and then headed northward so as to threaten the communications between Kiulien and Liaoyang. The Guards Division headed straight for Kiulien, and the Twelfth Division, crossing the Ai and having captured the entrenchments on the opposite eminences, headed across the rear of Kiulien, for Hoh-mu-tong, where the retiring Russians had concentrated for a renewed stand. This position seems to have been attacked by the three Divisions from three directions. It was there that the Russians lost twenty guns and many prisoners. Eight guns had already been captured by the Twelfth Division on the Yushukau and Makau heights.

The Second Division suffered most in these operations. That was because it had to pass along the front of the enemy's positions over comparatively level ground. Thus far its casualties are reported as 43 killed and 300 wounded, but the list will probably be found much longer. The Guards were the next heaviest losers, as they had to deliver the direct attack upon Kiulien. As for the Twelfth Division, it seems to have suffered least. Its advance lay through a mountainous district at first, and that may account for its comparative immunity. But this was the Division that crossed the Ai River and stormed the heights of Yushu-kan and Ma-kan. Had the Russians been tolerable marksmen, the Division must have been badly treated. The advance across the Ai seems to have been made in very extended order, the troops being covered by a line of skirmishers with a front of 4 miles. General Kuroki has not yet sent any definite statement of casualties.

Lieut.-General Sassulitch, who was among the wounded, had command of all the Russian forces between Liaoyang and the Yalu. The other Lieut.-General said to have been hit was Kashitarinsky (?), who commanded the Third Division.

The Casuality List.

General Kuroki, telegraphing from Kiulien at 2 a.m. on the 2nd instant, says:—

Owing to the very stubborn defence made by the enemy at Hoh-mu-tang, where he organized his second resistance, and where he fought to the very last with dogged bravery, our casualties must be put at some 300 more than the original estimate. The enemy clung to the position with great tenacity. Two batteries of his artillery had lost nearly all their horses and men before they raised the white flag, having previously broken the breech-pieces of their guns. One of the prisoners declares that during this fight Lieut.-General Kashitariwsky(?), who commanded a Division, as well as the officer commanding the Eleventh and Twelfth Regiments of Rifles, and the officer commanding the Brigade of Artillery attached to the Rifles, were killed, and that many other officers of rank shared their fate. Not until they were shattered by several attacks did the Russians retire. Since last evening many who had escaped hither and thither, came to our lines and surrendered. The prisoners consist of Lt.-Colonel Roeffski (?) and 30 officers, of whom 10 are not wounded, and 300 non-commissioned officers and privates, of whom 200 are unwounded. An exact statement of our killed and wounded can not yet be furnished, but at present the total is believed to be 798. The details, so far as is known, are:—

The Guards Division.

Officer killed	1
Officers wounded	4
Non-commissioned officers and men killed	17
Non-commissioned officers and men wounded	110
Total	132

The Second Division.

fficer killed	1
Officers wounded	6
Non-commissioned officers and men killed	43
Non-commissioned officers and men wounded	300
Total	350

The Twelfth Division.

Officers wounded	4
Non-commissioned officers and men killed	61
Non-commissioned officers and men wounded	251
Total	316

Thus the grand total is 123 killed (including 2 officers) and 675 wounded (including 10 officers).

Wednesday, May 4.

General Ishimoto's Statements.

The Vice-Minister of War, speaking at a meeting of the Marine Association, made some interesting statements, He said that the Yalu at Wiju has a width of from 7,000 to 8,000 metres, but that it is full of islands, large and small, the biggest of them having a circumference of some 10 miles. By these islands the river is divided into several branches. The passing of such an obstacle in the face of an enemy was a heavy task. Unexpected delay had occurred in moving the troops from Pyongyang to Wiju, the state of the roads being execrable, and the resources of the country having been completely exhausted by the Cossacks. With regard to the disposition of the troops for the attack, the Twelfth Division, which crossed at Sukuchin and worked round to the enemy's left rear through the hills on both sides of the Ai, is specially equipped for such operations. The Division is known in Japan as the *Sampo Shidan* (mountain-gun division). But General Ishimoto does not say whether, in his opinion, the Twelfth Division was able to carry its mountain-guns over the Ai River. Doubtless they were taken over the Yalu at Sukuchin and possibly over the Ai also, but if so the operation must have been very difficult. Kiulien is about 50 or 60 metres above the bed of the Yalu, and the bank on which it stands is precipitous. It is an ideal position for defending. The Twelfth Division, having taken up a position on the heights overlooking the Ai on the evening of the 30th, crossed the river at dawn on the 1st and attacked the flank of the Russians, who at that moment were engaged in an artillery duel with the Guards and the Second Division. The Guards and the Second Division both crossed the main branch of the Yalu from the same place, namely, the western point of Kulido island. On approaching Kiulien they separated, the Second Division moving down towards Antung and subsequently swinging across by the west of Kiulien and Hohmu-tang. The tenacity with which the enemy clung to Hohmu-tang is easily understood by observing that it is the point where the roads from Antung, Kiulien, Liaoyang and the Ai converge, but the strategical error of massing the entire force at one point is palpable.

GENERAL NOZU SPEAKS.

General Nozu, who commanded the Japanese when they crossed the Yalu in 1894, says that the Ai is not only deep but has a soft bottom, and that the feat of wading it and immediately marshalling on the other bank for an attack can scarcely be over-estimated. The General pays a very high tribute to General Kuroki, who is, he says, just the man for such work, having had large experience in the field and being not only fertile in expedients but also imperturbable and daring yet prudent. When the Japanese captured Kiulien in 1894, they took 70 guns from the Chinese—old-pattern weapons which the Chinese could not easily transport. Kiulien is itself a small place offering no facilities for the billetting of troops.

MARSHAL YAMAGATA'S COMMENTS.

Marshal Yamagata remarks that the attack and the defence on this occasion closely resembled those in 1894. In each case a bridge was built in the face of the enemy and a flanking force crossed at Sukuchin. But whereas General Kuroki bridged the river at Sukuchin, the Japanese in 1894 crossed it by wading. In 1894 the operations of the attacking party were aided by a thick mist, whereas on the present occasion the sky was clear. Heavy rain fell on the evening of the 1st, after the battle, but the forenoon was fine as was also the 2nd. It is very noticeable that whereas in 1894 the Japanese gunboats could not ascend the Yalu to a distance of more than 7 or 8 miles owing to want of proper charts, they were able on this occasion to get right up to Antung, thus contributing materially to the convenience of the commissariat and of the army hospital corps.

THE RUSSIAN VERSION.

Great interest attaches to the Russian statement about the battle of the Yalu, since from that statement we learn definitely that the Russians would have held the position if they could. The fact did not indeed admit of much doubt even prior to the battle, though many persons doubted it; but there was just a possibility that General Sassulitch might advance some allegation calculated to convey the impression that he retired of set purpose. His loss of guns and prisoners would have lent ridicule to any plea of the kind, yet for the sake of the Russian nation he might have made the essay. However, he admits frankly that he was beaten. But it will be observed that he attributes his defeat to the overwhelming superiority of the Japanese artillery. Now that is a very curious statement. There certainly was an artillery duel during the three days prior to the battle itself, but we fail to see how the Japanese can have taken any large force of artillery into action on the 1st instant when they stormed the Russian positions. The case is very clear. At only two places was the river bridged, at Sukuchin and immediately above Kiulien. Both bridges were thrown over the middle branch of the Yalu, and after crossing them the troops had still to pass the third branch by wading. As for the Sukuchin bridge, it spanned the Yalu only, and did not afford any help in the passage of the Ai River which lay beyond. Thus, on the night of the 30th of April, the Guards and the Second Division encamped on islands fronting the third branch of the Yalu, and the Twelfth Division bivouacked on the hither side of the Ai. The first thing to be done on the morning of the 1st was for the three Divisions to cross these rivers, and in doing so they had to wade, the Guards and the Second Division up to their waists, the Twelfth Division up to their breasts. That, at least, seems to be the interpretation of the accounts hitherto received, and it is the interpretation accepted in Japanese military circles. But under such circumstances no heavy guns could have been taken over to the Manchurian side. Moreover, the hardest fighting of all took place on the Hohmu-tang heights, where the Russians made their second stand: took place, that is to say, at a position some miles in rear of Kiulien-ching and therefore entirely out of range of any batteries which might possibly have assisted, from the southern side of the river, in the attack on Kiulien. It is difficult to comprehend the Russian General's statement that he was beaten by artillery. Before arriving at any definite conclusion, however, we must await further details. The question is one that will have immense interest for the French, since the Russian artillery is on the French pattern.

THE ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS.

Reports of the views expressed by English newspapers are brief. They do not appear to have discussed the strategical features of the affair with much minuteness as yet, their disposition being rather to congratulate the Japanese and to estimate the disturbing effect that this defeat will exercise upon Russian public opinion and on the spirit of the Russian troops. It may indeed be taken for granted that the Russians will be much chagrined. Their talk was tall, soared almost out of sight, when they undertook to predict the terrible chastisement they would inflict on these audacious Japanese so soon as they met them face to face in the land lists. The humiliation of defeat will be correspondingly keen. But it must appear to careful onlookers that the Russians will have to change their methods if they hope to crush Japanese armies. Close scrutiny shows a curious resemblance between them and the Chinese. Both made precisely the same mistake in their defence of the Yalu position. Both sat quietly to be attacked. The Russians did not show the least sign of offensive initiative. Neither did the Chinese. A defensive attitude has great advantages in these days of wonderful weapons of destruction, but to stand on the defensive without any offensive effort is to invite defeat. The Japanese had to attack under great difficulties, it is true, but can we imagine that General Kuroki would have launched his troops beyond a big river to assail a strong enemy strongly entrenched if that enemy had shown any capacity for enterprise? The Japanese General took the measure of his foe accurately, and unless the Russians grow to greatly changed dimensions pretty soon, they will probably fare no better in the future than they have done in the past.

THE FRENCH NEWSPAPERS.

It appears from a telegram to the *Jiji Shimpo* that the French newspapers publish the Russian official accounts only of the Yalu battle and refrain from mentioning the details furnished from Japan. They say that the retreat of the Russians upon Liaoyang will probably be an arduous business, and that General Kuropatkin's wisest plan might be to abandon Liaoyang. But it may be doubted whether such a view is founded on careful consideration of the facts. The Japanese certainly crossed the Yalu and won a signal victory on its northern bank. They crossed it, however, by wading the last branch, and we must conclude that their heavy artillery and their commissariat could not immediately follow them. The enemy having been driven away from the northern bank, no great difficulty could have been found in bridging the river for the passage of guns and provisions, but the operation would necessarily take some time, and pending its completion General Kuroki could not push forward to any distance from the Yalu. Troops are only human, and if we reflect on what the Japanese troops went through during the 29th and 30th of April and the 1st of May, we can appreciate the fact that a moment's respite was essential. If the accounts of the battle thus far received be correct, General Kuroki took a great risk. He moved his men across a river of some depth without any reasonably secure road of defeat in the event of discomfiture. Had the Russians driven back the Japanese and forced them to retire across the Yalu, something like an overwhelming catastrophe would now have to be recorded. It is admitted to be the part of genius to take such risks when proportionate success is within sight, and we must therefore take off our hats to General Kuroki. But unless he be a superhuman commander he will have to pause a moment before pushing on to Fenghwang, and in that moment the Russians will be able to recover breath. Evidently at this juncture also the command of the sea has proved of immense value to the Japanese. Not only was the flotilla under Captain Hosoya able to search the right bank of the Yalu up to Antung and possibly to render the Russian positions at the latter place untenable, but also after the battle the ships probably rendered great service in transporting provisions if not artillery. Nevertheless we do not share the French view that the Russian retreat is in imminent peril of being converted into a catastrophe. They may be assumed to have fortified Fenghwang-ching as an advanced base, and since from the Yalu to that place there is a distance of nearly 40 miles, some interval must elapse before the Japanese can reach the new position. There is one contingency which might create an immense peril for the Russians. That is the landing of a Japanese army at Takushan, or some other point on the littoral of the Yellow Sea, and its march direct upon the Fenghwang-ching—Liaoyang road. But such points of strategy are enveloped in splendid obscurity.

THE FLOUG-DESSINO ACHIEVEMENT.

This factory has been again at work. Its product with regard to the Yalu battle is:—"At midnight (apparently on the 29th) General Sassulitch crossed the Yalu and ordered 2 battalions of the 22nd, the 10th and the 12th regiments to attack the Japanese outposts which had taken possession of Husan and Yulchasan. These troops had mountain guns with them. They united with the artillery that had been cannonading Hotchțienzarori (?), and they drove out the Japanese. We had 2 men killed and 13 wounded; the Japanese casualties were 10 killed and 26 wounded. They left a quantity of rifles and ammunition and fled, one half to the Yalu, the other half to the north. On the same day a body of 1,500 Japanese with 12 guns attempted to cross the river at Anping (opposite to Sukuchin). Two companies of our infantry, a body of Cossacks and 2 mountain guns under Lieut.-Colonel Kuseff (?) attempted to oppose this movement, but were obliged to retire with 4 wounded, among them being the Lieut.-Colonel. General Sassulitch sent a force to assist them." (What then happened the factory does not say). "On the 30th a Japanese park of 24 field-pieces and 120 machine-guns, firing from a temporary battery constructed by us" (apparently on the south side of the Yalu) "fired unceasingly on our position at Kiulien from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. We replied with 8 field pieces until 11 a.m. During this artillery fight an immense force of the enemy crossed the river at Shindeago (?) and attacked a battalion under Colonel Kuramoff with two guns. Therefore our force retreated in good order from Husan to Poririnzu (?). Our casualties were insignificant and our guns were safe. The enemy's losses are unknown. On the 1st of May the enemy again attacked our army at Kiulien. We, according to our previously arranged plan, abandoned Kiulien and retired to Rushigo (? Lishukou) on the road from Hohmutang to Liaoyang."

The *Asahi Shimbun*, referring to this "previously arranged plan," calls it *teki no yoki seru haisen*, or in other words "the defeat the enemy expected." It would be superfluous to ask Generals Floug and Dessino whether the loss of 28 guns and several hundreds of prisoners, to say nothing of casualties, was part of the "previously arranged plan." More apposite is the suggestion made by an onlooker, namely, that these Generals might save themselves some trouble if, instead of manufacturing wonderfully clumsy fictions, they borrowed Mark Twain's description of his victorious combat:—"Then by a skilful manœuvre I inserted my nose between my adversary's teeth and held it there."

Friday, May 6.

THE ITALIAN AND AUSTRIAN JOURNALS.

The *Tribuna* observes that, considering the fact of the Russians being in a defensive position with everything in their favour on the Yalu and the Japanese having to attack a difficult position, the discomfiture of the former could not have been anticipated. The future alone can show whether the abandonment of Antung and the strong positions in its vicinity will prove advantageous to the general plan of General Kuropatkin.

Le Patrie observes that the Yalu Battle does not constitute a sufficient basis for building any theory as to the fate of the war in Manchuria, but certainly the fight on the 1st instant was of much importance as indicating that Russia's military dispositions are as imperfect as her naval. From a strategical point of view there can be no doubt that the retreat of the Russians was a victory for the Japanese.

Il Popolo Romano admits that Russia has suffered a mortal defeat in her first engagement but no immediate inference can be drawn as to the issue of the war.

The various journals of Vienna agree that this defeat will have grave moral consequences for Russia.

The *Frendemblatt* says that whereas everybody expected to see Russia reverse on land the defeats she had suffered at sea, such has not been the case. On the contrary the result of the first battle has been to demonstrate the ability of the Japanese General. Even granting that there be some exaggeration on the Japanese side, nothing can conceal the fact that Russia has suffered a defeat.

Another Vienna journal considers that the event will have the effect of inclining Russia to seek mediation.

Another strongly applauds the strategy and tactics of the Japanese and declares that Japan has now shown that in the field she has nothing to fear from the greatest Power in Europe.

Nevertheless all the Italian and Austrian journals agree in the very obvious view that this battle does not by any means decide the issue.

The Russian Consul at Tientsin is reported to have issued a circular to his colleagues declaring that General Kuroki's report of the Battle of the Yalu is false. This brave Consul seems to have been only laughed at for his pains. As well he might be, for what could he possibly know about the fighting on the Yalu? Without any desire to speak ill of the Russians we are bound to say that their official procedure throughout this war has been contemptibls. Any similar "squirming" and misrepresentation on the part of the Japanese would evoke from the world a shout of denunciation. Then indeed we should hear much of Oriental ways. Yet all is fair in war.

According to news received in Russia, no details of the Yalu battle have yet been made public, and the newspapers confine themselves to a broad statement that a retirement has taken place. Nevertheless public feeling is much perturbed. The nation had been earnestly looking for news from the field, being quite convinced that the first encounter of the land forces would atone for the defeats hitherto suffered by Russia at sea. Manifestoes hostile to the Government are widely circulated, in defiance of police prohibition, and are openly read aloud to listening audiences. It is stated that a feeling of profound dejection has been caused alike in court and in official circles by the receipt of the bad news.

According to General Sassulitch's official report the number of Russian wounded who have been brought in to Fenghwangteng is about 800. He has no certain record of the killed. Our readers know that there are 100 Russian wounded in the hands of the Japanese, besides 230 prisoners. Hence it would appear that the Russian casualties must have totalled fully 1,500.

THE "KINSHU" AFFAIR.

Monday, May 2.

It is reported that the Russian soldiers in garrison in Peking indulged in a night's jollification when they received news of the sinking of the *Kinshu Maru*. They are thankful for small mercies.

From the Floug-Dessino bureau the public learns that the Japanese transferred from the *Kinshu Maru* to the *Rossia* were 17 officers, 85 sailors, 65 coolies, and 30 soldiers. The remaining 200, having refused to surrender, were sunk with the ship. This does not differ greatly from the Russian report *viâ* Petersburg and London, except that in the Floug-Dessino version 85 sailors and 65 coolies are spoken of, whereas the St. Petersburg account is 85 coolies and 65 of the crew. The Japanese say that no soldiers were taken by the Russians. The Floug-Dessino factory says 30 were taken; the St. Petersburg telegram says 20.

The *Nakamura Maru*, which the Russians claim to have sunk, is obviously the *Goyo Maru*.

Later.

The public have probably been perplexed to reconcile the Russian and the Japanese accounts as to the composition of the prisoners taken from the *Kinshu Maru*, for whereas the Japanese say that not so much as one soldier was captured, the Russian return shows 20 military men. This discrepancy is due to confusion between military and naval. From detailed lists now published in Japan, it appears that 14 blue-jackets, 4 warrant-officers and 2 commissioned officers of the navy were on board the *Kinshu Maru*, and these are doubtless the 20 men mentioned in the Russian account. The remaining detail on board the vessel was

Naval labourers	17
Military labourers	60
Officers of the ship	11
Crew	57
	145

According to the latest Russian official report from St. Petersburg the persons captured were

Officers	17
Crew	85
Coolies	65
Soldiers	20
	187

These numbers are probably incorrect. It is unlikely that the Russians would have made any very accurate examination into the composition of the men captured. But it will be observed that their account is larger than the Japanese total by 22. The only apparent method of accounting for this discrepancy is to suppose that the Russians rescued some of the soldiers from the water after the vessel sank. They might and probably would err in their description of the details, but their total would scarcely be incorrect. We trust that this supposition will prove correct, as it will avert another disgrace from the Russians. They were undoubtedly justified in sinking the *Kinshu Maru* since the soldiers on board made no act of surrender. In this respect the case was analogous to that of the *Kowshing*. But so soon as the vessel sank it was the imperative duty of her sinkers to do everything in their power to save life, and if they failed to do so they will be disgraced. Their own account certainly does not suggest any such effort. It speaks curtly of having sent to the bottom the ship and the 200 soldiers who did not surrender. But until more positive proof is forthcoming, it would be unjust to lay this sin of brutality to Russia's charge.

Japanese newspapers are unanimous in regarding the incident as a petty affair with regard to its dimensions. For such losses a country at war must be prepared. They are also unanimous in declaring that the soldiers and their officers behaved in a manner worthy of Japanese *samurai*. Military forces are powerless at sea, and they are well aware of the fact. There was nothing to be done but to surrender or to die, and these men chose death, as is a soldier's duty. They assembled on the deck of the ship, fired their last volley and died. Nothing more could have been asked of them. Their last act was a message to their country; a message which she reads to mean that so long as Japan is served by such men she has nothing to fear. These journals are perplexed, however, by the conduct of Commander Mizoguchi and Paymaster Iida, who seem to have proceeded at once to the Russian ship and to have remained there. It is supposed that they went with the object of saving life and that the Russians immediately made prisoners of them, but among the comments evoked by their action it is easy to detect a note of dissatisfaction that they too did not choose death. Such a regret will give food for thought to philosophic observers. It illustrates vividly the difference between Occidental and Japanese views of death.

Captain Sakurai who commanded the company of soldiers and who died with them, has been honoured with the Order of the Golden Kite. He was an officer of high promise. In the war of 1894-5, while still a young lieutenant, he distinguished himself highly, conducting perilous and independent operations which demanded the utmost intelligence and zeal.

The soldiers that died were of the Fourth Division; that is to say, the Osaka Division. The Osaka troops have hitherto had a bad name among military men. They were charged with pusillanimity on the occasion of the first Formosa campaign, and the stigma clung to them ever afterwards. No opportunity of removing it was given to them in the war of 1894-5. But they have now rehabilitated their reputation.

Only faint reference is made—by the *Kokumin Shimbun*—to the fact that the *Kinshu Maru* was without naval escort. Yet that is the feature to which foreign attention will be chiefly directed. We interpret the silence of the Japanese press as an indication of unwillingness to dwell upon an error of which naval officers have declared themselves keenly conscious; unwillingness all the more explicable in view of the splendid service hitherto rendered by the navy. Perhaps the justest criticism is to say that this incident, despite the terrible loss of life it entailed, is fortunate for the Japanese. It will recall to their minds their own profoundly wise proverb *Katte kabuto no ō wo shimero* (fasten your helmet strings in the hour of victory). Not again, we imagine, will a transport be found without escort.

For the Russians this has been one—their first—stroke of good luck. They must have been very close to Japanese men-of-war during the night of the 25th—26th. Probably nothing but the heavy fog averted an encounter, and the fog was essentially an accident. What we wonder is that arrangements for using wireless telegraphy are not more fully made along the east coast of Korea. Detachments of troops placed at important points and having access to wireless telegraphic stations should effectually prevent these undetected forays.

Later.

From the detailed reports it appears that the soldiers on board the *Kinshiu Maru* burned all their documents and removed all badges from their uniforms, in order, even after death, that the Russians might not know to what regiment they belonged. After firing their last volley they gave three cheers for the Emperor and for Japan and went down.

There are signs that troops of Cossacks are riding down the eastern coast. Those that entered Songchin on the 16th were said to have retired northward from that place after burning the Japanese settlement, but some accounts represented them as having moved southward to Tanchhon, and it is now said that the Koreans seem to expect them at Pakchhong and are mending the roads to accommodate them. The town of Iwon, where the ill-fated *Kinshu Maru* called on the 25th, lies 27 miles above Pakchhong, and it may be assumed either that the *Kinshu Maru* left a force there or that the officers she carried saw no reason to adopt such a precaution. At any rate the Cossacks are not in sufficient force to effect anything considerable. The main trouble is that they seem to have the full sympathies of the inhabitants. The province of Hamgyong-do, as we have already explained, has long been noted for its Russo-phil proclivities. The people in its northern part cross freely into Russian territory and many of them become naturalized there.

Tuesday, May 3.

It appears from Admiral Kamimura's report that he had his squadron at Yuensan on the 23rd. That day he set out with the intention of proceeding to Vladivostock but the further he steamed the more densely he became enveloped in a fog. For three days he was unable to take any bearings, and during the greater part of the time he could not even discern the vessels of his squadron. On the 26th he returned to Yuensan, not being able to make Vladivostock in such weather. Then for the first time the sky cleared. It was precisely in this interval that the *Goyo Maru* and the *Kinshu Maru* were sunk, the former on the afternoon of the 25th, the latter after midnight on the same day. When Admiral Kamimura entered Yuensan on the 26th the fate of the *Kinshu Maru* was not known, but the Consul reported to him that she had gone northward escorted by the Eleventh Torpedo Division and that during her absence the Russian squadron had appeared and had sunk the *Goyo Maru* in port. The Admiral, apprehending that his torpedo-boats and the *Kinshu Maru* might have fallen in with the Russian cruisers, was about to set out in pursuit when the Eleventh Torpedo Division appeared. Its commander reported having convoyed the transport to Iwon, which place was reached at 2 p.m. on the 25th, and a body of troops having landed to make a reconaissance, the *Kinshu* and her escort set out again at 6 p.m. for Yuensan. The weather looked so threatening, however, that the torpedo division put into Chahopo for the night, leaving the transport to proceed on her way. The question then was, what had become of the *Kinshu*. Had she met the Russians or had she lost her course in the fog? Torpedo-boats were at once sent to search for her, the Admiral himself deciding to remain in Yuensan until the 27th. This intention he carried out, and while en route for Vladivostock on the day the squadron picked up a barge in which were a rifle (Japanese), and sword and a boat. There were no signs of blood, and it was conjectured that the *Kinshu Maru*, seeing the Russian cruisers, bad steamed northward and been beached, her crew escaping inland. The cruiser *Chihaya* was therefore detached to make a search of the adjacent coast, which she did, examining the whole shore from the vicinity of Kilju to Chahopo. She found nothing, and knowing that the torpedo-boats were to search the rest of the coast, she put back to Yuensan, where she learned of the *Kinshu Maru's* catastrophe and found that a vessel had been sent to rescue the survivors.

The officer commanding the Eleventh Torpedo Squadron reports that after being, in the first place, deterred from completing the voyage southward in company with the *Kinshu Maru*, owing to the exceedingly threatening state of the weather, and after spending the night of the 25th-26th in Chahopo, he barely succeeded in making Yuensan. Then being sent out to search for the *Kinshu Maru*, he examined every part of the coast as far as Chahopo, where he passed the night of the 26th. On the 27th he met the *Taisei Maru* and learned from her about the *Kinshu's* catastrophe and about the probability of there being some survivors. He then continued his search without success and returned to Yuensan on the 28th.

The reason of the movement which resulted in the loss of the *Kinshu Maru* was that the officer in command at Yuensan decided to send a company of men to Iwon by way of the precaution against a possible advance of the Cossacks from the north.

As for Admiral Kamimura's squadron, having left Yuensan for Vladivostock on the 27th instant, as above related, it found itself enveloped once more in blinding fog towards evening on the 28th and had no choice but to return to Yuensan, where it arrived on the 30th. On the way back the *Naniwa* observed a bouyant torpedo of the enemy and the *Isumi* destroyed it. Further, at a point a little south of Songchin two boats that had belonged to the *Kinshu Maru* were picked up.

It need scarcely be said that British newspapers—according to a telegram from London—congratulate the Japanese nation on the grand discipline and courage shown by the soldiers on board the *Kinshu Maru*.

Wednesday, May 4.

According to a report from Yuensan, the officer commanding the company on board the *Kinshu Maru* ordered the men to do as they pleased. The officers, he said, had resolved to die. Thereupon a lieutenant, whose name is not given, embarked in a small boat with 7 men and made for the Russian squadron, where probably he and his little party fell fighting. The other officers retired to their cabins and locking themselves in, committed suicide. This was after the discharge of the first torpedo. Then the men fell in on the deck and opened a fierce fire with their rifles. The distance was only 200 metres and they fired as quickly as they could take aim, until the water, as the ship sank, reached to their knees, when they gave three cheers and went down. With regard to the fact that none of the blue-jackets were saved, the statement is that these men lowered a boat and prepared to save life when the vessel sank, but they were all killed and their boat swamped by the Russian fire.

The affair of the *Kinshu Maru* and the burning of the Japanese settlement at Songchin have not been without effect in Korea. The former event has been magnified into the arrival of a Russian fleet to capture Yuensan, and the latter into the complete destruction of all Japanese property in Eastern Korea and the expulsion of all Japanese subjects. Thus for the moment the Russian party is in the ascendant, and its representatives are securing official appointments. They will probably be singing a different song when the news of the Yalu battle reaches them.

THE YUENSAN AFFAIR.

Saturday, April 30.

It is stated that at the time when the Russians entered Yuensan and torpedoed the *Goyo Maru* a thick fog prevailed; so thick that objects were indistinguishable at a distance of a few yards. The *Taisei Maru*, which had reached the port an hour after the *Goyo Maru*, was not detected by the Russians and escaped unscathed. Further, the *Haginoura Maru*, which had brought down the Songchin refugees on the 17th instant, was within 50 miles of Yuensan at the time of the Russian raid, but she too escaped detection.

The cargo carried by the *Goyo Maru*, 5,811 packages of dried fish, is alleged to have been entirely the property of Korean subjects. According to a semi-official report, the Russian officers made no examination whatever of the ship and her cargo. In twenty minutes' time they drove out the crew at the point of the pistol, departed in their own boats and discharged a fish torpedo which struck the little steamer on the port side, destroyed her machinery and sent her to the bottom in a few hours.

It is alleged that there will be little difficulty in raising her, and that operations for that purpose have already commenced.

The *Haginoura Maru* left Songchin for Fusan on the 26th of April and has not since been heard of. It is now conjectured that she was the so-called *Nakamura Maru* which the Russians reported that they sank subsequently to the *Kinshu Maru.*

It is stated that the inhabitants of Yuensan are considerably alarmed. No Japanese war-ships are known to be in their neighbourhood and a vessel which was expected has not arrived.

Friday, May 6.

It is stated that the Vladivostock Squadron has not yet returned to port but is cruising in the sea of Japan. The source of the statement is not trustworthy, however, and we do not hear that the squadron has visited any port on the Korean coast since its escapade at Yuensan on the 25th of April. If it be still at sea, its coal supply must be getting scarce. Besides, it will be remembered that we had an official Russian report of the Yuensan and *Kinshu* incidents shortly after their occurrence. The report may have been sent by wireless telegraphy, but that method of transmission would be risky as not unlikely to betray the presence of the squadron by means of interception. It seems more probable that the Russians returned to Vladivostock at once after closing the third chapter of their ruin-and-run strategy.

The *Haginoura Maru's* fate becomes more and more a matter of solicitude. She was just in the track of the merchant-men-destroying cruisers when they steamed north from Yuensan, and nothing has since been heard of her unless the *Nakamura Maru,* which the Russians claim to have added to their bag of non-combatant victims, be a mispronunciation of *Haginoura Maru.* This little steamer, like the *Toyo Maru,* was the property of Mr. Hori of Osaka. Misfortunes, in his case, have verified their character of never coming singly. The *Haginoura Maru* was the steamer that rescued the Japanese residents of Songchin as the Cossacks were riding into the place. Subsequently she took a cargo of dried fish from that place for Fusan, and the latter port has not seen anything more of her. She had a crew of 23. Presumably they were rescued, or the Russians could not have gathered even their confused idea about the name of the steamer.

KOREA.

It is stated that on the 2nd instant the Korean Government ordered its Representative in St. Petersburg to return at once.

The First Bank is about to open a branch at Wiju. A staff of clerks from Anju and Chemulpo have set out to organize the institution.

GOTEMBA LEPER HOSPITAL.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a cheque for *yen* 50 from Mr. J. T. Hamilton on behalf of the Gotemba Leper Hospital, which recently made an appeal for funds through our columns.

PORT ARTHUR.

Monday, May 2.

There appears to have been some kind of operation at Port Arthur. A Russian report says that on the night of the 27th and 28th April three Japanese torpedo-boats approached the place where the *Petropavlovsk* sank and, coming into the field of the forts' search-lights, were fired upon. They endeavoured to destroy the search-light on fort 22 (or 12). On the following day (29th) sounds of cannonading were heard in the direction of Liaotishan by two Japanese junks, one of which entered Newchwang, the other Chefoo.

It appears that Prince Cyril was thrown from the bridge to the deck of the *Petropavlovsk* but that though badly hurt, he did not lose consciousness. When the ship went down, he managed to support himself by means of a tarpaulin that floated past, and after clinging to this for some ten minutes he was rescued by the destroyer *Beschumni.* Admiral Makaroff was on the bridge at the same time. It is supposed that he was severely wounded before the vessel went down. A statement in the *Novy Krai,* made by one of the survivors, indicates that the battle-ship struck two mines in succession. The shock of the first explosion hurled a quantity of gear from the stern of the vessel into the water, and as the first mine struck her on the starboard bow it would almost appear that the shock must have lifted her fore part from the water. Almost at the same instant another mine struck her and she became enveloped in a cloud of yellow vapour. In a minute's time—an obvious exaggeration —her bows plunged into the sea, and standing for an instant almost perpendicular with her screw racing in the air, she plunged to the bottom. According to Russian accounts the 13th of April was an even blacker day for the Russian Navy than has been supposed. In addition to the loss of the *Petropavlovsk,* the torpedoing of the *Pobieda,* and the collision of the *Poltava* and the *Sevastopol,* 3 cruisers were injured and 6 destroyers have not since been heard of. This is partially borne out by a statement attributed to a foreman of the Port Arthur dockyard, who having left that place on April 23rd, told an *Asahi* reporter in Chefoo that the war-vessels still serviceable on the Russian side did not exceed one battle-ship and three cruisers, and that of 30 destroyers available when the war commenced only 10 remain now. To this list of catastrophes has to be added the sinking of a Russian hospital ship, the *Europa,* which was recently sent to the bottom by a collision inside the harbour.

Wednesday, May 4.

There is confirmation of the news that the *Shilka,* a steamer belonging to the East China Railway Company, was sunk by coming in contact with a torpedo when leaving Dalny with a load of 3,000 tons of coal for Port Arthur. It is said that 3 Russians and 1 Chinese were lost.

Thursday, May 5.

The *Jiji Shimpo's* Chefoo correspondent telegraphs under date of the 4th at 8.55 a.m. that, according to a trustworthy authority a Japanese flotilla of 9 steamers, taking advantage of a thick fog, approached Port Arthur, and were sunk by their crews under a heavy fire from the forts. It is believed that Port Arthur is now completely blocked.

Friday, May 6.

A telegram to the German newspaper at Shanghai from Cheefoo says that on the morning of the 3rd instant the Japanese took in 8 steamers to Port Arthur with the intention of blocking the entrance, but that they failed to effect their purpose, the steamers and two torpedo-boats being sunk by the forts before reaching their destination.

General Floug, telegraphing to General Dessino on the afternoon of the 4th, says that during the night of the 2nd and 3rd eight Japanese steamers escorted by three torpedo-boats approached the harbour, but were detected and, being brought within the field of the search-lights, were subjected to a heavy fire from the forts and all the ships in the harbour (*sic*), so that they sank without reaching the desired position and the entrance to the harbour continues unobstructed. Two of the Japanese torpedo-boats were sunk, and the third was so much injured that it had to be towed away (*sic*). Probably the crews of the steamers were all lost. Numbers of corpses are seen floating in the offing. A small number of officers and 30 sailors were made prisoners.

General Floug's previous performances as a purveyor of news have not inspired confidence in his accuracy, and even though he commanded the utmost credence the above account contains internal evidence which requires much explanation. In the first place he tells us that all the ships in the harbour opened fire on the Japanese steamers. That is a physical impossibility unless the ships steamed out for the purpose, and if they steamed out, then to speak of them as ships in harbour is delusive. In the next place we are told that all the steamers having been disabled or sunk by the fierce fire of the Russians, and two out of the three torpedo-boats having been sent to the bottom, the third was so much injured that she had to be towed away. Towed away by what? Were there any other Japanese ships upon the scene? If so, what were they and how did they fare? The General seems to have suddenly brought into the field of operation a phantom vessel expressly for the purpose of demonstrating the disablement of the third torpedo-boat and thus rounding off the Japanese catastrophe.

There can be little doubt that another, a third, attempt has been made to block the harbour. It is in the nature of Japanese belligerents to stick to a task once imposed upon them, and in this case although the difficulties of success increased in a rapid ratio with each attempt, the naval men have evidently been undeterred. We can not, however, dismiss General Floug's story as a mere invention. Certainly an officer who could persuade himself to deliberately represent the battle of the Yalu as a previously planned retreat by the Russians preceded by some losses inflicted on the Japanese, such an officer must step down for ever from the rank of veracious chroniclers. Still his latest story must have some foundation. Very likely the Japanese suffered severely in this last essay, and we shall not be surprised to learn eventually that one or more of the steamers was sunk before reaching the harbour's mouth and that a torpedo-boat suffered the fate which the brave Japanese sailors have so often risked. But that the Russians, using only gun-fire, managed to sink the whole 8 or 9 steamers during the brief space of 20 or 25 minutes that the vessels were within easy range, and to sink also, two out of three torpedo-boats, thus sweeping 10 craft out of 11 off the surface of the sea—that is altogether too tall a tale. The Japanese official account must be awaited before coming to any definite conclusion.

The public has the satisfaction of knowing that the Japanese official accounts are altogether trustworthy. Experience has established that fact. Happily we are not obliged to depend upon any Mukden-Shanghai manufactures.

CHINA.

Saturday, April 30.

The *Asahi Shimbun* publishes a long report compiled by a Chinaman whom its Peking correspondent despatched from Shanhaikwan on the 18th instant to examine the military dispositions of the Russians along the Liao. We have read the result of this envoy's expedition but the impression it conveys is one of extreme distrust, and we shall refrain from perplexing our readers with the details. A Chinese civilian is not under any circumstances highly qualified to make useful observations of the strength and arrangement of a Russian military force. The only fact which seems to emerge with any distinctness is that the objective point of the principal stream of commissariat is Fenghwang, which would suggest that the Russian troops are massed in great force at that place. The Chinaman also mentions incidentally an interesting feature; namely, that the land transport are using 300 artillery wagons for the purpose of conveying provisions and that 5 roubles a day are paid for ox-carts. He says it takes 5 days for a cart to travel from Liaoyang to Fenghwang, and that the distance is 120 miles. The principal depot of stores for Fenghwang is a point among the hills some 20 miles westward. It would seem that very great difficulties are experienced in organizing a satisfactory transport service. Every animal in the region has been commandeered, with the result that agricultural operations have been suspended.

General Tseng seems to be developing humourous tendencies. He reports that recently as the Russians were driving a mob of a thousand horses from Mongolia to Manchuria—a performance altogether illegal—they were interrupted by a party of Hunghutze who carried off several hundreds of the horses. The Russians complained to Tseng and demanded compensation, which was in itself a comical step seeing that they had no right to be driving the horses and that they have deprived Tseng of all practical power to control the Hunghutze. Tseng is said to have replied that he had no objection to the Russians taking the law into their own hands and apprehending the Hunghutze. It reminds us of the Scotchman's "whistle on your tyke." Probably the much harrassed Tseng had a gleam of mirth when he reflected on the Russians driving a mob of remounts all the way from Mongolia merely to be despoiled of them by the Hunghutze *en route*.

It is stated that the Russians are laying a railway from Mukden to Sinming-chin, which is on the west of the Liao along the high-road to Kinchow and Shanhaikwan. They have also sent troops to Kaufongtsu. Thus there is no longer the least room for doubt that they decline to regard as neutral territory the region which they formally evacuated in 1902 in accordance with treaty.

Wednesnay, May 4.

According to reports sent by General Floug to General Dessino, the Hunghutze are very active in Kirin. They are organized in bodies of from 50 to 500 horsemen and they have frequent skirmishes with the Russian railway guard. In two recent encounters the latter had 1 man wounded and 2 killed. Two partially successful attempts to wreck the railway took place.

Friday, May 6.

The Russians in Manchuria, according to the *Jiji Shimpo's* Peking correspondent, are adopting a more conciliatory policy in Manchuria. They are paying regular wages to such of the Hunghutze as tender submission, and they have ceased to requisition goods and animals without compensation. But inasmuch as their payments are made with rouble notes which are not exchangeable and have no appreciable value in Chinese eyes, it is alleged that this gentler mood produces no corresponding results. Of course each success gained by the Japanese in Manchuria and each forward step taken by them tends to depreciate Russian promises to pay and thus aggravates the situation for the soldiers of the Tsar. The circumstances illustrate that pithy saying "cast thy bread upon the waters." During the campaign of 1894-5 the Japanese armies in Manchuria paid their way with strict honesty and refrained uniformly from excesses of any kind. They will now find that a memory of their moderation and integrity survives in the Three Eastern Provinces and that their promises will be trusted. That is no small advantage to an army on foreign soil.

A French journal, writing about the Yalu battle, expressed some apprehensions lest it should have a disturbing effect upon the imagination of the Chinese, and should impel them to throw in their lot with Japan, abandoning the neutrality which alone enables the limits of the war to be circumscribed. It is easy to sympathise with French uneasiness in this matter, but we marvel that they overlook the total disrespect Russia shows for Chinese neutrality in the West Liao region. Her troops are now reported to be building 3 bridges across the Liao for the purpose of facilitating the transport of food-stuffs. China would be absolutely justified in breaking these bridges and in driving away every Russian soldier from the west of the Liao—if she could. An attempt on her part to do so would at once embroil her with Russia, and then the grave question would arise whether France must join hands with her ally. Thus, owing to Russia's flagrant neglect of her obligations towards a neutral Power, there now stands between France and a serious trouble nothing but the thin wall of China's much-tried patience. No wonder that the French are uneasy, but with their logical mind they ought to see that the chief danger lies not in Japanese successes but in Russian outrages.

It is stated that the Hunghutze wrecked the railway at two places in the closing days of April in the vicinity of Tehling. This is probably an echo of the report already published as emanating from the Floug factory. Of course the factory showed the railway as not having suffered any appreciable damage. But the actual amount of injury wrought is a question quite secondary to the fact that these attempts are unceasing and that they compel the Russians to detach a large force for guarding the line. Recent accounts speak of some 25,000 men being detailed for this duty. We do not think the number at all likely to be exaggerated. It must be remembered that such a force could not furnish more than a fourth or a fifth of its total for sentry purposes. In fact, a guarding army of 20,000 men would mean perhaps 4,000 actually on guard duty at any given moment.

A MEETING OF RELIGIONISTS.

The leading representatives of Buddhism, Confucianism, Christianity and the various philosophies, have planned a monster meeting to be held in Tokyo from the 16th of next month. It is the intention of the promoters of this demonstration to enter a strong protest against the attempts made by various writers in continental Europe to foment an anti-Japanese crusade on the ground of racial and religious prejudices. If such prejudices are to carry any force, it should be clearly understood that the field of their potentiality is limited to the Occident and that they have no influence in Japan at all events. The West, or certain interested and self-appointed exponents of Western thought, are seeking to prove that the rise of Japan to a position of eminence and strength would mean the commencement of an effort on the part of the Orient to re-establish the old barriers standing between itself and the Occident, and even to expose the latter to some of the indignities and oppressions which, in its days of unchallenged might, it obliged the former to suffer at its hands. All this miserable scheme has its origin in the very sentiments it professes to condemn. It is not in Japan that racial prejudice or religious bigotry prevails. The beam is in the eyes of her traducers. She stands for the equality and fraternity of all races, and it is to secure the supremacy of those noble ideals that she is fighting to-day, not merely to protect herself against the propinquity of a military dictator. Therefore representatives of every grade of religious and philosophical thought in her midst will come together, and from a common platform announce their common doctrine of the federation of civilized nations and the annihilation of racial and religious prejudices. There was a time, not so many years ago, when Japan herself was taunted by the West for allowing herself to be swayed by those prejudices and closing her doors in the face of the nations. It is now her turn to tell the nations that such prejudices have ceased to be potent except in Occidental breasts.

WAR NOTES.

Saturday, April 30.

Three Russian officers of the Volunteer Fleet were to arrive at Matsuyama on the 28th instant. Apparently they are two Lieutenants and an Ensign, but some papers speak of two Majors.

Tuesday, May 3.

Four Indians said to have been employed as policemen at Dalny, fled from that place a few days ago and reached Chefoo on the 1st instant. They are reported as saying that the Russians are breaking up the railway at Dalny and sending the rails and rolling stock to Harbin, their evident intention being to abandon the place.

General Floug has informed General Dessino, and the latter has conveyed the fact to the Japanese Consul-General at Shanghai, that the Japanese officers captured at Wiju in the beginning of the war have been sent to Irkutsk and would proceed thence to Russia. Thus the stories that these officers had either died from harsh treatment or committed suicide proves, as we conjectured, to be baseless.

Wednesday, May 4.

General Kuropatkin reports to the Tsar that the names of the two Japanese executed at Mukden on the 21st of April were Yukoka(?) Seizo and Oki Teisuke. He calls them Japanese officers, and says that they were disguised as Mongolians and that they carried explosives as well as a map of Manchuria, their avowed object being to destroy Russian railways.

The master of the S. S. *Satsuma Maru* reports that on the morning of the 30th ult., when steaming about 40 miles westward of Tsushima, he observed a buoyant torpedo within about 20 yards of the vessel. It had apparently been carried there by the current, and he considered that it resembled the mine destroyed recently by the *Asama*.

Captain Kurokawa and 5 others, wounded in the engagement at Chonju, have arrived at the Hiroshima Hospital by the *Hakuai Maru*, and are reported to be doing well. It is stated that the greatest success has attended the field surgery and field-hospital arrangements in this campaign.

The story that the Russians are removing the railway at Dalny and making preparations to evacuate the place requires much confirmation. Another account, received later, represents them as busily fortifying it.

Thursday, May 5.

Yokokawa Seizo, whose execution at Mukden recently took place under military law, and whom General Kuropatkin described as an "officer," proves to have been nothing more or less than a *Soshi*. He was a man of many adventures; just such a person as we might expect to find blowing up Russian bridges and wrecking Russian railways. Honour to his memory. He served his country according to his lights and he deserves as much applause as the stoutest warrior. With him died Oki Teisuke, who was at one time a teacher of the Japanese language in Peking. At the outbreak of war he seems to have joined the Hunghutze. He too was a patriot, and like his comrade he was probably prepared for death at any moment.

No legally acceptable protest having been made with regard to the captured steamer *Slav* she will probably be declared a Japanese prize immediately. Her master and two of her officers being on the active military list will be kept as prisoners. All the rest of her crew have been released. It is stated that the value of all the ships taken is from 7 to 8 millions of *yen*.

London telegraphs that General Kuropatkin, at the head of 20,000 men, has set out from Liaoyang to succour the force which suffered defeat on the Yalu.

A junk's crew has now to be added to the list of victims accidentally killed by the Russians. Having on board 80 passengers she left Dalny secretly on the night of the 27th and, running on a mine, was blown up. Another junk which was in her company brought the news to Chefoo.

Friday, May 6.

His Majesty the Tsar is said to have ordered that the Russian men-of-war now in the Far East shall henceforth be called the First Pacific Squadron, and that steps shall be immediately taken to organize a Second Pacific Squadron. Bedobrazoff is to command the First Squadron, and Roshudestowenski the Second.

A foreigner who lately returned from Newchwang to Shanhaikwan says that the Russians are collecting quantities of beans and bean-cake at the former place, not with the object of using them for forage—which indeed would be difficult in the case of bean-cake—but for the purpose of substituting them for coal should the supply of that mineral prove insufficient for the locomotives on the line. This tale is regarded, rightly we imagine, as a Newchwang "goak." What is more credible is that the Russian prohibition of the export of beans is due to a wish to keep as large a quantity of the cereal as possible for their own consumption. As to their right to veto the export of bean-cake, a fertilizer pure and simple, from the neutral territory on the west of the Liao, they have no such right. But in the present mood of the Powers, Russia's ability to enforce her wishes is the only practical measure of their legitimacy.

The same authority alleges that nothing could be lower than the spirit of the Russian troops in the Yinkow district. They think only of devices to avoid going into battle. One of these plans is to swallow quantities of a Chinese medicine called "pato" which produces diarrhœa and thus brings its user into hospital. About a score of men have killed themselves by using too much of the drug, and notices have been posted forbidding all sales of medicine to the soldiers and promising dire penalties for any violation of the veto.

MR. KAWAGUCHI'S BONA FIDES.

Captain Randal Parr, Chinese Joint Commissioner with the Amban or Chinese Resident in Tibet, writes to a friend in Japan from Col. Younghusband's camp in the Chumbi Valley as follows:—

Dear,——Mr. Kawaguchi passed through Yatung (Tibet) on his way to Darjeeling from Lhassa about June, 1902. During his brief stay at Yatung, he, to my personal knowledge, attended or prescribed for the wife of the local Tibetan official there, commonly known as Dhurkly Sirdar. Soon after he had crossed the Jelap Pass into Sikhim (British Protected territory) an order was sent from Lhassa to the effect that he had been living at the Yompa of Sera, Lhassa, for some 15 months and had suddenly disappeared, and was believed to be a foreigner. Therefore Dhurkly Sirdar was instructed to encompass his arrest. This in itself would seem sufficient proof or corroboration of Kawaguchi's statements; however, they need not rest on this alone for there is no Tibetan official or merchant whom I have met who was not cognisant of Kawaguchi's lengthened residence at Sera Yompa and his flight therefrom. As I have already mentioned I never yet met an official or merchant who did not know of Kawaguchi's lengthened residence at Lhassa, but I have still to meet either one or the other who has ever heard of Landor of spiked-saddle fame!

Please tell Kawaguchi that from inquiries I have ascertained that his teacher and the merchants who befriended him have been released. I am, however, instituting fuller inquiries and will do all in my power for them and let him know as soon as possible.

Since last we met I have wandered much and fought in South Africa.

Believe me, sincerely yours, RANDAL PARR.
Tuna, March 17, 1904.

THE CRISIS.

Through fiercely blowing winds of war,
Through clouds that hovered near and far,
Men saw thy rising like a star—
("Banzai, Japan!")

Yet through the darkness falling dread,
The blade that flashed, the wound that bled
Were in the path where Honour led—
("Banzai, Japan!")

Comes now again the crucial hour!
Reveal once more the hero's power—
Bloom forth, O "mountain cherry-flower!"
("Banzai, Japan!")

True knight art thou of Asian land—
With sunward brow, undaunted stand!
The sword of God is in thy hand!
("Banzai, Japan!")

MRS. M. C. HARRIS,
Oakland, Cal.

GERMANY AND RUSSIA.

Recent intelligence about the sale of steamers by Germany to Russia has not passed without notice in Japan. We find a very plainly worded article in the *Nichi Nichi* on the subject. It is commonly affirmed, says our contemporary, that when a rumour of the probable sale of the *Prince Bismarck* to Russia reached Japan, the Government of the latter Power approached the Berlin Government and inquired about the truth of the rumour, receiving for answer that no such transaction was at all probable. Then came news that the sale had actually been effected, whereupon another question was asked, the answer elicited being that the affair had taken place without attracting official attention, but that there would not be any repetition of such incidents. It appeared, however, that the thing had not failed to cause surprise in Germany also, for it was made the subject of a query in the Reichstag, when Count von Buelow returned an apparently clever answer, namely, that the transaction could not be called a violation of neutrality since Japan also was free to make similar purchases. But it is plain that such a reply has no radical validity, for Russia happens to be in dire need of ships just at present, and she is also on the spot to utilize them, whereas they would be of no immediate service to Japan. The act is consequently inconsistent with any equitable theory of neutrality. And now, again, the public learns that Germany is selling to Russia 7 or 8 steamers which are to be converted into commerce-destroyers. The destruction of merchantmen seems to be the limit of Russia's naval capacities at present and these German steamers may help her materially to follow the bent of her genius. But as to the sale being reconcilable with the rules of strict neutrality, that is more than doubtful. The *Nichi Nichi*, having made these statements, goes on to note that at the beginning of the war Germany took pains to proclaim her absolute neutrality, being anxious, apparently, to efface the recollection of the Liaotung coup in 1898. But subsequently it occurred to the Berlin statesmen that something should be done to placate Russia, and so they have changed front. Our contemporary does not believe that the Government of Germany has the people of Germany with it in this procedure. But the Government of Germany is the Emperor of Germany, and when all is said and done the Emperor of Germany is the father of the Yellow-Peril Bogie.

THE NEW WARSHIPS.

A London telegram of April 9th says the two new battleships ordered in England by Japan will be exceedingly powerful. Their length is 445 feet, which will exceed that of the most powerful British battleship by two feet. In order to meet the capacity of docking accommodation, the beam and draught have been fixed at 78 feet and 26 feet respectively. Each will have a displacement of 16,400 tons. To facilitate comparison we (*Japan Mail*) may say that the great battleships now under construction for the British navy,—the *Commonwealth*, *Dominion*, *Hindustan*, *King Edward VII*, and *New Zealand*,—which are of 16,350 tons displacement, measure 425 feet in length, and 78 feet in beam, with a draught of 26¾ feet. The Japanese ships will therefore (supposing the figures telegraphed to be correct) be not two but twenty feet longer than the *Commonwealth* class, will have the same beam and will draw 9 inches less water. If the reference in the dispatch is to the most powerful British battleship afloat then the difference is very marked. The *Formidable* class are 15,000 tons, 400 feet in length, 75 feet beam and draw 26¾ feet; the *Majestics* are of 14,900 tons, 390 feet in length, and similar beam, but draw 27½ feet; while the *Duncan* class are 405 feet long, of 75½ feet beam and 26½ feet draught. The only warships (battleships, not armoured cruisers the largest of which greatly exceed the above lengths) that resemble the Japanese in length are the *Patrie* and *Justice* classes building for the French Navy (14,927 tons) length 438¾ feet, beam 79½ feet and draught 27½ feet; and the U.S. ships now on the slips, the *Connecticut* class of 16,000 tons, length 450 feet, beam 77 feet, draught 26¾ feet, and the *Georgia* class of 14,948 tons, length 435 feet, beam 76¼ feet and mean draught 23¾ feet.

THE PROPOSED THAMES BARRAGE.

We learn from a London telegram of April 11th that while the scheme on foot for turning the River Thames at London into a lake by locking the tide out at Gravesend has not advanced beyond the stage of inquiry, it is evident already that the proposal is very favourably regarded. One strong argument in favor of the scheme is the impossibility of dredging the river to a sufficient depth over the Thames tunnel. At present the mud at the top of the tunnel forms a barrier, but the courts refuse to permit the mud to be removed, lest the tunnel should suffer. If, however, the Thames is locked at Gravesend the water could always be kept at a sufficient depth to allow large ships to get right up to London bridge. This is a delightful prospect from a commercial point of view, and the scheme in addition would have the advantage of enabling Londoners to use the river as a means of rapid transit, as Parisians use the Seine.

An interesting description of the scheme is given in the *Graphic* of March 19th, with illustrations showing a cross section of the river, the locks, and sluices and the tunnel under the dam, a section of the barrage and a general plan of the work in relation to the Tilbuy and Gravesend shores. There is also a full page view of the river from the Gravesend bank as it will appear if the dam is constructed. From the information furnished by our contemporary we gather that the cost of the work as proposed will be £3,658,000, for which a depth of water will be obtained varying from 65 feet at Gravesend to 32 feet at London Bridge, so that ships drawing 30 feet can proceed to London Bridge at any hour of the day or night without waiting for tides; ships of all tonnages and draughts can traverse the river, anchor anywhere, lie alongside any wharf or quay, always remain at one level for loading or unloading and need not lie out in the river or obstruct the free navigation; dock entrances can be left open, thus saving the cost and time lost in working them—the London and India Docks Company estimate the cost of working their entrances at £50,000 per annum; while greatly increased safety of navigation will result, there being no possibility of grounding, swinging with the tides, or of collisions due to tidal drift. The barrage will be 800 yards long, of mass concrete faced with granite on all exposed faces, and a feature of the scheme is a tunnel in the foundations linking up the railways on the north and south sides of the Thames; while another is an ordinary roadway, with movable bridges at the locks, on the top of the dam for vehicular and passenger traffic. The biggest lock will be 1,000 feet long and 100 feet wide so that the largest steamer in the world, the *Baltic*, (now being built at Belfast) which is 726 feet long and 75½ feet beam may easily be accommodated. Finally, the scheme will give London a perpetual high tide lake 46 miles long and from a quarter to half a mile wide. The alternative proposal now before Parliament involves the purchase of the great Thames docks and the dredging of the river so as to secure greater depth of water all the way up to the docks in the higher reaches of the Thames. Under this project it is estimated £30,000,000 would have to be spent in purchasing the existing docks and £7,000,000 in improving them and dredging the river. Moreover it is contended with some show of reason that dredging of the kind contemplated would seriously threaten the foundations of riverside wharves and buildings.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

The *Jiji Shimpo* repeats with strong emphasis its appreciation of the benefit that Japan has derived from her alliance with England. Without that alliance Japan could scarcely have ventured to engage the great Northern Power, for she would have felt that whatever success attended her arms, the issue must be settled by a tribunal of whose temper she had been sufficiently instructed in connexion with Liaotung. England being her ally, however, she knew that the lists would not be intruded on by others, and that no coalition of States would arbitrarily overturn the results of the fight. On the other hand, what has England gained from the alliance? Some say that she has gained nothing. But she has. She has gained a knowledge of Russia's naval impotence, and she can apply that knowledge when fixing the limits of her own naval expansion. She has also gained an opportunity to settle the Persian and Thibetan questions, an opportunity which it will be her own fault if she fails to utilize. The party among Englishmen who advocate a Russian *entente* will be in a better position after this war to estimate the value of such an arrangement.

Russia's latest state document evokes in Japan the derision it deserves. Big bubbly talk is what we expect from Russia. Her reputation rests upon her bulk and her language is proportionately turgid. It is not wonderful, therefore, that even at the present stage of a war in which she has hitherto suffered nothing but defeats, Russia should still indulge in high language and should add another to the pile of ridiculous documents issued by her since hostilities commenced. But, as the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* shrewdly remarks, what has elicited this outburst against mediation either in the present or in the future? Which are the newspapers whose comments have stirred the Russian Government to announce that it will not, shall not, may not, have anything to do with intervention? They are Russian newspapers. It was the *Novosti* that started the idea and it was the *Novoye Vremya* that combatted it. Thus the whole thing becomes a mere acrobatic performance. The *Novosti* and the *Novoye Vremya* are both directed to act their part as stage assistants. Then comes forward the chief juggler in the shape of the Government itself. And then the man with the hat goes round collecting the francs in Paris and Brussels. The whole performance is addressed to an audience consisting of French and Belgian capitalists and Russian socialists and nihilists.

We are asked to state that the financial results of the Tokyo Dramatic Society's two representations in Tokyo and one in Yokohama in aid of the "Shussei Gunjin Kazoku Imon Fujin Kwai" are as follows:—

Receipts, Tokyo:	
Sale of tickets and donations	2,036.00
Expenditures	425.57
Net Profit	1,610.43
Receipts, Yokohama	643.00
Expenditures	154.40
Net Profit	488.60

A cheque for *yen* 2,100.00 has been sent to Princess Mori, President of this Society.

A telegram to the Specie Bank shows that the rise in Japanese securities continues with great rapidity. The 4 per-cents are now quoted at £70 (a rise of £3 15s.) and the 5 per-cents at £82 (a rise of £3 10s.) Meanwhile Russian stocks are falling slowly but steadily.

The voyage from England to Japan round the Cape of the N. Y. K. steamer *Sado Maru* seems to have been quite devoid of incident, though the arrival at Capetown and Durban of a large steamship flying the sun-flag of Japan created much interest at those ports. When war broke out and it became evident that to proceed home through the Mediterranean, the Suez Canal and the Red Sea would involve considerable danger of capture, the *Sado* discharged her general cargo and, on February 17th, went round to Cardiff for coal. At the Welsh port she ballasted with smokeless fuel and left on February 28th for the Cape. The Japanese characters on her bows were painted out and she steamed a course intended to give a wide berth to any enemy that might threaten her safety. There had been reports that a hostile ship was lying in wait in the neighbourhood of Teneriffe but the weather was foggy and nothing was seen. Indeed the only sign of any other steamer was a long line of smoke observed one day on the horizon. She reached Capetown on March 22nd, but was ordered to Durban for bunkering purposes and at once proceeded thither. She left Durban on March 30th and, shunning the usual track of steamers, arrived in Sunda Straits on April 16th, at Singapore on the 18th, at Hongkong on the 24th, and at Saseho on the 30th.

The first Military *Attaché* ever despatched by the Commonwealth of Australia arrived in Japan by the *Empire* from Melbourne—Colonel J. C. Hoad, C.M.G., A.D.C. to the Governor-General. He was attached to the staff of Lord Roberts in the South African campaign and saw a good deal of service.

The Prime Minister has addressed an interesting injunction to the *Fukuin Domei-kai*, desiring that his words may be conveyed through that association to the general body of Christians in Japan. What Count Katsura says is, in effect, that the present war has no racial or religious features whatsoever. It is solely a war to secure the safety of Japan and the tranquillity of the East. Nothing could be more incongruous or unfortunate than that differences of nationality or of creed should create any troubles in connexion with this conflict, or should engender any suspicions. To guard against such things every possible care was taken by the Japanese Government at the outset, but complete success can not be claimed in view of the idle rumours circulated to the detriment of members of the Greek Church. No official efforts will be spared to avert complications of that nature and the Premier looks to the Christians to render every assistance in their power.

We can obtain no confirmation of the reported offer of a loan of £10,000,000 to the Japanese Government by the local branch of the H. & S. Bank. Gossip says the loan is to be secured on the Customs revenues, issued at 93 and bear interest at the rate of 6 per cent.

LADIES' INTERNATIONAL FÊTE.

A well-attended meeting was held on Thursday morning at 118-A Bluff, when Mrs. J. P. Mollison thanked the ladies very warmly for their hearty, unselfish and indefatigable co-operation which had done so much to make the International Fête the brilliant success it undoubtedly was.

It was decided that the funds should be handed to H. E. Governor Sufu for the Kanagawa Relief Association.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE IN CONNECTION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL FÊTE, YOKOHAMA.

RECEIPTS.

	Yen.	Yen.
Sale of Tickets		1,378.75
Net proceeds of :—		
Raffles	730.00	
Post Office stall	580.79	
Flower stall	427.90	
Turkish stall	295.25	
Race Game	242.20	
Danish stall	208.15	
Beer Garden	156.50	
Refreshment stall	153 55	
Scotch stall	149.56	
Candy stall	130.00	
"Yokohama American" newspaper	102.00	
Programmes	64.15	
Raffle of Hat, presented by Mrs. Abbey	60.00	
Fortune Teller	46.00	
Missing Word competition	30.00	
"British Meteor" newspaper	29.97	
Port Arthur Illusion	25.05	
Sale of Photographs (Tamamura)	23.50	
		3,454.57
Donations by :—		
Mr. Surth	500.00	
Mr. Strauss	300.00	
Mr. Graef	50.00	
Anonymous	10.00	860.00
		5,693.32

EXPENDITURE.

Use of Public Hall and Electric Light	185.53
Momban's accounts	36.05
Expenses of Tableaux	50.33
Expenses of Fan Drill	30.00
Sundries	18.00
Balance in hand	5,373.41
	5,693.32

FLORENCE C. HAWKINS,
Hon. Treasurer.

April 29th, 1904.

In handing over the statement of accounts for publication the Committee of the Ladies International Fête desire to acknowledge with gratitude their indebtedness to all who contributed gifts to the raffles; to the Newspapers for their liberality in the matter of advertisements and notices, *gratis*; to Mr. Sharp, of Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, for printing tickets, programmes and everything connected with the Fête absolutely free of charge; to Mr. C. H. Thorn and Mr. A. Bellamy Brown for producing and contributing the "Yokohama American" and the "British Meteor" Newspapers; to the Hotels for selling tickets and contributing Ice-cream; to the Electric Light Co., for making a merely nominal charge for the supply of light; to the Public Hall Association for charging rent on a charity basis; to the Japan Brewery for supplying Kirin beer gratis to the Beer Garden; to Messrs. Boehmer & Co. and the Gardeners Association for Floral decorations and generous contributions to the Flower Stall; to Mrs. Manley for similar assistance and for decorating the Hall; as well as to other friends too numerous to mention who gave valuable assistance in various ways.

The following have been handed to us for publication:

To Governor K. Sufu,
President, Kanagawa Ken Relief Association.

Dear Governor Sufu,

As the result of the International Fete organized by Ladies of Yokohama for the Relief of the Wives and Children of Japanese Soldiers and Sailors called to the front, I have great pleasure in handing you a cheque for *yen* 5,373.41. It is the wish of the Ladies that this money should go towards the relief of suffering families in this neighbourhood under the auspices of the Kanagawa Ken Relief Association, and I would ask you as President of that Association, to be good enough to supervise its distribution in the direction indicated, so as to give help and comfort where most needed.

With kind regards, believe me, yours sincerely,
(Sgd.) S MOLLISON.

Yokohama, May 3rd, 1904.

Yokohama, May 3, 1904.

DEAR MRS. MOLLISON,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your yesterday's favour with enclosed cheque for *yen* 5,373.41, being the nett proceeds of the International Fête which the Yokohama ladies under your presidency were so good as to organize in favour of the suffering families of the Soldiers and Sailors called to the front.

I hereby beg to express to you and the Ladies who so kindly co-operated with you, as well as to the whole Foreign Community at large, my heartfelt gratitude for your practical sympathy which will no doubt be greatly appreciated by all my countrymen.

The committee's wish that this sum should be contributed to the Kanagawa Ken Relief Association will be duly complied with, and I may assure you that I will personally look after it, so that those families who are most in want of help will be first attended to. Thanking you once more for your great kindness,

I remain, sincerely yours,
(Signed) KOHEY SUFU.
Governor of Kanagawa Ken.
President, Kanagawa Ken Relief Association.

MARRIAGE OF MISS PAGE.

A very large number of friends, eloquently testifying to the well-deserved popularity of the contracting parties, assembled at Christ Church, Yokohama, on Wednesday afternoon to witness the nuptials of Mr. Horace Wilfred Buckland and Miss Catherine Elizabeth Page, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Finch Page, of Dzushi. The church had been very prettily decorated for the occasion with white azaleas, lilies, bamboo and other foliage and presented an ornate appearance. Punctually at half-past two o'clock, while a voluntary was played by Mr. J. T. Griffin on the organ, the bride entered the building leaning on the arm of her father and proceeded to the chancel rails.

The bridesmaids were the sisters of the bride. The bridegroom was attended by Mr. R. M. Stirling as best man, the ushers being Messrs. P. A. Cox, A. J. McClure, A. R. Owen, L. J. Healing and S. Wheeler. The service was performed by Rev. W. P. G. Field, and the bride was given away by her father. The hymn, "The Voice that breathed o'er Eden" was sung before the ceremony, and at the close "Oh, Perfect Love," while after the signing of the Register Mendelssohn's Wedding March was played by Mr. Griffin.

The bride, as charming a figure as ever entered the church, wore a dress of heavy pearl coloured satin, handsomely trimmed with accordion-pleated chiffon and lace. The bodice had yoke and under sleeves of chiffon with a bertha of *point de Venice* fastened with sprays of orange blossoms. The long court train was hung from the shoulders and at one corner was a large bow of chiffon fastened with flowers. A wreath of the same flowers confined the veil of tulle.

The bride's going away dress was of grey voile, the bodice being trimmed with a yoke and berthé of richly embroidered gauze, the skirt tucked, and hat of black chiffon with pink roses. The bridesmaids had dresses of white *crepe de chine* with a satin stripe, shirred bodices and skirt yokes with lace yokes to the bodices, and wore white rice straw hats trimmed with white chiffon, with each a wreath of fresh rose-buds and leaves. The mother of the bride wore a dress of mauve and black foulard, black chiffon and lace toque with ecru lace trimmings.

A reception was subsequently held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Healing, No. 20, Bluff, where the numerous wedding gifts that had been presented to the happy pair could be seen, and where the healths of the newly-wedded couple were heartily pledged, the toast being given by Dr. Wheeler in his usual pleasant fashion and fittingly responded to by the bridegroom. The bridal couple leave for England on May 10th on a year's furlough.

JAPANESE TEA.

On Sunday, 31,400 *kin* of new tea were sold to foreign firms in Yokohama, the quotations being *yen* 58 to *yen* 32.

The Yokohama Tea Guild circulated a letter on April 28th among tea manufacturers in Suruga and Totomi provinces. The purport of the letter is that the preparation of leaf has lately been going from bad to worse so that colour, flavour, and form have deteriorated. Unless careful attention is paid to these points failure will overtake the tea industry of Japan. Foreign firms in Yokohama also complain about unexpected reductions in weight after the tea has been fired in their godowns.

On April 28th, 3,200 *kin* of new tea were sold to foreign firms in Yokohama by the Japanese, the quotations being *yen* 54 to 43.

A telegram from Kobe reports that the Sei-cha Kaisha sold 2,200 *kin* of new tea on May 2nd to a foreign firm, this being the first transaction in new leaf. The quotation for the Kii province crop is thirty-five *yen*, ten *yen* cheaper than last year.

The first shipment of new tea from Kobe will be made by the steamer *Athenian*, which will leave on May 8th for America.

The standard quotation of Sayama tea in the Yokohama market has been settled as follows: Choicest, *yen* 45 and choice, *yen* 40. This is *yen* 5 cheaper than last year.

CUSTOM APPEALS.

Baron Sone, Minister for Finance, rendered his decision on April 25th on an appeal lodged by Mr. F. H. Ziegfeld, representative of the China and Japan Trading Company, against a decision of the Yokohama Customs. It appears that the firm imported twenty gross and one dozen of metal pencil holders on which the Customs imposed 20 per cent. *ad valorem* duty in accordance with No. 271 of the tariff, which deals with "all other manufactures of metal or metals, not otherwise provided for." The importers contended that the duty should be 15 per cent. *ad valorem* under No. 298 of the tariff which provides for "all other stationeries." The appeal was sustained on the ground that the article in dispute belongs to the class of stationery.

The following day the Minister delivered another decision on an appeal by Mr. D. H. Blake, of the American Trading Company, Yokohama, against the Yokohama Customs. The firm imported on Dec. 24th last a quantity of glue, on which the Customs authorities imposed 10 per cent. *ad valorem* duty under No. 136 of the tariff, which provides for gelatine but not for glue. On the 30th of the same month the importer presented a protest to the Superintendent of Customs contending that the material was not refined, so that it belongs to the class of glue in nature, and that the duty consequently should be *sen* 88.6 per 100 *kin*, in accordance with No. 443 of the tariff. This appeal also was sustained on the ground that the colour and smell of the article show it to be glue when it is dissolved, though it is transparent as if refined.

THE BATTLE OF THE YALU.

INTELLIGENCE of the first great land fight is reaching us in fragments, and as the fragments are in the Japanese language, the general public has difficulty in piecing them together. Speaking broadly, General Kuroki's plan of operations seems to have been three feinted crossings and one real. The lowest of these down stream can scarcely be called a crossing. It consisted merely of a naval attack in the estuary and a little above it, and may be said to have been limited to an artillery duel in which the Russians failed to inflict any injury whatever on the Japanese, but were nevertheless obliged to confront them in some strength, since the movements of the Japanese gun-boats and armed launches might have preluded the transport of a Division from the south to the north bank by water. To give additional colour to these naval movements they were carried on vigorously for two days prior to the main attack. Then there were two pretended crossings in the neighbourhood of Wiju, one, by the Second Division, immediately below Wiju, the other by the Guards Division immediately above Wiju. It is not to be supposed, of course, that General Kukoki devoted two Divisions—two-thirds of his whole force—to the mere purpose of making feints. These two crossings were actually to take place, but their order was to be regulated in accordance with the course of the principal attack, which was made by the Twelfth Division at a point—Sukuchin—13 miles above Wiju. Sukuchin is the place where the Japanese crossed the Yalu in October, 1894. They chose it then and they chose it now because the key of the whole position is the highland on an island called Husan (Tiger's Hill), which lies near the northern bank of the river nearly opposite to Sukuchin. It must be remembered that the bed of the Yalu in the immediate vicinity of Wiju is occupied by a group of islands, and that by these its stream is divided into three branches, all of which have to be crossed. So long as Husan remained in the enemy's hands and so long as his artillery was posted there, any attempt to pass a large force over the river at points lower down must have been highly perilous, and could hardly have succeeded, at all events without heavy loss. The programme therefore was that, during the 29th of April, the Second Division (below Wiju) should cross to the island of Keumchong, which lies nearest to the southern bank at that side, there to prepare for bridging the middle branch of the river which, in this position, would separate the troops from the middle island of Cheung-sang. Simultaneously the Guards Division (above Wiju) were to cross to Kulido Island, and similarly prepare for bridging the central branch of the river. Thus posted, the Second Division and the Guards Division, would be advancing on either side of the main road which traverses the Yalu islands from Wiju to Kiulien. Meanwhile the Twelfth Division, during the night of the 28th and 29th, had bridged the branch of the river immediately before Sukuchin, but thereafter throughout the 29th the Division remained inactive, waiting until the operations on either side of Wiju had developed sufficiently to be a pressing menace to the Russians. This state of affairs having been attained towards evening, the Twelfth Division crossed, and apparently encountering little resistance, reached a position in rear of Tiger's Hill. The night of the 29th passed with the three Divisions in these positions. On the opposite side, facing them, were some twenty thousand Russians. Of course it is not possible to speak with certainty as to this last point, but the number here given is said to be the estimate of the Japanese staff, whose judgment and information may be trusted. At dawn of the 30th the three Divisions resumed operations, but the Twelfth Division took the lead in point of time by capturing Tiger's Hill and thus converting the passage of the last branches of the river above and below Wiju into a comparatively easy performance. The artillery on both sides was brought largely into play on this day, as it had been in the preliminary stages, but details of this feature must be awaited before forming any distinct idea. Tiger's Hill commands Wiju, and its capture by the Japanese constituted a cardinal operation. We shall doubtless hear a great deal of the manner in which it was effected, and also of the crossing of the final branch of the river by the three Divisions. The night of the 30th found them all posted on the north side of the river and prepared to resume their advance the following morning. Their artillery fire had subdued that of the Russians in some of the latter's principal batteries, and the men were in high spirits. The Twelfth Division, however, had still a hard task. It had to cross the river Ai, a tributary of the Yalu which runs between the latter and Kiulien. Our readers must be already familiar with the name Kiulien-ching, but we may explain here that it is a walled city lying on the northern bank opposite Wiju and beyond the river Ai. The Russians had entrenched themselves on the right bank—the Kiulien side—of the Ai, and the Japanese advanced against them over a front of 5 miles in skirmishing order. The Ai was crossed by wading breast-high, and by 8.50 a.m. this serious obstacle had been traversed and seven entrenchments of the Russians on the Yushikau and Makau heights had been captured, together with 8 pieces of artillery. The Twelfth Division now found itself on the left rear of Kiulien (speaking with regard to the enemy's front) while the other two Divisions, the Guards and the Second, were advancing upon its right. The three Divisions seem to have attacked the place simultaneously. Apparently the Russians had their artillery posted in the immediate neighbourhood, for when the position was stormed 20 guns were taken, together with 20 officers and a large number of rank and file. The Japanese casualties are estimated at 700 killed and wounded; the Russians are believed to have lost much more heavily.

It will be observed that nothing is heard about Antung in the above account. General Kuroki left that place severely alone. The fact is that Antung becomes untenable after the fall of Kiulien. It lies down-stream from the latter place, and the Japanese at Kiulien may be said to command the communications between Antung and its base, Fenghwang. The last-named town is 38 miles from Kiulien on the road to Liaoyang. The Russians have doubtless fallen back upon Fenghwang and will there await the Japanese advance.

The interesting question is, what does this Yalu battle represent? May we conclude that the Russians made a really resolute effort to hold the Yalu line, or are we to suppose that they adopted the policy attributed to them by some of their advocates, the policy of merely simulating resistance in advanced positions and gradually drawing the Japanese on to a crushing defeat. In our opinion the latter hypothesis is untenable. No General can afford to make pretended resistance at the cost of losing 28 pieces of ordnance, being driven from seven fortified positions and leaving a number of his officers and men in the hands of the enemy. Such sacrifices are too real, too substantial, to be classed in the category of feints. If the Russian General—who, as well as a Divisional General, is said to have been wounded—intended merely to fence with the Japanese and to retreat at leisure when he had sufficiently baited them, he altogether mistook the quality of his foes, and his mistake has resulted in a signal defeat, which the most credulous of Russia's friends will be unable to represent in the light of a decoy. Further, if the Russians had anything like twenty thousand men on the Yalu, they meant business. Of that there can not be the least doubt. The position was splendidly defensive. Mischenko's Cossacks, it is true, made poor use of an equally fine position in northern Korea, but Mischenko's division may be said to have been outnumbered, whereas the Russians had nearly 3 months to mass troops on the Yalu, which is only 145 miles from Liaoyang, their principal base. As between the two combatants, it should have been a much easier matter for the Russians to organize a strong resistance on the Yalu than for the Japanese to prepare a powerful attack. The river is 330 miles from Seoul and nearly 170 miles from Pyongyang. Even if we regard the latter as the Japanese basis, they had a heavier task to reach Wiju in the face of Russian resistance than the Russians had to reach Kiulien without encountering any resistance at all. From whatever point of view we regard the Yalu battle it is a great triumph for Japan, and when we remember the tone of contemptuous assurance adopted by the

Russians with regard to the result of all military encounters between them and the Japanese, when we remember how they made light of their naval disasters and said "Wait until we reach these fellows on shore," the significance of this first encounter is not to be over-estimated.

General KUROKI's dispositions appear to have been admirable. All the movements of his troops were excellently synchronised, and his plan seems to have been conceived with great ability. It had been generally supposed that in this Yalu fight he would have been assisted by a flanking army landed somewhere on the littoral of the Yellow Sea, but he was left to do the work alone, and in so leaving him the Head Quarter Staff evidently made no mistake as to the capacity of the man and his army.

DRAMATIC AND VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT.

A large audience gathered at the Public Hall on Saturday evening on the occasion of the dramatic and variety entertainment given by local amateurs and members of the Physical Culture Club, and that the long and varied programme was thoroughly enjoyed, the number of recalls—the "Florodora" Sextett was alone sung four times—amply testify. To the great success of the evening the Bijou Orchestra largely contributed with spirited selections from modern operas and modern composers. The opening sketch, "A Day and a Night in a Doll-Shop," though pretty in its setting, as was only natural where children are concerned, lacked coherency. No explanation was given either in the programme or by the players as to "what it was all about," and if it was intended as a dumb-show on the lines of "l'enfant Prodigue," then the introduction of the songs was superfluous. If this was not the intention, then the bare skeleton should have been clothed in some airy gossamer of explanatory words. Anyhow, whatever it was, it served to introduce a clever little Indian Club swinger in the person of Master Carlisle McIvor; a dainty dancer of the hornpipe in Miss Winnie Sharp; a capital singer of a song in Mr. Windett—"Oh, is n't it like a Man?"—which was encored; and an exceeding pretty song and chorus "My Pauline," by Miss H. McIvor and Miss Leslie McWilliams, assisted by all the Dolls. These little ladies were:—*Broken Doll*, Winnie Sharp; *French Doll*, Edith Suzor; *Pompadour*, May Cameron; *Spanish Doll*, Gladys Scott; *Watteau Dolls*, Henrietta McIvor and Leslie McWilliams; "*Night*" *Doll*, Ralphia Martin; *Du Barry Doll*, Sybil Howard; *Scotch Doll*, Carlisle McIvor; *Carmencita*, Helen McIvor. The other characters were: *Shopkeeper*, Mr. T. Rodoet; *Maid*, Miss Madge Cameron; *Customer*, Mr. A. Windett; *Fairy Queen*, Miss J. Drummond. The song and chorus, "We're all good fellows," from *The Chaperons*, in which appeared Messrs. Wheeler, Cooper, Foster, Mollison, Walker, Palmer, Gracey and Windett—lacked somewhat in balance, the parts being rather ragged in time and uneven in timbre, and thus prevented the words from being distinctly caught by the audience. The same gentlemen came on again two numbers later, in a Stein Song. "Heidelburg," from "The Prince of Pilsen," and this went much better, so much so that they were asked to sing it again, which they kindly did. The Living Pictures by Mrs. J. Drummond, the Misses K. and E. Ekstrand and Madge Cameron were very lovely, but here again the programme might have helped one a little in telling, or even hinting at, the subject of each scene. It might have been Resignation, or it might have been Lady Macbeth, or the Witch of Endor, or anything you pleased—but that the poses were lovely admitted of no doubt whatever. Mr. Hugh Horne's musical sketch "Finding Emin"—or was it "Him in"?—evoked a hearty recall, and in response he brought down the house again with "Molly the Marchioness." Only the forcible expulsion from the stage of the piano by the Hall *momban* and his servitors allowed Mr. Horne to escape another recall. The Jockey Dance that followed pleased a good many people, but we must own that we can quite understand that it did not accord with all tastes nor yet satisfy every one's sense of the graceful and becoming. The jockies were:—The Misses Helen McIvor, Gladys Scott, May Cameron, Henrietta McIvor, Sybil Howard, and Leslie McWilliams.

The next item created a veritable *furore*. It was the double sextett from *Floradora*—"Tell me, Pretty Maiden," and had to be given altogether four times ere the singers and dancers were allowed to depart. Those participating in this triumph were:—Mesdames E. W. Frazar and J. Strauss, the Misses Beatrice Sharp, R. Cameron, F. Waddilove and M. Sharp, Messrs. Cooper, Foster, Mollison, Wheeler, Palmer and Walker.

The last number on the programme was J. Hartley Manners' "A Queen's Messenger," the acting rights of which had been personally given by the author to Mrs. McWilliams when on her recent visit to San Francisco. It is a duologue, the players being Mr. Cyril Allen (An English Officer) and Mrs. McWilliams (A Masked Lady).

The play is concerned with the nocturnal adventure at a lonely house near Berlin of "A Queen's Messenger." An important despatch has been prepared at the British Embassy and it has been decided that for safety's sake the Messenger shall leave the German capital by the morning train at half-past two. But as he has been kept pretty busy during his stay the Messenger (*Captain Standish*) readily accepts a card of admission to a *bal masque* which reaches him from an anonymous source, the event taking place the night before his departure. At the ball he meets a lady who, skilfully obtaining from him the information that he is about to start for England, asks him to take a letter to "Count Leo Morovski" of the Russian Embassy in London. He consents and in order that he may receive the letter he accompanies her to her home, carrying with him a "big bag" which plays an important part in the subsequent proceedings. The action begins with the arrival of the couple at the lady's residence some time after one o'clock in the morning. After the preliminary "business" of "lighting up"—(for the room is in complete darkness, the rising of the curtain giving the more sensitive a fit of "the creeps")—during which *Captain Standish* drops his bag on a vase with destructive results and knocks over a chair, and in the course of which it transpires that the rest of the family are still at the dance, the masked lady writes her letter, the miscarriage of which, she says, will entail terrible consequences. She asks him to wait a while, saying that her people should be back at once. The time is now twenty-five past one and he must leave the house in half an hour if he is to catch his train. She hands him her letter and after some by-play consents to remove her mask. The Queen's Messenger is powerfully impressed by the vision now revealed to him—a darkly beautiful woman, superbly dressed and bejewelled. They have met before, the Captain finds—at the Embassy reception and later at another affair of the same nature, but when he hints at her name she says it is a "horrid, stupid, long, nasty name." The gentleman is now thoroughly impressed and tries to talk of love, but the lady turns the damper on slightly by reminding him that the little word which banishes fear is not "love but 'duty.'" They now drink, he to their next she to their present meeting. After imparting the information that she was born in St. Petersburg the lady, disclosing that she was the sender of the ticket, betrays such intimate knowledge of her companion's doings in Berlin as, one would think, should put any mildly intelligent Queen's Messenger on his guard. But this gentleman allows himself to be drawn into talking about his despatches. He says that a country's peace or a country's trouble often lies in his "big bag" sealed in an envelope, and when the lady shudders and talks of her poor country he tells her severely that her country's poverty is Europe's safeguard, or words to that effect. After accepting a cigar he answers a number of questions as to his cigar cutter, his signet ring and—of course—his keys, kindly and not without some pride, pointing out those that open the "big bag." It transpires that despatches are never lost, and, that for any Messenger who should lose his, the only course open would be to "walk off the edge of things." At this point he quite gratuitously blows a cloud of smoke in the lady's face, and apologising, throws away his cigar, on which the *inconnue* produces a box of large and small cigarettes. He takes one of the former at her suggestion—of course—and though he finds it "curious" and thinks it "reminds him of something," sits contentedly inhaling its smoke while the lady "spins" him a "yarn" to the effect that there are Russian spies after him who will not scruple to kill him for the possession of his despatches, and tells him she has brought him here to save him. He expresses his gratitude and, again at her suggestion, takes another cigarette. Up to this point the play had dragged drearily, not one epigram or one faint sparkle of wit irradiating the dull mass of verbiage. But things now brightened a bit from the spectator's point of view. The players began to talk of sentiment and love and so forth, and the Queen's Messenger speaks with deep feeling of some one whom he loves in England (named Constance, who doesn't know what a fool he is making of himself in Berlin) and whose heart would be broken if "those papers" had been stolen. The Russian lady now plays him a bit; suggests that she does not live with her people but alone; that her letter to Morovski is so important that it will bear tearing up now and here, and when the wary bearer of important despatches pricks up his long ears, says she is joking and he had better go away. Instead of which he attempts to take her in his arms (his keys are still lying on the table). She rebukes him. He would kill himself, she says, if he should prove false to the trust reposed in him by his Queen, but with a stranger he betrays the Queen of his love, and—poof!—it is nothing. "Oh yes; the English are brave." In default of anything better to do under these jeers he looks at his watch. He has five minutes longer and—he accepts another cigarette, although anybody but a Messenger of his type would know that his head is already buzzing. While the lady walks up and down watching her victim there is a good deal of conversation, chiefly on her side. She talks of her lover,—boasts in fact of *his* devotion to duty as compared with the person whom she is addressing,—announces (to the dazed surprise of the Messenger) that she is an emissary of the Imperial Court of Russia and that she intends to rob him of his despatches. She then shows him some of the meshes of the net in which he has been caught, and, taunting him over the ease with which he has fallen "a victim to a poor weak woman" says, "How very English!" The officer, who now feels bad indeed, is barely able to stagger to his feet with the intention of getting away (never mind the keys), but collapses with his head on his bag. The lady now sends away the carriage which the Messenger had caused to wait, and, with many expressions of contempt for the prostrate gentleman and for England, takes the keys, opens the bag and obtains the despatch. The Messenger soon after makes a number of semi-incoherent remarks about Constance and the necessity of catching the train, while the lady soliloquises on what has just taken place. The former then wakes up, and the latter places the despatch in a large picture frame which she turns face down on the table. There is the very mischief to pay when he realises that the carriage has gone. He talks of arresting her at first and of "flashing" the despatch across Europe, but when she suggests that to do this he would want the despatch; when, unable to find his keys, he presses a lever and opens the bag, to find no despatch there; when he demands his despatch and is reminded that Francois and the carriage are miles away by now, words almost fail him. Not quite altogether, however, for he draws his revolver, says, "Constance! The end of it all!" presses the pistol's muzzle to his temple, whence it is knocked away (as all the ancient demands of Melodrama insistently require) by the Russian lady who tells him that he has conquered. She has seen something in his face that she never saw before—a man looking at death with the name on his lips of the woman he loves. England is a great country and her people are heroes. (Someone in the audience very unkindly giggled here). Consequently he will have his despatch back unopened and he will catch his train. "Oh! why are we women born with hearts!" There, it is all over! They exchange presents: he gives her his signet ring and she indicates the picture frame, from which he extracts both picture and despatch; he kisses her hand;—"300 yards away there is a coach house, in it a trap, I will myself harness the horse and drive you to the station and all with one minute to spare." So he blows out the candles, she turns out the lamp. Sepulchral darkness falls again upon the stage. The man must'nt move until she tells him because he must'nt "make another false step now, eh?" and so with comments upon each other's looks, upon the air and upon the moon they disappear, the last we hear being assurances from her of safe guidance. And we wonder whether he ever told Constance!

Putting aside the wild improbability of the whole story; the impossible Queen's Messenger; the equally impossible Lady; we have nothing but praise for both Mrs. McWilliams and Mr. Allen. The lady acted superbly, and Mr. Allen ably supported her. Both are worthy of better material to work upon. The curtain descended shortly before midnight on a house thoroughly delighted with the entertainment that had been provided.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

Being of opinion that there is a danger of the nation going to excess in the exaltation of manly qualities and of forgetting the claims of the other side of human character, Dr. Anezaki contributed a long article to the April number of the *Taiyō* entitled *Kyuyen no Josei* (The never-changing nature of woman); his object being to show that the two great religions of the world, Christianity and Buddhism, have both utilized the finest traits of female character as reforming agencies. Religious devotees and real admirers of art, says Dr. Anezaki, are alike ever in search of ideas, principles and moral qualities that are indestructible. To the casual observer the world is one scene of change, dissolution, disintegration. All things seem to be passing away never to appear again in the same form. It is the special function of religion to show that beneath the surface of things there are eternal principles, grand ideas which work themselves out throughout successive ages despite the transitoriness of all else. Dr. Anezaki then proceeds to dwell on the manner in which both Buddhism and Christianity have insisted on the perpetuity of the mysterious energy which lies beneath external nature. The eternal principle is, according to Christianity, embodied in the *Logos*, according to Buddhism in the *Dharma*. From this Dr. Anezaki passes on to discuss the special merits of female character. In Japan, where woman still occupies a very inferior position in the estimation of the majority of men, such an article as the one before us may prove instructive, but in the West during the past fifty years all the weak and strong points of women have been so exhaustively treated by fiction writers that Dr. Anezaki's remarks could not but appear to foreign readers very commonplace were they transferred to these columns. His view is that woman's connexion with religion is closer than that of man, because religion has largely to depend on feelings rather than on logic for its power. He says that both Christianity and Buddhism regard woman in her capacity of mother as occupying the highest function she can fill; hence the worship of the Virgin Mary and the numerous Buddhist references to exemplary mothers.

There is a fact connected with the war now going on which has given rise to much discussion and been the subject of long comment both in the West and the East, which is the circumstance that the larger portion of Christendom sympathizes with the non-Christian combatant. The ground for this sympathy is said to be the fact that ethically Japan occupies a higher plane than that occupied by Russia. The *Kirisutokyō Sekai* discusses this subject in a leading article published in No. 1,070, entitled *Iwayuru Kirisutokyō Koku*, the substance of which we give below. Opinion in Europe has greatly changed since the time of the China-Japan war. The Emperor William's picture, which called forth so much comment when it appeared, was no doubt designed to express general European sentiment in reference to the attitude to be assumed by Christian countries towards heathen countries, and it is generally believed that when Germany and France sided with Russia against us they did so to a considerable extent on account of racial and religious antipathy. By an article which appeared in the *Novoe Vremya* a short time ago it would appear that the Russians still expect to make political capital out of the unity of religious belief throughout Europe and America. Before the war broke out, in a leading article this Russian journal wrote:—"If it comes to war, it will be a war between Christianity and heathenism whose effects will be felt even in the remotest corners of Christendom." The *Novoe Vremya* takes it for granted that the Christian world will be on her side, but it is an undoubted fact that the opposite is the case. The sympathy of Christendom as expressed in leading Christian journals is with Japan.[*] The American *Congregationalist* in an article entitled "Christians Sympathize with Japan" doubtless expresses the general feeling in America. This article asserts that the real cause for this sympathy is the fact that in granting liberty of belief to all her subjects Japan is acting on one of the most pronounced and highly esteemed of modern Christian principles. The *Novoe Vremya* is twenty or thirty years behind the age. Public opinion in the West has changed, says the *Congregationalist*, and to-day Japan's liberality towards believers in alien creeds has proved sufficient to bring the greater part of Christendom over to her side.[†] Though the majority of Japanese are Buddhists or Shintoists by profession, they allow Christians to teach in their schools and give to Christian ministers and missionaries of all sects every facility for the prosecution of their work.

The *Kirisutokyō Sekai* quotes from a New York journal words to the same effect, and then concludes in a very sensible manner by observing that it ill becomes Japanese Christians to boast of the superiority of Japanese civilisation, which still is defective in many important respects. The present situation calls for sobriety, self-control and great circumspection. Japan must show that she can act up to the high ideals which she possesses.

In an extremely interesting article written by Dr. Inoue Tetsujirō for the January *Taiyō* entitled "Japan's Present Situation and Environment," which we had only space to notice at the time of its publication in a most cursory manner, the wonderful manner in which racial and religious barriers have been broken down by means of political events connected with the Far East is commented on as follows:—"But while[‡] other European countries for the sake of maintaining their prestige and preserving peace, have entered into various alliances with each other, England, whose policy it has been to keep aloof from such alliances, has joined hands with a far-off Asiatic country. This is an entirely new departure in the history of nations. One of the results of this great change of policy is that the Asiatic country which figures in this alliance has now been raised to the level of a European State. Again, considering this alliance from the point of view of race, nearly all Europeans are Aryans, and among them there are not a few who hold that the Aryan race is destined in future to conquer the world. The Japanese, I need hardly say, come from Mongolian stock. That nations belonging to such widely different races should have formed an alliance must be regarded as a new page in the world's history. Again, the fact that during the troubles in Northern China a few years ago Japanese and Occidental troops fought side by side in the suppression of the Boxers marks a new epoch in history. . . . What happened may be said to be a striking example of the fact that oneness of race is no sure reason for alliance and difference of race no sure reason for enmity. (*Kore ni yotte dōjinshu naraba, kanarazu shimo rengōshi, ijinshu naraba aiteki suru to iu kenchō naru jitsurei wo hiraita wake de arimasenu*). This incident may well be regarded as a heavy blow struck at narrow-minded and bigoted race hatred and jealousy. When, next, we consider the matter from the point of view of religion, we find that in this war Christians and Buddhists were fighting side by side. This circumstance, regarded from the standpoint of the progress of enlightenment is of immense importance. This and our alliance with Christian England conclusively shows that we have now reached a stage of thought when friendship between nations is no longer to be interrupted by any local petty differences of creed. . . . .[*] The reason for my saying that Japan occupies a unique position in the world is the fact that she has brought about a great change of ideas in respect to the relation of the world's communities to each other. . . . . It can hardly be doubted that the results of her action on civilisation generally will prove in the end to be great beyond all expectation."

In the *Kiristokyō Sekai* Mr. Ueda Shūtarō writes in high praise of the character of the late Prince Konoe. He says that many Japanese grieve over his death as much as though they had lost a parent. It is not for his high rank nor for his intellectual superiority that the Prince will he chiefly remembered, says Mr. Ueda, but for the depth of his benevolence. He was a man who by nature was endowed with Christian love. A story is told of him which is worthy of being placed on permanent record. When I was in Hawaii some 5 years ago, says Mr. Ueda, I observed among a group of Japanese labourers a woman about 30 years of age. She was evidently very poor and was to be seen day after day slaving away with her husband, though she still had a child at her breast. Her way of treating this child attracted my attention. She not only showed towards it the strong love of a mother, but she seemed to treat it with quite unusual respect, as though its rank was deemed to be higher than her own. I asked the reason of this and with tears in her eyes she gave me the history of its birth. It was born, she said, on board the ship in which Prince Konoe crossed the Pacific in the spring of 1899. No sooner was the birth of the child announced to the Prince than he proceeded in person to the third-class quarters and, despite the filth, noise and malodour of the place where the emigrants were herded together like so much luggage, he made his way to the room of the mother, congratulated her on the birth, took the child in his arms and graciously bestowed a name on it in remembrance of the incident. Therefore it is that the mother gladly works day and night to support the child, regarding it as a gift of Heaven. Having had experience of what kindness and love exists in the hearts of certain men, when later on this woman and her husband heard of the love of Christ, they were at once attracted by it and became earnest Christians. Their attachment to Christianity was the result of prior affinity of nature to its teaching, and can only be compared to iron being drawn to a compass. They had been predisposed towards Christianity by Prince Konoe's act. It was not I that converted this couple, but the Prince. It was his goodness that impressed and converted them. (*Kore wa yo no dendō no kekkwa de nai, sunawachi Konoe Kō no hataraki de arō. Kō* (公) *no bitoku kankwaryoku* (感化力) *de arō*). In numbers of cases persons who have subsequently proved susceptible to religious teaching have first been moved by the purely secular influence wielded by kind-hearted and virtuous men like the late Prince Konoe.

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[*] There are some exceptions to this, however. For instance, Bishop Grafton of Wisconsin writes:—"The sympathy of America should be with Russia in the present struggle. . . . Japan is enlightened heathenism, and uniting with China will be a menace to Civilisation." A few Americans argue, we observe, that it is illogical to maintain that Christianity is infinitely superior ethically to non-Christian moral systems and at the same time to admit that Japanese ethics are better than Russian Christian ethics.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.

[†] There are not wanting those who explain this very striking phenomenon by citing the fact that the Western world to-day attaches infinitely less importance to a man's professed religious belief than to his everyday practical code of morality. In many circles so little does religious belief count that nobody takes the trouble to inquire whether a man belongs to an "ism" or not. In politics Lord Salisbury evidently was not of opinion that Japan's non-acceptance as a nation of the Christian faith was any reason for mistrusting her in any way. Hence the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, which Dr. Inoue Tetsujirō interprets in a very interesting manner.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

[‡] We give a literal translation of Dr. Inoue's words.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

[*] There are of course a few journals like the London *Spectator* which hold that England was quite wrong to trust a heathen nation; that outside the pale of Christendom there is no high and thoroughly trustworthy code of ethics; but such journals show lamentable ignorance of facts.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

Mr. Ebina Danjō contributes to the *Kirisutokyō Sekai* two articles entitled *Tōyō Minzoku no Reikwa* (靈化). "The Reform of Oriental Nations," in which in a most earnest manner he calls on his fellow-countrymen and more especially his fellow-Christians to prepare themselves for utilizing the golden opportunity which victory in this war is bound to bring in its train—which is no other than the opportunity to regenerate China and Korea. What is wanted for this great enterprise, says Mr. Ebina, is a large supply of devoted men who are ready to sacrifice everything to the one great purpose of enlightening their fellow-men. There is, he continues, a great lack of whole-hearted devotion among our young men, a great want of enterprise and spirit. To find men who will endure hardship and privation cheerfully in order to realize their aims is very difficult. Our young men read the lives of Livingstone and General Gordon with admiration, but it never occurs to them that they might, if they had the will, follow in the footsteps of such men. Nevertheless, at the conclusion of his second article Mr. Ebina expresses the conviction that Japan will, when the times comes for action, prove herself equal to the task of regenerating the whole of the Eastern world.

On April 19th last, 30 years had elapsed since the commencement of the work of the American Board of Foreign Missions, now known in Japan as the Kumiai Kyōkai. The *Kirisutokyō Sekai* in No. 1,077 furnishes a short account of the fortunes of the Mission; which we epitomize below. On April 19th, 1874, eleven persons were baptized in Kōbe in connexion with the American Board and constituted the nucleus of the first Japanese Christian Church belonging to that mission. On May 24th the same year a church was founded at Ōsaka connected with the same mission. Six years later churches were founded in Yokohama and Tōkyō by the Kumiai Kyōkai. In one sense the Kumiai Kyōkai may be said to have been born in the first year of Meiji, for it was in that year that the late Dr. Niijima, who was then studying in America, conferred with Dr. Clark, the Secretary of the American Board, in reference to the despatch of missionaries to this country. The following year the Board decided to open up work in Japan and appointed the Rev. D. C. Greene and Mrs. Greene to Japan. They took up their residence in Kōbe in March, 1870. It was during the next three years that modern Japan began to assume definite shape. Those were stirring times, when far-reaching changes in Government administration and in organization were being inaugurated. We must bear in mind that it was not until 1873 that the anti-Christian edicts were rescinded and the Government public notices forbidding Japanese to enter the Christian Church were removed. It is not generally known that this measure was brought about by means of information conveyed to the American Government by a Kōbe missionary. In the very early days of the Mission there was in Kōbe a Japanese scholar called Ichikawa Yeinosuke, who was acting as a teacher of the Japanese language to one of the missionaries. One day he was suddenly arrested by an officer belonging to the Danjōdai (Board of Police, abolished in 1871) on the charge of having in his possession a Japanese manuscript translation of part of the New Testament. This was true. He and his wife were imprisoned in Kyōto, where the following year the husband succumbed to the harsh treatment he received. Ichikawa may be said to have been the first martyr of our new Church. But his imprisonment and death were the means of bringing about a radical change in the attitude of the Japanese Government to Christianity. When shortly after Ichikawa's death Japan's envoy was paying a visit to the American Secretary of State, he was reminded that Japan was not treating the religion of foreigners with the respect due to it; that persecution of Christians, was taking place in Kyōto at that very time, and that this was contrary to the spirit of Western civilisation, and so on. As a consequence of this representation the anti-Christian laws were all abrogated. Thus did the death of this one man give new life to the whole country. The Kōbe Christians belonging to our Church now number over 600. They possess a church building that seats 800 people and the Kumiai Kōbe church in its ideas, in its finance, in its organization, is quite independent. And this church has no less than 99 sister churches in various parts of the country, which have a membership of over 10,000 persons. In considering the causes of this great success, while acknowledging the merits of foreign missionaries, we cannot but perceive that the founding of the Dōshisha by Dr. Niijima and the acquisition by that institution of a very fine set of young men who had graduated at the Kumamoto School of Foreign Learning and who subsequently became first-class evangelists and first-rate teachers contributed immensely to the results achieved. Japanese Protestants to day number nearly 50,000 and if Roman Catholic converts be added to these, the number exceeds 100,000; and all this as the result of 30 years work, much of which was only of a preparatory kind. Surely the success of the next thirty years ought, with the present facilities for communication, and the advance of education and the increasing power of the press, to be far greater than that which we have already scored.

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As observed in our last Summary, in the March number of the *Seisho no Kenkyū* Mr. Uchimura Kanzō states at great length in the form of questions and answers his reasons for not belonging to any church. In Europe and America and in Australia there are a few powerful preachers who have severed their connexion with the bodies to which they originally belonged for one reason or another, but who are warmly supported by their congregations. The Japanese general public rather admires the spirit of such men as Mr. Uchimura Kanzō, who are prepared to defy ordinary Christian public opinion and strike out on lines of their own. The term *jimbutsu* (men of character) we frequently hear applied to such persons. Mr. Uchimura's defence of his position as an earnest, hard-working unattached Christian is too long to be epitomized in one Summary. We give the first part of his statement only this month, reserving the remainder for a future occasion, and for the sake of brevity will dispense with the questions of the real or imaginary Christian interlocutor. First, it may be well to state that Mr. Uchimura's main contention is that the notion that any existing sect possesses real authority to settle matters of ceremony, doctrines or methods of explaining the Bible is not to be entertained for a moment. None of the Christian sects that exist can claim to be the only authorized interpreter of God's word. The sects differ among each other on essential points. They can't all be right. The Church of the New Testament consists of real believers only. In the heart of each believer the Holy Spirit dwells. The organizations of to-day called Churches are a mixture of real believers and mere professors. No believer is under any obligation to become a member of any Christian sect if he chooses to keep separate and thinks it best to do so. Mr. Uchimura points out that many of the prophets spent their lives in denouncing the bodies which in their day claimed authority over individual servants of God who wished to worship Jehovah in their own way. He thinks that the prophets plainly denounced forms and ceremonies as possessing in themselves no merit whatever. He considers that Isaiah I. 10—14 and Amos V. 21—23 not only teach that religious services performed by wicked people are a mere mockery, but that under no circumstances can a ceremony possess the same value in the eyes of God as real devotion of heart and holiness of life. Forms and ceremonies may be dispensed with without loss of any kind, says Mr. Uchimura. He observes that the religious bodies which existed during the centuries covered by the Old Testament history were habitually denounced by God's special messengers as obstructing the progress of real religion by the assumption of authority which they had no real right to exercise, and he says that every reform in religion has begun by determined opposition to existing ecclesiastical authority. Protestantism itself began thus, and every separate Protestant sect had its origin in the desire of certain persons to free themselves from thraldom of some kind or other. It has to be remembered, says Mr. Uchimura, that according to the Bible, Churches have no value at all apart from the faith and devotion of the members that form them. The Church is a result and not a cause. It is not a fact that there is faith because there is a Church, but that there is a Church because there is faith. (*Kyōkai wa kekkwa de arimashite, genin de wa arimasen. Kyōkai atte no shinkō de wa naku shite, shinkō atte no kyōkai de arimasu*). Mr. Uchimura's interlocutor asks him whether he regards himself as a modern prophet sent by God to denounce existing religious bodies which fail to come up to his ideal, and whether he thinks the time for the dissolution of existing Christian organizations has come. To this question Mr. Uchimura replies that in a certain sense he may be so regarded, on the principle that he that is not with a cause is against it. He is not in sympathy with any existing Christian denomination. The reasons for this he states at considerable length. These reasons will receive our attention next month.

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In the *Seikyō Shimpō*, No. 557, we find an article entitled "The Greek Church and the Situation" which gives a full account of the manner in which the Christians belonging to Bishop Nicolai's Mission have acted in the trying position in which they find themselves. First, in reference to Bishop Nicolai's attitude to the existing situation, the *Seikyō Shimpō* calls attention to the fact that nine years ago when three European Powers dictated certain terms to Japan, Bishop Nicolai foresaw that Russia's action would eventually lead to war between herself and Japan, and he then said, "Should this occur, in as far as circumstances permitted, I should decide to remain in this country and shepherd the flock which I have gathered here as I am doing to-day." His mind has never wavered on the point since that time. When Japanese negotiations with Russia had been broken off and war was seen to be inevitable, Baron Rosen, the Russian Minister in Tōkyō, wrote to the Bishop urging him speedily to make up his mind whether it was his duty to go or to stay. The Bishop having given himself body and soul to the service of the Japanese branch of the Greek Church, wisely determined that his best plan was to place the matter entirely in their hands and to do what they advised. A meeting of all the leading Christians was called, and after discussing the question the following resolution was unanimously passed: *Shukyō Kakka* (主教閣下) *wa, ikanaru jikyoku wo kitasu tomo, Nihon Seikyōkai no tame ni Nihon ni todomari, Rokcku ni wa danjite kikoku seraran koto wo setsubō su.* "We earnestly trust that, however serious the situation may be, your Lordship will not return to your native country, but remain on in Japan for the sake of the Greek Church in this country." After this resolution had been passed, the question of the steps it was necessary to take to protect the Bishop against possible violence were considered. A few were in favour of his moving to the Austrian Legation in order to insure better protection. Others proposed that he be asked to temporarily take up his residence in some American city. The Bishop disapproved of these proposals, and said that if he were commanded by his own Government or by the Japanese Government to leave the country, he would go to Shanghai, in order to be as near Japan as possible. The Christians realize that the situation has its dangers, but there are scores of them who would gladly sacrifice their lives rather than have their beloved pastor injured in any way.

In reference to the work of the Church, continues the *Seikyō Shimpō*, our Synod unanimously agreed that the situation called for no retrenchment and for no radical change of plans. Of course in the matter of finance there was cause for some little anxiety; but they could exercise more economy, and doubtless earnest men would be found ready to save the situation by subscribing money, or would give help in other ways. In school work, in the publication of books and the like there must be no relaxation of effort on account of the war. The Greek Church Christians must be prepared to find themselves suspected in some quarters. But they can live this down.

At the end of the article which we are epitomizing it is stated that Bishop Nicolai has been placed under the protection of the French Minister. For a short time it was feared that the Russian Government would order the Bishop to return to his country, but through the kind appreciation of the Bishop's point of view on the part of Baron Rosen, a satisfactory arrangement was made, and at present the Japanese Government are specially guarding the Bishop. The Greek Church Christians have started a War Relief fund of their own and are displaying their patriotism in every possible way.

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Under the title "A New way of Regarding Morality" Mr. Matsuo Otojirō writes in the following strain in the *Rikugō Zasshi*. One of the defects of traditional Japanese morality is a certain supra-mundane superiority which it assumes. This has its origin in history. Japanese morality was developed principally by the warrior class, which kept aloof from traders, artizans and business men of all kinds. So that to pursue moral ideals of a high type was for centuries considered to be incompatible with the pursuit of wealth or devotion to business. Lies, for instance, were supposed to be quite necessary in trade. This largely accounts for the deterioration of the Japanese merchant class compared with the military class. They were for centuries taught that the high code of morals practised by the *samurai* was not one that they were expected to observe. They were engaged in making profit and there was no connexion between money-making and the practice of a lofty code of morals. So our morality became a kind of dress coat which only one section of the community was ever expected to wear. And yet when we go back to the origin of our word for morality, *dōtoku*, we find that it is made up of *toku* that which is acquired, profit, or gain, and *michi* the right or proper way of acquiring anything sought for. There is connected with every object sought for, a natural and reasonable way of obtaining it and an unnatural and unreasonable way of doing so. Now, to say that morality only concerns the action and words of a certain small section of the community, as in effect was done in the days when the *bushidō* as a moral code was bowed to as the one supreme authority, though it may appear to enhance the value of morality, in reality does the opposite, as it limits its scope to a small section of the community.

Since morality, properly defined, controls the actions of all men at all times; since it is the doing of right actions in a right manner, it is intimately connected with the lives of every member of a community and instead of being placed outside the life of money-making, it should control the whole of that life. What is called profit includes a great many things besides the accumulation of property. It embraces a man's permanent benefit and happiness. In business life men are brought into contact with each other in a manner that calls for a keen appreciation of the rights of each individual. There is no comparison between the profits that have been made in defiance of all the laws of morality and those which have been acquired in an honest, straightforward and conscientious manner. Mr. Matsuo in the last part of his article writes thus: *Dōtoku wa tokunoma no okimono shisubeki mono ni arazu shite, kiwamete jitsuyō teki naru mono de aru; jōhin* (上品) *sugiru mono ni arazu shite, kiwamete riyeki na mono de aru; hijōbutsu shiosubeki mono ni arazu shite, kiwamete hiroku amaneku okonawarubeki mono de aru.* "Morality is not to be regarded as something to be placed as an ornament on the shelf, but is decidedly an article for daily use. It is not something of too superior a quality to be mixed with money-making. It must not be regarded as some choice curiosity, but practised far and wide by everybody."

YOKOHAMA YACHT CLUB.

We take from a late number of *Forest and Stream*, the following account of the Yokohama Yacht Club, by Mr. A. R. Catto, which will be of interest to local yachtsmen:—

Early in the history of the foreign settlement in Yokohama there were occasional sailing races amongst the boats of the ships lying in the port, and as boats were acquired by the residents, the sport grew in popularity. For many years the fleet consisted of open boats, old converted ships' lifeboats &c., but as time went on craft were specially built for the purpose, and during the season of 1886 races were held regularly and so much enthusiasm was shewn that it was felt that the sport required the establishment of a properly organized Yacht Club. At the outset there was some difficulty, as the Rowing Club, to which most of the boat owners belonged, wished to take the matter in hand. The Rowing Club had a pavilion and landing stage, which they represented as being indispensable to the owners of the sailing boats, but the latter felt that it would be better to have their own organization, and decided to form a separate Club, even if they had only the wide, wide sea as their Club house. The Yokohama Sailing Club was therefore formed, and commenced the season of 1887 with about 24 sail on their register. Of these, five were specially built yachts, decked and ballasted, five were open or half decked, one was built on the model of a Japanese fishing boat, and the remainder were converted ships' boats. The champion for the season of 1886 is still on the Club register, and still races occasionally in handicaps.

The succeeding four years saw a large number of new boats built. One built in 1888 from lines supplied by the late Ed. Burgess, with a water line length of 31 feet, and sail area of about 1900 sq. ft., is still well to the front in her class, and in her own particular weather picks up an occasional prize. A few yachts have been imported, from the Solent, the Clyde, and New York, but the majority have been built from lines by local designers, and these are by far the most successful.

A canoe class was started in 1889, and flourished for some years until the addition of heavily weighted keels to some of the boats brought the type into disfavour. A Surbiton gig class started in 1890 then reigned in favour among the younger owners, and with modifications the type lasted until 1902.

In the year 1897 the name of the Club was changed to the Yokohama Yacht Club, as the proportion of real "yachts," as opposed to "sail boats" certainly justified the name. The Club Register for this year included 30 yachts; the old converted ships' boats having been all superseded. From about this time a very useful class of race-abouts has gradually developed into one of the best for close racing in the Club. With a water line length of from 18 to 21 feet, and sail area about 450 sq. ft., they are very handy craft for racing and day sailing. Last year a one design class was started, 15 boats being built to the lines of the "Lark." These small racers sailed 24 races during the season, and afforded most excellent sport, proving quite the best class from a purely sporting point of view that has ever been introduced in these waters.

The Club Register for 1903 contained 17 cabin yachts, headed by the flagship of the Commodore, a schooner of 37 tons register, and an auxiliary schooner, a cruiser. The first division, consisting of boats of from 10 to 14 tons displacement, was unfortunate during the season, as one yacht was wrecked during a gale and broken up, and another was taken away from Yokohama on the departure of the owner from Japan. The second division cabin yachts, forming the cruising class, afford very good sport, racing under handicaps. Ten race-abouts, and fifteen "Larks" complete the number on the register. In 1903, during the season from May to October, 62 races were sailed. The rating formula is the cube root of l.w.l.x.s.a., but as the types of yachts are so varied, a fair proportion of races are sailed under handicaps, except of course races for the "Lark" class.

From its situation on the Gulf of Yedo, Yokohama is admirably suited for the headquarters of a Yacht Club. The harbour is well protected by a breakwater, and the part assigned by the authorities for the yacht anchorage is next to the Bund, with a depth of from 2 to 3½ fathoms. The average rise and fall of tide is about 5 feet. The Gulf of Yedo extends some 40 miles by 20, and affords excellent cruising and racing water, especially to the West and South, where it opens to the Pacific by a channel about 6 miles wide. Outside there is splendid scope for coastwise cruising, with numerous snug harbours at convenient intervals. Off the coast lies Vries Island, which forms an objective for more ambitious voyages, and has been visited by several of the larger yachts, as excellent woodcock shooting is to be got there.

Japanese make very good yacht hands, as they are born sailors. They take a very keen interest in racing, and at the close of every season there is a race for the small boats, manned by native paid hands only. This event is always productive of great excitement, and there is usually some carrying away of gear amongst the competing boats.

In and about Yokohama are some excellent Japanese shipwrights, who turn out very good work, and the cost of construction is low. One of the most prominent members of the Yacht Club, a gentleman who has done a great deal for the good of the sport, and a very successful designer, has in connexion with his business a staff of sailmakers. Yacht sails supplied from his loft have been pronounced by good judges to be equal to anything obtainable in America. Altogether the expenses of yachting in Yokohama are lower than almost anywhere else in the world, and anyone with a taste for the sport can indulge in it to the top of his bent.

MAY MONEY MARKET.

The following tables show the amounts required during May to meet various calls:—

To be Paid.	Yen.
Land tax, 6th payment for last fiscal year.	8,269,737
Hokkaido land tax, 4th payment for last fiscal year	12,564
Land tax, delayed payments for 1902	14,586
Business tax, first half year	6,115,120
War Loan, 3rd payment, *yen* 15, face value *yen* 100	15,000,000
Tokyo Electric Railway Company, 2nd payment on new shares	780,000
Kyushu Railway Company, 2nd payment on new shares	1,040,000
Hankaku Railway Company, 3rd debentures	490,000
Nanao Railway Co., 2nd debentures	400,000
Chugoku Railway Co., 2nd debentures	360,000
Industries Encouragement Bank, 21st debentures, guarantee money for subscription	100,000

To be Drawn.	
Interest on Pension Bonds	415,791
Interest on Naval loan	207,433
Dividends of Nippon Yusen Kaisha	1,320,000
Interest on debentures of Industries Encouragement Bank	44,156
Repayment of debentures of Industries Encouragement Bank	25,000
Interest on debentures of Hoden Kerosene Oil Company	20,000
Interest on debentures of Sobu Railway Company	21,000
Interest on debentures of Hokkaido Colliery and Railway Company	27,940
Repayment of debentures of Hokkaido Colliery and Railway Company	15,000

FIRES.

The well-known theatre, Naniwa-za, in Ōsaka, was destroyed by fire on April 30th.

An engine boiler in the Kasuo Yarn Factory, Kamitsuga, near Utsunomiya, burst on the night of April 29th and caused a fire, the result being that a building used as a dormitory by the female workers was destroyed.

Fire broke out on the night of May 2nd in the Office of the *Fuso Shimbun*, Nagoya, destroying the building.

THE LAW COURTS.

THE CAPTURED SHIPS.

A representative of the Kamtchatka Commerce and Industry Company presented a petition on April 28th in the Yokosuka Prize Court asking that the steamer *Kotik* and the sailing vessel *Bobric* be released, contending that the ships belong to that firm and that they did not participate in any hostile action.

NINE YEARS FOR INCENDIARISM.

M. C. Fernando, charged with incendiarism, was sentenced on April 29th in the Yokohama District Court to nine years' confinement with hard labour.

A SILK TRANSACTION.

Judgment was rendered on May 3rd in the Yokohama District Court by Judge Danno, in the case instituted by Messrs. W. M. Strachan & Co. against M. Sarasawa, *habutae* silk dealer. Defendant was ordered to pay plaintiffs *yen* 422.30 with interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum from Jan. 6th last till execution of judgment, and to bear costs.

LIBEL CASE.

The case filed by Mr. S. Isaacs against his younger brother, Mr. Max Isaacs, claiming *yen* 12,000 on the ground that the latter had presented to the Court in another case a statement defamatory of plaintiff, came up again on May 3rd in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno, when judgment was delivered dismissing the claim of plaintiff with costs.

CLAIM ON A SHARE TRANSACTION.

The hearing of this case, brought by Mr. R. J. Ward against B. Sho, a sharebroker, claiming *yen* 8,515.60, was resumed on May 3rd in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno.

Mr. Sydney Smith was examined as witness. Mr. Smith stated that he arrived on Sept. 17th last in Yokohama from San Francisco and took up his residence at the Club Hotel where he found the name of Tokumiya sharebrokers, Tokyo, among other advertising matter. The witness sent a letter to the brokers enquiring about business, and received from them a reply in which they asked him to enquire at the Yokohama office. Before he made any enquiry at the Yokohama office, Muramatsu, an employee of Tokumiya, called on witness and offered him a share quotation list. Later the witness ordered Muramatsu to sell sixty shares each of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha and Toyo Kisen Kaisha. Subsequently he paid a visit to Miyanoshita and several other places, after which he arrived in Tokyo and stayed at the Metropole Hotel. While in Tokyo, witness called at the office of defendant where he met very often Mr. Morito of the Yokohama office and his employee, Muramatsu. The witness believed that the Tokyo and Yokohama offices were the same business, that of B. Sho, the defendant. Witness received several receipts from Sho in connexion with transactions which documents were all signed by the firm name, Tokumiya.

Witness produced these documents to the Court for confirmation of his statement.

The examination of witness was here concluded.

It may be remembered that the case was adjourned till May 5th at the previous hearing which took place on April 22nd. Since then plaintiff's counsel asked the Court for leave to examine Mr. S. Smith to secure his evidence as he is about to leave Yokohama.

The hearing of this case, brought by R. J. Ward against B. Sho, share-broker, claiming *yen* 8,515,60, was resumed on May 5th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno.

Having produced in Court two letters as evidence, Plaintiff's counsel stated that Tokumiya, No. 78, Yokohama, was the same business as in Tokyo—that of B. Sho, the defendant.

Defendant's counsel submitted a copy of the Exchange Regulations and held that under the regulations a stock-broker is not permitted to establish a branch, so that the Yokohama office is a different business from that of defendant, though there appeared to be a connexion. In a case filed against B. Sho, the defendant in the present case, the jurisdiction lay with the Tokyo Court as he carries on business in Tokyo and has his domicile there.

Plaintiff's counsel stated in reply to the contention of the other side that the provisions of the Exchange Regulations were admitted as to the establishment of branches, but said they referred to the relations between the exchange and brokers but not to transactions between a broker and his customer. Defendant as a broker could accept orders from customers anywhere. Defendant's counsel asked the Court for leave to examine Muramatsu of the Yokohama office. The Court rejected the application.

Counsel entered into a lengthy discussion, after which the Court announced that it would give judgment on May 7th at 9 a.m.

HAIM v. BRETSCHNEIDER.

The hearing of this case, in which plaintiff claims *yen* 1,413.25 was resumed on May 3rd in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno.

J. Hayashi, an employe of Tashiroya, porcelain dealer, was examined as a witness. Hayashi stated that in December last he paid a visit to defendant at his office, where he saw a sample cup and several cases containing cups same as sample. The porcelain was quite similar to the sample in quality and pattern. The price was *rin* 7 or 8 per piece. Witness was asked by defendant whether he could make the porcelain at a cheap price, and received a cup as a sample. Witness produced two cups in Court, one of them being the sample which he received from defendant.

The Court declared that Mr. M. Surth, of Messrs. H. Ahrens & Co., whom the Court had asked to be present as an expert as to the commercial usage in Yokohama, had written saying that he was about to go in the interior on private matters.

Defendant's counsel asked the Court for leave to examine J. Hayashi again as to the sample of plaintiff, and Mr. Otto Koch who saw the sample and cups which defendant received from the Japanese manufacturers.

The Court decided to do so on May 24th.

STEWART v. STORNEBRINK.

This case, in which plaintiff claims *yen* 1,700, came up again on May 4th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Nakanishi on the protest of defendant against the judgement given on March 17th in favour of plaintiff when defendant was not present or represented.

Plaintiff's counsel repeated his statement presented to the Court on March 17th.

Defendant's counsel admitted that Mr. H. L. Stornebrink borrowed *yen* 1,200 on June 1st, 1900, from plaintiff on security of the perpetual lease of No. 270 Bluff together with two buildings and a factory situated on the same ground and that the due day for repayment was March 1st 1903. But counsel contended that the security was possessed jointly with another and that he had been in litigation to separate their interests. That case was not yet concluded. On March 2nd last, which was the day next to the due date defendant asked plaintiff to wait till the dispute as to the property was settled after which the former would sell it and pay the claim. At that time, plaintiff consented to the request of the defendant, so that the former must wait till the other case is closed.

The proceedings were concluded and the Court announced that judgment will be given on May 6th.

AMERICAN TOPICS.

It is announced that the Norfolk, Portsmouth & Newport News Company's $9,000,000 merger, which has been controlling practically every electric line, ferry, heat and lighting system in southeastern Virginia has been dissolved. The explanation is that the merger did not pay, and the properties are all separated into the different interests as before the merger took place.

The Whistler Memorial Exhibition, in Boston, has scored a great artistic success. "It is pleasing," as a writer in the New York *Outlook* remarks, "to see a prophet thus honoured in his own Country. Whistler was born in Massachusetts, and had Yankee shrewdness and wit as well as the artistic temperament. There was something distinctly American, too, in his first-hand attitude toward art—his starting out to paint as if nobody else had ever painted before, and as if the art had begun with him. . . .The memorial exhibition shows Whistler for what he was, not what his eccentricities obscured. Only a simple, sincere, patient genius could have produced this collection of rich and varied work."

In an address delivered at a banquet in New York City, Gen. Joseph H. Wilson declared that the coal and iron supply in America and England would give out in a couple of hundred years. He suggested that Asia then would have the only supply of coal and iron. He added: "There are only 400,000,000 white people on earth and about 1,200,000,000 coloured people, counting the yellow man. The yellow man is going to set up in business for himself, and that business has only just had its beginning in the Far East. There are 400,000,000 people in China. When China starts she is going to have a big say in the world. The great question is, who is going to control that coal and iron supply? In four or five hundred years the white man is going to be up against it.

The position of the U.S. Treasury continued to improve during the month of March, remarks *Bradstreets*, and at the end of the month it was found that the receipts exceeded the expenditures by over $2,960,000. This welcome addition to the small surplus brought it at the end of the nine months' period to over $7,800,000. This outcome is decidedly encouraging. The excess of receipts over expenditures does not represent quite three-fourths of the sum estimated by the Treasury officials earlier in the year as the probable surplus for the fiscal year, but the tendency of late years has been for April and May to show excesses of receipts, while the month of June, the last month of the fiscal year, has usually been above the average in this respect. It will not surprise anybody if the surplus for the fiscal year should equal if not exceed the estimate of Secretary Shaw.

Deposits of $250,360,319 were held by the state banks of Chicago as shown by their statements of condition as of March 22. This is the highest mark for deposits, the best previous figures being $236,344,135, on October 15, 1903. Deposits of the national banks January 22 were $267,046,799, which also set a new record. This makes the combined deposits of national and state banks $517,407,118. Cash resources of all banks in Chicago are now the largest ever known. The state banks gained in cash resources from the date of their last statement, December 30, 1903, $13,719,140, or 19.25 per cent.; loans gained $259,719, or .17 per cent., and deposits increased $16,927,874, or 7.25 per cent.

Says *Public Opinion*:—When trust promoters fall out the public occasionally get a little inside information. This is what happened in the shipbuilding case, and now we are promised the true history of Amalgamated copper. A few facts of interest have already come out during the course of the Boston gas hearing in which the copper promoters were also interested. Mr. Lawson said on the stand that $46,000,000 profit was involved in one transaction in which he was interested with the "Standard Oil crowd." This sum was raised to $66,000,000 in a statement that Mr. Lawson gave out on Sunday, and we can well believe him without further explanation. Copper properties like Anaconda, Butte and Boston, and others were turned over to the trust at figures ranging from fifty to one hundred per cent above their cost and value. Amalgamated was floated at par and is now quoted at 49. This, in brief, is the history of another combination in restraint of trade.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie will again be the largest taxpayer on personal property in New York. He has been assessed this year on $5,000,000, and as he sailed for Scotland withous making objection to the assessment he will pay on the whole amount, Mr. Russell Sage, who had been assessed on $2,000,000, applied to have the amount cut down to $500,000. He said in a letter to the board that he is unable to attend the offices of the commission personally, and has asked that his lawyer be allowed to swear off for him. Mr. Sage has been informed that the only way this can be done is to send an affidavit stating that he is physically incapable of coming in person. Mr. Charles M. Schwab was assessed at $100,000, but he called personally on the board and said that he objected to this figure, but owing to the fact that he enjoyed many privileges in New York he was willing to pay on an assessment of $5,000. This was agreeable to the department, and he settled on that basis.

The latest statehood bill is one providing for the admission of Oklahoma and Indian Territory as the state of Oklahoma, and of Arizona and New Mexico as the state of Arizona. No restriction in point of time is placed upon the admission of the two latter territories, but it is provided that the two former cannot be admitted until 1905, by which time all the Indian lands will have been allotted. It is provided that the constitutions to be formed under the bill must contain an absolute prohibition of polygamy, and that under them suffrage cannot be restricted except for ignorance, imbecility, age and sex. Revenues for schools are to be provided in the first-mentioned state by an appropriation of $5,000,000 out of the Treasury. This is to meet the fact that the Indian lands of Oklahoma and Indian Territory have been allotted in severalty to the Indians under a law which makes them non-taxable. The principal of this fund is to be used to the extent necessary, the remainder being placed on deposit at 3 per cent. interest to the credit of the state for the maintenance of the schools established.

As a general rule, in a presidential year the dominant party in Congress is more careful about the size of the appropriations than at other times. It is, therefore, not surprising to find that the chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations felicitates the House and the country on the fact that the appropriation bills carry less than might have been the case under other management. The sum total of all the annual supply bills, as reported by him is $598,802,324, to which must be added $84,971,820 estimated to be required for permanent appropriations for interest on the public debt, the expense of collecting customs, and other purposes, exclusive of the sinking fund. This gives a total of $682,774,144, which is still $22,000,000 less than the total estimated revenues. The result has been made possible by the omission to pass a general river and harbour bill at the present session of Congress and by a careful economy in the preparation of the appropriation bills. The amount carried by the Sundry Civil bill represents a reduction of $29,000,000 as compared with the appropriations for the current year.

Thomas A. Edison, writing for the *Electrical World and Engineer*, tells of his experiments with the incandescent electric lamp, which will celebrate its twenty-fifth birthday this year. He began trying to subdivide the electric light in the fall of 1877 and continued until July, 1878, when he broke down under the strain of a number of years of ceaseless work, and he took a rest. Little was done with the lamp, however, in the first six months of that year, owing to the exhibition and trials of the completed phonograph. In August Mr. Edison began again upon his experiments with carbon filaments. Trials were continued until October, 1879, when lamps were made of paper carbon, and with carbons of common sewing thread, placed in a receiver or bulb made of glass with the leading-in wires scaled by fusion. The whole thing was then exhausted by the Sprengel pump to nearly one-millionth of an atmosphere. Mr. Edison then continues: "These filaments of carbon, although naturally quite fragile owing to their length and small mass, had a smaller radiating surface and higher resistance than we dared hope. We had virtually reached the position where the carbons were stable. In other words, the incandescent lamp as we still know it to-day, in essentially all its particulars unchanged, had been born." He then tells of his experience with bamboos and other vegetable substances to get the best carbon filaments, and the final use of cellulose. He says in conclusion that upon a moderate computation the production of incandescent lamps in the country since his first success has reached a total of 250,000,000 lamps, or not less than 10,000,000 a year for each of the twenty-five years. The lamp has remained structurally the same since 1879.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

Mrs. Gertrude Atherton's novel, "The Rulers of Kings," which will shortly be published by Messrs. Macmillan introduces the present Emperors of Germany and Austria among the characters, and attempts a portraiture of both in imaginary circumstances.

Mr. Candler, the *Daily Mail* correspondent, who, to the regret of his many friends, was so severely wounded in the Tibetan rush at Tuna, with the result that he has lost his left hand, is the entertaining author of "A Vagabond in Asia." He is a graduate of Cambridge.

Mr. Irving Hancock, the author of "Japanese Physical Training," has appearing through G. P. Putman's Sons another book treating of "Jiu-jitsu." It is entitled "Physical Training for Woman according to Japanese Methods," and has explanatory illustrations taken from life.

Major Martin Hume has been adding .two new chapters to his recent successful book "The Courtships of Queen Elizabeth." He had endless inquiries from readers of it as to whether he could throw more light on the real nature of the relations that existed between Elizabeth and her admirers. His answer is contained in these fresh chapters, which also represent fresh research and information. Mr. Eveleigh Nash publishes the volume.

Mr. Frank T. Bullen, in an introduction which he has written to "The Way of the Sea," a new book by a new author, Mr. Norman Duncan, makes the following statement:—"I am absolutely certain that with the exception of Mr. Joseph Conrad and Mr. Rudyard Kipling, no writing about the sea has ever probed so deeply and so faithfully into its mysteries as his." The book will be published immediately by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton.

At Compostella there has just died a strange individual, half-tramp, half musician, with a certain dash of the poet about him, who, even in a land of old world survivals like Spain, may probably be regarded as the very last of the troubadours. His name was Adolfo Garcia, and he was a native of Galicia. Equipped with nothing but an old fiddle and a great umbrella that served against either sun or rain, and did service between times as an alpenstock, he had roamed through every province of Spain. Arriving in town or village, he looked out for youthful womanhood and wealth, and then, placing himself under the windows, played and sang the old, old theme of love and chivalry, mostly to airs of his own composing The ditties were not devoid of a certain refinement and delicacy, and never failed to reach the hearts or the purses of the gentle maids who had been selected for the serenade.

It is with no small regret that the historical and literary student learns that Mr. John Morley has definitely abandoned his intention of writing the volume on Chatham, which has been so long looked for, in the Twelve English Statesmen series. The volume, the only one lacking to complete the set, is now to be taken in hand by Mr. Frederic Harrison, who contributed the sketch of Cromwell to the same series. Since these admirable books were first planned many changes have been made in the arrangement of writers. Mr. Morley was to have written on both the Pitts, and eventually, as now appears, he has been unable, owing to his absorption in politics, to deal with either; Lord Rosebery having written on Pitt the son, while, as already stated, Mr. Frederick Pollock was also to have been one of the contributors, but that arrangement likewise fell through.

Under the title of "Far Eastern Impressions," Messrs Hutchinson & Company are publishing very shortly a work by Mr Ernest F. G. Hatch, M.P., embodying observations made during an extended series of journeyings in Japan, Korea and China some three years since. Mr. Hatch, whom many still remember in Yokohama, during his tour made it his business to inquire into trade questions which affect Britain. On the political aspects of the Far Eastern question, Mr. Hatch gives notes of conversations he had with prominent men. The work will be illustrated by a large series of photographs.

The following lines, written by Mr. Lee Wilson in the New York *Life*, are quoted by the American *Bookman* as a pleasant statement of the spirit of criticism to-day:—

LEONINA SOCIETAS.

A reader of the Hour
  Met the Writer of the Week,
Where Critics of the Minute
  Formed an influential clique:
"He has style," they said, "and power!
  And his treatment is unique."

So the Reader of the Hour
  Bought the Novel of the Week,
And he made his friends begin it;
  And he still delights to speak
  Of "The Novel"—
  The great Novel!
(Which the very drug stores sell!)
  And he likewise likes to tell
  That he knows the author well.
  "He has style and native power,"
  Says the Reader of the Hour,
  "And his treatment is unique."

"The Vineyard," John Oliver Hobbes's new novel, published by Mr. T. Fisher Unwin, is full of sparking epigrams. Here are a few:—

There is no woman who does not love to be loved.

Heaven and hell, the two places where everybody has to drop pretences.

One takes a husband nowadays as one takes a house—according to one's income.

The happiest lives are led by those who fear nothing, know nothing, and want nothing.

Human love is not a single and simple impulse, but an emotional force of innumerable complications.

The grab, bluster, and bluff of modern business means getting as much as you can for as little as you can give.

There is no loving-kindness, even in the best of provincial Christians, for ill-behaved members of the aristocracy.

If a man really wants a thing he will ask for it, and if he really loves a woman he will take any risk rather than lose her.

Treachery kills a woman's love, while jealousy will keep it burning. When men lie to women who love them, they are fools.

The individual is but the symbol of the great mass, and the history of a country is but the story, on the heroic measure, of any one human being.

Mr. H. B. Marriott-Watson, in the *Daily Mail*, enters a plea for greater freedom for girls in the matter of reading. Honestly, he says, the matron may conceive that her daughters should be kept "uncontaminated" by knowledge of the world; therefore she supervises their reading, and sees to it that their library books are strictly "proper." What a farce it is! If the girl is to live her life wholesomely, sanely, and fully, she should know as much as there is to know of what counts and matters. The theory of the sheltered life is ridiculous. Few women in these days can or do live sheltered lives. It is a battle for most of them, and the best they can do is to get to learn the terms on which it is fought. So far as literature will help them to do this (and it will go some way), girls should be at liberty to read what they will. Does a mother distrust the instincts of her own sex and of her own blood to such a degree as to exhibit alarm if her daughters pick up "Tom Jones," let us say? Personally I have greater faith in maidenhood. Girls have a wonderful faculty of rejection. They will discard at once what is not pleasing to their taste; and they have also a curious knack of ignoring what they do not wish to notice. And, after all, is there not a certain amount of hyprocrisy in this foolish segregation of girls? Or if not hypocrisy, sheer blind stupidity? No one will deny her daughters access to the Bible, or to Shakespeare, or to any classic poet. And here life is discovered to them fairly amply. If it is the desire of the matron to bring up her daughter quite ignorant of her surroundings, she should rigorously exclude Shakespeare and Milton. In point of fact, young girls often know more than their mothers suppose them to: and it is a good thing they do. If men had the control of their daughters there would cease to be any difficulty in the question, "What should girls read?" The answer would be, "What their brothers read."

At the famous dinner-party at Dilly's to which Boswell successfully manœuvred to bring both Johnson and Wilkes, Bozzy, as a Scotch advocate, was expounding the law as to the arrest of a debtor who meditates flight from the country—the very same law which a few days ago was enforced in the Isle of Man—and emphasising the superiority of the Scotch system to that prevailing in England in regard to arrest for debt. He pointed out that before judgment was obtained the creditor could arrest his debtor if he could swear that the latter was about to fly from the country, or, as it was technically expressed, was *in meditatione fugae*; to which Wilkes—who had, in common with Johnson, a pleasure in bantering the Scotch—immediately retorted, "That, I should think, may be safely sworn of all the Scotch nation!" Mention of this procedure also occurs in "Redgauntlet," where Peter Peebles bursts in upon Justice Foxley with the inquiry, "Is't here they sell fugie warrants?"—Peter desiring, and, as will be remembered, getting, one for the apprehension of his runaway advocate Alan Fairford.

The following, taken from the *Milwaukee Sentinel* is an excellent parody on the announcements of new books which publishers send out from time to time:—

> "Wild Beasts I Have Saw," by Bridget Seton-Clancy. This charming group of essays has about it the odour of the backwoods to a remarkable degree.
>
> The authoress explains, in the preface, that her early life was spent in the wilds of Northern Minnesota, where she associated almost entirely with wild animals. She says:—
>
> "Many times I used to set under a tree for hours to a time, watching for to get a shot at a rabbit. I could shoot good with a rifle, and have often saw men who were worse shots than I be. When the other girls were wasting their time going to district school, I would be walking through the woods, watching the wild beasts playing in the trees and on the grass, and learning something every minute. I seen lots of funny incidents, which I will try to mention in this here book."
>
> Miss Seton-Clancy is one of those free, untamed souls who occasionally startle the literary world by their supreme disregard for the statute in such case made and provided. If she is ever worried by the rules of grammar, it does not appear in her work. She has something to say, and says it straight from the shoulder.
>
> This is one of the best books of the year, and it should enjoy a large sale.
>
> "Wild Beasts I Have Saw," by Bridget Seton-Clancy. Pewaukee Press, publishers.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The death is announced of Mr. W. J. Ford, the well-known Middlesex cricketer.

The Burnley, Lancashire, authorities have decided that children must not be allowed to dance the cake-walk, as it is demoralising.

The captured Russian steamer *Manchuria*, which is now in use by the Japanese Government, arrived on April 28th at Shimonoseki.

Staff-Surgeon Meaden, R.N., and a middy from H.M.S. *Glory* are in the Naval Hospital at Hongkong suffering from enteric fever.

The main steam pipe of the British steamer *Cowrie*, 3,155 tons, burst as she was leaving Hongkong on the 21st for the north with a cargo of kerosene oil from Sumatra, and she is detained for repairs.

The shipment of dogs, cats and snakes from the Philippines to the United States has been prohibited.

During April, gold coins and gold bullion were exported from Yokohama to the amount of *yen* 10,060,274.

Japanese gold coins amounting to fifty thousand *yen* were to be exported on May 5th from Yokohama to Shanghai.

Mr. Noguchi, a member of the Lower House, for Tsuchiura, Ibaraki prefecture, was prosecuted on May 3rd on a charge of infringing the Election Law.

Lieut.-Colonel Macpherson, of the British Army, paid a visit on May 3rd to the Japan Red Cross Society's offices and hospital and inspected the arrangements.

A telegram from Nagasaki states that Dr. Morrison, correspondent of the London *Times*, who had been for some days in the port, left on April 30th for Shanghai.

Admirals Bienaime and Ravel have been relieved of their functions at Toulon as being responsible for the divulging of documents at the time of the interpellation on the French navy.

Mr. Kurino, formerly Japanese Minister at St. Petersburg, left Hakata on May 3rd by train for Kobe, which he is expected to leave to-day (the 5th) by the steamer *Tai Sang* for Yokohama.

A telegram from London was received on May 4th at the Foreign Office to the effect that Japanese bonds had advanced. The quotations were: old 5 per cent., £83.10.0; new 5 per cent., £79.10.0; and 4 per cent., £68.

Mr. Kakeuchi and two other directors of the Seoul-Fusan Railway Company and Mr. Higo, Councillor of the Communications Department, left Shimonoseki on April 28th by the steamer *Chikugogawa Maru* for Korea.

A St. Petersburg dispatch dated April 10th said:—The War Ministry has granted the petition of Madame Pousep, daughter of Colonel Maxiowcondurow, who desired to be enrolled in a Cossack regiment. The Ministry has ordered her enrolment in the First Regiment of Riflemen.

The steamship *Nebraskan*, of the American-Hawaiian Line, has made the longest trip recorded with oil as fuel. She has arrived at New York from San Francisco after a voyage of 12,724 nautical miles, made in 51 days, without making any stop for replenishing fuel.

Mr. de la Camp, of Kobe, says the *Asahi*, has been decorated by the Kaiser with the Fourth Class of the Crown. The paper adds that this gentleman was in Japan for twenty-four years, and during that time devoted himself to the public interest and to extending German trade in this country.

A St. Petersburg telegram of April 11th said: The model three-inch quick-firing guns, firing eighteen shots a minute, are being issued to the artillery colleges of St. Petersburg for the purpose of instructing the senior cadets in the handling of these pieces. The Emperor will confer diplomas on them in May instead of next fall.

The *Journal des Debats* of Paris, said on April 11th that Colonel Marchand of Fashoda fame recently offered his resignation to the Minister of War, General André. Marchand wished to accept an invitation of Emperor Nicholas to follow the Russian operations in the Far East, but the War Minister refused to grant him the necessary permission.

In the course of a debate in the French Chamber of Deputies on March 29th, M. Chaumet, one of the members for Bordeaux, asserted that the dockyard at Biserta was in such a backward state that the Russian torpedo boats could not get any repairs effected and had to go to Naples.

A Shimonoseki telegram (*Jiji*) reports that the British steamer *Upada*, 5,000 tons, with Lieut.-General Sir Ian Hamilton and eleven other foreign military officers, went ashore on the evening of May 1st off Hikoshima near the Shimonoseki Straits. Attempts are being made to float her. It is added that the cable between Shimonoseki and the island is damaged.

The Lord Mayor of London on March 28th formally declared open the widened footways of London-bridge. The widening, which has occupied nearly two years, has been executed by the Bridge House Estates Committee at a cost of about £100,000. An additional width of 6in. has been given to the roadway and of 5ft. 6in. to each footway—a total addition of 11ft. 6in.

It was announced by the chairman at the annual meeting of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company (Ltd.) on March 30th that the Post Office had intimated on the previous day to the directors their willingness to conclude an agreement with the company for the establishment of a system of inland wireless telegraphy.

The King has been pleased to grant to John Nicholson Seymour, Esq., B.A., authority that he may accept and wear the Insignia of the Fifth Class of the Imperial Japanese Order of the Rising Sun, conferred upon him by H.I.M. the Emperor of Japan in recognition of services rendered by him as Teacher at the Second High School, Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan.

Advantage will be taken of the presence of British troops in Tibet to ascertain the effect of extreme cold upon cordite ammunition. The cartridges have necessarily been subjected to temperature several degrees below zero for a long period, and it will be interesting to learn if cordite has deteriorated in any way. It has stood satisfactorily the heat tests in India and elsewhere.

The old cup challenger *Shamrock I* is rapidly being broken up in Hawkins' shipyard at City Island, says the *New York Times*, preparatory to being sold for old iron. The vessel, which cost Sir Thomas Lipton $250,000, was sold to a Newark firm for $17,000, and will no doubt bring twice that price in junk shops. The best of everything was used in the craft, and the material will bring the highest market price.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons on March 28th, Earl Percy said last month His Majesty's Consul urged the retention of a British man-of-war at Newchwang during the war, but it was decided, after consultation with the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and on the advice of the Commander-in-Chief on the China Station, that it would not be desirable to retain His Majesty's ship *Espiegle* at the port. The newly-appointed Commander-in-Chief had since been also consulted, and had advised that the former decision be adhered to.

The funeral of Mr. George Bayfield, who died in St. Luke's Hospital, Tokyo, on April 28th, took place on the 29th from Christ Church, his remains being followed to the grave by a considerable number of mourners. Mr. Bayfield, who was an Englishman, born in the Far East, was well known in Yokohama, having been long connected with the firm of Messrs. Smith, Baker & Co., and both here and in Kobe, whither he was transferred some years ago, he was popular and respected. Deceased had been ill for a few weeks and had come to Tokyo for treatment.

Mr. J. Shearme, third officer of the Peninsular and Oriental steamer *Candia*, was last month presented with the Stanhope gold medal by Mr. H. H. Joseph, General Manager of the Company, on behalf of the Royal Humane Society. The presentation took place on board the steamship *Arabia*, at Tilbury Dock, in the presence of the whole of the ship's officers and crew and of various officials. The Stanhope gold medal is awarded by the Society in recognition of what is adjudged to be the greatest act of heroism performed during the year. Mr. Shearme, while fourth officer of the *Malacca*, leaped overboard one night in the China Sea, during a heavy sea and with a strong tide running, and rescued one of the ship's quarter-masters, who had fallen overboard.

Popular interest in the "canals" of Mars will be revived by the remarkable observations of Mr. Lowell recorded in a recent issue of *Nature*. Although the canals were observed and mapped by the Italian astronomer Schiaparelli nearly thirty years ago, it was not until twenty years later, when M. Flammarion hinted that they might be designed to attract the attention of dwellers upon Earth, that the fact of their existence became known to the general public. About a year ago Mr. Maunder boldly declared them to be optical illusions. His demonstrations appeared to many to be conclusive, but now Mr. Lowell has come forward with a record of observations extending over several years, and justifying, in his opinion, the belief, not only that the canals are actual and artificial, but that they are used for irrigation and are artificially regulated.

The *Manila Cablenews* of the 16th March contains details of operations against the Moros in Mindanao in the early part of this month. While a house was being searched, a native rushed upon Captain David P. Wheeler, 22nd U.S. Infantry, and stabbed him and Corporal Percy Heyvelt so badly that both died. Captain Wheeler was a native of Ohio, and was born July 18, 1876. He became a cadet at the military academy June 15, 1894, and a second lieutenant in the 23rd infantry April 26, 1898. He was one of the fotrtunate class which was graduated early and given commissions during the Spanish war. He became a first lieutenant of the 22nd Infantry March 2, 1899, and a captain in the 26th Infantry January 27, 1903. He was transferred back to the 22nd Infantry April 7, 1903. The list of killed and wounded between 2nd and 9th April is as follows:—Killed 2; wounded, 11 (including 2nd Lieut. H. L. Harris, jun.). The Moros lost heavily.

An attempted fraud was detected on May 3rd (Tuesday) at 2.20 p.m. at the Chartered Bank, No. 58, Yokohama. It appears that Noike Yoshizo (23) an employee of Messrs. L. J. Healing & Co., having obtained a blank cheque of that bank, filled it up under date April 30th, 1904, making it payable to "Midzuno & Co. or bearer" and appended the forged signature of "J. G. Doering" filling in the amount of "Six hundred and eighty only" in writing and "680.00" in figures. He endorsed it with the Japanese name "Midzuno Kenkichi, Tokyo," and attached the stamp "Midzuno." He attempted to cash the cheque at the Chartered Bank where his design was discovered by the staff of the bank, who reported the matter to the Kaga-cho Police, Noike waiting at the counter. A detective from the station arrested him as he was running away from the bank when the officer appeared. He underwent preliminary examination in the afternoon at the police station.

HEAVY RAINS.

Owing to heavy rains, a landslip occurred on May 2nd on the side of the Ohira hill, Nishi-Chikuma, Nagano prefecture, with the result that twenty-three coolies were killed and seventeen injured. They had been engaged in making a new road below the hill.

A telegram from Shidzuoka states that heavy rains have been experienced since the 1st, the Oi, Tenryu and Fuji river overflowing their banks. Bridges over the last-named river were destroyed on the Tokaido.

A section of the railway between Saigo and Akeshi, Nagano prefecture, was damaged by rains on the 2nd. Traffic was suspended.

In consequence of repairs to the railway between Yonezawa and Fukushima, the transportation of goods will be suspended for three weeks commencing May 10th.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PERRY MEMORIAL RELIEF FUND.

(TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL.")

SIR,—The Committee of the Perry Memorial Relief Fund in the United States consists of the following:—

August Belmont
Perry Belmont
John Howe
Charles Stewart Smith
O. G. Jennings
Cornelius N. Bliss
Whitelaw Reid
Henry E. Howland
Isaac N. Seligman
John C. Calhoun
Silas D. Webb

James R. Morse
Isidor Straus
George F. Seward
George Hewlett
J. W. Congdon
Charles F. Homer
John E. Parsons
W. H. Stevens
General Woodford, Chairman.
J. Foord, Secretary
James S. Fearon, Treasurer

It is proposed to increase the Committee to 50 members, to establish branch Committees in important places and to invite public contributions as soon as ten contributors of $1,000 each are found.

The above information will be of interest to many of your readers.

B. C. HOWARD,
Honorary Treasurer,
Perry Memorial Relief Fund.

THE HIROSE MONUMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I enclose herewith a small contribution to the fund for erecting a monument to that most admirable hero, Commander Hirose, I.J.N.

The fact that the standard of patriotism, and chivalry is so high in the Navy and Army of Japan, as to render it unnecessary to have any new examples of heroism for models to encourage the others, makes this death of Hirose particularly sad and to be regretted.

Very sincerely,
C. C. MARSH,
U.S. Naval Attaché.

Tokyo, May 3rd, 1904.

NEWS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

A Washington dispatch of April 5th said:—The United States State Department has received the following cablegram from Mr. McCormick, the American Ambassador at St. Petersburg:—"A rumour concerning a possible demonstration against the Jews at Odessa having reached me, I communicated with the United States Consul there, asking him if it were well founded. He replied to me as follows:—'Reports of anti-Jewish demonstrations are not unusual at this season of the year. Owing to the occurrences of last Easter, the Hebrew population is exceedingly nervous, but with so energetic a man as Governor Neidhardt in charge of the city, and with Baron Kaulbars as commander-in-chief of the troops in this southern country, I should regard a serious outbreak of any kind impossible. During the present week the newspapers have circulated notices to the public warning those who disturb the peace that they will be dealt with severely.'"

It was reported from St. Petersburg on April 3rd that Ambassador McCormick was negotiating with the Foreign Office for a treaty with Russia which will give to United States corporations the right to sue in Russian courts and to Russian corporations the right to sue in courts of the United States. Under the Russian law United States corporations can be sued but cannot sue in the courts of the empire. This has caused United States firms great annoyance as well as losses in the past. In addition the Ambassador hopes to secure in the treaty a broad clause which will give to the United States corporations all privileges of whatever character now enjoyed by the corporations of any foreign country. Although there are difficulties in the way of accomplishing the desired result, the Ambassador's advances have been met in the friendliest manner and the indications are that his negotiations will terminate successfully. The only countries now enjoying the privileges which Ambassador McCormick is striving to obtain for the United States are Germany, Greece, Bulgaria and Italy.

A Copenhagen correspondent wired on April 9: King Edward and Queen Alexandra to-day visited the Finsen Ray Institute, where there are many British and American patients, who presented Her Majesty with a magnificent bouquet. Their Majesties conversed with the patients.

Two thousand strikers at Amiens, France, on April 9th attacked a force of infantry sent to guard a factory there. Cavalry reinforcements arrived and charged the mob, using their sabres upon those who refused to disperse. Many of the rioters were fatally wounded, and a number of soldiers were seriously wounded. The town at night was patrolled by a large force of militia and a detachment of artillery with machine-guns had been summoned. Business was at a stand-still.

A London telegram of April 12 said: In giving the results of the prize firing in His Majesty's fleet during 1903, the Lords of the Admiralty note with satisfaction the improvement in shooting with nearly all classes of guns. Among the battleships the *Majestic* holds pride of place with a total of 80.449 points, 98.169 being credited to her four twelve-inch guns and 74.543 to her twelve six-inch. Petty Officer W. Primmer is the best shot in the ship with the six-inch gun, having established the fine record of 91.485 points. The *Venerable* comes a long way down the list, but Chief Petty Officer Lutman made for her the splendid figure of 90.24 points with the twelve-inch gun. On the *Jupiter*, Petty Officer Carter made 85.365 with the twelve-inch. Among the cruisers the *Good Hope* is at the top with 97.264. Her best shot, Lance-sergeant W. McFadden, R. M. A., made 102.488 points with the six-inch gun.

In the presence of an immense crowd of spectators, the steamer *Augustus B. Wolvin*, the largest ever built on fresh water, and said to be the largest boat designed specially for carrying freight in the world, was successfully launched at Loraine, (O.,) on April 9th. She will cost about $500,000.

Emperor William on the morning of April 12th visited the British fleet and inspected the torpedo net, anchor and boat drills. He lunched on board the battleship *Bulwark*, flagship of Admiral Sir Compton Domville, commanding the Mediterranean fleet, and made a speech of congratulation to the officers and the men on their efficiency. During the afternoon the Emperor received the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Malta, the Most Rev. P. Pace, on board the imperial yacht *Hohenzollern*, and later drove to Citta Vecchia and visited points of interest. In the evening His Majesty officially dined at the palace, and afterwards held a reception on board the *Bulwark* of two hundred invited guests, and visited the illuminations of the fleet in the harbour.

A correspondent at Urumi Yah, North Persia, telegraphed on April 9th: The murder of Rev. Benjamin W. Larabee was an act of vengeance. It appears that his murderer, Seid, recently slew a Syrian, who was a British subject, whereupon the representatives of the Anglo-Saxon Mission insisted that the assassin be punished. When the culprit learned of this he announced that he would kill the missionaries, so the latter no longer insisted upon his arrest. Seid, nevertheless, took his revenge, Mr. Larabee being his first victim. The missionaries fear further outrages.

A special cable to New York on April 8th from Berlin said:—"The Brunswick *Landes Zeitung* prints, with circumstantial detail, the unofficial announcement of the engagement of Crown Prince Frederick William and Princess Alexandra of Brunswick and Lunenburg. It is stated that the Emperor himself negotiated the alliance when he visited Copenhagen a year ago. The prospective Crown Princess is the second daughter of the Duke of Cumberland. She is 23 years old. Crown Prince Frederick William has inherited his father's independence of mind, and the Emperor is known to feel that the domestic peace of his family will be better assured when his son and heir has taken a wife."

The King's visit to Copenhagen, according to the correspondent of the *Daily Mail* at that city, telegraphing on April 12th, has resulted in the beginning of negotiations for a new treaty between Great Britain, Denmark and Russia, replacing the convention with Denmark concluded by the late Emperor Alexander III.

A Rome correspondent wiring on April 9th said:—According to semi-official information received here, Foreign Minister Tittoni and Count Goluchowski, the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, at their meeting at Abbazia to-day, succeeded in completing all the points, even to the smallest detail, of a thorough Austro-Italian accord regarding the Balkans, and also in agreeing upon a method of solution of several questions wihch may arise between them, thus strengthening the Triple Alliance and adding a new coefficient to European peace.

Ex-Queen Isabella of Spain, grandmother of King Alfonso, died at Paris at 9.45 o'clock in the morning of April 9th of influenza with complications. The Infantas Isabella, Eulalie and Marie, daughters of the late ex-Queen, were at the bedside when she died. Queen Isabella it was reported from Paris on April 6, was suffering from a severe attack of influenza, which caused great anxiety on account of her advanced age. She was born in 1830. The Princess Isabella, her daughter, started from Madrid the same day for Paris, on account of the condition of her mother, and it was announced that in case the former Queen grew worse King Alfonso would abandon his visit to Catalonia and start immediately for Paris. A year ago last February Isabella expressed a wish to visit her grandson, King Alfonso, but the Queen Mother, it was reported, informed her that if she came to Madrid she would not be received at court, nor be allowed to live at the palace, giving as her reason that she wished to keep Alfonso as far as possible in ignorance of his grandmother's past life.

The *Moscow Gazette* on April 4th published a historical review of Russo-American relations, concluding: "Henceforth the Americans will be styled the ungrateful Yankees."

Washington, April 10.

The Geological Survey has received a report of an extensive deposit of coal in Alaska, accessible to the Pacific ocean, located from twelve to twenty-five miles inland from Controller bay, Alaska. The coal fields lie behind the Controller bay oil fields, at the foot of the Chugach mountains. The coal and oil were found to be in two distinctly separate formations that lie in roughly parallel belts. The coal area, as at present recognized, includes about eighty-five square miles. The coal resembles the harder bituminous coals of the East, more than it does anthracite.

Vladivostock, April 13.

News has been received here that the Japanese recently destroyed the orthodox Russian church at Yokohama. It aroused indignation, but there has not been the slightest attempt to disturb the Japanese temple here. (Truly this is news to us in Japan.)

Paris, April 13.

The imports of France for the past three months show a decrease of $5,004,800, while the exports have increased $5,272,800.

Beyreot, April 13.

The Governor of Beyrout was attacked and fired upon on April 11th by soldiers who were dissatisfied because their pay was in arrears. He was not injured. His guard returned the fire, wounding eight persons. All is now quiet.

New York, April 22.

Difficulty is being experienced by the Government with the Buriats, the aboriginal inhabitants of Transbaikalia, according to a *Times* dispatch from its Russian correspondent. The Buriats, who are Buddhists, are accustomed to a nomadic life and object to being organized into settled communities. Many have expressed a desire to emigrate to Mongolia, but the Government has refused permission.

Richmond (Va.), April 12.

Thomas H. Russell, the original "Little Lord Fauntleroy," who is a brother of Miss Annie Russell, the actress, and now a business man in New York, was married this afternoon to Miss Grace Elliott Shields. The ceremony was performed in St. Paul's Episcopal Church. After the wedding trip Mr. and Mrs. Russell will go to their home in Short Hills, N. J.

Berlin, April 13.

A special to the *Vossische Zeitung* from Kattowatz, Prussia, says that two Russians tried to pass the frontier yesterday morning and the frontier guards fired, killing one and severely wounding the other. An investigation disclosed the fact that the woundep man was in Prussian territory when struck.

Rome, April 12.

The Pope spent a bad night, and was so much agitated to-day that Dr. Lapponi, who had been called to the Vatican, prescribed a soothing potion. The Pope's illness is thought to be due to yesterday's long ceremony in St. Peter's, when he had to fast until after 1 p.m. because of his celebrating mass. Some prelates of the inner Vatican circles, however, say that Pius X has been much affected of late by reported anarchistic plots against his life. As he allows no one to open his private correspondence he has read, within a few weeks, several anonymous letters threatening his life. The reported plot of South American anarchists, a few days ago, increased his anxiety, although he tried to make little of the threats and laughed about them with the prelates. The Italian Government yesterday took extraordinary precautions to protect the Pope's person, and swarms of detectives in civilian clothes or in priestly garb were stationed throughout the church during the ceremony.

Simla, April 11.

General Lord Kitchener, commanding the forces in India, has issued an army order based on conclusions formed after making a tour of the garrisons of the country. He declares the army must adopt a system of training suited to the changed conditions, and abandon obsolete traditions. All ranks require increased knowledge and improved martial qualities. Lord Kitchener condemns the present military arrangements in India, and announces rearrangements which the Government has sanctioned.

THE TIBET EXPEDITION.

London, April 4.

Candler, the correspondent of the *Daily Mail* who was wounded during the fighting between the British and the Tibetans at Guru on March 31, and whose left hand has been amputated, thus describes the attack upon him:—

"I was watching the Tibetans being disarmed, when I was attacked by a swordsman. This was before a shot had been fired. The onslaught was too sudden for me to draw my revolver. I caught the Tibetan around the knees and threw him, but I was myself dragged down and in trying to rise was cut down by several swordsmen. These were eventually shot."

St. Petersburg, April 3.

The newspapers continue to discuss the British expedition in Tibet and the speech of the Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon of Kedleston, on March 30, at Calcutta, but most of them in a singularly dispassionate tone.

The *Bourse Gazette* openly suggests that King Edward is planning an entente between Great Britain and Russia and then says:—

"There is no need for alarm. We have been accustomed since the days of Disraeli and Salisbury to such veiled threats (referring to Lord Curzon's speech). Indian Secretary Brodrick's announcement of big guns for India has broken no bones, nor is any one frightened by the forthcoming British naval demonstration in the Mediterranean. The fact is that the British foreign policy is now in higher hands than Lord Curzon's and we all know that a sincere, peaceful and loyal influence is being exerted by King Edward. There is no longer doubt of British neutrality and there is no reason for apprehension regarding the promise of a friendly agreement with Russia concerning Tibet. We are only curious to see how Great Britain will explain armed aggression within a Chinese province."

The *Russ* says that Great Britain took a leaf out of Japan's book on the way to open hostilities by attacking the Tibetans without a declaration of war.

The *Novoe Vremya* says:—

"The American millionaires have changed the destinies of India. Since Lord Curzon became Lord Kitchener's brother-in-law (*sic*) their personalities seem to have been merged. Curzon spoke with the words of Kitchener on the glacis theory and Kitchener adopted the policy of Curzon in sending an alleged diplomatic mission into Tibet. The glacis theory is all right so long as it has to do with unarmed foes."

St. Petersburg, April 4.

The Russian newspapers continue to discuss the possible Anglo-Franco-Russian entente favourably, while at the same time sharply criticizing the British Tibetan expedition. For instance, the *Novoe Vremya* declares Great Britain's seizure of Tibet is bound to cause trouble for Russia, but it follows this declaration with a significant editorial on the falsity of sentiment in politics, in which the point is made that Russian assistance to the United States at the most critical period in her history availed her nothing, and that the real interests of Russia and Great Britain now call for an understanding.

The *Novosti* favours an alliance, pointing out as a basis that Russia wants ports on the Pacific, an opening on the Persian Gulf and the free passage of the Bosphorus, for which Russia will guarantee Great Britain peace in India.

The *Svet* alone is bitter, declaring that Great Britain's diplomatic mission to Tibet is unmasked, having become one of blood-letting, showing that Great Britain is profiting by Russia's attention being occupied elsewhere.

London, April 8.

A despatch received at the India Office to-night, said that General MacDonald's infantry, while reconnoitring near Kalapanga, encountered 300 Tibetans, who opened fire, but there were no casualties.

London, April 13.

The House of Commons reassembled on Tuesday. In anticipation of the Opposition moving an adjournment in order to call attention to the bloodshed in Tibet, an urgent whip was sent out by the Government supporters.

Premier Balfour, however, headed off the Opposition's action by himself referring to the matter. He said that since the recess began there had been an action in Tibet, which had made it necessary, in accordance with the statute, to ask the House to sanction the employment of Indian troops beyond the frontier. The Premier thought there should be no delay in the discussion, and therefore he would introduce a resolution to this effect.

A dispatch to the *Times* from Gyangtse, Tibet, dated April 11th, reports that further fighting in the course of the march of the Younghusband expedition occurred on April 8th at Red Idol gorge, where precipitous mountains border a winding river. The Tibetan guns on the crests were silenced by the British and a passage forced. The Tibetans lost 200 killed. The British had ten wounded and none killed.

London, April 13.

The House of Commons to-day, by 270 to 61 votes, adopted a resolution sanctioning the employment of Indian troops for the protection of the political mission to Thibet.

War Secretary Brodrick, in introducing the resolution, read a telegram from Colonel Younghusband, the political agent at the head of the mission, to the effect that Colonel McDonald, in command of the escort, reached his goal, Gyangtse, Tibet, on April 11th, without the loss of a man. The telegram added that the Tibetan force was highly demoralized and was fleeing from the Gyangtse valley; that the Chinese delegate was coming in, and that the Tibetan delegates were on their way to Gyangtse.

Brodrick proceeded to defend the British action, saying that the Tibetans were attempting to open up relations with Russia. The British Government could not acquiesce in any change in the status quo in Tibet, nor countenance an attempt on the part of any foreign government to establish a predominant interest there.

The British Government, declared Brodrick, had no desire to occupy the country or to establish a permanent mission in Tibet, but the Government was absolutely resolved that if any power is to be predominant in Thibet it must be Great Britain.

The Liberal leader, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, warmly criticised and condemned the mission and the "Slaughter of the Tibetans," declaring that Brodrick's explanation of the reasons of the expedition was wholly insufficient. The debate ended with a short speech by Premier Balfour, declaring the mission had no ulterior objects. The last thing the Government desired, he said, was to add to its Indian frontier and responsibilities.

SLEEPING HEROES.

From Russia has come the news that the peasantry are confidently looking for the appearance of St. George, who, bestriding a fiery horse, will gallop across Siberia, and himself rout the forces of Japan. But there is more interest in the simultaneous report that in rural Russia the belief is widely and firmly held that the great Skobeleff, the hero of Plevna, is not dead, but has lain waiting in readiness to come forth and lead the Russian Army to victory in the Far East. Nearly every race has so immortalised some hero. In popular belief he is not dead! he merely sleeps, and in the hour of supreme danger he will arise in his might to save his country.

Even so recent an historic figure as Mr. Parnell has become a sleeping hero of Irish faith. The belief originated in the widespread incredulity concerning his death at Brighton. Those who saw his dead body were so few that his actual decease was questioned. Many of Mr. Parnell's political disciples and his relatives became strongly possessed of the idea that the report was a strategic move.

Some, indeed, have so strengthened themselves in this belief that they declare they have since seen Mr. Parnell alive and in the flesh. Little wonder, therefore, that the fanciful Irish peasant firmly asserts that the death was a ruse, and that when the fitting moment comes Mr. Parnell will emerge from the shadow of his empty grave to give Ireland her independence. During the Boer war thousands of imaginative Celts believed that De Wet was really their "uncrowned king," avenging himself against England. From this belief it is an easy step to the superstition cherished in many an Irish mud-hut that when Parnell has atoned for his worldly sin he will return to lead a United Ireland.

Gordon's heroic character similarly impressed itself on the minds of the Soudanese. They believed him to be merely sleeping, and they saw his awakened spirit hovering over the avenging army which Lord Kitchener led to Khartoum. In India the stirring up of native feeling five of six years ago, when the mysterious chupaties which heralded the Mutiny were again in evidence, was attributed to the Hindu belief that the time for the fulfilment of the prophecy that the tenth avatar of Krishna will restore India to independence is at hand. French peasants may still be found to assert that Napoleon is only sleeping, and that some day he will arise again to rule. We have also the British legend that Arthur did not die, but sleeps in Avalon, and that in the hour of need he will awake, deliver the land, and restore the golden age. How

Drake he's in his hammock till the great Armadas come,
Slung atween the round shot, listening for the drum.

has been sung by Mr. Newbolt; and in a Devon church there is still preserved the great Admiral's drum, to call him back in the day of England's stress.

Charlemagne sleeps in Unterberg, near Salzburg. When the time of Anti-Christ is fulfilled he will arise to avenge the martyred saints and prepare Christendom for the Second Advent. Similarly, all true Mahomedans believe that when Anti-Christ appears Mahomed Mahodi will awake and overthrow him. In Swiss folk-lore and popular belief three members of the Tell family who now sleep the sleep of the enchanted at Rutili, near the Vierwall-Statter-See, are the heroes who will deliver Switzerland from the incursion of any tyrant. At Kyffhausberg, Thuringia, sleeps Frederick I., nicknamed Barbarossa ("Redbeard"), of Germany. With him lie six of his gallant knights, and when the time comes Barbarossa will stride forth to raise Germany above all other kingdoms. As the centuries pass he stirs from his slumber to say, "Is it time?" and being answered "Not yet," he lays himself to sleep again. In Germany, also, it is the popular belief that Charles V. will rise from his tomb to reign over Germany, Spain, Portugal, Denmark, Belgium, and Holland.

The Servians look to the awakening of Knez Lazar, who was slain by the Turks in 1389 Then he will rout all the enemies of his country and glorify Servia. The Moors have always regarded their expulsion from Spain as only temporary, for some day Bobadil el Chico, the last of the Moorish Kings of Granada, will arise from his slumber near the Alhambra, and re-establish his dominion. In proof of this belief many of the ancient families in Tangier and other parts of Morocco still treasure the keys of the houses in Spain occupied by their ancestors before the expulsion of the Moors. Now Spaniards hold those houses, but the descendants of the Moorish owners still guard the keys in the hope and belief of some day resuming their property. Norway's unwilling partnership with Sweden is well-known, and legend declares that Olaf Trygyveson is only asleep. At the fitting time he will awake, overthrow the Swedes, and restoring Norway's independence, will raise the country to a first-class Power. In the vault of the Royal castle of Kronberg sleeps Holgar Danske, waiting and listening for the call of Denmark in need.

The sleeping hero of Brazil is Sebastian I., who fell at the battle of Alcazarquchin in 1578. When he awakes he will make Brazil the foremost kingdom in the world. The French slain at the Sicilian Vespers did not really die; they sleep, biding their time for vengeance. Brian Boroimhe, the King of Ireland, who, after defeating the Danes in twenty pitched battles, was overcome at Clontarf in 1014, was not killed, but only stunned. Through the centuries he has slept at the castle of Kincora, but some day he will break the bonds of slumber and clothe himself in might and majesty. Desmond of Kilmallock likewise has slept under the waters of Lough Gur since the days of Queen Elizabeth. Every seventh year he rises to the surface, and clad in full armour rides round the lake. Some day he will not return to his watery bed, but establish himself again in the Desmond estates. The present Russian belief in Skobeleff's awakening has its parallel in an older legend. For endeavouring to establish a tolerant form of Mahomedanism in Asiatic Russia, Elijah, Mansur, warrior, prophet, and priest, was imprisoned beneath the Ural Mountains. There he sleeps in the bowels of the earth, ultimately to come forth and scourge Russia for its rejection of Islam.—*Globe.*

CARNEGIE FUND FOR HEROES.

Pittsburg (Pa.) April 15.

Andrew Carnegie has created a fund of $5,000,000 for the benefit of "the dependents of those losing their lives in heroic effort to save their fellowmen or for the heroes themselves if injured only." Provision is also made for medals to be given in commemoration of heroic acts.

The endowment is to be known as "The Hero Fund," and consists of $5,000,000 of first collateral 5 per cent bonds of the United States Steel Corporation. The trust is placed in the hands of a commission.

In a letter to the hero fund commission, Mr. Carnegie outlined the general scheme of the fund, which, in his own words, is "to place those following peaceful vocations who have been injured in heroic effort to save human life in somewhat better positions pecuniarily than before until again able to work. In case of death the widow and children or other dependents to be provided for—the widow until she is remarried and the children until they reach a self-supporting age. For children exceptional grants may be made for education. Grants of sums of money may also be made to heroes or heroines, as the committee thinks advisable, each case to be judged on its merits."

It is provided that no grant is to be continued unless it be properly used, and the recipients remain respectable, well-behaved members of the community.

A medal shall be given to the hero's widow or next of kin, which shall recite the heroic deed it commemorates. The medal shall be given for the heroic act even if the doer be uninjured, and also a sum of money should the commission deem such gift desirable.

Mr. Carnegie warns the commission against the danger of interference or conflict with the pension funds for municipal employes that exist in many cities and urges it to act in harmony with such funds. This, as is the case with all the details of the fund's administration, is left to the commission.

The claims upon the fund for some years cannot exhaust it. After years, however, pensioners will become numerous. Should be commission find, after allowing liberally for this, that a surplus will remain, it has the power to make grants in case of accidents (preferably where a hero has appeared) to those injured.

Foreseeing the probablity that cities and employers on this continent will ultimately be placed under similar conditions to those of British, German and other European states, and required to provide against accidents to the employes, the commission is empowered to, by a two-thirds vote, devote any surplus that may accrue to relief of those in want, caused by no fault of their own.

The field embraced by the fund is the United States and Canada and the water thereof.

"The sea is the scene of many heroic acts," says Mr. Carnegie's letter, "and no action is more heroic than that of doctors and nurses volunteering their services in the case of epidemics. Railroad employes are remarkable for heroism. All these and similar cases are embraced. Whenever heroism is displayed by man or woman in saying human life, the fund applies."

The usual provision for reports and accounts is made, and it is directed that a roll of the heroes and the heroines shall be kept displayed in the offices at Pittsburg.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH AGREEMENT.

Paris, April 7.

It was learned to-day that the Anglo-French colonial treaty about to be signed will contain a clause providing for equality of tariff duties on goods from Morocco and Egypt for a period of thirty years from the date of the signing of the treaty. The clause specifies that this equality is only between the parties to the treaty, but the officials say that the favoured nation principle will prevail and will give all countries similar equality of treatment, this having the effect of establishing the open door in Morocco and Egypt.

The officials say this insures a notable opening for American trade for the next thirty years.

Paris, April 9.

Although the Anglo-French Colonial Treaty, just signed, makes no specific reference to any protectorates it is now recognised that, between the lines, the Treaty means the establishment of a French protectorate over Morocco, similar to the present protectorate over Tunis, and that it makes permanent the British protectorate over Egypt. Thus, the effect of the Treaty is to transform the entire political geography of Northern Africa, with Great Britain dominating the eastern shores of the Mediterranean and France the western shores.

London, April 9.

The Government has long been a stranger to such a chorus of universal approval and congratulation as that exhibited editorially this morning in all the London newspapers, because of the happy conclusion of the Anglo-French negotiations for a Colonial Treaty.

This approval is none the less whole-hearted because it is recognised that France has obtained substantial concessions, while surrendering little of real value. The King is again hailed as a successful diplomatist, and the greater portion of the thanks is accorded to him for having initiated the rapprochement and to President Loubet for having received the overtures in a corresponding spirit. Lord Lansdowne and M. Delcasse are equally complimented for their services to the cause of peace between the two countries.

The *Daily Telegraph* says:—"It is most satisfactory to welcome a diplomatic incident which will be recorded for centuries. It is no exaggeration to assert that every barrier in the way of lasting peace between France and Great Britain has been removed, and if either party had made infinitely greater sacrifices they would have been cheap indeed, in view of the incalculable value of the accord obtained."

The foregoing quotation represents the general spirit of the editorial comments.

An exception, however, is found in the *Morning Post*, which expresses amazement at the moderation of the British Government, and deplores the lack of diplomatic skill which Mr. Balfour and Lord Lansdowne have displayed, adding: "Never in our recollection has Great Britain given away so much for nothing."

The *Morning Post* thinks that much better terms might have been obtained in exchange for what is a virtual recognition of the French right to a protectorate over Morocco, and complains that the Newfoundland settlement also unduly favours France.

Much satisfaction is expressed over the settlement which liberates accumulated funds of nearly six millions in the case of the Egyptian Debt, which can now be expended upon railroads and other public works needed for the development of Egypt.

Paris, April 9.

Although the Anglo-French entente does not appear to provoke enthusiasm, the general tone of the press, even the newspapers hostile to the Government, is distinctly favorable, the editorials for the most part expressing belief that possible causes of conflict between France and Great Britain have now been removed without the making of undue sacrifices on the part of France.

EUROPEAN RULERS SLIGHT KING LEOPOLD.

Brussels, April 11.

There is growing comment here on the apparent disposition of European sovereigns to slight King Leopold of Belgium on account of his peculiar codes of morals and ethics.

It was recently announced that while Prince and Princess Albert would likely visit the St. Louis Exposition, King Leopold was only prevented from going to the States by the necessity of his remaining at home to welcome Emperor Francis Joseph to Belgium in June, on the conclusion of that monarch's visit to England. In response to this a semi-official announcement comes from Vienna to the effect that the Austrian Emperor has no intention whatever of paying a visit to Belgium.

King Leopold endeavoured to have the King and Queen of Italy stop over in Belgium on their return to Rome from England last fall, but his efforts were fruitless. It was announced that Emperor William, when he started for the Mediterranean last month, would stop over to see King Leopold, but as a matter of fact the German Emperor carefully avoided stopping at any Belgian port, though he took pains to make a stop at Dover. Since his accession King Edward has never visited the court of Brussels, though he is a former friend of King Leopold and a very near relative. Even President Loubet has turned a deaf ear to the suggestion that he should return in state at Brussels the numerous visits which King Leopold has made to Paris.

Strange as it may appear, the general dislike with which he is regarded abroad has raised the King in the estimation of his own people. The Belgians are content to criticise him themselves, but do not like foreigners to do so, regarding it as incumbent upon their national dignity to defend their chief executive from reproach. All classes, except, of course, the most rabid Socialists, are ready to admit that, while all the King's private and public acts are not to be approved, yet as a monarch he has been of advantage to his country, contributing in no small measure to the development of its resources, and acquiring for it, by his statecraft and diplomacy, a far more important role in the concert of the Powers than is warranted by its size. His personal misbehaviour, his intrigues and his selfishness they do not discuss.

WHY WAS IT NOT USED?

London, April 12.

A news agency dispatch from St. Petersburg says the military administration recently dispatched to the troops on the Yalu river appliances and material which will enable them to obstruct by fire any Japanese attempt to cross the river. The process is a military secret that has been acquired from an inventor, who is a Colonel of Engineers.

The first, which cost 40,000 roubles, was carried out years ago during manœuvres in the presence of the imperial family. Sappers threw across a river a pontoon bridge. Then a small oily patch appeared in the middle of the stream close to the bridge. This gradually grew larger, and at the end of three minutes it was 200 yards in length. The flames then burst out, and soon attained an immense height, constituting a formidable curtain which completely hid the bridge. The flames rapidly reached the height of a seven-story building, throwing out terrific heat.

After working for eight minutes the apparatus was stopped. The flames died out in two minutes, and it was then seen that the bridge had been completely destroyed. The apparatus, which was invisible to the spectators, was ten kilometers from the river, to which it transmitted by a liquid process through tubes buried in the earth.

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

OPERATIONS ON THE YALU.

London, April 29.

Unofficial telegrams published in St. Petersburg give various reports with respect to attempts made by the Japanese to cross the Yalu. According to one account the Russian artillery destroyed a bridge thrown across the river on the north of Wiju but a force of Japanese crossed successfully on the south of Wiju. A portion with a battery of artillery advanced towards Fengwhang but were severely repulsed.

THE "KINSHU MARU."

London, April 29.

The Russian torpedo-boats after leaving Yuensan on the 25th inst. encountered at sea on the night of the 26th inst. the Japanese transport *Kinshu Maru*, 4,000 tons. Seventeen officers, 20 soldiers, 85 carriers, and 65 of the crew surrendered and were taken on board a Russian cruiser. The remainder of the crew, 200 in number, refused to surrender and were sent to the bottom with the vessel.

RUSSIA ON MEDIATION OR INTERVENTION.

Later.

The Russian Government has sent a circular to its representatives abroad declaring categorically that Russia will not accept mediation to terminate the war, and will not admit the intervention of any Power whatsoever in the Russo-Japanese negotiations after the war.

ROYAL VISIT TO IRELAND.

London, April 30.

Their Majesties the King and Queen continue to be everywhere loyally welcomed in Ireland. They were present at Punchestown and Leopardstown races, where there was no hitch or discordant note.

THE JAPANESE VICTORY ON THE YALU.

London, May 1.

Telegraphic news from Washington is to the effect that reports have reached the State Department of a great battle on the Yalu, resulting in a complete victory for the Japanese Army.

ST. LOUIS EXHIBITION FORMALLY OPENED.

The St. Louis Exhibition has been formally opened by President Roosevelt at Washington, who touched a button, setting all the machinery in motion and unfurling the flag. An immense throng sang "The Star-Spangled Banner."

U.S. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Washington reports that the U.S. revenue for the coming fiscal year is estimated at £140,800,000 sterling and the expenditure at £156,300,000.

FRANCE AND ITALY.

President Loubet has reached Marseilles on his return from his visit to Italy, which was highly successful both politically and socially.

SWEDEN AND NORWAY DECLARE NEUTRALITY.

London, May 2.

Sweden and Norway have issued a proclamation of neutrality forbidding warships of belligerents to enter the naval ports or certain waters protected by mines.

ST. LOUIS WORLD'S FAIR.

The St. Louis Exhibition is on an immense scale. The grounds cover an area of 1,240 acres. Fifty Foreign Governments are represented, of whom 19 have erected National Pavilions. It is the greatest exhibition in the world, exceeding the Chicago exhibition. An impressive ceremonial was conducted at the opening in the presence of the civil, military, and naval services and foreign dignitaries.

THE BATTLE OF THE "YALU."

London, May 3.

Russian official despatches dated the 1st May admit the overwhelming superiority of the Japanese Artillery. The heavy losses it inflicted compelled General Sassulitch to evacuate the position at Turetchen (Kiulienchen) and to retire to the second position at Potientiousky (Fenghwangtien).

WHAT EUROPE THINKS OF THE YALU FIGHT.

London, May 4.

The Japanese victory at the Yalu is extolled everywhere in England and on the continent as a great feat of arms, and as likely to create a great moral effect.

The German and French papers, however, contend that Russia's force at the Yalu was small and that she never intended to do more than to harrass and impede the Japanese army.

(RECEIVED AT THE LEGATION OF FRANCE.)

PRESIDENT LOUBET IN ITALY.

Saigon, April 29.

The King of Italy and President Loubet have arrived at Naples, much acclaimed.

PRESIDENT LOUBET LEAVES ITALY.

Saigon, May 2.

It is telegraphed from Naples that the King of Italy and President Loubet reviewed the Italian and French squadrons, after which the President set out for France in the cruiser *Marseillaise*. The King and President Loubet embraced each other warmly.

(RECEIVED AT THE NAVAL DEPARTMENT IN TOKYO.)

RUSSIANS SINK THE "KINSHU MARU."

SEVENTY-NINE PERISH.

Commander Fukui, of the gunboat *Chihaya*, telegraphs from Yuensan that a ship has just arrived carrying men who escaped from the *Kinshu Maru*. There were no men of the Navy amongst the number. A Staff inspecting officer, the captain of the ship, and the chief paymaster went to the Russian ships. The other non-combatants seem to have been taken prisoner. The steamer was torpedoed and sank. Those that escaped were: 45 soldiers and 9 non-combatants.

(RECEIVED AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE IN TOKYO.)

On the 26th at 6 p.m. the steamer *Kinshu Maru* left Iwon (82 miles south of Songchin). After steaming at 8 knots an hour for 5 hours she fell in with the enemy about half past 11 and was signalled by a gun to stop. About 12 o'clock she came to. The captain, and the Staff inspecting officer had some conversation in English with the Russians. Meanwhile the soldiers remained quiet in their cabins. The captain, the inspector, and the chief paymaster went to the Russian ships and did not return. Shortly afterwards, 1 officer and 2 seamen came from the Russians and made an inspection of the steamer. As soon as they saw armed soldiers on board they at once retired, and torpedoes were afterwards fired at the ship, cutting her in two. The soldiers then went on deck and fired volleys at the Russians. At 2 a.m. the ship sank. The soldiers, the coolies and some merchants who were on board went into three small boats and rowed westward. (Here follows a statement of the places that they reached and the hours, but it will be enough to say that on the 27th at 1 p.m. they arrived at Sintho, which is near Sukchin). Those that returned subsequently in a steamer sent to succour them were: 45 soldiers, 3 merchants, and 6 coolies. They reached Yuensan on the 28th. According to their account the majority of the crew went to the Russian vessels.

(RECEIVED AT THE WAR DEPARTMENT)

On April 25th the 9th company of the 37th regiment of infantry embarked on the *Kinshu Maru*, and after performing a reconnaissance at Iwon the ship was proceeding south to Yuensan when she was met by a Russian squadron and sunk. After a signal to stop was made by the Russians the captain of the ship, the Staff inspecting officer and the chief paymaster, with one other, repaired to the Russian ships and did not return. The enemy then signalled for all those remaining on the *Kinshu Maru* to go on board their ships, and gave an hour's law for this operation. At 12 p.m. nearly all the crew of the *Kinshu Maru* had left her, but the soldiers, in compliance with orders, remained below. At 1.30 a.m the enemy fired a torpedo and also some other kind of explosive, which struck the ship. The soldiers then assembled on deck and, standing in several ranks, fired at the enemy. The Russians returned the fire with quick-firing guns and killed many of the soldiers. The sergeant-major at this point committed suicide by disembowelling himself, and several non-commissioned officers and men followed his example. At 2 a.m. the enemy fired another torpedo, with the result that the steamer divided into two at her engine-room and sank. Of those that were on deck some managed to get into the boats and to cut themselves adrift. They were nearly swamped, but by throwing all heavy articles overboard they managed to keep afloat. They then rowed westward, and on the 26th at 5 p.m. they reached an island on the coast. The first boat to reach the island contained 37 soldiers. Another boat with 8 soldiers arrived subsequently. It is also reported that some naval men effected their escape in another boat, but nothing has been heard of them. The greater part of the crew are believed to have been taken on board the cruiser *Rossia*. Not one soldier was made prisoner by the Russians. Those that perished were: 2 captains, 2 lieutenants, 1 sub-lieutenant, 1 sergeant-major, and 73 non-commissioned officers and men. Amongst those rescued there were 10 slightly and 1 somewhat severely wounded.. The others died a splendid death.

(RECEIVED IN TOKYO.)

St. Petersburg.—The officer in command of the Vladivostock squadron reports that on the night of the 26th 2 Russian torpedo boats met the Japanese steamer *Kinshu Maru* and took off her 28 officers and 20 soldiers, with 85 coolies and 65 members of her crew. Those that refused to surrender were sunk with the vessel.

On the 25th at 8 p.m. the *Nakamura Maru* was sunk.

RUSSIA'S ARMY IN MANCHURIA.

Paris.—It is stated in Paris that the total Russian forces in Manchuria are: 170,000 infantry, 17,000 cavalry, and 256 guns, of which force 20,000 of the infantry, 5,000 of the cavalry and 32 of the guns are engaged guarding the railway. By June the total force will be raised to: 300,000 infantry, 47,000 cavalry and 506 guns.

GENERAL LINEVITCH PROMOTED.

General Linevitch has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the defences in the Amur region, by which is meant the whole of the Za-Siberian region. The appointment carries with it the office of the Governor-General of the District.

CHINA RETURNS HER THANKS.

The Chinese Government, through the Japanese Representative in Peking, has requested the Foreign Office in Tokyo to convey to H. E. Mr. Hayashi, the Japanese Representative in Seoul, the Chinese Government's high appreciation of the ability and tact shown by him, to which the Chinese Government attributes the fact that its subjects in Korea are able to carry on their occupations in peace and tranquillity.

RUSSIANS AND NEWCHWANG.

On the 1st inst. the Russian authorities at Newchwang announced that the export of beans, bean-cake, and bean-oil to any place on the littoral of the Gulf of Pechili will henceforth be forbidden.

PRESS COMMENTS ON THE YALU VICTORY.

The London *Times* of the 3rd inst. says that the Japanese Army undoubtedly gained a great success in the fight on the Yalu. Japan's victories on sea had merely had the effect of preparing people to find her making a good fight on shore, but those victories did not suffice to weaken the world's belief in Russia's military prowess. Now that the two armies have actually met, a clear proof has been afforded that the Japanese soldier ranks at least above the middle class of European fighting men.

Referring to the news received from Shanghai that Antung having now passed into the possession of Japan, the U.S. Consul will at once proceed thither, *The Times* says that this fact affords a clear indication of the relative attitude of the belligerent Powers towards questions of trade. Whereever Japanese arms are successful there Commerce will find an open door.

The Standard says that the moral effects of the victory at the Yalu will be much greater than the material results, to which too much importance should not be attached.

The *Daily Telegraph* says that Japan had already gained a definitely high position as a naval power; she has now won for herself a similar position in the military world.

Another leading journal says that even Japan's best friends had not anticipated that she would show herself so powerful on land.

The French newspapers agree in regarding Japan's success as signal and in saying that its moral effect will be considerable, but they deny that any proof has yet been furnished as to the final issue of the war. Some say that Russia's plan was not to make any obstinate resistance at the Yalu, but merely to harrass Japan and inflict as much loss upon her as possible, while drawing her on to the interior. Other papers note that the loss of so many guns by the Russian army is a most important fact.

The Socialist newspapers loudly praise Japan and ridicule the impotence of the Russian Army. They say that the incompetence, want of experience, and lack of solidarity on the part of the Russians, offer a marked contrast to the courage, profound caution and strategy of the Japanese.

The *Echo de Paris* says that what is most to be feared as a result of this victory of the Japanese in that it will have the effect of inducing China to abandon her attitude of neutrality.

RUSSIAN SECURITIES.

Russian securities fell on receipt of the news of the battle of the Yalu, from over 91 to 89.

GERMAN PRESS OPINION.

The German newspapers do not contain any special comment on the Yalu fight. They appear to be maintaining an attitude of reticence, but in inserting the news they observe that this first victory on land for the Japanese will certainly have a great moral effect and that the Russian losses of men and guns will be heavily felt by them. They add that the withdrawal of the Russians from Antung is a clear proof of defeat and that they will scarcely be able to render any further military opposition on the lower reaches of the Yalu.

(RECEIVED AT THE WAR DEPARTMENT).

THE RUSSIAN DEAD.

General Kuroki reports that in clearing the field of the recent battle, 200 more Russian corpses were found, and others are likely to be discovered.

Among the Russians who surrendered is an Assistant-Surgeon, who is now working in the Japanese Field Hospital.

(RECEIVED AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE.)

VICEROY ALEXIEFF AT PORT ARTHUR.

Viceroy Alexieff reports to St. Petersburg that on the 2nd inst. the Japanese made another attack on Port Arthur and were handsomely beaten off. Five torpedo-boats appeared near shore at 1 a.m. on the 2nd and were driven back by fire from the forts and ships. At 1.40 a.m. a number of steamers were seen approaching. First came one big ship, which was followed in rapid succession by seven other steamers, steering in from E. and S.E. I at once embarked on the *Otvazny*, and with the *Giljak* and the *Gremastchy* went out of harbour and in company with the forts opened fire on the Japanese. The eight steamers were all sent to the bottom by means of gun-fire, fish-torpedoes and mines.

The officer commanding the forts and the Captain of the *Giljak* say that at 4 o'clock in the morning two Japanese torpedo-boats were sunk. Thereafter we ceased our cannonading and only fired a few shots at Japanese torpedo-boats when they appeared occasionally in the offing. We saved 30 Japanese, among whom were two officers severely wounded. On account of the wind and the waves it has not yet been possible to ascertain the condition of the harbour mouth or recover the bodies of the drowned.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

THE PRESS CENSORSHIP.

Kobe, May 5.

Mr. A. W. Curtis, Editor of the *Kobe Herald*, was to-day fined *yen* 20, for a breach of the Press Censorship regulations relating to Military and Naval affairs. The prosecution was based upon an editorial article printed on the 27th April in which appeared a statement that the squadron in the Sea of Japan left Chinhaiwan the week before.

Mr. Curtis has appealed.

"MONMOUTHSHIRE" RUNS ASHORE.

The steamer *Monmouthshire* went ashore in the Bungo Channel on Saturday night. She has arrived here and will have to be docked for extensive repairs.

(FROM THE "JIJI SHIMPO.")

ALL IN THE PLAN.

London, May 3.

It is declared by the Russian Headquarters that the Battle of the Yalu was an unimportant engagement, in which only a small Russian force took part. The withdrawal from Kiulien-ching was a part of the strategical plan of General Kuropatkin.

(FROM SHANGHAI PAPERS.)

SUBMARINES AT PORT ARTHUR.

London, April 26.

A St. Petersburg telegram states that a telegram from Port Arthur says that experiments have been made with submarine boats which proved a brilliant success.

This is the first intimation that there are submarine boats at Port Arthur, though it was reported weeks ago that Admiral Makaroff had requested some to be sent by rail.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Athenian	F. May 6
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Bayern [1]	Sa. May 7
Hongkong...........	P. M. Co.	Siberia	M. May 9
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic [2]	Sa. May 14
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China [3]	M. May 16
Hongkong...........	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	Th. May 19
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Sa. May 21
Tacoma...............	N. P. Co.	Tremont	M. May 22
America	P. M. Co.	Mongolia	W. May 25
Hongkong...........	N. P. Co.	Shawmut	W. June 1

[1] Left Kobe on the 5th inst.
[2] Left San Francisco on the 26th Inst.
[3] Left Vancouver on the 2nd inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	M. M. Co.	Polynesien	F. May 6
Tacoma...............	N. P. Co.	Hyades	F. May 6
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Athenian	Sa. May 7
America.............	P. M. Co.	Siberia	W. May 11
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Taisang	W. May 11
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Bayern	Sa. May 14
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Su. May 15
Hongkong...........	P. M. Co.	Gaelic	Su. May 15
Hongkong...........	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. May 16
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Em. of Japan	F. May 20
America.............	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Tu. May 23
Hongkong...........	N. P. Co.	Tremont	Tu. May 29

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Khalif, British steamer, 2,219, Middleton, 29th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Achilles, British steamer, 4,484, O. P. Williams, 29th April,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Nicomedia, German steamer, 2,808, Wagner, 29th April,—Hongkong, General.—P. & A. S.S. Co.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,055, J. C. Jensen, 29th April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rasbera, British steamer, 2,500, Morrison, 29th April,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, K. Sato, 29th April,—Ogasawara, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Indrapura, British steamer, 3,152, J. T. Horne, 30th April,—Portland, Or., General.—P. & A. S.S. Co.

Sealda, British steamer, 3,438, J. M. Tyrell, 30th April,—Rangoon, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Teucer, British steamer, 1,803, Silverlock, 30th April, Amping, General.—Sale & Co.

Marquis Bacquehem, Austrian steamer, 2,744, T. Rasservich, 30th April,—Trieste, General.—Pollack Bros.

Lothian, British steamer, 3,224, J. C. Williamson, 1st May,—Portland, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Jason, British steamer, 4,880, Steeves, 1st May,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Clara Jebsen, German steamer, 1,100, Bendixen, 1st May,—Takao via ports, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Radley, British steamer, 1,984, E. W. Cockney, 1st May,—Christmas Island, Phosphate.—Cornes & Co.

Victoria, Swedish steamer, 989, M. Helmanson, 1st May,—Otaru, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Armenia, German steamer, 3,469, Farst, 2nd May,—Hamburg, via ports, General.—C, Illies & Co, *Braemar*, British steamer, 2,316, S. L. Saxby, 2nd May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Seneca, British steamer, 3,171, W. Primes, 2nd May,—New York, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Obi, British steamer, 1,951, Pinkham, 3rd May,—Otaru, Coal.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Ganges, British steamer, 2,721, W. Sibbald, 3rd May,—Sakata, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Korea, American steamer, 5,651, W. B. Seabury, 3rd May,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Sheikh, British steamer, 2,228, C. Jones, 3rd May,—Hokkaido, 1st May, General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Salamanca, British steamer, 883. A. E. Wilson, 3rd May,—Moji, 1st May, Coal.

Dunblane, British steamer, 2,402, Martin, 4th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Pleiades, American steamer, 2,932, F. G. Purrington, 4th May,—Seattle, 12th April, General.—Dodwell & Co.

Emma Luyken, German steamer, 1,109, H. Martens, 4th May,—Saigon, Rice.—Tangou Loong.

Telena,, British steamer, 3,124, H. Carter. 4th May,—Borneo, 18th April, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Germania, German steamer, 1,714, J. Bruhn, 4th May,—Moji, General and Coal.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Loyal, German steamer, 1,337, J. Buhrman, 4th May,—Otaru, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,065, J. C. Jensen, 4th May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hyades, American steamer, 2,932, Geo. Wright, 5th May,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Satsuma, British steamer, 2,690, Chubb, 5th May,—New York, General,—Dodwell & Co.

Hyson, British Steamer, 4,632, Davis, 5th May,—Liverpool via ports, Oeneral.—Butterfield & Swire.

DEPARTURES.

Empress of India, British steamer 3,003, O. P. Marshall 29th April,—Vancouver B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Go.

Benlomond, British steamer, 1,752, Clark, 29th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tetartos, German steamer, 1,812, Dessler, 30th April,—Kobe, Sugar and Rice.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Ulabrand, Norwegian steamer, 1,269, Anderson, 30th April,—Otaru, Rice.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,055, J. C. Jensen, 30th April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Heathdene, British steamer, 2,277, W. J. Milburn, 30th April,—Muroran, Ballast.—H. T. K.

Terge Viken, Norwegian steamer, 2,304, Gulliksen, 1st May,—Yokkaichi, Rice.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Shrewsbury, British steamer, 2,079, Sheppard, 2nd May,—Kuchinotsu, Rice.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Khalif, British steamer, 2,219, Middleton 2nd May,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sophie Rickmers, German steamer, 2,262, Pape, 2nd May,—Moji, Ballast.—Raspe & Co.

Huron, British steamer, 1,990, Walsh, 2nd May,—Moji, Ballast.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Marburg, German steamer, 3,888, Stern, 2nd May,—Kobe, General,—C. Illies & Co.

Nicomedia, German steamer, 2,808, Wagner, 2nd May,—Portland, Or., General.—P. & A. S.S. Co.

Lothian, British steamer, 3,223, J. C. Williamson, 3rd May,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Teucer, British steamer, 1,803. Silverlock, 3rd May,—Kobe, General.—Sale & Co.

Achilles, British steamer, 4,484, O. P. Williams, 3rd May,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Marquis Bacquehem, Austrian steamer, 2,744, 4th May,—Kobe, General.—Pollack Bros.

Indrapura, British steamer, 3,152, F. T. Horne, 4th May,—Hongkong, General.—P. & A. S.S. Co.

John and Winthrope, American steamer, 320, W. T. Shorey, 4th May,—North Pacific.—Captain.

Rasbera, British steamer, 2,500, Morrison, 5th May,—Kobe General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Victoria, Swedish steamer, 989, M. Helmanson, 5th May,—Kobe, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Ferndene, British steamer, 2,148, Fisher, 5th May,—Moji, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Salamanca, British steamer, 883, A. E. Wilson, 5th May,—Moji, Coal.—Japanese.

Obi, British steamer, 1,951, Davison, 5th May,—Muroran, Ballast.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Sealda, British steamer, 3,438, J. M. Tyrett, 5th May,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Braemar, British steamer, 2,316, S. L. Saxby, 5th May,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,065, J. C. Jensen, 4th May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Korea, American steamer, 5,651, W. B. Seabury, 5th March,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, K. Sato, 5th May,—Bonin Islands, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Clara Jebsen, German steamer, 1,100, Bendixen, 5th May,—Katsura, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per American steamer *Korea*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Miss L. A. Avery, Mr. P. B. de Anker, Mrs. Andrews Allen, Mr. H. J. Bradley, Mr. W. Footer, Mr. B. Guggenheim, Mr. F. C. Gratwick, Mrs. W. H. Gratwick, Miss Gratwick, Miss E. M. Holcomb, Mr. T. Hirose, Mr. Murakami, Dr. F. Kimura, Mr. Albert Kolg, Miss S. B. Lowery, Mr. R. N. Nason, Mr. M. Nagata, Mr. T. Nakayama, Mr. G. S. Namekata, Mr. O. H. P. Noyes, Mr. P. Poporici, Mrs. Grace Pratt, Mr. J. C. Siegfried, Mr. A. L. Scott, Mrs. A. L. Scott and son, Mrs. J. W. Smith, Mr. W. T. Smith, Mr. Edger Wagner, Mr. H. M. Wisler, Mr. N. Yatsushiro. For Kobe:—Rev. J. E. Adams, Miss Maud Bonnell, Mr. K. Kouga, Mr. J. H. J. Allison. For Shanghai:—Miss E. M. Chisholm, Mrs. M. J. Nauld, Miss Stella E. Stenhouse, Mr. J. E. Hartshom, Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Oxner, Mr. N. Thomassin, Mr. Geo. Howell, wife and child, Mr. A. P. Simpson, Mrs. N. Thomassin. For Hongkong:—Mr. A. H. Ahlo, Mr. W. M. Graham, Mrs. J. S. Moir, Mr. J. W. Bolles, Mr. L. M. Harrington, Miss Moir, Dr. H. W. Boyd, Mr. Venn Hughes, Mr. L. H. Morris, Mr. C. T. Briggs, Mr. E. Hurts, Miss C. Thacker, Mr. N. C. Burrus, Mr. F. J. McGlinchey, Mr. Tom Wing, Mrs. N. C. Burrus and child, and Mr. F. S. Lowell in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, for Vancouver, B.C.: Mr. F. R. Adams, Mr. A. H. Atkinson, Mr. J. O. Bachelor, Mr. J. Bakken, Mrs. Barclay, Rev. Basbart, Mrs. H. H. Beers, Miss M. Beers, Mr. A. P. Begg, Lt. B. S. Brown, Mr. G. Brown, Mr. Hare Buck, Mr. J. Bucking, Mr. M. W. Cameron, Mr. S. W. Cartwright, Mr. H. L. Cautley, Mr. O. R. Coales, Mr. J. Collis, Mrs. J. Collis, Lt. F. S. Cooper, Judge J. F. Cooper, Mr. A. E. Cooper, Mr. J. Cooper, Mrs. J. Cooper, Mr. P. Crompton, Mrs. P. Crompton, & children; Mr. H. E. Cutter, Mr. E. F. Darflinger, Mr. Dixwell, Mrs. Dixwell, Mr. E. Dubosc, Mr. C. S. Durham, Mrs. D Ellis, Mr. S. Fawns, Mrs. S. Fawns, Mrs. A. Fay, Mr. A. E. Fearnley, Mr. H. C. Field, Mrs. H. C. Field, Mr. A. Fleet, Capt. K. Fujii, I. J. N., Mr. L. S. Gillette, Mr. A. Granzella, Miss Gregg, Mrs. E. Griswold, Mr. H. Hewat, Mr. F. T. B. Hewitt, Mr. H. B. Holmes, Miss Howard, Mr. J. Hunt, Mr. D. H. Kinahan, Miss Lock King, Mr. S. Kobayashi, Mr. J. M. B. Koon, Mr. A. M. Lucock, Mr. T. H. Lyle, Mrs. McCoy, Miss McCoy, Mr. P. McFarlane, Mr. McLeish, Mrs. McLeish, Miss McLeish, Capt. C. E. Macquoid, D. S. O., Mr. G. Main, Mrs. G. Main, Mr. H. Marsham, Capt. N. E. Mason, Dr. Mayaltrais, Mr. N. Meyer, Rev. E. R. Miller, Mrs. E. R. Miller, Mr. B. Munster, Mr. J. Nathan, Mr. T. Noma, Mr. L. Norton, Mrs. L. Norton, Mr. J. F. Nichol, Mr. F. F. Paget, Dr. H. R. Parker, Miss Payne, Mr. E. C. Pearce, Dr. Peters, Mrs. Peters, Mr. A. S. Piers, Lt. Ashton Potter, Mrs. Ashton Potter, Mr. D. Rubnet, Mrs. Riches, Mr. F. O. Rinker, Lt. Col. G. F. Rowcroft, Lt. H. C. Rush, R N., Mr. E. H. Rutter, Mr. E. Sarra, Mr. Settle, Miss J. E. Sexton, Mr. E. Sharp, Mr. A. Shewan, Mr. G. C. Shinha, Miss L. Sloan, Mr. T. Smith, Mrs. T. Smith, Master Smith, Mr. M. Stern, Mr. B. D. Stowell, Mr. T. Suzuki, I. J. N., Mr. S. Takaki, Mr. J. H. Temperley, Mr. C. Temperley, Mrs. C. Temperley, Mr. A. H. Thomas, Mrs. A. H. Thomas, Lt. Y. Toki, I. J. N., Mr. C. D. Upington, Miss Watanabe, Miss Celia Waters, Mr. J. C. Watson, Mrs. J. C. Watson, Mr. J. R. Wharton, Mr. A. F. White, Miss M. Williams, Mr. F. E. Wood, Mrs. F. E., Wood and children, Mr. S. Aso, Mr. S. Toyama, Mr. J. Tanimura, Mr. N. E. F. Corbett, Mr. H. Wieland, Mr. Y. Kurotori, and Mr. R. Kaneko in intermediate; 143 in steerage.

Per American steamer *Korea*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. R. A Abenheim, Rev. J. E. Adams, Mr. A. H. Ahlo, Mr. J. H. Allison, Miss L. A. Avery, Mr. E. A. Bartlett, Mr. H. H. Beers, Mr. C. Bell, Mr. H. Birge, Mr. J. W. Bolles, Miss Maud Bonnell, Dr. H. W. Boyd, Mr. C. T. Briggs, Mr. J. Briggs, Mrs. J. Briggs and native servant, Mr. N. C. Buness, Mrs. N. C. Buness and child, Miss E. M. Chisholm, Mr. & Mrs. Guy Clinton, Rev. Jno Deering, Rev. A. Forsee, Lt. G. R. Fortescue, Mr. E. W. Catch, Mr. A. W. M. Graham, Mr. F. C. Gratwick, Mrs. W. N. Gratwick, Miss Gratwick, Mr. B. Guggenheim, Mr. A. G. Hales, Mr. L. M. Harrington, Mr. J. E. Hartshom, Mr. Chas. L. Helm, Mr. W. E. Hitt and servant, Mr. E. C. Hochapfel, Mr Geo. Howell, Mrs. Geo. Howell and child, Mr. Venn Hughes, Mrs. E. Hurto, Mr. Y. Iwamura, Mr. G. H. Kingswell, Mr. H. Konga, Mr. Henry Lapp, Mr. E. S. Lowell, Miss S. B. Lowrie, Mrs. J. S. Moir, Miss J. S. Moir, Mr. W. C. D. Morgan, Mr. L. H. Morris, Mrs. M. J. Nault, Mr. J. M. Oxner, Mrs. J. M. Oxner, Mr. S. Paxton, Mr. G. H. Phillips, Mrs. G. H. Phillips, Mr. P. Phillips, Mr. J. O. Richardson, Rev. Jas. Robbins, Mr. A. Schibbye, Mrs. A. Schibbye, Miss E. R. Scidmore, Mr. J. C. Siegfried, Mr. A. P. Simpson, Mr. Thos. J. Smith, Mrs. Frederick Smyth, Miss Stella E. Stenhouse, Miss C. Thacher, Mr. W. Thomassin, Mrs. N. Thomassin, Mr. J. S. Williams, Mr. Tom Wing and Mrs. Yamamoto in cabin.

CARGO.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—

TEA.

From.	Canada.	Chicago & West.	New York & East.	Pacific Coast.	Other Cities.	Total Packages.
Hongkong	747	—	—	76	—	823
Shanghai	276	—	—	—	—	276
Kobe	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yokohama	361	134	112	—	—	607
Total	1,384	134	112	76	—	1,706

SILK.

From.	New York.	San F'cisco.	Easton.	South Man'ster.	Total. Bales.
Hongkong & Canton	524	—	—	—	524
Shanghai	995	—	—	—	995
Yokohama	1,061	—	40	—	1,101
Total	2,580	—	40	—	2,620

VESSELS TO ARRIVE.

STEAMERS.

NAME.	FROM.	REPORTED.	
Agamemnon	Victoria	Left	April 22
Alcinous	Liverpool	Left S'pore	April 9
Aragonia	Hamburg	Left	Mar. 23
Asama	London	At H'kong	Mar. 13
Athenian	Hongkong	Left	April 27
Bayern	Hamburg	Left H'kong	April 27
Benmohr	London	Left S'pore	April 20
Briez Huel	New York	Left	Feb. 20
Caithness	London	At N'saki	April 11
Canadia	Hamburg	Left	Jan. 14
Clavering	Hongkong	Left	April 23
Claverly	New York	Left S'hai	April 20
Comeric	New York	Left	Feb. 28
Deucalion	Liverpool	Passed Canal	April 4
Ernest Simons	Marseilles	Left Saigon	April 30
Gaelic	San F'cisco	Left	April 26
Glenartney	London	At Kobe	April 21
Glenesk	London	Passed Canal	Feb. 29
Glenshiel	London	Left S'hai	April 27
Handandine	New York	Left	Feb. 15
Hyson	Liverpool	Due Kobe	April 30
Indradeo	New York	due Kobe	April 29
Indrani	New York	Left	Mar. 6
Jesseric	New York	Left Taku	April 29
Kanagawa Maru	London	Left Malta	Feb. 27
Knight Com'der	New York	Left	April 15
L'ther Castle	New York	Left	April 18
Manila	London	Left S'pore	April 12
Oanfa	Liverpool	Passed Canal	April 7
Oceano	London	Left	Mar. 10
Oldenburg	Hamburg	Passed Canal	Mar. 21
Olessia	London	Left	Mar. 12
Patroclus	Liverpool	Left S'hai	Mar. 22
Pera	London	Left	Mar. 19
Plitvice	Phila.	Passed Canal	Mar. 1
Prometheus	Liverpool	At H'kong	April 22
Richmond Castle	New York	Left S'pore	April 22
Roseley	Cardiff	Passed Canal	Feb. 22
Satsuma	New York	Left S'hai	April 21
Segovia	Hamburg	Passed Canal	April 7
Silverlip	London	Left	Mar. 23
St. George	Norfolk	At Zebu	Jan. 28
St. Nicholas	New York	Passed Canal	Feb. 4
St. Fil'ans	New York	Left	Feb. 14
Strathnevis	London	At H'kong	Mar. 14
Strassburg	Hamburg	Left S'pore	April 19
Swanley	Barry	Left	Feb. 10
Tjilatjap	Macassar	Left	April 19
T. Wille	Hamburg	Left	Mar. 17
Titania	London	Passed Canal	April 17
Ulysses	Liverpool	Passed Canal	April 7
Verona	New York	Passed Canal	April 7
Vindobona	Trieste	Passed Canal	April 18
Yarra	Marseilles	Left	April 17

SAVE YOUR HAIR

With Shampoos of Cuticura Soap and Light Dressings of Cuticura.

This treatment at once stops falling hair, removes crusts, scales, and dandruff, soothes irritated, itching surfaces, stimulates hair follicles, supplies the roots with energy and nourishment, and makes the hair grow upon a sweet, wholesome, healthy scalp when all else fails.

MILLIONS USE CUTICURA SOAP

Assisted by CUTICURA OINTMENT, for preserving, purifying, and beautifying the skin, for cleansing the scalp of crusts, scales, and dandruff, and the stopping of falling hair, for softening, whitening, and soothing red, rough, and sore hands, for baby rashes, itchings, and chafings, in the form of baths for annoying irritations and inflammations, or too free or offensive perspiration, and for all the purposes of the toilet, as well as by millions of women in the form of washes for ulcerative weaknesses, and many sanative, antiseptic purposes which readily suggest themselves to women and mothers.

COMPLETE TREATMENT FOR EVERY HUMOUR,

Consisting of CUTICURA SOAP, to cleanse the skin of crusts and scales, and soften the thickened cuticle; CUTICURA OINTMENT, to instantly allay itching, inflammation, and irritation, and soothe and heal; and CUTICURA RESOLVENT PILLS, to cool and cleanse the blood. A SINGLE SET is often sufficient to cure the most torturing, disfiguring, itching, burning, and scaly skin, scalp, and blood humours, with loss of hair, when all else fails. Sold throughout the world. Australian Depot: R. TOWNS & Co., Sydney. British Depot: 27-28, Charterhouse Sq., London. French Depot: 5 Rue de la Paix, Paris. POTTER DRUG AND CHEM. CORP., Sole Props., Boston, U. S. A.

CUTICURA RESOLVENT PILLS (Chocolate Coated) are a new, tasteless, odourless, economical substitute for the celebrated liquid CUTICURA RESOLVENT, as well as for all other blood purifiers and humour cures. Put up in screw-cap pocket vials, containing 60 doses. CUTICURA PILLS are alterative, antiseptic, tonic, digestive, and the purest, sweetest, most successful and economical of blood and skin purifiers, humour cures, and tonic-digestives.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Nothing doing in Yarns. Some few parcels of Grey Shirtings have found buyers at prices much below replacing cost. Fluctuations in raw materials prevent contracts at remunerative rates. No change in Fancy Cottons and Woolens.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER YARD.
White Shirting—{40 yds. 36 in. 50 yds. 36 in.} ...	0.09 to 0.10
	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	Y.2.85 to 3.60
Grey Shirting—9 lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.80 to 4.25
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches...	3.00 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton Italians and Satteens...	0.20 to 0.40

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	Y.0.35 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 32 in...	0.30 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches...	0.16 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.50 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 to 65 inches ...	0.90 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5 lb per lb	0.60 to 0.66
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	9.50 to 12.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches...	0.90 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0 lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches...	1.90 to 2.25
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 5 lb, 24-25 yards, 32 inches...	2.50 to 3.65

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Y. 140.00 to 150.00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	—
Nos. 38/42, Singles	—
Nos. 32, Doubles...	145.00 to 150.00
Nos. 42, Doubles...	155.00 to 160.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/100, Plain...	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	245.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	295.00 to 305.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	425.00 to 435.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling...	Nominal.	33
Indian Broach...		26
Chinese		23

METALS.

No change to report.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward...	Y.4.05 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.30 to 4.60
Sheet Iron...	4.65 to 6.90
Galvanised Iron sheets	10.00 to 11.00
Wire Nails, assorted	5.15 to 5.75
Tin Plates, per box...	6.70 to 7.60
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.05
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1½ inch)	5.00 to 5.50

KEROSENE.

The market is dull.

American	$3.26
Russian	3.17
Langkat	3.10

SUGAR.

The market is quiet. In Hongkong Refined buyers are slow to come up to the new level of prices.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	Y.7.00 to 7.50
Brown Manila...	7.10 to 7.80
Brown Daitong	5.90 to 7.30
Brown Canton...	6.40 to 8.40
White Java and Penang...	8.20 to 9.10
White Refined...	10.50 to 13.00

INDIGO.

The market is stagnant.

	PICUL.
Java, Medium to best...	270.00 to 320.00
Calcutta, Medium to best	180.00 to 290.00
Madras (*Kurpah*), Medium to best ...	140.00 to 170.00
Madras (Dry Leaf), Medium to best ..	100.00 to 140.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Business is checked by the pretensions of holders and the poor quality on offer. Quotations are nominally unchanged, but probably some concessions can be obtained by any buyer who will take inferior silk.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra Best, Coarse ... ...Y.	—
Filatures—Extra, Fine...	—
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	950 to 960
Filatures—No. 1, Fine...	—
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	880 to 900
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	900 to 910
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	860 to 870
Filatures—No. 2, Fine...	880 to 890
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	—
Common—Coarse	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1½	—
Re-reels—No. 2	—
Re-reels—No. 3	—
Kakedas—Extra	—
Kakedas—No. 1	900 to 910
Kakedas—No. 1½...	880 to 890
Kakedas—No. 2	860 to 870

WASTE SILK.

There is a small business in the lower grades. Good fibre is very scarce, and the bulk of the stock on offer consists of rejections and refuse.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	—
Noshi—Filatures, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Good...	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	—
Nsohi—Joshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	140 to 150
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	130 to 135
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	60 to 70
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	50 to 60

TEA.

Parcels of new tea continue to arrive and are taken at prices ranging from *yen* 41 to *yen* 57. The quality is about average.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	57
Choice	50
Finest	45
Fine...	40
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common...	—

COPPER.

Some 300 tons Marukata are reported to have changed hands at *yen* 35.50 per picul for May—July delivery.

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, May 5.

London silver 1/16 lower but no change in sterling quotations from China and local rates 1/16 higher for both Bank and Private paper.

London—Bank T.T. ...	2/0 3/16 @ ¼
— — Bills on demand ...	2/0 ¼ @ 5/16
— — 4 months' sight ...	2/0 7/16 @ ½
— Private 4 months' sight ...	2/0 9/16 @ ⅝
— — 6 months' sight ...	2/0 11/16 @ ¾
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight ...	254
— Private 4 months' sight ...	258½ @ 8
— — 6 months' sight ...	260 @ 9½
Hongkong—Bank sight ... per $100.	89
— Private 10 days' sight do.	86¾
Shanghai—Bank sight ...	81¾
— Private 10 days' sight ...	84
India—Bank sight ...	150½
— Private 30 days' sight ...	153
America—Bank sight ...	49¾
— Private 30 days' sight ...	50
— Private 4 months' sight ...	50¼
Germany—Bank sight ...	206½
— Private 4 months' sight ...	210½
Bar Silver (London) ...	26 3/16

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, May 5.

Helms have been purchased at *yen* 50, and are wanted. Grand Hotels, sales are reported at *yen* 235. Langfeldts, a few shares are on offer at *yen* 45. Nickels sellers at *yen* 35. Engine and Iron Works sales at *yen* 96. Kirin Breweries can be placed at *yen* 90. Y.U.C. Debentures sellers at *yen* 109. Oriental Hotel Debentures 1st issue sellers at *yen* 107. Consolidated Gold Mines, a few shares are obtainable at G. $14.

	YEN.	
Brett & Co. Limited ...	8½	Nominal.
Club Hotel, Limited ...	70	Nominal.
Grand Hotel, Limited ...	235	Sellers.
Helm Bros., Limited ...	50	Buyers.
Langfeldt & Co., Limited...	50	Sellers.
C. Nickel & Co., Limited ...	35	Sellers.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Founders...	450	Nominal.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Ordinary...	75	Buyers.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Preference.	70	Nominal.
Japan Brewery Co., Limited ...	90	Sellers.
Yokohama E. & I. Works ...	96	Sales.

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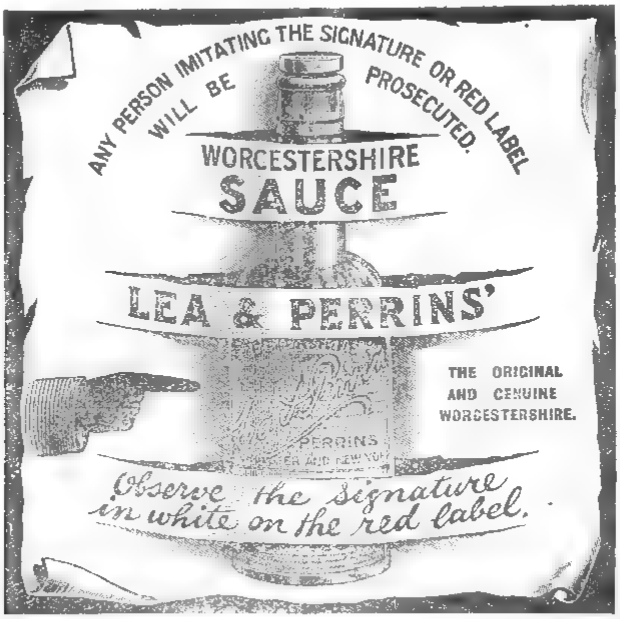

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAY 14TH, 1904.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Tsar has appointed M. de Lessar a Privy Councillor.

MR. H. ABE, a well-known speculator of Osaka, died on May 5th in Tokyo.

THE Mino Commercial Bank, Gifu prefecture, suspended payment for twenty days on May 9th.

THE construction of the branch line between Hakata and Sasakuri having been completed, traffic will be opened on May 15th.

TELEGRAPHIC intelligence from Otaru, Hokkaido, says that a boat capsized in that harbour on May 8th and ten men were drowned.

THE crew of the *Haginoura Maru*, some 20 men, were taken off that vessel before the Russians sank her. They are all safe.

IT is reported from Osaka that the Minister for Finance has requested prominent bankers to come up to Tokyo not later than May 11th.

THE electric railway between Shinagawa and Omori was opened on May 8th for traffic. This is a section of the Tokyo-Yokohama Railway.

A TELEGRAM from Numazu reports that M. Goto (36) a wealthy farmer in the village of Yanahara, was murdered on the night of May 8th. Details are not yet given.

THE 1st class cruiser *Black Prince*, 9,210 tons, which is used as a training-ship for boys at Queenstown, has been re-named *The Emerald*, as a compliment to Ireland.

THE Austro-Hungarian minister entertained the foreign diplomatic officials and Baron Komura, Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the evening of May 7th at the legation.

J. HOSOYA (58) a barber, at Tobe, Yokohama, attempted to commit suicide on May 6th, injuring himself severely in the throat with a razor. The cause is reported to be poverty.

THE Mayor and the City Councillors of Tokyo met on May 10th at 2 p.m., when they decided to hold a public dinner party after the occupation of Port Arthur, to celebrate the victories.

A TELEGRAM from Osaka reports that Japanese marine insurance companies have agreed to reduce the rate of war risk on the line between Japan, Shanghai, and Hongkong from May 6th.

AT the request of the Chinese Minister, the Tokyo University has provided a special department for law and political sciences for Chinese students who can not attend the regular courses.

LIEUTENANT S. TAKEOKA, of the artillery, Konodai, Chiba prefecture, committed suicide on the morning of May 5th by jumping into the Tone river. The cause is reported to be insanity.

OVER a hundred fishermen from Hiroshima on May 5th attacked fishermen who were working at Hiuchinada, near Matsuyama. Many of the latter were injured. The cause is not reported.

THE Captain of the Russian steamer captured in February at Yokohama was released on May 10th upon taking the usual oath not to participate in hostilities. He will shortly leave Yokohama for Shanghai.

THE *Jiji* publishes a telegram from Sapporo stating that a sampan with 55 men was capsized at the entrance of Otaru harbour by a strong wind on the morning of the 8th inst. Twelve lives were lost.

MESSRS. K. OI, Toyama, H. Kano and others belonging to several political parties have organized a union aiming at the restoration of Saghalien to Japan. They have established a temporary office at Shitaya, Tokyo.

ON the evening of May 10th an unknown man inflicted serious injuries with a large knife on K. Tanaka, a detective of the Tokyo Metropolitan Police, who was about to examine him as a suspected person. The culprit is still at large.

MR. MATSUMOTO, M.P., for Nara prefecture, charged with having insulted a government official, was sentenced on May 6th in the Nara District Court to one month's imprisonment with hard labour and a fine of five *yen*.

THE hearing of the protest brought by Mr. G. Akiyama, representative of the owner of the captured Russian steamer *Mukden*, petitioning for the release of the ship and its cargo, having been concluded in the Sasebo Prize Court, judgment will be given on May 16th.

BARON SONE, Minister for Finance, was to meet leading bankers of Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Kyoto, etc., on the evening of May 11th at his official residence, to explain negotiations regarding the foreign loan, and the financial situation at present and in the future.

THE President and Committee of the Japan Red Cross Society met on May 4th and decided to ask Dr. McGee and her party to take up the nursing at the Matsuyama Hospital, Ehime prefecture, for which purpose they have applied to the Minister for War for approval.

ACCORDING to intelligence from Shanghai, says the *Jiji's* Nagasaki correspondent, the Chinese Government has cancelled the prohibition of the export of bar and pig iron. The Government had classified the material as contraband of war, against which the representative of Japan protested.

COUNTESS OTANI (elder sister of the Crown Princess), wife of the Lord Abbot of the Nishi Hongwan-ji, Kyoto, has arrived at Gifu on the way from Tokyo. On May 10th she delivered a speech at a meeting of Buddhist ladies with reference to the obligations of women at the present time.

ACCORDING to a passenger who arrived on May 10th from Chinnampho, says the *Jiji's* Shimonoseki correspondent, business in the Korean port is reviving since the export of grain recently commenced. The intelligence adds that the first preparation for floating the *Varyag*, sunk at Chemulpho, is completed.

MISS ETHEL McCAUL, who was instructed by Queen Alexandra to report on the working of the Japan Red Cross Society, arrived on May 6th in Tokyo by the 9.14 p.m. train from Kobe. On arrival at Shimbashi, she was welcomed by Count Matsukata, President of the Japan Red Cross Society, and his staff, and many ladies and gentlemen.

A TELEGRAM from Hakodate says that 319 fishermen, an official of the Japanese consulate, 20 women, and an official of the French consulate, arrived there on May 8th from Saghalien by steamer. According to them, the Russian authorities gave facilities to the fugitives when they were leaving the island. The Russians did not capture any of the Japanese fishing vessels.

MR. M. TANAKA, of Osaka, received a telegram on May 5th from the Horikyu-shoten, Chemulpo, to the effect that the steamer *Haginoura Maru* (219 tons) belonging to the former was sunk on April 25th at 8 p.m. by the Russians. The place of the casualty was not mentioned. She had been employed on the line between Fusan, Yuensan and Song-chin. The crew consisted of about 20 men.

PRINCE ARSENE KARGEORGEVITCH, who has just been appointed to the command of the Baikal Cossacks for service in the Far East, is the only brother of King Peter of Servia. Both brothers commenced their military career in the French service. Prince Arsene did not take a very prominent part in the Franco-German war, but he fought with De Negier in Tongkin, and afterwards resigned his French commission to become an officer in the Russian Guards.

THE BATTLE OF THE YALU.

Saturday, May 7.

There does not appear to be as yet any absolutely definite return of the Japanese casualties at the battle of the Yalu, but an impression evidently prevails that the 300 additional casualties subsequently reported by Kuroki must be added to the 700 estimated by him as the first instance. That would bring the Japanese casualties up to fully a thousand, and we must confess that some such figure was what we ourselves anticipated originally. The casualties at Pyongyang in 1894 were 700, and among them 180 were deaths. Pyongyang, however, was not by any means as serious an engagement as that on the Yalu, nor was the position as difficult for the Japanese. On the present occasion, therefore, if the list of casualties does not exceed a thousand, and above all if the killed do not number more than 150—which seems tolerably certain—, the Japanese will have purchased a great victory at a remarkably small price. The Russians had all the advantage of position and were acting throughout on the defensive. Had they held even tolerably straight, they should have decimated their assailants.

Monday, May 9.

Some Details of the Fighting.

A letter received at Kokura from Lieut. General Inouye, who commands the Twefth Division, says that in crossing the Ai on the morning of the 1st the Division met with considerable resistance. It reached the Hohmu-tung position at 2 p.m., having captured the heights westward on Yulchawon. At Yulchawon four regiments of Russians were massed with 14 or 15 guns. (General Kuropatkin, it will be remembered, speaks of this force as a covering body and puts its strength at only one regiment). These troops stood their ground stoutly as their position was essential to the communications with the other sections of the Russian army. The men from the Kiulien plateau moved to join them, but being intercepted, changed front and endeavoured to bear back the Guards, who were advancing on their left flank. Unsuccessful in this, they finally broke and fled. According to General Inouye, the fight at Hohmu-tung lasted until 7.20 p.m., though General Kuroki's report limits it to 6 p.m. These Russian regiments seem to have made a very fine stand, and the honour belongs to them of having saved the defeat from becoming a catastrophe. They well deserve General Kuropatkin's eulogy, and we can readily understand his disposition to under-estimate their numbers. General Inouye adds that Major-General Kiyoshi's brigade bore the brunt of the fighting on the 1st instant, and that the heaviest work of all fell to the 24th Regiment. He does not say which wing of the advancing Division was formed by the Kiyoshi Brigade, but we conjecture that it was the left wing, which confronted the heights on the west of the Ai River at the time of the flank attack. The General puts the Russian casualties at about 1,300, but there must be a certain amount of conjecture in such a statement.

The Russian Divisional General Kastarinski (?), who is said to have been killed, seems to have sent a report which is telegraphed from London. He says that the Eleventh Regiment held its ground for two hours, but that its communications were severed and it suffered terribly. The Colonel in command, 40 officers and 200 men were killed. That would mean that this regiment alone must have had a total list of at least 600 casualties. Assuming the strength of the Regiment to have been 2,000—a maximum figure—, that is a loss of nearly 30 per cent. This may be the regiment specially referred to by General Kuropatkin.

General Kuroki sends the following reports, published in Tokyo on Sunday:—

1. On the 6th instant a cavalry reconnaissance sent out by us, fell in with the enemy's cavalry at a point on the north east of Fenghwang, and attacked them, killing 3 and wounding several.

2. On the same day our cavalry attacked and drove back the enemy's cavalry at Lutaitze, Santaitze and Sutaitze. Thereafter a body of our infantry took possession of Fenghwang. According to reports received, most of the houses along the Liaoyang road have been burned.

3. Various hospital equipment abandoned by the enemy along the route of his retreat, was picked up by our troops and is now being used for the uses of the wounded of both armies. Further a number of the enemy's hospital corps are employed, at their own request, tending the Russian wounded.

4. The enemy, when retreating from Fenghwang, burned his powder magazine and his ammunition magazine. On the 7th many fugitive soldiers of the enemy emerged from the groves and villages and surrendered. These surrenders are still going on. Many graves are also seen where the enemy buried his dead. The Chinese say that the Russian wounded who were carried to Fenghwang on the 2nd, totalled about 800. On the whole it would seem that the enemy's losses exceeded 3,000 of all arms.

The Chinese are said to be much incensed by the conduct of the Russians in burning Antung at the time of their retreat.

Tuesday, May 10.

The *Asahi* and the *Jiji* both publish telegrams saying that the number of Russian dead found by the Japanese between the Yalu and Tang-shan-ching was 1,363. This news was evidently conveyed to the two journals from the same source, but even the weight of their authority in publishing it does not carry conviction. If 1,363 men were killed there must have been at least 4,000 wounded, whereas General Kuroki's latest accounts put the total Russian casualties at some 3,000.

Wednesday, May 11.

The Casualty List.

General Kuropatkin has now sent in his official statement of the casualties at the battle of the Yalu. We tabulate them side by side with the Japanese authenticated account of their own losses:—

	Killed.		Wounded.		Missing.	
	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	Officers	Men.
Russian ...	26	564	38	1,081	6	679
Japanese...	5	180	25	690	—	—

There are one or two comments to be made. The first is that General Kuropatkin returns only 6 officers as missing, whereas there are actually 30 Russian officers in the hands of the Japanese, and two of them are commanding officers. The second and more important point is the proportion of killed to wounded. Modern rifles, in spite of their accuracy, wound many more than they kill. That is because of the small calibre of the bullet. Four wounded for every one killed is about the ratio indicated by the experience of recent wars. Now it will be observed that the Japanese return shows 715 wounded against 185 killed, a ratio of very nearly 4 to 1. The Russian return, however, shows 1,119 wounded and 590 killed, a ratio of less than 2 to 1. But as between the two rifles, Japanese and Russian, the Russian should be more fatal on account of its larger calibre. Assuming, however, that the rifles are alike in this respect, the Russians ought to have had 2,280 wounded instead of 1,119. Their total losses as shown by Kuropatkin are 2,394, whereas they ought to be probably 3,500.

The schedule for the three Japanese Divisions is as follows:—

	Killed.		Wounded.		Total Casualties.
	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	
Guards	1	20	7	122	150
Second Division ...	1	84	13	305	403
Twelfth Division...	3	76	5	263	347
Totals	5	180	25	690	900

Thursday, May 12.

What Eye-witnesses Saw.

It appears from correspondence in Japanese journals that the Guards did not cross the first channel of the Yalu to Kulido by wading. They had to bridge this channel at the outset as well as the central channel subsequently. They began by sounding the river on the night of April 23rd. Three men stripped and made their way over by swimming and wading. One returned, but two were temporarily disabled by the cold. Then two others crossed, and these never returned though their two predecessors did. On the 25th eleven boats which had been built in Wiju by the Engineers were carried to the river's edge, and a battalion and two companies were told off to cross by them, it being evidently impossible to build a bridge. The night of the 25th was bright with moon-light and the crossing had to be deferred until 3.50 a.m. on the 26th when the moon went down. Twenty men embarked in each of the boats and when three boats had reached the Kulido shore, the enemy opened fire on them, at a distance of about 100 metres. Then a detachment of over 40 Russians advanced and fired a volley, killing about 20 Japanese. The latter nevertheless advanced unchecked. Five more fell killed or wounded, but the others pressed on singing a war-song. At the same time the two reserve companies opened on the Russians, who retired, and the crossing was effected. A conflagration now burst out in a village in the centre of Kulido island. It was obviously a signal, for immediately afterwards two others flamed up further south, and the scene became as light as day. The Russians, however, fled from the island. Most of their boats were on the other side of the main channel and they had a struggle with each other as to who should embark first in the three boats on this side. At this time they lost an officer. Beyond the channel the path was narrow and steep. The Russians had to creep up it, and the spectacle moved the onlooking Japanese to laughter. They opened fire, but suddenly became themselves the objects of a fusillade which killed or wounded some 16 men. Simultaneously the Russians that had gained the shelter of the rocks began to use their rifles with effect. The Japanese therefore entrenched themselves. Presently two squadrons of Russian cavalry were observed advancing from the Tiger's Hill direction. They were supposed to be a reinforcement, but they proved to be a covering body. The troopers, dismounting and taking positions on high ground, opened fire while the infantry retired. In this crossing operation the Japanese had 41 casualties, including 5 sappers. According to statements made by Russian prisoners, the force defending Kulido had been 140 mounted infantry of the Cossack Division.

At dawn on the 27th Lieutenant Sakamoto stripped and swam across to Husan to reconnoitre. He found the position deserted, and on receiving his report a company under Captain Omura crossed by boat and took possession of Husan, bivouacking there for the night. The next morning a party under Sergeant-Major Ono was sent towards

Yulchawon heights to reconnoitre. They found a company of the enemy in the act of ascending the hill. A fight ensued. The Russians during the course of the engagement received a reinforcement of 20 men; the Japanese were re-inforced by a company. Ultimately the Russians withdrew towards Kiulien, leaving 3 killed and wounded. The Japanese had no casualties. Subsequently a battalion of Russian infantry with 3 guns advanced to attack the place, and the Japanese were driven back to Kulido, losing their hardly won position and having 3 killed and 7 wounded. The latter probably fell into the hands of the Russians. Again on the 29th a reconnaissance sent to Husan found it again deserted. A Japanese battalion was therefore sent over by boat, and it took possession of both the Husan and the Yulchawon heights. As the same time the Twelfth Division crossed by bridge at Sukuchin, and advanced to the east of Yulchawon. Thus the position—Husan-Yulchawon—between the Yalu and the Ai River was completely won. On the 30th preparations commenced for a general attack. The detachment in Wiju and the wounded were carried to a sheltered position at Yeuhwatung (up stream from Wiju). The Guards posted a park of 20 guns on Keumchong island. These had to to be taken over by boat. The Second Division placed a park of 35 quick-firers on the same island on the left flank of the Guards' battery. At Yeuhwatung also a park of artillery was placed, and another on Kulido Island. At 10 a.m. the general attack commenced with a violent artillery duel. The early morning had been so foggy that objects could not be distinguished at any distance, and the clearing away of the mist had to be awaited. For this reason the opening of fire was deferred until 10 o'clock. After two hours of this artillery engagement the enemy's guns were silenced. At 9 p.m. on that day, the various bodies of troops took up the positions assigned to them. By this time the Guards had built four bridges from Kulido Island to Husan. Before dawn on the 1st the final attack commenced. The Second Division as well as the Guards marched rapidly to Husan, and the Second Division posted a park of guns on the heights of Cheung-gan island. By the break of day these two Divisions were advancing in long serpentlike columns, the Guards heading eastwards towards Kiulien, the Second Division moving south of that town. At 5 a.m. the Japanese artillery opened fire but the enemy did not reply, their evident object being not to unmask their positions. When the skirmishing line of the Guards had crossed the Ai River, however, they found the enemy and the action commenced with a hot fire of guns and small arms on both sides. At this time the head-quarters of the Guards were on one of the Husan heights and the newspaper correspondents were with them. Bets were made as to whether the attack would succeed. A French correspondent staked 500 *yen* that the Japanese troops could not possibly cross the Ai and escalade such a position as the Russians were occupying. But after the fire had lasted 75 minutes, the Guards commenced to wade the Ai and planted their flags on the top of the opposite bank. Simultaneously the Twelfth Division crossed higher up and the Second Division lower down, and all were seen advancing vehemently amid shouts of *banzai*. The foreign correspondents on Husan all joined in the cheering, with the exception of the man who had bet 500 *yen*. The Second Brigade of the Guards under Major-General Watanabe was directed against the right flank of Kiulien, while the First Brigade advanced against the place from the front. Thus the Second Brigade came upon the enemy just as he was retreating from Kiulien with 6 guns and a number of commissariat wagons. He offered a strong resistance but finally broke, leaving the guns and wagons in the hands of the Japanese. The Guards had over 30 casualties in this fight. Meanwhile the Twelfth Division had advanced on the Russian's left flank and pushing on rapidly westward, had severed his line of communications with Fenghwang. Therefore the Russians from Kiulien re-formed at Hohmutang where they made a desperate stand. Two regiments and 600 cavalry from Antung attempted to join them, but were headed off by the Second Division and had to escape into the hills. The conflict at Hohmutang lasted from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. The Japanese engaged were the twenty-third Brigade (of the Twelfth Division) under Major-General Kigoshi. He left a force to guard the road leading to the Ai, and the divided the remainder of his troops into two bodies, the right wing consisting of the 46th Regiment under Colonel Harada. The right wing attacked from the west and captured a commanding position. The left advanced from the east. This latter regiment being on the Kiulien road, was presently approached by a body of the enemy retreating from the latter place. It opened fire on them at close range, but they were gradually joined by other troops arriving from the same quarter, and the whole offered a strong resistance. Hohmutang is a poor position for defensive purposes. It lies in a hollow surrounded by hills, and the Japanese having crowned the latter, were able to pour a deadly fire upon the Russians, who, on the contrary, could not inflict much injury on their assailants. The Russians finally attempted to retreat to the south, but finding the ground too precipitous, crossed eastward where they encountered Colonel Harada's men. At this moment a battalion of the Russians delivered a fierce flank attack and a bayonet engagement took place, the Russian battalion being presently reinforced by a body of Cossacks. Happily a battery of Japanese artillery now crowned a height at a distance of about 1,500 metres and opened fire on the Russians, who were thrown into disorder. But as the Guards were advancing on their rear from Kiulien and the Second Division on their left rear from Antung, they had nothing for it but to surrender. Over 200 were taken prisoners, the remainder being killed or wounded. The spectacle is said to have been appalling.

Friday, May 13.

Supplementing the intelligence of a Cossack raid against Anju comes news that on the 15th of April a party of 200 Cossacks crossed the Yalu at Chhosan and moving up the river to Wiwon, associated themselves with a band of Hunghutze and proceeded eastward and southward by the Kangke-Chanjin road, finally emerging at Anju. But there is also a story of some Cossacks who made their appearance at Changsong, which is much lower down the Yalu. At any rate these horsemen seem to be a mere roving band. They owe their mobility to the fact that they require no commissariat, the resources of the country through which they pass sufficing to maintain them. It is stated that in this raid they forced the inhabitants to contribute fowl and pork, declaring that any one refusing to do so would be treated as a Japanese. At Anju they seem to have made a very determined onset. It lasted from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m. when re-inforcements from Pyongyang arrived and forced the assailants back to Nyongpyong. It is a curious method of warfare, this riding to and fro of detached bands without any base; veritable columns in the air. Of course nothing of the kind would be possible in a country where reasonably efficient machinery existed for the assertion of administrative authority. But Korea offers a free field for every kind of military enterprise.

Later.

The following telegram reached Head Quarters in Tokyo on the afternoon of the 11th from a place not mentioned, signed by Captain Haraguchi:—"A Company of our relieving force arrived at Anju on the 10th at 1 p.m., and lent its assistance to the garrison of that place which, since early morning, had been engaged with an attacking body of Cossacks. We fought until 7 p.m., and thereafter throughout the night our outposts were engaged. At 6 p.m. on the 11th detachments of our troops arrived from Kasan and Sukchong, and the enemy then retired to Kaichhong and Sunchhang. A portion of the Anju garrison is now pursuing him. We had 4 killed and 6 wounded. The enemy's casualties were over 50 in killed and wounded, and we took one sergeant prisoner. According to the latter's statement, the enemy consisted of Cossacks and numbered 500."

If our readers look at the map they will see that the Cossacks retired to the south of Anju, and struck the road which trends eastward and northward to Nyongwon and Kangke, finally emerging at Wiwon on the Yalu. These men must have had a severe lesson. If they lost over 50 out of a force of 500 they are not likely to return soon again to the attack.

The *Asahi* says that the number of Russian prisoners now exceeds 700, including wounded men. About 300 have reached Saseho, including 25 officers. These are all wounded and are now under treatment at Matsuyama Hospital. It is probable that the Japanese will adopt the plan of releasing all prisoners and sending them home on parole. Even if some break their parole, that would a lesser evil than the trouble and cost of having to support them.

According to the *Kokumin*, news has been received that the Japanese troops captured at Fenghwang on the 6th instant 3,200 *koku* of grain, 200 bags of salt and 350 gun-cartridges.

MANCHURIA.

Tientsin says that the Russians have changed their policy in the matter of taking away the arms of the Chinese soldiers in Manchuria. They are now allowing the soldiers to carry rifles. This departure is attributed to the fact that the population of Manchuria is getting out of hand owing to the news of Japanese victories, and the Russians consequently find that the assistance of the Chinese regulars is needed to preserve order. But it is plain that if the Chinese could not be trusted with arms before people's minds became unsettled by Japan's successes, they are still less to be trusted now.

A report from Saitama says that M. Kubota, a policeman of the Urawa station, was beaten to death on May 10th by some loafers in a grove near Urawa, while attempting to arrest them for gambling. The culprits got away after having committed the crime.

THE LAST BLOCKING OPERATION.

Saturday, May 7.

The official report of the last blocking operation at Port Arthur claims that five out of the eight steamers were sunk by their crews at the desired place, and that the harbour is thereby blocked, egress being impossible for any vessel larger than a torpedo-craft. The remaining three steamers were sunk by the Russians, and did not contribute to the purpose of the operation. It was a splendid act of heroism. So far as we can estimate, at least 63 officers and men lost their lives out of a total of 160. The official report runs as follows:—

The united squadron, operating as previously determined, carried out the blocking of Port Arthur between 3 and 4 o'clock a.m. on the 3rd instant. The blocking vessels, escorted by the gun-boats *Akagi* (Commander Fujimoto) and *Chôkai* (Commander Iwamura), the Second Destroyer Squadron (Commander Ishida), the Third Destroyer Squadron (Commander Tsuchiya), the Fourth Destroyer Squadron (Commander Nagai), the Fifth Destroyer Squadron (Commander Mano), the Ninth Torpedo-Squadron (Commander Yajima), the Tenth Torpedo Squadron (Commander Otaki) and the Fourteenth Torpedo Squadron, less the *Kasasagi* and the *Manazuru* (Commander Sakurai), parted from the Fleet on the evening of the 2nd instant and took the previously determined route for Port Arthur. Unfortunately from about 11 p.m. a strong south-easterly wind began to blow, and attaining storm force, raised a heavy sea. The blocking steamers became separated and lost sight of each other. Commander Hayashi, who was in command of these steamers, seeing that it would be impossible to carry out the operation successfully, gave the order to withdraw. But the signal was not observed, and in spite of various essays to make it clear, the ships held on their course, reaching the neighbourhood of Port Arthur at 2 a.m. The *Mikawa Maru* (Lieutenant Sosa), observing the enemy open fire upon our torpedo-boat No. 14, which had had been sent to reconnoitre, imagined that the blocking steamers had already gone in. She therefore steamed at full speed for the mouth of the harbour. Another steamer, apparently the *Sakura Maru* (Lieutenant Shiraishi, who commanded the Japanese storming party at the Taku Forts after the death of Commander Hattori), followed the *Mikawa Maru*. The enemy had laid electric mines at the mouth of the port. With these, supplemented by heavy gun-fire from the forts and powerful search-lights, they essayed to oppose the coming of the two steamers. Nevertheless the *Mikawa Maru*, breaking a gap in the boom, entered far into the channel and, anchoring in an excellent place, was sunk by her crew. The steamer resembling the *Sakura* anchored near the pointed rock at the entrance of the harbour and was sent to the bottom by her crew. These vessels were followed in quick succession by the *Totomi Maru* (Commander Honda), the *Edo Maru* (Commander Takayanagi), the *Otaru Maru* (Commander Nomura), the *Sagami Maru* (Commander Yuasa), the *Aikoku Maru* (Commander Inuzuka) and the *Asagao Mara* (Commander Kikutaro. By this time the cannonade of the enemy had become exceedingly hot and electric mines were bursting on all sides. The crews of the steamers had many killed and wounded. The *Totomi Maru* struck the boom, and, her head coming round to the west, she was sunk in that position, blocking about one half of the entrance. The *Edo Maru* had reached the entrance and was just about to drop her anchor when her commander (Takayagi) received a shot in his stomach which killed him. His place was immediately taken by Lieut. Nagata, who ordered the anchor to be dropped and the vessel was sunk. Two other steamers, apparently the *Otaru Maru* and the *Sagami Maru*, entered the harbour's mouth and were sunk. The *Aikoku Maru* struck a contact mine about 5 cables from the entrance and went down in an instant. Lieutenant Uchida, the second in command, Chief-engineer Aoki and [illegible] others of the crew of this vessel are missing. A steamer like the *Asagao Maru* seemed to have had her rudder injured, for she ran ashore at the foot of Golden Hill and was there exploded. Thus among the 8 steamers 5 entered the mouth of the harbour and were sunk there, so that it may be concluded that, on the least favourable estimate, exit has become impossible for anything as large as a cruiser. This blocking operation was incomparably more hazardous than either of those that preceded it, the storm adding to the difficulties and the enemy's fire being of unprecedented severity. Thus it was impossible to save even one of the crews of the *Sakura Maru*, the *Otaru Maru*, the *Sagami Maru* and the *Asagao Maru*. Further it is most unhappily impossible to learn any details of this their last great act of daring. But I believe that their heroism will long stand in the pages of their country's history. The Destroyer Squadrons and the Torpedo Squadrons, battling against the violent wind and high seas during the whole night and often exposed to the enemy's fire, did their duty well. Above all it should be noticed that the Torpedo Squadrons stood in close to the harbour and saved about one half of the crews. No. 65 Torpedo-boat, under the command of Lieut. Taira, had one of her steam pipes hit, and lost 3 men. She became disabled but was taken in tow and rescued by Torpedo-boat No. 75 under command of Lieutenant Narimoto. The *Aotaka* (Commander Yajima) was also hit by a shell on the port side of her machinery and lost one man. In the torpedo-boat *Hayabusa* one man was killed. No casualties whatever occurred in the remainder of the torpedo-craft. At 6 a.m. the Third Squadron under Rear Admiral Dewa, and at 9 a.m. the First Squadron under Vice-Admiral Togo, stood in and searched all the waters adjacent to Port Arthur, in the hope of saving some of the steamers' crews, but they were unsuccessful, athough they continued the search until 4 p.m. There was a dense fog on this day and the state of the enemy could not be observed. That night the squadrons all returned to their base."

It will be observed from the above most sober and unemotional account, that 2 men were killed in the torpedo-boats and 11 in the steamers—or, at any rate, 11 are missing. Moreover Admiral Togo says that not one person was rescued among the crews of 4 steamers. Judging from past experience, we may estimate that, on the average, each steamer had a crew of 20, all told. Four steamers, therefore, represent a total of 80 officers and men, and from Russian official reports we know that 30 of these reached the shore and were saved. It would seem then that 50 were lost, and adding these to the 13 mentioned above, the tale of deaths aggregates 63. It is a terrible record. To utter any eulogy of such heroism seems almost an impertinence. In this war the Japanese are showing splendid qualities. They are proving themselves to be not only brave in a superlative degree but also exceptionally competent. The little incident of the disabled torpedo-boat No. 65 is an eloquent illustration. In a gale of wind with a heavy sea running and inside the zone of the enemy's fire, the crippled craft was taken in tow by another boat, No. 75, and saved from destruction. The men that did that were fine sailors. And consider the work upon which these destroyers and torpedoers have been engaged for the past three months. Think of them again and again steaming in pitchy darkness, without a light burning and often in heavy seas, either to attack the enemy or to escort steamers engaged on duty of the deadliest peril, yet never once is there a fatal collision or an accident of any kind that can be attributed to faulty seamanship or careless handling. If there had been several collisions, if half a dozen or even half a score of these frail little craft had perished by catastrophes commonly incidental to such operations, could any one have been justly surprised? But not one has been lost from first to last. We call it a fine record. There is no good luck in such achievement. There is simply good guiding. And concerning the story of the 8 steamers, there are striking features. It is not merely that men were found, found in scores, to willingly engage in such perilous work. We have ceased to think that wonderful where Japanese are concerned. What seems more remarkable is the dogged determination underlying the adventure. Port Arthur had to be blocked. One failure, two failures, no matter how many failures made or how many lives lost, the task had to be achieved. Admiral Togo and his men knew the thing to be of cardinal importance; knew that duty dictated its accomplishment. So they went at it again and again with set teeth, and they succeeded at last. We do not see how men of that calibre are to be beaten. If they were our own countrymen we should be proud and thankful. The way they held on, too, in the face of a gale of wind and in spite of rapidly rising seas, is something to be remembered. The officer in command wanted to restrain the vessels, in view of the extremely unfavourable conditions. But no one was looking for a signal to stop, and therefore every steamer held her course without a thought of being deterred by the storm. In this respect the adventure resembles the second torpedo attack upon the Port Arthur fleet.

The names of the 8 steamers and other particulars relating to them are given below:—

Name.	Built.	Tonnage.	Owners.
Mikawa Maru ……	1884	1,967	Yusen Kaisha.
Sakura Maru………	1887	2,978	Yusen Kaisha.
Totomi Maru ………	1883	1,952	Yusen Kaisha.
Edo Maru …………	1884	1,724	Hiromi Nisaburo.
Otaru Maru ………	1886	2,547	Yusen Kaisha.
Sagami Maru………	1884	1,926	Yusen Kaisha.
Aikoku Maru………	1879	1,781	Osaka Shosen Kaisha.
Asagao Maru………	1889	2,464	Yusen Kaisha.

There is, it will be observed, a very great discrepancy between the Russian and the Japanese accounts of this affair. The Russians say that they sank all the steamers. They doubtless believed they had done so. It must be almost impossible to distinguish the exact facts on such an occasion; impossible to discern whether the explosion that sends a vessel to the bottom is due to combustibles carried in her hold or to one of the many engines of destruction bursting and hurtling around. But for all their mines, and their shells and their search-lights they failed even to injure five out of the eight vessels. As for the two torpedo-boats they imagined they had sunk, these are now safe with Admiral Togo's fleet. The great point, the blocking of the harbour, may still be open to doubt, perhaps. We do not ourselves think that it is. Admiral Togo's reports are always remarkably conservative. On neither the first nor the second occasion did he venture to pronounce a definite opinion. He merely said that some partial success seemed to have been obtained. But now he declares his belief that, on the most moderate calculation, nothing larger than a torpedo-craft can get out. The Russians, on the contrary, affirm that the whole affair failed and that the harbour is open.

Junk-masters carry rumours to Chefoo that during the night of the 4th-5th strenuous cannonading was heard in the direction of Port Arthur and flash-lights were observed. It is conjectured that these phenomena were caused by a naval attack on the place designed to divert attention from the landing operations.

Sunday, May 8.

Since the above was in type an accurate statement of the losses has been published as follows:—

Name of steamer.	Killed.	Died.	Severely wounded.	Slightly wounded.	Missing.	Returned safe.	Totals.
Totomi Maru......	0	2	1	4	5	6	18
Sakura Maru......	1	■	■	0	19	0	20
Aikoku Maru ...	0	1	0	4	8	11	24
Edo Maru	2	2	1	2	0	11	18
Mikawa Maru ...	1	3	2	4	0	8	18
Otaru Maru	0	0	0	0	17	■	17
Asaguo Maru......	0	■	0	0	18	0	18
Sagami Maru ...	1	0	0	0	23	0	24
Aotaka	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hayabusa	1	0	■	0	■	0	1
Total......	7	8	4	14	90	36	159

It thus follows that the lives lost among the crews of the blocking steamers aggregated 73.

The number of officers killed or missing is 15. All these have been promoted, and their families have been granted pensions of from 300 to 500 *yen* annually. Five of them were First Lieutenants, 5 Second Lieutenants, 4 Chief Engineers and 1 was an Engineer.

PORT ARTHUR.

Saturday, May 7.

It is now stated that the steamer which was destroyed accidentally by a torpedo mine *en route* for Port Arthur from Dalny with a cargo of coal, was the *Amur* not the *Silka*. The statements of Chinese junkmen seem to be the only source of information.

We may mention in this context that Japanese naval men ridicule the report recently circulated in the sense that an errant torpedo was seen floating near Tsushima. They say that the thing is impossible.

Monday, May 9.

Viceroy Alexieff is reported to have left Port Arthur on the 3rd instant. Did he wait to assure himself whether the harbour was sealed? His last report on the subject said that owing to the state of the wind and the waves no conclusive investigation could be made. We suspect that it was made and made thoroughly before the Viceroy entrained for the north. He was in command of the squadron at Port Arthur. His despatch describes how, on the night of the 2nd-3rd, immediately on being advised of the imminence of a Japanese attack, he went on board the gunboat *Otvazny* and assisted by the gunboats *Giljak*, *Bobre* and *Gremiastchy*, directed the defence. It does not appear that these gunboats left the port, and what they could accomplish from inside is difficult to conjecture. But that is a parenthesis. The point is that Alexieff was in actual command on the night of the 2nd-3rd, and that on the 4th, or perhaps the 5th, he took his departure, no officer having yet arrived to relieve him. Of course it may be that his duties as Viceroy summoned him north. But it may be that there were other reasons. All all events his retirement is one of the most timely episodes of the war.

We do not make a rule of translating the messages of approval sent by the Emperor to his soldiers and sailors, or the replies forwarded by officers in command. These documents have no special interest and necessarily present little variety. It may be noted, however, that in His Majesty's message to the Naval Squadron in connexion with the blocking of Port Arthur, the result of the operation is spoken of as a success.

It is now reported that the S.S. *Noni*, of the East China Railway Company, has become another victim of a mine accident at Dalny. The *Noni* is a vessel of 2,469 tons.

Tuesday, May 10.

It is said to be stated at Saseho that prior to the seventh and eighth attacks upon Port Arthur, Admiral Togo flashed by wireless telegraphy a message to Admiral Makaroff inviting surrender. The Russians made no reply, as was not unnatural. The seventh and eighth attacks took place during the night of the 12th-13th of April and during the day of the 13th. The seventh attack consisted in laying the contact mines which proved fatal to the *Petropavlovsk* and to Admiral Makaroff himself in the eighth attack. On the night of the 2nd-3rd May when Port Arthur was sealed, there seems to have been some talk of subsequently inviting surrender, but whether it took the form of action we do not know. Perhaps it should be added that invitations of this kind were an old Japanese custom as they were also European. In the Occident they may be identified in the herald's summons to capitulation. In Japan they were often very formal affairs, and simultaneously with the summons, it was not unusual to send from one army to the other any wives whose blood relationship was closer to the men of the latter than to those of the former. In these times the ceremony of invitation seems a little out of place, and we observe that Commander Hirose's idea of visiting his Russian friends in Port Arthur and advising them to yield has been ridiculed by some foreign journals. Yet there would be no difficulty in citing from the annals of recent wars many instances of invitations to surrender where resistance seemed futile. Lord Robert's message to Cronje at Paardeberg is a case very much in point. Cronje contemptuously declined. He expected to be relieved by De Wet from Bloemfontein, and he was mistaken. Port Arthur, when it was first summoned, did not expect to be either blocked or isolated. Now that both fates have befallen it, the garrison probably expects to be relieved from Liaoyang. But Liaoyang has Kuroki on its flank. Kuropatkin's ability to operate on any large scale southward of the point where his main line of communications is directly menaced, may be greatly doubted. Japanese strategy is unfolding itself very ably.

It is stated that when volunteers were invited to man the eight blocking steamers on the last occasion, twenty thousand names were sent in, and the civilian members of the crews of the steamers prayed to be allowed to remain at their posts. The eight steamers, each with her number flaunted on banners ahead, amidship and astern, steamed away from the base amid the playing of military bands and the *banzais* of thousands of voices.

Wednesday, May 11.

It is rumoured from London (*Asahi's* service) that the Russian Government has cancelled the contracts made by it for coal supplies in connexion with the despatch of the Baltic Squadron eastward. The fact is that the Squadron, did it sail, would be in the perplexing predicament of having no destination. Were it on the spot now it could not enter Vladivostock or Port Arthur without first engaging the Japanese fleet, and what would become of its disabled vessels under these circumstances we can not easily conjecture. The situation at sea is hopeless for Russia. There was a time when a remedy offered; a desperate remedy indeed, but still not altogether hopeless. That time was the moment when Admiral Makaroff had restored some vitality to the Port Arthur squadron. Had he then gone out boldly and risked everything in an attempt to join the cruiser squadron in Vladivostock, the situation might be different now. Japanese naval officers spoke of such a step as his only resource.

It is affirmed that the Japanese fitted electric search-lights in the *Aikoku Maru* and 4 others of the steamers which went in to block Port Arthur on the morning of the 3rd. The Russians employed seven powerful lights, but the Japanese plan was to confuse the enemy by meeting light with light. How far this novel device was successful we have not heard, but it is broadly spoken of as having contributed materially to the completion of the enterprise.

Thursday, May 12.

An Indian who has just reached Chefoo from Port Arthur is said to have declared that on the 5th instant he was an eye-witness of the destruction of 7 war-ships in Port Arthur by the Russians themselves. Perhaps some such incident is to be anticipated, but the links in the chain of evidence are weak. An Indian—Chefoo—if Shanghai also could be introduced the array would be complete.

A Chinese subject—an official interpreter—who left Port Arthur prior to the 10th and who also chooses Chefoo for his place of utterance, says that since Makaroff's death all the foreigners have left Port Arthur and that the Indians and Koreans were expelled. The horses of the livery stables have been impressed for military purposes and the drivers and grooms have been drafted into the ranks. The field hospital, the Oriental Club, the Naval Club and Viceroy Alexieff's residence have been wrecked by Japanese shells. The town is deserted and the spirit of the garrison is at a low ebb. The S.S. *Harbin* and the *Hailar* are used for hospital ships and are anchored in a safe place in the Western Harbour. The *Mongolia* and the *Kazan* have been painted white and are serving for red-cross purposes. The *Mongolia* was seriously injured on the occasion of the 7th attack.

Admiral Togo reports that since the 6th instant the sound of explosions has been heard at intervals in the direction of Port Arthur. This would lend colour to the statement made by an Indian, as referred to elsewhere, that on the 5th instant the Russians began to blow up the ships in the harbour.

A Chinese subject, connected with the Port Arthur Dock, who left the place on the 4th instant, reports that on the night of the 2nd-3rd he was in the Dock buildings as usual when, at 1 a.m., he heard the sound of cannon. Ascending a height, he observed 3 steamers making for the mouth of the harbour. The foremost struck the boom, and almost immediately an electric mine was fired from the shore. It seemed to strike the vessel. Her head came round suddenly to the west and she sank, almost touching the boom. The two next were swept round in a similar manner by the wave of the explosion, and were sunk in a line with the first, the three going down between the middle of the channel and the Tiger's Tail spit. Part of the boom seemed to be fractured by the mine. Two other steamers made their way inside the boom. One of them went ashore on the Tiger's Tail spit, and sank, heading north. The other sank on the side of the Golden Hill Fort between the two vessels which had first gone down and nearly parallel to the boom. Of the remaining steamers, 2 went down outside the harbour to the east of the Tiger's Tail Spit, and another sank on the south of Golden Hill. The result of this blocking operation was to render the channel of exit so narrow and so intricate that not even a torpedo-boat could navigate it. The Chinaman adds that he ascertained these positions of the vessels by observing them on the morning after the affair. The cannonade on the Russian side, the firing of small arms and the exploding of mines made a scene indescribably awful; so terrible than even an onlooker was appalled. As to the crews of the steamers, what became of the 10 men and one officer belonging to the vessel that stranded on the Tiger's Tail, is not known. The twelve men forming the crew of the Golden Hill vessel all fought fiercely until they were killed. Judging from the number of corpses floating the next morning in the harbour, it would seem that the crews of the three vessels which went down at the boom were all lost. Those that were saved are said to have belonged to the vessels which went down outside. This was the most fearful fight witnessed since the beginning. The Russians were astounded at the valour of the Japanese who, in a time of storm and tempest, passed unflinchingly into the zone of such a murderous cannonade. When this Chinaman went to the station on the 4th to board the train, he found all the carriages full of soldiers about to travel north. During the 2nd and 3rd new ordnance sent out from Russia was tested at Port Arthur.

Another Chinaman who left Port Arthur on the 3rd alleges that 40 or 50 Japanese landed on Golden Hill and perished fighting to the last.

From Saseho it is reported that as the leading steamer, the *Mikawa Maru*, approached the port, a hail of shells was showered on her from newly built forts which stood near the water's edge and mounted 12-pounder guns. This fire began at a distance of some 4 miles. The *Mikawa* regulated her advance so as to suit the convenience of the vessels following, and when the remnant of her crew took to the boats, they were necessarily impeded in their escape by these steamers. No one had any hope of returning alive. The *Totomi Maru* steamed in at high speed. Suddenly she felt a violent shock and imagined that she had struck a rock. But her way was not lost, and presently the shock was repeated. Then for the first time she recognised that she had come in contact with a mine, and that her object would be attained if she went to the bottom at once. None of the enemy's vessels inside the harbour took the least part in the defence. Their crews either lacked spirit or trusted implicitly in the strength of the obstructions and preparations. (What about Admiral Alexieff and his 4 gun-boats?). One chief cause of the heavy losses on the Japanese side was that the men, after entering the boats by which they were to escape, could not make any way against the fierce south-east wind. On the next day the main squadron stood in to inspect the state of affairs. Usually when the Japanese ships appeared in the offing, the forts opened fire on them at 10,000 metres. On this day not a shot was fired. The masts and funnels of the sunken steamers could be plainly seen, adding not a little to the desolation of the silent scene.

Friday, May 13.

Viceroy Alexieff's report that communications were re-established with Port Arthur on the night of the 9th must be supposed to be correct until something to the contrary is heard. But inasmuch as a Japanese army of considerable size is within a few miles of the railway, such re-establishment must be a very uncertain affair. It may be fairly assumed that the Japanese detachment which took possession of Pulantien on the 6th instant was supported by the moving forward of other troops on the 7th and 8th; or that its orders were to wreck the railway and retire. In either case the re-establishment of communications is inexplicable. If the Japanese occupation was in force, a heavy engagement must have preceded their evacuation of such an important position. If they had wrecked the railway through a distance of one or two miles, its restoration must have been a work of time, nor could such work have been safely attempted unless the enemy had first been driven back. The puzzle must be left for future solution. Only of one thing can we be certain, namely, that had the restoration of communications been preceded by a Russian victory, Alexieff would not have failed to report the novel event.

Turning to other sources of information we read that some officials of the East China Railway, who left Port Arthur by train on the 6th instant, report that as far as Kinchow everything went as usual. It was not until the train arrived in the neighbourhood of Pulantien that the seizure of the place by Japanese troops became known. All the passengers were then ordered to alight, and they found that the line had been wrecked through a distance of three miles and an iron bridge had been broken. The Japanese were in possession as far as Wafantien, which is 5¼ miles beyond Pulantien. Now if this report be even approximately true, how can communications have been restored by the night of the 9th? Even supposing that on the morning of the 7th the Japanese were driven out, could the line be relaid and the bridge repaired for the passage of trains in 3 days?

Shanghai has a rumour that the Japanese occupied Kaipien on the 9th instant. Kaipien is 75 miles north of Pulantien. Of course it is not impossible that the Japanese may have reached the place by making use of the railway, but it is highly improbable that they can have acted with such celerity. We suspect a Shanghai bunder.

Newchwang is said to be in a state of great perturbation. A Japanese attack is expected on the 13th instant. Newchwang has been in a constant mood of expectation since the war broke out. It were a pity that the place should be permanently disappointed.

Of course there are varions estimates as to the Russian force in Port Arthur. The latest figure given is 8,500 troops and from 2,500 to 3,500 marines.

THE LANDING ON LIAOTUNG.

Saturday, May 7.

Vice-Admiral Kataoka, Commander-in-Chief of the Third Naval Squadron, telegraphs from the Advanced Base at 6.25 p.m. on the 5th instant:—

> On the 4th instant the Third Squadron left the Rendezvous, and operating as planned, escorted the first section of the Second Army to the Advanced Base. The troops were in the act of debarking at the time of the despatch of the telegram. According to statements made by Chinese sailors the enemy in the vicinity did not exceed 100 men.
>
> At 3 p.m. on the 4th the *Kaga Maru* ran aground near the base but was dragged off uninjured by the *Akitsushima*, and reached the base safely at 5 p.m.

Rear-Admiral Hosoya, Second in Command of the Third Squadron, reporting from the Advanced Base at 10 p.m. on the 5th, says:—

> At 5.30 a.m. on the 5th instant the Seventh Sectional Squadron and the Twentieth Torpedo boat division together with the *Hongkong Maru* and the *Nippon Maru*, steamed to the advanced base on the Liaotung Peninsula. A few Russians, apparently a patrol, were observed on shore; fire was opened on them and after a few shots they dispersed. Captain Nomoto then received orders to lead the landing party. The tide was out, and the boats could not get close to the shore, but the men sprang into the water, and wading up to their navels over a space of 1,000 metres, reached the shore at 7.25 a.m. Advancing at once, they occupied the heights without firing a shot, and raised the flag of Japan on the highest eminence. Simultaneously the gunboats *Akagi*, *Oshima* and *Chokai* were ordered to make a diversion in the neighbourhood of the real landing place. They did so, opening fire on about 100 Russian soldiers who were observed. These dispersed, leaving 2 or 3 of their number on the ground. The first division of army transports stood in at 8.05 a.m., the raising of the flag being a signal to them. The landing began at once. The men had to wade but they pushed forward rapidly, and immediately the work of constructing jetties was commenced. the naval squadron giving all assistance.

General Kuroki, telegraphing under date of the 4th instant at 1 p.m., says:—

> On the third a cavalry reconnaisance of 14 troopers under Lieutenant Yoshigami rode out of Kiulien as far as Tangshanchong (20 miles from Kiulien). On an eminence there they observed a mounted Russian patrol of 15 or 16 Cossacks. The Japanese at once rode round and attacked. After a sharp conflict, the Russians retreated in the direction of Fenghwang. The Japanese pursued as far as the bank of the Kucheum River which is about 2½ miles on the Kiulien side of Kaulimon (32 miles from Kiulien and a little more than 10 miles from Fenghwang). It was then observed that both sides of the road were lined with Russian scouts, and the Japanese withdrew.
>
> According to a statement made by the people of the neighbourhood, during the fight on the 1st instant, a body of Russian infantry, some 2,000 strong, stationed on an eminence at Tangshanchong, opened fire by mistake on a party of 300 of their own people who were retreating from the south-east. The result was 110 were killed and 70 wounded, and that the land transport corps (whom these 300 were apparently escorting), deserted their vehicles and fled.
>
> According to statements made by the Russian prisoners the only bodies that retired in good order after the battle on the 1st, were five or six battalions of infantry and two batteries of artillery. The rest were all in confusion.

Sunday, May 8.

On Sunday forenoon General Oku, commanding the Second Army, reported that on the 6th instant a detachment of the Army seized Pulantien, after a short conflict, wrecked the railway and cut the telegraph. Thus Port Arthur is completely isolated.

Pulantien is 102 Chinese miles (34 English miles) from Port Arthur. But it lies to the north of the Kinchow Isthmus.

Monday, May 9.

The *Nichi Nichi* has an estimate of the Russian forces on the Liaotung Peninsula. The estimate is based on information collected from various sources. It is:—

In Port Arthur	9,600 infantry.
	300 or 400 cavalry.
	300 Field Artillery.
	3,000 Garrison Artillery.
	1,000 Engineers.
At Dalny....................	3,700 Infantry.
	200 Cavalry.
	100 Artillery.

In the interval betwen Dalny, Pulantien and Newchwang there are only small detachments of cavalry.

The Chinese report that 6 or 7 Japanese females are kept close prisoners in the upper storey of the police-station at Dalny, provisions being furnished to them by means of a ladder.

Tuesday, May 10.

The marines that Captain Nomoto led to the landing place on the Liaotung Peninsula formed two battalions. On the 27th of April they embarked at Saseho in the *Hongkong Maru* and the *Nippon Maru*. There was keen competition for the honour of forming part of these battalions, but as their detail was fixed by the roster no embarrassment of choice had to be overcome.. Naturally they had a great send off, and most gallantly they performed the duty of going in advance of the troops and occupying the hills that commanded the place chosen for debarkation. It is not difficult to conceive what the consequences must have been had the Russians succeeded in gaining positions of vantage during the interval required by the troops for wading over a thousand metres of mud-bank. Five hundred rifles well posted during such an operation would have easily decimated an army of twenty thousand. One is compelled to ask the question, could these things have been achieved by the Japanese had they not observed the most absolute secrecy throughout every stage of the proceedings. If, by any contrivance, the Russians had obtained an inkling of Japanese plans, there would be a different story to tell now. It may have appeared to outsiders that Japanese methods of guarding secrets were excessive; that sometimes they even verged on the ridiculous. Our own deliberate opinion is that there can be no discretion in such matters. The choice lies simply between absolute secrecy and no concealment at all; between dropping the curtain completely and raising it altogether. From the moment that any discrimination is permitted, from that moment real privacy is defied. And, after all, what possible comparison can be set up between the existence of a nation and the idle curiosity of onlookers; between the issue of a life-and-death struggle between two empires and the satisfaction of alien appetite for sensational news? The Japanese have acted in this matter with profound wisdom. History will surely applaud them, and other countries will imitate them.

Pulantien has historical interest for the Japanese. It was there that the Chinese made one of the few really able strategical moves standing to their credit in the campaign of 1894-5. At two places the Liaotung Peninsula takes the form of a narrow isthmus. Those places are Pulantien on the north and Kinchow on the south. When the Japanese troops had marched down the Peninsula and had just taken Port Arthur, news suddenly reached General Yamaji, who commanded the invading force, that the Chinese had moved down from Fuchow and occupied Pulantien. It was terribly significant intelligence for it meant that the invaders were reduced, as the Japanese proverb has it, to the condition of a rat in a bag. Their communications were cut and they were shut into a trap. They had left at Pulantien, however, a small force of twenty men under a sergeant. This little band understood the situation. The sergeant conjured them to resist to the death, and aided by a number of transport coolies they succeeded in holding a large Chinese force at bay until Major-General Nogi, by a forced march, arrived at the head of a brigade of troops, and the situation was saved. This Pulantien is now in the possession of the Japanese. We do not suggest that they landed there. That is another question which the regulations forbid us to discuss. But it is certain that wherever the landing took place, not a moment was lost in occupying Pulantien and cutting the railway, which there debouches on the coast.

Immediately after landing, a detachment of the Japanese army moved swiftly across the Peninsula and took possession of the position at Pulantien.. Two or three hundred Russians were occupying the place, but they do not appear to have offered any resistance. Another detachment was sent up the coast to take Pitsewo, the point at which the Japanese landing was effected in the war of 1894-5.

Wednesday, May 11.

Between Fenghwang and Lioyang there are two routes. One, the north-eastern route, lies among the hills where the Japanese conducted such an arduous campaign on their pretended advance to Mukden in the winter of 1894-5. Here are the mountains of Lienshan and Matinglung, negotiable only by passes where a small force can hold an army in check. The other route is by the south-east; a somewhat circuitous route but traversing comparatively level country. From Fenghwang it goes to Sunyuen and thence to Haicheng, a station on the railway south of Liaoyang. Students of the war of 1894-5 will remember that while Major-General Tatsumi penetrated into the mountainous region from Fenghwang and held Sung's army engaged there, Lieut-General Katsura led an army by the level route to Haicheng. Recently—that is to say when the Russians were still masters of the situation in Manchuria—news came that a contract had been made by Viceroy Alexieff with Chinese industrials to build a railway from Haitien to Fenghwang *vid* Sunyuen, and that the work had actually commenced. News now comes that it has been abandoned. Any one can appreciate the great difference that such a railway would have made in the situation. Had it been built before the sword was drawn, Alexieff could have carried his men by train to Fenghwang where they would have been within 40 miles of the Yalu. The seizure of Pyongyang and the occupation of the whole of northern Korea would then have been easy operations immediately on the outbreak of hostilities. Japan would thus have been hopelessly distanced in the preliminary race, and it is exceedingly doubtful whether she could ever have recovered the lost ground. She stepped into the arena just at the right time. It may be added that the length of the proposed line from Fenghwang to Haicheng would have been just 100 miles.

From the Floug-Dessino Bureau of intelligence we learn that the Japanese landing place on the Liaotung Peninsula was near Pitsewo, and that a detachment rode over at once and seized Pulantien, thus severing Port Arthur's communications with Liaoyang. The two Generals further announce that things are quiet on the Yalu and that the Japanese army does not appear to be advancing. At the same time they add that a Japanese cavalry detachment has taken possession of a place whose name we can not identify. For the rest they say that there is no change within the fighting lines.

It may be observed here that General Kuropatkin has probably ceased to be very accurately informed as to what is going on in the immediate vicinity of the Yalu. Still he ought to have known on the 7th, which is the date of the despatch of the above report from Mukden, that Feng-hwang-tung had been occupied by the Japanese on the 6th. The distance from Fenghwang to Mukden is 132 miles, and it may be assumed that a line of field telegraph exists viâ Liaoyang.

Thursday, May 12.

The Floug-Dessino bureau of intelligence says that at dawn on the 5th a Japanese army began to land at Pitsewo and at another place in theneighbourhood which we can not identify. There were about 60 transports. The Russian outposts retired, and the Russian post and telegraph stations at Pitsewo were destroyed, their inmates withdrawing. According to Chinese accounts the Japanese force is very large. From the evening of the 5th(?) they opened fire on the point where the landing was to be made, and the men subsequently came ashore in two columns of a regiment each. One column went south; another south-west. A part of the Japanese fleet covered the landing, and another part watched Port Arthur during the 5th and 6th. Three companies of our 44th Regiment were sent from Pulantien to Pitsewo, but on the way they were attacked by the Japanese troops and retired without loss.

The above message is dated at Mukden on the 7th instant. Its interesting feature is that it conveys the impression of Pulantien being still in Russian hands; in other words, that the railway is not yet cut by the Japanese; a false impression because we have the distinct official statement that Pulantien was seized by a detachment of the Second Japanese Army on the 6th instant. Of course the cutting of the railway at that point and at Pitsewo means that Mukden and Liaoyang must now depend on hearsay or on patrols for intelligence from the Liaotung Peninsula. The seizure of Pulantien was a momentous operation. According to various accounts the Russians had massed a considerable force at Tashikiao, the junction of the main line and the Newchwang branch. Tashikiao is 92 miles from Pulantien, and in half a day it would have been possible to despatch by train two or three battalions from the former place to guard the latter. On the other hand, the distance from the Japanese landing place to Pulantien is 16 miles. A race between the invading and the defending armies with Pulantien for goal would have been almost as interesting as the race for Pyongyang, which inaugurated the war. The Russian commander at Tashikiao, as well as the Russian commander at Port Arthur, must have known by 8 or 9 o'clock on the morning of the 5th that a Japanese Army was landing near Pitsewo. They must have known months previously that the two positions of prime strategical importance in the Peninsula are the Kinchow Isthmus and the Yenta Isthmus. They had at least 10 hours' leisure to garrison the western end of the latter Isthmus, in other words, to guard the railway at Pulantien. Apparently they altogether neglected this opportunity.

There has been a fatal likeness between the Russian methods up to the present. They appear never to have opened the pages of history. In 1894 the Japanese crossed the Yalu at Sakuchin and routed the Chinese by pursuing almost the identical line of strategy followed last month. Yet the Russians were not prepared either for the crossing or the strategy. In 1894 the Japanese landed at Pitsewo, and pushed their outposts at once to the opposite coast. They did precisely the same things on the 5th and 6th instant, yet again the Russians allowed themselves to be taken by surprise.

We have a later product also of the Floug-Dessino factory. We have a telegram from General Floug dated at Mukden on the 9th instant at 8.29 p.m. It indicates that a new toggle-joint has been introduced into the machine. Results are now to be recorded briefly without any reference to causes. The latest previous output of the factory was an assertion from Mukden that all was quiet on the Yalu and that the Japanese showed no sign of advancing. That was dated the 8th inst. Now comes this telegram of the 9th instant which says "the enemy is still in Fenghwang. He has sent out cavalry patrols along the Liaoyang main-road and into the districts on either side of it." So on the 8th the Japanese were *still* on the Yalu showing no signs of advancing and on the 9th they were *still* in Fenghwang, which is 37 miles west of the Yalu. General Floug has adopted the casual style. Like Topsy's analysis of that natal prodigy, things are just to grow. When the Japanese take Haicheng, the Floug-Dessino factory will be smoothly evolving intelligence that they are still there, and when they take Port Arthur their presence in the fortress will be invested with a similar atmosphere of restfulness.

The telegram of the 9th further alleges that no change has taken place in the communications with Port Arthur and other places in the fighting line. Yes, there has been no change. The communications with Port Arthur have not been restored. General Floug merely omits the trivial intervening incident that the communications were severed. It is as though a physician's bulletin were to record in consecutive issues that a patient's condition was unchanged, omitting to mention that he had died and been buried in the interval between the writing of the reports.

Friday, May 13.

The shore on which the marines landed is said to have been low and flat, the only eminences being undulations at a short distance from the tide-line. As they waded over the shallows the marines pushed before them boats carrying field-pieces, which they ran ashore without much difficulty. Russian videttes were in sight, but they had no force capable of making any resistance. After the marines had planted the Rising Sun on the eminences and handed over the latter to the regular troops, which landed immediately afterwards, they re-embarked in the *Hongkong Maru* and the *Nihon Maru*. Landing in the face of the enemy being of all military operations the most perilous in these days of magazine rifles, a large proportion of casualties were expected, and due provision of hospital ships had been made. But not so much as one man was hurt, and it is related that among the troops there prevailed a sentiment that the whole affair had been over-easy.

Shanghai telegraphs (*Asahi Shimbun*) that the Russians are adopting most thorough measures to fortify and strengthen the Liaoyang position. It would seem to be their intention to await there a Japanese assault. The Japanese did not go as far as Liaoyang in the war of 1894-5. They contented themselves with penetrating to Haicheng, and it is not inconceivable that they may adopt a similar policy on the present occasion. Were Russia ousted from the whole littoral of the Yellow Sea and the Gulf of Pechili, she might be left sitting at Liaoyang.

The *Nichi Nichi's* Chefoo correspondent wires that among foreigners there it is currently reported that the Japanese captured Dalny on the night of the 10th, and that the Russians have blown up all their Port Arthur vessels.

KOREA.

Monday, May 9.

In spite of the alleged fact that the Pope had appealed to the Japanese Government to protect the Roman Catholic element of the Korean population, it would seem that these latter, inspired probably by French missionaries, are hand-in-glove with the Russophil party in Korea and have contrived to cause much inconvenience to the Japanese. Now, however, the news of the Yalu victory is said to have convinced these people that all hope of a victorious Russian re-entry into Seoul must be abandoned, and that their most prudent course is to accept the situation as it stands. The Yalu is further said to be responsible for the recall of the Korean Representative in St. Peterburg. This official was recently reported to have retired to Paris, but the story proves to have been an invention. He remained at his post all the while, and the relations between Korea and Russia continued unchanged.

It is reported from Seoul that the Minister of Foreign Affairs has made a representation to the Emperor in the sense that neither Russia nor France is the country for Korea to lean upon: her only safe prop is Japan. His Excellency described to the Sovereign, so the story runs, the whole course of the war up to the present, and one can understand that the events to be related made a picture capable of impressing the mind of the Korean ruler. It is easy to ridicule Korea's vacillation; her leaning this way to-day and that way to-morrow. But what country would not vacillate in her position?

His Majesty's appreciation of the trend of events took a very practical form. When the Japanese, in their settlement in Seoul, organized a torch-light procession to celebrate the battle of the Yalu, the Emperor contributed a thousand *yen* to the expenses.

Tuesday, May 10.

There is a report that about 450 Russian troops have reached Kyongsong, but that they show no sign of moving south. Kyongsong is considerably to the north of Kilju. If Russia has no better use for her forces than to dissipate them for the purposes of these futile raids, we must suppose her to be very amply supplied with men.

The buildings erected by the Russian timber company at Yong Am-pho have been completely destroyed by fire. This, we presume, is the work of some Koreans who retain terrible memories of the doings of the Cossacks. But the revenge is of an exceedingly vicarious character.

Thursday, May 12.

There is a report from Seoul that 200 Cossacks made their appearance on the morning of the 10th at Anju and attacked the place. The result of their effort is not stated. They are said to have ridden from Kaichhon, which would mean that they had travelled through the mountains from Wiwon, 200 miles up the Yalu, *viâ* Kangke and Nyongpyong, an immense ride. But they may also have set out from Chhasan. In any case their essay, though gallant, must be pronounced futile.

Friday, May 13.

The First Bank, which was recently reported to be about to establish a temporary branch in Wiju, is now said to have abandoned that enterprise, and to be about to establish instead a permanent branch in Antung, where business will be opened about the 15th or 16th instead.

The Emperor of Korea has addressed a very strongly worded message to the Ministers of the Crown censuring their neglect of their duties; declaring that administrative affairs make no progress, and asking whether they regard their country with indifference or consider their Sovereign's behests of no importance. This message is said to have been elicited by the prevalence of party squabbles which have had the effect of paralysing official competence. The immediate result has been the resignation of the Cabinet *en bloc*, but it is not imagined that any great importance attaches to the latter step or that the Ministers will persist.

NEWCHWANG.

Saturday, May 7.

The *Nichi Nichi's* Chefoo correspondent alleges that according to statements made by Chinese subjects who have fled from Port Arthur, Newchwang and Talien, they were compelled to escape, since the only alternative was to serve in the Russian ranks without pay, with very inferior weapons and in consideration solely of receiving food. To decline involved being driven out, and so they chose flight. The story is scarcely credible. We can not suppose that the Russians would put arms into the hands of such men under such circumstances.

Wednesday, May 11.

From Peking and Chefoo comes intelligence that the Russians show signs of withdrawing from Newchwang and concentrating at Liaoyang. Newchwang, indeed, has ceased to be of any use in the plan of campaign. It was put into a state of defence solely for the purpose of preventing a Japanese landing there. In almost every quarter an impression prevailed at one time that such a landing would take place. We never believed it ourselves, but it was no part of our business to say so. Now, however, the Japanese plan of campaign has developed sufficiently to show that Newchwang has no particular military importance, and that its defenders may be more usefully employed elsewhere.

Thursday, May 12.

News continues to arrive that the Russians are deserting Newchwang. Various details are given, but the gist of them is that the troops are being withdrawn to Tashikiao, not only from the port but also from the regions immediately westward of it. That is perfectly natural. Russia now knows where her defensive efforts must be concentrated. Hitherto her strength has been dissipated by the necessity of preparing to meet eventualities atunknown points throughout a wide region. Now she can draw in her greatly extended flanks and knit her forces for a supreme effort at clearly indicated places. There are still, however, two factors of uncertainty—the Third and the Fourth Japanese Armies. It has been truly said that events shape strategy. We are witnessing a verification of the adage. Meanwhile Newchwang itself is probably rejoicing.

There are various rumours of injury done to the Manchurian railway by Hunghutze.

MAJOR-GENERAL DESSINO.

The following letter has appeared in Shanghai journals:—

Sir,—Having noticed in the *Japan Daily Mail* of the 14th instant a paragraph in which it is attempted to show that I apparently pervert the text of those telegrams received by me from the theatre of war and, in this condition have them published in the newspapers.

This imputation being absolutely without foundation I beg to inform you that those messages are duly published in the actual condition in which they are received, also that I disclose the authority which gave them origin.

Attached, as I am, to the Imperial Russian Military-Diplomatic Service in China I could not, even if I so desired, subvert the context of telegrams despatched with the authority of the Viceroy Alexieff and with which facts the author of the paragraph in *Japan Daily Mail* should be familiar. In conclusion I beg to state that I consider the publication of such as frivolous, dishonorable and unbecoming a recognized leader of refined journalism.

Apologising for encroaching upon your space,

With thanks in advance, I beg to remain, Sir,
Yours faithfully,

C. Dessino,
Imperial Russian Military Agent in China.

The paragraph alluded to by Major-General Dessino is this:—

This veracious historian now professes to have received a letter from Mukden dated 11 a.m. on the 29th of March, to the effect that the Russian boats succeeded in sinking the four Japanese blocking steamers at a long distance from their intended berths, and that, according to subsequent investigations, they were all new steamers, constructed for the purpose, each over 2,000 tons. The dictionary will soon have to include a "Dessino" among current terms.

We frankly admit that we doubted whether Major-General Dessino's wishes had not led him to read into his intelligence from Mukden a meaning which the facts did not warrant. But since he now declares that he has always published, without addition or subtraction of any kind, the despatches authoritatively sent to him, we withdraw our implication and offer an apology. In doing so, however, we can not for a moment admit that the despatches themselves were undeserving of the strictures applied to them. It is unnecessary to assume, and we have no intention of suggesting, that the statements they contained were deliberate perversions of truth, but we most emphatically insist that they did pervert the truth, pervert it most signally, although no part of the responsibility may have rested on Major-General Dessino's shoulders. All is fair in love and in war. There may be exigencies which impose upon military leaders the duty of concealment, exaggeration and even falsehood. There may be also an altogether insuperable propensity to see things in a false light when they are observed through patriotic spectacles. Which explanation is correct the public are not bound to determine, but they certainly have the right to exercise discrimination and to withhold credence from accounts which are quite incredible as well as irreconcilable with ascertained results. Unfortunately for himself Major-General Dessino has been the involuntary medium of publishing several extremely misleading narratives, and to say that publicists who analyse these narratives and associate him with their contents are doing anything "frivolous" or "dishonourable" seems to us to be an abuse of terms.

MR. KURINO ARRIVES HOME.

Mr. Kurino, who arrived in Yokohama on Friday, told a correspondent of the *Jiji Shimpo* in Kobe on the evening of the 5th that Russia did not originally expect war, she looked to intimidate Japan. But when, on the 6th of February, Mr. Kurino, acting in accordance with instructions from Tokyo, proceeded to the Foreign Office and announced the rupture of diplomatic relations, it appeared that the crisis had been foreseen, for the information was received calmly. The present war, Mr. Kurino thinks, is not in accord with the wishes of the Russian nation. Already the people are tired of paying heavy taxes on account of Far-Eastern enterprises which do not directly concern them, and now they are asked to give their lives and their treasure on the same account. Nevertheless it would be over-hasty to infer that any domestic disturbances will occur. There are some signs of unrest in the Caucasus, in Poland, and in Finland, but the malcontents have no organization that fits them to meet regular troops. The Nihilists can do nothing unless they manage to win the army to their side, and that is what they are now trying to do. As for the predictions that Russia would be straitened for funds, they are not likely to be realized. Russia has a large war reserve amassed by way of precaution against Germany. Probably it amounts to a thousand million *yen*. Besides she has specie reserves in the Banks of England, France, Holland and Germany, as security for her bonds. These reserves aggregate about 2 years' interest on her debt. These are doubtless the main reasons why her bonds depreciated comparatively little after the outbreak of war. Finally, she can easily make re-allotments of large amounts from her annual appropriations on account of public works.

A RUSSIAN SOUTHWARD MOVEMENT.

A telegram from Peking says that the Russian forces are moving rapidly southward from Liaoyang to Kaiping. This last-named place is on the west side of the Liaotung Peninsula, a little south of Tashikiao where the Newchwang-Talien Railway joins the Mukden-Port Arthur line. If General Kuropatkin be moving any considerable body of troops in the manner here suggested, it must be in anticipation of a Japanese landing somewhere in the immediately vicinity of Liaotung. In other words, he has assigned for himself two tasks; the task of holding in check or beating back the advance of General Kuroki's army from the Yalu, and the task of crushing any Japanese force that may land on the littoral of Manchuria. One needs no military knowledge to appreciate the extreme difficulties inseparable from such strategy. Liaoyang is the point threatened by Kuroki. He is within a hundred and forty miles of it, and if he reach it, the Russian line of communications will be cut mid-way between Mukden and Port Arthur. In the face of this contingency we have Kuropatkin undertaking to operate on a large scale to the southward of the threatened point. Suppose his army driven back upon Liaoyang by the Japanese from the Yalu, then it is easy to appreciate the situation in which the troops south of Liaoyang would find themselves, depending for their supplies solely on the single railway whose central point was directly threatened by the enemy.

RUSSIA AND CHINA.

Saturday, May 7.

It is stated by the *Jiji Shimpo's* Peking correspondent that the Russians in Mukden have confiscated all the weapons of war in the possession of General Tseng's soldiers. If this be credible it creates a curious situation. Doubtless the Russians have been influenced by observation of the effect produced on Chinese sentiment by the Yalu battle. They see that the possibility of restraining the Chinese in a position of strict neutrality is becoming slender, and that the wisest course is to destroy the mischivous potentialities of this uncertain element. From that point of view they are probably right in the step they have taken. The situation was so anomalous as to defy efficient control. On the one hand, General Tseng was exercising administrative functions under the authority of the Peking Government and had troops under his command for the purpose of enforcing his mandates; on the other, the Russians were in military possession and Tseng could not move a finger without their endorsement. It would appear that the unfortunate Governor-General has been driven to a state of desperation by the inevitable failure of his futile attempts to preserve the sovereign dignity of Peking while submitting to the military mandates of St. Petersburg, and the Russians may have foreseen a danger that news of Japanese successes might drive him to openly abandon the task of useless conciliation, and to employ his remnant of authority in a manner more consistent with manhood. But if they have disarmed Tseng's troops they have deprived him of all means of asserting his authority, and it follows that they must take upon their own shoulders the whole responsibility of administration as well as the preservation of order rendered doubly unstable by the presence of that proverbially lawless element, a mob of disbanded Chinese soldiers without any lawful means of subsistence. Viceroy Alexieff has a hard task. Perhaps his best plan would be proclaim martial law throughout the whole of Manchuria. Could he conjure up half a million troops in addition to those he already commands, that method would be easy.

Supplementing the above news comes intelligence from the same source that there have been organized, or are in process of organization in Mukden and Liaoyang, bands of patriots calling themselves *Iminchuan*, or the "party of popular rights." The Boxers went by the name of Iho-chuan, and there is an unpleasant resemblance between the two terms. Of course the Boxers were in their own eyes as good patriots on ever walked up to the muzzle of a cannon, and it would not be at all difficult to prove that, judged even by Occidental canons and motives, they were strictly entitled so to regard themselves, though from the point of view of their victims they were simply sanguinary ruffians. These bands now agglomerating in Mukden and Liaoyang are said to be influenced solely by anti-Russian sentiment, but their capability to distinguish one Western nationality from another may be questioned, and we can be quite sure that the Russians will ask the world to class them with the Iho-chuan of 1900. Let us judge them by their deeds, however. Were there any spark of patriotism, however faint, among the Chinese inhabitants of Manchuria, the place would have long ago become unpleasantly hot for the Russians, whose recent attempts to allay the flame of indignation their exactions and outrages have been fanning prove the alarm they feel at the prospect. If the Imin-chuan turn their attention to railway wrecking, and if they succeed as well as their namesakes of 1900 who with their naked hands tore up miles of track, more will be heard of these patriots.

Wednesday, May 11.

Reports continue to be received showing that the Chinese are becoming more and more difficult to restrain in a position of strict neutrality. Japan's recent operations have naturally roused China's troops to a sharpened sense of the ignominy of remaining idle under the circumstances. They are enraged, too, more and more enraged, by Russia's arbitrary action in the West Liao region and General Ma himself is said to have petitioned the Throne for leave to adopt a stronger course. It is in connexion with this state of affairs that Reuter telegraphed a few days ago about the exertions of the Foreign Representatives in Peking to prevent any rupture of neutrality. Nevertheless the danger does not seem to us to be so very imminent. China must understand tolerably well what she gains by keeping quiet and what she might lose by drawing the sword. Perhaps the main source of peril is Russia herself. If Russia finds her situation desperate in Manchuria, she may deliberately goad the Chinese beyond patience with the object of calling into active operation the provisions of the Russo-French agreement which binds France to come to her ally's assistance in the event of the latter being attacked by two Powers. The weight that France could throw into the scale would far out-balance anything that China could contribute in the way of belligerent force. But the question arises, would the agreement apply to such a case. Is France bound to come to Russia's assistance whatever may have been the prelude to such a conjuncture? M. Delcassé would scarcely answer in the affirmative, we think. That eminently prudent and far-sighted statesman would searcely admit that his country is pledged to endorse every procedure adopted by Russia from the moment that it involves war. If Russia respect China's neutrality China will remain neutral. If Russia persist in treating Chinese territory as within the belligerent area, China, on her side, may cease to be neutral. Does France, in the latter event, incur the responsibility of standing between Russia and the consequences of Russian arbitrariness?

By way of illustrating the curious situation now existing, news comes that on the 5th instant the Hunghutze wrecked a part of the railway and cut the telegraph line near Mukden, whereupon Viceroy Alexieff required Governor-General Tseng to station Chinese troops along the line for the purpose of guarding it. Tseng is said to have complied, and thereupon Mr. Uchida, Japanese Minister in Peking, addressed a formal remonstrance to the Chinese Government in the sense that such employment of Chinese troops was a flagrant breach of neutrality. And so in truth it is. Conceive the notion of a neutral State using its military forces to guard the communications of a belligerent! Neutrality becomes an absolute farce in such conditions. No one knows that better than Viceroy Alexieff. His condition must be almost desperate when he resorts to such expedients. And in deed the same inference is to be drawn from his using Chinese soldiers at all for such a purpose. It is a veritable case of *quis custodiet custodies*. The Chinese soldiers placed in charge of the line may at any moment become more dangerons to the property under their care than even the Hung-hutze would be.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

During his voyage from Port Said to Marseilles, Baron Rosen is said to have informed a member of the *Journal's* staff that whereas many of the principal political leaders in Japan were in favour of a pacific settlement, "General Terauchi, the War Minister, and Baron Yamamoto, the Naval Minister, were intractable and demanded war." We can not believe that Baron Rosen made that assertion. Baron Rosen knew much about the Japanese. It was his business to know and he had means of knowing. But this statement attributed to him by the *Journal* betrays remarkable ignorance; ignorance which is not conceivable. We find it incomparably easier to assume that the *Journal's* reporter made a mistake than to imagine Baron Rosen using such words.

Tokyo organized an immense lantern procession on Sunday night. All the newspapers of the capital took part, as did also several of the newspaper correspondents now staying in the Imperial Hotel. At the Babasaki Gate leading into the outer enclosure of the Palace, a terrible accident occurred. The police suddenly closed the gate in the face of the crowd, and as hundreds of people were already on the narrow bridge over the moat, while thousands, ignorant of the closing of the gate, were pressing from behind, nineteen young folks were crushed to death. Then the crowd, learning that admission from the Baba side was impossible, surged round to the Sakurada gate, and there met the outflowing stream of onlookers. In the collision of the two currents, 15 persons were wounded. From a city of rejoicing Tokyo was converted into a city of mourning.

This procession was organized chiefly by the newspapers of Tokyo. They also despatched to General Kuroki and Admiral Togo warm messages of appreciation and congratulation.

There is only one creature that we know of besides mankind which shows its appreciation of flowers and green foliage by adorning its home with them, and that is the "gardener bird" of New Guinea (*Amblyornis inornatus*), a member of the family of bower birds which are peculiar to the Austral region, including New Guinea. Some naturalists place these bower birds among the birds of paradise. The first account of such singular appreciation of floral beauty by birds was given by Signor Beccari, who says that they build a hut about two feet in height, with the central support of a small tree growing in a glade or clearing in the dense forests. The roof, which slopes to the ground, is composed of the stems of orchids placed in a radiating fashion. In the interior, access to which is by an angular opening, the central support is covered with moss in the form of a cone, so that a circular promenade is made between it and the sloping roof. But the extraordinary effort of this bird is in evidence outside his playhouse, for in front is laid out, with infinite care, a garden. Fresh moss is brought by the diligent occupants, and a verdant carpet, extending about six feet, is first prepared, on which are laid in profusion blossoms and berries of every variety to delight the eyes. As these wither or become unsightly they are removed and laid in a heap at the back of the hut, presumably out of sight of these ultra-refined little birds, and upon the mossy lawn are placed continually fresh blooms. As far as is known each of these habitations is occupied only by one pair of birds, and it is not certain whether the tasteful decorations are arranged by the male only; it would be pleasant to think that it was so—that all this refined effort was but to show his devotion and to make some little reparation for his lack of beauty and dingy appearance.

One of the many smart coaling performances, for which the Mitsu Bishi Company and Nagasaki are jointly famous, took place in connection with the R.M.S. *Empress of Japan*, says the *Nagasaki Press*. The steamer was late leaving Vancouver and owing to an extra stormy passage only one day, instead of two as desired, was gained before reaching Yokohama. The vessel went direct to Nagasaki without touching at Kobe and arrived there at 1 p.m. In order to fulfil her mail contract it was necessary for her to leave the same evening for Shanghai. Coaling commenced at 2 p.m. but it was not until 2.30 that all the gangs were at work. At 6 p.m. precisely coaling was stopped, no less than 1,235 tons having been taken on board, an average of about 320 tons an hour, and the *Empress* resumed her voyage at 6.30 p.m.

Sir William Van Horne, says *Harper's Weekly*, has given some very good advice touching projected railroads in the Philippines, drawn from his experience in Cuba. Sir William declares that the success which has attended his efforts in Cuba is largely due to the methods employed in dealing with the native inhabitants. Had he and his colleagues been guided by a short-sighted policy of chipping off a little here and a little there at the expense of the native, in Sir William's opinion he would have been doomed to failure. Seeds would have been planted which would have borne bitter fruit for generations. He endeavoured not only to obtain, but even more, to deserve, the confidence of the natives from the very outset as the basis of operations. He employed only native labour in constructing the 400 miles of the Cuban railroad, and awarded no building contracts. To have done so would, in Sir William's view, have been suicidal. His success in Cuba convinces him that the same policy should be followed in the Philippines if the dual object of the American Government—to educate the Filipinos in respect for the Americans, and confidence in them, and at the same time to bring about the industrial development of the islands—is to be secured. The Government has three alternatives in constructing the projected Philippine railroad—it could either build the line with its own forces, or it could let contracts for construction, or, thirdly, endow with sufficient power some company whose interests would be the same as the Government's interests. The annual cost to the American Government of providing for 800 miles of Philippine railroad would be no more than the annual cost of maintaining a single regiment. If by the constructing of the railroads the necessity of a standing army should be removed and a native constabulary established the inestimable benefit is apparent.

The Japanese in Saghalien, numbering 342 in which were included 20 women, and one Frenchman, arrived at Hakodate on the 8th instant by steamer. They report that every facility was given to them by the Russians; that they did not suffer any violence whatever and that they were assisted with provisions. These fugitives report that there are 600 Russian soldiers with 6 guns at Korsakoff.

The total payments by life-insurance companies—including death claims, dividends, cash surrenders, annuities and other estimated payments—amount in the United States alone to about $350,000,000 (gold) annually. In other words, the life-insurance companies of the United States pay out in three years a larger sum than the entire national debt of the country. The distribution of this sum in life-insurance payments illustrates the beneficent work and shows the tremendous amount of good that life insurance accomplishes by the payment of large sums in the time of greatest need. As nearly as can be calculated, there are twenty-two American cities in which life-insurance payments annually amount to over $1,000,000. New York City leads with annual payments of about $23,000,000. Philadelphia, Chicago and Brooklyn follow in the order named. The following table shows the cities in which the life insurance payments in 1902 amounted to over $1,000,000:

New York	$22,945,475
Philadelphia	8,926,098
Chicago	6,922,457
Brooklyn	6,805,277
Boston	6,024,582
St. Louis	3,727,666
Baltimore	3,660,600
Cincinnati	3,511,582
Pittsburg	2,690,371
Minneapolis	2,151,385
San Francisco	1,981,934
Buffalo	1,947,510
Cleveland	1,935,530
Montreal	1,838,617
Detroit	1,822,791
Newark	1,775,263
New Orleans	1,623,820
Washington	1,497,406
Providence	1,421,203
Louisville	1,311,329
Milwaukee	1,310,467
Toronto	1,238,036

In New York State the amount of life-insurance payments in 1902 was $47,900,000. Pennsylvania followed with $24,400,000. Massachusetts came next with $16,600,000.

The state of affairs in Vladivostock is reported to be quite pitiable. All trade has come to an end, and the banks having closed down on their debtors, the latter have had to come into the market as sellers of property for which there are no buyers. Sharp distress has resulted, and many people hitherto well to do have been reduced to penury. It is stated that the Municipality have petitioned the Minister of Finance to issue orders that the collection of debts by the Bank of Agriculture and Commerce shall cease until the war is over.

THE WAR ILLUSTRATED.

Foreigners who have inspected some of the cheap, flaming prints that issue almost daily from Tokyo workshops professing to pourtray scenes of the war will be interested by the reproductions in the *Graphic* (April 2nd) of similar sheets that are scattered broadcast to impress the populace in St. Petersburg. The latter are two in number and depict one of the incidents invented by Russian official chroniclers—"The bombardment of Port Arthur and the sinking of a Japanese cruiser. Our losses almost nil." One shows a Japanese warship sinking under a storm of shell and the glare of many search-lights and the other presents an even more harrowing spectacle, but in this case the electric beam is dispensed with. As in the Japanese pictures the huge warships fight almost at arm's length, lack of space dictating resort to this trifling inaccuracy. A double page picture of the Guards leaving Tokyo for the front is above the average of the war sketches that have been published, and the other scenes associated with the war—including the Japanese landing at Chemulpo—are worthy of praise. Miss Bovill's sketch of a lantern procession is also a capital piece of work.

LIFE'S TAVERN.

In this old Tavern there are rooms so dear
That I would linger here.
I love these corners and familiar nooks
Where I have sat with people and with books.
The very imperfections and the scars
About the walls and ceiling and the floor,
The sagging of the windows and the door,
The dinginess that mars
The hearth and chimney, and the wood laid bare
There on the old black chair.
The dear dilapidation of the place
Smiles in my face,
And I am loath to go.
Here from the window is a glimpse of sea,
Enough for me;
And every evening, through the window bars,
Peer in the friendly stars.
—And yet I know
That some day I must go, and close the door,
And see the House no more.

MARY BURT MESSER.

YACHTING.

The yachting season of the Yokohama clubs opened on Saturday afternoon with fine weather, though the wind was very light and fluky. The various yachts were able to go over the courses laid down for them—though at times they barely had steerage way—and to finish long before dark.

As neither *Mary* nor *Maid Marion* was ready to start, *Kingfisher* did not care for a sail over, and the race for Yokohama Yacht Club 39 raters did not come off. All the Cruising Class were under way some time before the first gun was fired, but there seemed hardly enough wind to take them up to the line. *Asagao* was first across, five seconds after the starting gun, followed closely by *Daimyo*, *Kathleen*, *Spray* and *Wanderer*, with *Nina* last, three minutes after time. *Daimyo* quickly passed *Asagao*, and was first out of the Harbour Entrance, with *Nina* second and *Kathleen* third. At the Tsurumi mark *Daimyo* held a good lead from *Nina*, *Kathleen* a close third, *Wanderer*, *Spray*, and *Asagao* last. From Tsurumi to the Lightship sheets were eased a trifle on the port tack. At the Lightship *Daimyo* had gained another minute on *Nina*, and *Kathleen* had dropped back to *Wanderer* and *Spray*, seconds only separating these three as they gybed round the Lightship and set spinnakers to starboard, and they had a close race right to the finish, with *Asagao* gradually closing up on them.

Daimyo took first prize by 10 seconds corrected time from *Nina*, the official return being:—

	h.m.s.
Daimyo	4.14.12.
Nina	4.14.22.
Wanderer	4.15.20.
Kathleen	4.17.45.
Asagao	4.26.95.
Spray	4.30.00.

Daimyo takes first prize and two record points; *Nina* wins second prize and one record point.

The yachts of the Mosquito Yacht Club had a race over course No. 2—out to the Lightship, thence to Quarantine Ship and back to the Lightship (figure of eight) then home. The prize was a cup presented by the Hon. Sec. (Mr. J. J. M. Carst). The starting gun was fired at 2.15.00 and *Winsome* was over sharp on the report, *Sunbeam* four seconds, *Edna* 30 seconds, *Pele* 55 seconds, and *Chocho* (former *Nandeska*) 1 m. 10 secs later. *Winsome* held her lead on the beat out to the Lightship and *Pele* worked into second place, a short board required at the mark throwing *Sunbeam* out of that berth. The times of the leaders here were: *Winsome* 3.16.00, *Pele* 3.20.50, *Sunbeam* 3.22.30. *Chocho* got foul of the Lightship and lost considerable time. After reaching round the Quarantine Ship *Winsome* was back and squaring away round the Lightship at 3.36.45; *Pele* had run up on her and followed at 3.39.00; *Sunbeam*, however, had slowed down and only got round 25s. (3.44.20) ahead of *Chocho* (3.44.45). Running in, *Pele* drew up on *Winsome* and finished first, some half-a-dozen boats of the different classes coming up the harbour in a picturesque bunch. The official times are:—

	Finish.	Club Time.	Corrected.
	h.m.s.	m.s	h.m.s.
Chocho	4.33.30	2.38	4.30.52
Edna	4.38.00	0.52	4.37.08
Pele	4.32.19	0.52	4.31.27
Winsome	4.32.55	—	4.32.55
Sunbeam	4.36.30	0.52	4.34.58

Seven "Larks" were ready when the starting gun went at 2.30.00, but after No. 6 (the property of Mr. H. A. Poole but sailed by Mr. J. Drummond) had crossed the line the others returned and after dodging about for ten minutes or so went away on a two-gun signal as usually given. The course was to the Lightship and back and they gradually caught up No. 6 and passed her, finishing pretty close to one another. No. 13 (Mr. P. Gampert) had certainly the best position approaching the finish line but by an unnecessary tack allowed No. 11 (Mr. M. F. Stephens) to come up and finish level with him, No. 12 (Mr. H. A. Poole) a few seconds off, No. 10 (Mr. Stephens) came next. The other boats were: No. 1 (Mr. O. T. Gillon) and No. 5 (Mr. C. H. Abbey).

The members of the Mosquito Yacht Club opened their cruising season with a trip to Tomioka on Sunday, which, with sunny weather and a fine southerly breeze for the run home, proved a most delightful outing. Twenty-four men started about 10 a.m. in *Aborigine* (the flagship), *Nina*, *Pele*, *Sunbeam*, *Chocho*, a *Lark*, and a launch, which, owing to lack of wind in the forenoon, had to tow the yachts to Tomioka. Tiffin was eaten and the afternoon was enjoyably spent at the Clubhouse, where photographs were taken and various games occupied the party till after 3 o'clock, when the homeward stage of the excursion was begun. A capital breeze had sprung up and the yachts rattled home in fine style, arriving about 4 o'clock.

BIG FIRE AT OTARU.

Details with regard to the great conflagration at Otaru have been received by Tokyo papers and show that 2,481 buildings consisting of 2,745 dwellings were destroyed, including the Exchange, Mitsui Bank, Nippon Commercial Bank, Tax Bureau, Custom House, Post Office, etc. The damage was estimated at over three million *yen*. One man was killed. Baron Sonoda, Governor of Hokkaido, proceeded to the scene to inspect the damage, which affects almost one-third of the city.

According to an official report, the fire occurred on May 11th at 9.5 a.m. at Inaho-machi, the flames extending to Ironai, Minamihama, Kitahama and other surrounding streets owing to the strong wind prevailing. The loss included 1,228 buildings which comprised 2,482 dwellings, 11 godowns, 247 sheds, one post office, one tax office, 2 police sub-stations, one school, 6 banks, one exchange office, one *Shinto* temple, one Buddhist temple, 3 hospitals and 4 others, and also 240 telegraph poles. The homeless people were temporarily removed to Buddhist temples and schools, where they are receiving relief from the local government.

The total loss of the Tokyo, Meiji and five other fire insurance companies is reported by the *Jiji* to be over *yen* 220,000.

Fire broke out on May 6th at the village of Imae, Nomi, near Kanazawa, destroying forty buildings.

Fire broke out in a farm house at Mita-mura, Aiko-gori, Kanagawa Prefecture, on the afternoon of the 8th inst. Twelve houses and four godowns were destroyed.

The Niigata branch office of the Progressists was destroyed by fire on May 8th.

THE BATTLE OF THE YALU.

IT is now possible to form a tolerably clear idea of the battle of the Yalu and to correct some misapprehensions suggested by the fragmentary accounts that came to hand at first.

At Wiju the Yalu has a width of from 7,000 to 8,000 metres, but the actual water-surface is comparatively small, the bed being occupied by many islands of which the largest (Keumchong-do) measures nearly 10 miles in circumference. These islands divide the river into three channels. Only the central, however, can not be crossed without a bridge or a boat: the two side channels are passable by wading waist-deep, unless the river be in flood. On the Manchurian side the banks are steep, and the walled city of Kiulien, nearly opposite to Wiju, stands on ground elevated some 60 metres above the river. Northward of Kiulien lie eminences called Makau and Yushukau, from which nearly all the islands can be searched by artillery, though at long range. The base of these hills is washed by the River Ai, an affluent of the Yalu, into which it flows a little above Kiulien. The Ai and the Yalu form an acute angle at their junction, and in this angle stands an eminence called Tiger's Hill, behind which again, where the angle widens, another hill, called Yulchawon, is situated. These four highlands, Makau, Yushukau, Husan and Yulchawon, together with Kiulien itself, constitute the keys of the position. The Ai River also is an important feature. Though it approaches the Yalu at an acute angle, it presently trends to the northward and then to the westward, thus greatly strengthening the northern flank of Kiulien. For the Ai is breast-high at this season and the softness of its bottom renders it difficult for horses to cross.

Such being the general features of the ground, we have next to note the disposition of the Russian forces. Naturally they were all on the Manchurian side of the central channel of the Yalu. The most advanced outpost was on the island of Cheunsong-do, immediately below Kiulien. Bodies of mounted infantry with guns were stationed on Tiger's Hill and Yulchawon, and 13 miles up stream, at Sukuchin, a force was posted. This Sukuchin is an important place. Usually the Yalu is fordable there, and in point of fact it was at Sukuchin that the main part of the Japanese forces crossed by wading in 1894. But the depth of the water varies greatly at different seasons, and in the spring a General can not rely on finding the ford negotiable on any given day. Nevertheless, since the Yalu there runs in a single stream and is comparatively shallow, the place is obviously convenient for bridging. Therefore the Russians watched it. On the other side of Kiulien, that is to say the down-stream side, a strong force occupied Antung, some 7 miles from Kiulien, and still further down batteries were in position on highlands called Antseshan and Niangniang-chin, there being also cavalry patrols to watch the bank. A large body occupied the heights behind Kiulien on the north, and the reserves were in an entrenched position called Hohmu-tang, about 5 miles behind Kiulien on the road to Liaoyang. Four roads converge there, namely, those from Antung, Kiulien, the Ai river and Liaoyang, and all are commanded from the position of the entrenched camp.

It will be observed that, speaking broadly, the Russians were guarding the Yalu through a length of some 27 miles from Niangniang-chin to Suku-chin.

General Kuroki's strategical plan was, first, to employ a naval flotilla in the reaches of the Yalu from Antung downwards, the gunboats, torpedoers and launches not only searching the right bank with their fire, but also threatening to land a force at some convenient point. Secondly, the main body of the army was to make preparations for crossing in the immediate vicinity of Wiju. Thirdly, a powerful flanking movement was to be organized from Sukuchin. And, fourthly, Kiulien and the heights in its neighbourhood were to be subjected to artillery fire from the Korean bank. For this last purpose ordinary field guns could not be very effective. Comparatively heavy pieces were therefore transported by the navy to the mouth of the river, and were thence brought up to suitable positions.

By the 27th of April everything had been prepared for the commencement of cardinal operations. There is reason to say that things had been timed with almost absolute precision. It was known in official circles that the 30th of April would be an important day in the history of the war, and such it proved to be. Shortly after day-break on the 27th Japanese artillery opened on Kiulien, and under cover of its fire a part of the Guards Division waded across the first stream of the Yalu to the island of Kulido, which lies at a short distance up-stream from Wiju. From the western shore of this island they found themselves within easy rifle-range of the Russian force on Tiger's Hill, and a sharp engagement commenced, both infantry and artillery being engaged. The issue was that the Russians evacuated the position, having inflicted on the Guards a loss of 6 killed and 25 wounded. At the same time the Second Division waded across to the island of Keumchong-do, immediately below Wiju, and engaging the enemy's outpost on the opposite island of Cheunsong-do, compelled it to withdraw. In this engagement the Division had no casualties. It is remarkable that the Russians should not have held their ground with greater tenacity than they showed either at Tiger's Hill or on the island of Cheunsong-do. Their losses in attempting to hold the former were subsequently found to have been heavy, but considering that they had been preparing for weeks to dispute the crossing they should have been intrenched in such a manner as almost to defy any attempt to dislodge them short of a bayonet charge.

At dawn on the 28th two companies of the Guards crossed by boat to Tiger's Hill. Evidences of the deadliness of their fire on the preceding day were seen in the corpses of 95 horses. The body of an officer also was found and carried back to Wiju for burial.

The two companies of Guards then continued their march northward to the eminence at Yulchawon. Here a detachment of about 30 Russians were posted. These the Guards succeeded in dislodging without any casualties to themselves, though the enemy left 5 dead upon the field. Thus the important hills lying in the angle between the Ai and the Yalu passed into Japanese occupation, and so soon as artillery could be posted there the tenure of Kiulien by the enemy must have become very precarious. On this day (28th) the Russians were observed to be entrenching positions on the eminences beyond the right bank of the Ai; that is to say, the eminences of Makau and Yushikau, northward of Kiulien. The whole position might have been entrenched a long time previously, but there appears to have been a great lack of serious diligence.

On the 29th the Guards proceeded to bridge the stream across which they had sent two companies on the preceding day: the stream between Kulido island and Tiger's Hill. This hill covered the bridge-builders against direct artillery fire from the Makau heights, and the high angle fire of the Russians proved innocuous. On the morning of the same day the Twelfth Division opened fire on the Russian outpost opposite Sukuchin and rendered its position untenable. Here again readers of the telegraphic accounts are perplexed to comprehend why the Russians allowed themselves to be dislodged so easily. It should have been plain to them that if the Japanese succeeded in crossing at Sukuchin, a heavy flank attack would develop against the Kiulien position. Had they studied the story of the crossing of the Yalu in October, 1894, they would have understood this contingency, even assuming that it did not suggest itself as an obvious strategical incident. Whatever the explanation be, the singular fact remains that, in the face of the Japanese fire, they vacated the river bank opposite Sukuchin, and left the enemy unmolested to commence the operation of bridge-building. Throughout this day the Japanese artillery from the Korean bank of the Yalu maintained a steady fire upon the Russian central positions. Further, a naval flotilla consisting of gun-boats, torpedo-boats and armed launches, pushed up the river as far as Niangniang-chin, and cannonaded the Russians, sometimes engaging their batteries, sometimes exchanging shots with their patrols. The presence of this flotilla and its activity must have prevented the Russians from drawing in their right wing to meet the real attack, which was soon to develop on their centre and left.

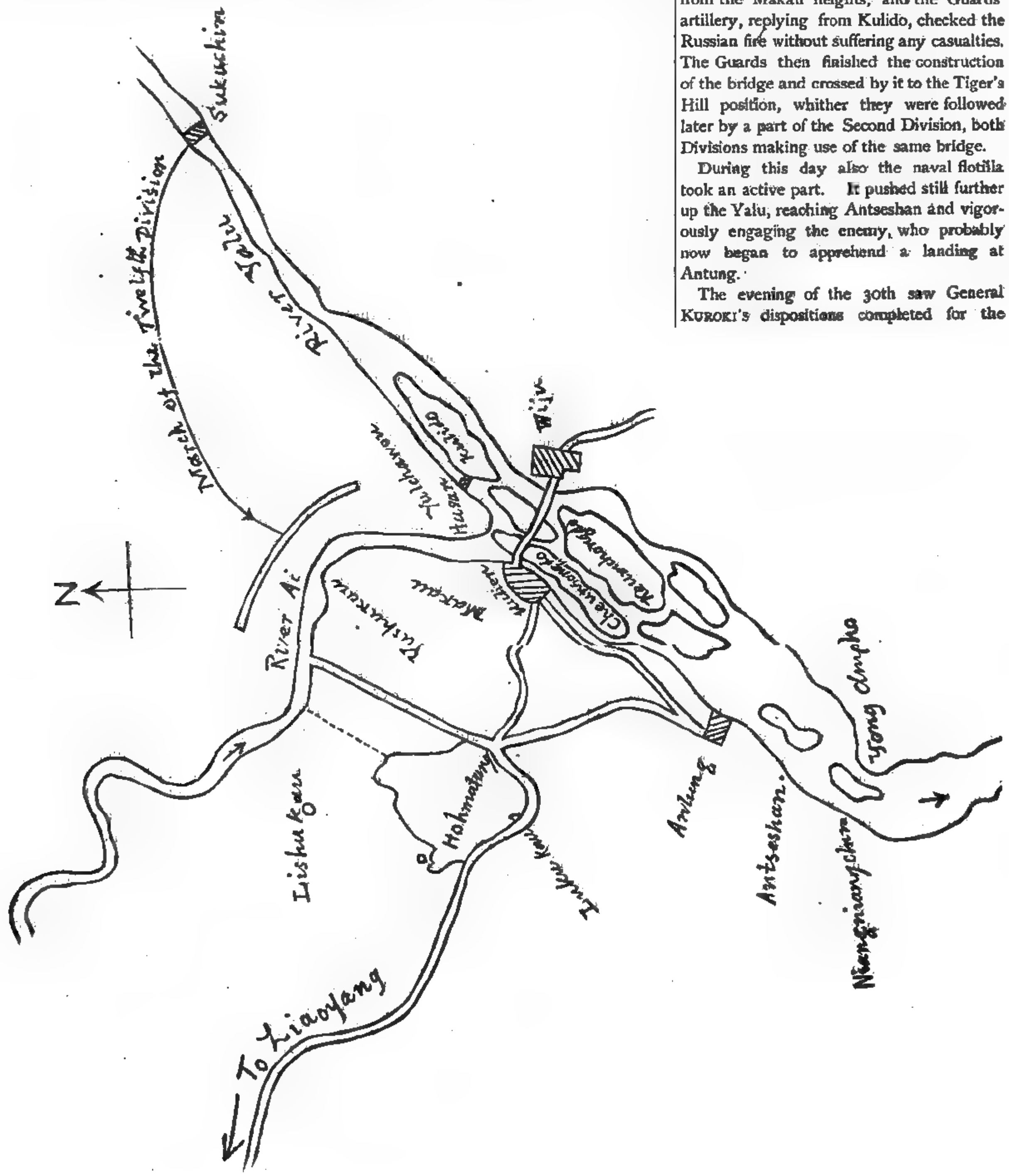
Throughout the 29th the Second Division remained comparatively inactive. Its principal duty seems to have been to prevent the enemy from again getting a footing on the opposite island of Cheunsong-do.

On the 30th at 3 a.m., the bridge built by the Twelfth Division at Sukuchin being completed, the Division began to cross. This Twelfth Division is known in Japan as the *Sampo Shidan* because of its abundant equipment of mountain artillery (*sampo*). That was doubtless the reason of its selection by General Kuroki for a flanking movement, since, after crossing—an operation requiring a considerable time and one which might have been rendered terribly perilous did the Russians show any offensive initiative—the Division had to move westward through the hills on the east of the Ai River, and to take up a position within easy reach of that river. This duty the troops achieved by 6 o'clock in the evening. It does not appear that they encountered any opposition from the Russians. The latter were busily engaged preparing to defend the Makau and Yushukau hills on the Kiulien side of the Ai. From first to last the Russian strategy seems to have been comprised in the two words, passive resistance.

While this flanking operation was in progress, the Second Division sent a reconnaissance in force to the island of Cheunsong-do. Presumably the men crossed by boat but the fact is not mentioned. At any rate the main purpose of such a movement must have been to occupy the Russians' attention, and it succeeded, for their guns at once opened fire on the reconnaissance, and, the Japanese guns replying from the Korean side, a sharp duel took place. Before long the enemy's artillery at this point was silenced, but the Japanese had 2 killed and 27 wounded. By and bye, however, the enemy opened upon the position of the Guards' bridge from the Makau heights, and the Guards' artillery, replying from Kulido, checked the Russian fire without suffering any casualties. The Guards then finished the construction of the bridge and crossed by it to the Tiger's Hill position, whither they were followed later by a part of the Second Division, both Divisions making use of the same bridge.

During this day also the naval flotilla took an active part. It pushed still further up the Yalu, reaching Antseshan and vigorously engaging the enemy, who probably now began to apprehend a landing at Antung.

The evening of the 30th saw General Kuroki's dispositions completed for the



final attack. The Twelfth Division had posted itself among the hills on the east of the Ai River, in readiness to cross the stream and turn the Russians' left flank. The Guards and a part of the Second Division had crossed the central stream of the Yalu and were bivouacked on Tiger's Hill, ready to wade across the mouth of the Ai and advance direct upon Kiulien. The reserves were prepared to follow in the centre of these two Divisions. It will be observed that the Guards and the Second Division were inconveniently massed owing to the exigencies of the crossing. That defect, however, was to be remedied immediately on reaching the other side, for the Second Division had orders thereafter to turn downstream and move direct upon Antung, attacking it should the enemy be found still in possession. Evidently this advance of the Division from a point above Antung would threaten the latter's communications with Hohmu-tang—the entrenched rallying point already spoken of—and therefore also its communications with the advanced base at Fenghwang. Consequently it was likely that the Russians at Antung would retire upon Hohmu-tang without awaiting the impact of the Second Division, especially as a part of the Japanese programme was that the naval flotilla should, on that day, steam up stream to within range of Antung and bombard the Russian positions there. In that event, namely, in the event of the enemy's retreat from Antung, the Second Division was to swing round and push on in a direction such as would carry it across the west of the Hohmu-tang plateau.

On the 1st of May these various and final operations commenced. That they were hazardous operations can not be denied, for had the Japanese been driven back, the conditions would have been most unfavourable for orderly retreat, and a disaster could scarcely have been avoided. It will be at once evident that, in point of time, precedence had to be given to the Twelfth Division. Could this Division succeed in driving the Russians from their entrenchments on the Yushukau, Makau and other hills, the Kiulien positions would be completely turned, and the retreat of the Russians from the town would be inevitable. At dawn the Twelfth Division began to advance. It was extended over a front of 4 miles, and the interval between the men in the firing line is said to have been 3 yards. From the time of leaving the bank of the Yalu at Sukuchin the Division had been marching through hilly country. Speaking broadly, the Manchurian side of the Yalu is more hilly than the Korean side, and, being considerably elevated above the latter, commands it. This fact gives salience to the weakness of the Russian defence. They ought to have been able to prevent the crossing at Sukuchin, and they ought to have been able to check the advance of the Twelfth Division through the hills in the district between the Yalu and the Ai. The great mobility of the Cossacks should have told strongly for such operations. Apparently the Cossacks did little or nothing. The men of the Twelfth had to cross the Ai by wading. At certain times of the year the river is only waist-deep, but at present it is up to a man's armpits. The Division seems to have crossed without difficulty, and to have had with it its artillery—mountain guns, which for the purpose of such a movement must have been taken to pieces and strapped on horse-back.

Meanwhile the frontal attack upon the Russian position was developing. About 2 hours after the commencement of the Twelfth Division's advance towards the Ai, the heavy guns of the Japanese on the Korean bank of the Yalu and the field-pieces which the Guards had posted on Tiger's Hill and Yulchawon, opened fire on the enemy's batteries at Makau and silenced them without much trouble. It was then about 7.30 a.m. and the Guards, advancing direct towards Kiulien, waded across the Ai, the latter not being more than waist deep at this point. They were closely followed by the Second Division, which immediately on reaching the far side, headed downstream in the direction of Antung. At this time the attention of the Russians in the Kiulien position was largely directed to repelling the flank attack now rapidly developing from the north—the attack by the Twelfth Division. For this purpose they had changed front, and they thus found themselves virtually caught between two fires, that of the Guards Division advancing from the south and that of the Twelfth Division advancing from the north. The Twelfth had splendidly overcome all obstacles, driving the Russians from their entrenchments on the right bank of the Ai and pushing up the heights along a line from Lishukau to Yushukau, while the Guards had swept the enemy from Makau. In fact the Kiulien position was lost, and the Russians fell back (9 a.m.) upon the entrenched rallying point on the Hohmu-tang plateau.

Meanwhile the Second Division pushed rapidly down the bank of the Yalu. A considerable part of its advance lay over open country and it suffered severely. But the Russians at Antung, bombarded simultaneously by the flotilla on the river, did not wait to have their communications cut. They retired on Hohmu-tang.

This closed the first stage of the battle. The second was an attack upon the entrenched position at Hohmu-tang. No details of this operation have been obtained, except that the Japanese advanced against the place from three directions, the Guards from the east, the Twelfth Division from the north and the Second Division from the south. The Russians are said to have fought with much tenacity. They were not completely dislodged until 6 p.m., and they inflicted heavy losses on the Japanese, suffering severely themselves also. It will be of the highest interest to hear how the attack was conducted, what features the ground presented, and what kind of entrenchments the Russians had thrown up. Evidently they could not have hoped or intended to hold the position permanently since all its communications were exposed to be cut by the Japanese. Apparently their wiser plan would have been to retreat at once on Fenghwang after being driven from the Kiulien plateau. Their stand at Hohmu-tang merely cost them 20 guns and many casualties.

The two most prominent features of this battle, so far as its details now present themselves, are absence of offensive initiative on the part of the Russians and bad marksmanship. They acted strictly on the defensive throughout, and while occupying positions that commanded the ground over which the enemy had to advance, they failed to inflict on him as much loss as they suffered themselves at his hands. With nearly three months' leisure to utilize the defensive capabilities of a region lending itself admirably to such a purpose, it is difficult to believe that three days' fighting sufficed to dislodge the Russians, and to drive them back with heavy loss. They are brave men, doggedly brave, and they have always been supposed to possess a special capacity for clinging to a trench. But certainly they showed little tenacity at the Yalu.

THE LIAOTUNG LANDING.

If the Japanese have landed at Kinchow Bay as Reuter's telegram informs us, they have already overcome the most serious obstacles in the way of investing Port Arthur. We can not yet accept the news as absolutely trustworthy for several reasons. The principal of these is that Kinchow being practically the key to the whole position at Port Arthur it is scarcely credible that the Russians would not have adopted the completest possible precautions against a landing there. Kinchow Bay and Talien Bay lie opposite each other on the West and East of the Liaotung Peninsula and they bite into the land so deeply that an isthmus of only 2 miles remains—less than 2 miles at its narrowest part. To defend such a position against an army marching from the north to its attack would be the easiest of military problems. But, on the other hand, the flanks of the defending army might easily be turned from the sea side, and consequently it would be a prime necessity of the situation to guard against a landing. The Kinchow Isthmus is only 40 miles from Port Arthur and the railway establishes easy communication. Hence the Russians, who have had 3 full months to work, should have placed the coasts of both Kinchow and Talien in such a defensive condition that a landing by the Japanese would be scarcely possible, or at any rate not possible without the heaviest losses. The dangers to be anticipated were quite plain in the event of resolute and even partially successful operations by the Japanese troops. There would either be an advance from the northern part of the Peninsula, supplemented at the crucial moment by a flanking attempt from the side of the sea; or there would be a landing at the Isthmus itself. In either case shore defences would be of the utmost necessity. But it appears that there were no such defences. A handful of Cossacks were watching the coast line. That was all. They did not even try to oppose the debarkation. It would have been futile to do so; all that they accomplished was to convey news of the accomplished fact. In short they served for news-carriers, neither more nor less. These things render it difficult to believe that Kinchow is really the landing place, unless indeed we assume that the overweening confidence of the Russians as to their own superiority on land—the confidence which led KUROPATKIN to declare that he would dictate terms of peace in Tokyo—betrayed them into neglecting the most rudimentary precautions. Another somewhat puzzling feature of the incident is that among the ships taking part in the landing operation was the Squadron under Rear-Admiral HOSOYA which, only two full days previously, had been bombarding the Russian positions in the Yalu. It is quite within the range of practical possibilities that this squadron, having assisted at the capture of Antung on the forenoon of May 1st, steamed down to the general readezvous on the afternoon of the same day or on the 2nd, and was thus ready to take part in the doings on the 4th and the 5th. But observe what extraordinary celerity all this involves. We have, in the first place, Admiral HOSOYA operating in the Yalu on May 1st, with the knowledge that on May 3rd he must be at a distant point ready to take part in another operation of vital importance. Then we have Admiral TOGO, the instant that the news of the Yalu victory is flashed to him by wireless telegraphy, setting out on the dangerous mission of sealing Port Arthur, and accomplishing it during the night of the 2nd and 3rd, that is say, almost the very day after the Yalu victory. Then we have him, accompanied by the whole of his squadron, searching the seas in the vicinity of the Liaotung Peninsula up to 4 p.m. on the 3rd instant in the hope of rescuing some of the gallant men who went down with the four unsuccoured steamers. Then we have him steaming at full speed to the general rendezvous and reaching it before dawn on the 4th. Then, at the rendezvous, we have a great fleet of transports all ready to set out at a moment's notice. Then we have them getting under way at daylight on the 4th, accompanied by the whole of Admiral TOGO's united squadrons. Then we have them reaching the west of the Liaotung Peninsula by dawn on the 5th. And on that day the landing is effected. In our reading of history we do not remember any series of consecutive operations carried out with such extraordinary celerity. The thing is scarcely conceivable. Much depends, of course, on the position of the base, and that is a point which the censorate regulations do not permit us to discuss. One fact may be noted, however, namely, that the Army now landed on the Liaotung Peninsula began to go on board ship nearly a fortnight ago, and that the transports, a big fleet of transports, assembled steadily at some rendezvous and waited there quietly and in absolute secrecy until the moment for action came. We may further assume that the final destination of these transports depended on the issue of the Yalu engagement. Had General KUROKI's fine attack on the Russian positions failed, then the Second Army would doubtless have been thrown ashore at some point on the littoral of the Yellow Sea, probably Takushan, whence the Russians at Kiulien and Fenghwang would have been menaced by an assault from their right rear. But KUROKI's attack having succeeded, the blocking steamers, all held in previous readiness, are launched at Port Arthur, and the Liaotung Peninsula becomes the objective of the Second Army. If that has really been the programme, if all its parts have been mutually subordinated and associated with such excellent celerity and fine synchronism, the Japanese are to be congratulated on a display of strategical and organizing ability which will elicit the world's applause.

THE NEW FOREIGN LOAN.

THE following is a translation of the Imperial Ordinance just issued with reference to a new foreign loan:—

IMPERIAL ORDINANCE NO. 138, PROMULGATED MAY 10TH, 1904.

Art. I.—A loan of ten million pounds sterling (£10,000,000) shall be raised in London and New York in accordance with Law No. 1 of the 37th year of Meiji. This Loan shall be issued through underwriters nominated by the Government.

Art. II.—The interest on the Loan shall be at the rate of six per centum per annum.

Art. III.—The principal of the Loan shall be redeemed at its face value on April 5th of the 44th year of Meiji. The Government shall, however, be at liberty to redeem the whole loan or a part thereof at any time after April 5th of the 40th year of Meiji, provided that such redemption shall have been advertised six months in advance in the newspapers. In case of partial redemption, the drawing shall be made, according to usual custom, at the Branch offices in London and New York of the Yokohama Specie Bank. The numbers of the drawn bonds shall be advertised in the newspapers one month before the date of payment of the principal.

Art. IV.—The interest of the Loan shall be paid on April 5th and October 5th of each year, respectively for the preceding six months including the month of payment.

Art. V.—The bonds to be issued for the Loan shall be unregistered, with coupons attached, and the face value shall be stated in English currency, and shall be of two denominations; namely one hundred and two hundred pounds sterling respectively.

The rate of exchange between English and American currencies shall be fixed at one pound sterling to four dollars and eighty-seven cents.

Art. VI.—Matured coupons and drawn bonds of the Loan shall be accepted without question in payment of the Customs duties at the rate of two shillings and one half penny to one *yen*.

Art. VII.—The payment of the principal and interest of the Loan shall be a first charge upon customs revenue.

Art. VIII.—The issue price of the Loan shall be ninety-three pounds sterling and ten shillings against the face value of one hundred pounds sterling.

Art. IX.—Subscriptions to the Loan shall be paid in four monthly installments from May to August of the 37th year of Meiji.

In respect of the proceeds of the Loan raised in accordance with the preceding paragraph, the interest for the first half year shall be paid on the ensuing 5th October.

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION.

This Imperial Ordinance shall be in force on and after the date of promulgation.

The terms of this transaction are undoubtedly onerous; so onerous that we fonnd difficulty in crediting them when the news first arrived. Fuller information, however, tends to impart a modified aspect to the transaction. The loan, we learn, is intended solely to secure Japan's gold currency system; in other words, to guarantee the convertibility of her notes. No part of it is to be devoted to meeting outlays on account of the war. In fact, the whole of the proceeds will probably be kept in London; such funds as are needed for belligerent expenditures being obtained by domestic loans, of which another will probably be floated ere long. The Government of Japan will thus be absolutely relieved of anxiety on account of the stability of its currency, and will be able to apply all its available funds without stint to the prosecution of the war. It was well worth while, in fact it was a measure showing the courage of true statesmanship, to make some pecuniary sacrifices for the sake of arriving at such a result; for the sake of effectually protecting the national currency against all perils. Better terms could doubtless have been obtained by waiting, but to wait would have been to prolong a feeling of insecurity likely to cost the country a great deal more than the expense it now incurs. What has been done, in a word, is to insure the national currency against war risks, and in order to avoid having to pay a war-rate premium, it would have been necessary to wait until the reasons for insurance had correspondingly diminished. Business men will now be able to prosecute their various enterprises with an unperturbed mind, an advantage of incalculable value. As for the loan itself, it becomes payable in part or *in toto* from April, 1907, and it must be paid off completely by April, 1911. The shortness of the period could not fail to affect the terms offered by foreign capitalists, to whom a long outlying loan is far more attractive. But the Japanese Government has been well advised in making this transaction of a temporary character, and it will also be wise enough, we entertain no doubt, to wipe off the liability at the earliest possible moment.

AN INSIDIOUS ENEMY OF JAPAN.

IN *The Literary Digest* of April 9th there appears an article headed "Revolt against Japan's Censorship." Among the quotations of which the article is composed the following is taken from the *Kobe Chronicle*:—

"Indeed, for some days before the actual rupture of negotiations occurred, attempts made to send to Europe definite information of the critical state of affairs; and of the certainty that failing the receipt of the Russian reply within a certain time Japan would take action—all such references in the press messages were struck out, so that news of the actual rupture must have come upon Europe with considerable shock, to the great injury of trade and commerce generally. Such methods naturally suggest that it

> was deliberately intended to take Russia by surprise and strike a blow before it was realized in St. Petersburg that the rupture of diplomatic relations meant the beginning of hostilities. It is even rumoured in Tokyo that for ten days before the actual rupture of relations took place not a single telegram—whether despatched by a legation or a private individual—was allowed to leave Tokyo for abroad."

The most malevolent charge preferred against Japan in connexion with this war was a charge of treachery. She was accused of striking without due notice; following, in short, a dishonourable course by attacking Russia before the latter had any conception that war really threatened. The world's jurisconsults, without exception, have laughed this accusation to scorn, and we have hitherto supposed that by Russians alone had such a foolish and unwarrantable slander been uttered. Least of all should we have looked to find it supported by an English journal, and that, too, an English journal published in Japan. We now learn, however, from the above extract, that the *Kobe Chronicle* lent its full assistance to the enemies of Japan, and endeavoured to fix upon this country the stigma of treachery. It unequivocally affirmed that some days before the rupture of negotiations press telegrams compiled in Tokyo were purged of all references giving information of a critical state of affairs or of the "certainty that failing the receipt of the Russian reply within a certain time Japan would take action," and it added that, according to rumour current in Tokyo, "for ten days before the actual rupture of relations took place not a single telegram—whether despatched by a Legation or a private individual—was allowed to leave Tokyo for abroad." "Such methods," the *Kobe Chronicle* declared, "naturally suggest that it was deliberately intended to take Russia by surprise and strike a blow before it was realized in St. Petersburg that the rupture of diplomatic negotiations meant the beginning of hostilities." And in order to extend the circle of indignation against Japan's alleged treachery, the Kobe journal further opined that, in consequence of this garbling and suppression by the Tokyo Authorities "news of the actual rupture must have come upon Europe with a considerable shock, to the great injury of trade and commerce generally."

The reader will perceive that two charges are made and that they are flagrantly inconsistent. For the first is that certain references only were elided from press telegrams during "some days" before the actual rupture of negotiations, whereas the second is that during ten days before the rupture "not a single telegram was allowed to leave Tokyo for abroad." Apparently the *Kobe Chronicle's* desire to malign and discredit Japan was so blinding that it failed to detect the obviously contradictory nature of its libels. However, that is a minor question. What we have to inquire is whether there are grounds for affirming that official mutilation and suppression of telegrams took place with the object of betraying the world in general and Russia in particular into a sense of false security in order that Japan might ultimately find an opportunity to deliver a coward's stab in the dark. A conclusive answer is furnished by turning to the columns of *The Times*. There we find that the following telegrams were published in the early days of February:—

THE DIPLOMATIC POSITION.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Tokyo, February 1.

It is denied in Tokyo that any statement regarding the situation has recently been made by Japan to the Powers.

Russia's answer to the last Japanese Note is expected about the 5th inst. Meanwhile public opinion anticipates no solid concessions, though an easier feeling pervades some circles.

Japanese subjects are withdrawing rapidly from the Liau-tung Peninsula.

An ordinance was issued to-day fixing the war pay of the Japanese army and navy.

No official intimation of the cessation of commercial traffic by the Trans-Asian Railway has reached the Japanese postal officials.

Tokyo, February 1.

Beyond the fact that the Russian reply has not yet arrived, there is absolutely no trustworthy information to be obtained regarding the situation. Well-informed circles, however, do not take a sanguine view as to the likelihood of Russia's answer proving satisfactory.

THE JAPANESE DEMANDS.

OPINION IN PEKING.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Tokyo, February 2.

The following is believed in Tokyo to be a correct version of the negotiations between Japan and Russia:—

Japan proposed, first, that Russia should acknowledge Chinese sovereignty in Manchuria and should restore the Chinese administration and recognize the equality and commercial rights of all Powers in that province; secondly, that Russia should recognize Japan's political influence in the whole of Korea.

Russia's reply recognized the treaty privileges already acquired by the Powers in Manchuria; also Japanese influence in Korea south of the 39th parallel, the district northward thereof being neutral.

Japan intimating her inability to accept these terms, Baron Rosen replied that the question would be reviewed by the Council of State in St. Petersburg on January 28.

The decision of this Council is now awaited.

Tokyo, February 2.

The Japanese Government is still awaiting Russia's reply. The movement of reinforcements into Manchuria increases the tension, but the Japanese Government is patient. Events would move rapidly if the Russian Note proved materially unsatisfactory, but Japan would probably not strike before presenting an ultimatum.

JAPANESE PREPARATIONS.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Tokyo, February 3.

The commendable secrecy with which the Japanese Government has prepared against every eventuality precludes the sending of any specific information by telegraph. During the last day or two, however, I have seen official memoranda relating to certain significant reforms in the service regulations which show that the tension has increased rather than otherwise. The self-control of both the officials and the public must excite admiration.

COUNCIL AT TOKYO.

Tokyo, February 3.

To-day's events indicate that the prolonged tension has reached its climax. The Marquis Ito was summoned from his country seat during the night and was received by the Emperor to-day. A Council, which was attended by five of the Elder Statesmen, the Prime Minister, the Ministers of War and the Navy, the Vice-War Minister, and three admirals, was afterward held. The conference lasted seven hours, and in the course of it the Premier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs had a long audience of the Emperor.

Great importance is attached to this conference. What was the result of the deliberations is not known, but even the highest officials have this week made no concealment of their exasperation at the tardiness shown by Russia in replying to the Japanese Note. The report which has now come from Europe that the reply is again postponed for several days is not, in the circumstances, a complete surprise, but it has caused profound regret, since the delay is not regarded as pointing in a pacific direction.

Some of the Tokyo newspapers declare that Russia has no intention of replying and is treating Japan contemptuously. An unofficial despatch received yesterday says that Russia has decided on war.

RUSSIAN ACTIVITY IN MANCHURIA.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Tokyo, February 4.

All the powerful warships except one, which is being repaired, left Port Arthur yesterday. Their destination is unknown.

According to official news received at Tokyo, houses for billeting Russian soldiers are being hastily prepared at Kai-chau, Hai-cheng, Liau-yang, and elsewhere. At Liau-yang 1,000 carts have already been requisitioned, of which over 100 are despatched daily, for the transport of ammunition and provisions to Feng-hwang-chen.

The Russian have begun to despatch troops to the Ya-lu. It is alleged that six companies left Liau-yang on the 1st and 2nd instant for the Ya-lu.

The Japanese commercial agent at Vladivostock received notice yesterday from the commandant that a state of siege might be declared at any moment; therefore, Japanese residents should be prepared to leave, otherwise they would be ordered to repair to Khabarovka.

All this contrasts strangely with Russia's peaceful professions.

CONFERENCE AT TOKYO.

Tokyo, February 4.

A conference of the Elder Statesmen was held this afternoon in the presence of the Emperor, at which it is believed that a decision of the utmost importance was arrived at. The general impression now is that all hope of peace is gone.

THE ATTITUDE OF JAPAN.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Tokyo, February 5.

It is generally believed that the councils of Elder Statesmen on the 3rd and 4th inst decided on the final measures to be taken in the event of an unfavourable Russian reply.

Opinion is unanimous that no arrangement by which Manchuria was altogether abandoned to Russia could secure a lasting peace.

The Tokyo Press rejoices in the prospect of the termination of the long suspense and delay, which have been opposed to Japan's interests.

The voluntary subscription to the war funds already exceed 2,000,000 yen.

Little credence is placed in the persistent rumours that Russian troops are about to proceed to Korea at the request of that State.

THE PORT ARTHUR FLEET.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Tokyo, February 5.

The Russian fleet has returned to Port Arthur.

February 6.

There are indications that Russia is moving her forces towards the Ya-lu.

Orders have been issued for the suspension of cipher telegrams between Korea and Japan.

Time-expired men in the army and navy have been ordered to remain at their posts.

Tokyo, February 6.

All the ordinary steamship services to North China ports and to Korea are suspended.

THE SITUATION IN TOKIO.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Tokyo, February 7, 25 a.m.

Baron Rosen, the Russian Minister, having been instructed to prepare to leave Tokyo, has transferred the care of Russian interests to the Austrian Minister and exchanged farewell visits with Baron Komura.

The Japanese residents have nearly all withdrawn from Vladivostok, Kharbin, and other places in Manchuria, as well as from Wi-ju.

The Russian gunboat Mandjur is in dock at Nagasaki and will probably be unable to leave before hostilities are begun.

The leading journals declare that Japan is most reluctant to draw the sword, but that she has no choice. They republish Russia's Note of 1895 declaring that the retention of the Liautung peninsula by a foreign Power would imperil the Chinese capital, render the independence of Korea illusory, and jeopardize peace in the Orient. They invite a repetition of Trafalgar and Waterloo, since Japan fights, as England fought, to crush a military despotism and secure equal rights for all nations in Eastern Asia.

8.40 p.m.

At an interview yesterday between Baron Rosen and Baron Komura, which took place at the latter's instance, the Minister for Foreign Affairs declared that inasmuch as further negotiations were plainly futile Japan would be compelled henceforth to adopt such independent action as her interests might dictate.

Baron Rosen will leave Tokyo on the 12th inst., after an audience of the Mikado on the 11th, which is the anniversary of the promulgation of the Constitution.

Much sympathy is felt with Baron Rosen, who is a true friend of Japan and an advocate of peace.

February 7.

A declaration of war is expected soon. Japan forwarded to the Powers yesterday a statement of the events that led to the breaking off of relations with Russia.

There is no popular excitement here as yet.

In the face of these telegrams the falsehood of the *Kobe Chronicle's* statements is palpably demonstrated. First as to the accusation that "for ten days before the actual rupture of relations took place not a single telegram—whether despatched by a Legation or a private individual—was allowed to leave Tokyo for abroad," it is seen that every day without exception from the 1st of February to the 7th, long telegrams were despatched from two sources in Tokyo to *The Times*, which is only one of many papers. Secondly, as to the accusation that "all references" conveying "definite information of the critical state of affairs were struck out," we find that on February 1st London was informed that Japanese "public opinion did not anticipate any solid concession"; that "Japanese subjects were withdrawing rapidly from the Liaotung Peninsula"; that the "war pay of the Japanese army and navy had been fixed," and that "well informed circles did not take a sanguine view as to the likelihood of Russia's answer proving satisfactory. On February 2nd news was sent that "the tension had been increased by the movement of troops into Manchuria," and that "events would move rapidly if the Russian note proved materially unsatisfactory. On the 3rd it was announced that "significant reforms had been made in the service regulations showing that the tension had increased rather than otherwise," and the prolonged tension was declared to have "reached its climax." On the 4th Russia's warlike measures were described, and it was stated that "the general impression now was that all hope of peace was gone." On the 5th the Elder Statesmen's decision as to the final measures to be taken in the event of an unfavourable Russian reply was declared to have been arrived at; the satisfaction of the Tokyo press at the termination of the long suspense and delay was described, and the rapid growth of subscriptions to the war funds was mentioned. And on the 5th the suspension of cipher telegrams between Korea and Japan, the stoppage of the steamship services to North China ports and Korea, as well as the order for all time-expired men in the army and navy to remain at their posts were telegraphed. In short, it is inconceivable that had not the *Kobe Chronicle's* over-mastering anxiety been to support the accusations brought against Japan by her enemies and to sway public sentiment in her disfavour at a moment when to conciliate that sentiment was of vital importance to her, it would have been betrayed into formulating slanders which were at once inconsistent and grossly contrary to easily ascertained facts. During the China-Japan war of 1894-5, the foreign press of Japan, with one or two exceptions, adopted a tone of hostile prejudice which the commonest dictates of decency should have forbidden. To-day the same newspapers are conspicuously friendly to her, with the exception of the *Kobe Chronicle*, which, in its anxiety to injure her cause and bring obloquy on her head, bears false witness against her, and unjustly accuses her of treachery which its own conduct alone displays.

LOCAL EXHIBITION OF AUSTRIAN MANUFACTURES.

There is now on view at the premises of Messrs. Heller Bros, 176-A, Yokohama, a collection of samples of Austrian manufactures which awaken a striking sense of the variety, extent and high quality of those products. The exhibits, to the preparation of which the Austrian Government has given substantial support, are arranged in four rooms and will be on view permanently. The smallest of the rooms is used for the reception of visitors, and with the exception of the carpentry its contents are of Austrian production —curtains, furniture, etc.,—while a huge show-case is filled with perfumes, soaps, and kindred objects. The other three rooms are devoted to the display of manufactures of all imaginable kinds which are largely utilized for purposes of decoration. Among the samples here shown are: an acetylene machine, bookbinders' machinery, printing machine, boiler grates, cork-stone (insulating, ice cellars, steampipes, etc.), fancy electric lamp-globes, electric and glass-lamps, fine Bohemian glassware, as vases, stands, etc., Bohemian glassware for laboratories, plate and wire glass, gelatine, glue, chemicals, cigarette and other papers, woodpulp, cloth, curtain and carpet cloth, malt, hops, hardware, soaps and perfumery, machine greases and lubricants, filters for tables and adaptable to water pipes, enamelled kitchen ware, bottles and capsules, rubber ware of all kinds, steel from Styria, buttons, imitation jewellry, imitation precious stones, bentwood furniture of fine make, condensed milk, pianos, mineral water, gloves, ribbons and braids (silk and woollen), bronze-powder, tinfoil, sugar. As the sample curtains and lamps are freely used for decorative purposes and the various objects are most tastefully arranged the exhibit as a whole presents a very attractive appearance.

The collection was opened to the public on Thursday afternoon, when the members of the firm courteously entertained their many visitors.

MARKET REPORTS.

Mr. Uchida, Japanese Consul-General at New York, telegraphed on May 6th that raw silk was generally quiet, prices for filatures, No. 1, ranging from $3.75 to $3.82. *Habutae* silk business was fairly active but matting was dull. Cotton was not steady, and the new crop is expected to be very good.

A telegram under date of May 7th from the Japanese Consul at Lyons, received in Tokyo, says that since the previous weekly report, the silk market has been very quiet after a temporary revival. It is rumoured that the output of France and Italy this year will be more plentiful than last. The fine growth of silk worms and the rich supply of mulberry leaves in the two countries suggests successful sericulture this year.

According to a telegraphic report, dated May 7th, from Mr. Odagiri, Japanese Consul-General at Shanghai, the stock of Japanese Cotton Yarn there aggregated 1,500 bales and Indian yarn 22,000 bales. The price of the latter is very steady, but the former only nominal, there being no demand.

Two *kin* (about 2½ lbs) of new cocoons were put on the Kochi market on May 9th. The quality proved to be fine.

At the end of April, the stock on the Shanghai silk market was:—white raw silk, 2,750 bales; yellow raw silk, 500 bales; and cocoons, 500 bags.

DESULTORY NOTES ON SPORT.

The Kobe Yacht Club and Kobe Canoe and Dinghy Club have amalgamated, and will now be known as the Kobe Sailing Club. The Kobe Yacht Club had been practically moribund for some years, but had some funds at credit which will doubtless now be put to a useful purpose by the new organization.

The Yokohama Yacht Club opened the racing season last Saturday, with prospects of good sport in all classes except the 39 raters, which are sadly diminished in numbers. The *Mary* is getting ready to race, and it is reported that *Kingfisher* will come out again this season. *Maid Marion* has been hauled up at the Engine and Iron Works, and will have the inside ballast removed, and more lead put on her keel.

The Cruising Class will be well represented. *Spray* has been taken over by Capt. Olsen; *Wanderer* has been recaulked and looks quite smart in a coat of a delicate hue; *Daimyo* is ready for the fray; *Nina* will probably be raced, although she has not got the promised increase of sail plan; *Asagao* is having her mainsail altered, and will again go for the Champion flag in this class; *Virginia* has been once more put into commission, having found a new owner, and will be raced as the *Kathleen*.

The Mosquito Club had a race for their fleet on Saturday, and the Yacht Club took the following Saturday for the 21 raters. *Pele, Edna, Winsome, Sunbeam, Vixen, Beatrice* (late *Stella*) *Cho-Cho*, and *Yugao* have been put into commission. *Edna* wants a new mainsail, the present one being very badly out of shape. *Vixen* is getting a new sail plan. Mr. Clausen has a new boat in this class, and another from the same lines is now being completed.

Rain has interfered considerably with training on the race course, the recent spell of wet weather inconveniently happening just when the trainers wanted to give their horses faster work. Of the seniors, Rose de France has been reported as ailing somewhat. Hitachi, late Therapis, has been doing some very good work, and is looking very well. Kachidoki, late Cameo, is going well, but Maymie does not look so promising as she did a fortnight ago. She is not an easy mare to train, and it is doubtful if she will go to the post so fit to the hour as she did last meeting.

Suma has had more fast work than anything on the course, and up to a week ago seemed to be doing excellently well on it. Perhaps the easing enforced by the rain will be fortunate in her case. Osaka, a month ago, seemed to be running very light, but is looking a bit better now. She has had a few days away from the course, now and again, and Stella has also required the indulgence of an occasional spell. Maysie a month ago seemed to be improving in a very gratifying fashion, but is said to have gone amiss.

Of the new Australian subscription horses, Carnation, Alexandra, Tarantella and Parisienne are most fancied by the cognoscenti. Treasure was probably about the best of the batch, but is now a very doubtful starter, being laid up with a damaged hip.

In the senior China pony class The Leader is steadily improving, although considered of little account in the earlier stages of training. The Dove, in spite of a nasty temper, would be a fancy of many if his owner had a little longer time to get him ready. May-moth, late Moth, is doing very well.

No strong favorite has been yet announced for the China Grand Prix. Pit-a-pat, and Mayor are thought well of by some, but next week, if fine, will probably bring some of them to the front.

The new arrangements as regards stands and enclosures promise well for the comfort of race-goers, and especially members and their lady friends.

CUSTOMS DECISIONS.

Mr. H. Minakami, Director of the Yokohama Customs, rendered a decision on May 5th on a protest lodged by Messrs Carl Rohde & Co., No. 70, Yokohama. It appears that the firm imported a quantity of packing paper—principally used for packing cigarette boxes. The material was landed at Tokyo instead of Yokohama. An application for permit of import was presented at the Tokyo branch of the Yokohama Customs, where the appraisers imposed specific duty at the rate of *yen* 1.163 per 100 *kin* in accordance with No. 292-B of the tariff. The importers contended that the duty should be *ad valorem* 10 per cent under No. 293 which provides in its 5th item for wrappers or packing papers. The protest was rejected on the ground that the goods were of the nature of printing paper.

The same day, the director of the Yokohama Customs delivered another decision on a protest filed by Messrs. L. J. Healing & Co., No. 74, Yokohama. The firm imported underground telegraph wires on which the Customs imposed 10 per cent. *ad valorem* duty under No. 483 of the statutory tariff which provides for "submarine and underground telegraphic lines." The importers contended that the duty should be 5 per cent. *ad valorem* in accordance with No. 13 of the conventional tariff between Japan and Germany. The protest was not sustained on the ground that No. 13 of the conventional tariff between Japan and Germany provides for "telegraphic wire" but does not include underground telegraphic lines.

The Director of the Yokohama Customs gave another decision the same day on a protest brought by the Kaitsu Gomei Kaisha, Customs brokers. They imported footballs on which the appraisers imposed 25 per cent. *ad valorem* duty under No. 442 of the statutory tariff which provides "all articles of games used in playing tennis, cricket, chess, etc." The importers held that the duty should be 10 per cent. in accordance with No. 1 of the conventional tariff between Japan and Great Britain—which provides for manufactures of caoutchouc,—or No. 496 of the statutory tariff—which provides for all articles, new or unmanufactured. The protest was dismissed on the ground that the article in dispute was not made of rubber only and besides was employed in games, and not unmanufactured.

THE LAW COURTS.

STEWART v. STORNEBRINK.

In the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno, this case in which plaintiff claims seventeen hundred *yen*, came up again on May 6th when judgment was delivered :—

1.—The previous judgment is sustained.

2.—Defendant is therefore ordered to pay plaintiff the amount claimed and to bear the costs.

It may be remembered that the case was brought in the Court on March 17th when judgment was given in favour of plaintiff on account of the absence of defendant and that defendant lodged a protest on May 4th against the judgment.

CLAIM ON SHARE TRANSACTION.

The case brought by Mr. R. J. Ward against B. Sho claiming *yen* 8 515.60, came up again on May 7th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno, when judgment was delivered dismissing the protest of defendant as to the jurisdiction of the Court.

THE CAPTURED SHIPS.

The hearing of the petition lodged by Mr. K. Goki, a Tokyo lawyer, representative of the Kamtchatka Commercial and Industrial Company, asking that the steamer *Kotik* and the sailing vessel *Bobric* be released, and contending that the ships did not participate in any hostile action, began on May 5th in the Yokosuka Prize Court. The proceedings having been concluded on that day, the Court announced that judgment will be given within a week.

OBJECTION TO SEIZURE OF BUSINESS BOOKS.

In the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno, the case filed by Mr. H. V. Gielen against Mr. J. H. Jewett petitioning for the cancellation of the order given on Aug. 8th, 1903, to seize temporarily the business books belonging to Messrs. Bavier & Co., came up again on May 7th, when judgment was rendered in favour of the plaintiff.

SELLING HER SON.

Iida Shige (32), Ishikawa-machi, Yokohama, who was charged with having sold her adopted son to a Chinaman for fifty *yen*, has been sentenced in the Yokohama District Court to one year's imprisonment with hard labour.

It appears that a few years ago she adopted a boy from a poor woman, whose name was not mentioned and whose present abode was not known. She registered the boy at the City Office as a natural child. She subsequently lodged an action in the Yokohama Local Court against a Chinese, Tien-Sang, No. 132, Yamashita-cho, who was her accomplice in the crime, and who purchased the boy, petitioning for affiliation as the father of the lad. This case was only a means of concealing their cruel conduct.

AMERICAN TOPICS.

Advices from Nome, Alaska, say that the spring clean-up of gold on the Nome peninsula will be greatly in excess of any previous season. Conservative estimates place the clean-up at $1,250,000.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller has given $500,000 to the Johns Hopkins Hospital at Baltimore, and the money has been accepted by the Board of Trustees of that institution. The income of the hospital was seriously affected by the destruction of many houses belonging to it in the recent fire, upon which there was no adequate insurance. The expressed purpose of Mr. Rockefeller's gift is to restore that income to its original proportions.

The insurance loss by the big Baltimore fire of February was $35,000,000, the value loss $45,000,000, the net loss $10,000,000. These figures, based on the adjustment already made, are the maximum, and the belief is that the total insurance loss will not be more than $30,000,000 and the net loss not more than $7,500,000. On the basis of total insurance loss of $30,000,000, those burned out only carried 80 per cent insurance, but in a number of instances many business men of Baltimore were insured for 100 per cent of the value of their property.

According to a consular report, the larger part of the diamond output of South African mines is taken by the United States. The direct importation from South Africa in 1903 was $8,403,222. But a large proportion of the diamonds are first sent in the rough to Amsterdam, Antwerp and London, to be cut and polished, and reach the United States in a finished state. The total importation of stones finished and in the rough in 1902 amounted to $17,687,195. The fact that the demand for these gems is growing is proof that the country at large continues prosperous.

In a recent address delivered by Dr. Victor C. Vaughn before the Michigan Municipal League he estimated the annual loss to the United States by typhoid fever at $90,000,000. His estimate was based on the assumption that the annual number of typhoid cases in the country reached 500,000 and the deaths 50,000. Estimating the value of each life at $1000, the deaths created, a loss of $50,000,000. Then he assumed that each patient was incapacitated from labor for forty days and thus lost time worth $40 while the cost of medical attendance, nursing and medicine cost another $40 each, making an additional total of $40,000,000. Thus, he concluded, "the people of the United States are paying an annual tribute of $90,000,000 because of their ignorance, through the existence of a disease, which if every man did his duty would not exist at all." Presented in this light the simplest sanitary regulations have a financial value entirely independent of any other consideration, which is usually lost sight of entirely.

Speaker Cannon of the House of Representatives has been decided upon for permanent chairman of the National Republican convention which will meet in Chicago on June 21. Mr. Elihu Root has been selected as temporary chairman. He will make the keynote speech and Mr. Cannon will occupy the chair and keep the convention in order. Another important matter which has not definitely been arranged is that of choosing a chairman of the Republican National Committee. Mr. Cornelius N. Bliss has decided that he cannot undertake the work. The President and his Republican advisers now are considering the advisability of Governor Murphy of New Jersey, and it is thought that unless some unforeseen obstacle arises he will be asked to serve.

The St. Louis *Real Estate Bulletin*, in a recent issue, throws some light on the remarkable advance in rents in that city due to the prospective opening of the World's Fair. It shows that houses which formerly rented for $60 a month are now held at $150, and that furnished houses of fourteen rooms which used to command $85 are now listed at $500 per month. These figures may not be accurate, but if they are not exaggerated they certainly show a design on the part of some St. Louis people to rob the visitors to the fair. The management of the exposition should see to it that rooms and board are furnished at about the same prices as at other times. If an efficient bureau is maintained, the sharks who wish to bleed the stranger will not do a heavy business.

The United States Department of Agiculture has just issued a bulletin on farm labor, giving the results of twelve statistical investigations. Returns were received from over 23,000 persons for the investigation of 1902, and the author, Professor Blodgett, has evidently studied them carefully; but he remarks that "the extreme variety of conditions * * * is very perplexing in making averages." The census shows that there were 2,044,761 hired agricultural labourers in the country, working under all sorts of conditions as to wages, time of service, etc. The first noteworthy fact is that wages have advanced materially since the first investigation made under prevailing money standards. In 1882 the average wage, without board, was $18.94, in 1892 it was $18.60 and in 1902 it was $22.14.

A census bulletin just issued estimates the population of the United States for 1903 at 79,900,389 inhabitants, exclusive of Alaska and the insular possessions. There has been, according to these statistics, an increase of 3,905,814 since the census of 1900. The figures given are somewhat below those estimated by the Treasury Department experts, who, at the middle of last year, reached the conclusion that the population was over 80,847,000. There is nothing surprising in this, for it may be recalled that just prior to the census of 1900 the Treasury Department's population estimates were too high. According to the bulletin just issued, the largest city in the country, New York, had a population of 3,716,139 inhabitants, and those next in rank were Chicago, with a population of 1,873,880, and Philadelphia, with 1,367,716. After them in order follow St. Louis, Boston, Baltimore, Cleveland, Buffalo, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Milwaukee, Detroit, New Orleans and Washington; the last mentioned city being the only one in the list below the 300,000 mark.

Captain McLellan, whose recent voyage to the Aleutian islands on the revenue cutter *Manning* has had such memorable results, found the streams of Attu and of the other islands crowded with salmon. On Buldir island, in 52 deg. 30 min. north, he found new fur seal rookeries. That this discovery may prove to be of great financial value may be realized when it is considered that the revenue from the rookeries of the Pribilov islands has amounted thus far to over $50,000,000. At Unimak island the revenue cutter steamed into a harbor two miles long and three-fourths of a mile wide. So strongly convinced are some of the alert men of the Northwest that the Aleutians are now destined to assume great importance in the affairs of the Pacific that a company has been formed to colonize the archipelago. Wharves and storehouses are to be built and trading stations established. Stock raising is to begun first on Akun island. There, it is estimated, 50,000 head of cattle can find abundant pasture the year through. It is claimed that, on account of the mollifying influence of the Japan current, the Aleutian islands have a more desirable climate than any part of the Atlantic seaboard north of Cape Hatteras. Aside from stock raising, general agriculture is to be inaugurated. It is stated that copper, gold, oil and coal are found on the islands and that there is a great abundance of water power, as in Japan. One town, called Jarvis, has already been started in Lost Harbour. The problem of transportation will not have to be solved, as in the interior of Alaska, for steamers to and from the Orient, Siberia, St Michael and Nome now pass daily within a few miles of some of the best harbors in the archipelago.

For the first time in the history of the country a United States Senator has been convicted in a criminal court of offences in his official capacity but the action does not meet with such expressions of surprise from the press as might be expected under the circumstances. The Senator, Joseph Ralph Burton (Rep.), of Kansas, who was charged with accepting fees from the Rialto Grain and Securities Company, of St. Louis, for using his influence with the Post office Department to prevent the issue of a fraud order against the company, was found guilty on March 28, in the United States District Court at St. Louis, of violating the law forbidding any member of Congress to accept compensation for rendering services before a federal department in a matter in which the United States is interested. The penalty is imprisonment for not more than two years, or a fine not exceeding $10,000, or both. Furthermore, any one so convicted is rendered forever incapable of holding office under the United States Government. The case is to be taken to the United States Court of Appeals.

It long ago came to the notice of the Senate officials that every State in the Union has its own individual style for credentials to United States senators. In beautiful execution and display of exquisite crimson ribbon Ohio surpasses them all. A few weeks ago the credentials of the late Senator Hanna arrived and were presented in due form by Senator Foraker. They were bound within the most costly morocco, and the boards that enclosed the parchment, white and pure as the driven snow, were tied with ribbons. Not long afterward an exact duplicate of those credentials was presented again by Senator Foraker, but this time in behalf of Senator Dick, who is Hanna's successor. But Senator Dick's credentials were more interesting than those of Senator Hanna, because they were for exactly seven years service. Senator Dick has one year to serve before the regular six-year term begins. Senator Foraker occupied himself several minutes untying the beautiful ribbons, inspecting the parchment, and tying the ribbons again. The credentials were eventually read by the clerk and placed on file.

Commander Robert E. Peary, who announces his intention of again undertaking a hunt for the North Pole, is tall, straight, muscular and lithe. He has a long bony face, straight nose, well-defined jaws and square chin. His eyes are deep set, large and gray. He has a long, tawny moustache and, for a young man, unusually bushy eyebrows. At one moment one might take him for a lean, sinewy Scottish Highlander; at another moment he has the appearance of a Norseman. His face is intelligent, rather heroic, and occasionally, when he grows earnest, is gaunt. He has long legs and long arms, and as a rule he is a man of very serious bearing, with a touch of courtliness. He impresses one for the most part as a cold-blooded engineer; but engaged upon the subject that is next to his heart, he is almost sure to break out into a boyish enthusiasm, and then, behind all talk of geography and hydrography, is revealed the pure adventurer with the love of glory glowing in his soul. In the parlor of his simple little wood-embowered cottage in Washington, says *Outing*, are lovingly treasured bits of meteorite ore, wooden models of Eskimo images, the skin of a white polar bear, and a stuffed baby seal, also white; and if his interest is aroused in a visitor he may display the touch of good fellowship by serving a glass of wine that has been in the polar circle and a cigar that aged on the shore of the central polar sea.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The price of the silver *yen* in Formosa has advanced from *sen* 87 to *sen* 88.

The Japanese Consulate at Montreal was removed on May 1st to Ottawa.

Three cases of scarlet fever are reported in Tokyo, the patients being young women.

The *Graphic* of April 2nd has an admirable photograph of the late Sir Edwin Arnold.

The First Bank has cancelled its project to establish a branch at Tientsin, and decided to remove the Anju branch to Antung.

Six Russians arrived on May 5th at Nagasaki by the steamer *Siberia* from Shanghai, and left for Kobe. They were dressed as sailors.

A case of small-pox appeared on May 11th in Kyoto, the patient being a coolie who recently returned from Korea.

Prince Li Chi-yong, the Korean Special Envoy, and his party will leave Shimonoseki on May 14th by the steamer *Heijo Maru* for home.

An old man named S. Nishimura, living at Negishi, Yokohama, committed suicide on May 10th by hanging himself. The cause was poverty.

Captain Merlin, late chief officer of the N.Y.K. steamer *Sanuki Maru*, has been appointed captain of the French Canton river steamer the *Charles Hardouin.*

Japanese gold coins amounting to *yen* 4,200,000 and American gold, valued at *yen* 21,163 were shipped on May 11th by the steamer *Siberia* to San Francisco.

A telegram from Nikko reports that fire broke out on the morning of May 11th at Imaichi-machi destroying twenty-five buildings. The cause is not yet known.

Miss Masa Senge, a younger sister of Baron Senge, Governor of Tokyo-fu, was married on May 11th to Mr. M. Kato, the High Adviser to the Korean Government.

Official intelligence dated May 9th shows that the plague in Formosa is represented by 2,744 cases from its first appearance this year and 1,872 cases have proved fatal.

Thirty-two girls who are to exhibit the *Miyako* dance at the St. Louis Fair left Yokohama on May 11th by the *Siberia*. They were all attired in Japanese costume with one exception.

The Yokosuka Electric Tramway Company have applied to the Kanagawa Kencho for a permit to construct a railway line between Yokosuka and Uraga, via Fukada, Kogo, and Otsu.

A number of Russians captured at Kiulien-ching, including twenty-five officers, arrived on May 11th at Shimonoseki by the steamer *Colombo*. They were to leave for Matsuyama the same evening.

Owing to strong winds, twelve unoccupied cars on the Sanyo railway derailed on the morning of May 7th at a section near the Saijo station, causing damage to the track. The traffic was reopened in the afternoon.

During April, 17 *kwanme* bar gold (1 *kwanme* =kilos 3,7565) and 5 *kwanme* bar silver were imported from Korea to Osaka. These were coined at the Osaka Mint the aggregate result being *yen* 85,629.

The stock of raw silk in Yokohama is 8,146 bales filature; 509 re-reels; 281 Orikaishi, and 23 sundries, making a total of 8,959 bales. Of this, 1,188 bales were sold but not delivered, so that the real stock is 7,771 bales.

Mr. S. Kurino, formerly Japanese Minister at St. Petersburg, who recently returned, was received in audience on May 10th by the Emperor. He is expected to be entertained to-day (the 12th) at luncheon in the Palace, when the Premier, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and high officials of the Imperial Household will be present.

An audacious attempt was carried out on May 11th in the train on the Naniwa railway, Nara prefecture. It is reported by the *Jiji* that a coolie attempted to break open a strong box which was in the conductor's car in order to steal the money contained therein, while the train was in motion. Having inflicted injuries on the conductor with a hatchet, the robber jumped from the car.

The Minister for Agriculture and Commerce has decided to grant a subsidy of *yen* 35,000 to the Central Tea Guild for this year instead of the subsidy of *yen* 70,000 paid annually for five years past. He also ordered the Guild to prepare for the Department an estimate of the expenses of the branches in New York, Chicago, and Montreal which were established in the first year that a subsidy was given in order to investigate tea business in America. The committee of the Guild met on May 5th with a view to considering the distribution of the new subsidy. According to the staff of the Yokohama Tea Guild, a portion of the previous subsidy was also used to defray the expenses of the tea examining offices at Yokohama, Kobe and Nagasaki.

A "wild man" from the Arctic Circle is causing a great sensation in Nome, Alaska. The man was captured at Cape Prince of Wales, and it is considered wonderful that a human being could live as this one apparently has on the coast of the Arctic Ocean. His beard and hair reach to his waist, his finger and toe-nails are twisted, and he wears strange and scant garments. Around his neck are two crucifixes. There is little doubt that the man is a Russian convict who escaped years ago, possibly from Siberia. He is apparently fifty years old or over and cannot speak an intelligible word. He is being held in the Nome city jail, where hundreds of people have visited him. During the years of his wandering the wild man has apparently sought neither shelter nor food from the Esquimaux. Enquiry among them fails to show that they had ever seen him. How he escaped from the polar bears is considered another mystery.

A British traveller, who is stated to have an intimate knowledge of Tibet, writes:—Tibet is destined to become the California of the future. The regions into which the British Mission is now penetrating is one of the richest in the world. In fact, its mineral wealth is simply fabulous. Gold abounds in all directions, and nuggets as large as hazel nuts are found within a foot of the surface with no other mining implement than the shovel. British soldiers are, indeed, advancing into one of those ancient treasure houses of the genii, where one has but to scratch the soil and all is gold that glitters. Nor is gold the only wealth that is stored within these enchanted mountains. Iron, borax, salt, quicksilver, and lapis-lazuli are there in abundance, only waiting the touch of an enlightened and civilising energy to reveal their hidden treasures to an astonished world. Of set policy both Chinese and Tibetan authorities have opposed the mineral development of the country, but it is undoubted that one of the contingencies of the near future consequent on the presence of a Russian resident at Lhassa would have been the mineral exploitation of Tibet.

MEDICAL RESEARCH.

Sir Francis Lovell, C.M.G., Dean of the London School of Tropical Medicine, delivered an address on April 15th at the Kuala Lumpur, (Malaia), Institute of Medical Research. He first read the following passages from an address given before the London School recently by its head, Sir Patrick Manson:—

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH.

I now pass to the more immediate subject on which I am called upon to address you. It naturally falls under two headings:—Education and Research.

As regards the former, I would state that since the School opened on October 3rd, 1899, no fewer than 354 students have passed through its portals. Our first session we had 27 students; our first two years, that is to say during six sessions, we had an aggregate of 149 students; our last two years, also during six sessions, we had 178 students. These figures show a steady increase in the numbers attending the School but this increase in number does not quite express or adequately represent the increasing popularity and usefulness of the Institution, for whereas in the earlier days of the School's existence many of the students came for one or two months only, in these later times a large proportion of the Students remain with us during the full course of three months.

So far as figures go, this is a most satisfactory state of affairs. It is hardly for me to say what the value of the teaching may be, but this I feel justified in saying—that every student who has entered the School has had an opportunity of acquainting himself with the more important facts of tropical pathology, with the practical methods of diagnosing tropical disease, and with the practical methods of treating tropical disease. When they leave us, a large proportion of the students, if not all of them, have a genuine practical grasp of their subject. They have been in actual touch with the raw material, so to speak, the germ causes of disease, and the pathological effects of the operation of these germs on the human body. They have seen, and most of them have applied for themselves, the most recent methods of diagnosis. They have seen in operation the methods of treatment of best repute. So far as teaching and opportunity can ensure, they have left us qualified for actual practice in the tropics.

This essentially practical education cannot fail to be of vast service to our students in their future work, to increase their usefulness as practitioners, and to increase their value to their employers. It is impossible to gainsay the value of such training. But, over and above this, our Students in most instances have been sent out with a knowledge of the theory of the subject, thoroughly abreast of the times, knowing what has already been done, and thoroughly apprehending what still requires to be done; in other words, they have gone forth qualified not only to practice the art, but also to advance the science of Tropical Medicine. So it has come about that at the present day, instead of the two or three men who took a more or less languid interest in Tropical Disease some five or six years ago, a whole army of eager investigators has arisen, mainly composed of men educated or inspired by the Liverpool and London Schools.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF LONDON SCHOOL.

This multiplication of investigators, and therefore chances of discovery, has already borne remarkable fruit. Without alluding to what our friendly rivals in Liverpool have done, I could point to not a few notable triumphs by men from our London School. Let me enumerate some of these, and as I do so, please bear in mind that we have been in existence for only a few months over four years.

First:—Let me point to an observation by our present Superintendent, Dr. Low, an observation made in our laboratory. For the first time he showed in what manner the blood-worm responsible for an important group of Tropical Diseases represented by the hideous and disabling disease known as Elephantiasis, gains access to the human body. He showed that this worm at an early stage of its existence, like the germ of Malaria, is introduced into the human tissues by the proboscis of the mosquito. This important discovery has a very practical bearing, for it indicates with precision the way by which Elephantiasis and its congeners may be avoided.

Second:—Dr. Sambon and Dr. Low, sent by the School with the aid of funds partly supplied by the Colonial Office, clearly demonstrated by an experiment, which might very well have proved to the experimenters a serious matter, that man can live in the midst of malaria if he only employs simple and practical measures against mosquito bite. These gentlemen, Signor Terzi and their servants, lived for three or four months during the most unhealthy season of the year, in the most unhealthy place in Europe, and, thanks to the measures I have mentioned, not with injury, but with positive benefit to their health.

Third:—The School, by importing infected mosquitoes from Italy and then setting them to bite healthy individuals in this laboratory, and thereby promptly conferring malarial disease to those so bitten, gave the final and most telling proof hitherto obtained that malaria is conveyed by the mosquito.

Fourth:—A pupil of the School, Dr. Frode, who had learned here the value of the microscope in the diagnosis of Tropical Disease, discovered in the Gambia Colony the presence in the blood of a man of a new parasite, a parasite which was subsequently recognized by Dr. Dutton of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, as belonging to a group of germs responsible for many and grave diseases among the lower animals. This discovery is already bearing remarkable fruit.

Fifth:—Only last year Dr. Castellani, another pupil of the School, demonstrated the association of this same parasite, called a trypanosoma, with one of the most terrible diseases to which tropical humanity is liable, viz.:—Sleeping Sickness. Subsequent investigation by Col. Bruce and others has wholly endorsed the truth and importance of Dr. Castellani's discovery.

FINDING PROOF.

Sixth:—Until a fortnight ago it could not be affirmed with certainty that this parasite—this trypanosoma—was really the cause of Sleeping Sickness. The presumption that it was so was strong, but there remained the possibility that its presence in cases of Sleeping Sickness might be merely a matter of more or less accidental concurrence. In consequence of the opportunities for study that our School and Hospital provide, this possibility has now been finally disposed of. Last year a patient, in whose blood it was conjectured that this new parasite—this trypanosoma—was present, was admitted to our wards for treatment and observation. Our late Superintendent, Dr. Daniels, after a lengthened search confirmed the conjecture by finding the parasite in the patient's blood. Unfortunately, though we gained much in knowledge by our observation of this case, our efforts at treatment proved futile. The patient left the Hospital in March last, but we kept in touch with her, examining the specimens of her blood which were sent to the laboratory from time to time, and watching the progress of the symptoms. Some two months ago the patient began to show symptoms of Sleeping Sickness and died of that disease on the 26th of last month, two years and three months after receiving the deadly infection through the bite of an insect, a species of Tsetse Fly, common in the place where she had resided on the Upper Congo. Until we have absolute assurance as to the validity of a discovery, responsible action is half-hearted, or is delayed; and very properly so, as a few fiascos, bred of pseudo-discoveries, have shown in recent years. Assurance gives confidence. Knowing that the trypanosoma cause Sleeping Sickness, we know how to proceed, if not in curing, at any rate in preventing this terrible disease which, I am sorry to say, is rapidly spreading, not only in the Congo Free State, but in Uganda and elsewhere in Africa. For this knowledge the world is mainly indebted to the London School of Tropical Medicine This knowledge will in the end result, if not in our being able to cure, at least in our being able to prevent Sleeping Sickness.

There are other discoveries which might be accredited to the School, but those I mention suffice to show that our existence has not been unproductive in this line, nor altogether in vain. That the few thousand pounds the establishment has cost the country, has been more than well invested, who can gainsay? These permanent additions to human knowledge, which, as the years roll on, are bound to accumulate around them additional knowledge—indeed they are already doing so—will yield a huge compound interest, and do more than justify our existence.

INVESTIGATION OF BERI-BERI.

I may mention that, by arrangement with the Government of the Federated Malay States (where Beri-Beri is rampant), our late Superintendent, Dr. Daniels, has been placed in charge of the very complete Research Laboratory at Kuala Lumpur. Here, with abundant material at his disposal, with a certain amount of leisure, so necessary for scientific investigation, this highly accomplished and experienced pathologist will undoubtedly, even if he does not unveil the mystery of Beri-Beri, add to the lustre of our School.

WHAT THE SCHOOL REQUIRES.

At the present time we have two schemes of investigation in contemplation. For one of these we have a certain amount of money in hand, and shall presently proceed with it. For the other we must wait for money, and for what is even more difficult to get—suitable men.

I think I have said sufficient to prove that the London School of Tropical Medicine has done good work, is doing good work, and hopes to do more good work—that is to say, we are fulfilling our function and to this extent we are a prosperous Institution having a distinct claim on the public.

PREVIOUS MISSION.

Sir Francis then went on to refer to his previous mission to the East in 1902, relating his experiences in India and elsewhere, and drawing special attention to the magnificent donation to the School of a lakh of rupees by Mr. Bomanji Petit, in India. Continuing, he said:—

When I think of my former experience of the Chinese, of their great interest in public charities, and their generosity in supporting the charities, when I think of the wealth that so many of them have accumulated under the ægis of the British flag, in the Straits of Malacca and elsewhere, I do not despair of finding a Chinese rival to Mr. Bomanji Petit. Perhaps no country in the world is so likely to benefit by the advances in Tropical Medicine which have been made in recent years as the British Colonies and Protectorates in the Malay Peninsula. One of the diseases I have alluded to—Beri-Beri—is not only a deadly disease, but it is a terrible drag on the mining and agricultural industries here. Now Beri-Beri is a subject to which the School has given much attention. It is a disease that we hope some day to find out the cause of, and perhaps thereby be able to see our way to an effective treatment, and also to appropriate means of prevention, and I think we do not appeal in vain to our Chinese fellow subjects when we ask them to contribute something out of their wealth to enable us not only to relieve (as regards this disease, men of their own race, but to enable them indirectly to add to their health and wealth and general prosperity. Could we but remove Beri-Beri from the Malay Peninsula, we would add enormously to the prosperity of the country. The Chinese, who are those most interested in the matter, should take a special interest in fostering our efforts to unravel the mystery of this disease, and I hope I do not appeal to them in vain for funds for this and similar objects. We have received liberal support from many business houses and Corporations trading with the East. It is unnecessary to point out to them the importance of our work, and we feel sure that they too will come forward in the future as they have in the past, each according to his means.

"THE KOBE HERALD" AND THE NAVAL REGULATIONS.

The trial of Alfred W. Curtis, Editor and Publisher of the *Kobe Herald*, who was charged with having violated the Naval Instruction and Press Law, took place in the Kobe Court on May 5th. Mr. Curtis appeared in person, Mr. Kojima acted as official translator. We reproduce the *Herald's* report of the case.

Public Procurator Akiba having read the charge,

The Judge asked the following questions:—

What is your name?—Alfred W. Curtis.

What is your age?—46.

What is your nationality?—English.

What is your residence in Japan?—No 76-a, Kio-machi, Kobe.

What is your profession?—A journalist.

Are you editor and publisher of the *Kobe Herald*?—Yes, I am.

The Judge thereupon announced that Mr. Curtis was to be tried on a charge of having violated the Naval Instructions.

The Public Procurator said that the accused, who is the editor and publisher of the *Kobe Herald*, a journal published at the office at 76A Kio-machi, Kobe, Hiogo-Ken, issued an article on the 27th April, 1904, in the said *Kobe Herald*, No. 5341, in its 2nd column of page 4, under the heading "The News from Gensan." The article relates to the movements of the Japanese fleet, it is a description of Japanese tactics and indirectly points out the anchorage of the fleet. It is a violation of the Naval Instruction of the 5th January, 1904, and is liable to be punished according to the Imperial law. This was translated to the accused by Mr. Kojima and the former said he admitted having issued an article under the heading "News from Gensan"! but he denied that anything had been said about the anchorage of the Japanese Squadron.

The Public Procurator said he mentioned that the anchorage had been indirectly revealed.

The Judge asked the accused the following questions:—

Do you admit that you have inserted the article in question?—Yes, I wrote it myself. I admit the insertion of the article; but I deny that it can rightly be held to contravene the regulations. I question very much if there is a single paper published in this country which does not contain references to the movements of warships. Under the regulations as they stand it would be possible to prosecute every newspaper.

Do you admit that you have stated in the article

"Vice-Admiral Kamimura's fine homogeneous squadron of six armoured cruisers is somewhere in the Japan Sea—it was reported to have left Chinhai-wan six or seven days ago, presumably for Vladivostock or the near neighbourhood, it being obviously necessary that the enemy's squadron at Vladivostock should be either bottled up or smashed up? Yes, but it is not a definite statement of the movements of the Japanese Navy and there is nothing therein which can by any possibility be regarded as a statement of tactics, and that is what the Regulations refer to.

Do you admit giving the classification and number of war ships?—I do not perceive that the article can be held to be a violation of the Naval Instrucions.

The Public Procurator addressed the Court, and pointed out that the accused had admitted inserting the article. The clause which reads "Vice-Admiral Kamimura's fine homogeneous squadron of six armoured cruisers is somewhere in the Japan Sea," and another clause which reads: "It was reported to have left Chinhaiwan six or seven days ago, etc.," reveal Naval movements and anchorage, mention of which is prohibited in the Naval Instruction. There is no direct mention to the effect that Chinhai-wan is an anchorage of the Japanese Navy; but the departure of the warships from the place indirectly reveals it as an anchorage. However, the tenour of the whole article reveals great sympathy with the Japanese Navy, and as this is this the accused's first offence the punishment should be as light as possible, according to the provision for a fine in Art. 31 of the Press Law, which provides punishment for offenders against Art. 22 of the Press Law, and clause No. 1 of the Naval Instructions.

Asked if he wished to address the Court, Accused said he was surprised that proceedings in a Criminal Court should have been instituted against him in consequence of the article entitled "News from Gensan." He denied that anything therein was in any sense a violation of the Law. Article 22 of that Law provides that the Minster of State for War and the Minster of State for the Navy may issue Special Orders prohibiting the publication of matter relating to the movements of troops and war vessels, or to military secrts and tactics. What was there in the article which had occasioned his prosecution that could be considered a secre or a statement of tactics? There was nothing in the article to warrant such a charge. Had he imagined that there was any secret in the article, he would have first sought the permission of the authorities before publishing it. For the last thing he should think of doing would be to expose either naval or military plans. As to that, he stated that on various occasions since the outbreak of war he had declined to use translations of paragraphs, etc., published in Japanese newspapers about the transportation of troops. the concentration of rolling stock at some railway centre, etc., because in his opinion such matter, if published, might have apprised the country's enemy of an impending movement. Reverting to Art. 22, he reminded the Court that it related to the divulging of *secrets*, matters that were intended to be kept secret. Could the presence of Rear-Admiral Kamimura's squadron in the Japan Sea—a fairly large area of water—of the reported departure of the ships from Chinhai-wan 6 or 7 days before be said to be secret matters? Had he said Rear-Admiral Kamimura's Squadron had gone north, to Vladivosock or Possiet Bay, or Hakodate, or Gensan then he might have been reuealing military secrets, assuming of course that the ships had gone to the places indicated. Moreover, the article says *it was reported*. This qualification of the statement was used in the sense of "fubun." It was not a positive statement that the ships had left. Clause 1 of the Naval Instruction should be read in the light of Clause 2 and obviously the prohibition was intended to cover movements in future. The news in question regarded the past and it could not, by any conceivable means, be turned to account for the benefit of the enemy. That, in brief, was his view. He could enlarge on the subject for an hour or more in support of his contention, but he did not think it was necessary, and concluded with an earnest appeal [illegible] the Court for the dismissal of the case.

Judgment was reserved to 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

On the Court reopening [illegible] the afternoon, judgment was passed. Accused was found guilty, and sentenced to a fine of *yen* 20.

Notice of appeal was given.

The following is a translation of the judgment.

Alfred W. Curtis, British subject, 76, Kio-machi, Kobe, Hiogo Ken, Japan, Editor and publisher of the *Kobe Herald*.

The following judgment has been given in the case in which the foregoing party is charged with having been guilty of a violation of the Naval Instruction.

The accused is fined *yen* 20.

The copy of the newspaper placed in the hands of the Court will be returned to the party who presented it.

The accused is the Editor and publisher of the *Kobe Herald*, published at No. 76-A, Kio-machi, Kobe, Hiogo Ken, Japan. In No. 5341 of the journal, published on the 27th April, 1904, he inserted an article in the 2nd column of the 4th page, under the heading "The News from Gensan" in which he stated that Vice-Admiral Kamimura's fine homogeneous squadron of six armoured cruiser is somewhere in the Japan Sea—it was reported to have left Chinhaiwan six or seven days ago, presumably for Vladivostock or the near neighbourhood, it being obviously necessary that the enemy's squadron at Vladivostock should be either bottled up or smashed up, etc., etc., and mentioned the movements or the Japanese war-ships in the Sea of Japan and their number and classification. The accused admits having written the foregoing article himself. The copy of the journal in the Court's hands contains the said article and the fact of the insertion of the article is established. The accused pleads that these lines do not relate to military tactics or secrets, but the article mentions the movements, classification and number, and these items relate to military secrets and tactics as the lines themselves indicate. On these grounds the defence of the accused is rejected.

The offence of the accused is a violation of Art. 22 of the Press Law and No. 1 of the Naval Instructions, and he is, therefore, to be punished according to Art. 31 of the Press Law. The copy of the paper in custody is to be disposed of according to Art. 202 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the foregoing judgment is therefore given.

DEATH OF SIR H. M. STANLEY.

The death of Sir Henry Morton Stanley, G.C.B., D.C.L., LL.D., removes a world known figure. Born in 1841 near Denbigh, Wales, he was when three years of age placed in the poor-house of St. Asaph, where he remained ten years, and received an education which enabled him to teach in a school.

At the age of fifteen he sailed as cabinboy in a vessel bound for New Orleans. Here he was adopted by a merchant named Stanley, whose name he took in place of his original one, which was John Rowlands. His patron died without leaving a will, and young Stanley was left to his own resources. He enlisted in the Confederate army, was made a prisoner, and subsequently joined the Federal navy, serving as acting ensign on the *Ticonderoga*. After the close of the war he went to Turkey as a newspaper correspondent, and in 1886-7 was sent by the *New York Herald* as its correspondent with the British army in Abyssinia, and subsequently travelled in Spain and elsewhere for the same paper. He was finally sent by the conductor of the *Herald* to find Dr. Livingstone, of whom nothing had been heard for more than two years. Stanley sailed from Bombay in October, 1870, and reached Zanzibar, on the east of Africa, early in January, 1871, and on Nov. 10 found Livingstone at Ujiji, on Lake Tanganyika, where he had just arrived from the southwest. Stanley furnished him with supplies, explored the northern part of Lake Tanganyika with him, and remained until February, 1872, when Livingstone started on the journey from which he never returned, and Stanley made his way back to Europe, reaching England in July, 1872. Here he was received with great enthusiasm, was publicly entertained, and presented by her Majesty with a gold snuff-box set with diamonds, and by the Royal Geographical Society (1873) with the patron's Gold Medal. The *èclat* of his first expedition induced the conductors of the *New York Herald* and of the London *Daily Telegraph* to send him, at their own expense, on another Africa Expedition. He reached Zanzibar in the autumn of 1874 and, learning that Livingstone was dead, resolved to go north-westward and explore the region of Lake Victoria N'yanza. This, after many encounters with the natives and the loss by death or desertion of 104 men out of 300, he reached in February, 1875, and found it to be the largest body of fresh water on the globe, having an area of 40,000 square miles. He then pushed westward towards Lake Albert N'yanza, and was able to satisfy himself that it was not, as had been generally supposed, connected with Lake Tanganyika. Forced by the hostility of the natives to return to Ujiji, he determined to descend the great river discovered by Livingstone, and believed by him to be the Nile, but which others thought was the Congo (and Stanley by this journey ascertained it was). It had been named by Livingstone the Luálaba, but by Stanley it was named the Livingstone. The descent, chiefly by canoes, occupied him eight months, cost him the lives of thirty-five men, and was accomplished under the greatest difficulties and privatious. On reaching a settlement on the coast, a Portuguese national vessel took him to St. Paul de Loanda, whence an English vessel conveyed the party to the Cape of Good Hope, and thence to Zanzibar. Here his men were left at their home; and Stanley reached England in February, 1878. He published an account of his first expedition, under the title of "How I Found Livingstone," 1872. Of his second expedition an account is given in "Through the Dark Continent," 1878 (abridged edition, 1885). The President of the French Geographical Society presented the Cross of Chevalier of the Legion of Honour to Mr. Stanley at the Sorbonne, Paris, June 28, 1878. In 1879-82 he visited Africa again, sent there by the Brussels African International Association with a view to developing the great basin of the river Congo. The King of the Belgians devoted from his private purse £50,000 per annum towards this costly enterprise. Stanley completed the work in 1884, having established trading stations along the Congo River from its mouth to Stanley Pool, 1,400 miles by river. A description of his labours in this field was published by him in 1885 under the title "The Congo and the Founding of its Free State." On Jan 13, 1887, he was presented with the honorary freedom of the City of London, just on the eve of his departure for a fourth time to Africa. This expedition was made for the purpose of relieving Emin Pacha, Governor of Equatorial Africa, whose condition was known in Europe to have become precarious. Stanley fulfilled his mission, succoured Emin and brought him and his followers safely back to Egypt, but only after the most severe hardships endured in any of his explorations, and with a loss of over 400 out of the 650 men he had taken with him. Nearly three years were occupied in the journey. Among the important geographical results of the expedition were the discovery of the Semliki River, of Mount Ruvenzori (thought to be 17,000 feet high), of Lake Albert Edward, and of the south-western extension of Lake Victoria. Lake Albert Edward proved to be the primary source of the White Nile, and it was shown that its waters connect through the Semliki with the Albert N'yanza. Stanley reached Cairo near the close of 1889, and remained there until the following spring in order to write a record of the journey. This was published simultaneously in England, France, Germany, and the United States in June, 1890, under the title of "In Darkest Africa" (2 vols.). His return to England was an unending ovation. The Universities of Oxford and Durham bestowed upon him the degree of D.C.L.; that of LL.D. was conferred upon him by the University of Cambridge, and every institution and individual sought to do him honor. On July 12, 1890, in Westminster Abbey, he was married to Miss Dorothy Tennant, an artist of considerable talent, and a lady well known in society. She is the daughter of Sir C. Tennant. A controversy subsequently arose relative to certain incidents mentioned in a "Life of Major Barttelot," which amounted to charges against Mr. Stanley. He defended himself from these charges before undertaking a lecturing tour to America. On his return with Mrs. Stanley in 1891, he lectured in many parts of the United Kingdom, and in 1891 paid a visit to Australia. On his return he settled in London and took out a certificate of naturalisation. At the general election in July he stood as a Unionist for North Lambeth, but was not returned. During the controversy about Uganda he was strongly in favour of retaining that country. In November, 1893, appeared his book on "My Dark Companions and their Strange Stories." In 1898 appeared his "Through South Africa," being an account of his visit to the Cape. He was created G.C.B. at the Birthday, 1899.

THE YELLOW PERIL.

By Archibald R. Colquhoun, F.R.G.S.

There are many people who, despite an entire sympathy with Japan in her reasons for declaring war, are still possessed by a lurking fear lest any great degree of success might make her a dangerous factor in world politics. In a word, the "Yellow Peril," that bogy embodied by the German Emperor in a world-famous cartoon, is at work among us, even among the people who have been first and foremost in urging the yellow peoples to adopt a Western civilization.

It may be said at once that these doubts and fears as to the aggrandizement of a yellow race are not, on the surface of things, without foundation. One of the principal aims of Japan in the present conflict is to bind China to her, by fetters too strong to be broken, and there is a shrewd suspicion that in so doing she is actuated by something more than a mere desire to save the yellow races from domination by the white. To the conquering Slav, Teuton or Anglo-Saxon this may seem a dangerous doctrine, though he can hardly count it an unreasonable one.

Let us see what progress Japan has made toward effecting the moral union which must be the foundation of any Pan-Mongol union. Interesting data on this point are supplied by [illegible] recent report of the "Society for the Diffusion of Christian and General Knowledge Among the Chinese." This society, by adopting a broad-minded view of Chinese needs, is accomplishing a little-noticed but very important work. It numbers some of the most distinguished Americans and Englishmen in China among its members, and although some of the ablest Christian missionaries are among them, the work of the society is quite as much secular as religious, its aim being to enlarge the horizon of the Chinese and teach him to rise above the ignorant provincialism which is his bane.

Among the most interesting details of the work accomplished is the fact that thirty-five complete sets of the "Encyclopædia Brittanica" were sold to Chinamen in Shanghai, and had there been a Chinese translation hundreds of copies could have been disposed of. Still more remarkable are the examples given of questions, taken from various provinces, of examination papers set for the *Chu Jên*, or M.A. degree. In Kiangsi the students were asked to explain Free Trade and Protection—a question which very few M.A.'s in Britain or the United States would care to tackle at this moment. They were asked also, What is the bearing of the Congress of Vienna, of the Treaty of Berlin, and of the Monroe Doctrine on the Far East? Wherein lies the naval supremacy of Great Britain? What is the bearing of the Siberian Railway and Nicaragua Canal on China? In Shantung: Define the relations of land, labor and capital. How best to develop the resources of China by mines and railways? How best to modify the civil and criminal laws in order to regain authority over those now under extraterritoriality privileges? In Fukien: Which Western nations have paid most attention to education, and what is the result? What are the government, industries and education of Switzerland, which, though small, is independent of surrounding great Powers? In Kwangtung (Canton): How to promote Chinese international commerce, new industries, and savings banks, versus the gambling houses of China? In Hunan: What is the policy of Japan—only following other nations or what? In Anhui: How do foreigners get faithful men for their Government services?

Some of these are taken from the pamphlets issued by the society, but that such subjects should appeal to the *literati* of China as worthy of study is in itself an eloquent commentary on the spirit which is at last awaking in China. As regards this spirit the society speaks with evident diffidence, disclaiming any responsibility for having "stirred up reform." Reform is in the air; China is seething with it, they say, and we are but endeavoring to turn it into favorable channels. Whence has come this spirit, so long lacking, despite the labors of many Europeans in the missionary field? I have no hesitation in saying that it is Japan that has breathed a new life into the decaying civilization of China.

The Japanese reformer in China is, of course possessed of many advantages over his Western compeers. One of the most powerful weapons he has wielded has been the press, of which, though so recently introduced in his own country, he had already learned the use in reaching people who would otherwise be outside the range of his possible influence. Before 1895 there were no newspapers in China save the English ones, one German, and a few missionary sheets in Chinese, issued for the purpose of religious propaganda. The Reform movement of 1896-98 gave birth to a large number of newspapers in Chinese, generally of a revolutionary character, followed by others in French, German and Russian, which, however, had little effect on public opinion. The Japanese opened a new era by publishing in Peking, Tientsin, Shanghai, and even in the interior, papers which, although in the Chinese language, gave a view of Japanese development and of Western civilization from an Oriental point of view. It is obvious that these papers were likely to achieve greater popularity than any previously issued, and their influence has no doubt been enormous.

The practice of sending Chinese students to Tokyo (of whom there are already more than 1,000 in Japan, some of them supported by provincial subscriptions) and of obtaining Japanese teachers in many branches of education has increased rapidly, and Japanese have replaced the British or American teachers in most of the colleges. The visits paid by Chinese princes to foreign countries have inaugurated a new era in the history of the nobility.

Formerly the reports of the Ambassadors abroad or of such Chinese officials as visited Europe or America were treated with indifference or Contempt by the ruling Manchus, but this will hardly occur again now that Prince Chun has visited Germany (although on an unpleasant mission) and that Prince Chen has been to England to attend the coronation, has patronized the Osaka exhibition, and has inspected the various institutions of Japan. Even the Mongol Princes have taken to traveling, and Japan is the Mecca to which their footsteps tend. We hear that a Chinese Prince is to go to the St. Louis Exhibition; so that East and West are indeed meeting at last! Several sons of high families have embraced the opportunity offered by the legations in Washington and London to gain acquaintance with the West and study the English language, and a very different fate awaits them from that which used to befall the unfortunate men who formerly, at great pains, acquired this knowledge. The most he could hope for in the old days was to become interpreter to a viceregal yamen, and he was *persona grata* to neither his own people nor the foreigner.

Another powerful element in spreading knowledge has been the extension of the postal system throughout China. Newspapers, magazines and even books now penetrate to the remotest part of the empire—a reform due to the organization of Sir Robert Hart; so that Japan must not receive all the credit.

Can anything be more significant than one of the examination questions quoted: "Is Japan merely following other nations?" Here to my mind lies the secret of her success in fanning the embers of reform to a blaze. The intense pride of race which animates the Chinaman made it difficult for him to accept the *rôle* of imitator of the Western peoples, whom he regarded as barbarians, despite their superior equipment in practical matters. His first conception of Japanese renascence was that she was a mere pupil, to be tied to the chariot wheels of her teacher. Japan has now taught him otherwise.

It is customary for us to speak as if Japan in adopting a Western civilization had, in fact, sunk her own personality; but it is becoming increasingly evident that this is not the case. Her views of Western affairs would probably surprise and scandalize a good many of the people who have been wont to patronize her as an apt and intelligent pupil. Having grasped the world-conditions in which she was to play a part, she set about equipping herself for the *rôle* she desired to play; but her avowed ambition to be quit of leading strings at the earliest opportunity, the reticence and independence of her attitude and the steadiness of her aim have indicated clearly enough that she had no intention of becoming a mere Westernized appendage of the European or American continents. As a matter of fact, Japan, despite the adoption of Western dress by her Government, despite the organization of an army and navy on (improved) European standards—despite everything she has done to make herself efficient as a nation—has not adopted Western civilization *en bloc*. Her ideals her sympathies, her attitude toward the great central facts of life remain what they were. The Japanese is no travestied Westerner; he remains true to himself, to his race, to his traditions, while conforming to the demands of a dominant civilization.

He is teaching China this view of reform, and it is not a matter for wonder that some of the keenest foreign observers in China are rather uneasy as to the results of the lesson. It is certain that thus, and thus only, can the barrier of Chinese obstructiveness be overcome; but whether the results will be favorable to Western influences is extremely doubtful. From the point of view of the Christian missonary it is more than doubtful. Japanese influence makes rather for religious indifferentism than for any creed, but an association has been already formed of those who are professedly Buddhistic in religion and pro-Japanese in politics. It is the presentation of educational projects, either under the sanction of a common religion or from a purely scientific, utilitarian and frequently agnostic platform, which gives the Japanese their second stronghold upon the attention of the people.

The general opinion among the best informed on Chinese subjects is that the people are fast ripening for radical changes, and when we remember the extraordinary revolution wrought in Japan in a few years we need not be surprised at the quick growth of reform feeling in China. A large number of the older officials, particularly the nobles, are not in sympathy with the movement, which, they know, would be the death-knell to their pretensions and monopoly of political power. Nevertheless, they are to a growing extent pro-Japanese, being, indeed, between the devil and the deep sea, since foreign nations threaten them on the one hand and their own people on the other. In Japan they see the saviour of China from rapacious Europe, but at the same time they dread the revolution she is working up in the long-suffering Chinese.

A very notable change has recently been taking place in the sentiments of the Chinese Government and people toward Russia. The machinations of Japan have effected their object in opening even Manchu eyes to the true nature of the "friendship" on which Li-Hung-chang had taught them to lean. Occurrences in Mongolia and Tibet have given them grave cause for alarm, for they are perfectly aware that in losing control of Lhassa and opening the door to Russia they were forfeiting something far more important than a mere outlying dependent state of little economic value. The present move of the British into Tibet—a technical violation of territory which we had on a previous occasion evacuated rather than offend Chinese susceptibilities—comes at an auspicious moment for the rehabilitation of British prestige in Chinese eyes, and at the same time, taken in concurrence with Japanese successes on the seaboard of Manchuria, will turn the tide of feeling strongly against Russia. Nothing succeeds like success, and the opportunism which is the only policy left for a distracted China will lead her at a moment's notice to reverse a policy which has led to the present imbroglio. Unfortunately for the aspirations of anti-Western Chinese reformers (an expression which would have been impossible a few years ago, when reform and Westernization were synonymous terms), there are in the vast Chinese empire too many points of contact with Western nations, more particularly with Russia, to permit her to work out her salvation on independent lines like insular Japan.

It is for this reason that I am not by any means appalled by the prospect of the Yellow Peril. Were China a continent by herself, were there no great British empire in Asia, no vast American republic on the other side of the Pacific, no Holy Russian empire, no progressive Germany, no Suez or Trans-isthmian canal—in short, could we put back world-conditions for many centuries—I could feel, as felt Western civilization, a genuine thrill at the prospect of invading Mongol hordes—innumerable, invincible sweeping across Europe like devouring locusts.

Personally, I consider the Japanization of China preferable to that partition which has so long been hanging over a moribund empire. If the Japanese can succeed in galvanizing China into life, it will be more to our advantage than if the European situation continued to reproduce itself, with alarming variations in the balance of power, in and around the Pacific. Whatever may be the ultimate trend of her civilization, we have no reason to believe that Japan's influence will be exerted to our detriment. An insular people, reproducing in many features the situation of Britain, she is still debarred by world-conditions from following the British path of colonization and world-empire. Her avowed policy to preserve China intact and to open her to the commerce of the world is precisely our own, only she endeavors to obtain her objects by strengthening China, whereas certain of the Western Powers tried to achieve this by a process of exhaustion. The fears of an industrial invasion by the yellow man are better founded, but it must not be forgotten that the principal objection to Oriental labour will be done away with. Meanwhile, we are able to protect ourselves by extraneous measures, which, however lacking in logic, are still effective from our own point of view.

Notwithstanding this optimistic view of Japan's mission in China, it is my earnest conviction that the Anglo-Saxon peoples cannot afford to be quiescent in the near future, if they desire to preserve intact the interests they have created. Japan will not be their cat's paw. They will have to take a hand themselves to get their chestnuts out of the fire. At any moment the death of the Empress-Dowager, the outbreak of revolution or the fortune of war might create a situation of the greatest delicacy in the Far East and in any case the conclusion of the war, whatever its issue, will leave a host of points to be settled, in which Britain and America are deeply interested. It would be well if both countries were agreed as to the main lines of policy in any contingencies which may conceivably arise, so that they shall be able, in cooperation, to take up a firm attitude on disputed points and thus to guard against dangerous regrettable eventualities.

TRADE OF JAPAN.

Summary of the foreign trade of Japan for April, 1904, and comparison with the corresponding month of the previous year:—

EXPORTS.

MANUFACTURED ARTICLES.

	1904. Yen.	1903. Yen.
Silk tissues, habutae	3,237,862	2,050,766
Silk tissues, kaiki	57,779	71,031
Silk handkerchiefs	389,926	296,950
Cotton tissues	678,246	493,114
Towels	133,519	44,553
Matches	774,121	701,607
Mats and mattings, Hanagoza	232,199	175,659
Porcelain and earthen ware	291,132	255,789
Lacquered ware	107,777	61,316
Umbrellas, European	233,953	274,689
Cigarettes	216,627	128,454
Others	1,558,462	1,839,432
Total	7,911,603	6,394,360

MANUFACTURED ARTICLES HALF WROUGHT.

	1904. Yen.	1903. Yen.
Silk, raw	4,113,524	4,599,050
Silk, noshi and waste	283,536	401,593
Cotton yarns	1,298,093	2,964,642
Straw-plaits	422,398	208,822
Tea	61,200	83,814
Camphor	403,924	390,261
Others	1,747,366	1,213,332
Total	8,330,041	9,861,514

RAW PRODUCTS.

Coal	1,568,059	2,003,808
Rice	209,366	439,114
Cuttle-fish	106,892	87,040
Sea-weeds & cut sea-weeds	6,408	18,897
Mushroom, dried	62,271	40,067
Copper, coarse & refined	948,570	1,195,493
Fish oil	79,132	32,122
Vegetable wax	136,722	94,330
Others	1,416,783	1,295,977
Total	4,534,203	5,206,848
Grand total	20,775,847	21,462,722

Summary of total value of specie and bullion exported from and imported into Japan for the same period.

EXPORTS.		
Gold coin and gold bullion	15,705,274	18,608
Silver coin and silver bullion	50,890	95,068
Total	15,756,164	113,676
IMPORTS.		
Gold coin and gold bullion	124,340	7,236,656
Silver coin and silver bullion	2,447	12,578
Total	126,787	7,249,234
Excess of exports	15,629,377	—
Excess of imports	—	7,135,558

Summary of the shipping (foreign trade) for the same period.

ENTERED.	Ton.	Ton.
Japanese	48,041	439,655
Foreign	868,940	728,059
Total	916,981	1,167,714
CLEARED.		
Japanese	54,390	453,507
Foreign	843,977	715,751
Total	898,367	1,169,258

IMPORTS.

GROUP I.	1904. Yen.	1903. Yen.
Cotton, raw	4,806,823	6,516,958
Cotton yarns	37,467	158,414
Wool	835,326	374,704
Flax, hemp, jute, &c.	318,860	207,891
Iron nails	136,445	54,683
Rails	126,148	238,433
Iron, bar and rod	245,462	292,185
Iron pipes and tubes	78,865	154,097
Other iron and steel	525,700	782,976
Indigo, dry	55,726	629,946
Paper	246,236	297,546
Leather, sole and other	175,807	152,633
Machinery and engines	640,294	753,946
Locomotive-engines, railway passengers and freight	120,996	317,794
Steam vessels	1,677,409	460,767
Others	3,714,976	2,646,183
Total	13,742,610	14,039,156
GROUP II.		
Mousseline de laine	724,040	452,969
Woollen cloths	640,068	85,369
Shirtings & cotton prints	81,345	396,669
Cotton satins & velvets	74,968	115,608
Sugar, brown & white	928,093	1,706,405
Others	1,993,402	1,342,816
Total	3,213,916	4,099,836
GROUP III		
Rice	8,465,510	9,127,601
Beans, peas & pulse	383,135	775,791
Flour, wheat	739,533	396,097
Kerosene oil	1,060,663	922,001
Oil-cake	221,299	2,010,751
Others	3,352,540	1,720,872
Total	14,222,680	14,953,113
Grand total	31,179,206	33,092,105
Total of exports & imports	51,955,053	54,554,827
Excess of exports	—	—
Excess of imports	10,403,359	11,629,383

Summary of the foreign trade and shipping of Taiwan (Formosa) for the same period.

	1904. Yen.	1903. Yen.
Exports	317,591	290,704
Imports	1,187,367	898,872
Total	1,504,958	1,189,576
Excess of exports	—	—
Excess of imports	869,776	601,168
Exports, specie and bullion	21,000	26,433
Imports, specie and bullion	2,394	152,275
Excess of exports	18,606	—
Excess of imports	—	125,842

Summary of the shipping (foreign trade) for the same period.

ENTERED.	Ton.	Ton.
Japanese	1,719	6,873
Foreign	14,847	6,782
Total	16,566	13,655
CLEARED.		
Japanese	1,698	6,085
Foreign	17,032	5,969
Total	18,730	12,054

AMERICAN VIEWS OF THE BRITISH TIBET EXPEDITION.

With few exceptions, says the *Literary Digest*, the American press treat with satire and scepticism the British professions of high motives in their expedition into Tibet which killed 400 Tibetans and wounded 200 near Guru. Colonel Younghusband, political agent of the Indian Government, with an escort of 1,000 men under General Macdonald, was sent out last October to secure the Dalai Lama's obedience to the treaty of 1890, which grants the British of India certain trade privileges in Tibet. Great Britain claims that Tibet did not live up to its obligations, and suspicions are entertained that this disregard of the treaty was due to Russian influence. The authorities in Tibet have been reluctant to discuss the subject, and the expedition was repeatedly told that it would have to return to the frontier before any terms would be considered. Near Guru an emissary of the Tibetan Government, at the head of a force of 1,500, ordered the expedition to travel no farther in the direction of the forbidden city of Lhassa. Colonel Younghusband refused to withdraw, and General Macdonald conceived the idea of dispersing the Tibetans without the use of arms. As the Tibetans resisted the effort to disarm them, an engagement ensued, in which 400 Tibetans were killed, while the British suffered a loss of about a dozen, slightly wounded. A few rifles captured from the Tibetans bear the Russian imperial stamp, and the ammunition also is said to have been of Russian make. A British account says that "the whole affair was brought upon the Tibetans by themselves, as Colonel Younghusband and General Macdonald and the troops exercised the greatest possible forbearance and patience." A number of our papers, however, think that the Tibetans had every right to protest against and resist the entry of an armed British force into their country; and General Macdonald's idea of "peaceably" disarming the native army, and then mowing them when they resisted, receives severe criticism. "It was sheer butchery, without palliation or excuse," declares the Philadelphia *Record*; and the Indianapolis *Sentinel* inquires: "What act of Russia, we ask, is as bad as this ruthless slaughter of an innocent pastoral people on their own soil by the liveried brigands of the British Empire?"

The New York *Evening Post* condemns the expedition on the ground of hypocrisy. It declares that "what damns the Younghusband expedition is that it was solemnly organized in the name of the peace of the world and the betterment of relations between the Emperor of India and the Lama." The Philadelphia *North American* thinks that by this affair in Tibet "Great Britain has forfeited every moral right to protest against France or Germany or Russia doing a similar thing. She has strengthened Russia in the eye of the world, and she has made the formidable task of her ally, Japan, more difficult. No one can say when the reports of the rifles at Guru will cease to echo." "The old familiar methods of spreading light and truth and charity of Christian civilization are still being employed," remarks the Boston *Transcript*.

On the other hand, the Providence *Journal* and Buffalo *Express* think England is about to do for Tibet what America did for Japan. But *The Journal* adds that "what has stirred the British to action in this business is not so much the value of a Tibet open to trade as the usefulness of a Tibet rescued from Russian influence and maintained as one more barrier to Russian advances toward India. Of the Russian agencies at work in the land of Lamas the world knows little but suspects much." *The Express*, which, by the way, regards our Philippine policy as too imperialistic, says:

> "The combat between General Macdonald's expedition and a party of Tibetans marks the beginning of the end of isolation of Tibet. That country is now the least-known corner of the inhabited globe. It is the last remaining hermit nation. It is the one place closed absolutely to travelers and to trade. The British expedition is doing for it what Commodore Perry did for Japan. It was hoped that the opening of the country could be effected in the same peaceful manner as was the opening of Japan. But there was little expectation of such an outcome. The fanaticism of the Tibetans, their ignorance of foreign power and of modern weapons were too well appreciated to make it probable that they would permit their isolation to be disturbed without resistance. The British, therefore, went prepared to fight, if necessary. And they have found it necessary.
>
> "Whether the consequence is the eventual annexation of Tibet to the British Empire or the acceptance of a treaty similar to the one Commodore Perry forced upon Japan, Tibet must henceforth be strongly under British influence. The British Government has taken an opportune time to accomplish this when Russia is engaged in Manchuria. It has long been a question whether the British or the Russians would be first in breaking into Tibet. The British position in India will not be strengthened by the extension of British influence so far to the north. This fact may lead to a Russian domination finally, as has happened in other districts of Central Asia, but the opening of the country will be the work of Englishmen."

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

REPORTED JAPANESE LOAN.

London, May 5.

Negotiations are approaching a conclusion with several financial houses in London for the issue of a Japanese loan of five millions sterling at six per cent., the security being a first charge on the Customs.

RUSSIANS SEARCH ANOTHER ENGLISH MAIL STEAMER.

The Russian gunboat *Krabri*, after firing a blank shot, stopped the P. & O. mail steamer *Osiris* nine hours' off Brindisi and after two hours' detention the mails were sorted. The Russians demanded the Japanese mails, but the latter were untouched, being at the bottom. After examining the other mails, the *Osiris* was allowed to proceed.

THE JAPAN SOCIETY'S DINNER.

London, May 6.

At the annual dinner of the Japan Society of London, Baron Hayashi, Japanese Minister to the Court of St. James, presided.

Baron Suyematsu declared in the course of his speech that the Japanese would never surrender before their blood was exhausted. Many thought that Japan was unable to carry on the war for economical reasons. He admitted that Japan's wealth was limited, but it was not so limited as outsiders supposed.

Baron Hayashi said the Emperor of Japan and the people of Japan would be much rejoiced at the warm manner in which England had shown her sympathy.

THE LIAOTUNG PENINSULA.

London May 7.

The Japanese forces have landed at Kinchow, forty miles from Port Arthur. Consequently the railway is closed and the investment of the town has begun.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR ON MACEDONIAN REFORMS.

Mr. A. J. Balfour, the British Prime

Minister, speaking at the great annual Habitation meeting of the Primrose League, dwelt on the difficulty of inducing the Porte to effect reforms, and declared that the Government would not allow themselves to be made the catspaw of the revolutionaries, who would rather have genuine reform fail than succeed if it did not go the whole length they desired. Mr. Balfour also referred to the enormous value of the Anglo-French agreement, which he believed would be permanent.

PORT ARTHUR SEALED AND ISOLATED.

London, May 8.

Though not officially admitted, it is believed in St. Petersburg that Port Arthur is isolated and that the harbour is sealed. Viceroy Alexieff and Grand Duke Boris left hurriedly to escape being cut off. The smallest possible force has been left in Port Arthur, which is provisioned for one year.

ANOTHER TIBETAN ATTACK REPULSED.

The London *Daily Mail* states that 800 Tibetans attacked the British Mission at Gyangtse on May 5th but were repulsed with heavy loss.

FRANCE AND THE POPE.

Later.

The Pope has sent to France a formal strong protest against the head of a Catholic State visiting the Quirinal. France has replied refusing absolutely to entertain the protest.

BALKAN REFORMS DISAPPOINTING.

London, May 9.

Lord Lansdowne, replying to a question, confessed that the progress of reforms in the Balkans was disappointing. If it was not accelerated we might be confronted by a situation fraught with the gravest anxiety.

TO STRENGTHEN THE MANCHURIA ARMY.

Later.

Russia has ordered the mobilization of the Markoff and Moscow Army Corps and other troops to strengthen the Manchuria Army.

THE TIBET EXPEDITION.

A company of Ghurkas and a company of Sikhs attacked 1,500 Tibetans on May 6th below Karko Pass. There was a six hours' fight during which the British had 25 casualties. Capt. Bethune was killed. The enemy fled, losing 200.

THE RUSSIAN CASUALTIES AT THE YALU.

London, May 10.

It is officially stated that the Russian casualties at the Yalu battle were: 70 officers and 2,324 men killed and wounded.

A BRILLIANT CAMPAIGN.

The London *Telegraph* says the campaign has been conducted with brilliance almost unparalleled in war. Japan's success has been due to a consummate combination of naval and military action which even England has never rivalled.

THE JAPANESE LOAN.

Later.

The Japanese Loan, which was expected to be issued on the 8th instant, was quoted on Saturday at 2½ per cent. premium and yesterday at 3 per cent. Its unqualified success is assured.

GERMAN NEUTRALITY.

In the German Reichstag the Socialist leader, Herr Bebel, attacked the Government for its pro-Russian attitude in the war. He declared that the Kaiser's telegram of sympathy on the occasion of the *Petropavlovsk* disaster did not in any wise reflect the feeling of the nation. Count Buelow denied that the Kaiser's telegram was any departure from neutrality. He also expressed regret that a disaster to a neighbouring and friendly nation had been made the object of malicious articles and caricatures in the German press.

A REPORT FROM ALEXIEFF.

London, May 11.

A telegram from Viceroy Alexieff to the Tzar said that railway communication with Port Arthur was restored on Monday night.

JAPAN'S AIMS.

Baron Suyematsu in an interview of Reuter's representative in London, declared that Japan's first and chief aim was to push back Russia as far as possible. Russia must never be allowed to obtain political or territorial hold in Korea.

NEW JAPANESE LOAN.

A Japanese loan of five millions has been fully underwritten in New York at 93. It is quoted at a premium of 3.

(Received at the Legation of France.)

GENERAL KUROPATKIN'S REPORT.

Saigon, May 6.

The report of General Kuropatkin explains that the Japanese directed their principal attack against the Russian left wing, which was composed of only five to six thousand men, the rest of the army being dispersed over a wide expanse of territory. Thus the Russian Army were compelled to fight against an enemy five to six times their superior in numbers. A Russian regiment covered the retreat and combatted heroically against an entire Division and was decimated. Two batteries of Artillery were obliged to abandon their guns, the ground being impracticable, all their horses as well as nearly all their gunners being killed. The Russians nevertheless spiked their guns. The Japanese attempted pursuit in the direction of Fengwang-tien, but were checked, losing 300 men.

Port Arthur reports that the Russians have successfully repelled a new attack of the Japanese. They sank eight steamers armed with artillery and two torpedo boats.

FRENCH NEWS.

Saigon, May 7.

The Ministers of the Powers are acting in perfect accord in Peking to maintain the strict neutrality of China.

Tokyo reports that the Japanese are commencing to debark on the Liaotung Peninsula.

M. Waldeck-Rousseau — former First Minister—has undergone a serious surgical operation.

FRENCH NEWS.

Saigon, May 10.

General Kuropatkin estimates the total losses at the Yalu at 70 officers and 2,324 soldiers killed, wounded or missing.

In the general municipal elections which have just taken place, the Ministerialists gained the majority in Paris and in several of the provincial councils. Their opponents triumphed at Marseilles, Lille, Bordeaux, and some other great cities.

(Received in Tokyo.)

KOREANS RESUME THEIR OCCUPATIONS.

In consequence of efforts made by the Japanese Commissariat Department, and of the advice of the local officials the farmers in the districts between Pyong-yang and Anju have for the most part returned to their work and are engaged putting in their spring crops, so that no succour need be given to them.

(Received at the War Office).

COSSACKS AT ANJU.

On May 10th 200 Cossacks attacked the garrison at Anju, which held its ground until the arrival of reinforcements from Pyong-yang. There appears to be still some force of the enemy in Nyong-tyong.

(Received at the Foreign Office.)

FOREIGN PRESS ON THE WAR.

The tone of public opinion in Paris has undergone a marked change in consequence of the rapidity and force of the military blows delivered by Japan. The newpapers, being still pro-Russian, do not yet predict the ultimate success of Japan, but have nevertheless conspicuously altered their manner of discussing the two belligerents. They seem to have comprehended that they took a wrong view in regarding Russia as an invincible military Power. The *Temps*, in discussing the Russian failure to offer any resistance to the landing of the Japanese, adopts a sarcastic tone and opines that Russia will begin her offensive action from Liaoyang on land and from the Baltic on sea. It ridicules Kuropatkin's grand policy of crushing patience. Such a passive attitude, it says, does not inspire any confidence. The *New York Herald*, hitherto absolutely Russophil, now turns round and expresses astonishment at the want spirit shown by the Russians.

(From the "Jiji Shimpo.")

THE NEW JAPANESE LOAN.

London, May 10.

The new Japanese loan advanced to-day £3 over the issue price.

The quotations of other Japanese bonds also showed a remarkable rise.

FIRE AT A RUSSIAN ARSENAL.

Fire has broken out at the Cronstadt Arsenal. The ammunition magazine in the neigbourhood of the outbreak narrowly escaped destruction.

Subsequently, all the foreign workmen employed in the Arsenal were dismissed. Military officers have been ordered to take the place of civilians.

U. S. NAVAL MOVEMENTS.

Two warships of the United States have been ordered to Chefoo.

DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN EXPLORER.

Sir Henry Morton Stanley, G.C.B., D.C.L., LL.D., is dead.

(From the "N.-C. Daily News.")

CONCEALMENT OF THE NEWS IN RUSSIA.

London, May 3.

No official announcement was issued at St. Petersburg yesterday regarding the outcome of the battle on the Yalu, but alarming rumours were in circulation of the full retreat of the Russians and the loss of guns.

RUSSIAN VOLUNTEERS TO THE FRONT.

The first detachment of St. Petersburg volunteers, one hundred and sixty in number, drawn from all classes of society, started for the front yesterday, in the midst of immense crowds and frantic enthusiasm.

IMPEACHING GERMAN NEUTRALITY.

London, May 4.

The Socialist organs at Berlin affirm that the great German shipyards are building at extra pressure destroyers and torpedo-boats for Russia, and these are being exported in sections to Libau in order to conceal the breach of neutrality involved.

INDIGNATION OF THE PORTE.

Replying to the complaint of the Porte that it was not consulted in reference to the Anglo-French Agreement, Great Britain declares that the Agreement does not affect Turkey's rights of suzerainty in Egypt.

THE SEAMY SIDE OF WAR.

London, May 6.

General Kuropatkin has asked the Red Cross Society to send two thousand more beds for the military hospitals at the front.

CHINESE LABOUR FOR THE RAND.

A motion for adjournment made by Major Seely in the House of Commons, on the ground of the ill-treatment of natives on the Rand, was negatived by 213 votes to 150.

(FROM THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.")

SOMALILAND.

London, April 28.

A naval force has captured Illig, on the Somaliland coast. Fighting took place at close quarters, the enemy attacking our zarebas. The British loss was slight, whereas the dervishes lost heavily.

GERMAN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

An outbreak of typhus has occurred among the German forces in South-West Africa. The mortality is as high as 50 per cent.

(FROM THE "SINGAPORE FREE PRESS.")

PROSPEROUS EGYPT.

London, April 25.

The prospectus of a million and a quarter sterling bonds of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt, was issued yesterday. The issue was immediately quoted at three-quarters to one premium.

BRITISH ROYALTIES AT VIENNA.

The Prince and Princess of Wales have left Vienna. The visit has made an excellent impression.

"CHESHIRES" RUN WILD.

Owing to the police arresting their comrades for minor offences, the recruits of the Cheshire Regiment about to embark on the troopship *Assaye* broke out from the Docks at Southampton and marched through the Town smashing the windows and rioting. The police drew their truncheons and drove the rioters back to their barracks. Several of the soldiers were injured. The ringleaders have been arrested.

HOME POLITICS.

The general impression in political circles is that the position of the Government has become stronger. Though the Budget and the Licensing Bill were received with no enthusiasm, neither measure is likely to involve the Government in serious difficulties but much depends on the attitude of Mr. Chamberlain. Liberal circles believe that Mr. Chamberlain does not desire to press the fiscal question for the present. They regard the cancelling of the meeting which he intended to address in East London as significant. On the other hand Mr. Chamberlain in addressing the Tariff Commission expressed his gratification at the progress of the work, and the fact that the information supplied to the Commission by manufacturers indicated a widespread public interest.

THE FRANCO-BRITISH ENTENTE.

The Times, commenting on Lord Cromer's recent speech at Cairo expressing the belief that the Anglo-French agreement will constitute the foundation of a notable friendship between France and England, eulogises warmly Lord Cromer and his patient, and vigorous administration, and the tact and skill wherewith he had gradually conciliated the French susceptibilities.

PLAGUE ON THE RAND.

There are 160 cases of plague in Johannesburg.

SOMALILAND.

Earl Percy in the House of Commons stated that the three years' war in Somaliland resulted in making the re-establishment of the Mullah's power impossible.

A TAXATION ROW AT SMYRNA,

The action of the Secretary of the Greek Consulate at Symrna in reference to the closing of Greek shops for the non-payment of taxes, led to a serious encounter between the Greeks and the Turkish troops. The Secretary was slightly injured: he thereupon fired on the Turkish troops. He was arrested but was subsequently released at the instance of the French Consul. It is reported at Athens that the Greek fleet has sailed for Smyrna.

(FROM THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH.")

NAVAL HOSPITAL AT WEI-HAI-WEI.

Wei-hai-wei, May 3.

Work in connection with the construction of the Naval Hospital here has been stopped in accordance with orders received from the Admiralty.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Pleiades	F. May 13
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic 1	Sa. May 14
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China 2	M. May 16
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan 3	Th. May 19
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Sa. May 21
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Sachsen	Sa. May 21
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Tremont	M. May 22
America	P. M. Co.	Mongolia 4	W. May 25
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Tartar	M. May 30
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Korea	Th. June 2

1 Left San Francisco on the 26th inst.
2 Left Vancouver on the 2nd inst.
3 Left Hongkong on the 11th inst.
4 Left San Francisco on the 7th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Pleiades	Sa. May 14
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Bayern	Sa. May 14
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Su. May 15
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. May 16
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Wingsang	W. May 18
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Em. of Japan	F. May 20
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Tu. May 23
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Tremont	Tu. May 23
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Mongolia	W. May 25
America	P. A. S.S. Co.	Arabia	Th. May 26
Hongkong	P. A. S.S. Co.	Indrasamha	F. May 27
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Tartar	Tu. May 31
America	P. M. Co.	Korea	Sa. June 4

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Empire, British steamer, 2,843, Helms, 6th May,—Australia and New Zealand, General.—Cornes & Co.

Bayern, German steamer, 3,128, D. Formes, 6th May,—Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co.

Manila, British steamer, 2,711, H. G. H. Lewellin, 6th May,—London via ports, General.—P. & O. S.S. Co.

Lydia, American steamer, 1,791, L. Birstenbran, 7th May,—Amping, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Emma, German steamer, 1,681, Zeigenmeyer, 7th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Benmohr, British steamer, 2,164, Webster, 7th May,—London via ports, 4th May, General.—Cornes & Co.

Kelvin, British steamer, 2,290, McLennan, 7th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Taisang, British steamer, 1,544, R. C. D. Bradley, 7th May,—Shanghai via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Athenian, British steamer, 2,428, S. Robinson, 8th May,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Claverly, British steamer, 1,902, Putt, 8th May,—New York via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Ascot, British steamer, 2,786, C. L. Cox, 8th May,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hounslow, British steamer, 1,860, H. Adshead, 8th May,—Moji, Coal.—Dodwell & Co.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,055, J. C. Jensen, 9th May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Siberia, American steamer, 5,655, J. T. Smith, 9th May,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Alcinous, British steamer, 4,278, J. Pulford, 8th May, Liverpool via ports, Geceral.—Butterfield & Swire.

Agamemnon, British steamer, 4,462, Hugh Nish, 9th May,—Tacoma, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Oakley, British steamer, 2,456, Wisnom, 9th May, Rangoon, Rice.—Dodwell & Co.

Heathdene, British steamer, 2,277, W. J. Milburn, 10th May,—Muroran, Coal—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Rasbera, British steamer, 2,500, Morrison, 10th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Strassburg, German steamer, 3,232, Madsen, 10th May,—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Kirkdale, British steamer, 1,853, A. J. Gibson, 11th May,—Saigon.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Jeseric, British steamer, 3,113, Sholton, 11th May,—New York via ports, General.—American Trading Co.

Prometheus, British steamer, 3,583, G. Moir, 11th May,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Melita, French steamer, 420 Leprévôt, 11th May,—Hongkong, Sugar.—Chinese.

Phu Yen, French steamer, 1,298, T. Thomas, 11th May,—Saigon, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Aragonia, German steamer, 3,324, Forst, 11th May, Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Lennox, British steamer, 2,361, McNair, 11th May,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ernest Simons, French steamer, 2,162, Bourdon, 12th May,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M.M. & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Polynesien, French steamer,* 2,903, Le Coispellier, 6th May,—Marseilles and ports, Mails and General.—M.M. Co.

Glenturret, British steamer, 3,026, R. Webster, 6th May,—Moji, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Hyades, American steamer, 2,932, Geo. Wright, 6th May,—Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Satsuma, British steamer, 2,690, Chubb, 6th May,—Kobe, General.—Dodwell & Co.

Sheikh, British steamer, 2,228, C. Jones, 6th May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Loyal, British steamer, 1,337, J. Buhrman, 6th May,—Hyogo General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Armenia, German steamer, 3,469, Farst, 7th May,—Kobe, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Meridian, British steamer, 2,248, Timmouth, 7th May,—Moji, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Pleiades, American steamer, 2,932, F. G. Purrington, 7th May,—Kobe, General.—Dodwell & Co.

Emma Luyken, German Steamer, 1,109, H. Martens, 7th May,—Ballast,—Tangou Loong.

Empire, British steamer, 2,843, Helms, 7th May,—Kobe, General.—Cornes & Co.

Hyson, British steamer, 4,632, Davis, 8th May,—Victoria, B.C.—Butterfield and Swire.

Germania, German steamer, 1,714, J. Bruhn, 8th May,—Moji, Ballast.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Athenian, British steamer, 2,440, S. Robinson, 8th May,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Telena, British steamer, 3,124, H. Carter, 9th May,—Kobe, Kerosene Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co,

Dunblane, British steamer, 2,402, Martin, 9th May,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ganges, British steamer, 2,721, W. Sibbold, 9th May,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Emma, German steamer, 1,681, Zeigenmeyer, 9th May,—Moji, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Manila, British steamer, 2,711, H. G. H. Lewellin, 9th May,—London via ports, General.—P. & O. S.S. Co.

Radley, British steamer, 1,984, E. W. Cockney, 9th May,—Kuchinotsu, Ballast.—Cornes & Co.

Alcinous, British steamer, 4,278, J. Pulford, 10th May, Kobe, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Ascot, British steamer, 2,786, C. L. Cox, 10th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,055, J. C. Jensen, 10th May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Lydia, American steamer, 1,791, L. Birstenbran, 10th May,—Kobe, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Claverly, British steamer, 1,902, Putt, 11th May,—Moji, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Siberia, American steamer, 5,655, J. T. Smith, 11th May,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Tai Sang, British steamer, 1,544, R. C. D. Bradley, 11th May,—Shanghai via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Agamemnon, British steamer, 4,462, R. Day, 11th May,—Hongkong, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Benmohr, British steamer, 2,164, Webster, 12th May,—Kobe, General.—Cornes & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Empire*, from Australia via ports:—Mr. Berigny, Mrs. Mur, Mr. Goodison, Mr. Kuhn, Colonel Tulloch, Mr. Newman, Mr. and Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Pass, child and amah, Rear Admiral and Mrs. Foote, Mr. Eagar, Mr. Baggallay, Mr. Mihara, Mr. Aall, Mr. Reynell and child, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Paul, Dr. and Mrs. Knaggs, Mr. Leoy, Mr. and Mrs. Doniger, Mr. J. Doniger, Mr. J. Jenken, Mr. Gowling, in cabin.

Per German steamer *Bayern*, from Hamburg via ports:—Mr. L. Tcharpmand, Mr. N. J. R. Despard, Mr. and Mrs. Gower, Mrs. Cowling, Mr. and Mrs. Cameron, Mrs. Leon B. Hurd, Mr. Ed. Johannsen, Mr. and Mrs. Londquist, Mrs. Guilland, Mr. and Mrs. Colver, Mr. L. E. Johnson, Mrs. Wilcockson, Mr. and Mrs. Lee. Mr. H. E. Lichtenstadt, Mr. G. W. Lewis, Mr. W. Harris, Mr. C. J. M. Nickel, H. E. Mr. Kurino and family, Miss Edith Buer, Miss C. Sturzenegger, Prof. Hoffmann, and Mr. Crerar in cabin; Mr. Robert Arthur and 4 Japanese and one Chinese in second class.

Per British steamer *Manila*, from London via ports:—Miss Hayes, Mr. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Hayashi 2 children, and 4 servants in cabin.

Per British steamer *Athenian*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. F. G. Nutter, Dr. H. C. Rutz, Mr. A. B. Foote, Mr. J. W. Van Ess, Mr. E. Thornton, Mr. A. W. Moas, Mr. W. R. Oibh, Mr. R. B. Manchan, Miss Manchan and Miss Tomita Waka in cabin.

Per British steamer *Athenian*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. F. G. Nutter, Dr. H. C. Rietz, Mr. A. B. Foote, Mr. J. W. Vun Ess, Mr. T. J. Carberry, Dr. F. J. Pursell, Mrs. Pursell, Miss L. A. Clendennier, Mrs. W. A. Milstead and son, Mrs. R. H. Page, Mr. W. P. Robert, U.S.N., Miss E. F. Blondin, Miss A. M. Fullerton, Miss M. Fullerton, Paymaster Hellfach, I.G.N., Mr. G. Bronson Howard, Mr. O. Fischer, Mr. E. Thoruton, Mr. A. W. Maas, Mr. W. R. Dibh, Mr. R. B. Manchan, Mr. R. H. Wardall, Mr. J. B. Hagberg, Mrs. W. H. St. John, Mr. G. H. Thompson, Mr. R. W. Taylor, Mr. J. D. Patter, Mr. J. P. Hayes, Miss H. F. Gillette, Miss M. Udell, Rev. Viking, Mrs. Viking and 2 children, Mr. A. Milne and Mr. F. C. Glick in cabin; Miss Tomita Waka, Mr. T. Amott, Rev. T. Wright, Mr. G. C. Hooper, Mr. Wm. Everall, Mr. J. D. Jenkins, Mr. W. D. Webster, Miss M. Kirkwood, Mrs. E. G. Murphy and child, Mr. C. S. Shaw, Mr. A. H. Hewitt, Mr. Geo. Reek and son, Mr. Reek, Mr. W. Smith, Mr. H. Haufmann, Mr. J. Stewart, Mr. L. Remorino, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Strong, Mr. W. C. Jack, Mrs. Jack and 5 children, Rev. A. Coleman, Mrs. H. C. Gibson, Mr. W. Armstrong, Mr. T. Gar, Mr. J. Consada, Mr. G. O. La Bwy, Mrs. Greene and Mr. J. Gibson in second class; 26 in steerage.

Per American steamer *Siberia*, from Hongkong via ports:—Major J. R. Adams, Mr. C. S. Lee, Mr. Wong Sheng Hing, Mr. H. Bent and wife, Mr. W. A. Sims, Mr. H. Arnhold, Mrs. R. H. Campbell, Mr. H. C. Ehrenfels, Commander U. R. Harris and wife, Mr. W. Farquersen, Mrs. F. Winfield, Mr. T. Kershaw and wife, Mr. G. C. Pakenham and wife, Mrs. Mizuteny, Miss Mizuteny, Mr. F. E. Barte, Mr. E. H. Tuska, Mr. W. King, Mr. P. H. McKay, Mrs. T. W. N. Alling, Mr. H. Williams and wife, Mr. R. Walter, Mr. J. West, Mr. Clegg and wife, Miss Scott, Colonel Hawkins, Count Cellerede and servant, Mr. A. Dymock, Mr. T. J. Smith, and Capt. M. Kondo in cabin. For Honolulu:—Mrs. Men Wai and Mr. I. Chapman in cabin. For San Francisco:—Mrs. L. Hayward, Rev. H. A. Kemp and wife, Mr. A. McLennan, Mr. Su Hee Lum Weng, Mr. J. Muir, Mr. S. R. Roberts, Mr. B. Legarde, Mr. A. W. Ferguson and wife, Mr. J. Aranita, Mr. V. Noel, Mr. J. Pimental, Mr. V. Nepemucene, Mr. A. Roces, Mr. C. Tavera, Miss M. Legurda, Mr. P. Lescasa, Mr. R. B. Cehate, Dr. M. C. Martinez. Mr. J. Agcavilli, Mr. L. G. Liquete, Mr. J. Summerlung, Mr. H. Ramunde, Mr. G. Gomez, Mr. A. R. Mendoza, Mr. A. Ramos, Dr. C. R. Hager and wife, Mr. J. H. Lewis, Mr. H. Cuigal, Mrs. L. Merrill, Hrs. S. Lewis, H. E. Shen Man Ho, Miss Eva Pennington, Mr. Chun Chin Tung, Miss N. L. Struve, Mrs. F. A. Wilder, Mr. R. Kupsch, Master J. Wilder, Mrs. A. F. Mayers, Rev. J. W. Scudder and wife, Mr. Donald Kemp, Captain W. Johnson, Mrs. H. Slade and infant, Mrs. Lee Lai Kum, Miss Russell, Mrs. P. de Tavera, Master Ferguson, Mr. E. Suzuringa, Mr. T. Arguellas, Mr. A. Ramez, Mr. C. de Leon, Mr. M. M. Ramires, Mr. A. Tavera, Capt. T. Hardmann and wife, Mr. M. de Iriarte, Mr. Roxas, Mr. J. Ortega, Mr. E. de les Santos, Mr. B. Monreal, Mr. A. de Castre, Mr. V. Llamas, Mr. J. Reyes, Mr. H. Suzuriage, Mr. G. Nusare, Mr. Robert Hager, Mr. T. C. Afeng Chun Tong, Mrs. J. Arnhold, Mrs. G. H. Gale, Mrs. Graves, J. E. Kyzer, Mrs. E. B. Drew, Mrs. Chas. Denby and infant, Miss H. Helt, Master J. Denby. Master M. Wilder, Mr. G. Leinsang, Mr. H. Van B. Vallenhaven, Miss J. C. Scudder, Miss Elizabeth Kemp, Mrs. S. La Crave, Mr. Gerald Slade, Mr. Hugh Bonner, Mr. E. Jalandoni, Miss Tavera, Mr. and Mrs. V. Mapa, Mr. R. Rames, Mr. J. de Leon, Mr. M. Trias, Mr. J. Rivera, Mr. T. H. Parde de Tavera, Mrs. Priete, Mr. T. G. Del Rosario, Mr. S. Luz, Mr. J. de Leyzaga, Mr. J. Villames, Mr. M. Calleja, Mr. V. Singeon, Mr. A. Albert, Mr. S. Nevenarie, Mr. M. R. Genate, Mr. M. H. Bautista, Miss A. Saliva, Miss Elizabeth Hager, Mr. Chun Wing Lun Afong, Miss C. Arnhold, Miss M. Pratt, Miss J. Graves, Mr. E. H. Butler, Mr. G. Oberg, Mrs. Eischler, Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Filder, Mr. and Mrs. M. Krieg, Master C. Denby, Master D. Wilder, and Dr. S. G. Gomes in cabin.

Per French steamer *Ernest Simons*, from Marseilles via ports:—Mr. Gupta, Mr. and Mrs. E. Barlow, Mr. Leicester Byrne, Mr. W. A. Backhouse, Mr. Raza, Mr. A. M Szentgati, Colonel Lombard, Mr. F. F. Jacques, Mr. H. L. Gillet, Mr. M. Steichen, Mr. Y. Favier, Mr. Audoin, Lieut. Chandler, Mr. Merecki, Mr. C. Wenger, Mr. G. Carpentier, Mr. Y. Sella, Mr. Focking Fou, Mr. B. M. Falconer, Mr. Lavacry, Mr. and Mrs. B. Sauberan and Mr. N. Dalma in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Polynesien*, for Marseilles via ports:—Mrs. Bom Kellevink, Mr. C. E. Miller, Mr. Richter, Mr. R. Ehlers, Mr. E. Becher, Mr. and Mrs. B. Sauberan, Mr. A. G. Denbigh. Mr. Tourbon, Mr. Favre Brandt, Mr. G. Carpentier, Mr. C. Wenger, Mr. Yanni, M. T. E. Schumaker, Mr. W. Axling, Mr. P. Y. Pierson, Mr. C. Carlsen, Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Pearse, Major Bird, Dr. Conrad Schindler, St. Anatolie Lannoy, St. Hombeline, Mr. H. Gomes, Mr. M. Suto, Mr. Emile Choix, Mr. Makoto Baba, Mr. A. C. Boughton, and 6 Japanese in cabin.

Per British steamer *Manila* for London via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Buckland, Mr. Takashima, Mr. Hayashi, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Mr. Berigny, Mr. H. T. Paul and Mr. M. Baggalay in cabin.

Per American steamer *Siberia*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. Chun Wing Sien Afong, Mr. J. Agcavilli, Mr. A. Albert, Mr. J. Aranita, Mr. T. Arguellas, Mrs. J. Arnhold, Mss Arnhold, Mrs. W. O. Ashley, Mr. E. J. Bates, Mr. H. H. Bautista, Miss L. Becker, Major Beddoes, Mr. Hugh Bonner, Miss Booth, Mr. Cecil Brown and servant, Mrs. Cecil Brown, Mrs. E. H. Butler, Mr. M. Calleja, Miss M. M. Carpenter, Mr. A. de Castro, Mr. I. Chapman, Miss E. B. Clark, Mr. B. C. Colver, Mrs. B. C. Colver, Mr. E. A. Conrad, Mrs. E. A. Conrad, Mr. Albert I. Croll, Mr. R. W. Cumutt, Mrs. Chas. Denby and child, Master J. Denby, Master C. Denby, Miss. Dickson, Mrs. E. B. Drew, Mr. J. C. Edwards, Mrs. J. C. Edwards, Dr. C. Fahnestock, Mr. A. W. Fergusson, Mrs. A. W. Fergusson, Master Fergusson, Mr. A. P. Ferl, Mr. O. Fredrichs, Mr. D. Fukuzawa, Mr. E. Furse, Mrs. G. H. Gale, Mrs. F. T. Gane, Miss Gane, Miss M. Gane, Mr. R. B. Genato, Master R. Genato, Mr. G. Gomez, Dr. S. G. Gomes, Mr. W. Grage, Mrs. Graves, Miss S. Graves, Dr. C. R. Hager, Miss Elizabeth Hager, Master Robert Hager, Capt. T. Hardmann, Mrs. T. Hardmann, Mrs. L. Hayward, H.E., Shen Man Ho, Miss H. Holt, Miss B. M. Hopkins, Mr. L. C. Hopkins, Mrs. W. E. Hoy, Miss G. Hoy, Miss M. Hoy, Master C. Hoy, Master Wm. Hoy, Mr. M. de Iriarte, Mr. A. W. Jackson, Mrs. A. W. Jackson, Mr. E. Jalandoni, Capt. W. Johnson, Mrs. Andrew Johnstone, Miss Johnstone, Mr. L. E. Johnson, Mr. Chas. P. F. Kellogg, Rev. H. A. Kemp, Mrs. H. A. Kemp, Miss Elizabeth Kemp, Master Donald Kemp, Mr. M. Kreig, Mrs. M. Kreig, Mrs. Lee Lai Kum, Mr. R. Kupsch, Mr. J. E. Kyser, Mrs. S. Lagrave, Mr. G. Leinsang, Mr. C. de Leon, Mr. J. de Leon, Mr. B. Legada, Miss M. Legada, Mr. P. Lescasa, Mr. J. H. Lewis, Mrs. S. Lewis, Mr. J. de Leyzaga, Mr. L. G. Liquete, Mr. V. Llamas, Mr. S. Luz, Mr. V. Mapa, Mrs. V. Mapa, Dr. M. C. Martinez, Mrs. H. F. Mayers, Mr. A. McLennan, Mr. A. R. Mendoza, Mrs. L. Merrill, Mr. S. de Masirevic, Mr. B. Monreal, Mr. J. Muir, Mr. V. Nepemuceno, Mr. S. Nevenario, Mr. V. Noel, Mr. G. Nusare, Mr. C. Oberg, Mr. J. Ortega, Mrs. Kate C. Palmer, Rev. W. B. Parshley and servant, Mrs. W. B. Parshley, Mr. M. J. Patterson, Mrs. M. J. Patterson, Mr. J. Pimental, Mr. G Poncin & servant, Mrs. G. Poncin, Mrs. S. K. Porter, Miss M. Pratt, Mrs. Prieto and child, Mr. W. N. Pickard, Mrs. W. N. Pickard, Mr. Paul Queisner, Mrs. Delme Radcliff, Maj. S. G. Radcliff, Mr. R. Rames, Mr. A. von Rakovsky Mr. M. M. Ramirez, Mr. H. Ramundo, Mr. A. Ramos, Mr. S. E. Roberts, Mr. A. Roces, Mr. J. Reyes, Mr. B. Rexas, Mr. J. Rivera, Mr. J. Rivera Mr. G. E. Rockwood, Mrs. G. E. Rockwood. Mr. T. G. del Rosario, Miss A. Saliva, Mr. E. de les Santos, Mr. A. Schibbye, Mrs. A. Schibbye, Dr. E Schluter, Rev. J W. Scudder, Mrs. J. W. Scudder, Miss Scudder, Mrs. M. Schimmelpfenning, Miss Seldon, Miss E. J. Seldon, Mrs. H. Slade, infant and nurse, Master Gerald Slade, Mr. V. Singson, Mr. H. Steinman, Mr. J. Summerlung, Miss M. L. Struve, Mr. O. Sutro, Miss Anna Sutro, Mr. E. Suzuriago, Mr. and Mrs. Chas M. Swift, Mrs. A. K. Scott, Mr. A. Tavera, Mr. T. H. Pardo de Tavera, Mrs. P. de Tavera, Miss Tavera, Mr. J. M. Taylor, Mr. A. F. Thane, Sir Frederick Treves, Lady Treves, Mr. Afong Chun Tong, Mr. Chun Chin Tung, Mr. M. Trias, Mr. H. van B. Vollenhoven, Mr. B. C. Vaughan, Mr. J. Villamos, Mrs. Meu Wai, Mr. G. D. Wilder, Mrs. G. D. Wilder, Master D. Wilder, Miss M. Wikler, Master T. Wilder, Mr. Su Hoo Lum Wong, Mrs. J. Worthington and Mr. M. Yamazaki in cabin.

Per British steamer *Athenian*, for Vancouver B.C.:—Dr. F. J. Pursell, Mrs. F. J. Pursell, Mr. J. B. Hayberg, Mrs. W. H. St. John, Miss L. A. Clendennin, Mrs. W. A. Milstead and son, Mr. W. R. Dibb, Mrs. R. H. Page, Mr. G. H. Thompson, Mr. R. W. Taylor, Mr. J. D. Potter, Mr. J. P. Hayes, Mr. W. P. Robert, U.S N., Miss E. F. Blondin, Miss H. F. Gillett, Miss M. Udell, Mr. T. J. Carberry, Mr. R. H. Wardall, Misses Fullerton, Paymaster Hillfoch, I.G.N., Capt. Hulke, Rev. Viking, Mrs. Viking and [illegible] children, Mr. A. Milne, Mr. O. Fischer, Mr. F. L. Gliek, Dr. Denntzer and son, Mr. S. Lyons, Mr. S. W. Cotton, Mr. M. McGrath, Mr. J. H. Mahoney, Mr. S. H. Ford, Mr. A. Foote Mr. G. Bronsom Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. G um and child and Mr. Thos. M. Vans in cabin.

CARGO.

Per American steamer *Hyades*, for Victoria, B.C:—

TEA.

	Canada.	Chicago & West.	New York & East.	Pacific Coast.	Other Cities.	Total Packages.
Yokohama...	—	435	—	—	—	435
Total ...	—	435	—	—	—	435

Per British steamer *Athenian* for Vancouver, B.C.:—

TEA.

From.	Canada.	Chicago & West.	New York & East.	Pacific Coast.	Other Cities.	Total Packages.
Kobe	—	38	50	—	—	88
Yokohama..	388	860	1,347	—	—	2,595
Total...	388	898	1,397	—	—	2,683

SILK.

From.	New York.	San F'cisco.	Easton.	South Man'ster.	Total. Bales.
Hongkong & Canton	207	—	—	—	207
Shanghai	470	—	—	—	470
Yokohama	439	—	—	—	439
Total	1,116	—	—	—	1,116

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw & Waste silk shipped per steamer *Polynesien*:—

	Raw.				Waste.			
	Marseilles Option.	Italy Sw'erland	Marseilles		France.	Italy Sw'erland.	M'chester.	
Sieber & Co.	122	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jardine, Matheson & Co.	125	—	—	—	—	21	—	—
Siber Wolff & Co....	51	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
H. Bernardin & Co.	—	35	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kiito Gomei Kaisha	—	96	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sulzer Rudolph & Co.	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bavier [illegible] Co.........	—	—	—	—	96	—	—	—
Ulysse Pila & Co...	—	13	—	—	25	—	—	—
Jewett and Bent ...	—	72	—	—	4	73	—	—
Total...........	309	226	—	—	125	94	—	—

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For KEELUNG, via Moji (from Kobe), May 3rd, and 18th every month, at Noon, the "TUNGUS."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

For NEW YORK, via ports, and Suez Canal, Prompt Despatch, the "RICHMOND CASTLE."—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

For NEW YORK, via ports and Suez Canal, Prompt Despatch, the "OCEANO."—American Trading Co.

For HAVRE, Hamburg and Bremen via ports, May 14th, at Daylight, the "STRASBURG."—C. Illies & Co.

For BREMEN and Hamburg, via ports, May 14th, a 9 a.m., the "BAYERN."—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

For VICTORIA, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash., May 14th, the "PLEIADES."—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

For HONGKONG, via Kobe, (Inland Sea), Nagasaki, and Shanghai, about May 15th, the "GAELIC."—O. & O. S.S. Co.

For NEW YORK, via ports and Suez Canal, about May 15th, the "SENECA."—Standard Oil Co., of New York.

For HONGKONG, via Kobe, Inland Sea, Nagasaki, and Shanghai, May 16th, the "EMPRESS OF JAPAN."—Canadian Pacific Railway Co.

For SAN FRANCISCO, DIRECT, May 18th, the "ALGOA."—P. M. S. S. Co.

For AUSTRALIA and New Zealand May 19th, the "CHANGSHA."—Butterfield & Swire.

For TAKAO, via Kobe, Ujina, Moji, Nagasaki, Keelung and Anping, May 20th, at Noon, the "MIYASHIMA MARU."—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

For CANADA, United States, Europe, and Vancouver, B.C., May 20th, the "EMPRESS OF JAPAN."—C.P.R. Co.

For HONGKONG, via Kobe, and Moji, about May 23rd, the "TREMONT."—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

For HONGKONG, via Kobe, Inland Sea, Nagasaki, and Shanghai, about June 23rd, the "ATHENIAN."—Canadian Pacific Railway Co.

For SAN FRANCISCO, via Honolulu, May 23rd, the "COPTIC."—O. & O. S.S. Co.

For LONDON and Antwerp, May 24th, at Daylight, the "PROMETHEUS."—Butterfield & Swire.

For HONGKONG, via Kobe, (Inland Sea), Nagasaki and Manila, about May 25th, the "MONGOLIA."—P. M. S.S. Co.

For TRIESTE, via Kobe, Hongkong, Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Aden, Suez, Port Said, and Fiume, about May 25th, the "VINDOBONA."—Pollak Bros.

For PORTLAND, Ore., May 26th, the "ARABIA."—P. & A. S.S. Co.

For HONGKONG via Kobe, Moji, Nagasaki and Shanghai, May 26th, the "INDRASAMHA."—P. & A. S.S. & Co.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Nothing new to report, the market is very dull.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER YARD.
White Shirting—{40 yds. 36 in. 50 yds. 36 in.} ...	0.09 to 0.10
	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	V.2.85 [illegible] 3.60
Grey Shirting—9 lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.80 to 4.25
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches...	3.00 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton Italians and Satteens...	0.20 to 0.40

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	V.0.35 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 32 in....	0.30 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches...	0.16 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.50 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 to 65 inches ...	0.90 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5 lb per lb	0.60 to 0.66
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	9.50 to 12.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches...	0.90 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0 lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches...	1.90 to 2.25
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 5 lb, 24-25 yards, 32 nches...	2.50 to 3.65

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	V. 140.00 to 150.00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	—
Nos. 38/42, Singles	—
Nos. 32, Doubles...	145.00 to 150.00
Nos. 42, Doubles...	155.00 to 160.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/100, Plain...	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	245.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	295.00 to 305.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	425.00 to 435.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling...	Nominal.	33
Indian Broach...		26
Chinese		23

METALS.

No change to report.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward...	V.4.05 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.30 to 4.60
Sheet Iron...	4.65 to 6.90
Galvanised Iron sheets	10.00 to 11.00
Wire Nails, assorted	5.15 to 5.75
Tin Plates, per box...	6.70 to 7.60
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.05
Hoop Iron (¼ to 1½ inch)	5.00 to 5.50

KEROSENE.

Market unchanged.

American	$3.26
Russian	3.17
Langkat	3.10

SUGAR.

Market still quiet.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	V.7.00 to 7.50
Brown Manila...	7.10 to 7.80
Brown Daitong	5.90 to 7.30
Brown Canton...	6.40 to 8.40
White Java and Penang...	8.20 to 9.10
White Refined...	10.50 to 13.00

INDIGO.

Nothing new to record.

	PICUL.
Java, Medium to best...	270.00 to 320.00
Calcutta, Medium to best	180.00 to 290.00
Madras (*Kurpah*), Medium to best ...	140.00 to 170.00
Madras (Dry Leaf), Medium to best ..	100.00 to 140.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

There has been consideracle business doing in Spring Reelings of various chops. Prices are somewhat irregular, as is the quality also. In some cases a slight advance has been paid and there is an opinion in the market that we have seen the bottom. But this opinion is not shared by everybody. New crop accounts are good from every country which produces silk, whether in Europe or Asia, and if this state of things continues we may expect large crops of good quality and low prices ruling in the coming season.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra Best, Coarse ... ...Y.	—
Filatures—Extra, Fine	—
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	940 to 950
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	—
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	890 to 900
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	900 to 910
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	880 to 885
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	880 to 885
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	—
Common—Coarse	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1½	—
Re-reels—No. 2	—
Re-reels—No. 3	—
Kakedas—Extra	—
Kakedas—No. 1	890 to 900
Kakedas—No. 1½...	870 to 875
Kakedas—No. 2	880 to 860

WASTE SILK.

There is a small business. Stocks are reduced and very little fibre offering that is worthy of buyers' attention. The stock that remains is mostly sweepings and refuse of the season and no good parcels are expected until new crop.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	—
Noshi—Filatures, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Good...	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	—
Nsohi—Joshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	140 to 150
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	130 to 135
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	60 to 65
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	50 to 55

TEA.

New leaf continues to come in and considerable shipments have take place.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	57
Choice	50
Finest	45
Fine...	40
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common...	—

COPPER.

Some 300 tons Marukata are reported to have changed hands at *yen* 35.50 per picul for May-July delivery.

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, May 12.

London silver ⅛ lower and Shanghai sterling quotations ⅛ lower. but Hongkong unchanged have caused local rates on China to rule firmer but no alteration has been made in other rates.

London—Bank T.T.	....	2/0 3/16 @ ¼
— — Bills on demand	....	2/0¼ @ 5/16
— — 4 months' sight	....	2/0 5/16 @ ⅜
— Private 4 months' sight	....	2/0⅝ @ 11/16
— — 6 months' sight	....	2/0¾ @ 13/16
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	....	254
— Private 4 months' sight	......	258 @ 8½
— — 6 months' sight	......	259½ @ 60
Hongkong—Bank sight	...........per $100.	90½
— Private 10 days' sight	do.	88
Shanghai—Bank sight	....	80
— Private 10 days' sight	....	82½
India—Bank sight	....	150½
— Private 30 days' sight	....	153
America—Bank sight	....	49¾ @ ⅜
— Private 30 days' sight	....	50
— Private 4 months' sight	....	50¾
Germany—Bank sight	....	206½
— Private 4 months' sight	....	210½
Bar Silver (London)	....	25¾

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, May 12.

Helms a few shares can be placed at *yen* 50. Grand Hotels sales at *yen* 235. Langfeldts changed hands at *yen* 45. Nickels sellers at *yen* 35. Engine and Iron Works sales at *yen* 96, offers wanted for shares.—Kirin Breweries buyers at *yen* 91. Y.U.C. Debentures sellers at *yen* 109. Consolidated Gold Mines a few shares on offer at G. $14.

	YEN.	
Brett & Co. Limited	7.25	Sales.
Club Hotel, Limited	70	Nominal.
Grand Hotel, Limited	235	Sellers.
Helm Bros., Limited	50	Buyers.
Langfeldt & Co., Limited.........	45	Sellers.
C. Nickel & Co., Limited	35	Sellers.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Founders...	450	Nominal.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Ordinary...	75	Buyers.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Preference.	70	Nominal.
Japan Brewery Co., Limited ...	90	Sellers.
Yokohama E. & I. Works	96	Sales.

Telephone No. 323.

BAD COMPLEXIONS

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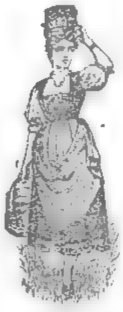
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每土曜日 A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART. 一回刊行

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAY 21ST, 1904.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

A CASE of cholera is reported at the village of Yoshikawa, Yamaguchi prefecture.

MR. MORGAN, U. S. Consul at Dalny, arrived on May 14th at Nagasaki on his way to his post.

A VERY long shock of earthquake was felt in Yokohama about four o'clock on Tuesday afternoon.

FOREIGN ships purchased by Japanese from January up to date aggregated 59,959 tons and cos' *yen* 4,040,847.

THE Osaka Mousseline Company suspended night work on May 13th, and released over five hundred workpeople.

NEW cocoons were put on the Kochi Market on May 14th, the price being *yen* 6 per *to*. Each *to* is about half a bushel.

LORD CURZON, Viceroy of India, finished up his recent shooting tour with a bag of five tigers, one black leopard and one bear.

THE interim dividend of the Imperial Marine Insurance Company for the last half year is declared at the rate of 5 per cent.

IN spite of the Russian declaration that cotton is contraband of war, 1,900 bales were delivered on May 16th at Nagasaki from Shanghai.

THE *Kokumin* has a Seoul telegram stating that four ringleaders of the Tonghak riots have been arrested in Chol-la province.'

GENUINE codliver oil has been very scarce during the past year or so, and much shark and other fish oil is now sold under that name.

THE village office of Kisen, near Morioka, was destroyed by fire on May 16th. An employee of the office was killed and another injured.

ONE of the Russian wounded under treatment at the Matsuyama Hospital died on May 17th. He was to be buried in the military cemetery.

A TELEGRAM from Yamagata reports that fire broke out on May 14th at the village of Oishida destroying eleven buildings including the Hitamura Bank.

IT is reported by telegram from Nanao that heavy rains were experienced there on May 12th causing an inundation. Many dwellings were damaged.

THREE stowaways were arrested on May 16th on board the steamer *Pleiades* by the harbour police. They had joined the ship at Kobe for Seattle.

A MAN of about forty years old was killed on May 15 on the railway at a point near Hiranuma station by the 7.27 p.m. down train while trying to cross the line.

THE Yokohama Silk Conditioning House has collected twenty-three specimens showing the manner in which raw silk was put up in bundles in olden times.

THE fund which is being raised in London for the wives, families and widows of Japanese sailors and soldiers engaged in the war amounted on April 14th to £12,756.

PRINCE LI CHI-YONG and party left Shimonoseki on May 14th by the steamer *Heijo Maru* for home. Mr. Watanabe, an official of the Board of Ceremonies, saw them off.

MR., KOMUCHI, a Progressist, and his party, who intend to investigate Korean financial conditions, arrived on May 15th at Chemulpo and immediately proceeded to Seoul.

THE Osaka Shosen Kai-ha has decided to open a regular line between Kobe and the Yalu via Korean ports, and the steamer *Kitikawa Maru* left Shimonoseki on May 15th for Chemulpo.

MR. J. W. DAVIDSON, formerly U.S. Consul in Formosa, and now Consul at Antung, lectured in Shanghai on May 13th on his experiences in the Arctic regions with the first Peary Expedition.

THE Uyeda Chamber of Commerce, Nagano prefecture, has applied to the authorities to increase the number of goods trains with a view to the more speedy transport of cocoons and raw silk.

ACCORDING to the *Nichi Nichi*, a rumour that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha had bought two steamers from the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. is baseless. The incorrect report came originally from an American paper.

IT was authoritatively stated last month, in Liverpool, that the International Sailing-ship Union had been successfully formed, the 75 per cent. of British tonnage stipulated by the French and German owners having been obtained.

MAY 17th being the fiftieth anniversary of the landing of Commodore Perry at Hakodate, says the *Asahi*, Mr. King, the U.S. Consul there, entertained the Japanese officials of the local government in the evening at the Consulate.

THE nominal editor and publisher of the *Hochi Shimbun* were punished on May 18th by a fine of ten *yen* each in the Tokyo District Court on a charge of having infringed the instructions of the Army Department and the Press Regulations.

A ROYAL Commission to enquire into disorders in the Church of England has been appointed and includes Sir Michael Hicks-Beach (Chairman), the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Oxford, Sir Francis Jeune and Sir Edward Clarke.

PROMINENT Progressists and delegates of Chambers of Commerce throughout the Empire who are now in Tokyo in order to hold a conference, were to meet on the evening of May 19th at the residence of Count Okuma. They were to discuss financial affairs during and after the war.

MR. S. KINOSHITA, Governor of Saitama prefecture, was censured on May 18th by the Minister for Home Affairs on the ground that he had lost an official telegraphic code during last month while on a visit to one of his districts, in consequence of which the code must be changed.

THE body of Mr. Charles H. Holston, artificer engineer of the British gunboat *Rosario*, who had been missing for a week, was found off the French Bund at Shanghai on May 8th. It is supposed that he had fallen between a sampan and the ship. He joined the *Rosario* in May last.

THIRTEEN Japanese from Irkutsk and other places arrived on May 18th at Nagasaki. They had embarked at Hamburg. It appears that on the outbreak of the war they were ordered by the Russians to leave and they proceeded to Germany via St. Petersburg.

In connexion with the Russian declaration that cotton is contraband of war, a telegram was received on May 12th at Osaka from Bombay that the British Government will never give its consent, but the marine insurance rate will probably undergo more or less increase.

THE British Cotton-growing Association has decided to ask for a Royal Charter. It is understood that the Colonial Office approves of the request, provided that the profits of the first seven years are wholly devoted to extending the operations of the Association.

Y. INOUYE, a postman, attempted to murder a coolie employed by the Customs, J. Hosaka (27) by name, on May 12th at Sueyoshi-cho, Yokohama, by inflicting severe injuries with a knife. The culprit was at once arrested by the Kotobuki-cho police. The cause is reported to be a pecuniary dispute.

MR. S. FUJINO, of Osaka, has purchased the British steamer *Axil* for about *yen* 220,000. She is expected to arrive in the end of June at Kobe, where she will be delivered to the buyer. The ship was built in 1891 at Newcastle. She is 334 feet in length, 44 feet in width and 26 feet in depth, and steams 12 knots.

THE Yokohama Specie Bank received a telegram on May 16th from London to the effect that subscriptions to the Japanese loan had reached £152,000,000. Other telegraphic intelligence received in Tokyo states that the subscriptions in New York were *yen* 250,000,000. In the former case, the loan was covered 30 times and in the latter 5 times over.

THE BATTLE OF THE YALU.

(CONTINUED.)

Saturday, May 14.

On the 29th of April the Twelfth Division made its dispositions for attack. It was divided into two columns, one under Major-General Kigoshi, the other under Major-General Sasaki, and the main body. It advanced toward Sukuchin and took a favourable position there. At 11 a.m. on that morning a force of Russians numbering about 400 was seen on the opposite bank, but a vigorous fire from this side dispersed them. Meanwhile General Kigoshi led the 24th Regiment to a point above Sukuchin, where the regiment crossed in 10 iron boats and, marching down, occupied the position opposite Sukuchin so as to cover the crossing of the main body. A battalion of engineers now commenced to bridge the river at Sukuchin, and by working with the utmost assiduity and vigour, they succeeded in finishing the bridge by 3 a.m. on the 30th. The crossing then commenced, and the troops, making their way through valleys and over hills, reached a position near the Ai, where they bivouacked for the night on high land. The march had been exceedingly arduous, some of the places scaled by the troops being almost precipitous. During the advance Major-General Sasaki's column, which formed the left wing, came in sight of a force of Russians numbering apparently from 1,500 to 1,600, but no engagement took place. At 2 a.m. on the 1st the Division left its bivouac and by 4 had reached the position designated by the Head Quarter Staff. There it waited for the appointed signal, namely, the opening of artillery fire by the Guards Division and the Second Division. At 7 o'clock the booming of the guns was heard, and forthwith the Division set out. It marched in four columns, led by the 24th Regiment under General Kigoshi, and, dashing into the Ai, the men crossed its 400 metres of depth almost at charge pace, the shallowest parts being up to the waist, the deepest up to the shoulder. It was a splendid sight, and it seems by have demoralized the Russians, for they retreated rapidly through the passes of the opposite hills or in the direction of Kiulien-ching. Our men pushed up the heights with the utmost vigour and crowned them. On the right, however, General Kigoshi's column had a fierce struggle with a body of the enemy posted in a commanding position. The brunt of the fighting fell upon the 3rd Company of the 24th Regiment, which finally charged and bore back the enemy, losing 20 men. The Russians took the Fenghwang road and rallied for another stand, but were again driven back, this time by Sasaki's corps. They retired upon the Hohmutung position, which, being commanded by the surrounding hills, offered no facilities for defence. Three companies of Kigoshi's force, which had followed rapidly from Sihching (the place of the first stand), charged up one of these hills and, reaching the top almost in line, opened a destructive fire upon the enemy below. Just at this moment the Russians, retreating from Kiulien and Antung before the Guards and the Second Division, arrived at Hohmutung, moving at headlong speed, and re-inforced the Russians already there. With extraordinary rapidity 6 guns were lined up with 4 already on the ground, and this battery of 10 pieces opened fire on our men at short range. The Russians were rendered desperate owing to their line of retreat being menaced. The three companies on the height never budged. Encouraged by Captain Makizawa they held their ground stoutly. Their faces were black with the powder from their own rifles. The fifth company under Captain Makizawa rushed forward and occupied another height at a distance of 60 or 70 metres, but forthwith a body of 1,500 or 1.600 Russians made their appearance on a hill on the left and were apparently about to charge, while a body of Cossacks, 300 or 400 strong, advanced with the evident intention of getting on the rear of the 3 companies. By this time Captain Makizawa, and nearly one half of the three companies' men had fallen. It became necessary to retreat to a height further back, but at this instant another body of Russians emerged from between the hills in the rear, and a fierce hand-to-hand fight, some using swords, others grappling, so that enemy and ally became indistinguishable, ensued. The Fifth Company was threatened with annihilation. Happily at this juncture General Kigoshi arrived with reinforcements and the Russians who had just been engaged in the hand-to-hand struggle found themselves surrounded. The Japanese had 46 killed and 214 wounded out of three companies (600 men). The dead and wounded were piled in heaps, but the enemy were flying. The right wing of the Twelfth Division was now thrown forward to Tahlangfang, cutting off the retreat of the enemy in that direction, and the Guards and the Second Division were advancing on the other side. The Russians suffered terribly and the remnant of them broke and fled along the Fenghwang road. They left over 300 prisoners in our hands, and had over 1,000 casualties. They also lost 28 guns and a great quantity of small arms and ammunition.

Monday, May 16.

It would seem that originally the Japanese had the intention of constructing a bridge over the main channel of the Yalu from the island Keumchong-do, but the enemy's artillery posted on the Kiulien heights, rendered the operation impossible. This work fell to the Second Division, and was essayed during three days—the 27th, 28th and 29th. Not a day passed, however, without 40 or 50 Russian shells dropping on the island, and whatever progress had been made with the work was rendered futile. We have here the evident justification of the report made by the Russians that they had destroyed the Japanese bridge. They did destroy one of the three contemplated bridges, but this failed to prevent the building of the other two. From this fire, however, the Japanese suffered few casualties. Meanwhile the Japanese, on their side, refrained from using the heavy artillery that had been brought up and placed in position. They were anxious not to disclose the existence of these guns until the supreme moment came for employing them. On the 29th during the night, as already described, a strong park of artillery was transported to Keumchong, whence the Russians had been driven on the 26th. At 10.50 a.m. on the 30th a reconnaissance sent by the Second Division crossed the main channel from Keumchong and had nearly reached the opposite island of Cheunggang when the enemy opened fire from the Kiulien heights and a vigorous reply was made by the Japanese guns on Keumchong. For this the Russians seem to have been quite unprepared. At 11.15 they ceased firing, after the artillery duel had lasted only 25 minutes. They opened again, however, about an hour later, but on the second occasion their effort proved even more brief. It was in this duel on the 30th that the Japanese brought their heavy artillery into use for the first time, and it subsequently transpired that its effects had been most signal, the Russians then at length beginning to appreciate what kind of a foe they had to deal with. In these operations the Second Division had 2 killed and 23 wounded, among the latter being 5 officers. The smallness of the Japanese casualties is ascribed to the precautions adopted for seeking cover. Most of the enemy's shells fell in the spaces between the willow-trees behind which the Japanese guns were placed. At 7 p.m. on the 30th the Second Division received orders to assemble on the east of Kiulien, and at 7.10 the movement commenced, the men being in light marching order, and the artillery being left on Keumchong-do. The programme was that the Twelfth Division should cross the river high up during the night, and march to an appointed place by 2 a.m. on the 1st, while the centre of the Guards Division and the left wing of the Second Division were to cross at the same time as the Twelfth. At 9 p.m. the left wing of the Second Division crossed the main channel by the bridges, and then waded two streams beyond, the water not being above the fork. The men thus reached that side of the Yalu. At 1 a.m. the Guards, who had crossed at the same place, reached their appointed position on the Yulchawon heights and, having dug trenches there, left a small force to hold them, the main body moving down to the edge of the Ai and receiving the order to halt there not yield an inch of ground. The two Divisions were now extended over a front of 7½ miles, the left wing of the united force resting on the Wiju-Kiulien route. There was no sign of movement on the enemy's side, and though some 40 shells were fired at him from the Cheumchong park, he made no reply. Thus the remaining hours of darkness passed and day dawned. A Chinaman now reported that the Russians had probably retired, but when a reconnaisance was sent out, it was fired on from the enemy's entrenchments after it had advanced two or three hundred metres. The distance between the troops and the Kiulien position was then about 3,500 metres. The general commanding the Second Division now ordered it to advance upon Kiulien. The second and fourth companies of the 16th Regiment were the first to advance, but after moving about 200 metres they halted. The enemy was now firing hotly but his bullets fell short. His nearest position was on the top of a hill behind the town. There he was entrenched, the men being concealed almost completely and wearing gray over-coats, so that it was impossible to see them clearly, and the Japanese, without firing, resumed their advance. The Russians continued to discharge their rifles rapidly but without effect, until the distance separating the two forces had lessened to six or seven hundred metres, when the enemy's fire became hot. Still the Japanese, being unable to find a good mark, reserved their fire. The Ai River flowed in front of the Russian position at a distance of about 500 metres. Reaching this point the Japanese found themselves subjected to a furious fusillade. No time was to be lost. The men plunged into the water at once. A space of 100 metres had to be waded. The depth varied from the first button of the tunic to the neck. Sometimes the men were almost carried off their feet by the current, and they had to help themselves through the water with their left hands, holding their rifles overhead with the right. The Russians had rightly judged that this would be a crucial moment. They poured in a hot fire, and many of the Japanese were killed or wounded, but they never paused except to help the wounded. Immediately on reaching the other bank, they deployed and pushed on in open order. Throughout this time the batteries on Keumchong and Cheung-gang islands kept up a violent cannonade, and so accurate was their aim that a Russian battery which attempted to come into action had one or two of its guns disabled before it unlimbered. Nevertheless the advancing line had many casualties. It finally reached the base of the hill on the east of Kiulien whence the enemy were pouring their deadliest fire from behind epaulments. This the Japanese rushed without a pause, the Russians retreating to another point of vantage on the west of Kiulien. This again was carried by assault. The crossing of the Ai had taken only six or seven minutes. It was the Second Division that carried these two positions, and immediately on crowning them the Japanese flag was raised as a signal to the batteries on the islands. Major Nihira's battalion suffered greatly. It had 117 casualties. Apparently a number of these men were injured by a mine. It is reported that after the fight Major Nihira was deeply affected by the loss of these gallant men. He declared that such soldiers could not be replaced, and that it were better a thousand like himself had fallen. The sight on the top of the first hill carried is said to have been terrible. Russians and Japanese were lying in heaps, many of them cruelly mutilated by artillery fire. The right wing of the attacking force, namely the Guards, arrived in time to complete the enemy's discomfiture. He abandoned the position at 8.30 a.m. The assault of the second position, which was about 3,000 metres west of Kiulien, did not take place at once. The force posted there was for covering purpose. It had 4 field-pieces and 5 quick-firers, and as the Japanese were armed with rifles only, they had to await the arrival of artillery. This came at 1 p.m., and the two Divisions moved against the position simultaneously. The enemy was driven off, and retreated in the direction of Fenghwang. A strong force, consisting of men of the Second Division and of the Reserves now moved towards Antung.

A note may be added to the above. It relates to a shocking deed attributed to the Russians. Our readers will have observed that after a small force of the Guards had obtained possession of Husan and Yulchawon, they were driven back across the river by a strong body of Russians. On this occasion three Japanese fell into the hands of the Russians. The corpse of one of them, Watanabe Tatsujiro, was subsequently found caught in the branches of a tree. His nose and lips were cut off, his legs were gashed all over and he was disembowelled. It is conjectured that after killing him by this savage process the Russians threw his corpse into the river but it became entangled in the boughs of a tree. There is little doubt that his two comrades were similarly served. Such brutalities are almost incredible.

Tuesday, May 17.

The correspondent of the *Asahi*, writing from Antung on the 6th instant, says that the number of Russian dead buried by the Japanese up to that day was 1,362, and that the prisoners then totalled 613, of whom 138 were unwounded. If we estimate the wounded at three times the killed, the casualties must have been nearly 6,000, including prisoners. The wounded are all expected to recover in consequence of the small calibre of the Japanese rifles. The wounds on the Japanese side are more serious for a corresponding reason. The correspondent notes that the greatest kindness is shown towards the Russian wounded, and that they express unbounded gratitude.

Wednesday, May 18.

The two Lieut.-Colonels, Rakofski (?) and Williadoff (?) who are now prisoners in Japan, are reported to have spoken in the highest terms of the Japanese infantry and artillery. They say that the celerity of the infantry's movements and the courage of the men are extraordinary. What seems to have struck them as specially remarkable was the movement by which the Japanese placed themselves on the rear of the Hohmutang position, thus cutting off the Russian line of retreat. The march necessary to effect this led over ground so precipitous that its passage by soldiers carrying rifles and accoutrements seemed impossible. The easiest slopes are 70°, and the steepest are absolutely perpendicular. It is the opinion of the two colonels that if the Japanese themselves now inspected these places they would be astonished at the feat they performed in the heat of battle. That the Russians did not take steps to guard the position from that direction is therefore in no sense reprehensible.

It is a pity that some steps can not be taken to publish the names of the Japanese prisoners who fell into Russian hands on the 3rd instant. Nothing is known in this country as to their identity and the suspense of the families of the missing must be indescribable. We know one lady whose only brother is among the *fumei* list, and according to present appearances she may have to remain long in ignorance of his fate.

Thursday, May 19.

General Floug, telegraphing from Mukden on the 16th instant, says that Captain Porchakoff reports having found 40,000 lbs. of powder at Kyongsong, which he destroyed. Kyongsong is away up on the north-eastern coast of Korea. We have no conception what such a quantity of powder could be doing there, as there is no Japanese garrison nor ever was.

The General further reports that the Japanese have again occupied Kwantien. What the "again" means we do not know.

He also announces that field-postal communications have been established between Saimachu and Lienshan, the Hunghutze having been driven off. These off-drivings do not appear to be very permanent. With regard to the strong body of Hunghutze who were reported as having assembled at a point 60 versts west of Liaoyang, a body of Russian cavalry sent against them succeeded in dispersing them and inflicting a loss of 25 killed, the Russian casualties being 2 killed and 3 wounded.

It would seem that the Hunghutze are very busy just now.

The *Jiji Shimpo's* correspondent at the front sends the following list of articles taken by the Japanese troops at the Yalu:—

Field-pieces	21
Machine Guns	8
Gun Ammunition Waggons	18
Rifle Ammunition Waggons	80
Rifles	1,500
Commissariat Waggons	10
Land Transport Waggons	10
Cartridges	200,000 rounds.
Fur-lined overcoats	600

The guns and rifles are said to have shown signs of being kept with the utmost care. Breech-blocks had been removed and thrown away in most cases, but several of them were subsequently recovered by offering rewards, the crafty Chinese having secreted them. It is stated that the Chinese showed themselves mercilessly keen in their search for booty. They did not hesitate even to strip the corpses of the slain.

A Russian captain taken prisoner near Fenghwang had on his person a letter written in pencil to his parents. We quote from the *Asahi*. In this letter he said that the heavy defeat suffered at the Yalu must be attributed to three things—the superiority of the Japanese artillery, the defective judgment of the head-quarter staff, and the want of unity among the Russian officers. The staff came to the conclusion that the Japanese army would cross below Antung and all preparations for really efficient defense were made in that directions. But the enemy chose the other flank. The letter goes on to say that the force of which the writer had command lost two-thirds of its number, and that he was now retreating with the remnant.

Friday, May 20.

General Kuroki reports that the losses at the Battle of the Yalu and the articles captured by the Japanese there and in Fenghwang were as follows:—

JAPANESE LOSSES.

KILLED.

Officers	5	223
Rank and File	218	

WOUNDED.

Officers	33	771
Rank and File	738	
Total	1,039 (The figures do not tally).	

RUSSIAN LOSSES.

Buried by the Japanese	1,363
Prisoners (including wounded) 18 officers and 595 rank and file	613
Total	1,976

OBJECTS TAKEN ON FIELD OF BATTLE.

3-inch Quick-firers	21
3-inch Ammunition Waggons	19
3-inch Shells	1,417
Machine Guns	8
Machine-Gun Waggons	8
Machine-Gun Cartridges	37,300
Rifles	1,021
Small-arm Ammunition Waggons.	51
Small-arm Ammunition	353,005 rounds.
Horses	63
Land-transport Waggons	10
Commissariat Implements	53
Over-coats	694
Fur Over-coats	550
Tents	541
Various	80 classes.

OBJECTS TAKEN AT FENGHWANGCHENG.

63½-mill. mountain-gun shells	357	
Shall-arm ammunition	188,000 rounds.	
Land-transport Waggons	150	
Over-Coats	1,720	
Black-bread	40,708	
Indian Corn	1,737	*Koku.*
Manshu no *mamemochi*	5 000	
Various implements, etc.		

MARQUIS ITO.

Marquis Ito invited about fifty leading politicians, statesmen and business-men to the Mitsui Club in Yurakucho on the 15th instant, to partake of certain viands sent by the Sovereign to the Marquis. His Excellency explained to his guests that it seemed to him unbecoming to apply to his own uses alone the bounty of the Emperor and he therefore desired to share it with his friends. Marquis Saionji, on behalf of the guests, conveyed an expression of their gratitude and appreciation.

THE OPERATIONS AT LIAOTUNG.

Monday, May 16.

General Floug reports that a train which left Wafantien reached Port Arthur safely, and that the locomotive and carriages have returned. The General does not tell us when this happened, but we must assume that it was on or about the 11th instant, for his telegram is dated at Mukden on that day (11.15 a.m.). Wafantien is the first station north of Pulantien, and the distance between the two is 20 miles. The Japanese official report says that they have cut the railway at Pulantien. How did the train get past Pulantien? We admire two things: one is the splendid simplicity of General Floug's reports; the other is the grand courage of the Russians, who calmly despatch trains to traverse lines said to be in the enemy's possession. There is here a mystery.

At the same time General Floug states that he has not yet any accurate estimate of the number of Japanese that landed at Pitsewo.

We have already remarked that some of these Mukden reports can be explained only by supposing momentous but unnoted things to have occurred in their intervals. A case in point is the above telegram dated the 11th instant at 11.15 a.m. and another telegram dated the same day at the same place (Mukden) at 11.35 a.m. The former telegram says that the Russians are still in possession of Sushilipao, a station northward of Sanshilipao; the latter says that a Japanese force has reached a point 15 versts south of Sanshilipao, and that the body of Japanese which attacked the railway consisted of 3 companies. Pulantien is 29 miles north of Sanshilipao, and so we have the Japanese at Pulantien and the Japanese at Sanshilipao, while Russian trains are safely plying over the intervening line and Russian troops are holding an intervening position. The 11.15 a.m. telegram ends with a phrase which is becoming habitual to General Floug:—"The belligerent situation has not changed."

There is one change not noted by General Floug though reported to St. Petersburg by Viceroy Alexieff; namely that the Russians have blown up the dock and the piers at Dalny to prevent the Japanese from utilizing them. It does not look altogether formidable that the Russians should be destroying their valuable property lest it fall into the hands of the Japanese. Why not defend it?

Chefoo reports that out of 5 locomotives hitherto available for service at Port Arthur, the Japanese captured 4 at Pulantien. From the same place we learn (*Asahi*) that the length of road destroyed by the Japanese at Pulantien was 5 Chinese li (1⅔ miles).

A passenger from Harbin who passed Liaoyang on the 7th instant says that he saw there 3 railway wagons pierced with bullets, and saw also a party of Russian tradesmen who had just left Pulantien.

An interpreter who has come to Chefoo from Newchwang reports that on the 6th instant the Japanese occupied Wafantien and Pulantien, and that they probably wrecked the road between the two stations, which are 20 miles apart.

As to the rumoured explosions in Port Arthur, the commander of a Japanese warship which was on guard in the offing 10 miles from Port Arthur on the 9th instant, is said to have stated (a round-about story) that he heard a tremendous explosion and observed a huge column of smoke ascend from the harbour. He believes that either a man-of-war or some large building was blown up.

It is conjectured that Viceroy Alexieff was in the train which escaped on the 6th instant by flying the red-cross flag. The incident seems to have caused much indignation in Japan, and naturally so. If the train was a hospital train, it should have had proper marks, as duly fixed by law, and at any rate after raising the red-cross flag it should have waited to be examined. The *Nichi Nichi*, writing upon this subject, recalls the strong protest made by Russia about the alleged destruction of a sanatorium on the island Sanshan-tao by a Japanese squadron. There was no sanatorium, so far as is known, but the Russians formally preferred a complaint through the French Representative. How do they intend now to answer for their abuse of the red flag? If Viceroy Alexieff was in the train—and the hour coincided with that of his rumoured departure from Port Arthur in company with Duke Boris—, the fact can not be finally concealed, and he will stand disgraced. But we venture to suggest that there were probably more trains on the 6th than that which carried Alexieff, and in the meanwhile it is right to suspend judgment. The Russians seemed to have abused a sacred privilege, but that the Viceroy was directly a party to the abuse remains to be proved.

The bay in which Vice-Admiral Kataoka's operations were officially reported to have taken place on the 12th instant, lies immediately north of Talien Bay, being separated from the latter only by the promontory called Hooper Point. Two bays seem to be included in the Japanese report under the name of Tayin-wan. They are Deep Bay (or Blackeney Bay) on the north, and Kerr Bay on the south. The promontory of Hechitze, where the torpedo-boat met its terrible fate, separates these two bays. On English maps Robinson's Point is shown as being near the head of Talien Bay, but the Japanese surveys, which are no doubt accurate, identify it with Hechitse. We presume that similar operations are to be undertaken, and probably are now in progress, first off Hooper Point and subsequently in Talien Bay.

The *Chicago Daily News'* despatch-boat telegraphs that the landing of the Japanese Army on Liaotung was completed on the 13th instant and that the advance against Port Arthur was to commence in a few days. That is very interesting, but truly we fail to see what authority the Chicago journal has for such a statement. There is no newspaper despatch-boat within sight of the Japanese operations, or within a hundred miles of them. Chefoo rumour is probably the whole basis.

Nothing more is heard of the Alexieff-Floug restoration of communications. On the contrary, Chinese who left Kinchow on the 11th report that the Japanese were then in possession of Pulantien and the two southern stations and of the northern station Wafantien. The Viceroy and the General were evidently misled.

From Chefoo comes a statement by Chinese of whom 80 were in the last train that travelled from Port Arthur northwards. They allege that the train had on board some 2,200 (probably 200) civil officials from Port Arthur. At about 9 a.m. it reached Pulantien, and was there fired upon by the Japanese, one of the drivers being hit in the leg. After a brief pause the train resumed its journey. This, the Chinese add, was the last train that travelled over the line. If so, it was also the train concerning which the Russians are now attempting to prefer a red cross complaint. The train had on board over two hundred civil officials. It may also have had some wounded or sick. Very likely. But its use of the red-cross flag under such circumstances was an outrage. Besides, it was not flying the flag when the Japanese fired on it. What seems pretty plain is that the train was proceeding on its way without any suspicion whatever of attack. It was an ordinary train with a miscellaneous mob of passengers, among them being some invalids. When fired on, recourse was had to the red flag as a means of escape. That would be bad enough, but the attempt to turn the tables and convict the Japanese of an outrage is quite contemptible. The Japanese are not firing on red-cross flags. They are not murdering and mutilating Russian prisoners. They are behaving with marked humanity.

Some Chinese who reached Chefoo on the 13th instant having left Dalny on the 8th, report that the Russians have withdrawn all their troops from Talien, have blown up the piers and have removed all the buoys marking the safe channels. According to the same informants trains are still running between Dalny, Port Arthur and Kinchow, which is very likely since none of those places is in Japanese possession. It is added, however, that on a hill called Makaku (?), to the west of Dalny, there is a fort armed with 4 guns, which fact is not consistent with the statement that all the troops have been withdrawn.

We have Viceroy Alexieff's telegram, however, announcing that he has blown up the dock and the piers at Dalny in order to prevent them from falling into the hands of the Japanese. That is the plainest indication His Excellency could give that he abandons hope of defending the place. In itself Dalny has no great importance, for though the Russians have spent immense sums there, the ultimate attainment of the commercial object they had in contemplation had not yet become probable when the war broke out. But, politically the loss of Dalny would be a very severe blow, inasmuch as the place may justly be called the capital of Russia's Manchurian acquisitions. Strategically, also, the fall of Dalny would be of the utmost moment. If the Japanese obtain possession of Victoria Bay, they can effectually turn the Kinchow isthmus position, which is of enormous strength and might be held for an indefinite time against an army operating from the north alone. With Dalny in their hands, however, the Japanese can land south of the Isthmus, and will then be within 23 miles of Port Arthur. One imagines that Alexieff should strain every nerve to defend Dalny, but here comes in the vital item of account, namely, that he has entirely lost command of the sea. Without ships it would be a tough job to hold Dalny or to keep an enemy out of Talien Bay. So far as the Japanese are concerned, they too will have a tough job to clear out the passive obstructions that exist in the Bay. But, after all, that is merely a question of time and effort. Military obstacles have no serious efficacy except as means of holding troops under fire. The Japanese squadron can thoroughly cover any craft it sends in to "sweep out" Talien Bay. Probably the work is going on at present. From Alexieff's telegram we infer that he intends to rely on his last line of defences for holding Port Arthur, and that Dalny and Kinchow Isthmus will not be resolutely held.

The Chinese informants referred to above say that the Russians in Port Arthur are not making any effort to clear the exit from the harbour. There is a report that the blocking steamers were loaded with concrete which, of course, when left lying in the water, assumes very quickly the qualities of rock.

Tuesday, May 17.

Vice-Admiral Kataoka reports that early on the morning of the 14th the Fifth Squadron and the Second Torpedo Squadron proceeded to Tayin-kau and under protection of the fleet's fire, sent in the torpedo squadron to clear the bay.

Although the enemy appeared to have removed a look-out station on Robinson Point he erected a battery at a height of 63 feet on Takushan and mounted six field-guns there. On the east of the same hill he built a parapet capable of sheltering a company and placed troops there. Throughout the whole day he carried on a vigorous defence from these points.

The clearing squadron was engaged throughout the day within the torpedo-mine area and exposed to the enemy's fire. It did its duty well, discovering and exploding 5 mines, 3 with guns and 2 with countermines. The Japanese fire also caused some loss to the enemy on shore.

But at 4.35 p.m. when the squadron was about to cease work and to proceed to the rendezvous a mine struck the stern of the *Miyako* and caused her great injury, killing and wounding 24; of whom 2 died, 1 was severely wounded and 21 were slightly wounded. The ship sunk in 23 minutes.

The *Miyako* was a torpedo gun-boat of 1,800 tons. She was built in 1897.

Wednesday, May 18.

There is no murmuring about the loss of torpedo-boat No. 48 and the despatch-boat *Miyako*. Tokyo journals observe that the operations upon which the Third Squadron is engaged are of the most perilous description, inasmuch as the Russian mines have not been laid systematically, but are scattered here and there without any order and without any method. The *Jiji* recalls the fact that the enemy's fighting force has been greatly diminished without any material loss on Japan's side; that the good fortune hitherto enjoyed can not be attributed wholly to good guiding, however excellent the latter may be, and that some measure of misfortune must be anticipated.

As we write (Tuesday morning) news reaches us vaguely that there has been another accident in the same field of operations, but its exact nature is not yet disclosed. We believe, however, that it is of a more serious nature than either of the preceding catastrophes. Admiral Kataoka is to be commiserated. The proverbial three misfortunes have all fallen to his lot.

The Second Army seems to be steadily approaching Kinchow. Whether a force is to be landed in Talien Bay it is impossible now to predict, but inasmuch as the Bay abounds with mines we may reasonably doubt whether operations on shore will be suspended until the water-way can be cleared. The latter must necessarily be a long operation, whether the process of countermining, or of dragging, or both be adopted. The exact place where the *Miyako* met her fate can not be discerned from the official accounts, but the Third Squadron's field of operations throughout the 14th was evidently the bay known as Tayin-kau (Kerr Bay), so it may be presumed that Robinson Point or its immediate vicinity was the scene of the disaster. If so, the Squadron has not yet made any attempt to enter Talien Bay, and a heavy task of clearing still lies before it.

A telegram received in Tokyo at 5.35 p.m. on the 16th instant from Vice-Admiral Kataoka, reports that on the 15th instant the Fifth War-ship Squadron and the Sixth Torpedo Squadron—less No. 56—proceeded to Tayin-wan, and under the protection of fire from the fleet, performed the clearing of the Bay as previously arranged. There was no difference in the enemy's land defences except that he had added 3 field-pieces. He fired at us several times with artillery and small arms but inflicted no injury. Eight torpedo-mines were detected and exploded, 5 by countermining and 3 by artillery. Judging from the position of these mines and those previously found, it appears that the enemy has laid three irregular lines of mines within the arc from Robinson Point to Shata Island. To render the sea safe, further operations of clearing will be necessary.

It is stated that the Russian troops on the west of the Liao at Sinming-tung and Tienchwantai have withdrawn in the direction of Mukden.

Rumour says that the Russians are effecting their chief concentration at Harbin, and that even from Liaoyang their forces are being steadily transported to the former place.

Thursday, May 19.

There are renewed rumours of stray buoyant mines cruising about in the course of ships. The steamer *Yochou* reports having seen one on the west of Wei-hai-wei, and the steamer *Foochow* sighted another on the east of the Shantung promotory.

Japanese naval officers are represented as severely criticizing the carelessness shown by the Russians in laying torpedo-mines. They seem to do this work without any system, apparently persuaded that the task of removing the mines and restoring the maritime fair-ways of trade will never have to be performed by themselves. In fact, not to put too fine a point on it, the Russians are not fit to be trusted with the use of such engines of destruction. If none of the steamers navigating the high seas has yet been destroyed by contact with mines that have broken away from defective moorings, it is a merciful chance. We may at any moment hear of hundreds of non-combatants, including women and children, being sent suddenly to their last account as a consequence of this criminal blundering. Perhaps the destruction of the *Enissei* was responsible for much of the trouble, but the Japanese seem to speak from what they have actually found in Kerr Bay and Deep Bay where they say that the Russian method of laying mines takes no thought whatever of the ultimate interests of peaceful commerce. They lay them at such depths that no appliances hitherto employed can disclose their sites.

It is rumoured from Peking that the Russian garrison in Sungyuen had made all preparations to vacate the place before the advent of the Japanese, and it is rumoured in Newchwang that the Japanese have taken Tashikiao. It is also stated that placards have been posted in Newchwang, announcing the speedy arrival of Japanese troops and advising the inhabitants to go about their business tranquilly as they will not be in any way molested. We can not believe that the Japanese have reached Tashikiao and we fail to see why they should go to Newchwang.

Friday, May 20.

The place where the Russians were making a stand at the time of the despatch of the news published officially in Tokyo on the 18th instant is the key of the Dalny position. It is the fortified hill Tahoshan, lying eastward of Kinchow. The capture of this place by the Japanese in the war of 1894-5 decided the fate of Dalny. Once this hill is taken, the Kinchow Isthmus ceases to be an obstacle. Our readers may remember that in several of the accounts given by Chinese subjects coming to Chefoo and Newchwang during March and April, allusions were made to the Tahosan fort, which was said to be very strong, the approaches having been mined and a powerful array of guns having been mounted. Doubtless the Japanese will lose heavily in capturing it, but as to their success we entertain no manner of doubt. It is difficult to estimate from the published reports how far the obstacles at the Kinchow Isthmus have been overcome, but judging from the list of Japanese casualties there has been tolerably severe fighting. In fact, the operations on the 14th instant rank next to the Yalu battle, though they differ from the latter in the less signal character of their results. All that we can say is that Tahoshan captured, the way lies clear to Dalny and Port Arthur. It will have been observed that the Russian force immediately confronting the Japanese is put at three or four battalions with 8 guns. That is to say, from three to four thousand men. The Kinchow Isthmus is less than two miles in width. It properly intrenched it should be capable of being held successfully by five or six thousand men against a big army. The next batch of news must therefore be awaited with keen anxiety, though we judge from the accounts already received that the heaviest part of the problem is already solved.

General Floug's comment that the movements of the First Army are marked by indecision, seems to reflect his own perplexity rather than any want of resolution on General Kuroki's side. The fact is that, looking at the situation from a strategical point of view, General Kuropatkin is paralyzed in so far as succouring Port Arthur is concerned. If he attempt to march from Liaoyang to the relief of the place, he will have to encounter and disperse the First Army—the hesitating army—by way of preliminary. We do not know what General Kuropatkin's plan may be, but we do know that a commander who sees the most important point in the whole field of action attacked and beleaguered by the enemy, and who nevertheless makes no effort whatever to succour it, such a commander must be regarded as either incompetent or impotent. The fall of Port Arthur would have very large results. It would mean the destruction or capture of virtually the whole Russian fleet in Far-Eastern waters and the loss of the only harbours for whose sake the Manchurian railway exists. It would mean, also, that all idea of sending out naval re-inforcements would have to be abandoned. Is General Kuropatkin going to look on idly while a drama of that kind is enacted under his eyes? His inaction at this crisis amounts to defeat.

Meanwhile various rumours are reaching the outer world from the regions westward of the known area of fighting. General Floug reports that a Japanese force has landed between Kaiping and Hiung-yoh-ching; that is to say, on the west coast of the Liaotung Peninsula, a few miles eastward of Newchwang. This event is said to have taken place on the 16th instant, and the Russian

General speaks of 17 transports being seen. Peking, however, anticipates the incident by declaring that on the 14th a violent engagement took place between the Japanese and the Russians at a place called Dochojo (?), about 3 miles eastward of Newchwang, and that the Russians suffered a signal defeat, losing 50 guns. Then we have a telegram from Kinchow—the Shanhaikwan Kinchow, not the Liaotung town of the same name—, dated the 18th, speaking of a battle at Hiung-yoh-ching, in which the Russians were defeated with a loss of 2,000. Yet another telegram from Shanhaikwan to Peking, dated the 18th instant, recounts a statement that the Japanese have occupied Kaiping, but adds that definite intelligence has not yet been received. The *Jiji* has two telegrams. One is from Shanghai, which place it left on the 18th. This message says that the Japanese, having landed in the neighbourhood of Kaiping, were then marching upon Tashikao, *en route* for Newchwang. The other telegram is from the same place *viâ* Chefoo. It says that Kaiping has fallen into Japanese hands. Further, the *Nichi Nichi* reports that a German ship-master who left Newchwang on the 18th instant, reports having heard heavy cannonading in the vicinity of that place.

Finally, a telegram to the *Asahi* from Kinchow (Shanhaikwan) says that on the 16th instant the Russian troops in Newchwang set out for Kaiping, where a force of ten thousand Russians is collected, its object being to check the march of the Japanese army so as to allow time for the completion of preparations at Liaoyang.

From all these accounts it would seem reasonable to infer that there has really been a landing near Kaiping, its object being to strike a blow at the Russian forces concentrated in the neighbourhood of that place and of Tashikiao. We have often had occasion to note that Tashikiao is a kind of centre of military distribution, since it is there that the Newchwang line joins the Mukden railway. It should of course be an object of Japanese strategy to cut off Russia from all access to maritime sources of supply. Newchwang must be a great help to her from a commissariat point of view, and she is to be driven from Newchwang. From Kaiping to Sungyuen where the van of General Kuroki's army now is, the distance is only 47 miles, so that a Japanese force landing in the neighbourhood of Kaiping could easily effect a junction with Kuroki. This strategy seems the best that could be adopted for effectually clearing the road of advance to Haiching and Liaoyang. If Kuroki marched direct from Sungyuen to Haicheng he would leave upon his left flank all the Russian force collected at Kaiping, Newchwang and Tashikiao and would thus expose his left flank to danger. One thing that he desires to avoid is the necessity of detaching large forces to guard his line of communications. Therefore he clears his flanks. The whole of the Japanese strategy seems to be unfolding intelligibly, and very thorough strategy it is. We presume that the force landed at Kaiping is a part of the First Army,

Repeated rumours of Hunghutze activity are coming. These free-booters appear to have awaited the advance of the Japanese armies, and to be now making things as unpleasant as possible for the Russians. We hear of an attack made by one of their bands upon a company of Cossacks at a point some 33 miles west of Liaoyang, and the Cossacks are said to have been driven off with loss. It is also stated that the Russians have retired from the Kaufantsz district (between Newchwang and Shanhaikwan) in the face of Hunghutze harrassing.

A Chinese junk which left Dalny on the 17th instant reports that all preparations had been made for blowing up the dock and the pier when suddenly a telegram from Port Arthur suspended the operation. Also the iron lighters and dredgers remain intact. About 50 Chinese subjects were carried by this junk to Chefoo, where they arrived on the 18th at 5 p.m.

An hour later (6 p.m. on the 18th) four lighters from Dalny reached Chefoo, having on board 200 Chinese and 18 Russian fugitives. They reported that all the structures connected with the harbour had been destroyed but that the craft in the port were still intact.

It is observable that these fugitives though they left Dalny on the 17th instant, do not seem to have heard of the fighting at the Kinchow Isthmus on the 16th.

Later.

As we write an extra published by the *Asahi* (19th instant, 9 a.m.) reaches us. It contains a telegram from that journal's special correspondent at Kinchow (Shanhaikwan) dated the 18th instant, which says that the Japanese have landed near Kaiping, and that on the 16th they captured that place, routing the Russians, who fled in confusion towards Tashikiao, throwing away their rifles. In consequence of this defeat, the Russian troops which were moving from Newchwang to Kaiping, have countermarched.

The same correspondent says that the Russians have a force of 1,000 men in Newchwang with 19 guns, 7 of which are outside the town.

DEPARTURE OF MR. H. J. HOLM.

The German mail steamer last Saturday carried away from Japan a member of the mercantile community who will be greatly missed by a wide circle of friends. After a residence of 22 years in Japan, during which time he has taken but one trip to the Fatherland, Mr. H. J. Holm departs to take up his permanent residence in Hamburg. As the head of Messrs. Illies & Co. in Yokohama Mr. Holm has occupied for many years a commanding position in the foreign community and in the course of those speeding years won for himself an honoured name for sterling integrity, keen business acumen and farsightedness. Highly appreciated by his business associates and friends he has also been decorated by his Kaiser and by the Emperor of Japan. The poor and distressed ever found in him a ready helper and many a good deed has to be placed to his credit of which only the recipient and himself were privy. Many have been the positions of trust and responsibility which he has filled, but all his work, public and private, has been marked by the quiet unostentation which is the distinguishing characteristic of the man. We trust that many years of happiness and prosperity lie before Mr. Holm and his charming wife, and that Japan may welcome them both back to her shores again.

THE "SUMA."

The *Suma* gunboat, on the 11th instant, picked up the corpse of a Russian floating in the water news Sanshan-tao. The body was duly buried, but having been in the water for about 4 weeks it was unrecognisable.

OPERATIONS NEAR TALIEN.

(OFFICIAL REPORT.)

Vice-Admiral Kataoka, who commands the Third Squadron, reports as follows under date of the 12th instant: "At 7.45 a.m. the Squadron approached Tayiu-kau, the bay immediately north of Talien. The *Itsukushima*, *Nisshin* and *Miyako* opened fire on the shore positions to cover the operations of the torpedo squadron, which was charged with the duty of clearing away the mines. The torpedo-boats were four. Another torpedo squadron which had been on guard duty during the night of the 11th at Port Arthur, arrived outside Taiyiukau at 8.30 a.m. on the 12th, and proceeded to survey the coast. A detachment of the enemy consisting of one company of infantry and 50 troopers was seen at Meiyin, and was fired upon, but did not reply, being apparently charged merely with duties of observation. By the afternoon our survey was completed. Two torpedo-boats, entering the bay of Tayiukau, reconnoitred while removing mines. They observed a line of telegraph near Takushan and sent a party by boat to destroy it, which was done. The people stated that there were 45 Russians at the base of Takushan, about 100 at Sehkia-shan and 1,000 further inland. Fire was opened on them at a range of 2,500 metres, and about 200 were seen to advance, but our guns drove them to shelter. Presently eleven Cossacks appeared on the south-west of Meiyin at a range of 2,000 metres. They were dispersed without loss to us. The *Miyako* entered the bay and observing an outlook-station of the enemy's at a point some 800 feet high on the southwest of Robinson Cape, destroyed it. About ten companies of Russians were behind it, but they retired precipitately.

"At 8 a.m. as torpedo-boats Nos. 48 and 49 were surveying the east coast of the bay, they found a mine at Hehchitze. Various efforts were made to explode it, without success. At 12.27 p.m. as one of the torpedo-boats was repeating the attempt, the mine exploded unexpectedly, and No. 48 was torn in two. She sank in 7 minutes. There were 14 casualties, 7 killed and 7 wounded. Three other mines were found between Shata and Hehchitze. These were successfully exploded. At 6 p.m. the squadron returned to the base. It had accomplished its duties but unfortunately with the loss of a torpedo-boat. Midshipman Kageyama was the only officer among the killed."

PORT ARTHUR, DALNY, AND KINCHOW.

Saturday, May 14.

Conjectures continue about the number of Russian troops in Port Arthur. It is now placed at 12,000. The question is will the Japanese attempt to capture the fortress by a *coup de main* or will they be content to simply invest it. We ourselves strongly incline to the former idea. The Japanese know, of course, that an assault must cost enormously in lives, but there are many imperative reasons for prosecuting this campaign with the utmost possible rapidity, and besides the present temper of the army and navy is not reconcilable with slow tedious processes. The men of the squadrons that have been delivering blow after blow at Port Arthur during the past three months, must be burning to contrive the final fall of the place. Indeed they are known to have petitioned for permission to attempt its capture by escalade. There will be no sitting down and watching.

The Chinese report that two small vessels were despatched from Port Arthur by train on the 8th instant. They conjecture that these may have been submarines. Quite recently it was reported from Port Arthur that the submarines sent from St. Petersburg had been successfully tried. It would be strange if the first thing done with them were to send them to Vladivostock. Besides, on the 8th instant the railway beyond Port Arthur was in Japanese possession and the Alexieff-Floug restoration had not yet taken place.

Under date of the 11th instant at 11.35 a.m. General Floug telegraphs to General Dessino that during the night of the 9th and 10th railway communications with Port Arthur were established. A detachment of Japanese troops consisting of infantry and cavalry was at a point 15 versts east of Sanshilipau. (A station 20 miles below Pulantien according to the railway schedule). The Japanese force that attacked the railway was composed of some 3 companies.

The General further reports that the Japanese squadron approaches Port Arthur daily, battleships and cruisers steaming in during the day and torpedo-craft during the night. He adds that no report has yet been received as to the number of Japanese troops that landed at Pitsewo.

It will be observed that the Russian intelligence officer carefully avoids all explanation as to how this singular restoration of communications took place. We need scarcely say that the Japanese newspapers do not attach the smallest credence to this story. They justly point out that if an incident of such importance had occurred, it must have been preceded by severe fighting, of which there is no indication whatever. General Floug and Viceroy Alexieff can scarcely expect the world to believe that having seized and wrecked the railway at Pulantien, which is a position of cardinal strategical importance, the Japanese not only retired quietly until the Russians had leisure to repair the line, but also abandoned the position.

An interesting statement contained in General Floug's telegram is that the Japanese army—or at any rate a part of it—has reached a point 15 versts eastward of Sanshilipau. This place is 20 miles south of Pulantien and only 22 miles from Kinchou, which is the most important point on the Peninsula after Port Arthur itself. The Japanese are evidently moving rapidly. If they intend to attack Port Arthur by assault, the remaining days of this month will be a very pregnant period of the war.

As to the war-ships in Port Arthur and the detonations heard by Admiral Togo's squadron, it is suggested that the Russians may have been blowing up the ships sunk for blocking purposes. But it has to be remembered that this latter operation could easily be detected from the Japanese squadron.

Tuesday, May 17.

London reports (Reuter) that on the 14th instant the Japanese attacked Dalny, silenced the forts, landed men and are now bombarding the town. It is difficult to reconcile this intelligence with Vice-Admiral Kataoka's report.

Wednesday, May 18.

It would seem that destroyers can get in and out of Port Arthur but no larger craft can accomplish the feat. Even a destroyer has to navigate warily and dare not attempt the channel at full speed. Some Russian destroyers were recently sighted outside the harbour, and people appear to be debating whether they happened to be outside at the moment of the blocking operation or whether they have since emerged. The latter is doubtless the correct explanation.

The story that the Russians had begun to blow up their ships in Port Arthur now takes the form that they attempted to destroy with gun-cotton two of the Japanese blocking steamers. That is a theory to which we have already alluded. Admiral Togo, however, was not likely to confound such an operation with an explosion inside the port. There are nevertheless independent stories that the Russians have managed to drag aside one or two of the steamers and have cut off the masts of all. That is not improbable.

The Chinese say that seven Japanese subjects disguised as Chinese attempted recently to get into Kinchow but were apprehended and fusilladed. Since then the Russians have been doubly vigilant. They employ Chinese at high wages to search every house in the district in order to detect the presence of concealed Japanese.

On the 4th instant the Russians at Port Arthur buried the corpses of 26 Japanese who had perished in the blocking operation. All honours were paid to the bodies. These amenities are worthy of civilized nations.

The *Novy Krai* says that rewards were freely distributed to the officers and men who defended the port against the blocking operation on the morning of the 3rd. Naturally the Port Arthur journal writes in somewhat exultant tones, being at the moment evidently in ignorance that the harbour had been sealed. It says that 19 Japanese were made prisoners. Two of them were officers, severely wounded; the remainder seamen, 8 of them being slightly wounded. Twelve others were also taken but they all died of their wounds. The wounded were put into the hospitals on shore and on the *Mongolia* and treated with the greatest kindness. They say that the blocking steamers set out from some port on the Korean coast.

Thursday, May 19.

Chefoo continues to allege that the Japanese troops have taken Kinchow. The *Fawan* is given as authority, but as the *Fawan* is not allowed at present to go northward of a line extending from the middle of Liaotishan channel to a point on the Korean coast a little south of the estuary of the Ta-dong, we do not see how she can obtain any news not accessible to the public at large. The capture of Kinchow, if it means the passage of the isthmus of that name, would be an operation of cardinal importance, and as the Second Army is evidently moving very quickly we see nothing improbable in the news. But Port Arthur and the Liaotung Peninsula as far as the Pulantien-Pitzewo line is now completely segregated from the outer world so far as land communications are concerned, and we can no longer look to obtain from Russian sources any intelligence of what is going on there. Neither do the Japanese land-lines establish connexion throughout, since they can not yet have been carried across the interval between the First and Second Armies. News must come, therefore, by the maritime route, and we must be prepared for delays longer than anything previously experienced. Hitherto our earliest information has been coming from Russia over the land-lines. That is now stopped. Exactly a similar situation occurred in the war of 1894-5. From Katsura's army with its base at Takushan and its immediate objective at Haicheng, news was quickly and continuously received. But in the case of Oyama's Army after its landing on Liaotung, a considerable interval elapsed before land communication was established along the littoral of the Yellow Sea.

We may take this opportunity of mentioning that there are two "Takushans," a fact which, if not recognised, may cause much perplexity. There is a Takushan on the northern littoral of the Yellow Sea, westward of the Yalu estuary, and there is a Takushan on Hooper Point, the promontory that divides Kerr Bay from Talien-wan.

The *Fawan* further reports that when passing in the vicinity of Port Arthur on the 16th instant, she heard three violent explosions in the direction of that place. Probably these indicate efforts to remove the obstructions from the harbour's entrance. The officer in command of the Russian Squadron must be in a state of singular embarrassment at present. Doubtless he has much confidence in the ability of the garrison to hold out, but it is his duty to be prepared for all contingencies, and if the land-defences be overcome before he can provide an exit for his fleet, then there would be nothing for it except to destroy the latter, the alternative being the capture of the ships by the Japanese. Even supposing an exit provided, the necessity of emerging and attempting to retire to Vladivostock at the supreme moment, would involve meeting the whole strength of the Japanese fleet in the open without that assistance on which the Russians have so greatly relied hitherto, the assistance of the forts. There is every reason for the Japanese to rush forward the attack and there is every reason for the Russian naval commander to feel uneasy.

MANCHURIA.

Saturday morning.

According to General Floug's latest official report, dated at Mukden on the 11th instant, the First Army is making some interesting movements. Our readers will remember that the chief fight in the Yalu Battle was at Hohmutang, some 5 miles westward of Kiulien. From this position a road runs north-east, crossing the Ai River and leading to Kwantien. From Fenghwang, again, another road runs nearly in a northerly direction, leading to Saimuchu. General Floug says that a large body of troops, apparently the Guards Division, have left Fenghwang by the road to Haiching, which would be a straightforward movement. He further says that another Division with 1,500 cavalry and 40 guns is about to set out upon the Saimuchu road; and further that an advance column consisting of one battalion of infantry, 3 squadrons of cavalry and one mountain gun has been seen on the Kwantien road.. General Floug announces that this information has been obtained from Chinese.

General Mischenko reports, through General Floug, that the Japanese force confronting him has divided into two bodies, one of which is taking a south-westerly direction, the other is engaged crossing the Dahian (?) river (probably the Tayang, which must be crossed in order to reach Sungyuen, a town *en route* for Haiching. The Japanese army, or a part of it, took this route in 1894, when marching to assault Sungyuen, which is about 45 miles from Fenghwang). General Mischenko adds that the Chinese inhabitants favour the Japanese and give them warnings of Russian ambushes.

Saturday afternoon.

General Kuroki reports that on the 7th instant a detachment of his Army took possession of Kwantien-ching. On the 11th instant at 6 a.m. a body of Japanese infantry intercepted 300 retreating Russian troopers at Tsilitien (on the Liaoyang road beyond Fenghwang) and took prisoner a wounded Lieutenant and two troopers. These Cossacks belonged to the Trans-Baikal corps which is under the command of Colonel Chichinsky. The Lieutenant is the son of General Honwari (?) and belongs to the Guards, but came to the war at his own request.

With regard to the wonderful Cossack excursion against Anju, Colonel Haraguchi reports that the greater part of the 700 seem to be at Tokchhon, and that 200 passed the night of the 12th at Kaichhon. Both of these places lie eastward of Anju on the road leading through the hills to Kangke and ultimately to Wiwon on the Yalu. The Cossacks left 2 officers and 12 men dead upon the field. These have been duly buried. Their wounded numbered 35, and were carried away on stretchers. The Japanese had 1 combatant soldier, one transport soldier and one tradesman killed; one soldier severely wounded and 4 slightly wounded. One labourer also was wounded. Two slightly wounded non-commissioned Russian officers were taken prisoners.

There seems to be no doubt that the Russians are evacuating, or have evacuated, Newchwang. Telegrams from the firms there to their representatives in Chefoo and Shanghai announce the fact, say that business is recommencing, and desire that steamers should be sent. Telegrams from Chinese sources say that Alexieff has formally intimated to General Tseng Russia's intention of handing over the place, and Tseng has made arrangements for receiving it. Let us hope that this first step of evacuation may be the prelude of many others.

Sunday, May 15.

A telegram to the *Asahi Shimbun* from Tientsin says that the First Army has occupied Sung-yuen. This town lies on the high-road from Fenghwang to Haiching, which, as our readers probably know, is the most important strategical position between Liaoyang and Kinchow. It was to Haiching that the Japanese under General Katsura directed their march in the China-Japan War, and they occupied Sung-yuen on that occasion just as they are reported to have done now. The Ta-yang River, which falls into the sea a little below Takushan, flows eastward of Sung-yuen, and it was Takushan that General Katsura's army used for a secondary base of operations. On the 11th instant General Floug telegraphed from Mukden that the Japanese were passing the Ta-yang, and thus the Tientsin news as to the occupation of Sung-yuen seems very credible. From Fenghwang to Sung-yuen is 45 miles and from Sung-yuen to Haiching the distance is 55 miles, while from Haiching to Liaoyang is 40 miles. The Japanese are moving with remarkable celerity. On the 1st they fought the battle of the Yalu. Some time must then have been needed to rest the men and organize arrangements for a new advance. On the 6th Fenghwang was occupied, a distance of 38 miles from the Yalu. And on the 11th Sung-yuen was entered, a distance of 45 miles beyond Fenghwang, or 83 miles from the Yalu.

It would seem that the First and Second Armies are now in communication. The Russian outposts watching the littoral of the Yellow Sea were, of course, withdrawn so soon as the Japanese advance from the Yalu became an acomplished fact. They doubtless retreated by the Sung-yuen-Haiching road.

The profoundly interesting strategical problem will be the manner of attacking Liaoyang. On the direct road from Fenghwang to that town there are mountains which can be held by a handful of troops against a whole army. It is there that the celebrated Motien-ling Pass defies an advancing general. The Japanese never negotiated it in 1894-5. Certainly they were never seriously bent upon doing so. Will they attempt to turn it on this occasion, and if so, how?

As to the occupation of Kwantien, mentioned above, it may be regarded merely as a measure of flank protection. At Kwantien the roads from Changsong on the Yalu, from Kiulien, and from Fenghwang meet. The point is therefore of importance to an army advancing from the Yalu beyond Fenghwang. It is very probable that the 700 Cossacks who delivered that extraordinary assault against Anju on the 10th instant, rode from Liaoyang by the Kwantien road. How they are to get back is a problem.

Tuesday, May 17.

Reports from Manchuria, coming through Chinese sources, suggest that the martial spirit is not high among the Russian troops and that at Liaoyang and Mukden many are taking drugs to get on the sick list or are disguising themselves in Chinese garments or hiding in native houses. Very probably these stories are much exaggerated, though the inactive role followed by the Russian army can not fail to sorely test the spirit of the troops. The public used to hear a great deal about the harrassing that the Japanese army was to undergo *en route* for the point in central Manchuria where its fate was to be sealed. We see no signs of this harrassing. Since the Yalu there has been no resistance on the part of the Russians. The left wing of General Kuroki's army is now within a few days' march of Haicheng, which is 30 miles northward of Tashikiao. This latter, as our readers know, is the point where the branch line to Newchwang joins the Mukden-Port Arthur railway. If the Japanese get possession of Haicheng, all Russian troops southward of it will be cut off. In fact it would seem at the present moment that Kuropatkin must rapidly concentrate whatever troops are immediately available and make a resolute stand at Haicheng. The time is coming indeed when he, in turn, may essay some coup against the communications of the army marching westward from the Yalu. But General Kuroki has evidently taken due precautions to guard his right flank by pushing his outposts as far as Kwantien, and the Second Army is operating on his left flank. The Japanese plans are well arranged.

The latest news is that the Russians are guarding Lieushankwan and Motienling. Ten thousand troops are said to be massed at the former place—chiefly troops that retired from the Yalu and from Fenghwang, — and twelve thousand are at Motien. These places are on the direct road from Fenghwang to Liaoyang; that is to say, the mountain road, which presents tremendous obstacles to an advancing army and offers extraordinary facilities to a defending army. Will the Japanese take this route? A containing force may, but General Kuroki is not likely, we imagine, to attempt in the face of Russian troops what his predecessors hesitated to essay in the case of Chinese. It has to be remembered, however, that the seasons are different. When the Japanese directed their march towards Liaoyang ten years ago, the time was mid-winter, and the mountain roads were almost impassable. They will be at the same places now in early summer, though still much snow and ice remain. Besides, there is no telling what Kuroki may attempt. He threw his men at the Kiulien heights in a manner which strategists supposed to have disappeared finally from modern warfare, and which could have been justified only by success.

Wednesday, May 18.

It is stated that two Japanese were captured by the Russians at a point north of Harbin on the 27th of April. They wore Mongolian garb and had in their possession 10 Murata rifles and a box of ammunition. It is supposed that they were engaged on a railway-wrecking enterprise.

News comes indicating that the Hunghutze are still busy in the neighbourhood of Mukden. A collision between them and the Railway Guards is said to have taken place on the 2nd instant. Four Russians were killed and 3 wounded. This intelligence is published in a Harbin journal, and we learn that the Hunghutze disappeared without leaving any trace. The affair happened in the night.

M. DELCASSE.

Should the Combes Ministry be obliged before long to give up office—which seems a not unlikely event—it will be some consolation to Englishmen to know that M. Delcassé is pretty certain to be entrusted with the management of the exterior policy of France, no matter what combination of Ministers succeeds the present Cabinet. The Minister of Foreign Affairs—says the Paris correspondent of the *Globe*—who has played so large a share in the bringing about of the rapprochement between France and England is a typical Frenchman in many ways. He is a vivacious, short-sighted little man, and for the last few years he has lived in the handsome palace which is his by official privilege on the Quai d'Orsay, fronting the Seine and next door to the Chamber of Deputies. When I first knew him he lived in a much less pretentious house on the Boulevard de Clichy, in a neighbourhood containing many artists and alleged poets and the Moulin Rouge. With all his geniality, M. Delcassé as Foreign Minister is prudent to excess, and is rarely caught napping. If a deputy springs an awkward question on him at an inopportune moment, the diplomatic Foreign Minister assums his wisest air, protests that the negotiations are still in progress, and that it would be most indiscreet on his part to consent to the discussion of a question which still forms the subject of pourparlers. Or he explains that reasons of State, questions affecting the national defence are at stake, and that he feels sure the honourable member would never for a moment suggest that he should jeopardise the welfare of the Republic in order to satisfy the curiosity of the honourable member. These tactics never fail. "Bravo! Bravo!" comes from every part of the House, and the misguided legislator who has been so imprudent as to ask the awkward question is covered with confusion. If he has not been completely bereft of speech, he thanks the patriotic Minister, says he has obtained complete satisfaction, and that he knows the interests of the country are in the best possible hands. M. Delcassé deigns to smile, and the incident is declared to be at an end. When the Minister has been warned beforehand, he does not mind, and when he does address the House he delivers a speech which has been carefully prepared at leisure. When discussing matters of State with a foreign diplomat, M. Delcassé's favourite artifice is to remove his pincenez and slowly rub the glasses with his handkerchief. This gives him time to think over what he has to say, and to study the man before him. The Foreign Minister of France is exceedingly well read, his memory is extraordinary, and he has a special facility for remembering dates. M. Waldeck-Rousseau's opinion of him may be judged from the following sentence:—"Delcassé," he said, "can say more in fewer words and less in more words than any man I know." Some time ago, when there was trouble between France and Turkey, Munir Bey, the Porte's Ambassador here, found it convenient to quit the capital for a time. After things had been arranged with the help of a few French ironclads, Munir Bey came back, and made an official call on M. Delcassé. "I am delighted to see you again, Monsieur le Ministre," said Munir Bey. "I do not doubt it in the least," was M. Delcassé's frank reply, as he smilingly wiped his gold-rimmed glasses.

A REMINISCENCE OF STANLEY.

Less than two months after the death of Sir Edwin Arnold, Japan loses another admirer in the person of Sir Henry M. Stanley. A slight personal acquaintance with him has induced me to write this reminiscence of the illustrious dead.

It was just five years ago, on the 16th of May, 1899, that I first saw Stanley, of whom I had read much and whom I admired greatly. The place was the Houses of Parliament. In the afternoon, I was walking in the Peers' Corridor with a member from Cambridge, who kindly took me about the House, when we passed a gentleman slowly coming from the House of Peers. My companion, Mr. Charles Giles, told me that this gentleman was the finder of Livingstone. I was surprised and unconsciously retraced a few paces to look back. He was about fifty-eight years old, and his hair and beard were snow-white. His stature was of medium height—rather short for an Englishman. The latter fact struck me forcibly, because I had imagined him a giant after reading the records of his active life. I would have followed him from magnetic attraction, if I had been alone. My kind cicerone pointed out to me some of the renowned persons sitting in the House of Peers, such as Lord Salisbury, Mr. Chamberlain and others, but my perturbed mind was with the figure I had just seen. On leaving my companion, I hastened to the Strangers' Gallery of the House of Commons, and asked an official whether Stanley was sitting below. To my disappointment, I was told that he was not to be found there. Stanley was member for Lambeth. The official did not stop here, however, but suggested that he would take my card to him if I wanted to see him. I did as directed. The few minutes to follow were to me jumping into the dark; my heart beat high; my eyes swam in my head; in short, I scarcely knew what was going on about me at that moment. By and by a summons came; I hastened to the door, where I found myself under a dim light, face to face with a calm-looking gentleman who gave his hand to me and saluted in a most cordial manner. While I was running on with compliments, half of which, I am afraid, were Japanese to him, I was interrupted by a lady and gentleman who came to meet him, and monopolized the precious moments. But I had my wishes fulfilled. Two or three days later, I wrote to Stanley apologizing for my rudeness in introducing myself in such a hasty way and expressing my joy at the interview. Soon came an answer, in which he paid high compliments to the Japanese nation. The opening part of the letter ran:—

> "I had no idea the Japanese had ever heard of my name, and it is very flattering to me to know that they have actually a book about myself. I know for many years back that the Japanese were a remarkable people, and this little fact of which you write still more impresses me. I have had much experience with many European nations, and I learned among them that the people of each nation pay all the attention they are capable of to their own celebrities rather than to those of other people. Therefore this keen love of knowledge in the Japanese shows high intellectual qualities, which must in time range them alongside the very foremost of Europe. The Japanese have already gained for themselves the respect of the first Powers of Europe for their prowess in war, and I think when the opportunity arrives that they will prove their right to a still higher opinion from the Western world."

How modestly he speaks of himself! The great men of the world have always been modest, and Stanley was not an exception to the rule. A month later, he was knighted. My second and last interview with him was at his house at Whitehall in November of the same year. Lady Stanley and her aged mother received me no less cordially than he. I should have remarked that Stanley's manner was very calm and gentle, with not the least indication that his earlier life was so full of adventures. Besides myself a few friends were invited to the "At Home." I was asked to read a few lines from a Japanese translation of Stanley's life, which I did to the amusement of the company. I was, however, a little abashed to overhear the little son of Stanley, aged three, ask his father where that black man (pointing to me) came from. Such was the manner in which I made the personal acquaintance of Sir Henry Stanley, whose life has had a lasting moral influence on me, and whose sympathy with Japan deserves the proper appreciation of the nation. As hinted in his letter above quoted, is not this war with Russia the very opportunity for the Japanese to prove our right to "a still higher opinion from the Western world"? It is a matter of consolation to reflect that Stanley lived long enough to see our successes so far achieved.

Y. Isobe.
(An Admirer of Stanley.)

CHINA.

Saturday, May 14.

The Viceroy of Kwangtung is said to have addressed a circular to the military and local officials under his jurisdiction, calling their attention to the successes won by Japan, and pointing out that the time has come to restore China's prestige. It is happily a far cry from Kwantung to Liaotung, but an incident like this increases the world's natural uneasiness lest China should be drawn into the struggle. Japan does not desire her aid any way, and her interference would be productive of innumerable evils.

Monday, May 16.

Mr. Uchida, Japanese Representative in Peking, has addressed the Chinese Government, urging the great advisability of avoiding everything calculated to suggest that China is about to throw in her lot with Japan, in defiance of her neutrality. It is pointed out that China's enemies are eagerly seeking some pretext to create such an impression.

The wonder is, when are the Russians going to begin. Do they intend to take the field at all or will they wait quietly to be attacked? News comes through a Chinese source that a body of 8,000 have left Liaoyang heading eastward, which would imply that they are going to meet the Japanese. But it is quite a considerable time since (May 2nd) Kuropatkin himself was said to have left Liaoyang for Fenghwang at the head of 20,000 men. The Commander-in-Chief ought to have been heard of ere now if that were true.

Continued reports come from Newchwang of Russian activity in evacuating the place. They are moving away their big guns by yoking 20 horses to each piece—the animals being requisitioned from the farmers—, and they have sent away 450 carts full of ammunition.

It is said that at Dalny there are only 1,000 infantry, 50 cavalry, seventy or eighty junks and two small steamers.

Tuesday, May 17.

At every stage of this war and of the negotiations that preceded it we find the most astonishingly clumsy action on Russia's part. Her conduct throughout the discussion was a fitting sequel to the pragmatical diplomacy which had converted the Manchurian question from a sleeping dog to a fighting beast, and her conduct when she received the first of the blows that her arbitrary and offensive acts had brought upon her head was not what might have been expected from a brave nation. She continues the record now by her needless protests against China's attitude. China has not been guilty of the faintest breach of neutrality. She has shown a degree of circumspection which, having due regard to the circumstances, might almost be called pusillanimity. Russia, on the contrary, has not respected China's neutrality. She has sent her troops freely into the West-Liao districts, and has collected supplies there, in flagrant disregard of the fundamental rules of neutrality. Yet she is now loudly complaining that China shows a disposition to depart from an attitude of strict neutrality. Herself guilty of overt breaches of neutrality, she seeks to make the world condemn China for "intending" to take Japan's part. M. Cassini and the French Ambassador in Washington are reported to be exploiting this accusation for all it is worth, and General Linevitch is said to have officially threatened that unless General Ma's forces be withdrawn to a certain distance from the railway—300 versts is the alleged measure—, he, Linevitch, will send a body of Russians to drive them back. It is hard to believe that such open defiance has been thrown in the teeth of the Chinese, or that their patience is thus deliberately subjected to tests which exceed the endurance of human nature. But there seems to be no doubt that, however the details may be exaggerated by rumour, Russia's general charges against China's integrity of purpose are preferred with insistence and with imperiousness which, if they be not deliberately designed to enrage China, can only be described as supremely clumsy. There is no ostensible reason to assume that Russia wishes to draw China into the melée, unless, indeed, as the London *Spectator* has more than once suggested, the St. Petersburg statesmen think that in a universal conflict alone can Russia hope to find some partially honourable exit from her present difficulties. It is more than questionable whether France would be moved to action by China's interference, and even a Chinese army would add not a little to the embarrassments of the military situation in Manchuria. The wisest course for Russia, one imagines, would be to sit quiet *vis-à-vis* Peking, and to avoid everything calculated to offend or defy China. On the contrary, she is taking a line which, if pursued much further, can not mean anything but a final rupture of neutrality.

The Chinese Government, on the 15th instant, addressed to the various Powers a circular note renewing its previous declaration of neutrality and engaging that it shall be vigorously observed. This step is said to have been taken at the instance of Mr. Uchida, Japan's Representative in Peking, and it has been warmly applauded by all his colleagues, the Russian Minister excepted.

Thursday, May 19.

The Foreign Office in Tokyo announces that the Japanese Representative in Peking addressed, on the 10th inst., to the Chinese Government a note earnestly recommending the advisability of openly renewing the declarations of neutrality made by China at the commencement of the War. The Japanese Government has always considered that the peace of the world and the general interests of the nations would be best served did China abstain altogether from taking any part in the conflict. Advice in that sense was tendered in Peking from the beginning, and the Chinese Government maintained its neutral altitude faithfully. But of late there have been many rumours suggesting that the Chinese nation is anxious to join in the fight, and as these rumours have produced an uneasy feeling in the public mind, Japanese statesmen deem it advisable that some re-assurance should be given. We know by telegraph that Japan's counsels have been acted on in Peking, and that China's Representatives in the various Occidental capitals have repeated their assurances as to preserving strict neutrality.

In certain quarters in Tokyo there evidently prevails a belief, suggested from Peking, that M. Lessar and M. Pavlow have been exerting all their strength to foster the above impression about China's inclination to depart from her neutral attitude, and have even been intriguing to inspire and strengthen such an inclination. These diplomatists see no hope of rehabilitating their country's reputation in Occidental opinion except by representing her in the light of the West's champion against the Yellow Peril, and to promote that fallacy nothing would be better than that China should throw in her lot with Japan. Much allowance must be made for Russia in her difficulties, but it might have been hoped by her friends that she was not yet reduced to an expedient so false and so shameless.

ALEXIEFF.

There is a rumour that Viceroy Alexieff has been relieved of all military functions of every nature. The story requires confirmation, though if ever a man deserved disgrace, it is Alexieff.

RUSSIAN PRISONERS.

The *Hochi Shimbun* reports that on the 14th instant the first batch of Russian prisoners from the Yalu reached Moji by the S.S. *Colombo*, and were to be at once despatched to Takahama in Iyo, where there is a large hospital. The batch numbered 16 officers—of whom 9 are wounded—and 436 rank and file, of whom 285 are wounded. Our contemporary alleges that 800 prisoners have to follow, among them being 170 wounded. These did not surrender during the battle, but were found in the groves and farm-houses near the field. It is stated that when this first batch of prisoners was sent back from the front, they were told by the Japanese Head Quarter Staff that they might feel perfectly easy as to the treatment they would receive in Japan. A sum of 50 *yen* was handed to each officer. They all—men and officers alike—presented the appearance of being very badly nourished. The officers were handsomely dressed, most of them wearing long boots lined with fur, but the garments of the men were in many cases meagre and greatly soiled. They all ate as though they had been famished, and their consumption of whiskey is said be frank. Among them is a medical man who was in the Russian service though not a Russian. He earnestly sought permission to witness the treatment of the wounded and sanction was given. But it is a mistake to say, as has been said, that Russian surgeons were employed by the Japanese to tend the wounded. There was nothing of the kind. The wounded are all said to be doing well. The *Hochi* states that although the officers felt quite confident about the treatment they would receive in Japan, some of the men imagined that when they reached these shores they would have their heads cut off. Among the officers there are two Colonels and one Lieut.-Colonel; the remainder being captains and lieutenants. One of the officers is said to be a man of 62. They are reported to have stated that the Russian troops on the Yalu were picked men, and that their quality was proved by the stand they made at Hohmutang, where only the rear attack of the Japanese finally discomfited them.

VLADIVOSTOCK.

Saturday, May 14.

Saseho reports that Admiral Kamimura's squadron recently exchanged fire with the Viadivostock forts. This occurred apparently just after the catastrophe of the *Kinshu Maru*. The squadron, on approaching the forts and, during a fog, was attacked by two Russian torpedo-boats which it beat off. The fog then lifting, the forts could be plainly seen and an interchange of shots took place. Several of the Russian shells fell in the neighbourhood of the *Izumi*. There do not appear to have been any casualties on the Japanese side, and as the fog settled down in a very short time, the Admiral steamed away.

Tuesday, May 17.

It is reported that on the 15th instant sounds of cannonading were heard in the seas near Iki and Tsushima, and there is a conjecture that the Vladivostock Squadron may have fallen in with Admiral Kamimura somewhere in that vicinity. But nothing seems less likely than that the Vladivostock Squadron should have ventured down so far. A month ago the thing would have been credible. Port Arthur was then open, and the possibility of a junction of the two fleets had not ceased to be entertained. But now, the only course for the four cruisers is to stay at home, and perhaps to essay some further raids against private property under the cover of fogs. Speaking of this we may observe that day succeeds day without the slightest symptom of activity on the part of the Port Arthur squadron. Viceroy Alexieff telegraphed that the last Japanese blocking essay had failed and that the entrance to the port was free. Either he was singularly mistaken—and what a mistake for a responsible officer to make!—, or he has received orders to keep every ship in harbour pending the arrival of Makaroff's successor—who can not now arrive except by balloon—, or he has lost all heart for fresh adventures. Can there be any doubt that the first explanation is the correct one.

KOREA.

Saturday, May 14.

It is evident that the Cossacks who attacked Anju on the 10th instant must have made a very long ride. According to the statements of the two prisoners—one a non-commissioned officer—the force, 700 strong, set out from Liaoyang, whither it had been carried by train, and riding to the upper waters of the Yalu, crossed that river at Chhosan. They then took the Wiwon road, and travelled eastward and southward *viâ* Kangke, Nyongwon and Kaichhon, an immense circuit. Altogether the distance covered before emerging at Anju must have been about 350 miles at least, and supposing that the Cossacks travelled 20 miles a day, it would have taken them 17 days to reach Anju. Thus they must have set out from Liaoyang on the 22nd or 23rd of April at latest, and it follows that they knew nothing whatever about the battle of the Yalu on the 1st of May. Who was responsible for sending these men out into space? A wilder manœuvre we do not remember to have read of in the pages of history. They could not possibly hope to accomplish anything tangible. It was a futile frittering of strength. When they did reach Anju, they made a very poor showing. We do not know what force the garrison of that place had, but presumably it was not more than two companies, or, say, 250 men. The Cossacks numbered 700, yet they failed to produce any impression, and finally retired after losing 13 killed and some forty wounded, while the Japanese casualties were four killed and six wounded. General Kuropatkin must have been privy to the despatch of these Cossacks, and the only inference we can draw is that the Russian Commander-in-Chief imagines himself to be fighting against savages. We trust that he may long cling to the delusion.

Meanwhile the Russians on the north-eastern coast of Korea are reported to have withdrawn to the Tumen, with the exception of a force of some 200 which remains at Kyongson. They are said to have swept the country clear of provisions. It remains to be seen what purpose the Russians hope to achieve by these isolated raids. To ordinary onlookers they seem to be merely frittering away their strength.

Reports from the upper waters of the Yalu suggest that some of the Cossacks who escaped after the battle of Kiulien did not care to rejoin the Russian army, but have joined the raiding bandits on the frontier and are now heard of at Chhosan, Wiwon, and other places in that vicinity.

Monday, May 16.

It has been definitely decided that the *Haginoura Maru* was sunk by the Russians on the 25th of April, when the Vladivostock Squadron made its destructive exit. But the particulars of the incident are kept secret. We read in Japanese journals that the steamer belonged to Mr. Horikawa, not to Mr. Hori as previously stated.

The threatened resignation of the Korean Cabinet *en bloc* was averted for a moment but seems to have again come upon the tapis. It is all a farce.

The *Nichi Nichi Shinibun* says that the question of fishery privileges for the Japanese has not yet been settled by the Korean Government. According to our contemporary's Seoul correspondent the raid of the 700 Cossacks at Anju has again thrown Korean ideas into confusion and perturbation. He adds that the anti-Japanese party is also agitating about the Seoul-Wiju railway, and insisting that if it be really a military line, it should be handed over when the war is finished.

Tuesday, May 17.

Harrowing reports are published about the doings of the 700 Cossacks who recently rode through the mountains of central Korea to attack Anju. Probably the small store of provisions they carried with them was exhausted by the time they reached Nyongwon, for their tracks were thenceforth marked with robbery and rapine of every description. Private property, the virtue of women, the persons of men, nothing seems to have been safe from their violence. It is said that their thefts extended to Yunsan, where the American mining concessionaires have their head-quarters. In this context we may quote the following from the last number of the *Korea Review*:—

> The Russians spread out over the southern portion of North Pyeng-an Province in a desultory sort of way. They must have known through their scouts that the Japanese were going north by the main road only but the Russians scattered far to the right and left of this road apparently bent upon forage. On March 15th they entered Yŭng-byŭn, the capital of the province, about a hundred strong and made a demand upon the governor for food. He could do nothing but comply, so he gave them orders on various prefects in the vicinity. These the Russians took and presented at various prefectures saying that the Russians were going to fight the Japanese and that the Koreans must aid them with food. They seem to have had the curious notion that this would be pleasing to the people, when in fact nothing could be more distasteful. The Russians gradually came to see their mistake when prefect after prefect announced that orders straight from Seoul were superior to the governor's orders and that they could furnish no provisions. The result was that the Russians had to take what they wanted. These provisions were not paid for even though the Russians may have offered Russian money. That money was worthless to the Korean and however much he received it could not be called pay. It is amply proved that they took things without leave, for they entered the grounds of American citizens in Sun-ch'un and were going to walk off with some fodder, and it was only by an appeal to the head officer that the theft was prevented.
>
> On the 22nd a Russian band, twenty-five strong, entered Ch'ŭl-san and took a hundred pecks of rice and five bullocks. A large majority of the people had run away leaving their houses empty. The Russians entered these houses and took whatever they needed. It was the same in all the towns along the main roads. The number of Koreans who fled from their homes in the north would mount up to thousands. Where did they go with their wives and children? It was bitterly cold. Winter had but just begun to break up. The imagination is taxed to the utmost to form even a faint conception of the terrible suffering those people must have endured. The number of actual deaths among those fugitives must have been ten times the number of Japanese and Russians who were killed or wounded in the various small engagements. We may smile and say that it was quite unnecessary for them to run away from their homes, that they were themselves to blame for their suffering; but we forget that they know of war only as rapine and plunder, the loss of property, of life and of honour more precious than life. They know nothing of "civilized" warfare.

Wednesday, May 18.

The remnant of the Cossacks who on the 10th instant attacked Anju, have now raided the British mining settlement at Eunsan. They reached that place on the 14th instant, stole everything they could lay hands on, and placed all the foreigners under restraint, except the Japanese who managed to escape. Eunsan does not lie in the line of retreat from Anju to the Yalu. It is on the south-east of Anju. Evidently the Cossacks diverged from the Sunchhon-Kaichon road expressly for the purpose of raiding this settlement. It remains to be seen whether Great Britain will tamely suffer the persons and properties of her subjects and their employees to be thus treated. The British Company is at Eunsan by right of treaty. If Korea is a belligerent, all persons residing in Korea must of course be prepared to take the risks attendant on war. But it is in no sense a legitimate operation of war to raid a British settlement and to steal British property at such a place as Eunsan. That kind of work has nothing to do with war: it is pure brigandage.

These Cossacks seem to be heading for Hamyong-do province. If they follow their present route they will emerge at Wonsan (Yuensan), and perhaps they hope to carry their raiding performances all up the Korean coast viâ Songchin to the Tumen. Retreat by the road they traversed originally would take them to Kwantien, which is now in Japanese occupation. Of that, however, they probably know nothing. Indeed it may be doubted whether the news of the Yalu battle has yet reached them. They are just taking a big ride through regions where they know that there can not be any organized resistance. Of course it means that Russia now treats Korea as a belligerent, though not a Korean soldier has taken the field against her. Supposing that Korea should now declare war against Russia, would that constitute the "second Power" whose union with Japan would call for French intervention?

There is said to be some unrest in the province of Chhungchhong-do. The *Tonghaks*, the *Sohaks* and others of the same genus, to the number of 2,000, are reported to be plundering and burning. They are worthy associates of the Cossacks, and we should not be surprised to learn that the latter had joined hands with them.

The *Jiji Shimpo's* Seoul correspondent affirms that much trouble is caused by that old difficulty, the arbitrary conduct of foreign missionaries who belong to the Church of Rome and enjoy French protection. Treaty limits do not exist for them, it is said. They buy lands and houses wherever they please, and they encourage the people to claim independence of territorial jurisdiction. The Korean Government is preparing a strong protest. We give the story for what it may be worth.

Some member of the Korean Government is reported to have impeached Li Chi-yon for promoting the conclusion of the Korean-Japanese Protocol. Mr. Hayashi has urged that, in view of the document having been internationally concluded and imperially sanctioned, such complaints should be vigorously dealt with.

Thursday, May 19.

Mr. Shinjo, Japanese Vice-consul at Pyong-yang, reports that the 700 Cossack raiders buried 34 of their dead at Anju and carried off 14 wounded, of whom 4 died at Kaichhon. On the 12th these Cossacks retired to Tokchhon and on the 13th to Nyongpyong, evidently on their return journey to the Yalu. From Nyongpyong they may take either the route to Chhosan or that to Wiwon. Their escape from Korea will be an interesting episode. They are said to be stealing and destroying wherever they pass. At Tokchhon they ravished over 20 women. The inhabitants are compelled to carry the wounded. In fact, from all accounts, these Cossacks are completely out of hand, and are behaving like a party of common bandits. But as to their having diverged from their path to raid the British mining settlement at Eunsan, no official communication has yet been received.

The Russians are reported to be behaving with the utmost lawlessness in north-eastern Korea. They are compelling the unfortunate people to surrender anything needed or desired by the soldiers, and such is the terror their violence has caused that the farmers do not venture to till the fields and the inhabitants are hiding in the hills. Taken in conjunction with the pillaging of houses and the ravishing of women wherewith the Cossacks are beguiling their time in the adjoining province of Pyongyang-do, all these things constitute a fine picture of the civilization with which M. Doumer invites France to sympathise. A war of Western civilization against Eastern! What a gross insult the French statesman offers to Western civilization!

Friday, May 20.

The Korean Government, according to a telegram from Seoul to the *Asahi*, published on the 18th instant an announcement that all treaties and conventions between the Korean and the Russian empires are abrogated. The *Jiji Shimpo* had already reported that this intention existed, but its execution did not appear likely to be so speedy. We can not be at all surprised at Korea's action. Russia has treated her as an open enemy. Even at this moment a band of some 600 Cossacks are riding through Korea committing all sorts of excesses against the persons and properties of peaceful Korean subjects.

This official declaration excepts, however, any concessions made by Korea to private individuals, so long as the carrying out of such concessions is not deemed injurious. But all privileges granted with respect to timber-felling or afforestation on the Yalu, the Tumen or Ulneung Island are explicitly revoked on the ground that they have been grossly abused by their holders.

That is a disagreeable pill for Russia. There is an immense quantity of timber collected by the Russians at Yong Ampho. It will do for building the Seoul-Wiju Railway. Such are the ways of fate.

THE ORIENTAL ASSOCIATION.

On the evening of the 18th instant this Association held a meeting in the Nobles Club. Mr. Kurino, recently Japanese Minister in St. Petersburg, was the principal guest, and there were also invited Marquis Ito, Count Okuma, Count Kabayama, Viscount Enomoto, Mr. Akizuki, Secretary of the St. Petesburg Legation, and others. Marquis Kuroda acted as Chairman, Count Soyejima being absent.

Mr. Kurino, in returning thanks for his health which was cordially drunk, begged to be excused from making any statement concerning Russian affairs as he deemed it more prudent to remain silent at present.

This declaration threw a damper on the proceedings and the meeting seemed likely to end in a fiasco when Mr. Sonoda rose and declared that having been invited to defer all other engagements for the purpose of attending, they really had a right to expect some speeches from the distinguished statesmen now present. This brought Marquis Ito to his feet. His Excellency said that Mr. Kurino was an old friend of his and, in the main, a fellow-thinker. When last in Europe he (the speaker) had invited Mr. Kurino to meet him in Paris and had then discussed the Russian question with him. Thereafter he had proceeded to St. Petersburg. It was unnecessary to recount what had occurred. Subsequently Mr. Kurino in St. Petersburg and he, the Marquis, in Japan had striven very earnestly to preserve the peace, but had not succeeded. They might each accept one half of the responsibility of failure.

Count Okuma said he had nothing special to speak about. He was an old men without any future and he wanted to see the young enterprising men take charge of events. Thus he had hoped to hear something from Mr. Kurino. But there appeared to be some obstacle to his speaking. Mr. Akizuki also kept silence. For his own part he thought there was plenty to talk about. There was above all the strange fact that whereas international morality was said to to have made great progress, the very Sovereign by whose instrumentality the Hague Tribunal had been instituted, was himself the first to break the peace. In such circumstances there was no need for over-circumspection. Mistakes might be made in speaking but they might also be made in silence. Marquis Ito himself had once been anti-foreign and had not hesitated to proclaim his opinion (at this point Marquis Ito laughingly suggested moderation of speech). It did not seem that reticence was imperative when they were fighting one of the biggest Powers in the world. Things had changed with them since the time when Viscount Enomoto was Minister in St. Petersburg and Saghalien had been exchanged for the Kuriles. (Marquis Ito:—I suspect that Count Okuma himself had something to do with that). "Yes, I had something to do with it. I was a strong man in those days. But times have changed. Remember how we felt when a sword-slash was given to the Russian Prince Imperial at Otsu. Were not we in trepidation lest the compliment should be returned in the shape of cannon shot at Hakodate? And now we are fighting that very Russia. Even the big men of the Meiji era could not have looked forward to this. Marquis Ito looked very humble that evening. Habitually he never admitted that Japan had achieved anything big. But in his heart and on his face he showed that he thought differently, and also that he took the credit to himself." (Loud laughter. Marquis Ito:—How about yourself?) I, why of course I also take the credit. But everything moves with the times. The elder Saigo's proposal to attack Korea was in itself a small matter. It would have cost little and it gave him little concern. The bogey perpetually present with him, night and day, was Russia. And now that big, formidable Russia is standing in the lists with us and is getting beaten wherever we find time. Truly the times bring strange changes. Yet the force that directs the influence of the times, that force is man's ability. It was because Japan had heroes like Ito that she had kept pace with the trend of the age. We have all to die, however. We must look to the young men to take our places, young men such at Marquis Kuroda and Mr. Kato Takaaki, our Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Their healths, gentlemen!"

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

In view of her new loan and her general financial condition, Russia's securities have fallen in Paris to 88.5.

The *Leisure Hour* for April contains a short article on the curious frost fish of New Zealand—a large creature about four feet long—which practically lays itself at the fishermen's feet high and dry on the shore on a frosty morning. The old-time belief, says the writer, that the fish pursued its prey too close to the shore and was left by the long swell during ebb tide, and the speculation put forward by Dr. R. von Ledenfeld in 1884 that the fish died from internal hemorrhage, following the bursting of the air bladder, merit no more than passing attention. We now know that the frost fish is neither stranded alive nor cast dead on the shore, but that it commits what appears to be a deliberate act of self-destruction. Selecting a spot where the water is smoothest and most shallow—from which it may be fairly inferred that the fish knows exactly where it is going—it approaches the shore, preserving, as far as one is able to judge by the light of the stars a normal condition in its swimming. On it comes until its deep, narrow body touches the ground when, not being able any longer to maintain balance and steering power, it falls upon its side. A pause ensues. Then, as if something had of a sudden put it in a terrible fright, it curls itself up and begins to leap towards the shore. In a few moments it has gone up high and dry, and the prize, all glowing white, lies at the feet of the first fisherman who happens along. It was suggested a few years ago that the fish might possibly come ashore to rid itself of some marine pest by grating its body against the sand. Careful investigation, however, has proved the beautiful outer skin to be free from parasites. Neither can it be pain arising from some internal disease which drives the fish madly on. If opened, nothing can be detected to show that it was otherwise than in perfect health immediately prior to its death. Since the fish is found only in frosty weather, there seems good ground for assuming that it is the intense cold which is accountable, in some mysterious way, for the seemingly irresistible impulse which presses it shoreward, and which shows no abatement until the sands and death have been reached. Yet, if it be the frost which is fatal to its existence would not the return of winter instinctively cause it to abandon the inhospitable shores of the South Island for the warmer waters of the North? Moreover, it must be borne in mind that, bite the frost never so keenly, there are days, weeks—ay, years—when no frost fish is found. Another noticeable fact is that all fish which come ashore are of uniform length, and presumably full grown.

A lantern procession organized by the business-men of the capital started from the Hibiya Park in Tokyo on the evening of the 15th instant and made a wide circuit through the city, stopping to cheer outside the Palace. There are said to have been twenty-thousand lantern bearers. Made wise by the sad experiences garnered on a previous occasion, the processionists, the onlookers, and the police worked in orderly harmony and there was no accident of any kind.

Lord Ampthill, who is acting as Lord Curzon's deputy during the latter's absence from India, is one of the youngest of British latter-day proconsuls. He has not yet passed his thirty-fifth birthday, and was Governor of Madras at thirty-one. A member of the great Russell family, he is a son of one of the most famous Ambassadors, Odo Russell, of whom Prince Bismarck observed during his fourteen years' stay at Berlin that he spoke French like a Frenchman and German like a Teuton. Like more than one other politician who has since done well Lord Ampthill began his public career as private secretary of Mr. Chamberlain, after he had tried without success to persuade Fulham to return him to Spring Gardens. Before that he had won fame chiefly as an athlete and a sportsman. As an oarsman his prowess is well known. He rowed in the Oxford Eight in 1889, and won the Silver Goblets with Guy Nickalls at Henley in 1890. Lord Ampthill enjoyed the signal distinction while at Oxford of being President at the same time of the Boating Club and of the Union. His election to the Union was the result of a historic contest. His opponent was Mr. A. G. V. Magee, a son of the late Archbishop of York, and a tremendous fight resulted. Lord Ampthill eventually won by the narrow margin of six votes—a result largely attributable to his immense personal popularity. Lady Ampthill is the sister of Lord Beauchamp, another young Governor, who was not, however, quite so successful in Australia as Lord Ampthill has proved in India. Some time ago Lady Ampthill was the victim of a somewhat amusing incident at an Indian railway station, where, being seen embracing her half-brother, whose identity was not known to all present, she was for a time the subject of the gravest suspicion on the part of Madras gossips and scandal-mongers.

A friend has sent the Editor of *Public Opinion* an extract from a letter written by a high official in North Nigeria, thinking it might interest his readers, especially those who are not aware that cannibalism still exists on British soil, to wit, in the Protectorate of Northern Nigeria, in Western Africa.

"The following tale may interest you. It has the peculiarity of being perfectly true. Before our Government took over Nigeria, some attempt to govern and administer justice, on an English basis, was made by the Royal Niger Company. The condition of the country twelve or fifteen years ago may well be imagined, when even now in many parts of the Protectorate there are swarms of cannibals, who have never seen a *white man*. To continue, information of the death of one of the chiefs in the delta reached the district commissioner of that neighbourhood, who immediately sent a subordinate to inquire into the matter and summon a jury—in fact, to act as coroner, according to the terms of the local Proclamation. The newly appointed coroner, fired with zeal, and anxious to act in strict accordance with the terms of the Proclamation, sent in an urgent message to this effect:—'In accordance with your instructions, I arrived here on such a day, and announced my intention of holding an inquiry into the death of the Chief. I explained that I required twelve men to assist me in coming to a conclusion. The people immediately ran away into the bush. After great difficulty, I secured twelve of them, and explained their duties as well as I could. We viewed the body, and I called a witness. After hearing his evidence, I asked the jury if they wanted to hear any more.

They said, "No, we want our dinner now." I explained that they were to make up their minds before I let them go. They said they could not and did not want to, but wanted their dinner. I then locked them up, and said I would not let them out until they had decided how the deceased chief met his death. I then went to lunch. On any return, I found that they *jury had eaten the deceased*. Kindly send instructions for my next step, as the Proclamation does not seem to provide for this incident."

The preliminaries for a second domestic loan of 100 million *yen* have been virtually arranged. A meeting of bankers, held subsequently to a conference at the resident of the Prime Minister, decided that the rate of issue should be 92 (the former loan was issued at 96), the interest 5 per cent., and the period 6 years.

American newspapers published the following press message on April 20th :—

Paris, April 19.

The Tokyo correspondent of the *Matin* says that "the active participation of the United States Minister (Lloyd C. Griscom) in the fetes given by the Japanese Association, being a flagrant contradiction of President Roosevelt's declarations, causes a belief that the ulterior intervention of the United States is probable."

The level-headed *Public Ledger* of Philadelphia replied to this wild scare in a short editorial article on April 22. It said :—

There has been some Russian criticism of our Minister to Japan, it being alleged that he has exhibited too great a personal interest in the success of the Perry Memorial Relief Fund, which grew out of the recent celebration at Tokyo of the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Perry Treaty by the United States and Japan, and which originally opened that country to the trade and intercourse of the world. The Fund being the sequence of such a notable triumph of American diplomacy, and intended to render aid to the destitute families of Japanese soldiers and sailors, it would be surprising, indeed, if so good an American as Minister Griscom should not show personal interest regarding it. It appeals to the sympathy of every patriotic, benevolent American, and it is distinctly honourable to him that in its appeals to his sympathy it has received his material support and encouragement. Minister Griscom has been long enough in the diplomatic service of his country to render it quite improbable that he would commit any act of discourtesy to any country with which we are at peace and on friendly terms. In all the several diplomatic positions he has held in the service of his country Minister Griscom has displayed sound judgment, good discretion and tactful observance of the international courtesies becoming his place. No doubt he would have exhibited not less interest in a similarly benevolent fund if it had been intended to assist destitute and suffering Russians as well as Japanese. The Russian criticism of his humanitarian zeal does not seem justified by the circumstances.

One of the finest excursions in Japan is undoubtedly that to Shoji by way of Tokyo, Hachoji and Otsuki, with the passage down the Fujikawa, for the routes abound in scenery of the finest and most varied character and at the Shoji Hotel visitors can depend upon first-class accommodation and the most intelligent and painstaking attention. With pleasant weather such as is reported from this truly favoured spot even a few days' sojourn should stimulate and brighten the most jaded faculties. The trip begins with the departure from Tokyo by first train which carries one as far as Otsuki, thence train is taken to Yoshida via Tamura (where the Suzukiya offers accommodation much above the average of Japanese inns). A three mile walk or jinrikisha ride from Yoshida takes one to Funatsu, whence Lake Kawaguchi is crossed by boat to Nagahama; the walk to Nishi-no-umi is one third of a mile and there boat is again taken to Nemba which is only 3⅛ miles from Shoji—the whole journey from the capital being easily accomplished in one day.

Mr. C. Fujikawa, proprietor of the *Himeji Shimbun*, was arrested on May 18th on a charge of having obtained money by menace and fraud.

NEWS FROM THE FRONT.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Shan-hai-kwan, 6th May, 1904.

Affairs seem quiet at Newchwang. The excitement over the Russian proclamation of martial law at Yinkow railway station has subsided. The Russian officer placed at the station to inspect passengers and their baggage does not make himself obnoxious, taking very little notice of people apparently. A passenger is generally just asked his name.

But in reality Russian influence is being quietly and surely extended. Three pontoon bridges, made with junks, have been thrown across the Liao River near Tienchuantai; and 2,000 or 3,000 troops have crossed over and are patrolling the country carefully. There are Chinese reports of all sorts of outrages committed by these troops, but these are not reliable, though the soldiers are no doubt foraging with a high hand.

The men sent over are chiefly Cossacks and Circassians, and their patrols go down as far as Chen-chow. But the majority of the troops are kept more north, a camp of 300 or 400 men having been formed quite close to Kaopantze Junction, and the lines from there to Yinkow and to Shin-min-tun are being closely watched. Russia is in fact, though nominally, controlling these sections of the railway; she is doing it quietly but none the less surely, and before long she will probably extend martial law to Kaopantze.

M. Pavloff passed through here on his way to Peking two nights ago, and it is supposed that he has gone to try and make some arrangement with the Peking Government for Russian control of the railway down to Kaopantze. In fact a report appeared yesterday in one of the Tientsin papers that Russia had asked to be allowed to station troops temporarily at Shan-hai-kwan and to establish a depot for stores there :

Native papers previously had reports that the Russians were about to despatch troops, via Tientsin through neutral territory, to somewhere near Shan-hai-kwan, in order to be able to attack the Japanese in the rear when they land on this coast on their way to Newchwang.

No smoke without fire, so there is probably some movement on foot. I imagine Russia quite means to have the railway under her control, first as far as Kaopantze, and later right down to Chenchow, or even outside the Great Wall at Shan-hai-kwan. If she cannot secure what she wants diplomatically, she will just notify the Consuls, as she did before when proclaiming martial law west of the Liao at Yinkow station, that, finding it necessary, she has now extended martial law to Kaopantze. It would not astonish me to hear this had happened any day.

An excuse for the move can always be found in the presence of the Hung-hu-tze, who are no doubt about in good numbers, and well armed. Reports from Chaoyang state that they are troublesome near there, in spite of the presence of General Ma and fifteen battalions of Chinese regulars.

From all one can gather the Chinese are getting restive at the state of affairs, and it is doubtful if they will remain quiet much longer if Russia continues to excite them. A hostile movement might be made any day. It is reported from Peking that 70,000 troops have been ordered to be got ready with all speed, prepared for any eventuality. The garrisons towards the Great Wall are being strengthened, and an additional 4,000 troops have been ordered to the Shan-hai-kwan district.

General Ma has wired Peking that the Russians have again ordered him to withdraw his soldiers from Chaoyang, at which place the inhabitants are said to be in rather a disturbed condition.

Without taking too serious a view of things, it is evident that the situation is strained; while most people here think there is no immediate fear of a general rising of the Chinese against foreigners, it is felt that the Chinese troops might any day make a demonstration against Russia,—which is what Russia is said to want. The Chinese are proverbial for doing the wrong thing at the wrong moment, and the efforts of the Japanese to keep them neutral at present may be unsuccessful.

The Russians evidently expect the Japanese to land somewhere on the coast, so as to approach Newchwang from the west as well as from the east, but latest advices from Newchwang show that the Russians evidently feel that they will be unable to hold the place, and are prepared to evacuate it.

There may be a bad time for foreigners in Newchwang in such case, after the Russians leave and before the Japanese get in; as there are said to be 2,000 or 3,000 Hunghutze among the Chinese in the native city, and there are a large number of low-down foreigners there. Some of these latter may be seen going up in the train every day, and are there for no good purpose.

It is hoped, however, that the Chinese troops are ready to take train up to Yinkow at once, and to preserve order there and at Newchwang till the Japanese arrive. It is possible that some arrangement of this sort has been made between the Japanese and Chinese. A.F.C.

THE JAPAN SOCIETY.

The annual dinner of members of the Japan Society at present resident in this country, was held on Thursday evening in the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, Sir Claude MacDonald, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., H.B.M.'s Minister, presiding. The company was the largest that has ever marked such an event, there being no fewer than 102 present. Supporting the Chairman there were, on the right, Baron Komura, Sir Archibald Edmonstone, Mr. K. Tsuzuki, Lieut. Col. Macpherson, Viscount Okabe, Viscount Nagaoka, Lieut.-Col. Haldane; and on the left, Marquis Nabeshima, Col. J. C. Hoad, Admiral J. Miyabara, Major Crawford, Mr. A. Sato, Admiral Mukoyama and Capt. Robertson. Facing the Chairman were: Viscount Aoki, Baron D. Kikuchi, Lieut.-General Sir W. Nicholson, Mr. T. Kato and Mr. S. Chinda. The two vice-chairs were occupied respectively by Mr. M. Zumoto, and Mr. D. Goh.

An interesting toast list was entered upon after dinner, and the proceedings were greatly enlivened by the music of the Imperial Household Band.

The CHAIRMAN said: Your Excellencies and Gentlemen—I have the honour to propose the first toast to-night. It is one that will, I am sure, be received with the most unbounded enthusiasm by all present, not only by the loyal and devoted subjects of His Majesty, but I can personally answer for it with equal enthusiasm by all Britishers who, having witnessed the patriotic devotion which has characterized the present war, are more than ever proud to call themselves the allies of Japan. (Enthusiastic "Banzais.")

The Band: "Kimi-ga-Yo."

Viscount AOKI: Your Excellencies and Gentlemen,—I have the honour to propose the health of His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain, Emperor of India, and the illustrious Ally of our august Sovereign. (Hurrahs and "Banzais.")

The Band: "God Save the King."

Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD said he had been deputed to inform the company that a telegram had been despatched to and one had been received from the London Japan Society each conveying the greeting "Banzai." He had another pleasant duty to perform before sitting down and that was to read to them a letter from Baron d'Anethan, who was, as they knew, the Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps and was also an enthusiastic member of the Japan Society. The letter was as follows:

My dear Sir Claude,—I am very sorry I am unable to attend the Japan Society's dinner and I much regret not to have this opportunity of meeting my fellow members, amongst whom I have so many friends in Japan and England.

I would be much obliged if you would kindly express my best wishes for the continued success and prosperity of the Society, which has done so much to promote and maintain sentiments of friendship and sympathy between Japan and other countries.

Believe me, dear colleague, yours very sincerely,

d'ANÉTHAN.

Legation de Bélgique, Tokyo, May 12th, 1904.

The reading of the letter evoked applause.

Lieut.-General Sir W. NICHOLSON said: Sir

Claude, Your Excellencies and Gentlemen,—I esteem it a great honour to be called upon to propose the toast of the Imperial Armies and Navy of Japan. To one who, like myself is unversed in public speaking it is a great relief to feel that the task allotted is such a short and simple one, for deeds are much more convincing than words and the splendid deeds of the Imperial naval and military forces of his Majesty, with which you and I and the whole world are well acquainted, speak more eloquently of themselves than the tongue of a Demosthenes or a Cicero. For me to attempt to use fitting terms would be as superfluous and as preposterous as to endeavour to paint the lily or gild refined gold. (Applause) Gentlemen, of late years the Japanese have been called an imitative nation, but they have followed the Christian precept to "try all things and hold fast that which is good." (Laughter and applause). They have instructed their representatives in all countries to observe the progress of science and to study the development of modern strategy and tactics. They have assimilated all that is best and most desirable in the naval and military systems of the European Powers. But such imitation and such assimilation would be of but little value had the Japanese nation failed to retain the heroic spirit and the self-sacrifice which animated their ancestors, and had the influence of western civilization weakened the loyalty, patriotism and devotion to duty which have been so strongly exemplified during the present war. (Applause). We of the Anglo-Saxon race may perhaps reflect that in former years the Japanese nation learned something from us, but at present, if we act wisely, we shall, I think, return the compliment by learning a good deal from the Japanese people. (Hear, hear, and applause). The strength of a nation depends not only on its wealth and its material resources, on the number of its ships and troops and guns, but on the foresight of its statesmen, the unity of purpose of its people, the careful preparation and compilation of all the means available to attain the desired object and upon the organization, training and devotion to duty of all ranks among its sailors and soldiers. (Applause). In those respects I do not think the Japanese have much to learn; in fact they may justly claim to be the instructors rather than the instructed, to be the original rather than the copy. (Applause). And in making these remarks I may say that I am speaking from what I hear and from what I read and not from what I have personally had the opportunity of seeing. But, speaking for myself and for the officers who are with me, and for our friends the press correspondents who are still languishing in Tokyo, I think I can say that with the kind permission of General Fukushima nothing would give us greater pleasure than to watch on the spot what we now admire from a distance. (Laughter and applause). In conclusion I will venture to express the hope that although we may deplore the necessity for war on account of the unavoidable suffering and loss of life which it entails, the events of the present conflict may tend to strengthen the bond of that mutual esteem and friendship which at present happily unite the Japanese and British Empires—(Applause)—of which one of the embodiments is the Japan Society of London, an embodiment which we, the guests this evening, have every reason to appreciate most highly. I ask you to join me in drinking to the Imperial Armies and Navy of Japan. (Great Applause).

The toast was honoured with loud cries of "Banzai."

Admiral Miyabara said: Your Excellencies and Gentlemen,—I was at the last moment called upon to make the response to this important toast, the Army and Navy of Japan. I am sorry to say that I am not a fit person to do so—and, besides, speech-making is altogether out of my line. There are many others who could perform the duty; an able Admiral and General were expected to be present and to do so, but, much to my regret, they are prevented by official occupation from attending, so that I have to stand up as a poor substitute. After the flattering speech that has been made, nothing remains for me to say except that so far both the Army and Navy have acted smartly and quite in a business-like manner, and have been fortunate enough to gain success on each occasion. I may add one thing more—that for the last 30 years Japan has tried to introduce what I may call the mechanical part of civilization from Europe and the United States, and in general, I think, she has more or less succeeded. At any rate as to one part of it, namely, civilized engines of war, we have pretty well grasped it and its efficacy is now actually being proved. I must say that for the success of our navy great credit is due to Great Britain and to British experts. As to the wholesale importation of mechanical civilization many of us Japanese doubted (at least I did) as to the influence which it might have on what we call *Yamato Damashii*, which is a spirit inherent in the Japanese, and the theory of which is known to many members of the Society. If I recollect rightly our friend Mr. Diosy, Vice-Chairman of the London Society, some years ago read a paper in London on *Yamato Damashii*. I am glad to learn from the present conflict that the combination of those and similar engines of war with the spirit of *Yamato Damashii* has been practically proved, and we may hope that by the proper application of them we may not have long to wait for the attainment of our ultimate aim, peace. Gentlemen, on behalf of the Army and Navy of Japan I wish to express our deepest thanks to this company for the toast which has just been given by our gallant friend, General Nicholson, and which has been received so very enthusiastically and with such warmth. (Applause).

Baron Kikuchi was the next speaker. He said: Your Excellencies and Gentlemen,—It is my pleasant task to propose the toast of "The Japan Society." The object of the Society, as stated in its booklet, is "the Encouragement of the Study of the Japanese Language, Literature, History, and Folk-lore; of Japanese Art, Science and Industries; of the Social Life and Economic Condition of the Japanese people, past and present, and of all Japanese matters;" that is to say, to make Japan and the Japanese really known and thoroughly understood in England,—I beg Sir Claude's pardon, in the British Empire—(Laughter and applause). This is an excellent object, for mutual knowledge begets mutual confidence between nations as between individuals, and ignorance of each other's traditions, history, customs, feelings and ideals often causes misunderstandings, which can be prevented by a fuller knowledge. Hence to obtain a thorough knowledge of each other is very desirable between nations, and especially is this important for a country like Japan, so long isolated, so little known hitherto to the rest of the world, and differing from it, I may say radically, in so many important respects. Indeed so little were we known in Europe that when I was in England in the early seventies the street boys used to run after us calling us Chinese. We were not Japanese, not even "Japs," in those days and if in conversation I had denied that I was a Chinese I should have got the reply that it amounted to the same thing. Was not Japan a part of China? Or was not Japan a dependency of China? and so on—(Laughter). So little were we known in Europe in those days. The object of this Society, then,—to make Japan and the Japanese known in the British Empire,—is a very excellent one, and that the Society has done and is doing good work for this object is attested by the facts. Gentlemen, that an international Alliance is based upon community of interests goes without saying, but that alone is not enough; if I may be allowed to use mathematical language, community of interests is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for an alliance of that nature. The people or at least the influential section of the people of the two nations must see not only that their interests are the same, but also that their ideals, their aims, their aspirations are, if not identical, at least on parallel lines, and they must know and trust each other. An alliance based upon a mistaken estimate of each other will not stand the test of events. We Japanese have never been backward in introducing and adapting to our special needs any alien civilisation that we may come into contact with, and which we think will tend to our progress and advancement. For this it is necessary to know, to understand that civilisation. This is what we have been trying to do for the last forty years or more with regard to Occidental civilisation, and I trust, we do know now something of Europe. That on the other hand, the British people have come to know and trust Japan well enough to conclude an alliance with us, and that we are daily coming closer still is, I believe, due in a very great degree to the work of this society in the advancement of that object (Applause). May it long continue to do this work. If there had been such a society in every capital in Europe perhaps to-day we should not hear so much about that absurd cry of the "Yellow Peril" (Hear, hear). If there had been a society like this in St. Petersburg—(a voice: "No War!"). Exactly (Laughter and applause). I am very glad that the Society has been doing such good work, and I beg to propose its success and prosperity (Loud applause).

The toast was enthusiastically honoured.

Mr. K. Sonoda said: Mr. Chairman, my lords and gentlemen, I rise on behalf of the members of the Japan Society as well as on my own behalf to offer you our most cordial thanks for the very flattering manner in which this toast has been proposed by Baron Kikuchi and received by you all. As you will observe I wear a good deal of gray hair but as a member of the society I am quite young. It is therefore beyond my power to give you any historical account of it. I can say this, however, that it is a cosmopolitan association, and that it has worked hard and succeeded to a certain degree in making Japan and the Japanese known to the outside world and in cultivating friendly feelings amongst different nations on earth. Unfortunately, however, there is one nation with whom we are not quite on good terms at the present moment. (Laughter). I am not at all sure whether or not the society is in any way responsible for this deplorable state of affairs. On looking at the members' list to-day I failed to discover any Russian name on it. If the society had been fortunate enough to have a few Russian members I think things might have been different from what they are. (Hear, hear). However the milk is spilt and it is no use to grumble now. I do not know whether the world is getting wicked or enlightened. Anyhow in the present state of human society even the best of friends are apt to quarrel and it is a curious fact that after a fight they often become better friends than ever. (Laughter and applause). I most sincerely hope that it will be the case with us and that peace may be very soon restored for our mutual advancement towards civilization and for the benefit of mankind at large. (Applause). Gentlemen, Baron Kikuchi said something about a "Yellow Peril." I know something about yellow fever—(Laughter)—but I can't make out what a "Yellow Peril" is. If it is possible to have such a thing I see no reason why we should not have a "White Peril" or a "Black Peril" (Laughter). After all, however, colour is only skin deep and it is not the skin but it is the heart that does harm or good. (Hear, hear, and applause). If you could chemically examine our heart I am sure you would find it inclined to do more good than harm. Moreover our heart is already allied with that of a white people—and a very good people too. (Applause). I believe an alliance between nations is something like a marriage. The only difference is that when two countries are bound together it is a marriage between two loving sisters instead of between man and woman (Laughter). It seems rather strange to me that two nations occupying exactly antipodal positions and having two distinctly different colours of skin, should have joined hand in hand, but it shows that the inhabitants of the world are getting closer and more intimate and that colours or skins have nothing whatever to do with peril. (Applause). Besides our alliance with England we have a great many other white-skinned sympathizers. (Hear, hear). As a nation we owe a great deal to them and we always respect them as our school-masters and as our benefactors. (Applause). Taking these facts into consideration, gentlemen, whatever may happen in the future you may depend upon our always being on the side of western nations. I thank you again. (Loud applause).

Captain Brinkley said: Mr. Chairman, Excellencies and Gentlemen,—The pleasant duty devolves on me of proposing the health of the guests of the evening, and as I rise to do so I am reminded by Baron Kikuchi's remarks that this Society has considerably changed its character since we last sat down to eat our annual dinner. It was then an association of men who sought to bring Japan into the field of the world's observation by turning on her the light of their own erudite researches and sometimes, perhaps, of their distinguished personality. It is now an association which may be well content itself to shine by the reflected light of Japan's visible brilliancy. It was then an association which sought to awaken the general interest in Japan by investigating her picturesque past. It is now an association which has simply to point to her great present and to the prospects of a still greater future opening before her. Many of those present this evening must find it a source of profound satisfaction that during the past quarter of a century they have never wavered in their faith in Japan's potentialities nor ever hesitated to give expression to that confidence although the proceeding was not always popular or fashionable. It must be now a source of profound satisfaction to them to observe the record she is making, and to observe that the autonomy she recovered some years ago in the sequel of long and patient efforts has never been abused by her to the disadvantage of the stranger within her gates, and that even now in the hour of her signal self-assertion she has never shown herself more friendly or more hospitable to her foreign visitors.—(Applause). May I not in view of these facts truly say that she has completely justified her supporters and confounded her detractors? And may I not also say with the endorsement of all who have lived long in this country, that in no part of the world, not even in the very heart of Anglo-Saxondom, can there be found a people less disfigured by racial prejudice or religious bigotry than the Japanese? It is true that, as Baron Kikuchi says, there are some persons who see their account in making this country an object of obloquy, and who point the finger at her as the head and front of the Yellow Peril, whereas she is in reality the brave champion of ideals which Anglo-Saxons, the world over, regard with all veneration. If to struggle against the spread of a military despotism throughout East Asia; against the establishment of a monopoly excluding all countries but one from the field of Far Eastern commerce and industry; against the aggressive disruption of neighbouring empires and against the national strangulation of Japan herself—if to struggle against these things is to be a Yellow Peril, then Japan is certainly the head and front of this Yellow Peril. I hope I have not spoken too strongly. It has been my desire to convey to our guests the sentiments which I believe to be those of my fellow-members. The Society deems itself greatly honoured by the presence of so many distinguished statesmen, officers, and gentlemen, and in asking you to cordially drink their health, I desire to couple with the toast the name of a statesman whom history will recognise as having contributed materially to the brilliant successes his country is now achieving, the name of His Excellency Baron Komura—(Loud Applause).

Baron KOMURA in reply said: Your Excellencies and Gentlemen,—I thank you for the honour of being present on this occasion. The pleasure I feel, and feel very highly, would have been no doubt enhanced if I were spared the task of making a speech, which always requires a serious effort on my part—and especially so on this occasion in view of the very eloquent speeches of the gentlemen who have preceded me. However, I feel it my duty to say a few words in appreciation of the honour conferred on me and in expression of my thanks for the very courteous remarks made by Capt. Brinkley in regard to Japan and to myself personally. Knowing as I do the great work of this society, and appreciating the value of its work in promoting the mutual knowledge of Japan and Great Britain and of their people and in securing mutual friendship between the two countries, it is my earnest wish to see the value of its work more and more increase. When I consider the ability of the members both in Tokyo and in London I have no doubt that the society will be a complete success. I always bear in mind the English maxim or proverb "Brevity is the soul of wit" and therefore I will not continue. But I cannot sit down without making one remark about a very important point. At the most critical moment of her history Japan appreciates the sympathy of the British people, because Japan knows the sympathy of that people is always on the side of the nation that exerts its strength in the cause of justice—(Applause)—and in the interests of all nations. (Renewed applause). I thank you most sincerely for the very cordial manner in which you have drunk the toast and I again express my best wishes for the continued prosperity and success of the society.—(Applause).

Mr. T. KATO said: The Committee has assigned to me the pleasant task of giving the last but not the least important toast. Our distinguished Chairman, Sir Claude MacDonald, has resided amongst us now for several years, and although opportunities of foreign representatives coming into contact with the general public are unfortunately rather rare in this country, the condition of things being different in our Chairman's own land, still those who have had the good fortune to make his acquaintance all unite in testifying to his excellent qualities as a man and a diplomatist—(applause)—and it goes without saying that both they and the public at large are of one mind, that in him Japan has a sincere friend. He came here towards the end of the year 1900, having just gone through the siege of Peking and having successfully commanded the defence of the Legation with a small force composed of different nationalities. The assistance which he rendered to the Japanese contingent during the siege was very great, so great that the Emperor's commendation of his good and kind services would have assumed different shape if the rules of the service to which he belongs would have permitted. The siege must have been very trying to him and his charming lady, but to compensate for his sufferings and hardships he has had the great consolation of reading his obituary in that great paper, *The Times*. Of course this must be revised for he is still a young man as age goes in his country, and many brilliant achievements may be in store for him. Since his arrival in Tokyo he has incessantly worked towards cementing the good relations between Japan and his country, and success has attended his efforts. I speak under correction of my friend, Baron Komura, whom we are glad to see here, when I say that I have heard, and possibly it is true, that Sir Claude's share was largely instrumental in bringing about the happy Alliance which is so much appreciated by the Governments and the peoples of the two countries. Gentlemen, I am sure I express the sentiments of you all when I say that we hope Sir Claude may continue to live among us for many years to come and may always work as in the past for the promotion of the common good of the two allied Empires. Your Excellencies and gentlemen, I give you the toast of the Chairman.—(Loud applause).

The CHAIRMAN: Your Excellencies and Gentlemen,—I beg to thank you most heartily for the enthusiastic manner in which you have received the all too flattering words of my friend Mr. Kato. If the depth of the gratitude which I feel for the cordial way in which you have received this toast were to be measured by the length of my expression of thanks, I am afraid I should very soon cease to be an object of interest to you, especially as I know that some of you have trains to catch; therefore I will only say that I am greatly flattered, and deeply grateful. There is, however, one point I should like to touch on. Mr. Kato has addressed his words to me and about me, and you, gentlemen, have endorsed his remarks by the cordial manner in which you have received them, but I am fully conscious that your appreciation is not altogether, if at all for me, and neither do I deserve it, for I am but the instrument, a very willing one I admit, for carrying out Great Britain's policy towards Japan,—(applause)—and Mr. Kato's words and your reception of them mark your appreciation of that policy, a policy which early recognized that in the Far East a sun was not rising, but had risen, whose rays reflected forth all that was brave, and honourable and true.—(Applause.) No one can say who has studied the negotiations which preceded this war, or who has observed the manner in which it has been conducted by our allies, their reckless bravery, their gentle treatment of the enemy's wounded, and the honours paid to the dead,—no one can say that the words bravery, truth and honour are one whit too strong.—(Renewed applause.) Great Britain's policy, I repeat, not only recognized, but was the first to recognize, at any rate in a practical manner, the noble aspirations of the people of the Risen Sun, and this by taking the lead in the revision of their treaties and in an equally practical manner by concluding with them a solemn Alliance.—(Applause). The Anglo-Japanese Alliance was entered into in the earnest hope that it would make for peace. This hope, gentlemen, has not been fulfilled, but if by its means two friendly nations have been drawn into closer bonds of friendship, and if the horrors of war can be prevented spreading to other countries, the Anglo-Japanese Alliance will not have been made in vain.—(Loud and continued applause.)

The proceedings then terminated.

MEMORIAL DAY.

A meeting of American ladies was held on Saturday afternoon at the U.S. Naval Hospital to discuss arrangements for the observance of Memorial Day on May 30th. Mrs. E. C. Bellows presided and among those present were Mesdames A. L. Bagnall, J. Strauss, E. H. R. Manley, and C. F. McWilliams, and Misses Loomis and Bagnall. Dr. Herndon, of the U S. Naval Hospital, attended by invitation. It was stated by Dr. Herndon, in reply to the President, that in the Cemetery there were 125 graves of men that belonged to the American services and since the observance last year 25 headstones of granite or marble had been erected. Eighteen of the graves had previously been marked by wooden headboards only. A Committee under the presidency of Mrs. E. V. Thorn, and consisting also of the following ladies: Mesdames Bellows, Manley, Bagnall, McChesney, and Horne, and Miss Loomis, was appointed to attend to the securing of flowers for the graves. For the presidency of the Committee on Music Mrs. McWilliams was nominated, but she declined, stating her readiness, however, to render any other assistance. Mrs. B. R. Berrick was therefore appointed to preside over this committee. Mrs. Bellows said she thought it would be hardly necessary to appeal for funds this year as one item of last year's expense would probably be avoided. Instead of purchasing pot plants for the graves they would ask sympathisers who usually gave flowers to give either flowers or pot plants, and the placing of these on the graves would be attended to by men supplied by Dr. Herndon. The accounts, it was stated, showed a balance of *yen* 30.89. Dr. Herndon informed the meeting that he would send men to place flags on the American soldiers' and sailors' graves scattered throughout the Cemetery, some of which dated back to Commodore Perry's expedition. This was all the business.

THE PERRY MEMORIAL RELIEF FUND.

The following letter has been received by the Committee of the Perry Memorial Relief Fund:—

To The Perry Memorial Relief Fund,
Tokyo.

DEAR SIRS:—As a member of the Asiatic Society I am requested by cable this day, to subscribe *yen* one thousand (1.000) to your fund, by the Niles-Bement-Pond Company of New York City, Manufacturers of Machine Tools.

I take pleasure in enclosing my cheque for the above sum, which shall be charged to the account of the firm mentioned herein.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of same in the name of the Niles-Bement-Pond Company, whom I have the pleasure of representing in the Far East.

I am, Dear Sirs, respectfully yours,

F. W. HORNE.

Yokohama, May 14th, 1904.

THE RELIGIOUS BODIES IN JAPAN.

A conference of the religious bodies in Japan was held in the Yayoi-kan, Shiba Park, on the afternoon of the 16th instant. About a thousand Japanese and foreigners were present, including a large number of missionaries. There were many speakers, but each was limited to a space of 20 minutes. Mr. Kozaki insisted that Russia represents the ideals of the 16th century; Japan those of the 20th. Russia is for despotic government, for tradal protection, for the closed door and for restraints on conscience. Japan is for precisely the opposite. The present war has nothing whatever to do with differences of race or religion. It is simply to secure the peace of the East. Dr. Murakami insisted that however different religion and patriotism might be in their theoretical scope they are not separable in practice. He also held that war, though in itself indefensible, might be condoned as an instrument for ensuring subsequent peace. Mr. Ouchi, the representative of Buddhism, declared that the Japanese do not constitute the Yellow Peril. The Mongols constitute it, and above all the Russians, who are Mongols. Napoleon had well said that a Russian has a white skin over a yellow heart. Japan has a yellow skin over a white heart. The whole practice of Russia, her boundless aggressions, her despotism and her intolerance mark her as the true yellow peril of the era. As for religion, it is entirely unconnected with the war. Mr. Shibata, representing Shinto, said that the pity of Buddhism, charity of Christianity, and the pure heart of Shinto are all one and the same thing under different names.

Dr. William Imbrie said:—It is thought advisable that I read a translation of the resolution already presented. I need not say that I do so with pleasure:

> "The war now existing between Japan and Russia has for its object, on the part of Japan, the security of the empire and the permanent peace of the East. It is carried on in the interests of justice, humanity and the civilization of the world. With differences between races or religions it has nothing whatever to do. We, therefore, meeting together without distinction of race or religion, agree that we will endeavor [illegible] publish to the world, each in a manner accordant with the methods observed in the religious body to which he belongs, the real purpose of the present war as now described. We also express a most earnest desire for the speedy accomplishment of an honourable peace."

One of the statements in the resolution which is presented to us for adoption is this: With differences of race or religion the war has nothing whatever to do. That this is true I am sure we all believe. But how may we prove it? What shall I say to the man who questions its truth?

In the years to come the student will read the story of the Era of Meiji; and he will find it to be a story bright with great achievements. But as he turns its pages he will find none brighter than the one that tells him how the Emperor gave to the nation his gift of the Constitution. In that Constitution there is embodied the priceless principle of civil and religious freedom. When therefore the questioner asks me whether or not this war is a war for the supremacy of race over race and religion over religion, I will point to the Constitution; which is the gift of the Emperor, which is the crown jewel of the nation, and which is sacred. And I will tell him too that a war for the security of the empire can not be one to trample on the Constitution.

That is a proof written on the sky; but there is also one written on the earth. Our meeting together here to-day, without distinction of race or religion, is in itself a proof. Some of us are Japanese and some are foreigners; different races. Some of us are Buddhists, some Shintoists, some Christians; different religions. If this war were [illegible] war for the supremacy of race and religion, we could not meet thus together. If the armies of Japan now in Manchuria were there for the suppression of Buddhism, no Buddhist could be here; if they were there for the suppression of Christianity, no Christian. But what is true here in Tokyo is also true of every city in the empire: there is no city in Japan where such a meeting as this might not be held; and if all Japan, east and west, north and south, should meet in some great amphitheatre among the mountains, the same would still be true. No, the war is not one for the supremacy of race and religion. If it were, it would drive us all asunder? But it does not drive us asunder. It draws us all together. It binds us all together as men, as we have never been bound together before.

What, then, is the object of the war? There are two objects.

First, the security of the empire. And is a war necessary for that? No one can look at the map and, remembering the course of Russia in recent years, answer No. It is just as certain that the course of Russia is a peril to Japan, as it is certain that when the dark shadow of the great world steals across the face of the moon, the silver moon will be eclipsed. The war is necessary for the security of the empire; and the security of the empire is the first and foremost object of the war.

The second object is the permanent peace of the East. And is that endangered also? To that question I have only to repeat what I have just said concerning the course of Russia. But there are some in other lands who tell us that when Japan says "For the permanent peace of the East," what she really means is this: That when the present war is ended, she will take to herself the place of leadership in China; stir up the anti-foreign spirit lurking there; and then set all the East in hostile array against the West. Is that true?

Standing in the present, I can not point to facts that lie hidden in the future. That is impossible. But standing in the present I can recall the past; and the past of a nation, just as truly as that of a man, is an index of its purpose for the future. What then of the past? Only a few years ago all the world was troubled over China. For reasons that are now more evident than they were then, no nation had so hard a place to fill as Japan. And how did she fill it? Can any one say that in all that trying time she was ever derelict in the performance of her duty? Must not every one say that she was *never* derelict? And who then has a right to insinuate that in the future Japan will be less enlightened, less broad minded, less honourable, less humane, less a friend of the civilization of the world, than she was in the day when her army marched to the relief of foreigners beleagured in Peking? No, when Japan says, "The permanent peace of the East," she does not mean the East in arms against the civilization of the world.

I have been speaking somewhat confidently; and with good reason, so I think. But I can say something more that makes my confidence still more confident. Recently I had the honour of an interview with Count Katsura. The subject of the conversation was precisely what is declared in the resolution which I have just read. He told me that the object of the war is the security of the empire and the permanent peace of the East; and that with differences of race or religion the war has nothing to do. Then he said," "What I say, I say not as an individual only; I say it as Prime Minister also." Then he added, "And in what I say I am speaking the mind of the Emperor." Therefore it is that I am doubly confident.

May I say one thing more? Something perhaps not directly connected with the purpose of this meeting; but something which I have had in mind ever since the war began. Ever since the war began I have been repeating to myself the old familiar splendid story of little Greece. Of little Greece contending with, of little Greece victorious over, the vast empire of Persia. And all for what? For the security of Greece and for the permanent peace of Europe. And as the war goes on the analogy seems to be completing itself with a strange exactness. Already Japan has had her Salamis. In the loyalty, the courage, the discipline of her armies, there is abundant promise that she is to win her crown of Plataea. It may be that there is still in store for her Thermopylae. And who can doubt that if needs be she will, without a word, *have* her Thermopylae. For she has myriads more of soldiers in her ranks like those who perished beneath the waters in the Sea of Japan, rather than surrender. And if Japan does have her Thermopylae, then the analogy will be complete. For then there will be written, on some mountain pass in Manchuria, the immortal words written on the rock at Thermopylae:—"Stranger, go tell Sparta that we lie here, obedient to Sparta's laws." And all for what? For the security of the empire and the permanent peace of the East.

The Mayor of Tokyo, Mr. Ozaki, declared his entire accord with Mr. Kozaki's statements. The only part of the world where Japan adopted the policy of the closed door was at Port Arthur. He congratulated the meeting on the resolution passed. Baron Senge also delivered a congratulatory address, as did a representative of the Roman Catholic Faith. The Greek Church alone was not represented. The resolution was carried unanimously.

THIS AND THAT ABOUT RUSSIA.

(Translated for the *Japan Mail* from the *Neues Wiener Tagblatt.*)

The last Russian war against the Porte cost fourteen hundred million roubles. It is probable that the war against Japan will cost a much larger sum. In the Turkish war the Russian fleet took no active part. In the present war, though not playing the part which Russia's proud ambition expected, nevertheless it burdens her Treasury, partly because it remains inactive though consuming money, and partly because the Japanese have eliminated it as a fighting factor, reducing it into a mere machine for the consumption of Russian money. The war on land will no doubt be much more expensive than the one against the Porte. The enormous distance, the necessity of a greater number of troops, the very expensive commissariat and clothing of the armies; the greater consumption of ammunition, &c., will make the bill come very high. It may be that this war will cost Russia several milliards. Where will this money come from? At first, no doubt, the cash in hand will suffice, but its consumption will mean a shock to Russian credit, and on some nice day refuge will have to be found in the French money market. Only the French? It is rather delicate to speak about these things. If one should venture to say that under certain circumstances German money could be obtained for Russia, he would be in danger of playing with possibilities, of which it can be said with certainty that there is [illegible] yet not a shadow of reality in sight. The opening of the German money-market to Russia would be an event of such significance that it is best not to speak of it until facts are produced which will permit us to discuss it otherwise than as a theory. Up to this hour no such facts are at hand. True, during the first days after war broke out one could hear of different illusionaries who, quite uncalled for, felt the necessity of consulting Count Bülow, and then constructed a house of cards. It appeared in this shape:—Russia will agree to a favourable commercial treaty with Germany, and in return Germany will not alone observe friendly neutrality during the war, but will go one better and allow German capital, in the form of a loan, to flow into the Russian war-treasury. Of course, this might be possible, but we have no right to presume such a thing at present. It is all the less presumable because the French market will not be closed against its Russian friends. A French loan to Russia does not necessarily alter the friendly attitude of France as between Russia and England, it would rather signalize to England the right to do, financially, the same for Japan. It would constitute itself an act of mutual international justice and in a sense would act as a neutralizer.

The Russian press does not say very much about financial difficulties, neither those pending nor the greater ones that are sure to turn up. For the Russian press is now busy with an unusual occurrence, namely, that the Tsar received its representatives, accepted an address from them, and then addressed them very kindly. Yet, to be explicit, not all the papers speak of this thorny subject, even the *Novoye Vremya* is silent. But the *Viedomosti*, in St. Petersburg, refers to the subject. In reproducing its conclusions we follow the translation of Professor Schleimann as it appeared in the *Kreuz Zeitung*.

The Editor, Mr. Stolypin, refers to the words of the Tsar, that the press should tell the truth, and nothing but the truth. That is, he says, a command. But to tell the truth one must have the right and the means to do so publicly. In this respect we have so far been in a very trying position. Numerous restrictions burden the press and it is far from being free in the sense that it may speak the truth freely and fearlessly. Many a time have expressions been forbidden, not because they were not truth but because they were not in accord with the opinion of people who had the power to silence the press. For a long time the brightest minds have contended for the freedom of public expression. And if we must admit that they have accomplished much in this respect, yet it is by no means sufficient. To this hour the sad fact remains, which, without going too far, we must state,—we are not permitted to tell the truth. But now one great step forward has been made. All true servants of the press have now an almighty ally, the clear and powerful word of the Tsar—a Tsar's command!

We cannot contradict Professor Schliemann in his scepticism concerning the meaning which Mr. Stolypin draws from the words of the Tsar, and in his concern as to the result in case Mr. Stolypin and his colleagues should endeavour to make a trial. Even quite recently the following papers have been punished for telling the truth: The *Uraletz*, suspended for three months; the *Ingosapadny Krai*, for six months; the *Nedelya*, for eight months, and the *Yenissei* for three months. This certainly does not look as though the higher press-bureau, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Holy Synod had withdrawn their loving care as to what the press may publish as "truth" and what it may not publish.

FIRES.

In connexion with the fire which occurred on the morning of May 11th at Imaichi-machi, Utsunomiya, destroying twenty-nine buildings, S. Katsuyama (48) a merchant whose dwelling was the origin of the accident, was arrested on the following day on suspicion of incendiarism. It is reported that on the 4th he insured his property for five hundred *yen* and since then has removed many articles to the house of one of his relatives.

The Emperor was pleased on May 12th to distribute twenty-five hundred *yen* among the people in Otaru who are suffering through the recent fire.

THE LAW COURTS.

On Thursday, in the Kobe Ku Saibansho, Mr. H. Julien, ship's provisioner, Division Street, Kobe, was prosecuted at the instance of the Customs authorities for boarding a vessel outside the harbour limits and thereby violating the Customs Regulations. It may be remembered that at at a previous hearing, the defendant was fined *yen* 7 in absence but protested, and the case was now reheard. On behalf of Mr. Julien it was pointed out that the regulations were enforced at Kobe with unnecessary strictness, and it was stated that at Nagasaki the claims of ships arriving from long voyages to have supplies of fresh provisions were recognized and though stevedores were constantly going outside the harbour limits with such supplies they were never prosecuted. The previous judgment was confirmed, defendant being ordered to pay the fine of *yen* 7.

MARRIAGE OF MDLLE. JOUBERT.

Despite the pouring rain and the general cheerless aspect of things out-of-doors, a large congregation assembled on Saturday forenoon to witness the nuptials of Mdlle. Jeanne Joubert, younger daughter of the late M. Louis Joubert of Mansourah, Egypt, and ward of M. Steenackers, French Consul at Yokohama, and M. Charles Coraze, son of the late M. C. Coraze, of Marseilles. The civil ceremony took place at the French Consulate at 11.30, before M. Steenackers, when the witnesses for the bride were H. E. M. Harmand, the French Minister, and M. A. de Panafieu, First Secretary of the French Legation; and for the bridegroom, M. Mottet and M. Gilbert. The bridal party then left for the Church of Jesu and Mary, Main Street, where the religious rites were duly celebrated. A tri-coloured canopy extended from the porch to the entrance gates, and the interior of this was richly adorned with flowers, as was also the church itself, white azaleas, lilies, and ferns being used profusely, the whole being the work of Mde. Gielen, Mrs. T. S. Baker, Mrs. Manley, etc. The bride entered the sacred fane on the arm of her guardian, M. Steenackers. She was attired in a very handsome dress of heavy *crêpe de Chine*, trimmed with sprays of orange blossom and flounces of old *peint d'Angleterre*. Her train was carried by Miss Margot Forster and Master Frankie Forster, her niece and nephew, children of Mr. Ralph G. E. Forster, British Consul at Hakodate. The bridesmaids were Miss Eva Baker and Miss Muriel Thomas, who were dressed in pale blue *crêpe de Chine*, with deep yokes and cuffs of white lace studded with turquoise, and they wore charming French hats of white trimmed with tiny banksia roses. We should mention that little Miss Margot Forster's costume was of silk and lace and her large bonnet was also trimmed with bansia roses. The bridegroom's supporters were M. Laroche, French Vice-Consul, and M. Henri Cambon, son of the French Ambassador to London, who is Second Secretary to the French Legation in Tokyo. Father Pettier officiated. During the service, the choir (augmented by many friends of the bride) sang Mendelssohn's "In te Domine speravi," more commonly known as "I waited for the Lord," the soloists being Miss F. Mendelson and Mde. La Croix, the choir consisting of Mrs. J. P. Mollison, Mrs. E. P. W. Skrimshire, Miss Mecre, Miss Parker, Mrs. T. S. Baker, Mr. A. E. Cooper, Mr. Murray Mollison, and Dr. Walker; Father Papinot presiding at the organ and Mr. W. Karl E. Vincent conducting. At the close of the service, and while the register was being signed, Mrs. J. P. Mollison sang Cooper's "Ave Maria," the 'cello obligato being played by Mr. Rudolphe Schmid.

The bridal party left the church to the strains of the Wedding March, and proceeded to the residence of the French Consul, No. 186 Bluff, where *dejeuner* was served to nearly 300 guests, among whom were His Ex. M. Harmand, the French Minister; His Ex. Count Arco-Valley, the German Minister; His Ex. M. d'Ambro, the Austrian Minister; Baroness Corvisart, M. and Mde. Andre; M. and Mde. Thiel; Governor Sufu, the members of the Consular Conps in Yokohama, and representatives of Yokohama and Tokyo society. The guests were received by Madame Frique, aunt of the bride, and Mrs. R. G. E. Forster (sister). Mde. Frique was attired in a handsome dress of black trimmed with chiffon, Mrs. Forster being in turquoise blue. The toast of the bride and bridegroom was given by Mr. Harmand and was enthusiastically received. The extremely numerous and valuable presents displayed in an adjoining room bore testimony to the high regard and affection which the happy bride has won during her residence in Japan. The bridal pair leave for France on the next *Empress* steamer.

The hair of three officers and sixty-five men belonging to the 24th Regiment, who were killed in the fighting on the Yalu was brought on May 16th by Major Fujioka to the Fukuoka barracks. The funeral service was to take place on the following day.

YACHTING.

Seven yachts of the 21-rating class started on Saturday, in a rather fresh wind and pelting rain. *Pima* was too soon over the line before gunfire, and had to be recalled. *Winsome* crossed six seconds after the signal, with *Sunbeam* four seconds later, *Pima*, *Pele*, *Valkyrien* and *Beatrice*, whipped in by *Cho Cho*, the latter being 70 seconds behind time. In the beat to the harbour entrance *Winsome* increased her lead, and *Valkyrien* gained second place. It was a run with spinnakers out to port as far as the mark Boat off Mandarin Bluff, round which they luffed and fetched the Lightship on port tack. *Winsome* continued to get away from *Valkyrien*, standing up to the wind, with full mainsail, much better than in her races last season. They all had to make a short board to clear the harbour entrance, and once inside had the wind on starboard quarter to the finishing line, which was crossed by *Winsome* at 3.13.57, well ahead of *Valkyrien*. *Pele* had some difficulty in keeping clear of a blanketting by *Sunbeam* coming down the harbour, and finished 7 secs ahead of the latter boat. *Pima* followed, and *Beatrice* was last, as *Cho Cho* had given up and returned by the Grand Hotel entrance. *Winsome's* time for the five and a half miles, 58 mins, 51 secs. elapsed, is very good.

Official Times.	Finish. h.m.s.	Club Time. m.s.	Corrected. h.m.s.
Pele	3.16.51	—	3.16.51
Winsome	3.13.57	—	3.13.57
Sunbeam	3.16.58	—	3.16.58
Valkyrien...........	3.14.32	—	3.14.32
Cho Cho ....did not finish			
Beatrice	3.21.36	0.53	3.25.46
Pima................	3.21.36	0.53	3.25.46

Five "Larks" started to race over their No. 9 course, the strong breeze and nasty sea combining to bother them considerably. In consequence three boats dropped out at the end of the first round, leaving Nos. 11 and 12 to make the second trip along the outside of the breakwater. No. 12 got into difficulties when about half-way round but finally made the harbour entrance and finished at 4. 59. 00, taking second prize, No. 11 which got home at 4. 40. 05, also in a crippled state, winning the first prize.

THE LOSS OF A SUBMARINE.

In reference to the recent loss of Submarine *A1*, a British naval officer at home, well-known in Shanghai, writes in a private letter (says the *N.-C. Daily News*): "I am sure you will all think that submarines are the most dangerous things on earth, this is quite a mistake. The accident which happened to *A1* might have happened to anything which is foolish enough to travel on the sea. Of course the liner could not see her, but put two ships in the same area, and let them steam about without looking at one another, and it would be ages before they touched. *A1* must have been at the depth of at least 15 feet at the time she was struck, right in the top of the conning tower, and only a small hole; but the blow coming at a distance of about ten feet from her centre of gravity must have turned the boat almost right over, and probably stunned nearly all the crew, besides up-setting the acid out of her cells. The Admiralty have behaved very liberally in the pension line, and the *Southern Daily Mail* fund is already about £800. It may be another fortnight before they get her up. . . . It is so sad having all the relations waiting; they can't see anything when she is up. It's awful. Mansergh was one of the watch-keeping lieutenants in the *Severn* (at Shanghai), a very good fellow, and very popular. . . The manœuvres were a great success, and I think have induced the Admiralty to adopt this mode of warfare; there are about twenty more boats building now."

At the unveiling of the Nelson memorial at Bath on April 16th the Earl of Selborne, First Lord of the Admiralty, announced that there had been recovered from the wrecked submarine boat *A 1*, the remains of the optical tube and part of the conning tower. "The officer in charge ought frequently to have scanned the horizon," said Lord Selborne, "but he had orders to look out for his Majesty's ship *Juno* and in his anxiety to observe her he forgot too long to scan the horizon. The officer subsequently saw looming in his field of vision the bows of a great ship. He rapidly turned his tube, saw the ship was right on top of him and immediately made his submarine boat dive, and to show the tragedy of the event it appears that there were only three seconds between the crew and safety. Three seconds more would have taken the submarine boat under the ship."

A London telegram reports:—At the inquest on those lost in the submarine-boat, Capt. Bacon said the bodies were found at their posts. The crew were stunned by the collision. Otherwise they would have been able to stop the leak and come to the surface.

SPRING MEETING OF THE NIPPON RACE CLUB.

FIRST DAY.—MONDAY, 16TH MAY.

PATRONS:—H.I.H. Fushimi-no-Miya, H.I.H. Arisugawa-no-Miya, and H.I.H. Kanin-no-Miya.

PERMANENT COMMITTEE:—Sir Claude Maxwell MacDonald, K.C.B., G.C.M.G., President; Dr. E. Wheeler, Vice-President; Baron A. D'Anethan, Count Von Arco-Valley, A. Bianchi, Esq., V. Blad, Esq., A. J. Easton, Esq., B. C. Howard, Esq., S. Isaacs, Esq., L. Mottet, Esq., K. Mori, Esq., M. Pors, Esq., R. D. Robison, Esq., B. Runge, Esq., Governor Sufu, T. Thomas, Esq., T. Taniguchi, Esq., and A. G. M. Weale, Esq.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:—V. Blad, Esq., Chairman; A. J. Easton, Esq., C. de C. Hughes, Esq., J. de Cuers de Cogolin, Esq., D. Marshall, Esq., K. Mori, Esq., and F. M. Tegner, Esq.

CLERK OF THE COURSE:—A. J. Easton, Esq.
HONORARY TREASURER:—C. de C. Hughes, Esq.
JUDGE:—V. A. Caesar Hawkins, Esq..
CLERK OF THE SCALES:—Dr. E. Wheeler.
STARTER:—A. J. McClure, Esq.
TIME-KEEPER:—F. J. Hall, Esq.
SECRETARY:—Mr. Geo. Hood.

The Spring Meeting of the Nippon Race Club was favoured with splendid weather on Monday and some very good racing was witnessed, though the spectators were not as numerous as usual when the earlier events were run off. After luncheon the attendance increased, several ladies adding brightness to the scene with their spring costumes. The Course was in good condition, though, perhaps, a trifle heavy. Good racing was the order of the day, the finishes being close in most of the races. The starting was exceptionally good throughout. In the seventh race, the Melbourne Cup, the mile record was broken by Hitachi, this being a splendid race between the winner and Kachidoki. The new arrangements made the accommodation for spectators much better than on former occasions, there being ample room for everyone, while the innovation of purchasing tickets for refreshments apparently worked without a hitch. Given fine weather there will doubtless be a very large attendance to-morrow, Ladies Day, the race for the Ladies' Purse affording additional interest.

Following are the events:—

1.—The CHAMPAGNE CUP, (Presented by Messrs. G. H. Mumm & Co.); for Australian Subscription Horses of 1901 and thereafter, that have not run at more than two Meetings; to be won three times in all by Horses the *bona fide* property of same Owner or Owners, with yen 300 added by the Club until the Cup is finally won, when the Second Horse will receive the added money; weight 145lb. Entrance yen 5. One Mile.

Mr. Tatsuta's Suma 145lb. ....(Takahashi) 1
Mr. R. Loonen's La Friponne, 145lb. ...(Kurosaka) 2

There were only two starters for the Champagne Cup, La Friponne and Suma, the latter being a strong favourite. La Friponne had a little the best of the start, but in the Dip Suma caught up and at the half-mile post was half a length ahead. This lead was increased, and at the Trees Suma was a good length ahead. Coming into the straight the winning horse was at least two clear lengths ahead and won easily by about five lengths. Time, 1,52$\frac{4}{5}$ Winner paid yen 5.50.

2.—The PEKIN CUP, for China Subscription Ponies of Autumn 1903; weight as per scale; winners at date of entry 5lb. extra. Entrance yen 5. One Mile. Winner yen 350; Second Prize yen 50.

Mr. G. Werckmeister's Adolar (late Harima), 147lb. ....(Mr. P. Dietrich) 1
Capt. Jardine's Tanuki, 161lb. ....(Mr. Cox) 2
Mr. Yodo's Yakumo 149lb. ....(Tsubouchi) 3
Mr. Graal's Fra Diavolo, 158lb. (Count Metternich) 0
Mr. R. Field's Trader (late Settler) 155lb. (A. Takahashi) 0

There were five starters in this race, Count Metternich carrying 11lb. extra, not being able to weigh in at 147lb. Le Lutteur did not come out. A very good start and the ponies kept together round the Dip. Adolar then obtained a slight lead, though followed closely by Tanuki and Trader. Then just before getting to the Trees Yakumo came up and the four ponies were racing almost neck and neck. Coming into the Straight Adolar drew ahead, though closely challenged by Tanuki. In the last few strides, just at the finishing post, Tanuki, well ridden, made a fine spurt, and it was doubtful to spectators which had won until the numbers were hoisted. Yakumo was a good third and Fra Diavolo was "not in it." Time, 3.13$\frac{3}{10}$. Winner paid yen 14.50.

3.—The COLONIAL STAKES, for Australian Subscription Horses of Autumn 1903; weight for age; winners of 4 races or less at date of entry 3lb. penalty per win, of more than 4 races 15lb. penalty in all. Entrance yen 5. Three quarters of a mile. Winner yen 500; Second Prize yen 100.

Mr. Friend's Mistletoe, 137lb. ....(Rikizo) 1
Mr. Alexander's Jupiter, 137lb. ....(Hayashi) 2
Mr. R. Loonen's La Friponne, 137lb....(Kurosaka) 3
Mr. May's May-sie, 137lb. ....(Ichi) 0
Mr. R. Field's Thrift, 143lb. ....(Mr. Catto) 0

A very good start. Mistletoe drew ahead at once though closely followed by Jupiter. The former, however, had the race in hand easy and gradually increased her lead, being about five clear lengths ahead at the Trees. Coming into the Straight Mistletoe had the same lead and Jupiter was closely followed by La Friponne. The horses finished in this order, Mistletoe winning by about six lengths. Time, 1.21$\frac{4}{10}$. Winner paid yen 7.

4.—The GRAND PRIX, for Australian Subscription Horses of 1904; weight for age; a forced entry of yen 30, non-starters half forfeit. One Mile. Winner yen 1,000; Second Prize yen 200; Third Prize yen 100.

Mr. G. Barclay's Carnation, 137lb.......(Horikoshi) 1
Mr. R. Loonen's Parisienne, 137lb.......(Kurosaka) 2
Mr. Alexander's Juno, 137lb. ....(Hayashi) 3
Mr. Sphynx's Chouchou, 137lb. ....(Higaki) 0
Mr. Astral's Moonshee, 137lb. ....(Sasaki) 0

Out of twenty-eight entries there were but five starters, Carnation being a strong favourite. There was trouble in starting this race, and after one or two efforts, what appeared to the ordinary onlooker as a good "line up" was not up to the starter's ideas and Carnation and Moonshee bolted away, the latter going right round the course. Another false start, and then the horses got away fairly well together. Carnation at once assumed the lead and at the half mile post was about ten lengths ahead of Parisienne, Juno following about one clear length behind in third place. At the Trees Parisienne gained upon Carnation and made a very good effort in the Straight, but the jockey of Carnation never had to push his mount and came in an easy winner; Parisienne second and Juno third. Time, 1.52$\frac{6}{10}$. Winner paid yen 7.

5.—The NEWCOMERS' PLATE, for Australian Subscription Horses of 1904; weight for age; winner of Grand Prix excluded. Entrance yen 5. Three quarters of a mile. Winner yen 500; Second Prize yen 100.

Mr. Satsuma's Alexandra, 137lb. ......(Horikoshi) 1
Mr. B. Runge's Tarantella, 137lb. ....(Kano) 2
Mr. Graal's Elsa, 139lb. ....(Mr. Mottu) 3
Mr. Sphynx's Jeannot, 137lb. ....(Higaki) 0
Mr. N. Kawakita's Hyogo, 137lb. .. ...(Tsubouchi) 0
Mr. N. Kawakita's Kyoto, 137lb. ....(Sugiura) 0
Mr. R. Field's Treasure, 137lb. ....(Mr. Catto) 0
Mr. Friends' Mascotte, 137lb. ....(Rikizo) 0
Mr. Loonen's Coquette, 137lb. ....(Kurosaka) 0
Mr. Norfolk's Primrose, 143lb. ....(Mayeda) 0
Mr. J. T. Hamilton's Daisy, 137lb. (A. Takahashi) 0
Mr. K. Ikeda's Suerai, 137lb. ....(Goto) 0
Mr. Tatsuta's Satsuki, 137lb. ....(Takahashi) 0

Thirteen starters, Primrose carrying 6lb. over and Elsa 2lb. Alexandra was a hot favourite. After one or two efforts a fair start was made, though Daisy threw her jockey at the starting post. Suerai assumed the lead, closely followed by Alexandra and Elsa. At the Trees Alexandra drew up and coming into the Straight caught up and finished a finely ridden race by about four lengths from Tarantella, Elsa being a good third. Time, 1 25$\frac{3}{5}$. Winner paid yen 8.50.

6.—The CHINA GRAND PRIX, for Subscription China Ponies of 1904; weight as per Scale; a forced entry of yen 30; non-starters half forfeit. One Mile Winner paid yen 7.00; Second Prize yen 150.

Mr. G. Werckmeister's Adonis, 144lb. (Mr. Dietrich) 1
No. 127 Mess' C.O.D., 147lb. ....(Mr. Cox) 2
Mr. R. Schmidt-Scharff's Protz, 147lb..(Mr. Mottu) 3
Mr. Graal's Fluechtling, 150lb. ....(Mr. Catto) 0
Mr. R. Loonen's Gaulois II, 144lb. ....(Sugiura) 0
Mr. May's Mayor, 150lb. ....(Ichi) 0
Mr. Norfolk's Pit-a-Pat, 150lb. ....(Mayeda) 0
Mr. von Hessenthal's Coriolan, 147lb......(Higaki) 0
Mr. K. Ikeda's Tonbi, 150lb. ....(Komiyama) 0
Mr. Tatsuta's Lion, 153lb. ....(Takahashi) 0

Pit-a-Pat was a strong favourite though C.O.D., Fluechtling and Gaulois II had a number of backers. After a good start Mayor had a slight lead entering the Dip, but at the three-quarter mile post Adonis secured the lead, and was a length ahead of Pit-a-Pat at the half mile post, C.O.D. being also well up and the rest in a bunch. Coming into the Straight C.O.D. made a good effort, well ridden by Mr. Cox, and a very close finish ended in favour of Adonis, Protz being third. Time, 2.12$\frac{2}{5}$. Winner paid yen 48.50.

7.—The MELBOURNE CUP, for all Australian Subscription Horses; weight for age with 5lb. deducted; winners of 4 races or less at date of entry 3lb. penalty per win, of more than 4 races 15lb. penalty in all; winners at the meeting excluded. Entrance yen 5. One mile. Winner yen 500; Second Prize yen 100.

Mr. N. Kawakita's Hitachi (late Therapis), 147lb. ....(Sugiura) 1
Mr. K. Ikeda's Kachidoki (late Cameo), 135lb. ....(Goto) 2
Mr. R. Loonen's Rose de France, 147lb.(Mr. Mottu) 3
Mr. R. Schmidt-Scharff's Annemarie, 132lb. (Mr. Catto) 0
Mr. May's May-mie, 144lb. ....(Ichi) 0
Mr. Yezoye's Izumo, 144lb. ....(Tsubouchi) 0

Hitachi and Kachidoki were about equally favoured in the Pari Mutuel. After two or three efforts the horses got away, Annemarie having somewhat the worst of it. Entering the Dip May-mie had a slight lead, but at the three-quarter mile post Hitachi caught up, and at the half-mile post was about two lengths ahead of May-mie, Kachidoki being close to the latter. Running to the Trees Kachidoki drew up and took second place and entering the Straight was racing neck and neck with Hitachi. A fine race resulted in favour of Hitachi by half a length, Kachidoki second and Rose de France third. Time 1.48$\frac{1}{5}$ (breaking the previous record—1.49$\frac{7}{10}$). Winner paid yen 17.00.

8.—The CRITERION STAKES, for all China Ponies; weight as per scale; Subscription Ponies 7lb. allowance. Entrance yen 5. One Mile. Winner yen 500; Second Prize yen 100; Third Prize yen 50.

Mr. Graal's Attila (late Arrieregarde), 147lb. (Mr. Mottu) 1
Mr. K. Ikeda's Mark, 143lb. ....(Sugiyama) 2
Mr. Twoman's The Leader, 144lb.........(Mr. Cox) 3
Mr. R. Loonen's Gladiateur (late Rajah), 153lb. ....(Mr. Dietrich) 0
Mr. May's May-moth (late Moth), 140lb. ....(Ichi) [illegible]
Mr. Four-in-hand's The Doctor, 154lb. (Mr. von Hessenthal) [illegible]

Attila was a strong favourite. A fairly good start, and Mark got the lead. At the three-quarter mile post Mark was leading by at least seven or eight lengths, followed by Gladiateur and Attila, close together. Then the latter drew up until at the Trees Mark and Attila were going neck and neck. A very fine race ensued in the Straight. Attila, ridden hard, won from Mark by half a length, the Leader a bad third. Time, 2.10½. Winner paid yen 7.50.

SECOND DAY.—TUESDAY, 17TH MAY.

The second day's racing was exceptionally good, and spectators turned up in large numbers. This being Ladies Day, and the weather being as lovely as could be desired, the show of beautiful Spring costumes was particularly fine, but to the great regret of everybody, the President of the Club, Sir Claude Macdonald and Lady Macdonald, were unable to attend the meeting, owing to the recent death of Lady Mackenzie, sister of Lady Macdonald. Tokyo Society both diplomatic and official was very largely represented. Towards the end of the afternoon the skies clouded over, threatening rain, and foreboding a break in the weather for the last day. There were a good number of starters in each race and in most instances the finishes were close. The Ladies' Purse was won by Mr. Mottu, to whom Mrs. E. C. Davis presented the prize with a few graceful remarks. Mr. Tatsuta (Mr. K. Mori) secured the Emperor's Cup—a handsome silver bowl—and after Count Toda had made the presentation the

Clerk of the Course, Mr. A J. Easton, called for three cheers for the Emperor, which were heartily given. The arrangements for spectators worked admirably, the new stand over the Pari Mutuel being crowded, as well as the Grand Stand. In the third race Alexandra and Parisienne ran a dead heat and the owners arranged to run it off after the ninth event, with the result that Alexandra, a strong favourite, won with something to spare.

Following are the events:—

1.—The COSMOPOLITAN PLATE, for all Australian Subscription Horses; weight for age with 5lb. deducted; winners of 4 races or less at date of entry 3lb. penalty per win, of more than 4 races 15lb. penalty in all; winners at the meeting 5lb. extra; winner of race 7 First Day excluded. Entrance yen 5. Three-quarters of a Milé. Winner yen 600; Second Prize yen 100.

Mr. Yezoye's Izumo, 144lb..................(Sugiura) 1
Mr. May's May-mie, 144lb. ....(Ichi) 2
Mr. R. Loonen's Capricieuse, 141lb. ...(Mr. Mottu) 3
Mr. Friends' Mistletoe, 137lb. ....(Rikizo) o
Mr. K. Ikeda's Cannon, 132lb.................(Goto) o

Mistletoe was a fairly strong favourite. After considerable trouble the five starters were got away well together. Cannon secured the lead but was quickly overtaken by Izumo, the latter leading at the Trees by about three lengths. Coming into the Straight May-mie made a good effort but could not overtake the winning horse, and Izumo won by five lengths, May-mie second and Capricieuse third. Time, 1.22$\frac{1}{5}$. Winner paid yen 41.

2.—The MANCHURIAN STAKES, for Subscription China Ponies of 1904; weight as per scale; winner of China Grand Prix excluded. Entrance yen 5. Three-quarters of a Mile. Winner yen 350; Second Prize yen 50.

No. 127 Mess' C.O.D., 147lb. ....(Mr. Cox) 1
Mr. Graal's Fluechtling, 150lb. ....(Mr. Mottu) 2
Mr. May's Mayor, 150lb...............(Mr. Dietrich) 3
Mr. Graal's Parcival, 147lb. ....(Sasaki) o
Mr. R. Loonen's Gaulois II, 144lb..........(Sugiura) o
Mr. Alexander's Torpedo, 150lb...........(Sugiyama) ■
Mr. von Hessenthal's Coriolan, 147lb......(Higaki) o
Mr. Tatsuta's Lion, 153lb. ....(Takahashi) o

C.O.D. was a strong favourite, though Gaulois II had a good number of backers. After several false starts the ponies were got away well together and Fluechtling assumed the lead, closely followed by Parcival and C.O.D. Fluechtling, however, kept a slight lead until reaching the Trees, when Mayor and C.O.D. challenged her and the three ponies were racing almost neck and neck. Coming into the Straight C.O.D., well ridden by Mr. Cox, came along with Fluechtling and a fine race finished in favour of C.O.D. by about one length; Mayor third. Time, 1.38$\frac{1}{10}$. Winner paid yen 10.

3.—The ADELAIDE CUP, for Australian Subscription Horses of 1904; weight for age; winner of race 5 First Day 5lb. extra; winner of Grand Prix excluded. Entrance yen 5. One mile and a Furlong. Winner yen 500; Second Prize yen 100; Third Prize yen 50.

Mr. Satsuma's Alexandra, 141lb. ......(Horikoshi) 1
Mr. R. Loonen's Parisienne, 137lb.......(Kurosaka) 1
Mr. Alexander's Juno 136lb. ....(Sugiyama) 3
Mr. Sphynx's Chochou, 137lb. ....(Higaki) o
Mr. B. Runge's Tarantella, 137lb. ....(Kano) o

In this race Alexandra was a strong favourite though Parisienne was heavily backed. Passing the Stand Parisienne was leading, closely followed by Juno and Alexandra. At the three quarter mile post Parisienne still had a little the best of it, but at the half mile the three horses named were racing almost neck and neck. Then Juno fell behind and the race was between Parisienne and Alexandra. Coming down the Straight Alexandra made a fine effort but was unable to get ahead of her competitor and a splendid race resulted in a dead heat; Juno, several lengths behind, third. Time, 2.12$\frac{4}{5}$. Winners paid: Parisienne yen 7, Alexandra yen 4.50. The owners of the winning horses arranged to run off the race after the last advertised event.

4.—The LADIES' PURSE, (Presented), with Second and Third Prizes added by the Club; for all China Ponies; Handicap; weights to be published at close of first day; to be ridden by full members of the Club, or Visitors, whose names must be sent in to the Committee before the meeting and approved by them. Entrance yen 5. One Mile. Second Prize yen 200; Third Prize yen 100.

Mr. Graal's Attila, 160lb..................(Mr. Mottu) 1
Mr. G. Werckmeister's Adonis, 145lb.
(Mr. Dietrich) 2
Mr. Twoman's The Leader, 145lb. ......(Mr. Cox) 3
Mr. R. Loonen's Gladiateur, 150lb.
(Count Metternich) o
Mr. Four-in-hand's The Doctor, 153lb.
(Mr. von Hessenthal) o

The five ponies caused the starter considerable trouble and were finally got away to a rather bad start. Adonis had the lead, The Leader following within half a length. The ponies were all close together in the Dip and at the three quarter mile post Gladiateur put on a spurt and drew ahead. This lead was but short lived, and at the half mile post Attila was half a length ahead of Adonis, The Leader being about the same distance behind the second pony. This order was maintained past the trees and coming into the Straight Attila increased her lead, and though the riders of Adonis and The Leader made every effort won easily by about four lengths from Adonis without being ridden hard. Time, 2.11. Winner paid yen 10.50

Immediately after the race the successful jockey, Mr. Mottu, was presented with the Ladies' Purse by Mrs. E. C. Davis, who had been instrumental in collecting the same from the ladies of Tokyo and Yokohama. The donor said she was pleased to present the purse to Mr. Mottu, who had won the Ladies' Purse on former occasions, and she hoped he would win it again in the future. It had been a good race and no doubt the best pony won. Mr. Mottu made an appropriate acknowledgment, saying that he had won the Ladies' Purse on three occasions.

5.—The QUEENSLAND STAKES, for Australian Subscription Horses of 1904; Handicap; weights to be published at close of first day; winners after publication of weights, 7lb. extra. Entrance yen 5. Three quarters of a mile. Winner yen 500; Second Prize yen 100.

Mr. G. Barclay's Carnation, 150lb.......(Horikoshi) 1
Mr. K. Ikeda's Suerai, 135lb. ....(Goto) 2
Mr. Graal's Elsa, 139lb. ....(Mr. Mottu) 3
Mr. N. Kawakita's Kyoto, 133lb...........(Sugiura) o
Mr. R. Field's Treasure, 130lb...........(Mr. Catto) o
Mr. Friends' Mascotte, 132lb.................(Rikizo) o
Mr. Norfolk's Primrose, 135lb..............(Mayeda) o
Mr. J. T. Hamilton's Daisy, 135lb. ....(Sasaki) o
Mr. Tatsuta's Satsuki, 130lb. ....(Sugiyama) o

A very fair start and Carnation at once went to the front, leading from Suerai at the half mile post by nearly three lengths, Elsa being about the same distance behind the second horse. This order was maintained until the finish, Coronation winning by about eight lengths. Suerai and Elsa being close together for second and third positions. Time, 1.24$\frac{3}{5}$. Winner paid yen 7.50.

6.—The EMPEROR'S CUP, for Australian Subscription Horses of Autumn 1903; weight for age; winners of 4 races or less at date of entry 3lb. penalty per win, of more than 4 races 15lb. penalty in all; winner of Race 3 First Day excluded. Entrance yen 5. One mile; Second Prize yen 100.

Mr. Tatsuta's Suma, 146lb. ....(Takahashi) 1
Sir Claude MacDonald's Stella, 140lb...(Horikoshi) ■
Mr. R. Schmidt-Scharff's Annemarie, 137lb.
(Mr. Mottu) 3
Mr. R. Loonen's La Friponne, 137lb....(Kurosaka) ■
Mr. Alexander's Jupiter, 137lb...........(Sugiyama) o

Suma was strongly favoured in this race. Stella obtained the lead directly after the start, but was passed at the three quarter mile post by Suma, the latter having a lead of at least three lengths at the Trees, La Friponne at this point being second and Annemarie third. Coming round the bend into the Straight Suma increased her lead and came in a winner by about four lengths from Stella, Annemarie a good third. Time, 1.53$\frac{1}{5}$. Winner paid yen 6.00.

At the conclusion of the race the Emperor's Cup was presented to Mr. Mori, the owner of the winning horse, by Count Toda, the former making a suitable acknowledgment, and three cheers were given for the Emperor.

7.—The NANKIN STAKES, for China Subscription Ponies of 1904; Handicap; weights to be published at close of First Day; winners after publication of weights 7lb. extra. Entrance yen 5. One Mile and a Quarter. Winner yen 350; Second Prize yen 50.

No. 127 Mess' C.O.D., 154lb...............(Mr. Cox) 1
Mr. R. Schmidt-Scharff's Protz, 144lb...(Mr. Mottu) 2
Mr. Norfolk's Pit-a-Pat, 150lb.........(Mr. Dietrich) 3
Mr. May's Mayor, 140lb. ....(Ichi) o
Mr. K. Ikeda's Tonbi, 140lb..................(Rikizo) o

The five ponies got away well together and passing the Grand Stand Protz and Mayor were going neck and neck, the other three about a length behind. This order was maintained in the Dip and from there to the half mile post the five ponies were all in a bunch. Getting to the Trees Protz had a lead of a length, but entering the Straight C.O.D., well ridden by Mr. Cox, caught up and took the lead, winning a good race by about three lengths, Protz second and Pit-a-Pat third. Time, 2.51$\frac{3}{5}$. Winner paid yen 33.00.

8. The BRISBANE CUP, for all Australian Subscription Horses except those of 1904; Handicap; weights to be published at close of First Day; winners after publication of weights 7lb. extra. Entrance yen 5. One Mile. Winner yen 600; Second Prize yen 100; Third Prize yen 50.

Mr. N. Kawakita's Hitachi, 155lb. ......(Sugiura) 1
Mr. K. Ikeda's Kachidoki, 136lb. ....(Goto) 2
Mr. R. Loonen's Rose de France, 146lb.
(Mr. Mottu) 3
Mr. May's May-mie, 138lb. ....(Ichi) ■
Mr. May's May-sie, 122lb. ....(Mr. Dietrich) ■
Mr. R. Field's Thrift, 121lb. ....(Mr. Catto) o

Hibachi had the best of the start and at the three-quarter mile post was leading by about four lengths from Kachidoki, Rose de France being about two lengths behind the second horse. Kachidoki, which was the favourite, caught up a little, being about three lengths behind at the half mile post and only one length to the bad at the Trees. She could not catch the winning horse, however, and Hitachi won by about three lengths, Rose de France a bad third. The winner beat her own record of the previous day, the time being 1.48$\frac{1}{5}$. Winner paid yen 14.50.

9.—The MONGOLIAN PLATE, for Subscription China Ponies of Autumn 1903; Handicap; weights to be published at close of First Day. Entrance yen 5. One Mile and a Furlong. Winner yen 350; Second Prize yen 50.

Captain Jardine's Tanuki, 161lb. ....(Mr. Cox) 1
Mr. G. Werckmeister's Adolar, 150lb.
(Mr. Dietrich) 2
Mr. R. Field's Trader, 150lb. ......(A. Takahashi) 3
Mr. Yodo's Yakumo, 144lb. ....(Rikizo) o

Tanuki was a hot favourite for this race. After a good start the Ponies passed the Grand Stand Tanuki leading by about two lengths from Adolar and Trader, who were racing neck and neck. From the three quarter mile post Trader came up and the three ponies—Tanuki, Adolar and Trader—raced neck and neck, until reaching the Trees Tanuki had a lead of a length from Adolar, the same distance separating Trader from the second pony. Coming round the bend Yakumo, who had been several lengths behind made a good spurt, but the race—a good, well ridden race—ended in favour of Tanuki by three quarters of a length, Adolar second and Trader third. Time, 2.39$\frac{3}{5}$. Winner paid yen 8.50.

THE DEAD HEAT.

Mr. Satsuma's Alexandra, 141lb. ......(Horikoshi) 1
Mr. R. Loonen's Parisienne, 137lb......(Kurosaka) 2

Alexandra was a very hot favourite for this race (running off the dead heat of the third race). The two horses passed the Grand Stand close together and kept so throughout, though at the start Parisienne had a slight dead. From the three quarter mile post to the Trees the two competitors ran neck and neck, it being almost impossible to judge which was in front. Then entering the Straight it seemed doubtful which would win, but making a good effort Alexandra won in fine style by about three lengths. Time, 2.15. Winner paid yen 7.

THIRD DAY.—WEDNESDAY, 18TH MAY.

The third day's racing opened in threatening weather, and before luncheon the rain began to fall. It did not come down very heavily, however, and the closing events were run off in bright sunshine. The attendance was fairly good and the racing in most instances evoked keen interest. Sir Claude MacDonald's Stella, which started a hot favourite in the seventh race, came in third, being beaten by Jupiter and La Friponne. The best dividend of the meeting was paid to the backers of the winning horse in this race—yen 66.

An Off Day's racing is to take place on Saturday afternoon, particulars of which will be duly advertised.

Following are the events:—

1.—The YOKOHAMA DERBY, for Australian Subscription Horses, except those of 1904; Handicap; weights to be published at close of Second Day. Entrance yen 5. One mile and a Half. Winner yen 700; Second Prize yen 200; Third Prize yen 100.

Mr. R. Schmidt-Scharff's Annemarie, 145lb.
(Mr. Mottu) 1
Mr. R. Loonen's Rose de France, 150lb. (Higaki) 2
Mr. Yezoye's Izumo, 146lb..................(Sugiura) 3
Mr. K. Ikeda's Kachidoki, 146lb. ....(Goto) o
Mr. May's May-mie, 146lb. ....(Ichi) ■
Mr. R. Field's Thrift, 125lb. ....(Mr. Catto) o

Kachidoki was most favoured at the Pari Mutuel, Rose de France being second favourite. The six starters were got away fairly well together, though Rose de France had a little the best of it. Passing the Grand Stand Rose de France had a lead of about two lengths from Kachidoki, the other horses racing in a bunch close behind. At the Dip Kachidoki caught up, and at the three quarter mile post was a neck ahead of Rose de France. These two horses raced neck and neck to the half mile post, but Annemarie was catching up and at the Trees the three horses were all together. Rounding the bend Annemarie secured the lead and won a splendidly ridden race by three lengths from Rose de France, Izumo third. Time, 2.50$\frac{1}{10}$. Winner paid yen 56.

2.—The YOUNGSTERS' HANDICAP, for Australian Subscription Horses of 1904; Handicap; weights to published at close of Second Day. Entrance yen 5. One Mile. Winner yen 500; Second Prize yen 100; Third Prize yen 50.

Mr. Satsuma's Alexandra, 155lb.	(Horikoshi)	1
Mr. B. Runge's Tarantella, 140lb.	(Kanno)	2
Mr. Alexander's Juno, 145lb.	(Sugiyama)	3
Mr. Sphynx's Chouchou, 136lb.	(Higaki)	0
Mr. N. Kawakita's Kyoto, 132lb.	(Sugiura)	0
Mr. R. Field's Treasure, 120lb.	(Mr. Catto)	0

Alexandra was a hot favourite for this event, though Juno had a good number of backers. A very fair start, Alexandra having a little the best of it. Entering the Dip Alexandra was leading slightly from Kyoto, Juno being in third place. Kyoto had a slight lead at the three quarter mile post, but racing to the half mile Alexandra had a length the best of it, Tarantella taking second position with Juno a couple of lengths behind. This order was maintained to the finish, Alexandra winning by about three lengths without being "ridden." Tarantella and Juno finished close together. Time, 1.55$\frac{1}{5}$. Winner paid yen 8.

3.—The CHINA CHAMPIONS, for all China Ponies; weight as per scale; a forced entry for winners at the meeting, of one race yen 10, of two or more yen 20. Optional to beaten Ponies at an Entrance of yen 25. One Mile and a Quarter. Winner yen 600.

Mr. Graal's Attila, 147lb.	(Mr. Mottu)	1
Mr. G. Werckmeister's Adonis, 144lb.	(Mr. Dietrich)	2
No. 127 Mess' C.O.D., 147lb.	(Mr. Cox)	3

Attila was a hot favourite, though C.O.D. was strongly backed. After a good start Attila was leading by a length passing the Grand Stand, the other two ponies running together. In the Dip this order was maintained, and at the three quarter mile post Adonis was in second position by a neck from C.O.D. Running to the half mile Attila had a lead of about four lengths from Adonis, C.O.D. being about a length behind the second pony. This order was maintained to the finish, Attila winning easily without being pushed by her jockey, Adonis second and C.O.D. a good third. Time, 2.48. Winner paid yen 6.50.

4.—The JUNIOR CHAMPIONS, for Australian Subscription Horses of Autumn 1903 and Spring 1904; weight for age; a forced entry for winners at the meeting, of one race yen 10, of two or more yen 20. Optional to beaten Horses at an Entrance of yen 25. One Mile and a Quarter. Winner yen 600.

Mr. Tatsuta's Suma, 136lb.	(Takahashi)	1
Mr. G. Barclay's Carnation, 137lb.	(Horikoshi)	2
Mr. R. Schmidt-Scharff's Annemarie, 136lb.	(Mr. Mottu)	3

Suma was a strong favourite. Carnation had a little the best of the start and passing the Grand Stand was leading from Suma by about a length, the third horse being two or three lengths behind Suma. In the Dip the latter began to overtake Carnation and at the half mile post the two horses were running close together. At the Trees Suma obtained the lead and rounding the bend came down the straight with the race well in hand, winning from Carnation by about seven lengths, Annemarie a bad third. Time, 2.23$\frac{1}{5}$. Winner paid yen 7.50.

5.—The SENIOR CHAMPIONS, for all Australian Subscription Horses, except those of Autumn 1903 and Spring 1904; weight for age; a forced entry for winners at the meeting of one race yen 10, of two or more yen 20. Optional to beaten Horses at an Entrance of yen 25. One Mile and a Quarter. Winner yen 750.

Mr. N. Kawakita's Hitachi, 137lb.	(Sugiura)	1
Mr. K. Ikeda's Kachidoki, 137lb.	(Takahashi)	2
Mr. R. Loonen's Rose de France, 137lb.	(Higaki)	3

Hitachi was a hot favourite for this event. Kachidoki got away at the start but was immediately collared by Hitachi, the latter having a lead of about three lengths passing the Grand Stand, the other two running close together. Coming to the three quarter mile Hitachi had a long lead and at the half mile post the favourite was at least ten lengths ahead of Kachidoki, Rose de France being about three lengths behind the second horse. This order was maintained and Hitachi came in an easy winner, Rose de France being about five lengths behind Kachidoki. Time, 2.19$\frac{9}{10}$. Winner paid yen 6.

6.—The CHINA SOLACE, for all Subscription China Ponies; weight as per scale; winners at the meeting excluded. Entrance yen 5. One Mile. Winner yen 300.

Mr. K. Ikeda's Mark, 150lb.	(Sugiyama)	1
Mr. Yodo's Yakumo, 146lb.	(Tsubouchi)	2
Mr. May's May-Moth, 147lb.	(Ichi)	3

Mark was a very hot favourite, the other two ponies having but few backers. The favourite got away from the start and at the half mile post had a lead of about ten lengths from May-moth, Yakumo being about eight lengths behind the second pony. The race was won easily by Mark, the jockey not having to push his mount at all; Yakumo second and May-moth a close third. Time, 2.15$\frac{1}{10}$. Winner paid yen 6.50.

7.—The NEW SOUTH WALES CUP, for Australian Subscription Horses of Autumn 1903; weight for age; winners of 4 races or less at date of entry 3lb. penalty per win; of more than 4 races 15lb. penalty in all; Winners at the meeting excluded. Entrance yen 5. One mile and a Furlong. Winner yen 400; Second Prize yen 100.

Mr. Alexander's Jupiter, 136lb.	(Sugiyama)	1
Mr. R. Loonen's La Friponne, 137lb.	(Sugiura)	2
Sir Claude MacDonald's Stella, 139lb.	(Horikoshi)	3
Mr. May's May-sie, 136lb.	(Ichi)	■

Stella was a very hot favourite for this race, the other horses having but few backers. The four horses got away to an excellent start and passing the Grand Stand Jupiter was leading slightly from La Friponne. Half way round Jupiter was almost neck and neck with La Friponne, Stella being close up in third position. Jupiter kept her lead to the finish, winning by about five lengths from La Friponne, Stella a good third. Time, 2.16$\frac{3}{5}$. Winner paid yen 66.00.

8.—The CHINA CONSOLATION, for China Subscription Ponies of 1904; weight as per scale; winners at the meeting excluded. Entrance yen 5. One Mile. Winner yen 300.

Mr. R. Schmidt-Scharff's Protz, 147lb.	(Mr. Mottu)	1
Mr. R. Loonen's Gaulois II, 144lb.	(Sugiura)	2
Mr. May's Mayor 150lb.	(Ichi)	3
Mr. Graal's Fluechtling, 150lb.	(Mr. Catto)	0
Mr. Norfolk's Pit-a-pat, 150lb.	(Mr. Dietrich)	0
Mr. Alexander's Torpedo, 150lb.	(Sugiyama)	■
Mr. K. Ikeda's Tonbi, 150lb.	(Rikizo)	0
Mr. Tatsuta's Lion, 153lb.	(Takahashi)	0

Protz was a strong favourite for this event. The ponies got away fairly well together though Fuechtling had a little the best of it. In the Dip this pony had a slight lead from Protz, Mayor being in third position. Then Pit-a-Pat began to come up, but Protz secured the lead and won by three lengths from Gaulois II, Mayor being a good third. Time, 2.13$\frac{3}{5}$. Winner paid yen 8.50.

9.—The AUSTRALIAN CONSOLATION, for Australian Subscription Horses of 1904; weight for age; winners at the meeting excluded. Entrance yen 5. One Mile. Winner yen 400.

Mr. R. Loonen's Parisienne 137lb.	(Kurosaka)	1
Mr. Alexander's Juno, 137lb.	(Sugiyama)	2
Mr. Graal's Elsa, 137lb.	(Mr. Mottu)	3
Mr. N. Kawakita's Hyogo, 137lb.	(Sugiura)	0
Mr. Astral's Moonshee, 137lb.	(Sasaki)	0
Mr. B. Runge's Tarantella, 137lb.	(Kano)	0
Mr. J. T. Hamilton's Daisy, 137lb.	(Horikoshi)	■
Mr. K. Ikeda's Suerai, 137lb.	(Goto)	0

Parisienne was a strong favourite, Juno being second in the number of backers. Some trouble was experienced in getting the eight horses away, and they were finally started to a rather bad start, Tarantella being left at the post. Suerai had the lead, followed by Elsa and Hyogo. At the three quarter mile post Suerai still had the lead, closely followed by Elsa, Hyogo, Parisienne and Juno. Getting to the Trees Parisienne came to the front and won a fine race by half a length from Juno, Elsa a bad third. Time 1.56$\frac{4}{5}$. Winner paid yen 8.00.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

Mr. and Mrs. Humphry Ward's second daughter, Miss Janet Penrose Ward, was married at Oxford recently to George Macaulay Trevelyan, third son of Sir George Otto Trevelyan. The bridegroom is a fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and is one of the editors of the new *Independent Review*. The ceremony was performed in the chapel of Manchester College, and Mr. and Mrs. Ward gave a reception afterward in the Manchester College library. Mrs. Ward is now in Italy at work on her novel, "The Marriage of William Ashe."

In connexion with the celebration of the jubilee of the London Association of Correctors of the Press the following avowal by Mr. Andrew Lang is interesting: "Once I quoted in a daily paper (he wrote a few years ago) Mr. Browning's 'Just for a handful of silver he left us.' This appeared in print as 'Just for a *handle* of silver he left us.' I complained to the gentleman who was doing editorial duty. I said everybody knew that quotation, and that '*handle* of silver' was not sense. He said that he did not know the quotation, and that he did not expect sense from Mr. Browning. The quotation being nonsense as it stood, no doubt the editor took that for proof that, as it was from Browning, it was correctly printed; but the right sort of proofreader," Mr. Lang thinks, "would have corrected the misprint."

We acknowledge receipt of the Travellers' Hand Book and Telegram Code published by the well-known bankers and agents Messrs. H. S. King & Co. of which the present is the twenty-third annual issue. This little work contains a great deal of information of value to travellers, and the telegram code consists of sentences that seem admirably adapted to their probable wants. It is chiefly designed for the use of homeward bound passengers.

It is not generally known that among the rare volumes in the library of the Law Society's Hall, London, is a manuscript devotional book of the thirteenth century, the "First Polyglot Bible" (1514), the "First Prayer Book of Edward VI.," and the "Whole Byble," by Miles Coverdale (1550). The collection was made by the Rev. Joseph Mendham in the early part of the 19th century, and was presented to the Law Society by his representatives in 1871, on condition that it formed a permanent part of the Library in Chancery-lane. Why these ecclesiastical works were given to the Law Society is unknown. Perhaps it was thought that they would create a moral atmosphere. Anyhow, the Law Society is justly proud of its Library. In 1832, when the Hall was first opened, the Committee reported, in terms of congratulation, that over 1,000 volumes had been collected. To-day every member of the Society is free to consult some 40,000 books.

Someone has been inquiring as to what it is boys and girls read nowadays, and the Warden of St. Andrew's College, Bradford, answering for his own scholars, says the younger boys read Ballantyne and Henty, those of the middle form Weyman and Kipling, while the oldest boys concern themselves with Emerson and Carlyle. As to Board schools, two boys only at St. Austell have read Scott and Dickens during the past year, while Burton-on-Trent has neglected both these authors; but at Gloucester, where Scott is "very low down in popular favour," Dickens is first favourite. The girls of Plumstead find Scott and Dickens alike "too long and too dry."

Writing to the Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society in September last in response to the question "What I owe to the Bible," Sir Edwin Arnold replied: "If, as I suppose, I am addressed as a man of letters, I will simply say that I owe my education as a writer more to the Bible than to any other hundred books that could be named. . . . In another way," Sir Edwin continued, "I owe a good deal to your Society as a teacher of languages. Out of ten or a dozen which I could read before becoming blind, I picked up two or three at least by using your translations into Hindustani, Persian, Sanscrit, Japanese, and Spanish as a book to begin with. It was so convenient to know by heart the grand old text while picking up the new tongue."

According to the *People's Friend*, Sir Conan Doyle, when a small boy, belonged to a book society. He was such a great reader that the society had to pass a rule for his benefit that no member be allowed to change his book more than three times a day. His first story was written at the age of six, and was about a tiger that swallowed a man. When the budding writer had got the man inside the tiger he had to finish the story; but, as he sagely observed, it was easier to get a man into a scrape than to get him out of it—which, by the way, may or may not throw some light on the position of the better-known tiger who was associated (in company with a big note of interrogation) with a lady. It is evident that Sir Conan's early experience of the syndicate system was peculiar, for we are told that when telling stories to his schoolmates he insisted on tarts as payment, leaving off with some exciting statement, such as "Raising the knife in mid-air," or "And then the wicked Marquis saw——" and declining to continue without a further supply of pastry—a case, to reverse the familiar saying, of "no supper, no song."

Writing from the editorial office of the *Girl's Realm*, Mr. S. H. Leeder gives the result of the voting of between 3,000 and 4,000 girls of the educated classes for their favourite girl-character in fiction. The voters were aged between thirteen and eighteen. In the following list Jo March was first by an overwhelming majority:—

	Character.	*Book.*	*Author.*
1st.	Jo March	Little Women	L. M. Alcott.
2nd.	Maggie Tulliver	Mill on the Floss	George Eliot.
3rd.	Lorna Doone	Lorna Doone	Blackmore.
	Meg Woolcot	Seven Little Australians	Ethel Turner.
4th.	Alice	Alice in Wonderland	Lewis Carroll.
5th.	Elizabeth Bennett	Pride and Prejudice	Jane Austen.
6th.	Isabel Carnaby	Isabel Carnaby	E. Thorneycroft Fowler.
	Little Nell	Old Curiosity Shop	Dickens.
	Florence Dombey	Dombey and Son	Dickens.
	Doreen	Doreen	Edna Lyall.
7th.	Jane Eyre	Jane Eyre	Charlotte Brontë.
	Esther	Bleak House	Charles Dickens.
8th.	Peggy Saville	About Peggy Saville	Mrs. de Horne Vaizey.
9th.	Babbie	Little Minister	J. M. Barrie.
10th.	Judy	Seven Little Australians	Ethel Turner.
11th.	Helen Adair	Coming thro' the Rye	Helen Mathers.
	Rachel West	Red Pottage	Mary Cholmondeley.
	Winsome Chateris	The Lilac Sunbonnet	Crockett.
	Rebecca	Ivanhoe	Scott.
	Ursula March	John Halifax, Gentleman	Mrs. Craik.
	Nellie	Nellie's Memories	R. N. Carey.
	Thelma	Thelma	Marie Corelli.
	Ellen	Wide, Wide World	Miss Wetherell.
	Barbara	Barbara Heathcote's Trial	R. N. Carey.

The death of Sir Edwin Arnold recalls to recollection the sonnet which he wrote upon the death of Mathew Arnold, a sonnet remarkable for the personal tone that pervades it:—

Now, that thou better knowest friends and foes,
Good Friend! dear Rival! bear no grudge to those
Who had not time, in Life's hard fight, to show
How well they liked thee for thy "slashing blow";
How "sweet" thy "reasonableness" seemed; how right
Thy lofty pleading for the long-dimmed "light"!
Thou, that didst bear my Name, and deck it so
That—coming thus behind—hardly I know
If I shall hold it worthily, and be
Meet to be mentioned in one Age with thee—
. . . before the Star
Is kindled for thee, let my funeral torch
Light thee, great Namesake! to th' Elysian Porch!
Dead Poet! let a poet of thy House
Lay, unreproved, these bay-leaves on thy brows!

One incident in the career of the late Mr. John Forbes, K.C., whose death has just occurred, is to be found recorded in Mr. Birrell's life of Sir Frank Lockwood. "The circuit, being in high good humour," wrote Sir Frank Lockwood to his wife in 1882, "proceeded to try Forbes for having indecently opened the Commission in a small Bar wig, not in the full-bottomed wig of a Q.C. Forbes was also charged with having falsely and fraudulently procured himself to be styled 'his lordship' in several newspapers. I, as Attorney-General, prosecuted, and Potter, Q.C., defended. Wills, as leader, presided, and a jury was sworn. The defence of insanity was set up on Forbes's behalf, but miserably failed, as it was proved beyond a doubt he was always alive to his own interests. Of course, he was found guilty, and consequently fined, and so I regret to say, were all others connected with the case." The presiding judge at this mock trial is now the senior judge of the King's Bench Division.

The amount left under the will of three eminent men—representatives of literature, law, and diplomacy—were made known a few days ago, and if the totals could be taken as any indication of the relative remunerativeness of the three professions literature would have to be regarded as better than the law, and the law as more profitable than diplomacy.

Probate of the will of Sir Leslie Stephen, who died on February 22, is granted to Messrs. George H. Duckworth and Gerald de l'Etang Duckworth. The estate is sworn at £15,715 6s. 6d., of which £8,906 14s. 6d. is net personalty.

Probate of the will of the Right Hon. Baron Shand, who died on March 6, has been granted to his widow, Emily M., Lady Shand. The estate is valued at £2,745 19s. 3d.

The estate of Lord Augustus W. F. S. Loftus, G.C.B. (son of the second Marquis of Ely), formerly Ambassador at St. Petersburg, who died on March 7 intestate, is sworn at £298 11s. 5d., by his son, Mr. Augustus P. B. Loftus.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The London *Times* dispatch steamer *Haimun* left Nagasaki on May 14th for Chemulpo.

The U.S. transport *Dix* arrived on May 15th at Nagasaki from Manila, on her way home.

Temporary advances to the Government from the Bank of Japan amounted on May 17th to sixty million *yen*.

Mr. Obayashi, an official of the Naval Hydrographic Office, has commenced a survey of Nemuro harbour, Hokkaido.

Fifty thousand *yen* worth of Japanese gold coins were exported on May 14th by the German mail steamer *Bayern* for Shanghai.

Mr. K. Otani, President of the Yokohama 74th Bank, entertained Dr. McGee and party on the evening of May 11th at his villa at Nogeyama.

Mons. P. H. de Lucy-Fossarieu, French Consul at Kobe, arrived on May 14th at Matsuyama to pay a visit to the Russian wounded who were recently removed thither from the Yalu.

At the conclusion of the billiard match of 18,000 up for £200, at Manchester, between Charles Dawson, the champion, and H. W. Stevenson, the ex-champion, Dawson was beaten by 1,884 points.

This specimen of "brag" from a St. Petersburg journal could hardly be excelled:—"We sincerely wish that as many of the Mikado's subjects as possible may be landed without ceasing, day and night, at the greatest possible number of points on the coasts of Korea and China. Not one of them will return."

On the 23rd April at the Crystal Palace, Manchester City won the English Cup, the premier prize of the English Association Football League, defeating Bolton Wanderers by one goal to nil. Mr. Balfour was one of the spectators and the Hon. Mr. Lyttelton presented the cup and medals to the winners. The attendance was 60,000.

Count Katsura, the Premier, Baron Sone, Minister of Finance, and Count Inouye held a conference on May 16th at the official residence of Marquis Ito, President of the Privy Council. The business is reported by the *Jiji* to have been connected with finance. Count Matsukata, who had just returned from Kamakura, took part in the meeting.

The correspondent of the London *Daily Chronicle* and three other British gentlemen arrived on May 17th at Shimonoseki from the front of the First Army. They were expected to leave for Nagasaki were they had private business to transact. They will afterwards proceed again to the front. They speak highly of the bravery of the Japanese at the taking of Kiulien.

Plans are being elaborated for building an enormous hotel, facing Unter den Linden, on American lines, to cost, with the site, 10,000,000 *yen*. The location is close to the principal railway station on Friedrich-strasse. Half of the capital will be raised in the United States, the manager, sub-manager and clerks will all be Americans, conversant with American hotel ways. The promoters are sanguine of triumph.

We acknowledge receipt from the Statistical Department of the Chinese Customs of a yellow book containing the Inspector-General's suggestions regarding the collection, appropriation, etc., of the Land Tax, in English and Chinese. An English translation has already appeared in these columns.

The authorities of the Commercial Bureau in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce have replied to the Kobe Chamber of Commerce, as to the reported Russian declaration that cotton is contraband of war, that the report of Russia's intimation is believed to be correct. The department is investigating the probable results of the prohibition and is waiting for information from foreign countries.

According to investigations, stocks of cotton and cotton yarn in Osaka and Kobe were as follows at the end of April:—

	Bales.	Yen.
OSAKA.		
Cotton	16,554	1,942,420
Cotton Yarn	38,819	2,274,742
KOBE.		
Cotton	38,142	4,247,977
Cotton Yarn	9,640	530,525

Seventeen Russian officers and four hundred and nineteen men—of whom nine officers and two hundred and eighty-four men are wounded—captured at the battle of the Yalu, arrived on May 15th at Takahama by the transport *Colombo Maru*. Their landing being completed before 3 p.m., they were to be removed to Matsuyama, where accommodation has been provided for them.

Hongkong papers report that the steamer *Quong Nam* from Iloilo for Hongkong, in heavy weather, saw a steamer's stern light, about a mile ahead, shortly after midnight on May 6th. A blinding rain squall then struck the *Quong Nam*, and when it had passed no steamer was to be seen. The *Quong Nam* cruised about the place till day-light, with no result.

Bucharest papers state that the Crown Princess of Roumania, who is the niece of the King of England, has just had a narrow escape. While riding in Bucharest, two mastiffs suddenly sprang at the Princess's horse, which first reared wildly and then plunged into a headlong gallop, quite beyond the rider's control, and still pursued by the dogs. Her Royal Highness was in momentary danger of being thrown from the saddle, until two Hussars, seeing the danger, drew their sabres and killed the dogs. The horse was then stopped, but the Princess had to be assisted into the palace in a state of nervous exhaustion.

S. Ono, a clerk employed in the Bank of Japan, charged with having stolen thirty thousand *yen* belonging to the bank, was acquitted on May 12th at the preliminary examination in the Tokyo District Court on the ground that the evidence against him was insufficient. It may be remembered that on Dec. 28th last K. Arai, an employee of the Asakusa Bank, presented a cheque for thirty thousand *yen* to the Bank of Japan. After having waited for some time at the counter for the money, he was told that the value of the cheque had been paid to another man. Many arrests resulted.

Since the commencement of hostilities, says a London paper, shipment of arms and ammunition from Antwerp has increased in a very marked degree. Special steamers are no longer chartered. They are now loaded on the regular liners, it being chiefly the German liners which are entrusted with the carriage of the contraband of war, the consignments going largely to Kiao-chow. The one thing which interferes with the lucrative trade in war materials from the Belgian ports is the matter of insurance, which is not easily arranged.

Three cases of dysentery are reported from Kochi.

The general meeting of the Hokkaido Railway Company was held on May 15th at the office of the Geological Society, Tokyo. The accounts for the past year were submitted to the shareholders, among those present being Mr. Sakamoto, the representative of the Imperial Treasury. The Government subsidy was *yen* 452,320.40, to which a balance of *yen* 55,725.48 from the previous account was added. Of the total *yen* 64 was set apart to wipe off a debit balance on the year's working, *yen* 3,349.32 was placed to reserve and *yen* 122,969 was allocated to the payment of a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent per annum, the remainder being carried forward to the next account.

May Yohe has reappeared at the Hippodrome Music Hall in Brighton, and is singing her old songs, "Ma Honey, Ma Honey," and "Lazily, Drowsily," from "Little Christopher Columbus," which were the rage in London ten years ago. She retains some of the deep notes of her voice and a good deal of her charm, but instead of being a slight, graceful girl is now a stately woman. She is to appear soon in the syndicate halls of the West End of London at a salary of $500 a week. Until they went to Brighton she and her husband, Major Putnam Bradlee Strong of New York, could be seen in the dining-room every night at the Carlton, London. One evening Lord Francis Hope arrived on the scene with his new bride. The two parties saluted each other and smiled, but did not speak.

Tonkin papers announce the decease of H. M. Norodom, King of Cambodia. His Majesty, who was born in 1834 and crowned in 1860, died in his palace at Phnompenh, the capital, on April 24th. The heir apparent is Prince Yukanthor, who is forty-two years of age. It is doubtful, however (the *Hongkong Telegraph* considers) if this Prince will succeed his father, for, owing to an outspoken attack in the *Figaro*, on the French Colonial Government, during his visit to the Paris Exhibion in 1900, he was obliged to cross the frontier and take refuge in Belgium. He is now an exile and lives in reduced circumstances at Singapore. It is rumoured that this Prince possesses many partisans in Cambodia, and the nomination of another successor to the vacant throne by the French Authorities may possibly lead to future complications.

The 13th Spring Athletic Sports of the Motomachi School were held on Monday at the Cricket Ground, about twelve hundred pupils being present. The weather was glorious for such an event, warm and windless. The programme consisted of forty-two items and a small band supplied music of a kind, playing the National Anthem (*Kimiga-yo*) at the close of the affair. During the day there was an exhibition of field hospital work. The *Hanawa-no-Asobi*, or flower dance and some of the comic races were very good, while the dancing of "The Lancers" by the girls, and the military drill of the lads were excellent, evoking the admiration of the foreigners present. The prizes were distributed by Mr. K. Ikeda, principal of the school, and Mr. Hayashi, Chief of the Prefectural Education Office, the gifts, very appropriately, consisting principally of books.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF JAPANESE CURRENT LITERATURE.

In an article entitled *Japanese National Characteristics* the *Jiji Shimpō* says:—That all Western nations should express deep regret for the manner in which Admiral Makaroff met with his death was only natural, but it is a surprise to some people to find that the bulk of the Japanese people were as much shocked by what occurred as were Europeans and Americans. Extreme respect for brave foes has for many centuries been felt by Japanese warriors. The proverb *Bushi wa ai-mi tagai,* "Warriors regard each other with sympathy," well expresses our feelings about the reverses of a brave soldier. It has not been the custom of our warriors to despise their foes at any time or to think that defeat in battle detracts from their value as men. The spirit of chivalry has ever led us to sympathize with those who often through a concatenation of adverse circumstances fail to come off victors in the hour of battle and to turn the reverses which foes have suffered into notes of warning against laxity or carelessness on the part of the victors. Many noted instances of the display of this respect for defeated foes might be quoted from history. When Ishida Mitsunari was defeated at Sekigahara, Kuroda Nagamasa, who had been an old friend of Ishida's, received him with the greatest respect and treated him like a distinguished guest. Tokugawa Ieyasu on one occasion acted in the same way to a vanquished foe, alighting from his palanquin and going to meet him on foot in a most respectful manner. That this spirit has not died out was shown by an incident which occurred in the China-Japan war connected with the taking of Weihaiwei. The most sincere and profound sympathy was shown by Admiral Itō and all the Japanese naval and military officers present on the occasion of the suicide of Admiral Ting. The Chinese warship *Kwang-tsi*, which had been captured by our fleet, was disarmed and given to the Chinese to enable them to convey the remains of their brave fellow-countryman to Chefoo, and when the vessel left the harbour the whole of the Japanese fleet went into mourning for the loss of so noble a foe. . . . . It is our belief, says the *Jiji*, that no one regrets more the manner in which the brave Russian Admiral lost his life than Admiral Tōgō. He did not of course know at first that the Admiral was on the *Petropavlovsk* when she went down. The deceased Admiral was full of pluck and ambition and it was said to have been his desire to meet the Japanese fleet in battle on equal terms. Admiral Tōgō would most certainly have preferred that events should have thus culminated . . . The narrow escape which Prince Cyril had and his great misfortune touched the cord of respect for royalty in the Japanese nation and caused deep sorrow everywhere.

There is one characteristic of the *Jiji Shimpō* which certainly no other newspaper in Japan possesses in the same degree and that is a certain dignified calmness of tone which is maintained from month to month in the midst of the most stirring events. In certain countries sensationalism and emotionalism are all the rage to-day, and there are Japanese organs which are as hysterical as a woman with disordered nerves. On May 2nd the *Jiji* had an article entitled *Kyokutan ni Hashiru nakare* (Don't run to Extremes); which throughout says to the nation, "Happen what will, keep calm." The *Jiji* does not under-estimate the seriousness of the situation. It says that there is no parallel to the present war in modern history. America's war with Spain and England's war with the Boers were cases in which the issues were simple ones and victory on the side of America and England was a foregone conclusion. In the Far Eastern World at the present moment there is great complication and from week to week there is no saying what unexpected turn events may take. Final success depends not only on fighting power, but on this and tactful manipulation of the political situation. The Japanese nation must endeavour to avoid arousing hostile feeling in neutral countries. In time of war nations, whether combatants or onlookers, are certainly more sensitive than at ordinary times. Germany by her attitude during America's war with Spain and England's war with the Transvaal did herself great political harm in both these countries. After the war with Spain was over the United States became aware that attempts had been made to form an anti-American alliance in Europe and that it had been supported by Germany, but did not come off owing to England's resolute pro-American action. This did much to draw American sympathies to England and to alienate them from Germany. Then followed the Transvaal war, throughout which Germany's sympathies were all with the Boers. England has not forgiven this action on Germany's part; the relations of the two countries are affected by it to-day. Thus it is seen that at the present time the Japanese nation cannot be too circumspect in its actions and its words. The war will create a good deal of hostile feeling in some quarters anyhow. We must do all we can, says the *Jiji*, to mitigate it by suppressing our feelings when to display them overmuch would only give offence. The *Jiji* then discusses the probability of interference on the part of the Powers and comes to the conclusion that if Japan plays her cards well, with England as her ally, this will be next to impossible.

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In the *Kyōikukai* (Educational World) we find a very sensible editorial entitled *Jikyoku to Kyōiku,* in which the writer condemns very strongly the way in which a great many of the schools of the country are kept in a perpetual state of agitation and excitement by warlike demonstrations of all kinds. The prohibition of a certain lantern procession by the Minister of Education, though it was condemned by public opinion at the time as somewhat savouring of pettiness was, in our opinion, says the *Kyōikukai*, a step in the right direction. In an Imperial Rescript issued at the time of the China-Japan war these words occur:—*Kuni ni jōsei* (常制) *ari*; *tami ni jōgyō* (常業) *ari*; *hijō chōhatsu no baiai wo nozoku no hoka, shinmin ono ono sono jōgyō wo tsutomuru koto wo okotarazu. Uchi ni wa masumasu seishoku wo susume, motte fukyō no moto wo tsuchikai-yashinau wo Chin ga nozmu tokoro nari.* The ordinary calling of school-teachers is the education of the young. With diplomatic and military affairs they are not concerned. It is not for the good of the nation that ordinary people should lose their heads and neglect their duties to the State. On such an occasion as the present teachers should preach sobriety and calmness of mind instead of encouraging, as in some quarters they are doing, every form of unhealthy and utterly useless excitement. It lies with educationists to prepare the rising generation for the functions to be discharged twenty years hence when the excitement of the war will be over. Far harder than any military problems will be the industrial, commercial and race problems of the future. Pre-eminence in war is no preparation for pre-eminence in time of peace. Japan has proved herself to have been well equipped for war. Is she equally well equipped for holding her own against her well educated and highly developed rivals?

While writing thus the *Kyōikukai* is careful to add that keen interest in the success of Japanese arms is natural and may be encouraged, but the nation must not get crazy over the war and neglect everything else. The *Kyōikukai* states that according to its prediction some months ago the Mombushō has failed to supply the Primary Schools with the text-books needed for the new school year that began in April. The Department says that there has been delay in the transport of the books, but the *Kyōikukai* in reply to this observes that the Middle Schools have all managed to get their books delivered in time despite railway irregularities.

In the April number of the *Kyōikukai* that much discussed question, the teaching of morality in schools, is treated in an article entitled *Shūshin Kyōiku no Gokai* (Misunderstandings respecting the Teaching of Morality). The writer says that all educationists and all scholars are agreed in thinking it an entire mistake to try and teach morality principally by means of text-books. Instructors in morality should themselves be models of virtue, and they should be allowed to teach the subject in any way they think best. Instead of this, every primary school is saddled with certain text-books and the teachers engaged to give instruction in practical morality are expected to expound these books; and there their duty ends. According to this system the books are regarded as possessing sufficient authority and influence to make it a matter of little moment by whom they happen to be expounded. But this is quite a ridiculous assumption. Real morality can never be taught in this fashion. Nor is this the way that it was taught in this country in former times. It used to be the custom for lecturers on morals to cull from our history passages which describe noble and virtuous actions, that is to say, to appeal to living examples. When this is done and when the teacher himself is a man that is highly respected by the pupils, school instruction on morality begins to be effective. It seems to be the opinion of the Mombushō that teaching morality by books is the foreign way and therefore that it should succeed here. How far it answers in the West unbacked by other methods of impressing the minds of the young we are not able to say, observes the *Kyōikukai*, but in Japan it fails entirely and the sooner the Department of Education realizes this the better.

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* "A country has its everyday rules; people have their everyday pursuits. People should not neglect their ordinary callings unless they are required to undertake some special military service. Among these callings the nourishing and developing of the source of the country's power and wealth by increased production is what your Emperor expects from you."

The *Kyōikukai*, commenting on Russian reverses, says that one cause of want of efficiency on the battle-field is the great ignorance of the Russian soldiers.* Few people have any conception, says this magazine, of the extent to which education is neglected in Russia. According to recent statistics, in the whole country the number of boys attending school does not exceed about 3,136,000 and the number of girls is only about 1,507,000. This shows the stage of civilisation which Russia has reached. Even for men who spend their lives in military service a certain amount of education is necessary to make them efficient warriors.

* * *

In the death of Mr. Kudō Kōkan, says the *Taiyō*, the country has lost an industrious, honest and loyal servant. As a member of the House of Representatives, for fifteen long years he discharged the many duties that devolved on him with the most conscientious care. He was always at his post. To him the Diet was everything. In it he lived, moved and had his being. Outside of politics he had no interests. Without brilliant talents or gifts of oratory, there was something about him that impressed everybody who came into contact with him. And when on March 21st it was announced that he had died suddenly of heart complaint, his fellow-members felt that they had lost a valuable fellow-worker and a true friend. He died at the age of 63; so that he was one of the oldest members of the House. Though up to the close of life he retained all the vivacity of youth, there never was anything flippant about him. He was one of the most serious of men, who realized that the duties he was called upon to discharge demanded his whole attention. His habits were simple and he disliked showiness of every kind. He was a warm friend of young men and entered into their feelings in a way that is comparatively rare in a man of his ripe years. He was no money-grubber. He was what we may call an upright public man, who served the State from a sense of duty combined with a liking for his calling. He desired no other reputation than that to be won by the efficient discharge of the functions of a member of the Diet.

A few months ago the *Spectator* wrote "The policy of the Japanese in Korea is becoming clear. They intend neither to conquer nor to annex the great peninsula, but to govern it as the British govern Egypt." This may be the ultimate intention of the Japanese Government, but as yet there are no plain evidences of the inauguration of such a policy. It is generally considered that nothing but the appointment of Japanese as heads of the Departments of State can cure Korea of the political maladies from which she is suffering. In the May *Taiyō* Mr. Katō Masanosuke discusses this subject in an article entitled *Tai Kan Saku* (Our Policy towards Korea) A gloomy picture, indeed, does Mr. Katō paint. From palace to cottage corruption everywhere. The sale of offices begins at the Court and goes on down to quite menial posts. Equitable taxation under this system becomes impossible, and it is only a question of how much squeezing the peasantry will bear, and according to Mr. Katō they put up with quite a remarkable amount. Mr. Katō attaches no importance whatever to all the promises made to Marquis Itō by the Emperor and by his Ministers. If Japan after the war is over does not take the country in hand and insist on radical changes of administration Korea will go back to her old ways. Having obtained certain promises from Korea, the Japanese nation should at once assert their rights in that country, observes Mr. Katō. What should these rights include? (1) The right of land ownership. (2) The right to take part in the fishing industry on every part of the coast. (3) The right to fell timber and start lines of business connected with forestry. (4) Mining rights. (5) The right to construct railways in any part of the peninsula; and industrial and commercial rights of every kind. But even the granting of such rights to our people would not insure the reform of the Government. To effect this our Government will have to insist on the appointment of Japanese advisers, some to reside in the capital to counsel the central Government; others to reside in the provinces to watch local administration and to superintend reforms. For the total regeneration and reorganization of the civil service system money will be needed. This Japan must be prepared to loan to the country at a low rate of interest. To allow things to go back to the old ruts after the war is over would in view of the present political situation in the Far East be madness on Japan's part, concludes Mr. Katō.

Mr. Goto Shimpei is quoted in the *Taiyō* as urging his fellow-countrymen to spend no more time in talking about Imperialism, colonization, and what is called the world-policy, but to take immediate steps for flocking to foreign countries. Now is the time, says Mr. Gotō, when our arms are successful and we as a nation are on the rising tide. Rapid expansion within the next few years must be resolved on by the nation at large. Go abroad if you want to make the home country really great, says Mr. Gotō.

Writing to the *Taiyō* from New York, Mr. Segawa Seidan, B.A., after giving a short sketch of the life and reviewing the poetry of Mr. Noguchi Yone, and after noticing the careers of several other talented Japanese who have settled in America, goes on to observe that judged by anything like a fair standard the Japanese attempts to write English poems or even first-class English prose, have been practically failures. Though because Mr Noguchi is a Japanese and because many of his ideas are beautiful and his verses smack of novelty and unconventionality, his writings have been praised by many American and some English journalists, his verses set at defiance some of the most elementary rules of English composition. Mr. Segawa tells us that Mr. Noguchi has wearied of writing blank verse and has taken to prose writing in New York, where he now resides. On Japanese writers of English in general, with the very best productions of which Mr. Segawa is evidently well acquainted, he says:—When I say that there are no Japanese who can write either poetry or prose as it should be written in English I may appear to be a pessimist in this matter, but such is my opinion. Unless a Japanese were born in America and brought up there he could not possibly put Oriental thoughts into English in the way Sir Edwin Arnold did. In transposing English ideas into Japanese we have shown great proficiency; but in our use of foreign languages we have not as yet displayed any special talent. Mr. Segawa at the close of his interesting and candid article predicts that it is not in literature, but in science that the Japanese of the future will make their mark in the world. Already they have begun to do this. He concludes thus:—*Kongo Nihonjin ga Beikoku ni oite ōi ni chiteki hōmen ni oite seikō sen to omowaba, sore wa tashikana kwagaku-teki hōmen de aru to omou. Nihonjin wa sude ni sono tensai wo shōmei* 證明 *shita. Tare ka shōrai ni oite zokuzoku to shite Beijin wo odorokasubeki shūsai* (秀才) *wo idashi-yenu ka to iu mono zo.*

Mr. Segawa ridicules the idea that Mr. Yaguchi is a pioneer in English literature and that other Japanese will surpass him in writing English poetry. He is of opinion that Mr. Yaguchi has rushed in where angels fear to tread. Mr. Yaguchi's admirers in this country will no doubt have much to say on the other side. The title of Mr. Segawa's article *Nihon wo kasa* (笠) *ni ki* (着) *taru Shijin* (詩人), *Gakusha, Bunjin,** indicates pretty clearly what in Mr. Segawa's opinion are the actual attainments of Japanese writers of English in America. It seems to us to be largely a question of standard. Mr. Segawa says that tested by Western standards Japanese writers of English have shown no remarkable talent. Compared with some French and many German writers of English their productions appear very poor. Mr. Segawa gives a short account of three other Japanese who are engaged in journalistic work in America, all of whom seem to be men of promise. (1) The first of these is Mr. Adachi Kinnosuke, who was educated at the Vanderbilt University. For a short time he was the editor of a small newspaper. He subsequently married an American lady, and moved to San Francisco where he started an English magazine, which, however, was very much of a failure. What he has published in English has been mostly translation. Mr. Adachi writes idiomatic English, says Mr. Segawa, but he lacks originality. Comparing him with Mr. Yaguchi we may say that whereas Mr. Adachi is well versed in the forms in which thought should be expressed in English, he is without ideas of his own; Mr. Yaguchi, on the other hand, has original ideas, but not the power of stating them in idiomatic English. Beyond these two there are really no Japanese literary men in America worth mentioning, says Mr. Segawa (*Zenki* (前記) *ni nin wo nozoite wa toritatete kakubeki hodo no hito wa nai*). But in New York during the past few years two young Japanese have occasionally given signs of a certain amount of literary ability. I refer says Mr. Segawa to Mr. Yabe Yaekichi and Mr. Kaneko Kiichi. The former has been editing the newly started journal *Japan and America*;† the latter has figured as a strong socialist. Mr. Yabe has spent a great many years in America, having entered a grammar school there at the age of 17. His English is no longer Japanese English, but it is wanting in lightness of touch. His sentences strike one as ponderous and somewhat laboured. Since the war broke out he has obtained a good deal of journalistic work. Mr. Kaneko was originally a graduate of a Tōkyō Divinity School and when he first arrived in America he wrote much about Christianity, and was then highly praised by the *Literary Digest*; but recently he has quite given up writing on religious subjects and has devoted himself to the study of sociology and to the discussion of social topics. As a writer he aims at simplicity and lucidity. His style is that of the daily newspaper, and it is said that for years he has perseveringly studied leading articles with a view to mastering the art of stating facts as clearly and concisely as possible.

Next to the article we have just dealt with stands a contribution from the pen of this very Mr. Kaneko written in New York for the *Taiyō* entitled ***Beikoku Shūgaku ni tsuite no***

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* In an interesting article published in the *Fortnightly Review* a few months ago entitled "The Slav and his Future" Emil Reich says:—"If the upper class of Slav countries suffers from superabundant intellectuality, the lower class compensates for this by an equally exaggerated extent of ignorance. Among the peasant class there is no intellectual activity whatever The country of the Slav is no country in which to seek the mean, either emotional, intellectual or social. His is the land of extremes. There is no *bourgeoisie* proper in Slav countries. —(WRITER OF SUMMARY).

* "Poets, scholars, and literary men who have adopted Japanese Costume (lit. "used Japan as a hat)." The reference is not only to Japanese writers in English, but to foreign writers like Sir Edwin Arnold and others who have made literary capital out of Japan; who have sought to attract readers by interpreting Japanese thought.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

† A very biassed organ, full of crude ideas and tainted with strong Irish anti-English sentiment. It has been discontinued, we observe. One of its articles was criticised in these columns some time ago.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

zakkan (Things that have struck me connected with study in America). In this article, which we have no space to deal with here, Mr. Kaneko supplies a large amount of valuable advice to Japanese young men who wish to complete their studies in the United States, pointing out the best schools to attend and the dangers and inconveniences which students must be prepared to encounter.

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As is well known to many of our readers, the Sanseidō makes a specialty of dictionaries and school-text-books. This publishing house certainly does succeed in pouring out a number of dictionaries which are a marvel of cheapness. But the paper used is most inferior and the type is usually that known as No. 7, which when printed on bad paper is very difficult to read at night without a magnifying glass. As to the actual compilers of these many dictionaries nobody seems to know who they are; for as a rule the persons whose names are given on the title-page do very little indeed towards the compilation. The Japanese language is rich in terms wherewith to describe functions that may involve much labour or none at all. A couple of years ago the Sanseidō gave us a very handy little dictionary called the *Shinyaku Eiwa Jiten*, noticed in these columns at the time. The title-page was adorned with the names of six very well known scholars, who were said to be joint-compilers (共編) of the work, whatever that term might mean. We have before us now a new Japanese-Chinese Dictionary called *Kanwa Daijiten*, which was published by the Sanseidō last year. For fullness and cheapness combined it is said to have no rival in the market. The size of the page is 8½ inches by 5½. Including valuable appendices this lexicon covers about 2,000 pages. The work has been compiled under the supervision (監修 *Kanshū*), we are told, of three very famous Chinese scholars, Doctors Shigeno, Mijima and Hattori, and a preface penned by Prince Konoe ornaments the opening pages. Notwithstanding the smallness of the type, we have no hesitation in recommending this lexicon to foreign students of Japanese on account of the enormous number of *jukuji* or linked ideographs in common use that it contains. The work may be described as a boiling down of the *Kōki-jiten*, the great progenitor of all Japanese ideograph lexicons. The *jukuji* are arranged under the principal of the two ideographs. Thus 六天, 九天, 半天, will all be found under 天 *ten*; *Sonshitsu* under 失, *shitsu*, and so on. The explanations given, though very short, are to the point. Thus 凡夫 *bompu*, is given as *tsune, nami no otoko*. The single characters are all arranged under the roots to which they belong, following in the order of number of strokes. The *jukuji* are given in no special order. One has to run over them till the eye lights on those sought for. The dictionary has one great defect. It does not give the pronunciation of both ideographs where there are two together. This necessitates in many cases the looking up of the second character under its radical to find out how it should be pronounced, and even that is not a sure guide, as ideographs when combined are often pronounced in a special manner. This is the case with numbers of Buddhist terms like 平等, *Byōtō*, for example. But all things considered, the Sanseidō has given us in a single volume a vast amount of highly technical information on one of the most complicated of Oriental languages. The printing is so small that on some pages will be found explanations of from 50 to 100 *jukuji*. Taking the average number of characters explained to be 40 per page, not a high estimate, the lexicon would contain explanations of some 80,000 ideographs; and all this is supplied to the public for 4 *yen*. The lexicon is bound in whole leather. The scholars who have lent their names to the work are of course in no sense responsible for its contents. The compilation has undoubtedly been done by a number of copyists, who have culled from standard dictionaries the definitions that are given. Our opinion is that most of these definitions are thoroughly trustworthy, having originally been written by Chinese or Japanese lexicographers of note. It is this utilization of the labours of others that enables the Sanseidō to supply the public with so many cheap dictionaries. Did the work include the chief modern *jukuji*, it could not have been put together without much original investigation, which would have greatly enhanced the cost of compilation. Comparatively few modern technical terms are to be found in it—a proof that it is principally a reprint of matter contained in old lexicons.

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The *Jitsugyō no Nihon* in an article entitled "Korea is Japan's Stage" gives an account of the progress of Japanese business in the Peninsula. Before doing so it points out that no foreign country offers so many advantages to Japanese settlers as Korea. The climate suits the Japanese. There is no overpowering competition there such as is encountered in the West and even to a certain extent in China. At present there are some 50,000 Japanese in Korea, but this number should be multiplied many times over before very long, says the *Jitsugyō no Nihon*. The chief centre of Japanese commercial and industrial enterprise is Fusan. The number of Japanese in Chemulpo does not exceed about 5,000, and the Japanese settlement there grows very slowly, but at Fusan during the past few years the Japanese population has been increasing at such a wonderful pace that a Japanese residing there to-day hardly knows that he is in a foreign country. There are 5 reasons for the prosperity of Fusan, from a Japanese point of view. (1) *Its propinquity to Japan.* So close is it that illiterate people in Kyūshū often address their letters, "Fusan, Nagasaki-ken." (2) *The excellence of the Fusan harbour compared with such harbours as Chemulpo.* In the latter harbour there is a great difference between the high and low water-marks, but the difference in Fusan is almost imperceptible, and the water is deep enough for very big ships to anchor quite close to shore. (3) *The Japanese traders in Fusan are real men of business;* not mere speculators and adventurers like so many of the Japanese in Chemulpo. (3) *The port is so situated that the chief imports and exports of the peninsula find their way there.* (5) *The new Seoul-Fusan railway has considerably added to its importance.* The port is to Korea what Shanghai is to China. For the above reasons the number of Japanese who have been successful in business in Fusan is much larger than that of those who have done well in Chemulpo. But there is one man in this town who is universally admitted by both Japanese and Koreans to have scored a greater success than anybody else, and that is Mr. Hasama Fusatarō, who is known in Korea by the name of Bakukan-kon. Bakukan is the Korean pronunciation of the ideographs 迫間, pronounced Hasama by the Japanese; and the Kon is the Korean pronunciation of 公, a title of respect affixed to the merchant's name by the Koreans. The history of this great merchant is of considerable interest. We have only space to give part of it in this Summary. In Fusan he represents that old, well known Ōsaka mercantile house Ioi (五百井). The Ioi house has a very large trade with Korea, having established no less than six branches in the peninsula. Mr. Hasama manages the whole of these branches. He is in reality, though only a managing clerk, a bigger man than his employer. The house of Ioi Chohei is run on a capital of about 300,000 *yen*, but Mr. Hasama owns property worth 500,000 *yen*. The rapid manner in which he became wealthy was owing principally to his investments in land in Fusan and to his connection with a great deal of the Japanese trade and industry of the place. There is hardly a company of any kind but his name is connected with it. He is the Shibusawa of Fusan. Going back to Hasama's early days, we find that he came from Kishū, as did Ioi Chōtarō himself the present head of the Ioi firm. Mr. Hasama is an entirely self-made man, having begun life as a very humble employee of the Ioi house. He grew up alongside of Chōtarō, gained his confidence and together the two men in later years stemmed the tide of ill-fortune which overtook their business at the time of the revolution. Very much owing to Hasama's wise management of its affairs, the Ioi house pulled itself together and was the first big mercantile firm to open up trade with Korea at the beginning of the *Meiji* era. For thirty long years has Mr. Hasama superintended that business and it is owing to him that it has in every part of Korea been so successful. Not only the house of Ioi but the Japanese nation owes much to this remarkable man, for it is largely through his energy, talent and indomitable perseverance that Japanese business has made such wonderful strides in Fusan during the last four or five years.

AMERICAN TOPICS.

Dakota divorces are growing in disfavour in the Eastern states. The Supreme Court of Iowa has followed the example of that of Massachusetts by refusing to recognize them as valid.

Vice-Governor Ide of the Philippines says it is proposed to replace gradually the customs duties with domestic taxes, with a view to ultimate free trade. There will be heavy taxes on tobacco, liquor, corporations and banks, and a poll tax.

In his cross-examination at the trial before Supreme Court Justice Davis in New York of the suit brought by Moritz and Carl Ernst, as stockholders, for an accounting from the officers of the American Spirits Manufacturing Company, Theodore H. Wentworth, the Secretary of the concern, testified that the actual cost of manufacturing various brands of whiskey varied from 11 to 13 cents a gallon.

The gross postal receipts at the fifty largest post offices in the United States for March, 1904, as compared with March, 1903, aggregated $6,458,301, a net increase of 13 per cent. The largest percentage of increase was more than 38, at Los Angeles, and the only decrease was 3 per cent., at Jersey City. New York's receipts were $1,384,175, or 15 per cent. increase, and Chicago's $1,067,468, or almost 14 per cent. increase.

Mr. C. M. Schwab, formerly president of the United States Steel Cotporation, is quoted as saying that while the steel situation is much improved as compared with the beginning of the year, it is nothing like the trade of the past two years. Mr. Schwab is a firm believer in the revival of business after the presidential election. He says that the railroads and all other consumers of steel and iron have held back orders, and there is much work to be done all over the country by these interests.

Captain James Hall, for many years commodore of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company's fleet, died at his home in Braintree, Mass., on April 22, aged 90. He followed the sea for fifty-five years, from the age of 13, when he shipped before the mast, until his retirement in 1881. Hall became captain of an East India merchantman, and in 1848 took a Russian war ship from New York to the Amur river. After the Pacific Mail Company was organized by Commodore Vanderbilt, Captain Hall was given command of one of the steamers. He was retired in 1881.

Four young society men of Reading, Pa., were smart enough to beguile the souvenir fanatics of New York into giving them nearly $2,000 for a carload of worthless slag. That was almost two years ago, but the secret never leaked out until this week. Having spent the $2,000, the quartet made plans last month to renew their operations on visitors to the St. Louis Fair. They intended to unload on the visitors to the fair a lot of slag as lava from some famous Japanese volcano, but they have been betrayed. These four young men are the sons of wealthy fathers and did not need the money, but they wanted to earn some money and feel independent. Just after the Mont Pelee eruption these youths bought a carload of slag and took it to New York and retailed it as Pelee lava, at a store they rented on Broadway. A Reading contractor who has a job of removing slag from local furnaces learned of the slag shipment. His curiosity was aroused and he followed the shipment to New York and learned of the souvenir scheme. The contractor kept quiet until recently, when he learned of the designs of the young men on the St. Louis Fair visitors. Then he exposed them.

Mme. Calve on April 22 bore the brunt of a hose attack intended for a band of college students and with wet garments went to her dressing room. She appeared later as *Carmen*, and, in spite of her ducking, sang with accustomed fervour. Her coming had been advertised far in advance, and at least 300 Yale students went this evening to the stage door of the Hyperion Theatre, New Haven, insisting that they be hired as supernumeraries. The manager selected twenty-five, and hinted that the others might depart. They declined to go and insisted that they must appear on the same stage with Calve. To prove their fitness they sang the Toreador song and various choruses of Bizet with a deafening effect. When Calve's carriage arrived the students made way for it. At this point an idea occurred to the stage carpenter, and he got out the stage fire hose and turned on a stream of water. Calve left her carriage just in time to get the full force of the water intended for the students. She was drenched, and said things in French. The students removed their hats and gave her three cheers and sang for her. The stage carpenter apologized and the incident was closed.

Street railways and traction lines—classified as city, suburban and inter-urban—in the United States at last accounts represented a total of 24,561 miles of track, an increase in nine years of 11,384 miles, or 86 per cent. This is a wonderful growth, says the *Railway Age*, although it is to be remembered that the mileage of track, much of it being double track on city streets, is far greater than the length of line—the basis on which steam railway mileage is figured. But still more significant are the figures showing the change in the character of street railway propulsion during the period from 1894 to 1903. Thus dummy roads have dropped from 409 to 142 miles, a decrease of 267 miles; horse railways from 1,950 to 281, a decrease of 1,668 miles, and cable miles from 578 to 267—decrease, 310 miles; while electric railway mileage has jumped from 10,238 to 23,869, an increase of 13,631 miles, or 133 per cent. It is gratifying to find that horse and mule power has decreased from 45,353 to 7,923, showing that 37,430 of those noble and ignoble animals have been put out of commission since 1894. Dummies and locomotives have been displaced to the number of 2,132, only 475 remaining in street railway service. Motor cars have increased from 12,563 to 52,119, while other passenger cars have decreased from 30,857 to show a total of 65,420, an increase of 22,000 in number in nine years, while the increase in capacity has been still more significant.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* in an editorial, states that the Panama canal treaty has been ratified at Washington, that thereby the legal basis for the construction of the canal from the Atlantic to the Pacific has been created, and that the great work can be completed in a comparatively short time. "It is perhaps pertinent," the paper adds, "to recall what Goethe said concerning these matters. During a conversation with Eckermann in 1827, with reference to Humboldt's travels, he said: 'This much is certain: If by a crosscut of this kind it could be accomplished that vessels with all sorts of cargoes and of every size could go through such a canal from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific ocean, quite incalculable results would follow for the entire civilized and uncivilized human race. I, however, would be surprised if the United States would miss the chance to get such a work into her hands. It is to be foreseen that this young State, with its decided tendency toward the west, will in thirty to forty years have also taken possession, and will have populated, the large areas of land on the other side of the Rocky mountains. It is furthermore to be foreseen that in this entire coast of the Pacific ocean, where nature has already created the most roomy and safest harbours, in course of time very important commercial towns will carry on a large traffic between China and the East Indies with the United States. In such a case it would not only be desirable, but almost necessary, that merchants as well as war vessels should be able to have quicker connexion with the western and eastern coasts of America. I therefore repeat that it is entirely indispensable for the United States to make a passage from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific ocean, and I am certain that she will accomplish it.' "

The expenditures of the United States Government are much less in proportion to the population than those of many other of the leading nations of the world. This fact is shown by a statement just published by the Department of Commerce and Labour, through its Bureau of Statistics. It shows that while the expenditure of the United States, with 80,000,000 of people, is $640,000,000, that of the United Kingdom, with 42,000,000 of people, is $898,000,000; that of France, with 39,000,000 people is $695,000,000; that of Germany, with 58,000,000 people, is $553,000,000; while in practically every country aside from China and India, with their enormous population, the per capita of government expenditures is greater than in the United States. Even in the case of Russia, with its population of 141,000,000, the per capita of government expenditure is about the same as that of the United States. The table puts the population of the United States at 80,372,000, the government expenditure in 1903 at $640,323,000, and the per capita expenditure $7.97. For the latest available year the United States shows an excess of revenues over expenditures amounting to $50,000,000.

In a lecture deliverd in New Orleans, Dr. Isadore Dyer, the physcian of the lepers' home of Louisiana and one of the most distinguished experts on this disease in America, after saying there were 3,000,000 lepers in existence, or one to every 500 living persons, announced that in the last two years the problem of curing this dread disease had been solved. In ten years, Dr. Dyer said, he and his assistants had succeeded in removing every trace of the disease in twelve lepers. In the past two years, since the latter part of 1902, every case at the Louisiana leper home, except those in the very last stages of the disease, have been improved materially, and in three cases the lepers are almost well, and it will be possible to discharge them within a comparatively short time. Before the recent Berlin conference on leprosy, which Dr. Dyer attended, there had been, he said, a few cases of the disease cured. That there were not more cures was due to the fact that the disease was not treated. Treatment means perseverance for years, not for weeks or months. Dr. Dyer expressed confidence that if the treatment of leprosy was begun early enough and maintained long enough, the disease could be cured as easily as any other. In another decade, he said, it will be universally recognized that leprosy is as curable as typhoid or yellow fever.

THE PERIL OF JAPANESE SUCCESS.

FROM THE VIEW-POINT OF COUNT CASSINI.

The following extracts are taken from an interview with the Russian Ambassador to the United States, as published in the *N. Y. World* under date of March 20, 1904:

"The success of Japan in the present war," said the Count, "would imperil the interests not only of Europe but of America also. It would make the Japanese dominant in Asia and result in an Asiatic league. Japan is an ambitious, aggressive nation, eager for war conquest. The Chinese are peaceful and industrious—a people who despise soldiers. No one who has any acquaintance with the two countries can doubt that if Japan were to become ascendant she would supply military instructors to China and in ten years she would raise an army from the 430,000,000 inhabitants of that empire that could defy the world.

"As the Chinese are deeply hostile to white men and their commerce, it is plain that with a developed military power in China, European and American interests would be destroyed. It is commonly supposed that the Chinese are slow, but that is a mistaken idea. The Chinese are not at all slow. As Russian Minister to Peking, I had excellent opportunities to study them. I was there in 1894 during the Chinese-Japanese war. From that time until 1900, when the Boxer uprising occurred, a period of only six years, the Chinese have displayed an amazing development in military spirit and capacity.

"I cannot understand how there can be any misconception of the subject in the United States. Japan is to be your bitterest competitor; more so than England. Her warlike policy, to which everything else is subordinated, is the result of ambition. Her successes now will be your losses later on. Every step she takes shows clearly the danger to civilization and the world's commerce involved in the part which she aspires to play in Asia. A union of Japan and China, with the restless fighting spirit of the Japanese impressed upon the now placid Chinese, would create a peril such as civilization has not seen for centuries.

"The idea of Japanese success as an end of this war is preposterous. America is getting most of her news from Tokyo, and that accounts for the misleading statements which have converted a few cunning strokes by a treacherous nation into decisive victories. Russia is well able to defend her rights and her authority, and when she strikes it will be in a manner worthy of her strength and dignity.* * *

"I have always been told that American sympathy will be found with the nation that stands for peace. You are a commercial nation. Commerce and war do not go together. When the fighting began in Asia Russia was unprepared for war. Japan had been preparing to attack for many months. Can any fair-minded person have a doubt as to which nation desired war? Russia did everything possible to avert bloodshed. Our Emperor—who has furnished the world abundant evidence of his peaceful and generous ideas—was in full sympathy with the national aversion to a conflict. On the other hand the whole Japanese nation was eager to begin the fight. The truth is that Japan was determined to have a war, made all her preparations and began the struggle deliberately in the hope of gaining a strategic advantage by early action.

"If American sympathy goes with the nation which favours peace, Russia is entitled to the goodwill of all Americans.

RUSSIA'S "PRIVILEGED POSITION IN MANCHURIA.'

"Russia's privileged position in Manchuria is the just result of her enterprise and progress. After all, the highest law is the law of human progress. In building her vast railway system across Siberia Russia opened up to civilization thousands of miles of fertile country and furnished a new food supply to the world. That great service to mankind has been recognized fully everywhere.

"It was necessary to find a seaport terminus for the railway and its commerce somewhere in southern waters, free from ice all the year around. A branch of the railway running down through Manchuria to Port Arthur was the natural and obvious development. Russia secured the right to build her railway to Port Arthur through the free and voluntary consent of the Chinese Government. I had the honour to negotiate at Peking for that right and can therefore speak with a complete knowledge of the facts.

"At the end of the China-Japanese war China found herself compelled to cede the Liaotung peninsula and the island of Formosa to Japan and to pay $100,000,000 in money as a war indemnity.

"Russia loaned China $100,000,000. Russia, also, supported by France and Germany, saved the Liaotung peninsula to China by successfully protesting against the proposed annexation by Japan. The fact that Germany and France could agree upon such a serious matter of international policy ought to be sufficient to prove that the position taken by Russia at that time was just and in the interest of peace and civilization. The presence of an aggressive, ambitious fighting nation like Japan on the Chinese mainland was inconsistent with peace and was obviously opposed to European interest.

RUSSIA SPENT OVER $300,000,000 IN MANCHURIA.

"The Russian railway to Port Arthur was begun in 1895 and the work was pushed through vigorously. The benefits which have resulted to the people of that country may be partly estimated from the fact that up to a year ago Russia had spent more than $300,000,000 in Manchuria. I know the figures because they were given to me by M. de Witte, the Russian Minister of Finance, himself. That immense sum was spent on the railway, on road building, on canals and on the cities. The city of Harbin itself is a monument to Russian enterprise and civilization.

"Ten years ago Manchuria was in many respects a wild country, in which travel was unsafe and commerce almost impossible. Neither life nor property was secure there. To-day all is changed. We have not yet been able to make a Pennsylvania of Manchuria for we have only been at work nine years. But we have converted it into a country where travel and commerce are possible.

"When the railway through Manchuria was begun there was an immense force of China brigands in the north close to the line of construction. It would have been impossible to operate the railway without protecting it against these savage hordes, numbering perhaps 15,000 or 20,000. Russia furnished from her army thousands of guards for the railway. This was done with the hearty consent of China. The moment these soldiers crossed the frontier into Manchuria they ceased to be a part of the Russian army and became simply railway guards. This was in itself a full recognition of the sovereignty of China, which was respected in every way by Russia.

"Not only was the railway built, commerce and industry stimulated, roads and cannals and cities built, but the power of the brigands was completely broken. Russia restored peace and order and gave the means of a prosperous development to Manchuria. That is the record of my country in Southern Asia.

JAPAN AND FORMOSA.

"Now take Japan. Ten years ago she received the island of Formosa from China. It is a rich island. Its tea, camphor, rice and other products yield a vast revenue. What has Japan done for that island? Nothing. During the ten years in which Russia has spent more than $300,000,000 in improving and developing Manchuria Japan has left Formosa as savage as she found it.

"Not that Japan was financially unable to improve her new territory. She got $100,000,000 as the result of her war with China. But she spent most of that money on new battleships, cannon and other war materials. She used her funds not to improve Formosa but to prepare for another war.

"I mention these facts merely to call the attention of the American people to Japan's record in Asia as a civilizing power in contrast to the record of Russia.

"In the year of the Boxer uprising the Chinese crossed the Amur River, on the northern frontier of Manchuria, and attacked the Russian city of Blagovestchensk. The Russian army punished the aggressors, and, in consequence of that attack and of the disorders which threatened the railway and Russian interests generally, Russia occupied Manchuria. Regular Chinese troops, with their officers, took part in the attack upon Blagovestchensk. That was an act of war. Had Russia desired to extinguish Chinese sovereignty and annex Manchuria to the Russian Empire she could have seized upon that incident as a reason for war with China. The participation of Chinese troops made a clear case. But Russia treated the matter as an incident of disorder and used her forces simply to secure tranquilli y.

"Since her occupation of Manchuria Russia has respected the rights and interests of all nations. She gave to the United States, as to other Powers, what they asked for. The United States declared that its interest in Manchuria was a purely commercial interest. Secretary Hay was vigorous and vigilant. He did everything in his power to safeguard the interests of his country. Russia gave formal assurances that she would respect the rights acquired by the Untted States and the other nations by treaties with China. She needed no compulsion, for it was her policy to do so. All she claimed was that she occupied a privileged position in Manchuria. That position was recognized by the whole world.

"Russia intended to withdraw from Manchuria, but when the time for the evacuation came China had failed to furnish guarantees of Russia's privileged position in the province. We were determined that that position should be not a word but a fact. Our troops remained in Manchuria.

"When Japan attempted to interfere she was informed that Russia recognized Japanese rights as she recognized the rights of other nations. Japan had no rights or interests superior to the rest of the world. Russia declared that the Manchurian question was a question between herself and China, an independent nation.

"Japan insisted that Russia should recognize her 'strategic rights' in Southern Korea. Russia agreed to recognize the superior position of Japan in Southern Korea with respect to commerce and kindred matter. But Japan insisted upon 'strategic rights.' Her object was to convert Masampho, in the south of Korea, into a Japanese Gibraltar commanding the Strait of Korea. That Russia would not agree to.

JAPAN'S ULTIMATE ABMITION.

"To give Japan command of the trade of the Far East would be unthinkable. It is a question that affects both Europe and America. Russia has trouble with Japan this year, but next year the United States may have trouble with her. Your commerce in Asia Is growing and must greatly increase in the future. In spite of the many treaties guaranteeing the independence and integrity of Korea, Japan is to-day revealing her true purpose in that peninsula. Her ultimate ambition is an Asiatic league against Europe and America, with a Gibralter at Masampho"

Twelve *sho* of new cocoons have been put on the Kochi market, the quality proving to be highly satisfactory. The nominal price is *sen* 70 per *sho*—about 1⅔ lbs.

AN ANSWER TO COUNT CASSINI.

BY BARON KANEKO.

"In relation to the charges that Russia was unprepared for war and that Japan took advantage of Russia's unpreparedness, the facts make this appear utterly untrue," said Baron Kaneko, in a recent newspaper interview. "Since last April Russia has increased her naval strength in Eastern waters by three battle-ships, with a tonnage of 38,000; one armored cruiser, with a tonnage of 7,700; five cruisers with a tonnage of 26,000; seven destroyers, with a tonnage of 25,000; one gunboat and two vessels for laying submarine torpedoes, making in all nineteen ships, with a total tonnage of 82,000.

SHIPS FROM EVERYWHERE.

"Besides the Russian Government ordered of her own fleets, from different quarters of the globe, ships in total tonnage of 37,740, to be concentrated to the East, though these were afterward called back and did not reach the East.

"At the time of the outbreak of hostilities Russia had a tonnage of 203,785 war vessels in Asiatic waters. In regard to her land forces, Russia had, in addition to her military forces already stationed in Manchuria, an army of 200,000 ready to mobilize in the East. In Manchuria she had between 170,000 and 200,000 men scattered from Vladivostock to Port Arthur, Harbin and other Far Eastern cities. Does not this look llke decided preparation for actual war?

"If Russia expected to conciliate and settle the diplomatic question with Japan, why should she mobilize such enormous land forces and such an enormous fleet of war vessels? Yet they say they were unprepared for war!

"No reasonable man would say that a nation doing these things was not preparing for war.

"Furthermore, I might give another fact. On Jan. 28 formal orders to prepare for war were actually given by Viceroy Alexieff to the forces on the Yalu River. Then, on Feb. 1, the military commander of Vladivostok notified the Japanese diplomatic agent there that a state of siege might be proclaimed at any moment, and requested him to be prepared to withdraw at any moment.

"PEACEFUL" PREPARATIONS.

"Are these preparations for war? Such things are not considered necessary when peaceful negotiations are going on. So Russia, outwardly, under cover of the soft words of diplomacy, was making preparations for war on land and sea. Yet they say they were unprepared for war!

"After the Chinese-Japanese war of 1894-5 and the Japanese accessions in the Liaotung peninsula, the Russians said the act of withdrawal from the conquered territory on the part of Japan was necessary and just in the interests of peace and civilization. The occupation of the Liaotung peninsula, according to Russia's custom of war, that to the victors belong the spoils, was just, but three powers protested that for the peace of Asia Japan should return to China the Liaotung peninsula. We followed the advice of the three powers simply and solely to maintain the peace of Asia.

"At that time the whole nation of Japan was enraged and attacked the Government's policy, but the Government, in spite of opposition by the people, returned to China the occupied territory.

"Here is a very good example the Russian people and the Russian Government will keenly feel. After the Turko-Russian war the treaty of San Stefano was shattered at the Congress of Berlin, when Lord Beaconsfield, representing England, forced Russia to return the territory occupied by her army in Turkey.

"After we returned Liaotung to China, Russia occupied that peninsula. I should like to know if this occupation was in the interests of peace and civilization.

THE MENACE TO JAPAN.

"Ever since the occupation of that peninsula by Russia, Korea and Japan have been menaced in regard to the integrity of Korea and the established right and interest of Japan in Manchuria and Korea. Ever since last summer we have tried to settle the contentions peacefully. We tried repeatedly. We proposed settlements, and Russia refused to make concessions. We sent counter-proposals, and they were not accepted; yet we tried and tried again to come to peaceful terms.

"We even went so for as to to propose conditions, which, at that time, were considered by European and American nations the most reasonable of terms. Much surprise was expressed that Japan should demand so little from Russia. Our final proposition demanded only one thing:—The recognition by Russia of China's sovereignty over Manchuria. We did not even mention Port Arthur. The proposal was not answered, Russia standing on her previous ground, that she would treat only with China as to her position in Manchuria and that all territory in Korea, north of the 39th degree of latitude be considered neutral.

"That is a very strategic zone, and encompasses Gensan, looking toward Japan, and Ping-yang on the western slope, two most important positions, literally cutting Corea in two.

FIGHT FOR EXISTENCE ONLY.

"In regard to the remark that the Japanese are an aggressive people and always eager for war, I will say we have never been inspired to war or fought for the mere thirst of blood. We fought when our national existence was menaced or our national honour was at stake. This was well shown in our history at the time of the invasion of Japan by the Emperor Kublai Khan, and in the Chinese-Japanese struggle in 1894-5. We were placed in an exactly similar position by the Viceroy Alexieff. We were forced into war, and nothing more.

"Answering the statement that during the last ten years Japan has done nothing for the improvement of Formosa and left that island as savage as she found it, I may say that our Government has spent enormous sums for the improvement of the conditions of the people of that island. We have rebuilt and lengthened the railway, established schools, built harbours and lighthouses, improved agricultural and industrial conditions, inaugurated judicial and administrative systems such as are found in Japan, and no one can say truthfully that Formosa is savage as we found it. I think the American Governor-General of the Philippines and a Congressional committee on Philippine administration that investigated the government of Formosa can testify to what we have done.

"In Europe and America a belief has been expressed that we might take China as an ally and make a Chinese-Japanese league that would realize the much-advertised 'yellow peril.' But we have often announced and informed both Europe and America that we never had nor have now such an idea. We want to fight this war single handed, with no help from China or Korea.

THE "YELLOW PERIL."

"Why, if we were to take China into this war the cry of 'yellow peril!' would be raised against us. We are not fighting that we may be regarded as a 'peril' to Western civilization, but to maintain the progress and humanity of Asiatic peoples.

"It is said that it is Japan's ambition to make Masampho a Japanese Gibraltar and to menace Europe and America. Let us see who wants Masampho. Every diplomat and strategist in Europe and America who understands Asiatic politics knows. The Russian Government has taken Port Arthur and Vladivostock. Masampho, at the extreme south of Korea, would be the apex of the strategic wedge that would not only encompass Corea but be a perfect triangle of fortified ports—a danger pointed at the heart of Japan.

"That was Russia's ultimate ambition many times attempted through influence, for Russia has often sought the lease of Masampho from Korea.

"The present war is not the outcome of Japan's ambition to predominate in Asia or to menace the interests or rights of Western powers, because no nation with only 6 00,000 troops on a war-footing would declare war against an enemy that has 4,900,000. No nation would ever think of fighting a nation eight times as powerful. So the fact is apparent that our fight is not for conquest but for national existence and national honour.

AMERICAN ADVICE FOLLOWED.

"During the last fifty years, since the advent of Commodore Perry, we have followed the advice of the American people and the American Government and introduced every method of Anglo-American civilization, political and social. We have at last attained the present conditions. We are fighting to maintain the progress for which we have striven for fifty years.

"In the midst of reaping the harvest of Anglo-American civilization we are forced into war. If we are defeated Western progress will end. There will be no further hope of nourishing a Christian civilization on the continent of Asa.—*International Economist.*

FLOUG'S STORY OF THE YALU FIGHT.

Colonel Ogorodnikoff of the Russian General Staff, Russian Military Agent in North-China, has placed at the disposal of the *N. C. Daily News* the following:—

It is necessary to contradict altogether the unfounded report which appeared in Reuter's telegram of May 2nd from London viâ Bombay about the news reaching Washington, that a great battle had been fought on the Yalu, resulting in a complete victory for the Japanese.

As a matter of fact there was only an ordinary engagement of vanguards from our part, which, as on any such occasion, had the purpose of discovering the enemy's strength and the direction of their movements. After this had been successfully carried out our vanguard, having sustained very insignificant losses, drew away to another position, not engaging in any serious action.

On this very occasion the Japanese have done everything in their power to assist our vanguard to discover what was wanted.

On April 30th the Japanese deployed all their artillery (field guns as well as siege cannons) and were firing aimlessly from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m. On the same day they crossed the Yalu river with a much stronger number than was necessary to attack our small detachment. The next morning the Japanese reopened the bombardment, preparing an attack. In the meantime our detachment ceased firing, as the enemy's strength was discovered in a much more appreciable way and degree than we possibly could have hoped for. Any further action was of course quite useless for us.

It is therefore quite evident that the Japanese had an absolutely wrong idea about the strength of our detachment and did not at all understand the object and sense of the action.

And after all that the Japanese had nothing better to do but to assure that the deploy of their artillery was not aimless at all and that they gained a complete victory.

As a matter of fact the false and fantastic reports and inventions of some of the newspapers are not worth any attention.

For instance:—How could the Japanese capture 28 guns while we had only 8 in action?

It is rather astonishing how the Japanese Government allows to publish such stories under the title of "Official News"!

Full particulars about the actions on April 30th and 1st of May have been published already according to our official reports.—Signed by Major-General Floug.

It is difficult to understand, remarks our contemporary, with what object this preposterous dispatch, dated the 3rd instant, was published as a cable message on the 10th.

COUNT CASSINI ON THE WAR.

New York. April 29.

Count Cassini, the Russian Ambassador to the United States, contributes to the forthcoming number of the *North American Review* an article in which, under the caption of "Russia and the Far East," he makes a statement of his Government's position. After briefly outlining the negotiations which preceded the outbreak of hostilities, the Ambassador says:

"Russia has never ceased to wonder why the idea that she was willing and anxious to make war with Japan became so generally prevalent. The prejudiced minds of those having nothing beyond a superficial knowledge of my Government's position, preceding the unexpected and dishonourable attack upon our fleet at Port Arthur, may dispute the statement that Russia hoped for and tried to maintain peace, but I have no hesitation in making it. If proof of the assertion be demanded, it lies in the simple but uncontradicted answer—Russia was not prepared. For the personal representative of the Russian Emperor to make an admission seemingly so humiliating to the national pride may appear strange and remarkable, but it is made with full appreciation of its importance and significance. I repeat that Russia was not prepared for war because she had no reason to expect war. In her faith that the negotiations with Japan were being conducted by both parties with the object of reaching an amicable and an honourable adjustment of their differences, she was not conscious that the result was to be anything but peaceful."

Count Cassini denies that Russia was actuated by designs to possess Manchuria or Korea, by force of arms, and says:

"Had Russia desired war, or even had she expected it, no consideration would have induced her to evacuate Chinese territory, and thus lose the opportunity of ending the war quickly."

Concerning the negotiations between Russia and Japan, Count Cassini avers that his Government, in the effort to bring the negotiations to a peaceful conclusion, did all that dignity would permit, and offered to give assurances again, that the sovereignty of the Emperor of China in Manchuria would be recognized. Having made this marked concession, solely in the expectation that the Japanese would accept it the Government prepared an answer, diplomatic in character, that would furnish the basis for the furtherance of the negotiations to a satisfactory conclusion. Before the Russian Minister at Tokyo could deliver this reply, the Japanese answer came, not through the regular channels, but as a torpedo attack at midnight. Thus, now that war has come, Russia does not doubt the issue."

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Special Service.)

COTTON DECLARED CONTRABAND BY RUSSIA.

London, May 11.

Russia has declared cotton contraband-of-war, because it is used in the manufacture of explosives.

THE JAPANESE LOAN.

London, May 12.

Five million pounds sterling of the Japanese loan were issued in London on the 11th inst. at 93½.

Viscount Hayashi, Japanese Minister in London, appeared on the floor of the Stock Exchange just as the prospectuses were being distributed, and received a great ovation.

The premium has risen to 3⅜ per cent.

THE RUSSIAN LOAN.

Foreign tenders for the Russian loan are arriving in Paris, but the form of issue is still undecided. There will probably be a first issue of 24 million pounds sterling and then eight millions.

THE JAPANESE LOAN.

London, May 13.

The Japanese loan, which is now at a premium of 2⅝, has been covered twenty-fold and has been closed. The New York section is also over-subscribed and was closed to-day.

DESTROYING DOCK AND PIERS AT DALNY.

Viceroy Alexieff reports that the dock and piers at Dalny have been blown up to prevent the enemy utilising them.

CHINESE LABOUR FOR THE TRANSVAAL.

The convention with China regulating the importation of Chinese into the Transvaal will be signed to-day.

RUSSIA AND THE ANGLO-FRENCH AGREEMENT.

London, May 14.

Russia is the first of the Powers to approve of the Khedivial decree appended to the Anglo-French Agreement. The French Government has requested M. Delcasse, the Foreign Minister, to warmly thank Russia for this fresh and valuable proof of friendship thus given to her ally.

BRITISH REINFORCEMENTS FOR TIBET.

Later.

Mr. St. John Brodrick, Secretary for India, speaking in the House of Commons, said that the reinforcements for Tibet would consist of four companies of British infantry, four companies of native infantry, and four guns.

THE RUSSIAN LOAN.

A Russian Imperial Ukase has authorized the raising of a 5 per cent. foreign loan of thirty-two million pounds sterling.

RUSSIA'S INTERNAL TROUBLES.

London, May 15.

The *Standard's* St. Petersburg correspondent says that there are persistent rumours of serious disturbances in Warsaw, and that a high official has been killed.

He adds that the feeling is not decreasing that a successful battle is very necessary if complete order is to be restored in the interior of Russia.

ANOTHER H-A-L. STEAMER SOLD TO RUSSIA.

Later.

The Hamburg-American line have sold another steamer to Russia.

THE JAPANESE LOAN IN AMERICA.

The Japanese loan has been covered five times in New York.

THE INVESTMENT OF PORT ARTHUR.

Russian despatches show that the investment of Port Arthur has fairly begun.

A HOLY WAR.

London, May 16.

Reuter's representative at Gyangtze telegraphed on the 13th May that the Lamas are preaching a holy war against the British.

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN BUDGET.

The Budget for 1905 submitted to the Austro-Hungarian delegation includes some exceptional military expenditures, including an extraordinary credit for 3½ millions sterling, which includes two millions for field-guns. The total required for the Navy is five millions, but this is extended over several years.

THE RUSSIAN WOUNDED.

The Russian Red Cross Society has received a telegram from its principal representative in the Far East testifying to the Japanese care of the Russians wounded at the battle of the Yalu.

THE FRANCO-RUSSIAN ALLIANCE.

London, May 17.

M. Doumer, President of the Budget Committee, in a speech made at a banquet strongly condemned the questionable attitude of some Frenchmen toward the Russian Alliance. He said that it was impossible for any Frenchman to side with a Yellow race in a struggle between western and eastern civilizations.

AN AUSTRIAN OPINION.

M. Gulowchowski, addressing a deputation at Buda Pest, said that the situation in the Far East was gloomy and that it is impossible to guage the duration of the struggle. In view of the wide interpretation of the question as to what constituted contraband-of-war, he suggested that some international resolution regulating the question be adopted by mutual agreement.

THE POWERS AND TURKEY.

The Powers have warned Turkey of the serious danger she exposes herself to if she fails in her reform programme.

CHINA'S NEUTRALITY.

It is officially announced that China has instructed her representatives to assure the Powers that come what may she intends to strictly adhere to neutrality.

RUSSIA'S SUSPICIONS.

London, May 18.

Three Lascars belonging to the crew of the British steamer *Camrose*, and also some members of a German steamer, have been arrested at Kronstadt on suspicion of being Japanese.

FLOUG ON THE JAPANESE ADVANCE.

General Floug telegraphs that the Japanese advance on Liaoyang is characterized by indecision. He supposes that the objective principal of the Japanese force is a point beyond Haicheng.

FUNERAL OF STANLEY.

Later.

The funeral service at the burial of the late Sir Henry Stanley, the explorer, in Westminster Abbey was a great ceremony. The King and Queen, the King of the Belgians, and others were represented.

THE P. & O. CONTRACT.

The British Government has arranged to

extend the subsidy for the P. & O. mail services until 1908, but with the proviso of an acceleration of 24 hours throughout. The Company is to receive £330,000. Meanwhile the Government will ascertain whether any further improvements are not obtainable through the means of open tenders.

GREAT BRITAIN AND TIBET.

Lord Harwicke, speaking in the House of Lords in reply to Earl Spencer, said that the hostility shown to the British Mission to Tibet had proved the justification of the Government's policy, and that we had been confronted by a danger still more serious. It is anticipated that a declaration of policy will be made on the 11th of June, but this was in no wise a bar to an advance on Lassa. It is admitted that we are now at war and that we were driven to our present position by force of arms; but the Mission had shown that Great Britain was not to be trifled with.

A DISGRACED GENERAL.

London, May 19.

General Sassoulivitch, who was in command of the Russian forces at the Yalu, has been relieved of the command of the 2nd Siberian Division, and General Keller replaces him.

DEATH OF MR. KESWICK.

Mr. Keswick, of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., has died at Calcutta.

(Received at the Legation of France.)

THE MARSEILLES STRIKE.

Saigon, May 15.

The strike at Marseilles is over, the strikers having accepted the terms proposed.

PLAGUE AT ADEN.

Aden is officially declared infected with plague.

ATTACK ON DALNY.

Saigon, May 15.

Chefoo—The Japanese are investing and bombarding Dalny.

NEWS FROM PARIS.

Saigon, May 18.

The Chamber, returning from the Easter holidays, has resumed its sitting with calm.

At St. Petersburg it is believed that the siege of Port Arthur is imminent. The Japanese will probably make an attack soon.

(Official Report Received at the Japanese Head Quarters.)

ABUSING THE RED CROSS FLAG.

When a Japanese detachment approached Pulantien on May 6th, a train without special marks, as required by Red Cross Regulations, was sighted running northward from the direction of Port Arthur. The Russian soldiers in the train immediately fired upon the Japanese detachment, to which the latter responded. Then the train halted suddenly and a Red Cross flag was hoisted. Whereupon the Japanese detachment ceased firing and were about to make an investigation when the train started at full speed and escaped.

(Received at the Foreign Office.)

NEWCHWANG.

According to the statements of the crew of a foreign vessel which reached Chefoo from Newchwang on the 12th instant, the Russians have withdrawn from Newchwang; leaving only about a thousand men and a few field-guns. Russian officials are still carrying on the administration but are expected to hand it over soon to the Chinese.

(Received in Tokyo.)

FATAL RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

It is reported from Shan-hai-kwan that on the 6th inst. a train travelling from Liaoyang to Harbin ran off the rails at full speed. Twenty soldiers were killed and 200 wounded.

ALEXIEFF CALLS ON THE CONVICTS

On the 15th April Viceroy Alexieff issued a proclamation in Saghalien inviting the convicts to volunteer and promising any who responded that they should have their sentences reduced and granted freedom of residence.

THE INVESTMENT OF PORT ARTHUR.

An official despatch from General Floug at Mukden to General Dessino at Shanghai shows that on the 11th inst. a large force of Russians moving out from Port Arthur drove the Japanese from the railway line at Pulantien, and temporarily restored communications, but the Japanese subsequently recovered the position.

(From the "Asahi Shimbun.")

REPORTS FROM GENERAL FLOUG.

General Floug telegraphs from Moukden on the morning of the 16th May, saying that on the 12th inst. a battalion of Japanese Infantry and two squadrons of Cavalry took possession of the town of Pulantien, and that night captured the station. The train from Dalny had to put back. On the night of the 13th the Japanese searchlight was turned upon the neighbourhood, and the Japanese appeared at Whasantien and wrecked the railway. It became necessary to close the stations at Whasankau and Wangchailien.

There is no change in the position on the East (that is the First Army). Only cavalry outposts are seen here and there.

The bandits at Sinwanchao and at Lienshan are very active and are engaged in breaking the field communication.

The Chinese 27 miles south-west of Kwantien have begun to show lawlessness against Russian converts.

Telegraphing from Moukden on the 16th at 5 p.m., General Floug says:—On the 12th and 13th reports from Fenghwang show that the enemy is advancing very slowly, more as a demonstration than as a real movement, in the direction of Liaotung. His main body seems to be advancing on Kaiping and on Haicheng. Moreover he is massing a strong force to the northwest of Takushan.

With reference to the movements of the bandits between Sinwanchao and Lienshan, measures have been taken to suppress them but after several encounters the Cossacks had three killed, 11 wounded, and 4 missing.

On the 14th inst. 300 bandits attacked the Russian mines at Yengtai and after killing 30 people withdrew.

At about 12 miles to the west of Liaoyang, a large body of bandits attacked the railway. The Guards sent out along the Sungari to the western districts have been compelled by attacks of bandits to retire to Teituna.

THE JAPANESE ON LIAOYANG.

Wednesday night.

It is officially reported at the War Department in Tokyo that on the 16th inst. at half-past 12 o'clock the Japanese attacked and occupied the district in the neighbourhood of Shihsanlitao, and at 3.45 p.m., they took Kiulichwang, which is about 2½ miles N. E. of Kinchow. Our troops then occupied the heights from that place to Chinkiaping, which is about 3½ miles east of Kinchow. The enemy after retiring from this position opened fire on us with his artillery, which was posted on Shang-kinshan. Shang-kinshan is in the neighbourhood of Tahoshang.

The enemy's forces were three batallions of Infantry with 8 guns. Our losses in the engagement were 146 killed and wounded. No officers were killed but 9 were wounded, 3 severely.

Note—These names will possibly puzzle our readers, but the gist of the matter is that the Japanese have turned the position on the Kinchow isthmus and are now near the centre of Talien Bay.

LOSS OF A JAPANESE BATTLESHIP AND A CRUISER.

A HEAVY DEATH-ROLL.

The following reports have been received from Admiral Togo:—

No. 1. Received at 10.05 a.m., May 15.

I regret greatly to have to report a third calamity. On the 15th inst., at 5 a.m., Admiral Dewa reported by wireless telegraphy, that at 1.40 a.m. to-day the Third Squadron, which was on its way back from the blocking operations, had reached the north of Shantung promontory, when, during a heavy fog, the *Kasuga* struck the *Yoshino* on the left side near the stern. The *Yoshino* filled quickly and sank. The *Kasuga* saved 90 of her crew. The fog has not yet cleared. I can only add an expression of my profound regret at this calamity.

No. 2. Received at 6 p.m., May 15.

To-day the most unfortunate accident that has yet happened to the Fleet has to be reported. At 5 a.m. the *Hatsuse*, the *Shikishima*, the *Yashima*, the *Kasagi* and the *Tatsuta* were watching the enemy's squadron when the *Hatsuse* struck a mine. Her helm was smashed and she signalled asking that a steamer should be sent to tow her. When the steamer was about to be despatched the *Shikishima* signalled that the *Hatsuse* had sunk. I beg to express my profound regret at making this report. All proper measures were taken to lessen the calamity. The thick fog has not yet lifted.

No. 3. Received at 10.30 p.m., May 15.

The *Shikishima* has just returned to report the fact of the *Hatsuse's* loss. The whole of the destroyers and two torpedo-boats left this at 7.30 p.m., for Port Arthur to meet the enemy's destroyers and assist the crew of the *Hatsuse*.

No. 4. Received at 4.37 p.m., May 16.

The place where the *Hatsuse* struck a mine was about 10 miles S.E. of Liaotishan Promontory. There was no fog at the time and none of the enemy's destroyers were in sight. It would therefore appear that either the enemy placed a mine in this district, or else employed a submarine. The *Hatsuse* was struck a second time, 30 minutes after, and sank immediately, but the *Shikishima*, the *Yashima*, the *Kasagi*, the *Takachiho* and other ships saved Admiral Dewa, Capt. Nakao, and 300 others. At the time the *Hatsuse* sank, 16 of the enemy's destroyers came out and attacked our ships, but were driven off by the *Akashi*, the *Chiyoda*, the *Akitsushima* the *Oshima*, the *Akagi*, the *Uji* and the *Takasago*, and it was thus possible to save these members of the *Hatsuse's* crew. The fog has not yet cleared.

No. 5. Received at 12.48 p.m., May 18.

Yesterday the fog cleared and all the squadrons entered the harbour. They report that the disaster to the *Hatsuse* was caused by her coming in contact with the enemy's mine.

NOTE—The *Hatsuse* was a 1st class line-of-battleship of 15,000 tons displacement. Her full complement was 741 men, therefore some 400 have been lost. The *Yoshino* was a 2nd class cruiser of 4,180 tons and her full complement consisted of 360 men, therefore some 250 have probably been lost.]

(FROM THE "JIJI SHIMPO.")

RUSSIAN STRATEGY.

London, May 17.

It is reported from St. Petersburg that General Kuropatkin intends to withdraw his forces to Harbin where he will await the arrival of re-inforcements. He expects that the Japanese will take six weeks to reach Harbin. The Russians believe that the latter will first attack Port Arthur.

(FROM THE "ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

OPINION IN RUSSIA.

London, May 17.

According to latest intelligence, all the newspapers in Russia pretend to feel satisfaction with regard to the progress of the war during the three months past. Public opinion in St. Petersburg, however, takes a pessimistic view of the position of General Kuropatkin.

GERMAN EXPERTS ON RUSSIA'S STRATEGY.

German experts agree in critizing unfavourably the imperfect preparations and the defects in strategy displayed by the Russians.

RUSSIAN OFFICERS IN MANCHURIA.

The Russian Government is believed to be making changes among the high officers in Manchuria.

THE SUBMARINES.

The Russian naval authorities are stated to intend sending a number of submarines to Vladivostock.

(FROM THE "N.-C. DAILY NEWS.")

BRITAIN'S GREAT ACHIEVEMENT.

London, May 7.

Mr. Balfour referred to the enormous value of the Anglo-French Agreement, which he believed would be permanent.

What might seem at first sight, he said, to be a hasty diplomatic construction, would become a solidified bulwark against an invading tide of war, resisting all the changes and chances besetting international arrangements.

NEWSPAPER PANEGYRICS.

London, May 9.

The *Daily Telegraph* remarks that the campaign has been conducted with a brilliance almost unparalleled in the history of war. Japan's success is due to a consummate combination of naval and military action which even England has never rivalled. The successess achieved in the last three months are more marvellous than those of Germany in 1870.

The *Standard* declares that there have been few finer feats of war than the blocking of Port Arthur.

THE MORALIST.

The *Daily News* says that the fight on the Yalu seems to have decided the possession of Southern Manchuria. Russia is rapidly reaping the effects of her Imperialisms.

THE MASTERLY STRATEGY OF THE JAPANESE.

London, May 10.

There is a universal chorus of eulogy of the masterly strategy of the Japanese, combined with swift unflinching execution.

Even the German Press, which has been hitherto most reserved, cannot withhold its tribute of admiration.

APPREHENSION IN RUSSIA.

The Japanese successes have caused a feeling of apprehension in Russia.

The General Staff declare that the latest developments assure a long and bitter war.

DISEASE IN THE RUSSIAN ARMIES.

There are reports from various sources that dysentery, smallpox, and typhus are raging among the Russians in Manchuria.

THE RUSSIAN HEADQUARTERS MOVED TO MUKDEN.

The Russian General Staff has left Liaoyang for Mukden.

RUSSIA'S ENEMIES AT HOME.

London, May 11.

An attempt has been discovered to destroy Cronstadt Arsenal. Shavings besprinkled with petroleum were found ignited in a building in which high explosives were stored.

THE PROTECTION OF NEUTRALS AT NEWCHWANG.

London, May 11.

America and Great Britain are considering whether they shall dispatch gunboats to Newchwang to protect the people against bandits.

RUSSIAN RESERVISTS CALLED OUT.

London, May 11.

An imperial ukase has been issued calling out large bodies of reservists in western Russia.

CAUTIOUS CRITICS.

Military critics in England deprecate over-hasty conclusions based on the Japanese successful operations so far. They emphasise that battles mainly decide campaigns and approve of General Kuropatkin's policy of withdrawal.

JAPAN'S PROGRAMME.

In an interview with a representative of Reuter, Baron Suyematsu, the Japanese statesman, declared that Japan's first and chief aim was to push Russia back as far as possible.

Russia will never be allowed the least political or territorial hold over Korea, whose future status will be that of a Japanese Egypt.

Some form of buffer state under Chinese sovereignty will possibly be created in Manchuria.

Japan will regard any breach of the neutrality of China as a calamity. The chief danger of this comes from Russia, who is doing things to irritate the Chinese.

Baron Suyematsu concluded by saying that no matter what successes Japan achieved, her policy is to ensure absolute freedom to all Powers in the Far East, and no Occidental Power need feel the slightest anxiety that Japan is likely to suffer from swelled head.

THE MISSION TO TIBET.

London, May 12.

The *Times* in a leading article says that we must go to Lhassa and make our treaty there, and trusts that the Government will recognise this.

THE PERFIDY OF THE CHINESE COMMISSIONER.

The correspondent of the *Times* at Gyangtze wires that the Chinese Commissioner, Ma, deliberately concealed the existence of the Tibetan plot to attack the mission on the 5th instant.

NARROW ESCAPE OF CAPTAIN PARR.

Captain Parr, of the Chinese Customs Service, who was Joint Commissioner with Ma, has narrowly escaped death. His servants were all butchered.

THE PROGRESS OF THE LICENSING BILL.

The Licensing Bill has passed its second reading in the House of Commons by 353 votes to 196.

MORE WARSHIPS SOLD.

The Chilean armoured cruiser *Esmeralda*, 7,020 tons, built at Elswick in 1897, and the *Chacabuco*, 4,500 tons, built at Elswick in 1903, have been sold to a New York firm.

THE YELLOW PERIL.

London, May 13.

The *Times*, discussing what it describes as the mischievous and dishonest cry of the Yellow Peril raised by the Continental Press, says that only if Japan were confronted by an international boycott, is she likely to make the yellow peril a reality.

No policy could be more fatuous and unjust than to exclude her from the sisterhood of civilised peoples, and neither Great Britain nor the United States would lend an ear to such advice.

THE MISSION TO TIBET.

The Tibetans have rebuilt the ruined fort at Gyangtze and mounted six guns on it, with which they are bombarding the British camp with one-pound cannon-balls.

The Imperial Government have informed the Indian Government that they do not propose to depart in any wise from the policy, as to Tibet, enunciated in the dispatch of the 6th of November last.

Mr. Brodrick, Secretary of State for India, stated in the House of Commons, that unless the Chinese Amban and a competent Tibetan negotiator appear at Gyangtse within a fixed period, we shall take steps to negotiate at Lhassa.

All the necessary steps will be taken to secure our line of communications.

PRINCE ADALBERT AT PEKING.

Peking, May 9.

H.I.H. Prince Adalbert of Prussia arrived here by special train yesterday direct from Taku. He will stay here for ten days and will take trips to the Great Wall, the Ming Tombs, and other places. He will also be received in audience by the Emperor and the Empress Dowager, who received the Foreign Ministers to-day.

EMPRESS DOWAGER TO ENTERTAIN FOREIGN LADIES.

Peking, May 10.

The ladies of the Diplomatic circle at Peking are to be received in audience by the Empress Dowager to-day, and are to be entertained at an Imperial banquet.

SERIOUS RIOT AT CHINKIANG.

Chinkiang, May 11.

There was a riot at Chinkiang to-day.

The mob burned the quarters of the new police force.

Several were killed and wounded.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong............	O. & O. Co.	Coptic 1	Sa. May 21
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Sachsen 2	Sa. May 22
America	P. M. Co.	Mongolia 3	W. May 25
Europe	M. M. Co.	Australien 4	Th. May 26
America	T. K. K.	America Maru 5	M. May 30
Tacoma...............	N. P. Co.	Tremont 6	M. May 30
Hongkong............	C. P. R. Co.	Tartar	M. May 30
Hongkong............	N. P. Co.	Shawmut	Th. June 2
Hongkong............	P. M. Co.	Korea	Th. June 2
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. June 8
Hongkong............	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	Th. June 9
America...............	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Su. June 19

1 Left Nagasaki on the 18th inst.
2 Left Nagasaki on the 18th inst.
3 Left San Francisco on the 7th inst.
4 Left Hongkong on the 17th inst.
5 Left San Francisco on the 11th inst.
6 Left Seattle on the 12th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
America...............	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	M. May 23
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Oldenburg	Tu. May 24
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Bengloe	W. May 25
Hongkong............	P. M. Co.	Mongolia	Th. May 26
America...............	P. A. S.S. Co.	Arabia	Th. May 26
Hongkong	P. A. S.S. Co.	Indrasamha	Th. May 26
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Tartar	Tu. May 31
Hongkong............	N. P. Co.	Tremont	Tu May 31
Europe	M. M. Co.	Australien	F. June 3
Tacoma...............	N. P. Co.	Shawmut	F. June 3
America...............	P. M. Co.	Korea	Sa. June 4
Hongkong............	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. June 6
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Kanagawa Maru	Tu. June 7
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Em. of China	F. June 10
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	M. June 20

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Obra, British steamer, 3,496, Johnson, 13th May,—Rangoon via Hongkong, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Samara, British steamer, 1,790, W. Lewis, 13th May,—Muroran, Coal.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Wingsang, British steamer, 1,644, Wm. Lambie, 14th May,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Obi, British steamer, 1,951, Davison, 14th May,—Muroran, Coal.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Germania, German steamer, 1,714, J. Bruhn, 14th May,—Moji, General.—Asada Unsoten.

Dean, British steamer, 958, Sinclair, 14th May,—Akeshi, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Gloucester City, British steamer, 1,409, C. R. Corfield, 14th May,—Rangoon, Rice.—Dodwell & Co.

Sheikh, British steamer, 2,828, C. Jones, 15th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Pleiades, American steamer, 2,932, F. G. Purrington, 15th May,—Kobe, General.—Dodwell & Co.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 15th May,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Khalif, British steamer, 2,219, J. H. Middleton, 15th May,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 15th May,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Loyal, German steamer, 1,337, J. Bruhrman, 16th May,—Hiogo via ports, General.—S. Oya.

Den of Ogil, British steamer, 2,522, Law, 16th May,—Rangoon, Rice.—Dodwell & Co.

Ivydene, British steamer, 2,277, Teppett, 16th May,—Rangoon, Rice.—Dodwell & Co.

Lisa, Swedish steamer, 998, Horndale, 16th May,—Moji, Coal.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Kanagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,813, J. McKenzie, 16th May,—London, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Richmond Castle, British steamer, 2,298, McDowell, 16th May,—New York via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co.

Ragner, Norwegian steamer, 1,220, Nelssen, 17th May, Nagasaki, Coal.—Mikadzuki & Co.

Quarta, German steamer, 1,146, H. Madsen, 17th May, Takao, Sugar and Rice.—Yamagata-ya.

Hop Sang, British steamer, Jas. M. Hay, 17th May, Saigon, Rice.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Ella, Norwegian steamer, 912, Jacobsen, 18th May, —Cardiff, Coal.—Dodwell & Co.

Oceano, British steamer, 3,150, Davis, 18th May,—Antwerp via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Salamanca, British steamer, 883, A. E. Wilson, 18th May,—Moji, General.—Japanese.

Algoa, American steamer, 4,897, Lockett, 18th May, —Hongkong via ports, General.—P.M. S.S. Co.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, K. Sato, 18th May,—Bonin Islands, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ascot, British steamer, 2,786, C. L. Cox, 19th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Emma, German steamer, 1,681, Zeigenmeyer, 19th May,—Moji, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Crown of Arragon, British steamer, 1,474, Dorward, 19th May,—Cardiff, Coal.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, F. Beetham, 19th May,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Amoy, German steamer, 730, ——, 19th May,—Sakata, General.—Japanese.

Chingwo, British steamer, 2,517, G. Parkinson, 19th May,—Portland, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

DEPARTURES.

Hounslow, British steamer, 1,880, H. Adshead, 13th May,—Otaru, General.—Dodwell & Co.

Jason, British steamer, 4,880, Steeves, 13th May,—Manila, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Heathdene, British steamer, 2,277, W. J. Milburn, 14th May,—Muroran, Coal.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Strassburg, German steamer, 3,232, Madsen, 14th May,—Kobe, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Oakley, British steamer, 2,456, Wisnom, 14th May, —Moji, Ballast.—C. Illies & Co.

Lennox, British steamer, 2,361, McNair, 15th May, —Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bayern, German steamer, 3,128, H. Formes, 14th May,—Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co.

Phu Yen, French steamer, 1,298, T. Thomas, 16th May,—Kuchinotsu, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Aragonia, German steamer, 3,324, Forst, 16th May, —Kobe, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Pleiades, American steamer, 2,932, Purrington, 16th May,—Tacoma, General.—Dodwell & Co.

Samara, British steamer, 1,790, W. Lewis, 16th May, Muroran,—Ballast.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 16th May,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 17th —Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Prometheus, British steamer, 3,583, G. Moir, 17th May,—Woosung and Hankow, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Dean, British steamer, 958, Sinclair, 17th May,—Otaru, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Obra, British steamer, 3,496, Johnston, 17th May,—Kobe, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Germania, German steamer, 1,714, F. Burhn, 17th May,—Moji, General.—Asada Unsoten.

Seneca, British steamer, 3,171, W. Grimes, 17th May, —New York, General.—Standard Oil Co.

Loyal, British steamer, 1,337, J. Buhrman, 17th May,—Hakodate, General.—Oya.

Khalif, British steamer, 2,219, J. H. Middleton, 17th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sheikh, British steamer, 2,228, C. Jones, 18th May, —Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Lisa, Swedish steamer, 998, Horndale, 18th May,—Otaru via ports, Ballast.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Wingsang, British steamer, 1,644, W. Lambie, 18th May,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Den of Ogil, British steamer, 2,522, A. Law, 19th May,—Takatoya, Rice.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Obi, British steamer, 1,951, Davidson, 19th May,—Otaru, Ballast.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Regnar, Norwegian steamer, 1,220, Nelssen, 19th Moy,—Moji, Ballast.—Japanese.

Quarta, German steamer, 1,146, H. Madsen, 19th May,—Katsuura, Sugar and Rice.—Japanese.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Wingsang*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. C. Matthies, Miss A. Wright, Mr. T. Ikeda, Mr. G. Akai and Mrs. R. Oda in cabin; Mr. B. Sugiyama, Mr. A. Lowe, Mr. F. Odagiri and Mr. Takata in second class; 105 in steerage.

Per British steamer *Gaelic* from San Francisco:—Miss E. Franklin and servant in cabin. For Shanghai:—Mr. R. S. Adams, Mrs. R. S. Adams in cabin. For Hongkong:—Father Agrada, Miss Frances Freeman, Mr. Paul H. King, Mrs. Paul H. King, Mr. W. H. Wickham, Mrs. M. A. Wilkes in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Miss V. Adams, Mr. Ford G. Barclay, Miss B. A. Bavanda, Mr. A. H. Dare, Mr. R. S. Dmouski, Mr. Samuel B. Fiske, Miss Helen de Gordon, Miss M. Grant, Mr. F. S. James, Mrs. James, Miss James, Miss L. Lelande, Mr. T. Matsuo, Mr. E. J. Moss, Mrs. Moss, Mr. A. MacGregor, Miss V. Phillips, Mr. C. V. Sale, Mrs. Sale, Master A. Sale, Master G. Sale, Mr. N. T. Saunders, Mr. C. F. Stephens, Mr. A. S. Wilson, Mr. C. C. Wray and Mrs. Wray in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. A. S. Goody, Mr. A. Ireland, Capt. Montgomery, Mr. A. Cochrane, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Davies, Mr. A. Bowman and valet, Mr. Fortescue, Mr. and Mrs. I. Putnam, Mr. and Mrs. Blunt, Mr. D. S. Graham, Mr. P. Ashfield, Mr. and Mrs. Layng and child, Mr. M. Stewart, Col. Halbeche, Mr. Bucher, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Graham, Mr. and Mrs. Maitland, Major Muspratt, Mrs. Vilondaki and child, Mr. F. D. Brown, Mr. A. H. Wilson, Mr. T. James, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Burkill and child, Miss Kidd, Miss Smith, Mr. A. C. Muspratt, Mr. Gratwick, Mr. S. Ikeda, Mr. Y. Suzuki, Mr. Morewood, Mrs. Kimball, Miss Hammer, Mr. Gothberg, Mr. Stubenbanch, Mr. Cappel, Mr. Vaclanini, Mr. W. Hitt, Mr. T. F. Greig, Mr. W. T. Payne, Mr. Squire, Mr. Vilondaki, Mr. Leitag, Mr. F. W. Deal, Mr. Stoner, Mr. Gallagher, Mr. Denis, Mr. F. D. Morgan, Lieut, Fortescue, Mr. B. E. Strauss, and Mr. F. B. Abenheim, in cabin; Mr. F. G. Rice, Mr. H. Hall, Mr. Nishimura, Mr. Kadizu, Mr. Ericson, and Mr. Tschau, in intermediate. In Transit:—Sir Bryan Leighton, Mr. G. B. Swan, Mr. E. Aepplie, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Cameron, Mr. D. Cameron, Mrs. K. Voltmar, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Hefler, Mr. A. J. Hamilton Smythe, Miss S. Godwin, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Martin and child, Mr. W. Bayne, Mr. and Mrs. Ohlmer, Mr. A. G. L. Renny, Mr. L. Jacob, Mr. Montell, Dr. Carberry, R.N., Mr. P. C. Hees, Mr. A. E. Stewart, Mrs. Botsch, Mr. and Mrs. Kinch, Mr. K. W. Ross, Mr. E. A. Walton, Mr. A. F. Smith, Mr. W. E. Brady, Judge McDonaugh, Mr. A. Debramner, Major Karmany, Mr. C. Alkan, Hon. and Mrs. B. Winthrop, Mr. W. A. Crake, Capt. and and Mrs. Simpson and child, Mr. Schultz, Mr. Sternberg, Mr. Fong-Soo-Ming, Mr. D. E. Brown, Mr. T. Hamilton and valet, Bishop and Mrs. Partridge, Mr. Tanihashi, Mr. Scandlebury, and Mr. B. Blow, in cabin; Mr. Kong Ling, Mr. Leung Min, Mr. Chun Lung Key, Mrs. Mee Han, Mr. To Ging, Mr. Tung Daiken and child, Mr. King Fung, Mr. Lee, Mr. W. W. Robinson, Mr. Cumming, Mrs. Brazenall and child, Mr. H. Webbe, Mr. Torgensen, Mr. H. W. Chapman, and Mr. Tamura, in intermediate; 10 Indians, 1 Frenchman, 218 Chinese, 1 Phillipino, and 70 Japanese, in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per German steamer *Bayern*, for Hamburg via ports:—Mrs. Richter, infant and amah, Mr. F. E. Barto, Mr. J. Kuhn, Mr. P. H. McKay, Mr. E. H. Tuska, Mr. de Lalande and servant, Mr. Payne, Mrs. Helm, Mr. Nickel, Mr. Robert Young, Mr. D. B. Fullerton, Mr. W, Richmond Smith, Mr. Blundell, Mr. W. G. Peter, Mrs. Pratt, Mr. A. Unger, Mr. Fr. Hanck, Mr. H. Arnhold and native servant, Mr. S. West, Mr. M. Kurachi, Mr. P. W. Lineburger, Mr. W. H. Donald, Mr. and Miss Clark, Mr. P. Papowici, Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Russel, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Holm and 3 children and nurse, Mr. Otto Marx, Dr. Hallier, Mr. and Mrs. Clark, Mrs. C. Edmond, Miss M. Cl. Edmond, Miss Burke, Mr. W. Parker, Mr. Peter Ivanovitch Unehmann, Mr. Cheong Fong Kon, Mrs. Robinson, Miss Hessmauer, Mr. Albert Kolb, Mr. Edgar Wagner, Mr. H. Schellenbaum, Mr. N. Bareis, Mrs. C. Matsuno and Master Ohly, Mr. I. Nagai, Mr. M. Takeyama, Mrs. P. B. Clarke and 3 children, Mr. Yabe, Mr. Nakamura, Miss Yoshi Matsuo, Mr. Von Rydsewiski, Mr. Chin Yan Hin, Mr. T. Kondo, Mr. J. Weidemann, and Mr. K Chiba in cabin.

Per British steamer, *Empress of China*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. J. M. Phalen, Mrs. J. M. Phalen, Mr. W. F. Skene, Mr. W. G. Peter, Mr. W. Munro, Mr. C. Curtis, Miss Hall, Col. S. P. Jocelyn, Mrs. S. P. Jocelyn, Mrs. P. Hulme, Miss N. F. McAndrews, Mr. J. A. McAlister, Mrs. J. A. McAlister, Mr. W. W. Coon, Mrs. H. Vernon, Mr. Farquharson, Major F. B. Adams, Mr. R. Masujima, Mrs. Reynell and child, Mr. T. W. Hellyer, Lieut. Warleigh, Mr. Cate Aall, Mr. U. Velondoki, Mrs. MacDougall, Mr. W. M. Squire, Mrs. Gibbens and native servant, Mr. H. Gorham and Mr. W. Wilson in cabin; Mr. S. Loughlin, Mr. R. H. Nealy and Miss L. Burri in second class

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. R. S. Adams, Mrs. R. S. Adams, Father Agrada, Mr. C. W. Atkinson, Miss Anna Dunlop, Miss Frances Freeman, Mr. James McD. Gardner, Rev. Fred. E. Hagin, Mr. Paul H. King, Mrs. Paul H. King, Mr. W. H. Wickham and Mrs. M. A. Wilkes in cabin.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw and Waste Silk shipped per steamer *Bayern*:—

	Raw.				Waste.			
Sieber & Co.	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Siber, Wolff & Co.	76	—	—	—	25	—	—	—
Sulzer Rudolph & Co.	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
H. Bernardin & Co.	80	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jewett and Bent	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Otto Streuli & Co.	35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Varenne & Co.	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dell'Oro & Co.	—	—	—	—	45	—	—	—
Jardine, Matheson & Co.	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—
	296	—	—	—	80	—	—	—

CARGO.

Per British steamer *Pleiades* for Tacoma:—

TEA.

From.	Canada.	Chicago & West.	New York & East.	Pacific Coast.	Other Cities.	Total Packages.
Yokohama..	65	1,514	1,296	40	—	2,915
Total...	65	1,514	1,296	40	—	2,915

SILK.

From.	New York.	San F'cisco.	Easton.	South Man'ster.	Total. Bales.
Yokohama	36	—	—	—	36
Total	36	—	—	—	36

VESSELS TO ARRIVE.

STEAMERS.

NAME.	FROM.	REPORTED.	
Alesia	Hamburg	Left	April 23
Ambria	Hamburg	Left	April 12
America Maru	San F'cisco	Left	May 12
Asama	London	At H'kong	Mar. 13
Atholl	Salina Cruz	Left	April 30
Australien	Marseilles	Leaves H'kong	May 17
Bengal	London	At S'hai	Mar. 29
Briez Huel	New York	Left	Feb. 20
Bullmouth	Singapore	At S'hai	April 27
Caithness	London	At N'saki	April 11
Calchas	Liverpool	Leaves H'kong	May 17
Changsha	Port D'win	Leaves H'kong	May 13
Comeric	New York	Left	Feb. 28
Coptic	Hongkong	Left N'saki	May 18
Deucalion	Liverpool	Due Kobe	May 14
Dardanus	London	Left	April 9
Diomed	Liverpool	Left	April 22
Gaelic	San F'cisco	Left	April 29
Glenesk	London	Passed Canal	Feb. 29
Glenshiel	London	At Kobe	May 2
Handandine	New York	Left	Feb. 15
Indradeo	New York	due Kobe	April 29
Indrasamba	Portland	Left	May 6
Indrani	New York	Left Phila'phia	Mar. 20
Knight Com'der	New York	Left	April 15
L'ther Castle	New York	Left	April 18
Mongolia	San F'cisco	Left	May 7
Nestor	Liverpool	Left	April 30
Ningchow	Victoria	Left	May 14
Nuernbarg	Hamburg	Passed Canal	April 21
Oanfa	Liverpool	Passed Canal	April 7
Oldenburg	Hamburg	Left Kobe	May 19
Olessia	London	Left	Mar. 12
Patroclus	Liverpool	Left S'hai	Mar. 22
Pera	London	Leaves H'kong	May 2
Plitvice	Phila.	Passed Canal	Mar. 1
Richmond Castle	New York	Left S'pore	April 22
Sachsen	Hamburg	Left N'saki	May 18
Segovia	Hamburg	Passed Canal	April 7
Sikh	New York	Left	April 15
Silverlip	London	Left	Mar. 23
St George	Norfolk	At Zebu	Jan. 28

St. Nicholas	New York	Passed Canal	Feb. 4
St. Filians	New York	At Manila	May 5
Strathnevis	London	At H'kong	Mar. 14
Swanley	Barry	Left	Feb. 10
Tjilatjap	Macassar	Left	April 19
T. Wille	Hamburg	Left H'kong	May 17
Titania	London	Passed Canal	April 17
Tremont	Seattle	Left	May 12
Ulysses	Liverpool	Passed Canal	April 7
Verona	New York	Passed Canal	April 7
Vindobona	Trieste	Passed Canal	April 18
Yarra	Marseilles	Left	April 17
Yangtsze	Liverpool	Left	April 30

UNDER SAIL.

Acme	New York	Jan. 24	Y'hama
Bretagne	Phila.	Nov. 14	Hiogo
Cannebiere	Phila.	Oct. 2	N'saki
Duguesclin	Phila.	Nov. 8	N'saki
Houdoudin	New York	Jan. 6	Japan
Italia	Phila.	Jan. 20	Loading

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

In Yarns there is nothing doing; prices are nominal, with but little enquiry. Considerable sales of Grey Shirtings have been made from stock at prices below replacing cost. Stocks of Whites are depleted and a few contracts have been made "to arrive" at covering prices. In Fancy Cottons and Woollens nothing has been done and clearances are unsatisfactory.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER YARD.
White Shirting—{40 yds. 36 in. / 50 yds. 36 in.} ...	0.09 to 0.10
	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	Y. 2.85 to 3.60
Grey Shirting—9 lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.80 to 4.25
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches...	3.00 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton Italians and Satteens...	0.20 to 0.40

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	Y. 0.35 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 32 in....	0.30 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches...	0.16 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.50 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 to 65 inches ...	0.90 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5 lb per lb	0.60 to 0.66
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	9.50 to 12.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches...	0.90 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0 lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches...	1.90 to 2.25
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 5 lb, 24-25 yards, 32 nches...	2.50 to 3.65

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Y. 140.00 to 150.00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	—
Nos. 38/42, Singles	—
Nos. 32, Doubles...	145.00 to 150.00
Nos. 42, Doubles...	155.00 to 160.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/100, Plain...	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	245.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	295.00 to 305.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	425.00 to 435.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling...	Nominal.	33
Indian Broach...		26
Chinese		23

METALS.

A fair business has been passing, mostly in Iron and Mild Steel Bars.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward...	Y. 4.05 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.30 to 4.60
Sheet Iron...	4.65 to 6.90
Galvanised Iron sheets	10.00 to 11.00
Wire Nails, assorted	5.15 to 5.75
Tin Plates, per box...	6.70 to 7.60
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.05
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1½ inch)	5.00 to 5.50

KEROSENE.

The market is weak, with a small business.

American	$3.21
Russian	3.05
Langkat	3.15

SUGAR.

Prices are steady with little or no change. The market is inactive, but an advance is expected in anticipation of summer demand.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	Y. 6.80 to 7.15
Brown Manila...	7.00 to 7.70
Brown Dailong	5.60 to 7.30
Brown Canton...	6.40 to 8.40
White Java and Penang...	8.20 to 9.10
White Refined...	10.50 to 13.00

ITCHING HUMOURS

SPEEDY CURE TREATMENT FOR EVERY HUMOUR.

Bathe the affected parts with hot water and CUTICURA SOAP, to cleanse the skin and scalp of crusts and scales, and soften the thickened cuticle. Dry, without hard rubbing, and apply CUTICURA OINTMENT freely to allay itching, irritation, and inflammation, and soothe and heal, and lastly take CUTICURA RESOLVENT PILLS, to cool and cleanse the blood. This pure, sweet, and wholesome treatment affords instant relief, permits rest and sleep, and points to a speedy, permanent, and economical cure of the most torturing, disfiguring, itching, burning, and scaly skin, scalp, and blood humours, eczemas, rashes, and irritations, from infancy to age, with loss of hair, when all else fails.

MILLIONS USE CUTICURA SOAP

Assisted by CUTICURA OINTMENT, for preserving, purifying, and beautifying the skin, for cleansing the scalp of crusts, scales, and dandruff, and the stopping of falling hair, for softening, whitening, and soothing red, rough, and sore hands, for baby rashes, itchings, and chafings, and for all the purposes of the toilet, bath, and nursery. Millions of Women use CUTICURA SOAP in the form of baths for annoying irritations, inflammations, and excoriations, for too free or offensive perspiration, in the form of washes for ulcerative weaknesses, and for many sanative, antiseptic purposes which readily suggest themselves to women, especially mothers.

CUTICURA RESOLVENT PILLS, CHOCOLATE COATED,

Are a new, tasteless, odourless, economical substitute for the celebrated liquid CUTICURA RESOLVENT, as well as for all other blood purifiers and humour cures. Put up in screw-cap pocket vials containing 60 doses. CUTICURA PILLS are alterative, antiseptic, tonic, and digestive, and beyond question the purest, sweetest, most successful and economical blood and skin purifiers, humour cures, and tonic-digestives, yet compounded.

CUTICURA REMEDIES are sold throughout the world. Australian Depot: R. TOWNS & Co., Sydney. British Depot: 27-28, Charterhouse Sq., London. French Depot: 5 Rue de la Paix, Paris. POTTER DRUG AND CHEM. CORP., Sole Props., Boston, U. S. A.

INDIGO.

There is no change.

	PICUL.
Java, Medium to best...	270.00 to 320.00
Calcutta, Medium to best	180.00 to 290.00
Madras (*Kurpah*), Medium to best ...	140.00 to 170.00
Madras (Dry Leaf), Medium to best ..	100.00 to 140.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

There has been less doing this week and prices are irregular. Filatures for Lyons are the turn cheaper, while those for New York are the turn dearer. Attention is now fixed upon the new crop. Leaf is abundant in all provinces. A few new cocoons have appeared in Idzu and opening prices for cocoons in the market are about 20 per cent. below those of last season. The present outlook is for plenty of good silk and reasonable prices in the new campaign.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra Best, Coarse	Y. —
Filatures—Extra, Fine	—
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	930 to 940
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	—
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	890 to 900
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	900 to 910
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	880 to 885
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	880 to 885
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	—
Common—Coarse	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1½	—
Re-reels—No. 2	—
Re-reels—No. 3	—
Kakedas—Extra	—
Kakedas—No. 1	890 to 900
Kakedas—No. 1½...	870 to 875
Kakedas—No. 2	850 to 860

WASTE SILK.

Nothing doing of any moment. Prices are easy but quality undesirable. The season is virtually finished.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	—
Noshi—Filatures, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Good...	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	—
Nsohi—Joshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	140 to 150
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	130 to 135
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	60 to 65
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	50 to 55

TEA.

Over 30,000 piculs have changed hands. The quality of the highest grades is fairly good but medium and fine teas are poor. The rise in the market has probably led to haste in preparation and the leaf now arriving is flat and dry in character.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	56 & upwards
Choice	50 to 55
Finest	46 to 49
Fine...	40 to 45
Good Medium	38 to 39
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, May 19.

London silver ⅛ higher and China sterling quotations $\frac{1}{16}$ to ⅛ higher have caused local rates on China to rule easier, but there is no change otherwise, quotations for the mail per steamer *Empress of Japan* being as under.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0$\frac{3}{16}$ @ ¼
— — Bills on demand................	2/0¼ @ $\frac{5}{16}$
— — 4 months' sight	2/0$\frac{5}{16}$ @ ⅜
— Private 4 months' sight..............	2/0⅜ @ $\frac{13}{32}$
— — 6 months' sight..............	2/0½ @ $\frac{17}{32}$
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	254
— Private 4 months' sight......	258 @ 8½
— — 6 months' sight......	259½ @ 60
Hongkong—Bank sight ....per $100.	89½*
— Private 10 days' sight do.	87*
Shanghai—Bank sight	80½*
— Private 10 days' sight	83*
India—Bank sight	150½
— Private 30 days' sight	153
America—Bank sight..............................	49¼ @ ⅜
— Private 30 days' sight	50
— Private 4 months' sight	50¼
Germany—Bank sight	206½
— Private 4 months' sight............	210½
Bar Silver (London)	25$\frac{11}{16}$

* Nominal.

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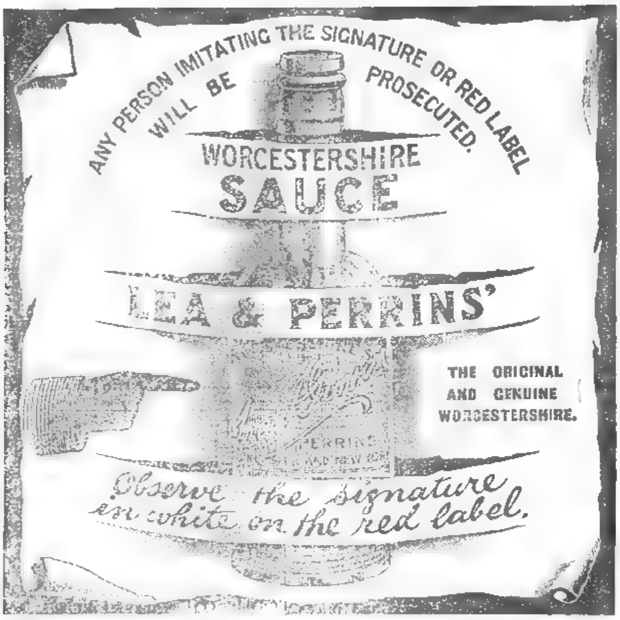
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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAY 28TH, 1904.

DEATHS.

At Bedford, England, ARTHUR THOMAS WATSON, late of Yokohama. (By telegram received May 21st).

At Hongkong, on the morning of 25th May, ALFRED B. GLOVER, of Nagasaki.

On the 26th inst., at No. 127-D Bluff, FLORENCE MANSON, beloved wife of Leroy E. McChesney.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

MR. ALEXANDER MCLEAN, Canadian Commercial agent, is expected to arrive at Yokohama in June.

A TELEGRAM from Matsuyama reports that a serious shock of earthquake was felt on May 20th at 5.30 p.m.

THE *Asahi* believes that the Crown Prince will shortly be promoted Major-General and Rear-Admiral.

THE Czar received Mr. Henry Norman, M.P., in private audience at the Winter Palace, St. Petersburg, on the 7th ult.

MR. T. OKAZAKI, manager of the Hankaku Railway Co., Osaka, died of apoplexy on the night of May 22nd.

SIX hundred coolies, to be employed on the construction of the Seoul-Fusan railway, left Misumi on May 23rd for Korea.

THE *Jiji* says that over two hundred Russian prisoners arrived on May 25th at Shimonoseki on their way to Matsuyama where they areto be confined.

THE *Bangkok Times* hears that the Maha Uparat of Cambodia, brother of the late King Norodom, has been proclaimed his successor.

THE Chemulpo branch of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha on May 17th exported 487,000 *kin* of ginseng, valued at about a million *yen*, to China.

MR. KONDO, of Kobe, purchased the British steamer *Westminster*, 4,000 tons. She will arrive at Kobe on May 27th when he will take delivery

A TELEGRAM from Saseho reports that a train on the Kyushu Railway was derailed and overturned on May 24th, with the result that several persons were injured.

ARMSTRONG, Whitworth & Co. shipbuilders, of Elswick, Newcastle-on-Tyne, are, it is announced, contracting largely to replace the Russian fleet after the war.

A GAS explosion on May 21st at the Okinoyama coal mine, Yamaguchi prefecture, resulted in two coolies being severely injured. One man is reported missing.

THE Chinese Government has informed the Japanese authorities that the former will not consent to the Russian declaration that cotton is contraband of war.

PRINCE MICHI and Atsu (sons of the Crown Prince) who have been at the villa of Count Kawamura, Numadzu, during the winter returned to Tokyo on May 29th.

THE net income of the Domestic Transport Company for the last half year was *yen* 60,180, and an interim dividend has been declared at the rate of 4½ per cent.

ADVANCE from the Bank of Japan to the Government increased by nine million *yen* over the amount calculated at the end of last week, making a total of sixty-nine million *yen*.

THE stock of kerosine oil in Yokohama on May 23rd was 471,110 cases "chester" brand and 139,829 cases "anchor" brand. Sales are reported to be very quiet at present.

SEVEN soldiers belonging to the Fourth Division (Osaka) quarrelled on May 19th with a coolie at Hiroshima and stabbed him to death. They were arrested by the gendarmes.

To economize expenditures during the war, the Yokohama City Office have released thirty-two employees—14 clerks, 2 civil engineers, 3 interpreters, 10 coolies and 3 boys.

THE British Admiralty have cancelled the orders for the *Wivern* to be sold, and have directed her to be fitted as a workshop for repairing torpedo-boat destroyers on the China Station.

FROM an Indo-China exchange, it is noted that of the two new French submarines now on their way out, the *Protet* is to be stationed at Cape St. James, and the *Lynx* in the Baie d'Along.

THE *Daily Mail*, in commenting upon the decline of the birth rate in Australia, tells its readers that if the Australian population does not increase, British power in Australia is doomed.

THE dead body of a coolie was found on May 19th in a grove at Gotenyama, Shinagawa, which belongs to Count Sano. The man is believed to have committed suicide by drinking some poisonous drug.

THE Rugby Union County Championship was won by Kent, who defeated Durham, the previous year's champions, by a goal and a try (8 points) to two tries (6 points). Kent had not won since 1897, but were in the final last year.

F. FUKUI and his wife, who were undergoing trial in the Tokyo District Court on a charge of having mal-treated their son, 12 years old, were sentenced on May 19th to 8 months' imprisonment with hard labour and a fine of *yen* 10 each.

Y. NOBE (34) residing in the village of Tokiwa near Utsunomiya, murdered his elder brother on the morning of May 23rd by attacking him with a hatchet. He afterwards committed suicide with a revolver. A dispute as to succession to property was the cause.

THE German steamer *Quarta*, chartered by the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, went ashore on the morning of May 24th off the district of Shimo-etchi, near Matsuyama. The *Asahi* reports that she grounded at Kurushima strait on her way to Formosa and that the damage seems to be slight.

A SEOUL telegram says that the Governor of Amchong, Pyon-an-do, has been arrested by the Japanese. It appears that this Korean official was employed by the Russian Government as a spy for obtaining knowledge of military movements.

IN the typhoon which devastated Cap St. Jacques on the 2nd inst. a French soldier and a number of natives were drowned; considerable damage was done to the town. The residence of the Governor-General suffered considerably, and nearly all the European houses were inundated.

F. FUJINO, President of the Hyogo Hospital, Kobe, has been punished with a fine of forty *yen* for infringement of the medicine regulations. It appears that he prepared a remedy for consumption and sold it by advertising in several papers. The *Jiji* says that the medicine was made from dried blood obtained at slaughter-houses with which was mixed guajacol and carbonate of soda.

ACCORDING to European papers Japan has placed large orders both in England and on the Continent for material for the construction of torpedo-boats. The material is to be delivered with the utmost possible despatch. One British firm alone is said to have received an order for material for the building of ten destroyers.

A TELEGRAM from Takamatsu to the *Nichi Nichi* says that the Army authorities intend to establish a building in one of the Shioaku islands off Kagawa prefecture, to accommodate the Russian prisoners. For the purpose Mr. M. Akiyama, councillor of the Army, has paid a visit to the islet accompanied by officials of Kagawa prefecture.

S. YAMAGISHI, formerly a police officer belonging to the Kanagawa prefectural office, was sentenced on May 19th in the Yokohama District Court to four months' imprisonment with hard labour, a fine of six *yen*, and six months' police surveillance. He had been arrested by the Isezaki-cho police on a charge of fraud.

THE foreign silk traders of Yokohama have long had to complain of the fraudulent practises prevalent among native producers of waste silk, and on the 14th May they formally protested through their honorary secretary, Mr. F. M. Tegner. This warning and protest was received by the Yokohama Cocoon and Silk Traders Guild, and has been duly circulated among the silk districts concerned.

OPERATIONS ON THE ROAD TO PORT ARTHUR.

Saturday, May 21.

The official report from the front says that in the fight on the 16th instant at Shihsanlitai, the enemy had 8 quick-firing guns. His force of men is uncertain but there were detachments from the 5th, 14th and 16th regiments of Rifles. The enemy left on the field 30 dead, inclusive of officers. According to the statements of prisoners, the Russian losses exceeded 300. Our field hospital corps is treating 5 wounded, including one officer. The prisoners say that the force defending the Kinchow Peninsula consists of the whole of the Seventh Division and the greater part of the Fourth Division. General Stoessel is directing the defense. Viceroy Alexieff left for Mukden at the beginning of the month. In Port Arthur there are 31 Japanese naval men, prisoners, including one officer.

Two of the Tokyo papers report that on the 16th inst. Japanese troops landed at Takushan. We presume that this is the hill called Takushan which stands on Hooper's point, the promontory to the north of Talien Bay.

OFFICIAL REPORTS.

1. The Naval authorities announce receipt of a telegram at 9.20 p.m. on the 19th containing a report from Rear-Admiral Togo (not Vice Admiral Togo) with regard to the Kaiping fight:—"I started at daylight on the 15th instant with the *Akashi*, the *Akitsushima*, the *Chiyoda*, the *Suma* the *Oshima*, the *Akagi*, the *Uji* and the 14th Torpedo Squadron and reached the Port Arthur offing at noon. We learned then that the *Hatsuse* had struck two of the enemy's mines and had sunk. Therefore despatching the *Oshima*, the *Uji* and the Torpedo Squadron on the duty originally fixed, I proceeded with the other ships to drive back the enemy's destroyers which had come out to attack, and to assist in saving the crew of the *Hatsuse*.

In the evening my squadron left Port Arthur and steamed into the Gulf of Pechili. At noon on the 16th we approached Takshan, and examined the whole of Kaichow promontory. We observed a small force of the enemy on shore and opened fire on them. They fled. On the afternoon of the 17th, we proceed to clear the shore and then entered Kinchow Bay. The gunboats were despatched to the shore of the Bay, when they opened fire upon a railway bridge, upon a military-transport train just about to pass, and on the enemy's buildings. More or less damage was done in every case.

(The War Department's report relating to the above has not yet been published).

2. The War Department publishes a telegram received on the 20th instant. It says; "A company of the Liaotung Army under Captain Yamada approached the east of Shaukinshan to reconnoitre. On the north of the position our troops came into collision with two companies of the enemy and a fight of some 30 minutes ensued, with the result that the enemy war driven back. Our losses were Lieutenant Onodera and 4 rank and file killed; and Captain Yamada and 8 rank and file wounded. The enemy's casualties were one officer and between 40 and 50 men."

3. The Naval Department publishes a telegram received from Rear-Admiral Hosoya on the 20th instant:—The *Fuso*, *Heiyen*, *Tsukushi*, *Saiyen*, &c., under my command, proceeded to the new landing place at 6 a.m. on the 19th instant. The *Iwaki* was told off to search the shore. She opened fire, and our landing corps under Lieut. Takemitsu landed, encountering no opposition. At 8 a.m. the Japanese flag was run up and the landing of the troops-commenced at once. The weather was exceptionally fine and the work proceeded quickly. The Squadron did everything possible to assist the troops."

(The name of the landing place is not mentioned).

London telegraphs that the section of the Japanese army which moved from Kwantien has crossed the Tang-ho and the Taitsz-ho rivers and has reached a point (Panshi-fu?) 25 miles from Liaoyang on the east-north-east. We can not identify Panshi-fu, but the river Taitsz is a tributary of the Liao and flows into the latter westward of Liaoyang. From Kwantien to Liaoyang the approach is over comparatively level country, leaving the formidable passes of Lienshan and Motien-ling on the south-west. In fact, there are three ways of reaching Liaoyang from Fenghwang-ching. One is the regular road over the hills. This traverses the Lienshan and Motien passes, and presents enormous difficulties as a military route. The two others are on either side of the mountain road. One goes *viâ* Sungyuen to Haiching and then up the line of railway to Liaoyang. The other threads the series of valleys from Kwantien *viâ* Samazi (or Samachu) and finally crosses the Taitsz. If the account sent from London be correct, General Kuroki has divided his army into two sections. One of these—the main body—is advancing by the southern route to Haiching and will attack Liaoyang from the south-west. The other has taken the northern route and will attack Liaoyang from the north-east. If the movements of these two bodies can be synchronized, the strategical plan looks large and fine. But it will be apparent to any one examining the map that the two sections of the Japanese army are moving at a great distance apart. Of course the Kwantien column may be intended chiefly to threaten the Liaoyang-Mukden line of communications, and for aught we know to the contrary it may be receiving large accessions of strength all the time, in the form of drafts from Japan. It is useless to indulge in conjectures with regard to such matters. All that we can say is that a very comprehensive strategical plan is unfolding before us.

Another London telegram says that on the 16th instant a Japanese army of 20,000 men landed at a point 25 miles south of Kaiping, and is now advancing north against Haiching. Everything goes to show that there has been a landing in the north-eastern corner of the Gulf of Pechili, but we doubt the alleged number of the troops that have landed. The ultimate junction of this force with General Kuroki's main body—now somewhere in the neighbourhood of Haiching—would mean the withdrawal of every Russian soldier from the Liaotung Peninsula, except the garrisons southward of the Kinchow Isthmus. The London telegram further represents Kuroki's force as having already moved from Sungyuen to the neighbourhood of Haiching. In that position it will be appreciated that the column moving north from Kaiping is intended to free Kuroki's left wing from any menace at the hands of the Russian forces at Tashikiao and Newchwang.

Under these circumstances it will be plain that nothing remains for the Newchwang force except to retire upon Tashikiao and there to oppose the northward advance of the Kaiping column, or to retreat to Haiching.

Monday, May 23.

The officer commanding the force that began to land at Takushan on the 19th instant, reports that at 7 p.m. on the 20th instant a squadron of Russian cavalry made its appearance at Wangkiatun, a place some 7 miles north of Takushan. The Japanese infantry surrounded it, and the troopers broke and fled in disorder, leaving many dead. One Russian captain was made prisoner. The Japanese had no casualties.

Admiral Togo reports that on the 20th at 1 a.m. he sent into Port Arthur a squadron of gunboats and a number of destroyers and torpedo craft. They passed through a heavy fire from the forts and discharging the duty assigned to them, withdrew at daylight. The gunboats were hit by a few shells but their casualties are not yet reported.

Tuesday, May 24.

The last operation at Port Arthur presented one noteworthy feature; namely, that the squadron which went in included several gunboats. These last are strange craft to send within easy range of heavy fort-guns. Nothing of the kind had previously been done by the Japanese Admiral, and if he incurred such a great risk on this occasion, there must have been a special reason. It is true, indeed, that the fort-artillery at Port Arthur had shown itself extraordinarily inefficient, so far as night firing was concerned. A few hits may have been made in the case of the third batch of blocking steamers, but the two first flotillas suffered very little from the fire of the forts. On this last occasion the gunboats are said to have been struck by some of the enemy's projectiles. They did not suffer materially however. It was the destroyer *Akatsuki* that had a terrible experience. Twenty-five of her crew are said to have been killed by a shell bursting on board. She probably did not carry a complement of much over 50, and if one half of them were killed, how many of the other half were wounded, and how did the survivors manage to take the vessel back? This is a dramatic incident and the public will be very anxious to learn fuller details.

According to Reuter, General Stoessel has made a sortie from Port Arthur and driven back the Japanese, inflicting on them a loss of a thousand in killed and wounded. At all events such a report is said to be circulating in St. Petersburg. Of course St. Petersburg is not now in communication with Port Arthur either by sea or by land and must therefore rely on Japanese intelligence or on mere rumour. This story of a sortie would not be altogether discredited by that fact, but the difficulty is that the term "sortie" can not be correct inasmuch as the Japanese are not before Port Arthur. So far as we know they were attacking the last positions on the Kinchow Isthmus, namely Tahoshan and Shaukinshan, on the 21st instant, and even supposing that they captured them on that day, they could not possibly have reached Port Arthur in time for the alleged sortie to come off. The latest news of which we are in possession at this moment (Monday morning) is that Stoessel was massing his forces at Nankwanrin hill, which lies immediately south of the Isthmus, and which is a splendid position for defending. It is possible, of course, that a Japanese attempt to force the position may have proved unsuccessful, but that is all we can conjecture at present. A landing at Dalny would turn the whole of the Russian defences at this point, but Dalny Bay appears to be strewn with mines so thickly as to defy any such enterprise.

A remarkable Russian has made his appearance at Chefoo and is filling up all empty-minded people with wonderful tales as to how all the injured ships in Port Arthur, with one insignificant exception, have been fully repaired and made ready for sea; as to the great numbers of the garrison; as to the ample store of provisons; as to the raising and removal of the Japanese blocking steamers by strange processes, and as to many other notable circumstances. The *Nichi Nichi's* Chefoo correspondent telegraphed to his journal a detailed account of this gentleman's yarns, and it is plain that he has at all events attracted some attention. The public are now warned to be on their guard.

Wednesday, May 25.

By wireless telegraphy Chefoo is informed from Weihaiwei that at 1 p.m. on the 22nd instant the sounds of violent cannonading were heard in the neighbourhood of Yuentau, which is a little island some 30 miles south-east of Port Arthur, and in the track of vessels bound from Talien to Shanghai. As yet no definite explanation of the incident is forthcoming, but the conjecture is that the Russian destroyers emerged from Port Arthur and were attempting some *coup* against the Japanese line of communications with Pitsewo.

In this context it may be mentioned that the Russians claim to have sent out a cruiser—the *Pallada* or the *Novik*—on the occasion of the sinking of the *Hatsuse*. This statement is treated by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* with ridicule. If the Russians can send cruisers, why on earth do they not attempt something at this most critical stage of the war, asks our contemporary. But we may observe that the distinguishing feature of Russian strategy throughout the whole war has been neglect of opportunities. Not one of her commanders has shown himself ready or competent to utilize the material and the occasions at his disposal. Of course this may change at any moment. There are indeed symptoms that General Stoessel is an officer of higher calibre. At any rate, we can not regard the inaction of the remaining Russian ships as a conclusive proof that the obstruction has not been sufficiently removed from the entrance of Port Arthur to allow of their exit. The explosions heard on more than one occasion are explicable only on the supposition that dynamite was being used to break up the sunken steamers.

It is now apparent that the sortie rumoured to have been made by General Stoessel with the result of inflicting a loss of a thousand on the Japanese and driving them back was nothing more or less than the already-reported engagement at Shisanlitai on the 16th instant when the Japanese obtained possession of the Chinkiatun highlands and also of the Kiulichwan hill. General Stoessel seems to have been misinformed as to the dimensions of the Japanese force, so that he sent out only four battalions at the utmost. He encountered the van of the Japanese army, and according to the official reports each side suffered about the same losses. As to this attack having suspended the Japanese advance, what is much more probable is that the Japanese are waiting—if indeed they be waiting at all—for heavy guns to assist them in the attack upon the Tahoshan and Shunkinshan positions. These latter taken, the next nut to be cracked will be the hill called Nankwanrin, immediately south of the Kinchow Isthmus. In fact, the whole of the march to Port Arthur must be an affair of the most arduous and sanguinary character, if, as seems probable, Stoessel is determined to fight every inch of ground.

The *Yomiuri Shimbun* has a telegram from its own correspondent with the First Army that on the 23rd instant a skirmish took place on the west of Kwantien between a company of Japanese infantry and about 100 Russian troopers. The latter were driven off without inflicting any loss on the Japanese, and the inhabitants of the district subsequently reported that the Russian casualties had been about 20. Is this, we wonder, among the skirmishes which have been reported as Russian victories?

Two Russians who surrendered to the Japanese near Tsititien on the 9th instant, described themselves as deserters from Liaoyang. They said that they could not endure the hard fare and the harsh treatment received there, and they had found an opportunity to escape when their comrades were marched out to entrench the Motienling position.

The Taotai of Fenghwang is said to have stated that before the battle of the Yalu, the number of Russian troops in the town was not greater than 2,000, although the Russians resorted to various devices to make it appear larger. At all events the head-quarters of the Army Corps was at Fenghwang, and constant trips between that place and Antung and Kiulien took place.

The Russian field hospital at Fenghwang fell entirely into the hands of the Japanese, it is said. But General Kuroki's report did not represent this eapture in such large terms.

There were 200 Chinese braves in Fenghwang. They are said to have gone out gladly to welcome the Japanese troops.

The only injury inflicted by the Russians on Fenghwang at the time of their retreat was the burning of a magazine. All the fine buildings were left intact. It is believed that want of time alone prevented wide destruction. Since the Japanese entered the place many Chinese who were in hiding have come out and business is carried on without interruption.

It is rumoured at Shanhaikwan that the Russians at Liaoyang have prepared 119 locomotives and 1,300 cars wherewith they intend to retreat to Harbin should the necessity arise. That is scarcely a credible story, though it must be admitted that many recent accounts combine to indicate a weakening of Russia's resolve to held Liaoyang.

The latest accounts from Newchwang, dated the 23rd, say that the last of the Russian forces left that place on the 22nd. Thus there has commenced the interregnum so much dreaded by the foreign residents. These are said to have conferred together, and to have come to the conclusion that the best course would be to entrust the administration to the Chinese volunteer association. We presume that the Russians have directed their march to Tashikiao, whence they will proceed to Haiching, now the objective of the main body of General Kuroki's force.

Reference may be made here to the report of General Kuropatkin's scouts that the Japanese foot-soldiers and the Japanese horses seem much exhausted. It appears to us that such a state of affairs is extremely improbable. The advance of the First Army has not been so rapid as to produce exhaustion of either men or animals. There have been no forced marches, and since the battle of the Yalu there has not been any night work. The troops that crossed the Yalu and stormed the heights of Kiulien, must have been very weary on the evening of the 1st of May, but since that time they have had comparatively easy work.

On the 23rd instant 15 junks reached Chefoo from Dalny. They had on board 500 Chinese, 50 Russians and 80 Koreans, all fugitives from that place. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, which publishes this news, adds that all the fugitives kept their mouths carefully closed and could not be induced to say a word about what they had seen or heard. The entrance to Dalny Bay seems to be completely blocked by a line of mines, and they are laid within the Bay also in such a manner that without a pilot a ship can not possibly make her way in safety.

Thursday, May 26.

Chefoo reports (*Jiji Shimpo*) that the Japanese forces have captured the position in the neighbourhood of Kinchow and that their van is now within 7 versts of Nankwanrin. The *Nichi Nichi's* correspondent, also telegraphing from Chefoo, represents Kinchow as having actually fallen into the hands of the Japanese, and puts the van 8 versts from Nankwanrin. Nothing is said by either account about the important positions of Tahoshan and Shaukinshan. With regard to the Russian forces, there are said to be 500 in Dalny, 2,000 at Liushutun (the promontory in Dalny Bay having Hand Bay on the north and Junk Bay on the south); and over ten thousand in Port Arthur. These are apparently in addition to the troops at Nankwanrin, where recent advices indicated that General Stoessel was collecting his main force.

The *Asahi's* information from Shanghai shows that Stoessel is strongly holding Sanlichwang, Nankwanriu and Tsihlichwang, and that a battery of 8 guns has been mounted at the last-named place, so as to command Kinchow Bay.

These details leave much to be desired in point of lucidity, but their general meaning is plain enough, namely, that the Japanese have not yet forced the Kinchow Isthmus and that General Stoessel is determined to stay them there if he can possibly continue to do so. There are many conceivable developments of this situation but to indulge in conjectures is useless.

It is rumoured in Chefoo that Dalny has only a few days' provisions and that Port Arthur is in possession of a two months' supply. Very little reliance can be placed on these stories. The Russians have had ample time to stock their granaries, and it will be strange if the moment of crisis finds them so unprepared.

There is a story that the Russian police at Dalny have still one Japanese man and twenty—some say forty—Japanese women in custody. On what ground, we wonder, are these people detained.

A telegram from Takeshiki published by the *Jiji*, the *Asahi* and the *Nichi Nichi*, represents an officer who recently returned from Manchuria as saying that the Russians will inevitably make their second great stand at Liaoyang where they have massed fully 80,000 men. The fortifications, however, are not completed, and in order to gain time, some resistance, more or less formidable, will probably be organized to the Japanese army's advance at Haiching and Anshantien. The enemy is bringing together at Liaoyang the remnants of all the troops that have been beaten in engagements with the Japanese, but the effect of their presence will probably be merely to dispirit their comrades. It would seem that General Kuropatkin has no idea of attempting final resistance at Mukden, supposing that his army be driven from Liaoyang. He will fall back rather on Harbin and there make his grand stand. Before the autumn winds begin to blow, therefore, it is possible that the Japanese flag may be seen in the vicinity of Harbin. Such is the Takeshiki forecast.

The *Jiji's* Shanghai correspondent wires that *The Times'* despatch boat *Haimun* has informed the Commissioner of Customs at Chefoo that on the 21st instant it sighted 6 mines at a point on the south-east of the Edge (?) Islands. These mines had evidently broken adrift. The nearest of them was about 1¼ miles distant from the steamer, the most remote about 1½ miles. It is now beyond question that the danger of navigating in the seas near the Liautishan Channel are very great. That is what Japanese naval officers have been predicting, in view of the reckless use of mechanical mines by the Russians. The trouble about a mechanical mine is that, when once laid, all future control of it is lost. It is just as likely as not to go adrift, and may thus destroy either friend or foe indiscriminately. It can not be for a moment doubted that to lay such mines in waters over which a belligerent Power has not complete control and from which all neutral vessels can not be excluded so long as the mines are unremoved, is an indefensible outrage. The Japanese have never laid any mines except in positions fully commanded by the artillery fire of the Russians. But the Russians have not any such rule. It looks at present as though ships navigating the Yellow Sea and the Gulf of Pechili will be liable to appalling catastrophes for years after the end of the war.

There is now a formal contradiction of the *New York Herald's* story that the *Petropavlovsk* had twelve million dollars worth of gold on board when she sank. The Naval Authorities in St. Petersburg have declared that no Russian war-vessel ever carries more than ten thousand dollars. But this is a tale which will live in spite of any contradiction. It appeals to men's imagination, and the *Petropavlovsk's* gold will inevitably take its place among the innumerable treasures supposed to be lying at the bottom of the ocean.

Friday, May 27.

It is stated by the *Jiji's* correspondent with the First Army that on the 24th instant a body of Russian cavalry numbering about a thousand, made its appearance on the south of Shihtauchin, which is not marked on the maps, but lies between Fenghwang and Aiyangpienmun. A company of Japanese infantry opened fire and drove the Cossacks in a northerly direction, the Japanese suffering no loss.

The same correspondent says that 6 Russian troops were found in ambush near Wankiakau. The lieutenant in command of them was killed and one trooper was wounded.

The places mentioned in the above reports lie to the north-east of Fenghwang, and the facts that the Japanese troops are moving in that direction and are encountering Russian forces there, indicates a phase of the campaign for which we were not prepared. Broadly speaking movements by General Kuroki's forces to the north-east of Fenghwang would suggest merely measures for the protection of his right flank against essays on the part of the Russians from the Mukden-Yalu line. On the other hand, we do not hear of any marked advance on the side of the left wing which is doubtless now in touch with the troops that recently landed at Takushan. The indications do not suffice to disclose any clearly defined strategical programme, nor are they intended to suggest one.

Meanwhile there is much conjecture as to the nature of the troops that have landed at Takushan. The public is quite uncertain whether these troops form a third army or whether they belong to the Divisions already in the field. We observe, however, that Lieutenant-General Baron Nogi has been received in audience by the Emperor, a fact which suggests that an additional Division is in the field or is about to be placed there. General Nogi, however, being on the Retired List, even this deduction can not be made with assurance. It is a remarkable evidence of the reticence maintained by the Authorities that although the war has now lasted for three and a half months, there is no general knowledge even with regard to mobilization. People do not know which Divisions have received the order to mobilize and which, if any, have not.

All kinds of rumours are circulating in this interval between the acts of the drama. One story comes from Kinchow (the Kinchow near Shanhaikwan) to the effect that the Japanese have made their appearance at Tienshiutien, which would mean that they had crossed the Motienling Pass and were within striking distance of Liaoyang. We do not believe anything of the kind, but, as the *Asahi* remarks, such stories may justly be classed among the *fûsei kwakurei* category; that is to say, among the unpursued fleeings of the wicked.

The *Asahi* has a telegram from the same source to the effect that a skirmish has taken place at Lienshankwan, which is the pass on the Fenghwang side of Motienling; a much more probable place for a combat than Tienshiutien. But our contemporary shrewdly suggests that these encounters among the mountains are more likely to be between Hunghutze and Russians than between Japanese and Russians. There is no evidence that any section of Kuroki's army is advancing by the road over the mountains.

It is reported from Chefoo that General Stoessel has requisitioned all the money in the vaults of the Russo-Chinese Bank at Port Arthur and Dalny. Interest is of course promised to the Bank, but the rate is kept secret. The funds of depositors have not escaped. All is drawn into the military net, and it is alleged that even the means of travelling away to less unquiet districts are withheld from private individuals. But we imagine that this last item of the tale is an exaggeration. The Russian General would be only too glad to facilitate the departure of all non-combatants. These, however, can not avail themselves any longer of the railway without Japanese consent: they must leave by sea. We wonder what course the Japanese would adopt were they asked to let the non-combatants pass through their lines. Their wisest plan would be to follow the example of the Boers, and decline to sanction any step tending to lessen the enemy's embarrassment.

The last journals received from Europe-America show that there has been remarkable unanimity among foreign strategists as to the advisability of landing a Japanese army at Newchwang. Their view was that such a measure would effectually ease the pressure at the Yalu and would also isolate Port Arthur. So it would, no doubt, but there never was any reason to suppose that a landing on the east of the Liaotung Peninsula would not be equally efficacious in these respects, while it would possess the great advantage of not only shortening Japan's line of communications but also of keeping it comparatively beyond the range of Russian naval enterprise. To carry that line through the Liaotishan channel directly in front of Port Arthur, would have been to invite peril of the gravest nature. Port Arthur might have been sealed, the squadron lying there might have been crippled, the Russian sailors night have been dispirited, but it is impossible to conceive them so dejected, so weakened or so constrained that they would look out idly upon a stream of Japanese transports constantly flowing to and fro within thirty miles of the Russian stronghold. No one has undertaken to show what advantages the littoral of the Gulf of Pechili offers as a landing place to compensate for the cardinal disadvantage of a wantonly exposed line of communications. We have always supposed that if the Japanese went to Newchwang, their route would be from some point eastward of the place, some point having communication with the Yellow-Sea littoral. The only European journal that has shared our view, so far as we know, is a German journal. Japan ought to get control of Newchwang, and also of the mouth of the Amur so as to cut off Russian Far-Eastern positions wholly and absolutely from all maritime routes of supply, but it does not follow that she should land at Newchwang.

We hear nothing more of the alleged landing in the north-west of the Liaotung Peninsula. It appears to have been simply a demonstration. Its immediate effect was the hasty retreat of the Russian troops in that neighbourhood. They retired upon Tashikiao, and it is now stated that during their absence the nimble-fingered Chinaman raided their camp and barracks and helped himself to everything he would lay hands on. Presently the troops marched back, only to find their house swept and garnished. They made complaint to the Chinese officials, demanding compensation, but the Taotai declined to admit the justice of any such representations and there the matter rests. Of course the story has lost nothing in travelling thence hither.

On the 15th instant the First and Second Battalions of one of the Divisions forming the Second Army and a squadron of cavalry, proceeded, in obedience to orders to march towards Liukiakau which is near the road to Kinchow and westward of Tahoshan. The force set out at 5.30 a.m. Intelligence had been received that a force of the enemy was posted at Shihchingtsz, but on the left wing reaching Liukiakau and reconnoitering, nothing was seen of this force, and the heights there were taken possession of. An observation from one of these hills showed some 6 troopers retiring from an eminence at some distance off. These troopers were riding along the Kinchow road. It was then noon, and as sounds of firing were heard from the direction of the main body's advance, two companies were detached from the left wing to render assistance, but before they effected a junction the enemy, few in number, had withdrawn. After advancing a little further, the force halted for the night, being in full communication with the Division in the rear. On the morning of the 16th the left wing was strengthened by a company of engineers from the main body, and the advance was resumed at 6 a.m. By 10 o'clock the vicinity of Tahoshan, the objective point, was reached. Ten troopers of the enemy were seen at a distance of about 1,000 metres, on the hill which the force had been ordered to occupy. These were driven off, and possession was taken of the hill. Presently orders were received to attack at once, and at noon the attack commenced. One battalion formed the first line, moving in open order. It followed the line of the Tahoshan hills and pushed steadily forward. The other battalion, also in open order, marched along the base of the hills. A company of the enemy opened fire on us from an eminence about 1,500 metres distant, but was quickly driven back. Just at this time a battalion of Russian troops was seen to advance to a position on the east of Shaukinshan. The officer in command of the Japanese now united his two battalions and pushed forward rapidly. The troops traversed five eminences and the intervening valleys, thus crossing two of the Tahoshan principal hills. The left wing now found itself engaged hotly. The Fifth Company advanced straight against the enemy's position and had over twenty casualties in a very brief space, the other companies also suffering severely. The Second Company which was on the extreme left, had to march against a stone parapet crowning a hill near the Kinchow road. From behind this parapet 2 companies of the enemy kept up a heavy fire, inflicting 26 casualties on our company, which therefore inclined to the enemy's right wing and directed a heavy fire on the Shishan position, whence the Russians had to retire, thus relieving the Japanese of the fire from which they were suffering most. Two other eminences were now won, and so soon as the second was occupied the enemy withdrew from his position on the east of it. Nothing could now be seen of the Russians except some disunited bands escaping by the Kinchow road. They were pursued vigorously, but one of their batteries took up a position on a height some 2,500 metres distant, and opened fire on the Japanese left flank to cover the retreat. A curious incident occurred at this point. A company of the Japanese had left their knapsacks on the top of a hill and had pushed on in light marching order. The Russian artillery discharged 5 shells at these knapsacks, and had got the range pretty cleverly before they discovered their mistake, the Japanese playing the part of amused spectators. That ended the fight for the day, the Japanese remaining in possession of the hills, and cheering lustily as they planted their colours. They had lost over 140 men.

This narrative is told by a wounded officer who took part in it. He adds that the reason of the heavy losses in proportion to the smallness of the engagement was that the Russians were operating in ground where they had calculated all the ranges and could thus deliver a deadly fire. Seventeen Russians were taken prisoners. They said that the troops engaged on their side had been the Fifth and the Thirteenth Regiments and a part of the Fourteenth Regiment of the Siberian Rifles, together with 2 batteries of artillery. These were the best marksmen the Russians had. The prisoners further said that it having been observed that the Japanese officers gave their orders standing, the riflemen had been directed to aim specially at them, which they did so successfully that 9 officers were wounded. General Stoessel had directed that there should be no retirement until reliefs arrived, but apparently this direction had not been obeyed. The Kinchow position, according to these prisoners, was exceptionally strong, being protected by heavy artillery, mines and barbed wire entanglements.

The above is the fight which St. Petersburg believed to have been a sortie by General Stoessel, ending in the repulse of the Japanese with a loss of 1,000 men.

Ah-zen, a Chinaman, was arrested on May 25th by the Kagacho police on a charge of having used opium. He was removed to the Court.

NEWCHWANG AND NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Saturday, May 21.

Tokyo is still perplexed as to the identity of the Takushan where a Japanese force is stated to have landed on the 19th instant. At first there was a disposition to believe that the place was on Hooper Point, the promotory on the north of Talien Bay. But one can not see what purpose would be served by a landing there unless troops advancing thence could take the Tahoshan position in rear, which is not apparent. The general impression now is that the Takushan in question is on the northern littoral of the Yellow Sea, the place which the Japanese used as an advanced base when General Katsura moved upon Haiching. Strategy is largely determined by the nature of the country in which an army is operating. From Takushan to Sungyuen the distance is 45 miles and from Sungyuen to Haiching the distance is also 45 miles. General Kuroki is said to have occupied Sungyuen and it is more than probable that the hesitation which the Russian Generals have observed in his advance has been the result of waiting for the landing at Takushan which his troops, at Sungyuen cover. To march against Haiching having the Yalu for base would involve a needlessly long line of communications, and since the Japanese have the command of the sea, it is plainly their business to convert into maritime communications every convertible part of their land lines. We had expected that a force would have been put ashore at Takushan immediately after the battle of the Yalu and before the landing on Liaotung, but in truth the order of the two operations did not greatly matter. With his base of supplies brought within 45 miles of Sungyuen, General Kuroki can push on vigorously and we anticipate that no further evidences of hesitation will be observable, unless indeed the summer rains render the country impassable. A district where two days' rain renders the roads girth deep—literally girth deep—in mud may defy the progress of an army.

General Floug reports that the landing of Japanese troops near Kaiping was only a demonstration; that they re-embarked immediately and that the transports put to sea again. That is a very perplexing statement.

Chefoo reports, on the strength of information furnished by Chinese junks from Dalny, that the Japanese forces on the Liaotung Peninsula captured the Kinchow position on the 17th instant, the Russian troops retreating to Dalny. These Russian troops are spoken of as from 250 to 300 strong, but the Japanese official report put the number defending Tahoshan at some 3 battalions with 8 guns. The retreat of two or three hundred is difficult to reconcile with such an estimate. Experience shows that these Chinese accounts must be received with great reserve, as is indeed natural, for the Chinese themselves can not observe the operations at first hand. We note, however, that Kinchow itself is not spoken of as having been taken, but only the adjacent region up to a distance of 3⅓ miles (10 Chinese *li*) from the town. That tends to lend probability to the account, for the town of Kinchow possesses no defensive capacities whatsoever. Its fall would be immediately attendant on the capture of the neighbouring hills, especially Tahoshan.

Several accounts agree in stating that from a very early hour on the morning of the 19th the sounds of violent cannonading were heard apparently at Port Arthur. This is difficult to connect with any previous intelligence. Our latest official news put the Japanese near Kinchow on the 16th instant. From thence to Port Arthur the distance is 32 miles and Dalny would have to be dealt with *en route*. Had Dalny been taken it is most improbable that the news would have failed to reach us. This cannonade, therefore, would seem to indicate a naval rather than a military operation.

The *Novy Krai* of the 10th instant publishes a general order from General Stoessel conjuring all under his command to stand to their posts and resist to the death. The order also alludes in very strong terms to the habit of drinking that prevails among the men.

Monday, May 23.

It is reported that the Russian troops have again occupied Newchwang, but we give General Kuropatkin credit for greater fixity of purpose than would be indicated by this marching and countermarching. The performance reminds us of stage soldiers rather than of real war.

Side by side with the above comes another rumour—a repeated rumour—that the Russians have destroyed the railway between Newchwang and Tashikiao. That is not unlikely to be true if the evacuation of Newchwang be credible.

Shanghai says that it has received a telegram from Kinchow in the sense that the Russian officers at that position have reported to Head Quarters that the Japanese artillery is very powerful. Two things perplex us in this report. One is Kinchow's ability to communicate with Shanghai by telegraph, seeing that the Japanese are in possession of the line; the other, the Kinchow officers' ability to communicate with Kuropatkin. However, there will be here an opportunity for Colonel Ogorodinoff and General Floug to demonstrate that the Japanese are fruitlessly deploying their artillery for Russian information—only that and nothing more.

It is believed in Tokyo that the Japanese forces on the Liaotung Peninsula commenced a general attack against the Kinchow position on the 21st instant. We may explain that a part of the position has already fallen. Kinchow itself lies in a plain dominated by three hills, or groups of hills, one on the west, one on the north and one on the east. The town is approached by two roads from the north, the main or westerly road, namely the railway, which leads to Pulantien, and a secondary road which leads to Chinkiatung. The railway has been captured by the Japanese as far as Shisanlitai—*pace* Ogorodinoff—and so have the hills lying on either side of the railway up to the Chinkiatung road. But on the east of the latter road, that is to say, in the area between it and the sea, lies the Tahoshan group of hills, including Shangkinshan. These latter are very strong positions. Once captured, access is immediately obtained to Talien Bay and the celebrated Isthmus is won. But the operation of capture will probably entail a heavy loss of life. The position of the Turks at Plevna was incomparably weaker than this Kinchow Isthmus, and in its case Floug and Ogorodinoff will scarcely venture to tell us that the Russian defenders are merely reconnoitering. The capture of the Isthmus does not entail, of course, the fall of Port Arthur, but the Isthmus is certainly the back door to the fortress.

THE "HATSUSE" DISASTER.

Monday, May 23.

We observe that the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* quotes our reference, on the 18th inst., to a rumour that some accident, more serious than the loss of the *Miyako*, had occurred. The *Nichi Nichi* infers that intelligence of the *Hatsuse* catastrophe must then have been in the hands of the naval authorities and must have been concealed by them until the 19th. Our contemporary's inference seems natural, but on investigating the source of the rumour that reached us, we can not find that it was anything more than a deduction drawn from a general statement made by the naval authorities in the sense that the Russians were using mines in a most reckless manner, and that, even when the war was concluded, it would be difficult to free the seas from all danger to commercial navigation. This statement sounded ominous in some ears and suggested that another accident had occurred. The Naval Authorities seem to have waited until they were in a position to explain the undoubted cause of the affair, and the telegram conveying that information did not reach them until the 19th instant, when the publication was made. So we gather from our Tokyo contemporaries.

With reference to this catastrophe the Tokyo journals speak in the calmest terms. The *Jiji Shimpo* justly observes that at the outset of the naval conflict Japan was prepared, and indeed expected, to lose at least half of her fleet before she succeeded in crippling Russia's naval power in the Far East. Thus far she has lost only one important ship whereas the Russians have been effectually crippled. Her wound has been slight; their hurt has been mortal. There is nothing whatever to complain of. The nation has merely to lament the loss of so many brave men.

That is virtually the tone of all the papers. They deprecate any loss of heart and merely lament the deaths of brave men. There is some little dissatisfaction with the Naval Authorities for not publishing the news sooner. The only newspaper that seems at all disposed to be unreasonable is the *Nippon*.

Tuesday, May 24.

At a meeting of the *Kaiji Kyokai* when several naval officers attended, the question was raised whether to place mines in such a position as that occupied by the mines which sunk the *Hatsuse* was not a violation of international law. Professor Matsunami spoke to the query. He said that international law is an elastic affair inasmuch as the various nations interpret its provisions so as to suit their individual convenience. It is certain that the fair-way in neutral waters can not properly be obstructed in such a manner, but apparently the question would not be likely to be raised unless a vessel flying a neutral flag were injured by the mines.

That is certainly how the question would be raised and raised in a practical manner. But in the meanwhile it does not appear to admit of the smallest doubt that unless a belligerent State is in a position to completely control certain waters, it has no manner of right to place dangerous obstructions there. If a man be entitled to absolute right of way over a certain road, and if he therefore have power to interdict the use of the road by any persons not specially licensed to pass along it, then he is also entitled to prevent passage by means of any obstacles that seem effectual in his eyes. But it is quite preposterous to claim that a man may carefully place traps or dig pitfalls in the public high-way merely because his enemy is more likely to pass that way than any one else. That his enemy does happen to pass and does happen to suffer, constitutes no manner of excuse. A country at war can exercise full jurisdiction over its own territorial waters, and within their limits it may lay mines, duly warning the ships of neutral nations to approach at their peril. The limits of territorial waters having been fixed with reference to the range of old-time artillery, will probably be much extended by common consent, one of these days. But until that change is effected, ship-masters must be expected to work on the basis of the old limits, and no conceivable excuse can be found for arbitrarily and suddenly extending the limits in the manner done by the Russians off Liautishan Promontory. The matter will surely attract much attention and become a subject of international arrangement by and bye.

THE LATE MR. A. T. WATSON.

The cable conveyed news on Saturday of the death at Bedford, England, of Mr. A. T. Watson, an old resident of Yokohama. Born in Berners-street, Ipswich, some 57 years ago, Mr. Watson, after receiving his education at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School in that town, was indentured to the firm of Chapman and Pain, pharmaceutical chemists, whose business was established on the Cornhill of the old county town in the days when George the Second was on the Throne of England. After a few years in London, Mr. Watson came to the Far East, arriving in Yokohama on 24th January, 1870, on the P. & O. steamer *Bombay*. He was thus a witness of the disastrous collision which occurred off Saratoga Spit between this steamer and the U.S. corvette *Oneida*, which involved the loss of so many lives. Mr. Watson came out to join Mr. John North, and afterwards joined Mr. Brett in the pharmacy which developed into Messrs. Brett & Co., Ltd. He remained with them till nearly the close of his career in Japan. In 1900 he left Yokohama a very sick man and took up his residence in Bedford, England, but the change of climate and surroundings did not bring about the wished-for improvement in health, and the years spent since his departure from these shores have been filled with days of unremitting sickness: in fact, it was a mere waiting for the end. In his prime Mr. Watson was a great athlete, as many photographs of crews and athletic teams at the Boat Club and elsewhere testify. He held the local record for the Mile Walk, which he made at the autumn meeting of the Y.C. & A.C. in 1878; but his prettiest work was done in the 100 yds. and the ¼ mile, his style of sprinting being unsurpassed for neatness, and until Abbott wrested it from him he held the 100 yards record. An enthusiastic naturalist, Mr. Watson was among the first to make a collection of the magnificent butterflies and moths of Japan, and part of his fine selection now finds a home in the Natural History Museum, South Kensington. He also took a great interest in Freemasonry, and after passing through the chairs of the Yokohama Lodge, the Orient Mark Lodge, and the Royal Arch Chapter, entered the cryptic degrees, rising to the 32nd. Mr. Watson is survived by his wife, two sons, and six daughters, to whom we extend our condolences in the hour of their bereavement.

KOREA.

Monday, May 23.

The Russians seem to have renewed their activity on the north-east coast of Korea. An official report to the Seoul Government speaks of a band of Cossacks having been seen within 25 miles of Hamheung, which is some 50 miles north of Wonsan (Yuensan).

The latest news from this region is of a somewhat perplexing nature. First we have a message from the telegraph office in Hamheung saying that a Russian force entered that place on the 19th instant, and after a two hours' combat with the Korean local forces, the Russians retired, burning several hundreds of houses and also the bridge. In this two hours' conflict the Russians had one man wounded and the Koreans one man killed! This story is duplicated officially from Wonsan with the addition that the Korean troops engaged were the Pyongyang force. It is further stated that the Russians have laid a line of telegraph from Kyongheung, on the Tumen, to Kyongsong, on the east coast, and that they have a force of 100 cavalry and 270 infantry in the latter place.

It now appears that the Anju Cossacks, whose remaining number is variously stated at from 300 to 600, have turned eastward from Nyongwon and have passed through Hamheung, their evident intention being to make their way to the Tumen. This line of retreat was always open to them, and in taking it they had nothing to fear—at least nothing in comparison with the dangers of the Yalu route.

The usual harrowing accounts arrive from Kyongsong—the accounts always coming from regions cursed by the presence of military representatives of that civilization for which M. Doumer would have France fight. We hear of theft, of arson, of rape and so forth.

The Korean representatives in foreign capitals have formally announced the rupture of diplomatic relations with Russia and the cancellation of all conventions, agreements and concessions previously existing. Our readers being perfectly familiar with the story of Yong Ampho and the notorious lumber concession, will not be surprised to learn that even the timid Korean authorities have now boldly undertaken to repudiate an arrangement which, having been made originally with a private company, was deliberately perverted by the Russian Government into an instrument of State aggression.

It is stated that Mr. Li, the Korean Representative in St. Petersburg, is still at his post as the telegram from Seoul re-calling him was suspended in transit by the Russian Authorities. There was a good deal of talk at one time in Russian circles about a telegram, or telegrams, supposed to have been purposely delayed in Tokyo with the object of keeping the Russian Government in ignorance of the real state of affairs in the last chapter of the negotiations. It is a common experience of humanity that suspicion is of all sentiments the most subjective. The sins which a man habitually commits himself are invariably the sins that he reads into the conduct of others.

Tuesday, May 24.

Wankiatun is a place about 7 miles north-east of Takushan. A Japanese force landed at the latter place on the 19th instant. The following day they managed to "surround" a company of Cossacks and to inflict heavy loss on them. The term "surround" is strange in this context. One does not expect to hear of cavalry being surrounded by infantry, especially as the Cossacks must have been on scouting duty. However, the fact that they fell in with the Japanese and were roughly handled can not be doubted. The interesting point is that bodies of Cossacks should still be moving in this district. So long as a Russian force was posted on the Yalu, its videttes would naturally have been thrown out along the littoral of the Yellow Sea, and indeed we heard of them more than once as extending from Antung to Takushan. But since then the situation has considerably changed, and one marvels how companies of Cossacks can support themselves in positions entirely cut off from any basis of supplies. General Kuroki's forces hold the line from Antung to Sungyuen, which line any one by looking at the map can perceive to be drawn completely between the Takushan-Antung littoral of the Yellow Sea and the Haiching-Liaoyang position. These Cossacks are certainly wonderfully mobile. The seven hundred who moved from Liaoyang across the upper reaches of the Yalu and through the Korean mountains to Anju, have now apparently ridden eastward and emerged on the coast somewhere north of Wonsan, so that they may be said to have transferred themselves from the Mukden-Liaoyang army to the Possiet-Bay army without experiencing any special commissariat difficulties *en route*. If it were possible for large bodies of these troopers to operate in such a manner as aerial columns they might prove a formidable factor, but of course it is not possible. No country, above all Korea, has resources sufficient for the support of more than a few hundred troopers sweeping through it in this manner.

News comes from Kyongsong that the Russian troops there, though few in number. have been in some straits for provisions. Apparently, however, the arrival of a victualling corps from the north has replenished their stock. It is stated that a force of 1,600 Cossacks is expected to reach the place soon, and that the local officials, in view of the southward movement of this column, have issued instructions in the sense that each house *en route* shall furnish 50 eggs, a fowl and 3 measures of millet for the use of the Russians. The story comes from more than one source. It is probably correct within limits. The Russians on the Tumen have never ceased their activity since the war began. It is a frivolous kind of activity. With the exception of burning a few houses of unoffending private folks at Songchin, nothing has been accomplished. If the Cossacks get as far as Wonsan they might at any rate create a scare, but that their purpose holds to that extent seems doubtful.

Prince Li Chi-yong, Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs at the time of concluding the last Protocol with Japan, who recently came to Japan in the capacity of special envoy, has resigned his official position. It is said that this incident is not due to any loss of the Emperor's confidence, but that it is merely the consequence of some circumstances which render the Prince's temporary retirement desirable.

Wednesday, May 25.

It is stated that the Korean Government will immediately publish a statement of its reasons for definitely breaking off relations with Russia. Those reasons are that Korea fully believes the object of the present war to be the securing of her independence and the restoration of permanent peace in the East; that Russia has already withdrawn her Minister from Seoul, thus practically ceasing relations; that in view of the above objects of the war, Korea feels bound to assist Japan; that, were the previously existing treaties and conventions suffered to have binding force at the present juncture, it is plain that material for future complications of a serious nature might be provided; and finally that Korea deems it imperative once for all to determine her own situation. This statement is expected to appear in the next *Official Gazette*.

Meanwhile the Korean local officials in Hamyong-do are acting on a different principle. They are exerting themselves to provide food for a body of 1,000 Cossacks who are said to have set out from Kyongsong, 350 of them riding towards Kapsan and 650 towards Songchin. Their arrival at the latter place is daily expected, and it is alleged that the folks in the town are disposed to welcome them. Evidently the unfortunate Koreans can scarcely do anything else. It is becoming an important question whether Japan should not take some strong steps to check these raids.

Thursday, May 26.

There is news—how trustworthy we can not tell—that the Russians in north-eastern Korea are moving across towards Nyongwon, which would suggest another attempt against Anju and perhaps some design upon Pyong-yang. If the Russians can afford to employ troops in this manner, they must be better supplied numerically than is generally supposed. But, after all, there are political results to be considered as well as strategical. The raids of the Russians in the north-east, and now in the interior, of Korea must have a very disquieting effect upon the Court in Seoul and its Ministers.

These Ministers appear to be as restless and as intriguing as ever. The unfortunate monarch has issued another edict in which he severely blames the incompetence and corruption of officialdom in general, and predicts that unless some improvement be effected dark days are in store for the country.

The Emperor has endeavoured to prevent the resignation of Prince Li Chi-yon, but the Prince is obdurate. It would appear, therefore, that the resignation is not such a meaningless incident as was originally supposed.

Friday, May 27.

The French Representative in Seoul, according to reports received by the leading Tokyo journals, has expressed himself unable to understand Korea's reason for breaking off relations with Russia. He considers the measure unwise. But surely diplomatic relations are difficult to maintain between two Powers when the soldiers of one of them are raiding the territories of the other, robbing the men, ravishing the women and burning the houses.

It is stated that when the Cossacks were retiring from Hamheung after their encounter with the local forces, they broke open the imperial tombs and destroyed the shrines by burning them. A fine performance in truth, and characteristic.

There has been a fight between some Japanese workmen and 7 highwaymen who attempted to rob them. The thing happened at Kanghwa, near Chemulpo. It appears that the Japanese, 4 in number, were on their way by boat to a quarry when the 7 Koreans asked for passage. On the way the Koreans attempted to plunder and kill the Japanese, who, in turn, disposed of two of their assailants. The other 5 escaped by swimming.

RUSSIAN ACCOUNTS.

Shanghai is honoured by being the place where Major-General Floug's highly painstaking reports are published. Shanghai has a reputation, earned for it by certain courageous newspaper correspondents, a reputation which adapts it for the Russian General's uses. There has now arrived in Tientsin a Colonel Ogorodinoff who collaborates with General Floug. The first example of their spirited work appeared recently in the *N.-C. Daily News* and was reproduced in these columns on the 21st instant. It shows that there was no battle at all at the Yalu. What happened was simply that a small party of Russians went out to inspect the Japanese army. The Japanese kindly marched out to be inspected. They were even more considerate than the Russians had expected or hoped, for they brought the whole of their park of artillery into action and this made precisely the exhibition desired by their enemies. Then the Russians, having seen everything they wanted to see, quietly withdrew. There was no fight worth speaking of—merely an insignificant skirmish, and as to the Japanese having captured guns, that is all a newspaper romance. General Floug and Colonel Ogorodinoff are quite astonished that the Japanese Government should allow journals to publish such tales as official news. It is thus that Russian officers show a dignified demeanour in the presence of reverses. Truly the spectacle is fine. We can understand why men like M. Doumer grow enthusiastic about the civilization that Russia represents.

General Floug reports that at the time of the sinking of the *Hatsuse*, the *Fuji* also received severe injury and steamed away. He farther states that on the 11th instant a force sent out by the Russians from Kinchow to Sanshilipao encountered the Japanese and drove them back with heavy loss, thus arresting their advance on the Liaotung Peninsula. Finally he alleges that the Japanese attempt to land in Taiyau Bay has proved a failure.

In many respects this war is teaching the world some interesting lessons. But the Occidental public may fairly expect and hope that never again will the military and naval operations of a great Power be disfigured by the dissemination of falsehoods so wholesale and so clumsy as those emanating from the officers to whom the Russian commander-in-chief has entrusted the duty of instructing newspapers. It is an insult to the English newspapers of Shanghai and Tientsin that they should be invited to give space to romances of the nature that have been emanating from Mukden for the past three months.

THE BATTLE OF THE YALU.

Saturday, May 21.

We noted yesterday when reproducing the official statement of Japanese casualties at the Yalu that the details did not tally with the total. The correct numbers are:—

Killed.		
Officers	5	223
N.C. Officers and Men	218	
Wounded.		
Officers	33	816
N.C. Officers and Men	783	
Total		1,039

As to the Russian casualties, all the information available is that the Japanese buried 1,363 Russian dead, and doubtless the Russians themselves removed the bodies of many officers. At all events, if we assume that 3 were wounded for every one killed, the total of wounded—taking the killed at 1,363—would be 4,089. The prisoners number 613, and if we suppose that one half of these are wounded, the total Russian casualties amount to 5,758, against Japanese casualties of 1,039. It is unprecedented in the history of war that the side acting on the defensive and occupying a fine position should suffer five times as much as the attacking force. But of course no hard-and-fast conclusion can be formed in that respect until we know what part of their casualties the Russians suffered at Hohmutang, where, in turn, they seem to have had the disadvantage of position and to have been almost surrounded by the Japanese.

Wednesday, May 25.

In the Harbin journal there are published official or semi-official accounts of the Battle of the Yalu. Whether they have been mutilated in transit we can not tell, but they show discrepancies. General Sassulitch endeavours to make light of the affair, claims that only 3 regiments of infantry were engaged, and alleges that the Japanese casualties aggregated some 3,000. General Kastalinsky is much more frank. He says that his Division alone lost about 2,000. We can not follow the stories in detail, and indeed it would be useless to make the attempt, for the result might only be misleading, and it is certain that we shall have full accounts before long from Europe. One interesting feature is made clear, however; namely, that the Russians were able to bring up their reserves from Antung and that thus the whole force they had on the Yalu took part in the battle at one time or another. In the two Generals' reports we find incidental reference to 5 regiments of infantry, independently of cavalry and artillery. Thus it would seem that at least fifteen thousand men were engaged. But the return of casualties shows very clearly that from five to six thousand Russians were put *hors de combat;* that is to say, from 30 to 40 per cent. of their whole force, assuming it to have been only 15,000. Should these figures prove correct, the Yalu will stand as one of the bloodiest battles ever fought, although the Russians were acting on the defensive.

AN OLD STORY IN A NEW GUISE.

Dr. E. J. Dillon, who unfortunately for the cause of historical accuracy is gifted with what reviewers call a facile pen, unaccompanied with any corresponding measure of discrimination or accuracy, contributes to the last number of the *Review of Reviews* an essay entitled "Has Russia any Strong Man." In the course of this essay he makes the following statements:—

> Alexieff's ambition dates from his school-days, and comrades of his assure me that it was never limited by the possibilities of the career he had chosen, but soared to quite imaginary heights. In this respect he widely differed from his brother, a man of modest aims and retiring disposition, who is an obscure officer on the retired list. Since E. I. Alexieff has achieved the highest rank which the Tsar can confer upon him, legend has woven its halo around his name and his first and only feat is said to have consisted in his spirited treatment of two British warships in 1881. At that time a feeling of intense bitterness marked the relations of England and Russia. Two British vessels entered the port of Nagasaki, where Alexieff was in command of a cruiser. The British vessels were manœuvring, intentionally or unwittingly, in such a way that the Russian cruiser was in danger of getting rammed. Alexieff, standing on the bridge, suddenly gave orders that all guns be pointed at the offending vessel, and at the same time signalled to its commander that, unless he desisted then and there, he would order his gunners to open fire. Thereupon the English commander, seeing that the Russian meant what he said, promptly took the frank warning and abandoned his evolutions. The Tsar Alexander III. afterwards gracefully expressed his thanks to Alexieff, and gave him a signal mark of his approval.
>
> So the story runs, and it is more readily believed because it tallies with the known character of the man. He is capable of exercising a wonderful degree of self-restraint any length of time, never once uttering a word or betraying his emotions by a gesture, but at last, and with great deliberation, the pent-up passion bursts all bounds and sweeps away all kinds of restraint. As a matter of sober fact however, the characteristic story is authentically told of Admiral Crown, who was, in truth, the Russian *dramatis persona*, and not Alexieff. Alexieff owes his promotion, which, seeing that he is already forty-three years in the service, can hardly be termed abnormally rapid, to his qualifications as a naval officer. He is clear-witted, cold-blooded, resourceful, a thorough gentleman in society, and a popular disciplinarian in the service. He keeps his subordinates well in hand, is noted for his impartial justice, and exerts a beneficent influence over his bluejackets which tends to bring out all their best qualities. Although he hates laxity, the fibre of his character is singularly free from that cast-iron rigour which provokes hatred and paves the way to insubordination.

Dr. Dillon does not intend to be sarcastic; or at least does not seem to intend. It is rather bad for Alexieff, however, to have the world told that "his first and only feat" was somebody else's feat after all. But that is not the part to which greatest exception must be taken by well-informed readers of the tale. The fact is that Dr. Dillon's version, wherever he obtained it, is a gross perversion of the truth. The Russian officer, Admiral Crown, did not by any means cut such a fine figure. What happened was that in the time of strained relations between England and Russia—not 1881 but several years later—no Russian ship in Far Eastern waters was suffered to enjoy the privilege of travelling alone. Whenever she went, she was shadowed by a British man-of-war, and it will readily be conceived that such espionage tended to exasperate the Russians terribly. Admiral Crown's flag-ship had managed to elude her vigilant observers *enroute* from the south, and her officers and crew were feeling very good when they dropped their anchor in Yokohama one morning. But only a very few hours had elapsed when the inevitable Union Jack hove in sight, and a big British cruiser stood into the harbour. She headed direct for her berth, steaming at a good pace, and Admiral Crown, observing her with angry eyes, fell into the strange hallucination that her purpose was to ram him. He piped to quarters and cleared for action. Meanwhile the British captain, having berthed his ship, called for his gig, and boarding the Russian, demanded what he meant by clearing for action and training his guns on an English ship in time of peace in a neutral harbour. Of course Admiral Crown could not give any satisfactory explanation, and there ensued correspondence which is now among the most interesting archives of the Far East. There ensued also something else; the arrival of a small Japanese gunboat from Yokosuka which took up her station near the big Russian for the purpose of asserting the neutrality of the port by force of arms, should circumstances demand it. As to the British Captain having been signalled that if he did not desist from his manœuvres then and there the Russian Admiral would order his gunners to open fire, need we say that it is a pure myth? Dr. Dillon is among the few publicists in this wide world who are capable of crediting such undiluted nonsense. The whole error and the whole crime were on the side of the Russian Admiral; the error of imagining that because the English ship was handled smartly she meant to ram a friendly Power's vessel in times of profound peace, and the crime of violating the neutrality of the port by clearing for action. Moreover, it was the Englishman that demanded an explanation and not the Russian that made a menacing announcement, Dr. Dillon puts things upside down all through.

THE "DIVINE" SARAH.

Madame Sarah Bernhardt has consented to contribute a series of memories dealing with her career to the *Strand Magazine*. Among the earliest recollections which she has committed to paper are some relating to her first appearance as an actress. This occurred while she was at the school of the Grand Champ Convent, Versailles. Mademoiselle, it seems, begged urgently to be allowed to take part in a play written by one of the Sisters. It was one of those pretty little pieces often given in convent schools, and had a Biblical plot, being in short a paraphrase of the journey of Tobias. Sarah tells us that at this time her inclinations were rather religious than anything else, and, actually on the eve of her "first appearance"—impressed by the picture of the nuns receiving at the gate of the convent the Archbishop of Paris and Monseigneur Sibour—a prelate who was assassinated only a few weeks later—she came to the hasty conclusion that she must become a nun. Of herself at this time she writes:—"Endowed with a lively imagination and with an extremely sensitive nature, the Christian legend appealed both to my heart and mind. The Divine Martyr became my ideal, and the Mother with the Seven Sorrows I simply worshipped." In the play in question Mademoiselle Sarah took the part of the Angel who served as a guide to Tobias:—

> Nothing was spared for this great ceremony, and then, at last, it was our turn. I will not give the details of the piece, as it is well known. I tell this as one of my souvenirs, as it was my *début*. I came very near entering a nunnery. It seemed to me that there was nothing better, nothing which could make me happier. In my childish imagination I could see angels drawing me heavenwards. The only way appeared to be through the convent. In the meantime I was about to appear on the stage. I felt paralysed, and a shudder ran through me from the back of my neck to my feet. I fancy that I missed the right moment for appearing on the scene, as one of the girls pushed me forward, just as my professor, Monsieur M. Provost, had to do some years later when I made my *début* in "Iphigenia" at the Comédie Francais. My entrance was a success, for I had a sudden fit of self-assurance, although I was really half delirious with fright, and I went through my part very well, adding whole phrases to it. I scarcely knew what I was saying, but I continued nevertheless.
>
> When the piece was over the guiding angel was sent for by Monseigneur. I was perfectly triumphant.
>
> "What's your name, my child?" asked Monseigneur.
>
> "Sarah," I replied.
>
> "That name must be changed," he said smiling.
>
> "Yes," answered the Superior, "her father wants her to be baptised, and to be called Henriette; the ceremony is to take place in a month."
>
> "Well, Sarah or Henriette," said Monseigneur, "here is a medal that you must always wear, and the next time I come here you must recite some poetry, 'Esther's Prayer,' for me."
>
> Monseigneur then kissed me, and this caused some jealousy.

Without delay the little actress set to work to study "Esther's Prayer;" but she had no opportunity of reciting it to the Archbishop, whose assassination was made known in the convent very shortly afterwards. "It was to me," she writes, "as though the murderer, Verger, had robbed me at the same time of my little share of glory." She began to cry, and when the prayers for the dead were recited she was carried away in a fainting fit. "From that time," she adds, "I was taken with an ardent love for mysticism, which was encouraged by our religious observances, the *mise-en-scene* of our services, and perhaps, too, by the fervent and cajoling approval of the women who were educating me." The artistic sense, in short, persuaded her that the career of a nun was the one she should prefer; just as, a little later the artistic sense impelled her to adopt a very different career, which was the one for which she was predestined.

LOSS OF THE "BOGATYR."

It is stated in Tokyo on good authority that the Russian cruiser *Bogatyr* has run on a rock near Vladivostock and become a wreck. The *Bogatyr* is a first-class cruiser of 6,500 tons. She emerged from the Stettin Works in 1901. Her speed is 23 knots, and she is a protected cruiser, a sister-ship of the *Varyag* and *Askold.*

According to a later telegram from London the Russian Admiral Essen has officially reported the loss of the *Bogatyr.* His despatch has been published in Paris. He is represented as saying that he feared the greater part of the crew had been lost. The Japanese conjecture that this accident occurred when the Vladivostock Squadron was on its way back after sinking the *Kinshu Maru* on the 25th of April. The basis of this conjecture is a statement made by United States' journals that the Tsar was much incensed on learning about the *Kinshu Maru* affair, and that His Majesty threatened to have Admiral Essen tried by court-martial. This intelligence seemed at the moment very perplexing, but if the loss of the *Bogatyr* was announced to the Tsar simultaneously with the sinking of the *Kinshu*, the inadequacy of the exchange may well have raised His Majesty's ire.

THE LIAOTISHAN DISASTER.

Of course there are all kinds of exaggerations. Doubtless St. Petersburg is now rejoicing at the intelligence that three or perhaps four Japanese line-of-battle ships have been sent to the bottom. Such wild stories are already current in Shanghai and Chefoo. But the Japanese have told the whole story and Russia must make the most of it. Her people were thrown into an ecstasy by the sinking of the *Kinshiu Maru*, and they have now genuine reason to triumph.

A notable feature of the affair is that 16 Russian destroyers made their appearance upon the scene. Destroyers, then, can emerge from Port Arthur. That, after all, is nothing extraordinary. Admiral Togo stated from the first that the blocking was not sufficient to defy the passage of torpedo-craft. Some doubts are now entertained, however, as to whether the Russians may not have succeeded in removing the obstructions, partially at any rate, by means of dynamite. There is talk of a German vessel from Kiaochow having entered the port, and of a Norwegian steamer having carried coal there.

The names of the officers who met their death in the sinking of the *Yoshino* and the *Hatsuse* have been published. In the case of the *Yoshino* they number 24, including Captain Saiki and Commander Hirowatari. In the case of the *Hatsuse* the number is 25, including Commander Tsukamoto, Commander Arimori and Commander Viscount Nirei.

M. PAVLOW.

M. Pavlow has had several conversations with a representative of the *Jiji Shimpo* in Shanghai, where the ex-Minister has rented a house for six months and taken up his residence. He is represented as saying that the Japanese shells did little or no damage on the occasion of the last bombardment, when he himself was an eye-witness, and that many of these projectiles failed to burst, which failures he attributes to the great range. The shells, in the latter part of their trajectory, moved with such slow velocity that they turned over, and thus, striking rear foremost, their fuzes did not act. In the matter of provisions, M. Pavlow alleges that Port Arthur has fully 3 months' supply, and that the Chinese residents are understood to be in possession of tons of eatables. Many Russian ladies, he adds, are still residing in the town, which item of intelligence is interpolated, we presume, to strengthen the impression that neither the bombardments of the Japanese on the sea side nor their approach on land has any terrors for the garrison.

The *Jiji's* correspondent premises that he gives these statements for what they may be worth, and we are bound to say, with all due deference, that their market value is not very high. M. Pavlow will have to work hard to recover any title to historical accuracy after his magnificent account of the Chemulpo affair; an account penned at Shanghai 12 days after the fight when all the details had become public property. No one forgets how he then depicted the *Asama* as put out of action by the *Varyag's* fire, one Japanese torpedo-boat sunk, the *Takachiho* so much injured that she went to the bottom a few hours later, and 80 Japanese killed and wounded sent home in a transport the next day. It would be very hard to beat that list of inventions, and it makes a record which M. Pavlow will have difficulty in living down.

THE PRISONERS AT PORT ARTHUR.

A Russian who left Port Arthur on the 14th is said to have stated (*Jiji Shimpo's* Chefoo correspondent) that a Japanese officer and two seamen, who had been taken prisoners on the occasion of the 3rd blocking operation, were summoned to the Flag-ship *Sevastopol.* There the officer wounded one of his escort and the seamen became violent. The seamen were killed and the officer wounded. We should like to know what kind of treatment drove the unfortunate men to such a course. No sane person can suppose that three Japanese prisoners, treated with even moderate consideration, would behave as this Russian alleges.

According to the same authority, there are 10 wounded Japanese, including 2 officers, and 14 unwounded, including one officer, at Port Arthur. He adds that when the Japanese dead were examined, many of them were found to have committed suicide, either by strangling themselves or with their swords.

The crew of the *Hanyei Maru* are all safe.

This Russian further alleges that the Dalny citizens were preparing to destroy their houses when General Stœssel restrained them by pointing out that the Japanese soldiers would not injure private property. Nevertheless all valuables have been placed in four large steamers which will be sunk at the supreme moment.

The garrison of Port Arthur places absolute reliance in Admiral Togo's reports.

VLADIVOSTOCK.

A Chinaman who recently arrived at Shanghai says that on the 12th and 13th instant five or six Japanese vessels approached Vladivostock and fired several shots at the forts and the harbour. We have no intelligence of this event from any other source, and had it really occurred Admiral Kamimura would scarcely have failed to report it.

The United States consul at Vladivostock is said to have reported officially that the Japanese prisoners taken on the occasion of the *Kinshu Maru*, namely, 26 officers and 184 men, have been most kindly treated by the Russians. On the 28th ult. they were sent from Vladivostock to Irkutsk. The military authorities warned the inhabitants to avoid any demonstration, but the warning seems to have been superfluous as there was no appearance whatever of a disposition to be offensive. The prisoners were well supplied with food and tobacco by the Russians. It is very satisfactory to be able to record things of this kind for unquestionably there is growing up in Japan a sentiment of burning indignation against the barbarous doings of some of the Russian soldiers. The Cossacks, who appear to be under no kind of restraint and whose normal tendency is to commit excesses of every kind, are doubtless the greatest sinners, but in the immediate context of the shocking mutilation of a Japanese soldier captured by the Russians at the Husan position on the Yalu, news comes—apparently authentic—that in several instances the Russians stabbed, shot and hacked the Japanese wounded as they lay groaning on the field at Hohmutang, and this dreadful record is supplemented by reckless strewing of mines in the fairways of the world's maritime commerce. The Japanese are not likely to be betrayed into inhuman reprisals but onlookers must view these phases of the combat with infinite loathing and regret.

DEATH OF MR. ALFRED B. GLOVER.

We learn with profound regret that Mr. Alfred B. Glover died at Hongkong on the 25th instant when *en route* for Europe. Mr. Glover had been in broken health for some time, and of late his condition inspired so much uneasiness that a trip to his native land was recommended by his medical advisers. But he did not live to see bonnie Scotland again, and it must now be a source of sad reflection to his closest friends that he expired at a distance from their loving ministrations. A very old resident of Japan, most of his career was spent in Nagasaki, where few men have ever won more universal popularity or better deserved to win it, for his was one of those rare natures which seem to have come guileless into the world and to have passed through it exercising everywhere good influences and suffering nothing from contact with life's darker experiences. We bid him a sorrowing farewell, and to his family, above all to his brother Mr. T. B. Glover, offer the assurance that his memory will long be cherished in many hearts.

THE "AKATSUKI."

It appears that the loss of life on the *Akatsuki* on the 20th instant at Port Arthur was 23, and that 5 of these died of their wounds. All the officers, 6 in number, have received a step of posthumous rank, and have been honoured with the Order of the Golden Kite.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

Some time ago a statistician of sporting proclivities made an interesting calculation of the odds in favour of or against a member of the 'Varsity boats' crews adopting a particular profession, and this is how it worked out: Among the Oxford men it is 11 to 8 on the Church, 5 to 2 against the Law, 10 to 1 against the Army, and 20 to 1 against Medicine; for Cambridge 5 to 4 on the Church, 11 to 8 against the Law, 33 to 1 against Medicine, and 33 to 1 against the Army. Thus it seems almost a certainty that each boat this year contained an embryo vicar or maybe a bishop *in posse*. It will be remembered that every member of the first Oxford crew took Holy Orders, while one became a bishop and two died deans; and of the rival crew Selwyn was to be Bishop of Lichfield and Merivale Dean of Ely. Of 151 men who rowed for Oxford in the first fifty years of the Boatrace, 108 went into the Church, 31 wooed the Law, 8 joined the Army, and 4 became doctors; and of 134 Cantabs during the same period 80 plumped for the Church, 50 for the Law, and only 2 chose the Army or Medicine. Bishop Awdry, of South Tokyo, is an old Blue, having rowed in the Oxford boat.

The report that "A Chinese Honeymoon" has already yielded £60,000 clear profit draws attention to the gold there is in a really successful play. Some years ago it was said that "Rip Van Winkle," in which Joseph Jefferson played the title-rôle no fewer than 5,000 times, earned the amazing sum of £1,000,000, and that for three successive seasons at the Boston Theatre it averaged £4,600 a week in gross returns. "The Old Homestead," another American favourite, is credited with earning £950,000 in twelve years; "Our Boys" ran for four years at an average profit of £400 a week; and Barrie's "Little Minister," it is said, has long passed the £100,000 mark in net profit. Even the authors' shares of the gold yielded by popular plays are on a regal scale. "Sweet Lavender" poured £40,000 into Mr. Pinero's pockets; Mr. G. R. Sims cleared as much as £15,000 in a single year from his "Harbour Lights"; while "Pygmalion and Galatea" contributed £50,000 to Mr. W. S. Gilbert's ample fortune and his profits from half a dozen operas have been estimated at £90,000.

The United States cruiser *California* was launched from the Union Iron Works, San Francisco on April 28. The local newspapers contain long accounts of the ceremony, but we have only space for the flowery introduction with which the San Francisco *Call* starts off its report:

> As willingly as a newly born babe nestles on the bosom of its mother the United States cruiser *California* glided yesterday into the waters of the bay. Fully 50,000 people watched her wed the rime of countless ages, her bow foaming with California champagne.
>
> A pretty girl, gowned in white and evidently embarrassed by the prominence that the occasion had forced upon her, told the ship in a clear voice, "I christen thee, *California*." Close to her breast she held a magnificent bunch of American Beauty roses. She was Miss Florence Mary Pardee, daughter of the Governor of California, and the fittest and sweetest little girl that ever sent a warship on its mission to destroy or be destroyed.
>
> Never into the salt sea has gone a vessel freighted with the responsibilities of the maintenance of a great republic and the hope of humanity so gladly as did the *California*. Only a whimper could be heard from the stout timbers that have held her so long from contact with the element she was born to; no steel plate on her vast sides failed to welcome their mission; not a rivet squirmed under the test. Compactly, unswervingly and without complaint she answered the prayers of her makers and went into the sea, voiced by every articulate note of encouragement that a representative American citizenship could devise.
>
> When she went down to the sea there were no useless words of speech in set language that is said to be the means of disguising one's thoughts. Prominent people in all walks of life thronged the launching platform, but they had no other expression than a throaty cheer and a proud swelling at their hearts that another stout ship had tasted the water and some day might be the means of proving that the United States is impregnably superior to any power, on land or in the vast of the ocean.

It has always seemed to us that the odium in which spies are held should be regarded as one of the unreasoning prejudices bequeathed to the world by tradition. Appian, we believe, was originally responsible for the enunciation of the principle that it is usual to kill spies, and Vattel lent the weight of his great authority to a ruling that capital punishment is essentially just in the case of a spy. Why should it be essentially just? The Brussels Conference of 1874 unintentionally reduced the matter to something very like an absurdity when it decided that military men penetrating within the zone of an enemy's army to collect information should not be considered as spies if it has been possible to recognise their military character. In other words, disguise is the essence of the perfidy. A man can not possibly be a successful spy if he wears uniform or carries any badge indicating his military character, yet only by so doing can he be secure against capital punishment as a spy. The matter is recalled by the epithet "insects" which a Russian General is reported to have recently applied to some Japanese habited as Chinese or Tartars. Now when an intelligence officer employs all his energy and acumen to discover the naval or military secrets of the country where he is serving, and when he transmits these secrets to an intelligence bureau in the home country, how does he differ from an ordinary spy? All intelligence officers do not consider it a part of their duty to push their investigations into matters which a State desires to hide, but some do, and truly their resemblance to spies is more theoretical than real. And when we go down to the bed-rock of the matter, why should not a man serve his country as a spy if his country has urgent need of his services in that capacity? The quality of patriotism should not be strained. If a man thinks and believes that he can save hundreds of his countrymen's lives and perhaps save the life of his country herself, by assuming a disguise to penetrate her enemy's secrets, and if he takes all the risks of doing so, we really fail to see why he should be execrated or called an "insect."

The terms of the new domestic loan have now been definitely settled, it is said; namely, interest at the rate of 5 per cent., issue price 92, period 7 years, and denominations of bonds 25 *yen*, 100 *yen*, 1,000 *yen* and 5,000 *yen*. The date of tender will be from the 10th to the 16th of June, and security to the extent of 2 per cent. must be lodged by applicants. The Bank of Japan and its branches will be the places to receive applications, and they may be put in prior to the 10th proximo, according to convenience. There is one point of difference between the present method and the former. On this occasion no attempt will be made to distribute the loan widely. The applications will be approved in the order of the rates offered, and so soon as the required sum of 100 millions has been covered, the transaction will be closed. With regard to the manner of paying up the subscription, the security money—2 per cent.—will be considered as the first installment, and from July to March the collection will be at the rate of 10 *yen* monthly.

In referring to the recent Religious Conference held to declare that the present war is entirely independent of religion or of race, we stated that the Greek Church was not represented. It appears that we were mistaken. Mr. K. Semema, Principal of the Theological School of the Greek Church in Tokyo, read a congratulatory paper which is said to have been very cordially received. While it seemed to us very regrettable that the Greek Church should stand aloof from such a demonstration, in view of that Church's connexion with the Russian State, we find it for the same reason not less remarkable and commendable that a representative of that Church in Japan should occupy a place on such a platform side by side with other religionists at a time like the present.

It appears that when the war broke out there were 19 Japanese subjects in Irkutsk. They made their way to Chitah, whence 31 of the former Japanese residents had departed, leaving 29. Thus Chitah had a Japanese community of 48. They asked the Russian Authorities to aid them in getting away, but their application proved fruitless. Finally they collected money to send a delegate to Berlin. There the Japanese Representative communicated with Mr. Takahira in Washington, and Mr. Takahira passed the matter on to the Foreign Office in Tokyo. Arrangements were finally made for the passage of the fugitives to Berlin, whence they proceeded to London and ultimately to Japan.

The will of the late Miss Frances Power Cobbe, the eminent humanitarian and anti-vivisectionist, contained an extraordinary clause. The deceased had a horror of being buried alive, and to obviate her premature interment she gave instructions that some time after death the doctor attending her should sever the arteries of the neck and windpipe, almost entirely removing the head. In default of this being done all the bequests were ordered to be revoked. A similar precaution was taken, some years ago, by Edmund Yates, the novelist, and proprietor of the London *World*, who directed that a fee of twenty guineas should be paid to a surgeon to sever the jugular vein before his remains were interred.

Miss Cobbe, like so many ladies who attained literary fame, was the daughter of an Irish landlord. Miss Edgeworth, it may be remembered was also the daughter of an Irish landlord; Lady Wilde and Mrs. Hungerford were the daughters of Irish Protestant clergymen; while Miss Emily Lawless is the daughter of an Irish peer. Miss Cobbe knew many famous men and women in her day, of whom her anecdotes were often entertaining. She used to tell, for example, how she met John Bright one day after the *Times* had published a false report of Lord John Russell's resignation, and of the amusing answer which he gave when asked what could be the explanation. "Delane," said Bright, "is angry that Lady John Russell has not asked him to dinner." John Stuart Mill was another of her good friends. There never was, she used to say, a more unassuming philosopher one more readily moved by an appeal to his emotions. One day when she spoke to him of immortality the quick blood suffused his cheeks, and something very like tears filled his eyes. This wonderful sensitiveness of one supposed to be “dry” struck her more than anything else about Mill. Miss Cobbe's death recalls to mind a *bon mot* of Darwin, told by the late Professor Huxley now more than twenty years ago. At that time the late Mr. R. H. Hutton, of the *Spectator*, had taken up the cudgels rather warmly against vivisection. “Who *is* this Mr. Hutton?” said Darwin, “he seems to be a kind of *female Miss Cobbe.*” Professor Huxley described this as the most beautiful double-barrelled “score” he ever remembered.

The other morning, at the foot of a tree in the Boulevard St. Mandé, near Vincennes (says the Paris correspondent of the *Globe*) a passer-by picked up a little school satchel, containing a pair of tiny ear-rings, a small ring, and a letter addressed to “M. le Commissaire de Police de Vincennes.” This official, on opening the letter, read as follows:—

> M. le Commissaire,—I have drowned myself because my mother did nothing else but beat me. And because she does not love me I have thrown myself into the water. I have lived long enough—twelve years and a half. Adieu, Mother. Perhaps my mother will come and identify me at the Morgue.—39, Rue de Paris, Vincennes.”

The writing and spelling were evidently those of a child, and the letter bore no signature, but at the address given the commissaire found a woman in despair at the loss of her little girl. The poor woman had not seen her daughter, named Juliette, aged twelve and a half, since the previous day. After a night spent in vain research, she had gone to the school where her girl was last seen and there she was told that Juliette had probably committed suicide. The Commissaire, having made certain inquiries among the comrades of the missing child learned the following story. On the previous Monday afternoon Juliette gathered half a dozen of her fellow-pupils round her and declared to them that she had had enough of life, and that she intended to put an end to her existence. She, therefore, wanted their assistance in drawing up a letter to the Commissaire de Police of Vincennes, informing him of her tragic resolution. After several attempts, in which Juliette was loyally seconded by her comrades, the letter referred to above was written by Juliette on a page torn from her copy book. When the school was dismissed the girl said good-bye to her little comrades, and handed over her books to one of them. But none of the conspirators said a word to their parents of the plot in which they had assisted. It was only the next morning. when one of the girls handed over the books of Juliette to her teacher, that questions were asked and an inquiry instituted. Whether the child really carried out her sinister resolution and drowned herself is at present unknown, but the lakes in the Bois de Vincennes and the canals in the neighbourhood are being dragged with the object of discovering the facts of this strange affair.

The death was announced at the end of April of Sir Henry Thompson, Bart., the eminent surgeon, aged 83 years. To the general public Sir Henry Thompson was best known by his works on diet, all of which had a large circulation, *Food and Feeding* going through 12 editions, and *Diet in Relation to Age and Activity* attaining no less that 18 editions. A theological work, *The Unknown God*, had also some vogue. By members of his profession Sir Henry Thompson was recognised as an authority, and as an operating surgeon he was most successful, In 1863 he performed a difficult operation on Leopold I., King of the Belgians. For his success in that undertaking he was appointed Surgeon Extraordinary to his Majesty, and on that King's death he was appointed to the same office with the present King. Dr. Thompson was knighted in 1867, and was created a baronet in 1899.

Two remarkable cricket records were established on April 9 in Victoria. W. Armstrong, playing for Melbourne against the University, made 438, of which he contributed 222 on the previous Saturday. The second record was that of 433 put on by Armstrong and Monfries for the fifth wicket. This stands against the world, and is the best partnership yet recorded in Australian cricket. Armstrong hit 46 fours and one fiver, and gave two difficult chances. Throughout he batted freely at the rate of a little over 1 a minute. Monfries played a good innings for 123 runs. At the close of the day's play Melbourne had scored 699 for the loss of eight wickets and the game was drawn.

The three famous medical experts, Dr. Hashimoto, Dr. Sato and Dr. Kikuchi, have been attached to the Head Quarters and will be in charge of the military hospitals in Tokyo, in Hiroshima and in Matsuyama respectively. They will have under their direction a staff of the very best surgeons the country can furnish.

It is reported from Peking that in consequence of recent attempts on the part of lawless individuals to injure the German railway in Shantung, the German Minister in Peking has demanded that permission be given to post German troops all along the line. It is thought improbable that the Chinese Government will be able to resist this demand. The Chinese Government never does seem able to resist any demand. Ordinary folks can not appreciate why the Peking statesmen should deliberately create for themselves in Shantung another Manchurian-railway question, but the Chinese will probably allow it to be created. They would be lonely, apparently, without something to remind them of their aggrieved condition.

A Board, consisting of officers responsible for the American coast defences, has been putting Mr. Simon Lake's submarine torpedo-boat through a series of exhaustive trials. The Holland boats at present in the American Navy are not suitable for coast defence, but the report of the Board on the Lake boat is so satisfactory that the purchase of five boats of this type has been recommended. The special points in connexion with the *Protector*, as the trial boat is called, are as follows: An air-lock separates the diving compartment from the crew space, and both are equipped with air and water-tight doors. The diving compartment contains a connexion to the low pressure air system, and is connected by telephone with the living space. A gauge registers the air pressure inside and the pressure of the water outside due to depth. At the bottom of the compartment is an iron door which may be opened outwards. When the door is to be opened the air-lock doors are closed, and compressed air is admitted until the guage shows that the pressure of the air and water are the same. The door can then be opened, and mines, cables, &c., can be dealt with as required. Thus the compartment provides for telephonic communication with the shore if the boat is being used as a picket, for destroying or repairing the cables of mines, and the crew can escape from the boat in case it comes to grief. The Board also reports very favourably on the fact that the boat can run under the surface by gasoline propulsion. The elements which are most likely to get out of order in most submarines are the storage battery and the electrical equipment which provide the motive power when the vessel is submerged. But in the Lake boat an automatic sighting valve in the top of the conning-tower admits air for the gasolines and excludes spray and water, so that the gasoline engines can run even when the boat is to that extent under water. She can therefore move much faster, and in many conditions of light and weather will be able to get within striking distance even if her electrical equipment be totally disabled. The Board considers that vessels of this type will be invaluable wherever swift tides, rough water, or width of channel prevent reliable mine defence.

The good seed sown by the Japanese in their Manchurian campaign of 1894-5 is bearing fruit now. Wherever the troops of the First and Second Armies make their appearance they are heartily welcomed by the people, who hasten to perform all kinds of services for them, even to the drawing of water for the horses of the cavalry and artillery. Japanese officers report that they find everything much easier than it was in Korea, where the inhabitants were too timid or too ill-disposed to offer aid or refrain from molestation. During the China-Japan War we were all familiar with the excellent reputation won by the Japanese in Manchuria, and with the fact that when the time for evacuation was approaching, potitions against that measure were addressed to the military and civil officials of Japan. During the past four years, on the contrary, the country has been over-run by Russian troops, and what that means need not be explained.

Field-Marshal Oyama, Chief of the Head Quarter Staff, has issued an instruction to the troops in the field. He reminds them that they are fighting a powerful enemy in a friendly country and that they have to pay the utmost deference to all the manners, customs and usages of the Chinese, reverencing the aged, treating women and children gently and courteously and observing all local regulations. The Field-Marshal cautions them that many of the interpreters used by the Russians are Koreans acting as spies, and urges the great importance of making quite clear to the people the reasons of the war. Against nothing does he warn them more stringently than against arbitrary requisitions under any pretense whatever.

From Haiching comes a statement that the Russians having required the Chihsien of Haiching to collect and furnish a large quantity of provisions for the troops, the Chihsien replied that to comply would be a manifest breach of neutrality. Thereupon the Russians seized him and sent him under arrest to Liaoyang. With much difficulty his release was effected, after the Peking Government had made several applications to M. Lessar. It is interesting to contrast there doings on the part of the Russians with their loudly uttered accusations of some apparent intention or disposition on China's side to depart from the route of strict neutrality. If she has kept her feet steadfast in that route, it is certainly not from want of provocation to leave it.

London telegrams allege that an explosion was the cause of the *Orel's* troubles, and of course the idea is that the Nihilists or Socialists had something to do with the affair. Considering that these people have openly declared themselves opposed to the war, and considering that many folks in Russia desire her to suffer reverses because they believe that by no other route save that of adversity can she develop the qualities making for real greatness, it certainly seems credible that the new battle-ship met with foul play.

The *Official Gazette* announces that Mr. Lera, hitherto Minister Resident of Mexico in Tokyo, has been raised to the rank of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, and has presented his credentials to the Emperor in his new capacity. The news will be welcome to Mr. Lera's many friends in Japan.

FROM THE FRONT.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Shanhaikwan, Sunday, 8th May, 10.30 p.m.

Word reached here to-night of the Japanese having landed at Kaiping, and cut off Port Arthur. Also they have landed 10,000 men at Pitzewo, and some more in Fuchau Bay, who have gone viâ Fuchau, cut the Railway and seized a Russian train. This force is marching north, and is within 70 miles of Newchwang. There are also 30 transports between Fuchau and Kaiping. Whether these contain mostly stores or more men to cooperate with those landed, is not known. It is expected men will be landed on this side of the Gulf, probably at Tien-chao-yang, for Kao-chiao, to seize the Railway. The Russians at Newchwang are making all preparations to evacuate the place, removing guns and stores to Liao-yang. The foreigners there are very uneasy as the Chinese are much excited, and it is feared there will be a reign of terror, riot and rapine during the interregnum, after the Russians retire before the Japanese land. Still it is hoped the Japanese will quickly send some gunboats up the river and protect life and property. There are no signs of the Chinese regulars moving up apparently. There are many ladies in Newchwang, several having gone back not long since, against the British Consul's advice, thinking all was quiet. Of course foreigners are armed, but they can't do much against a horde of Chinese and low foreigners.

The river at Newchwang is half a mile wide, the ebb-tide is very strong, and it sometimes takes 1 hour or more to get down to Yinkow station, so there is not much chance of getting away by rail. The Railway people have a train made up, and an engine under steam always, ready to come off at a moment's notice. But the query is whether the Russians will not cut the line; there are many bridges, which could easily be tampered with.

The Railway Administration have made arrangements with both Russian and Japanese that if either of them takes over the line, they will continue to work it for them; and the Railway people hope if the line is to be cut they will be allowed to do it themselves, in some simple way, and not have a bridge blown up. But if the Russians take the line, probably many Chinese employees will run off at once. We also get word, via Newchwang, that the victorious Japanese near the Yalu have gone over in the direction of Kuan-tien, to make a move from there on Liaoyang.

THE SONGS OF BERANGER.

The Alliance Francaise brought their season to a close on Wednesday afternoon with a réunion littéraire et musicale in the Vestibule of the Public Hall, which, despite the unpropitious weather, was very largely attended.

Mons. J. de Cuers de Cogolin, upon whose worthy shoulders has descended the presidential mantle so gracefully worn by the first occupant of the post, Mons. C. Pravieux, opened the proceedings with a most interestingly phrased lecture on "Les Chansons de Pierre Jean de Beranger," the song-writer *par excellence of la Belle France.* He told of the poet's birth on the 19th August, 1780, and remarked that like the English poet Milton it might almost be said that as a baby in the cradle "he lisped in numbers." His first songs were naturally infused with the feeling of the time and breathed of the revolution; and henceforth throughout his life Beranger supported the people as against the nobles, the priesthood, the Bourbons, or any others in authority whom he thought oppressors of the poor. In 1803 appeared the first volume of his collected songs, and it created some sensation, people outside the borders of France gaining through its means some idea of the poet whose writings were on the lips of every Frenchman. In all the changing scenes of French history in those opening years of the nineteenth century, Beranger kept in touch with the moods and fancies of popular opinion. Now he sang of the glories of Napoleon; anon he tuned his lyre to hymn the joys of peace and love; next he tilted at the priests; then he satirised the *noblesse* who, returning to France with the Bourbons, showed that like the Stuart Kings of England, exile had taught them nothing: they expected to re-enter their castles and estates with all their mediæval privileges and powers unimpaired, forgetting utterly that the Revolution had made a return to the *ancien regime* with all its grave abuses and local despotisms quite impossible. For these last satirical writings Beranger was thrown into prison. This happened twice, first on Dec. 8, 1821, and again on Dec. 10, 1828. But incarceration did not stifle his utterance. Indeed, some of his cleverest as well as some of his most touching songs were piped when he was a "jail-bird." His persecution by the authorities did not cease until 1830, when he refused the honours which the Government now wished to thrust upon him, likewise he spurned the money recompense offered. Eighteen years later he was elected a Deputy, but declined to sit in the Assembly. He was now growing old, but his pen continued active, though a tinge of sadness begins to steal over his compositions, especially in his love-lyrics. Indeed, in one song—(later in the evening charmingly sung by Madame Lacroix)—the poet says that "growing old, he is afraid that his songs will soon be forgotten," and he conjures "the best friends of his youth to recall those happy days of yore, so that they may not forget him." Death came on the 16th July, 1857.

Mons. de Cuers de Cogolin, who gave copious examples of Beranger's songs and lyrics, was assisted in his Conference by several ladies and gentlemen who sang the songs of the poet in illustration of the lecturer's remarks, thus giving the large audience an opportunity of following the development of Beranger and also of noting how he kept in touch with the spirit of French thought and aspiration throughout all the kaleidscopic changes of Consulate, Empire, Kingdom, Republic and Third Empire which occurred during the span of his productive life.

We append the programme, merely adding that this closing meeting of the Alliance Francaise was among the most charming and successful of any held during this season.

PROGRAMME.

des Chansons Lues ou Chantées au Cours de la Conférence.

"La Sainte Alliance des Peuples"............Lecture.
"Le Marquis de Carabas"...Chant..Madame Lacroix.
"Mes Jours Gras de 1820" ....Lecture.
"Les Prédictions de Nostradamus pour l'an 2000." Lecture.
"La Double Chasse".......Chant...Monsieur Cherfils.
"Le Petit Homme Gris"..Chant......Madame Irwine.
"Le Roi D'Ivetôt"..................................Lecture.
"Le Grenier" ....Chant...Monsieur Cherfils.
"Jeanne La Rousse"......Chant...Madame Lacroix.
"Les Oiseaux"..............Chant.....Madame Irwine.
"La Bonne Vieille"........Chant....Madame Lacroix.

Le piano sera tenu pour l'accompanement par
Madame Lacroix, Mademoiselle Leach, et
Madame Skrimshire.

GOTEMBA LEPER HOSPITAL.

We beg to acknowledge receipt of the following sums on behalf of the Gotemba Leper Hospital:—

	yen.
Already acknowledged	50
Le correspondent du "Petit Journal" (Paris) ...	5

THE NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

The following statement of the accounts were presented to the shareholders of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha at the general meeting 27th:—

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS.

Gentlemen:—The Directors submit to you the annexed Statement of the Liabilities and Assets of the Company, and Profit and Loss Account for the Half-Year, ended March 31st, 1904.

The Gross Profits of the Company for the past Half-Year amount to *yen* 2,882,169.146, out of which there has been paid:

	Yen.
Depreciation of the Company's fleet and property................................	741,589.960
Insurance Fund	225,042.260
Ships' Structural Repair Fund	446,299.010
	1,412,931.230

leaving a balance of *yen* 2,471,177.591, including *yen* 1,001,939.675 brought forward from the last Account.

The Directors now propose that *yen* 73,461.900 be added to the Reserve Fund, raising it to *yen* 1,987,515.656; and that *yen* 71,358.110 be allowed as Directors' and Auditors' fees. From the remainder the Directors recommend a Dividend at the rate of Ten per cent., together with Two per cent. as Special Dividend, thus making Twelve per cent., per annum, which will absorb *yen* 1,320,000.000.

The Balance, *yen* 1,006,357.581, will be carried forward to the next Account.

REMPEI KONDO,
Chairman.

Head Office, Tokyo, May 27th, 1904.

BALANCE SHEET, 31ST MARCH, 1904.

LIABILITIES.	Yen.
Share Capital..............................	22,000,000.000
Debentures.................................	1,000,000.000
Insurance Fund............................	2,468,657.632
Ships' Structural Repair Fund.........	2,468,028.769
Reserve Fund	1,914,053.756
Fund for the Extension of Services and Improvement of the Fleet......	3,500,000.000
Pension Fund for Employees	208,332.770
Sundry Creditors	4,126,271.239
Amount brought forward from last account	1,001,939.675
Net Profit for the Half-year............	1,469,237.916
	43,456,521.764

ASSETS.	
Reduced Book Value of Fleet.........	25,542,409.818
Reduced Book Value of Launches, Barges, &c..............................	185,428.911
Payment on account of new ships ...	756,729.390
Buildings and Land	3,665,403.014
Yangtse-Kiang Line account	1,531,528.150
Yokohamo Stores Department, &c...	1,116,804.016
Public Loans and other Securities ...	3,248,817.140
Cash at Bankers and in hand..........	3,928,876.641
Coal in Stock	280,773.751
Sundry Debtors............................	3,199,750.933
	43,456,521.764

PROFITS AND LOSS ACCUNT.

	Yen.
To Depreciation of fleet and property	741,589.690
To Insurance Fund	225,042.260
To Ships' Structural Repair Fund ...	446,299.010
To Reserve Fund	73,461.900
To Directors' and Auditors' fees	71,358.110
To Dividend (10 per cent.)	1,100,000.000
To Special Dividend (2 per cent.) ...	220,000.000
To Balance carried forward to next account	1,006,357.581
	3,884,108.821
By Balance brought forward 30th September, 1903	1,001,939.675
By Amount of Gross Profits for the Half-Year, ended 31st March, 1904.	2,882,169.146
	3,884,108.821

We have examined the above Accounts, with the Books and Vouchers of the Company, and find them to be correct.

TAKESHI ARISHIMA.
TOKUJIRO OHATA. } Auditors.
TATSUMI IIDA.

Tokyo, 27th May, 1904.

THE "HATSUSE" AND "YOSHINO."

MISFORTUNES never come singly. The period of extraordinary immunity from accidents enjoyed by the Japanese navy has been broken by four disasters, following in quick succession and involving the loss of a battle-ship, a cruiser, a despatch-boat and a torpedo-boat. None of these was lost in fair fight. The torpedo-boat and the despatch-boat met their fate while engaged in the dangerous operation of clearing away mines laid by the enemy. Such incidents find only a marginal place in the chapter of regular war. The cruiser *Yoshino*, again, met her fate under circumstances which had no direct connexion with fighting. She collided with another cruiser in a dense fog at a place far distant from the scene of belligerent operations. Such a misfortune might occur at any moment, and is always liable to occur in seas so subject to fogs as are the Pechili Gulf and the Yellow Sea from spring to summer. It is a piece of ill luck. That is all we can say. The extremely perplexing circumstances under which it occurred may be surmised from the fact that the *Kasuga* could not save more than 90 out of a complement of about 350 carried by the *Yoshino*. But the sinking of the *Hatsuse* is an affair of a different nature. It must be ranked distinctly as a Russian success; the first substantial success scored on the enemy's side. To minimize it, or to deny that it stands to the credit of the Russians would be unmanly. What can not be denied, however, is that the Port Arthur Squadron has taken a leaf out of Japan's book. It has done at Liautishan to the *Hatsuse* exactly what the Japanese did a month previously to the *Petropavlovsk* in the Port Arthur offing. Happily the loss of life in the case of the *Hatsuse* was not nearly so serious as in the case of the *Petropavlovsk*. That is something to be sincerely thankful for. But the Japanese will now have to recognise that the enemy is learning from them how to fight and that greater circumspection must be exercised. There is one other comment. The *Hatsuse* struck a mine at a point 10 nautical leagues from the Liautishan promontory. The distance from that promontory across the channel to the opposite coast is less than 70 miles. Was there any manner of security, is there any manner of security, that the steamers of neutral Powers lawfully navigating from north-Chinese ports towards more easterly waters may not find themselves at any moment shattered and sunk by these Russian engines of destruction? The matter resolves itself simply into this, that the Russians are laying mines in the fair-ways of the world's commerce. It is savage warfare; quite savage. That this most iniquitous war should have been brought about by the insatiable aggressions and flagrant arbitrariness of the Power responsible for the organization of the Hague Tribunal, was bad enough. But that the naval captains of the Power which raised before the tribunal questions about dum-dum bullets and which posed as the champion of civilized fighting, should now be laying mines in waters frequented by the ships of nations with which Russia is at friendly peace—this alone was wanting to intensify the line of the true Yellow Peril.

AN INTERVIEW WITH COUNT KATSURA.

I was recently favoured with an interview with Count Katsura. The conversation lasted for nearly two hours; and its subject was the so-called Yellow Peril. Since then I have submitted the following account of the interview to him, and have received his assurance that I understood him correctly. I have also the permission of Count Katsura to make the account public.

WILLIAM IMBRIE.

The friendship of the American people for Japan (said Count Katsura) has continued unbroken for fifty years; and its sympathy with the nation in the present crisis of its history is most grateful. These are things which Japan will not forget. I notice however occasionally, even in articles which express a cordial desire for the success of Japan in the war now in progress, a shade of solicitude regarding the future. There is a vague fear that perhaps after all Japan is not quite what she is said to be; and at least an apprehension, in case she should attain to a position of leadership in eastern Asia, that her influence might be exercised in ways injurious to the rightful interests of western nations and in particular to the extension of the Christian religion.

I am sure that if only the course of events be allowed to proceed without needless irritation, all such fears will prove to have been wholly unfounded; but I am equally sure, especially if Japan should continue to be successful, that Russia will leave no stone unturned to alienate the sympathy of the American people by impairing its confidence in the integrity of Japan. The power of insinuation is very subtle and may be very effective, especially when it is exercised ostensibly in the interest of matters of vital importance; and in this case I can easily see how the recent troubles in China can be made to furnish a plausible argument in proof of danger in the future. These half concealed endeavours on the part of Russia to prejudice the mind of the people of America against Japan therefore cause me some concern; especially because I am afraid that the awakening of real doubt as to the integrity of Japan may tend to create the very situation which is apprehended. But while I do feel concern, my confidence is greater than my concern. I cannot but believe that a fair presentation of the case will satisfy the American people that Japan has an answer to whatever her enemies may say against her.

The object of the present war, on the part of Japan, is the security of the empire and the permanent peace of the East. That such a war is necessary is plain. No one can look at the map and recall the course of Russia without seeing that that course is an imminent peril to Japan; and that the peril must be met without delay. No less clear is it that Russia is, and if allowed to be will continue to be, the great disturber of the peace of the East; and that there can be no permanent peace until she is put in bonds which she cannot break. Regarding this also there can be no delay. Therefore I say that the object of the war is the security of the empire and the permanent peace of the East. To this I may add that the situation is not a new one. The position of Japan is closely analogous to that of ancient Greece in her contest with Persia; a contest for the security of Greece and the permanent peace of Europe. Japan is Greece and Russia is Persia.

But while I say that the object of the war is the security of the empire and the permanent peace of the East, I say also and with equal emphasis, that the war is not a war for the supremacy of race over race or of religion over religion. With differences of race or religion it has nothing to do; and it is carried on in the interests of justice, humanity, and the commerce and civilization of the world. In saying this I am not speaking as an individual only; I am speaking as Prime Minister also; and more than that I am expressing the mind of His Majesty the Emperor. No doubt it may be said that such statements are to be regarded as deplomatic; and that diplomatic statements have the reputation of being inscrutable. That that is true of the statements of some I do not deny; but it is not true of the statements of all. It is not true of those of the Secretary of State of the United States; and there is no evidence that it is true of those of the Prime Minister of Japan.

Of course I cannot argue from facts that lie hidden in the future. That is impossible. But I can point to the past and the present; and the past and the present are an index of the future, just as truly in the case of a nation as of a man. To put the matter as it might be put I should have to go over the history of Japan from the time of the arrival of Commodore Perry; but I cannot do that at present, and must content myself with referring to only a few of many facts.

I do not think that any government in the world at the outbreak of war ever took such pains, as the Government of Japan has taken, to emphasize to all the duty of conducting the war in strict accordance with the principles of humanity and the usages of international law. Immediately upon the opening of hostilities, communications were sent to all the Governors of Prefectures, reminding them of their responsibilities and especially with regard to any Russians that might be residing within their jurisdiction. Under the authority of the Minister of Education, directions were issued by which all the students in the empire, from the young men in the higher institutions of learning down to the children in the Primary Schools, have been instructed as to the principles and duties to be observed. In addition to this, communications were sent to the recognized representatives of all the religious bodies in the country, Buddhists, Shintoists, and Christians alike; asking them to take pains to discountenance any wrong tendencies among the more ignorant of the people. Among the points emphasized by the Government are these: That the war is one between the State of Japan and the State of Russia; that it is not waged against individuals; that individuals of all nationalities, peacefully attending to their business, are to suffer no molestation or annoyance whatever; and the questions of religion do not enter into the war at all. There have been a few isolated cases in which persons have been treated with rudeness; but no serious harm has been done, and in some instances the aggrieved parties had not been quite so discreet as they might have been. So far as the conduct of the people generally is concerned, in this particular at least it will take rank with that of the people of any country in the world under similar circumstances. I do not wish to boast, but my own belief is that it would take the first prize.

The imputation is made that if Japan is successful in the present conflict, the day will come when to serve her own ends, she will not be above utilizing the anti-foreign spirit that is now lurking among the masses of China. The spirit that held the Legations in Peking in peril of life; that massacred hundreds of helpless foreigners and Chinese Christians; and that brought deep anxiety and sorrow to the whole world. I will not go into the history of the Boxer movement and the steps taken to suppress it; though if I did I could show that, for reasons that are now somewhat more evident than they then were, no other nation occupied so difficult a position as Japan. But no candid man can say that in all that trying time Japan was derelict in the performance of her duties; and no one has a right to insinuate that in the future she will be less broad-minded, less honourable, less humane, or less the friend of the civilization of the West, than she was when her army went to the relief of the foreigners besieged in Peking. Many think that in some respects it would be an advantage to Japan in the present war to have China for an ally. But those who are rightly informed know that from the very outset of the war and ever since, Japan has steadily endeavored to limit the field of operations and to preserve the neutrality of China. And one great reason for this has been precisely to avoid the danger, with all its terrible possibilities, or fanning into a flame the antiforeign spirit in China. When therefore Japan says, the permannent peace of the East, she does not mean the East in arms against the rightful interests of the West or the civilization of the world.

The argument against Japan is sometimes put in this form: Russia stands for Christianity and Japan stands for Buddhism.

The truth is that Japan stands for religious freedom. This is a principle embodied in her Constitution; and her practice is in accordance with that principle. In Japan a man may be a Buddhist, a Christian, or even a Jew, without suffering for it. This is so clear that no right-minded man acquainted with Japan would question it; but as there may be those in America who are not familiar with the facts, it will be well to enumerate some of them. And as in America the matter will naturally be regarded from the point of view of Christianity, I will confine myself to that point of view.

There are Christian churches in every large city, and in almost every town in Japan; and they all have complete freedom to teach and worship in accordance with their own convictions. These churches send out men to extend the influence of Christianity from one end of the country to the other; as freely as such a thing might be done in the United States, and without attracting much if any more attention. There are numerous Christian newspapers and magazines, which obtain their licences precisely as other newspapers and magazines; and as a matter of course. Christian schools, some of them conducted by foreigners and some by Japanese, are found everywhere; and recently an ordinance has been issued by the Department of Education, under which Christian schools of a certain grade are able to obtain all the privileges granted to government schools of the same grade. There are few things which are a better proof of the recognition of rights than the right to hold property. In many cases Associations composed of foreign missionaries permanently residing in Japan have been incorporated by the Department of Home Affairs. These Associations are allowed to "own and manage land, buildings, and other property; for the extension of Christianity, the carrying on of Christian education, and the performance of works of charity and benevolence." It should be added also that they are incorporated under the Article in the Civil Code which provides for the incorporation of Associations founded for "purposes beneficial to the public"; and as "their object is not to make a profit out of the conduct of their business," no taxes are levied on their incomes. Presbyterian, Congregational, Baptist, Episcopal, Methodist, and other American missionaries all have such Associations. In passing it may perhaps be worth while to ask the question, How far do the facts to be found in Russia correspond with all these facts now stated? The number of those professing Christianity in Japan I do not know; but it must be a large number, with a much larger number who are Christian in their affiliations. The Japanese Christians are not confined to any one rank or class. They are to be found among the members of the National Diet, the judges in the courts, the professors in the Universities, the editors of leading secular papers, and the officers of the army and navy. Christian literature has entrance into the military and naval hospitals; and a relatively large number of the trained nurses employed in them are Christian women. Recently arrangements have been made by which six American and British missionaries and six Japanese Christian ministers are to accompany the armies in Manchuria, in the capacity of spiritual advisers to the Christian soldiers. These are facts patent to all; and therefore I repeat what I have already said: That Japan stands for religious freedom. It is hardly necessary, I think, to point out that to abandon that principle, either now or in the future, would be to violate the Constitution, and would create deep dissatisfaction throughout all Japan. What then becomes of the argument that Russia stands for Christianity and Japan for Buddhism?

But sometimes the argument against Japan is stated in this way: There is a general idea that Japan holds in common with the West the great fundamental elements of the civilization of the West; but this is a very superficial view of the case. What in fact Japan has done, so the argument runs, has been to adopt certain products of the civilization of the West: The railroad, the telegraph, the post office, the system of banking, the battleship and the quick-firing gun. On the other hand, of those elements in the civilization of the West which the West regards as of the very highest importance Japan really knows but little, and for them she cares still less. The truth is that, underneath all, Japan stands for what may be described as the spirit of the East against the spirit of the West; and for this reason the sympathies of the West in the present war should be with Russia. It is worth while remembering also that battleships and quick-firing guns, without some other things, may some day make Japan a somewhat dangerous neighbour. That is the way the argument against Japan is sometimes put.

Now it is quite conceivable that a nation might accept certain of the products of the civilization of the West and at the same time value very lightly its characteristic principles. The newspaper, for example, is a product of the civilization of the West; and yet a nation might have its newspapers without having anything of the freedom of the press. But those who advance the argument again Japan which I am now considering overlook, or are ignorant of, facts which cannot be overlooked or ignored.

Japan is an old country with a history which it will always read with a proper pride; for the civilization of what we now call Old Japan was one of a high order, and comprised elements which New Japan has no desire to change. For reasons, which however I need not now give, during a long course of years Japan thought it wise to live an isolated life. Then came a period in her history, little understood by most foreigners, when great internal forces were actively at work bearing Japan on to a new era. It was during that period that Commodore Perry came to Japan; and no doubt his coming, and the manner of it, did much to give the movement of which I speaking direction; but it was not his coming that caused the movement. Then came the Restoration; and with the Restoration of the Emperor, the new era, the Era of Meiji (Enlightenment); and with the Era of Meiji, the Great Imperial Pledge that Japan should "Seek for knowledge throughout the whole world." Since then Japan has diligently sought knowledge; and the knowledge that she has gained she has made her own. The old tree still stands; but the new branches have been grafted into the tree, and now belong to the tree just as truly as the old branches which remain Nor is it true that Japan in her search for knowledge has found nothing but the railroad, the telegraph, and the battleship. What then are some of the elements of the civilization which Japan now holds, and will hold, in common with the West.

One of the essential elements of the civilization of the West is the education of the West. That Japan has accepted with all her heart. Students in Japan are taught precisely the same things that students in Europe and America are taught, excepting that little attention is paid to Latin or Greek. This education is given through a system beginning with the kindergarten and extending to highly specialized university courses. It is only for particular instruction that it is necessary for a student to go abroad. There is not a village in the empire without its Primary School; the towns are supplied with Secondary Schools; at convenient centres there are High Schools which may be compared with the smaller colleges in the United States; in Tokyo and Kyoto are the Universities; and besides these there are many Technical Schools. This is the system sustained by the Government. It may not be perfect; but Japan has searched and is searching the world over to find the best; and she is doing all in her power to solve a problem that presents many difficulties. In addition to the government system there are many private institutions; some of them of a high grade. Every child in Japan, unless exempt for specified reasons, is required to complete the Primary School course. Education is yeast; and the education of Japan is the education of the West.

Law, and the administration of law, and in particular the rights of the individual under law constitute, as any thoughtful man will admit, a dominant element in the civilization of the West. In speaking of the civilization of the West, it is hardly necessary for me to say that I am not thinking of the type which permits a man to be imprisoned or transported for life, with little or no process of law. Since the beginning of the Era of Meiji, Japan has entirely remodeled her laws, both criminal and civil. This was done after a most painstaking study of the laws of Europe and America, with the aid of foreign experts; and Japan has no reason to be ashamed either of her laws or of the administration of them, even when judged by the standards of the West. Japan also accepts her place among the nations of the West as bound by the principles of international law both in peace and in war; though she regards a judge, sitting in highest Court of Arbitration in the world, as exceeding his duties, when he introduces into his judgment uncalled for criticism of a nation in no way connected with the case under consideration.

But to mention only one thing more. Perhaps there is nothing more peculiarly characteristic of the civilization of the West than government under a Constitution; though there are nations which belong geographically to the West in which a Constitution is not regarded as advisable. Japan has a Constitution which provides for an Upper and a Lower House, through which the will of the people finds expression. In one particular also the Constitution of Japan has in the eyes of Japan a peculiar glory. It was not, as has been the case in many countries, the fruit of a long struggle between the nation and the Throne. It was the gift of the Emperor; freely given, gratefully received; a sacred treasure which both alike will guard with care.

Reference has already been made to the warning that Japan stands eagerly waiting to take the leadership of the East; and that if she does so, it will be in the spirit of the East against the West. Whether or not it is the destiny of Japan to be the leader of the East remains to be unfolded. But if ever that responsibility shall be hers, of one thing the world may be sure. She will not willingly retrace her own steps; and she will at least endeavour to persuade the East to do what she has done herself, and what she is trying to do more perfectly.

The object of the war then, on the part of Japan, is the security of the empire and the permanent peace of the East. It is carried on in the interests of justice, humanity, and the commerce and civilization of the world. With differences of race or religion it has nothing whatever to do. But the enemies of Japan say that this is not true; that the war is a war for the supremacy of race over race and religion over religion; and they talk of a Yellow Peril. In reply Japan asks for a fair hearing.

FIRES.

Fire broke out about twenty minutes past eight o'clock on Friday evening in the upper-rooms of a Chinese macaroni shop at 191, Yokohama. The flames were soon through the roof, but the Fire Brigades were not long in getting the outbreak under control.

On May 20th at 11 a.m. fire broke out at Numakunai, Iwate, near Morioka, destroyikg two hundred and fifty buildings including a police station and other public offices. The cause is believed to be sparks from a train which had passed the district. It may be remembered that on May 5th, 1902, fire broke out from a similar cause in the same town destroying over two hundred buildings. In that case the Nippon Railway Co. paid for the damage.

The Emperor and Empress were pleased on

May 24th to distribute *yen* 350 among the homeless people in Numa kunai, Iwate prefecture, where a big conflagration occurred on the 20th.

Two fires were reported on May 23rd in Aomori prefecture. One occurred at Yahatadate, Tsugaru, destroying twenty-three houses, and another at Tashiro, Nakatsugaru, burning down forty-eight buildings including the village office.

YACHTING.

Saturday's races were sailed in moist and fluky weather and it cannot be said that the proceedings were enjoyed by those who took active part in them or that they aroused any excitement among those who watched. There was very little wind when the 39 raters got off. *Mary* was first to cross the line, *Maid Marion* went over next and *Kingfisher* passed third. *Mary* held the lead practically all round the course and finished an easy first, *Kingfisher* returning after passing the Lightship outward. The official times were :—

		Finish.	Club time.	Corrected.
	Rating.	h.m.s.	m.s.	h.m.s.
Mary	38½	5.08.20	0.34	5.07.46
Kingfisher	39	gave up.	—	—
Maid Marion	36½	5.29.50	3.04	5.26.46

There was some question of a foul between *Mary* and *Maid Marion*, apart from which the first and two record points should go to *Mary*. In the event of that yacht being in the wrong *Maid Marion* takes the prize and points.

Six cruising yachts started to sail over the same course—round the Lightship and the Honmoku Buoy and back. *Nina* got across the line first, *Kathleen* next, immediately followed by *Daimyo*. The last mentioned yacht assumed the lead early in the race and held it to the close. *Asagao* gave up. Though *Daimyo* finished first, however, she took only two record points on club time, *Wanderer* winning first prize on handicap and *Nina* taking second prize and one record point. Times :—

	Finish.	Arb. Hand.	Corrected.
	h.m.s.	m.	h.m.s.
Wanderer	6.11.00	20	5.51.00
Nina	6.06.55	10	5.56.55
Daimyo	5.59.10	—	5.59.10
Asagao	gave up	25	——
Kathleen	6.27.15	25	6.02.15

The Mosquito Club 21 raters sailed over the Tsurumi, Lightship and Mandarin Bluff course. *Vixen* had the best of the start, *Chocho* going over next; *Winsome* and *Sunbeam* crossing together 10 seconds after the first boat, and *Pele* last. *Sunbeam* and *Pele* gave up but *Winsome* secured a lead and kept it to the finish, *Chocho* by a happy change of wind getting into second place and coming home close astern of *Winsome*. Times :—

	Finish.	Hand.	Corrected.
	h.m.s.	m s.	h.m.s.
Chocho	5.37.40	1.49	5.35.51
Pele	gave up	—	—
Vixen	5.43.45	0.54	5 42.51
Winsome	5.37.20	—	5.37.20
Sunbeam	gave up	—	—

Chocho thus wins first prize, *Winsome* second, and *Vixen* third.

Eight "Larks" started to sail round the Lightship and back, but five gave up, leaving three to get home in the following order :—

	h.m.s.
No. 11 (Mr. Mason)	5.27.59
No. 1 (Mr. O. T. Gillon)	5.31.47
No. 5 (Mr. C. H. Abbey)	5.35.07

THE NIPPON RACE CLUB.

The Off Day's racing on Saturday did not evoke much enthusiasm, the weather not being propitious and the racing mostly uninteresting. The ten starters in the second race got off badly—the worst start of the meeting. The third race brought out two horses only, both from the same stable, and the match between Fra Diavolo and the untrained China pony was, apparently, simply a joke. There was only a small attendance. Following are the events :—

RACE 1.—DISTANCE ¾ MILE.

THE "SUMA CUP," value *yen* 100, presented by Mr. K. MORI, with *yen* 50, for the winner, and *yen* 50 for Second, added by the Club. FOR AUSTRALIAN SUBSCRIPTION HORSES OF AUTUMN 1903 AND SPRING 1904 that have started at the Meeting and not won a race. Handicap.

Mr. Graal's Elsa, 135lb.................(Mr. Dietrich) 1
Mr. B. Runge's Tarantella, 140lb.............(Kano) 2
Mr. R. Loonen's La Friponne, 150lb...(Kurosaka) 3
Mr. Norfolk's Primrose, 157lb...(Count Wolffskeel) 0

Tarantella had a little the best of the start, but La Friponne drew ahead getting to the half mile post, Tarantella being a length behind, and Elsa in third position a length behind the second horse. Reaching the Trees the three horses were racing close together, but coming into the Straight Elsa took the lead, and won a good race by three lengths from Tarantella, La Friponne a good third. Time, 1.26¼. Winner paid *yen* 23.00

RACE 2.—DISTANCE ¾ MILE.

THE "SCHERZ SAYONARA" CUP, (presented)—The Cup to go to the rider, with *yen* 100, for the winner, and *yen* 50, for Second, added by the Club. FOR ALL CHINA PONIES that have started at the meeting. Weight as per Scale with 10 lbs. added. To be ridden by full Members of the Club, or Visitors (approved of by the Committee) who have never won a race on the flat in the East.

Mr. K. Ikeda's Mark, 160lb.......(Mr. Nimmerfall) 1
Mr. Graal's Fluechtling, 160lb...(Count Wolffskeel) 2
Mr. May's May-moth, 157lb. ....(Mr. Hughes) 3
No. 127 Mess' C.O.D., 164lb..........(Mr. McClure) 0
Mr. Twoman's The Leader, 154lb.
(Mr. Werckmeister) 0
Mr. Graal's Attila, 163lb. ....(Mr. Pors) 0
Mr. Graal's Parcival, 157lb. .....(Count Metternich) 0
Mr. Graal's Fra Diavolo, 171lb. ......(Mr. Lefeber) 0
Mr. Yodo's Yakumo, 165lb. ....(Mr. Irwine) [illegible]
Mr. R. Loonen's Gladiateur, 163lb.
(Mr. von Hessenthal) 0

A very bad start and Mark secured the lead, two or three ponies being left right behind. Mark, May-moth and Fluechtling were running close together reaching the Trees, but in the straight the latter came into second position, and finally Mark won by a length from Fluechtling, May-moth a good third. Time, 1.42⅕. Winner paid yen 17.00.

RACE 3.—DISTANCE 1 MILE.

THE "HITACHI" CUP, value *yen* 100, presented by Mr. N. KAWAKITA, with *yen* 50, for the winner, and *yen* 50, for Second added by the Club. FOR ALL AUSTRALIAN SUBSCRIPTION HORSES (except Subscription Horses of Autumn 1903 and Spring 1904) that have started at the Meeting and not won a race. Handicap.

Mr. R. Loonen's Rose de France, 150lb.(Kurosaka) 1
Mr. R. Loonen's Capricieuse, 140lb. ....(Okamoto) 2

Two starters from the same stable, and the race had little interest, there being no Pari Mutuel. The two horses ran round the Course close together, Rose de France winning by a couple of lengths. Time, 1.55.

RACE 4.—DISTANCE 1 MILE.

THE "ADONIS" CUP, presented by Mr. G. WERCKMEISTER. The Cup to go to the rider, with *yen* 100 for the winner, and *yen* 50 for Second added by the Club. FOR SUBSCRIPTION CHINA PONIES OF 1904 that have started at the Meeting and not won a race. Weight as per Scale with 10 lbs. added. To be ridden by full Members of the Club or Visitors (approved of by the Committee) who have never won a race on the flat in the East.

Mr. Norfolk's Pit-a-Pat, 160lb. (Count Wolffskeel) 1
Mr. May's Mayor, 160lb................(Mr. Hughes) 2
Mr. R. Loonen's Gaulois II, 154lb.
Mr. von Hessenthal) 3

Mayor was most favoured for this event, but Pit-a-Pat led all the way round. At the half mile post there was but two lengths separating the three ponies. Then Pit-a-Pat got away and in the Straight was five lengths ahead of Mayor, Gaulois II being about seven lengths behind the second pony. Pit-a-Pat won by about ten lengths from Mayor, Gaulois II a bad third. Time, 2 20⅒. Winner paid yen 15.

RACE 5.—DISTANCE 1 MILE.

THE "CARNATION" CUP, value *yen* 200, presented by Mr. G. BARCLAY, to the winner, with *yen* 50, added by the Club to the Second Horse. FOR AUSTRALIAN SUBSCRIPTION HORSES OF 1904 that have started at the Meeting and not won a race. Handicap.

Mr. Sphinx's Chouchou, 140lb. ....(Sugiura) 1
Mr. Alexander's Juno, 145lb. ....(Sugiyama) 2
Mr. B. Runge's Tarantella, 150lb....(Mr. Dietrich) 3
Mr. J. T. Hamilton's Daisy, 131lb. ....(Horikoshi) 0

Juno was a strong favourite. The four starters got away well together and Juno was in the lead in the dip, where Daisy bolted to the rails. Chouchou then came up and ran neck and neck with Juno to the half mile post, with Tarantella a length behind the second horse. At the Trees Chouchou was leading by a length, and finally won by about five lengths from Juno, Tarantella a bad third. Time, 2.00⅕. Winner paid yen 51.50.

RACE 6.—FRA DIAVOLO V. CHINA SUBSCRIPTION No. II. DISTANCE ½ MILE.

Fra Diavolo, 155lb. ....(Mr. von Hessenthal) 1
China Subscription No. II, 155lb. ...(Mr. Hughes) 2

This was something of a farce, Fra Diavolo winning by nearly a furlong.

RACE 7.—DISTANCE ½ MILE.

Coquette, 180lb...........................(Mr. Loonen) 1
Floy, 169lb. ....(Mr. Lefeber) 2
Peter, 165lb.....................................(Mr. Pors) 3
Peggy, 151lb. ....(Count Metternich) 0

In this race Coquette had to start three lengths' behind the other horses. The race was won by Coquette, held in, Floy second, and Peter third.

THE P.M. STEAMER "MONGOLIA."

The Pacific Mail steamer *Mongolia*, 14,500 tons, which arrived in Yokohama on Tuesday evening on her maiden trip to the Far East, is a magnificent vessel in every respect. Built originally for the Atlantic trade she was acquired when nearly finished by the Pacific Mail Steamship Company for their rapidly developing Oriental service, and there can be little doubt that she will soon become one of the most popular boats on the run. The following figures are taken from her log on her first voyage out from San Francisco :—

Left San Francisco ......May	7th 7 p.m.		
	8th	274 knots.	
	9th	343 "	
	10th	364 "	
	11th	364 "	
	12th	375 "	
Arrived Honolulu 11.27 a.m.	13th	364 "	2085 knots.
Left Honolulu 10.43 a.m.	14th	22 "	
	15th	364 "	
	16th	365 "	
	17th	365 "	
	19th	360 "	
	20th	375 "	
	21st	370 "	
	22nd	370 "	
	23rd	348 "	
	24th	367 "	
Arrived Yoko'ma 6.30 p.m.	24th	81 "	3387 knots

Total distance.........5472 "

Average speed, 14.84 knots per hour.
Passage, San Francisco to Honolulu—
5 days, 20 hours, 48 min.
Passage, Honolulu to Yokohama—
9 days, 11 hours, 57 min.
Running time ....15 " 8 " 45 "
Total time, San Francisco to Yokohama—
16 days, 8 hours, 1 min.

FLORENCE CRITTENTEN RESCUE HOME.

The formal opening and dedication of the Florence Crittenten Rescue Home at 356 Okubo on May 14th, despite the inclemency of the weather, was quite a success. Four hundred guests came, and listened with interest to the excellent programme; Mrs. Honda, wife of the President of Aoyama Gakuin, presided at the morning session; Rev. G. Fukuda, Rev. H. Kozaki, and Dr. Oltmans, of Meiji Gakuin, each had a part in the dedicatory services. Mrs. K. Yajima, of Joshi Gakuin, Bancho, gave the history of our efforts in rescue work for the past nine years; showing encouraging results. Mrs. J. K. McCauley; (the superintendent of the Home) reported the building completed, and the old building put in repair. The amount paid was *yen* 5,277.10, and a small balance was in the treasury, sufficient to meet a few bills not yet in. At the noon hour, a lunch was on sale, contributed by those interested in this worthy charity; also a bazaar was held; and articles contributed were sold. The sale and lunch realized *yen* 132.45 which goes to sustain the Jiaikan. In the afternoon, Dr. K. Ibuka, of the Meiji Gakuin presided; Hon. S. Shimada, Rev.

N. Tamura, and Dr. J. Soper, gave instructive and carefully prepared addresses. The music was no small part of the programme, choruses from the Azabu, Aoyama and Bancho Girls Schools, as well as Miss Hayashi, (the sweet singer from Ferris Jo-Gakko) delighted the audience. Mr. Miyashi, the Biwa gospel evangelist, with biwa and violin helped to make the programme very interesting and a famous sword fencer finished the afternoon. The committee wish to thank all who contributed in any way toward the building fund sustentation, and the refreshments.—*Communicated.*

LITERARY GOSSIP.

The Graphic is worthily maintaining its traditions in the matter of illustrating current events in general and the Japan-Russian war in particular. The number for April 16 contains many photographs and sketchs from both sides, and among the pictures is a photograph of the war-correspondents who spent such a long time in Tokyo ere getting their permits for the front. The two-page supplement "The Graphic Guide to the Seat of War" is excellent and should be mounted on stiff card at once by every one fortunate enough to possess it.

The mother of Mr. Thomas Hardy, the novelist, has just died at the age of ninety-one. She died in the thatched cottage which she occupied all her life on the heath at Bockhampton, near Dorchester, and in which also Thomas Hardy was born. Thence he used to trudge daily to the national school at Dorchester, and later to his work at an architect's office in the same town.

A Sheffield vicar is appealing in his parish magazine for a "good substantial" pulpit cushion. "If you thump an oak desk very hard it hurts," he says. Pulpit cushions serve on occasion other purposes than to protect the knuckles of the preacher. There was one of crimson velvet padded six inches thick at Beresford Chapel, Walworth, which Ruskin attended in his boyhood. It is probably there still—the chapel is just as it is described in "Præterita." The pulpit cushion had gold tassels at the corners, and it was "a great resource to me," wrote Ruskin, "when I was tired of the sermon, because I liked watching the rich colour of the folds and creases that came in it when the clergyman thumped it."

The new letters of Carlyle which Mr. John Lane has just published are naturally full of good things for the lover of Carlyle as well as for those who decline to take the Sage of Chelsea at the extravagant estimate of his worshippers. They throw no new light on Carlyle, but do show him as exercising an acrimonious wit at the expense of his contemporaries. Take this miniature portrait of Macaulay in 1851:—

> We have had Macaulay for two days; he was a real acquisition while he lasted, and gave rise to much good talk, besides an immense quantity of indifferent, which he himself executed. A man of truly wonderful historical memory which he has tried in really extensive reading, and has always lying ready, with this or the other fact date or anecdote on demand: in other resperts, constantly definable as the subject of commonplace; not one of whose ideas has the least tincture of greatness or originality or any kind of superior merit except neatness of expression: valde mediocris homo.

Here, again, is a rather ill-natured description of Thackeray as he seemed to Carlyle in 1852:—

> There is a great deal of talent in him, a great dea of sensibility—irritability, sensuality, vanity without limit—and nothing, or little, but sentimentalism and play actorism to guide it all with: not a good or well-found ship in such waters on such a voyage.

Tennyson fares no better at the hands of this too candid and callous observer. Thus, in 1865, the poor poet is pictured as having "a dilapidated kind of look," though his talk was "cheerful of tone." Again, in 1873, he is described as "good-natured, almost kind; but rather dull to me! He looks healthy yet, and hopeful; a stout man of 60—with only one deep wrinkle, crow wrinkle just under the cheek bones." Then, in 1873, dining at John Forster's—

> Tennyson was distinctly rather wearisome; nothing coming from him that did not smack of utter indolence, what one might almost call torpid sleepiness and stupor; all still enlivened, however, by the tone of boylike naiveté and total want of malice except against his "Quarterly" and other unfavourable reviewers.

A collection of the perverse things which great writers have said about one another or about the great works of their predecessors or contemporaries would indeed make curious reading. Johnson, it will be remembered, threw off many of them; Fielding was a "barren rascal," and Gray a "dull fellow." Gray reciprocated. Byron's attack on the Scotch reviewers is will remembered. Goethe said to a young Italian apropos Dante's great work that the "Inferno" was abominable, the "Purgatoro" dubious, and the "Paradiso" tiresome. These and such-like, whose name is legion, belong to the "amenities" of literature.

In addition to his books, Mr. Julian Russell Sturgis, whose death is announced in his fifty-fifth year, wrote the libretti for several operas, of which doubtless the best-remembered is that for the late Sir A. Sullivan's "Ivanhoe." The opera was intended to inaugurate that reign of English works at what is now the Palace Theatre which was of so brief duration. Mr. Sturgis also furnished the "book" for Goring Thomas's "Nadeshda," and for Sir C. Stanford's "Much Ado About Nothing," produced at Covent Garden a season or two ago. Born in America, Mr. Sturgis was brought to England when a child, and was educated at Eton and Oxford. He became a British subject, and was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple.

From the Army Order signed by Sir E. Ward, which has just been issued, it is evident that "The Army Journal of the British Empire" is to be carried on in a thoroughly businesslike manner. It is promised that special articles by eminent civilians will be published from time to time, in addition to those contributed from officers and soldiers from all parts of the Empire, which should form the staple of contributions. It is explained that the journal is intended to deal with subjects of a professional and scientific nature, to encourage the study of military science and history, to circulate information on military matters, and to promote as far as possible a knowledge of the principles of Imperial defence among all ranks and all arms of the military forces of the Crown.

A special literature connected with railway travel has been growing up in England of late years, and one of the most interesting and informing volumes is that just written by Mr. G. P. Neele, and published by McCorquodale and Co. The book contains notes and reminiscences of half a century's progress of railway working, for Mr. Neele began his career with the Eastern Counties Railway at Ely in 1847, and rose to be Railway Superintendent on the London and North-Western. The accounts of the working of the train in those years seem almost incredible nowadays. For example, Mr. Neele says that the guards of branch trains had a rough time of it. The brakes of the trains were worked from the roofs of the carriages, the guards riding outside in an unprotected seat at the end of the vehicle, and applying the brake by turning a hand-screw. As a young man Mr. Neele once travelled from Wymondham to Dereham with the guard. At the end of the train were two of the vehicles with outside seats for the guard. They were so arranged that the seats faced one another. The guard, as an old stager, sat in the one which enabled him to turn his back to the engine, while Mr. Neele, the novice, sat opposite, facing him. The dust, smoke, steam, and smother which filled his eyes, ears, and nose during that short journey, were sufficient to put a stop to any wish for further experience in that direction. In those days, when there were but few railways, people used to drive to the nearest station, and there have their carriages put on trucks. They then travelled in their own carriages, which, on more than one occasion, were set on fire by sparks from the engine, but Queen Victoria seems to have preferred to use a railway carriage from the first.

In the charming article written by Lady Ribblesdale in last month's *Nineteenth Century*, she gives us a delightful glimpse of life at Hawarden, with its easy-going, irresponsible kind of hospitality, exemplified by the empty place laid regularly for Mr. Drew, who never came. At first, she remarks, the hiatus depressed her, but after a little she grew reconciled to the fact. A story was told of Lord Tennyson, which reminded one of the younger sister who said she was glad to be married, for now she would never be helped to the wing of a chicken or sit backwards in a carriage. Lord Tennyson, it seems, became a gourmet with advancing years, and, lunching once with Professor Max Müller, remarked of the meal—a roast chicken and cutlets—that it was one you would get at any wayside hotel. He was carefully given the liver wing of the chicken, and then gave vent to the curious saying that "the liver wing is the only privilege a Poet Laureate gets."

The Royal Literary Fund, which is not so prosperous as Viscount Goschen would like to see it, is an institution which has gradually grown from small things to great. An old pamphlet describes how it had its origin in a club that used to meet in the Prince of Wales's Coffee House, Conduit-street. We there read:—

> "During the summer recess of the year 1788 an event took place which tarnished the character of English opulence and humanity, and afflicted the votaries of knowledge. Floyer Sydenham, the well-known translator of Plato, one of the most useful, if not of the most competent, Greek scholars of his age, a man revered for his knowledge, and beloved for the candour of his temper and the gentleness of his manner, died in consequence of having been arrested and detained for a debt to a victualler who, for a time, furnished his frugal dinner."

Hearing of this sad case the club organised the fund, which held its first meeting for the election of officers on May 18th, 1790. The donations of those days were naturally small. We hear of a gift of five guineas to "a widow with a family of four young children unprovided for," and the largest of all the gifts was only twenty guineas awarded to a Doctor of Laws.

The old building once known as the Saracen's Head Inn, in Glasgow, is doomed to demolition, and it should recall (writes Mr. James A. Kilpatrick, author of "Literary Landmarks of Glasgow") many literary reminiscences, for it was visited at various times by Thomas Gray, Johnson, Boswell, Adam Smith, Edmund Burke, Wordsworth and his sister, and Coleridge, and was, besides, a favourite haunt with the local celebrities of Glasgow—notably Carrick, Motherwell, and Henderson, the three genial contributors to the anecdotage of "The Laird of Logan." For many years it was also a haunt of the magistrates, and there was one hospitable apartment popularly known as the Magistrates' Room; the Lords of Session used always to put up at the Saracen's Head when on circuit, and the celebrated sporting Duke of Hamilton used it as his headquarters when there was any good cock-fighting in the district. It was a great posting establishment in the coaching days. Its punch-bowl was known far and wide. It had a capacity of about five gallons, was inscribed with the city arms, and on great festive occasions was carried into the dining-hall by the landlord shoulder high, and placed before the Chairman with great ceremony. There can scarce be any doubt that it was at the Saracen's Head that Gray first met the brothers Foulis, the great Glasgow printers, and arranged about their beautiful edition of his poems including "The Elegy"; Johnson and Boswell spent a couple of merry nights under its roof in October 1773, on their return from the Hebrides; Adam Smith, Edmund Burke, and Alexander Carlyle of Inveresk (better known as "Jupiter" Carlyle) knew the flavour of its punch and its claret, which were in great favour with the professors; and Dorothy Wordsworth describes in her "Journal" (August 22, 1803 how glad her brother, Coleridge, and she were to find themseves out of the coach and established in the "quiet little back parlour" of the Saracen's Head. Oddly enough, Burns never visited this famous hostelry, favouring the old Black Bull, which—greatly altered into a luxurious drapery warehouse—still stands at the corner of Argyle-street and Virginia-street. From this inn Burns wrote one of his remarkable letters to Clarinda, in which occurs the passage: "The hour that you are not in my thoughts—'be that hour darkness!'" &c.

THE LAW COURTS.

"THE BOBRIK."

The examination with regard to the Russian sailing vessel *Bobrik*, which was captured on Feb. 17th at Hakodate by the Japanese warships *Takao*, and as to which its owners the Kamtchatka Commerce lodged a petition in the Yokosuka Prize Court for her release, having been concluded, judgment was delivered on May 18th deciding that she is a prize of Japan.

The gist of the decision is that she did not leave the port within the time stated by the Imperial ordinance regarding the capture of merchant ships, and that there is no question of the status of the vessel.

It may be remarked that the *Bobrik* has been in Hakodate since Oct. 19th, 1903.

THE "KOTIK."

In the same Court, judgment was given on May 18th as to the Russian steamer *Kotik*, captured on Feb. 10th at Yokohama by the Japanese warship *Amagi*.

The purport of the decision is that the *Kotik* was not employed for mercantile purposes, but was engaged in watching secret fishing off Kamtchatka, and in transporting Russian fishermen and stores needed by them, which duties are authorized by the Russian government.

It may be remarked that the *Kotik* was in Yokohama since December 25th last and also belonged to the Kamtchatka Commerce and Industry Company.

CLAIM ON THE H. & S. BANK.

The hearing of the case lodged by Mr. Dhunamal Chillaram, an Indian merchant, against the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, claiming *yen* 300, was resumed on May 24th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno.

Plaintiff's counsel repeated his statement given at the previous hearing and added that the bank received by telegram five thousand *yen* from its Hongkong branch to be paid to plaintiff, on Dec. 14th last but delayed sending notice of its receipt to plaintiff until the 29th of the same month, so that the latter failed to ship some *habutae* silk ordered by his Hongkong customer on the due date. Consequently plaintiff lost the commission on the transaction.

Defendants' counsel held that on Dec. 14th the bank received a telegram from its Hongkong branch which message said, "pay five hundred *yen* to Dhanamal." but not to D-h-u, which are the first letters of the name of plaintiff Dhunamal Chillaram. Defendants could not find any such gentleman as Dhanamal in Yokohama. If the telegram had said "Dhanamal Challaram" the Bank would perhaps have recognized the similarity to the name of plaintiff. Further, Yokohama was often visited by tourists any one of whose names might be mixed up with that of plaintiff, so that the bank awaited an enquiry till Dec. 28th when plaintiff inquired about the telegraphic remittance. The delay of the bank in giving notice to plaintiff of the receipt of the money could not be regarded as negligence.

Plaintiff's counsel insisted that this was not the first time a telegraphed draft had been sent through the bank to plaintiff; such business had been done by the parties five or six times. Evidently the previous telegraphic remittance had been read as "Dhanamal," using "a" instead of "u" and the transaction had gone through without trouble.

The parties thereupon introduced their evidences after which the case was adjourned till June 9th at 10 a.m.

HAIM v. BRETSCHNEITER.

This case came up again on May 24th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno.

Mr. O. Koch and a Japanese, T. Hayashi, were examined as witnesses.

Mr. O. Koch stated that he paid a visit at the end of October to the office of Mr. Bretschneider when the former introduced a gentleman, but witness did not remember the man's name. Mr. Bretschneider and the gentleman seemed to have been engaged in business probably on account of porcelain. But the witness did not pay particular attention as the transaction as it had no connection with him.

J. Hayashi, having been shown two samples of porcelain cups, stated that these were similar in quality and pattern and that he could not say which was inferior.

Counsel having discussed the commercial usage of Yokohama, the case was adjourned again.

T. AKASHI v. CORNES & CO.

The hearing of this case, in which plaintiff claims *yen* 750 and interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum from March 1st until the execution of judgment, for alleged losses on a worsted woollen issue transaction came up on May 26th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno.

Plaintiff's counsel stated that his client made a contract on Dec. 3rd, 1900, with defendants for the purchase of 10 cases of worsted woollen cloths each case to contain 12 pieces, and each piece to be 24 inches wide and 30 yards long, at the price of 20 pence per yard. The goods were to arrive in March, 1900, and were to be delivered within 60 days after arrival. On Feb. 17th, 1901, defendants' firm gave notice to plaintiff of the arrival of the staple and subsequently the latter inspected the merchandise when he found that the quality and colouring were different from the sample. Consequently plaintiff refused to take delivery of the goods and requested Messrs Cornes & Co. to supply the cloth stipulated for in the contract. The foreign firm failed to do so within due time so that plaintiff lodged a claim in the Yokohama District Court assessing his damage at *yen* 750, which was the net commission that ought to have been made on the business. In the first Court, judgment was given in favour of plaintiff and also in the Tokyo Appeal Court. Since then the final judgment was confirmed and in the time reserved for making further appeal defendants' firm took no further step, neither did they pay the amount claimed by plaintiff.

Defendants' counsel, having admitted that a portion of the staple differed from the sample provided for in the contract, and that judgment had been rendered in favour of plaintiff in the previous case in the first and higher Courts, contended that the contract was null and avoid because one clause reads:—"If the goods fail to arrive after due time, the parties shall understand that this contract is cancelled." Now it was understood that the goods did not arrive within due time and that the contract was consequently cancelled under mutual agreement.

Counsel disputed the meaning of this clause of the contract, after which the Court declared that it would give an interlocutory judgment on May 28th.

AMERICAN TOPICS.

All the high power electric lighting wires in Washington, D. C., are being placed underground, and later on it is intended to put all other overhead wires in conduits also. It is expected that in a few years the national capital will be an absolutely wireless city, so far as the surface is concerned.

A New York gamin recently haled before the Juvenile Court for theft put in the novel plea that it was not wrong "to swipe bananas from a Dago." The principle which this youth set forth in justification of his act is, however, the same as that enunciated by the strong nation which despoils the weak and pleads that "might [illegible] right."

Canadian Indians are increasing in numbers, according to the latest census statistics. Births exceeded deaths in 1903 by 168 out of 102,233 Indians reported. Dnring the same year the Indians received $1,094,492 from the sale of farm produce, $990,765 from hunting and fishing, $576,310 from minor industries, and $1,278,394 in wages.

Dr. R. V. Pierce, President of the World's Dispensary Medical Association, has begun suit against the proprietors of the *Ladies' Home Journal*, of Philadelphia, for $200,000. In a recent article, the *Journal* charged that Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription contained 17 per cent. of alcohol and certain drugs that made the medicine dangerous.

A new cognomen has been added to the already wearisome list of nicknames applied to American cities. Detroit is now the "Pill City." It is said that 70 per cent. of the pill product of the United States is manufactured in that city. It has several large drug manufacturing houses, and, in fact, does a larger business in that line than any other place in the United States.

The folly of indulging in fads in exercise is shown by the experience of Hobart Chatfield-Taylor, the wealthy Chicagoan. He is living in Paris, where he read of some crank reducing his weight by skipping the rope 1000 times. Taylor's weight had increased from 160 to 210 pounds, so he jumped to the conclusion that rope-skipping was what he needed. Without preliminary training he skipped 1000 times, and now he is recovering from nervous prostration.

Attorney-General Knox has decided to start an investigation against the paper trust to determine if it is violating the Sherman Anti-Trust law. Mr. Knox recently received a delegation of newspaper publishers, consisting of Don Seitz of the *New York World*, John Norris of the *New York Times* and a representative of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, who gave him an outline of evidence, which they claim to possess, showing that the paper manufacturers exist as a combination in restraint of trade.

Prices considerably above the average were paid for George Washington's papers during the sale of the late Bishop Hurst's library. Washington's copy of his "Official Letters Written to Congress," brought $2810. Nine other books bearing Washington's autograph were sold. The highest priced item was a copy of Gibbon's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," London, 1783, in six volumes, for $1626. The entire set brought only $21 at a sale of Washington's books held in Philadelphia in 1876.

A report of the United States Geological Survey on the anthracite production in 1903 notes the increase in the small sizes of coal during 1903 over those of previous years. This is especially noteworthy on account of the opinion generally expressed at the close of the anthracite strike, that bituminous coal had largely supplanted anthracite for steam purposes, and would continue to hold this trade to the exclusion of the small sizes of the latter product. On the contrary, however, the consumption of these smaller sizes of coal increased 2,468,694 tons in 1903 over 1901.

Mr. Franklin Allen, Secretary of the Silk Association of America, denies that the silk mills are now running to only 60 per cent. of their capacity, and he asserts that all the silk manufacturers are working full time. While there is undoubted activity in the silk industry at present for fancy goods, it nevertheless remains true that buyers for the fall season have not yet made up their minds as to what will be possible, because styles of new weaves are being shown to them regarding which they are undecided. Despite the backward season in the demand for plain goods, every intelligent observer is of the opinion that the present conditon is favourable for silk goods, in the United States.

A final accounting has been made before a Surrogate at White Plains of the estate of Bradford B. McGregor, son of Ambrose McGregor of Cleveland, one of the Standard Oil Company's founders. The estate amounts to $12,000,000, of which between $3,000,000 and $4,000,000 in personal property. The balance is in Ohio and Florida real estate. By the wills of her son and her husband, the widow of Ambrose McGregor and mother of Bradford McGregor inherits the entire estate, except a dower to her daughter-in-law, which, with her own voluntary bequest, amounts to $2,000,000. Bradford was married on his deathbed to Miss Clara Schemmer of New York.

John Kendrick Bangs, the humorist, and Miss Mary Blakney Gray were married in New York on April 27th. Miss Daisy King was the maid of honour and John K. Bangs Jr. acted as best man for his father. John Kendrick Bangs is best known for his "Idiot" series of humorous writings. He was born in 1862 and began his literary career when a student in Columbia University. After his graduation he became an assistant editor of *Life*, and in 1883 joined the editorial staff of Harper & Brothers. In 1900 he was appointed editor of *Harper's Weekly*. He resigned this position and later became editor of the *Metropolitan* magazine. Bangs is the author of twenty-eight books. He lost his first wife about a year ago.

Daniel F. Kellogg, in the New York *Sun*, says; "It should never be forgotten that there has been going on in America at a pace as rapid as at any time during the period, a gold inflation in values. It produced a speculative orgy for a time, from whose effects we are still suffering; but the great stream of gold still continues to flow. In the seven years previous to the first day of the present month, as is shown by the Treasury figures, the circulation in the country has increased by $847,000,000, of which $650,000,000 has been in gold. This is an increase that is very much larger, proportionately, than the increase in population, and when the meaning of the fact is understood that three-quarters of the increase has been in gold, the matter assumes enormous importance from the viewpoint of the security market. It is a force sleeplessly and with power greater than can be described or imagined making for higher prices of everything having a variable value.

The story of the session of Congress just ended says *Bradstreets*, would not be complete without some reference to the appropriations. These have been, without question, large. Mr. Hemenway, the Chairman of the House Committee in charge of the matter, says that though the appropriations are large, our national government is the most economically administered of any in the civilized world. The total appropriations made during the session amounted to $781,574,629. Of this sum $26,801,843 was to pay deficiencies for prior fiscal years and $56,500,000 was set aside for application to the sinking fund. Deducting these amounts, we get a total for the expenses of the Government for the fiscal year of $6,000,000 below the estimated revenues for the period. But Mr. Hemenway says that if ordinary experience repeats itself, the expenditures will be about 5 per cent. less than the appropriations, in which event he looks for a surplus of $40,000,000. As regards the relative cost of government, he presents a table showing the per capita expenditures of leading nations which puts the United States in the lowest place with a cost of $7.97 per inhabitant.

That women really enjoy a scrimmage with each other, when no men are by to see that they are not living up to their blue-china reputation for tenderness, is beyond doubt. Witness the bargain rushes when women make an onslaught on a counter of shirtwaists! Are any of the virtues, the gentleness, the tenderness, the sympathy for the week and needy for which woman is so justly famed, exhibited on such occasions to women older, feebler, poorer and more in need of bargains than herself? Nay, verily! "It is a brutal struggle to get the best," says *Everybody's Magazine*, "in which the feeble are trampled under foot, gowns are torn and hats smashed; a struggle in which women of stature and grip do not hesitate to snatch a bargain out of the hands of another woman and bear it off in triumph. In the peculiar creed of ethics that governs woman's conduct toward her sister-woman, it is considered perfectly legitimate to covet your neighbour's garments, or her cook, and to get them away from her if you can."

The religious census committee of the Massachusetts Sunday-school association began in November last year an effort to ascertain the church preference of the people of Boston and the results are just published by the Massachusetts bureau of statistics. Slightly over 40 per cent of the population of the city, namely 241,651 persons, indicated a preference. Of these the Roman Catholics were most numerous in every ward except two. They had in all 109,400. Next come the Baptists, counting 20,625; the Congregationalists almost as many, 20,319; of Protestant Episcopalians there were 17,698; of Methodists there were 14,013. The next in size of the religious bodies were the Jews, who numbered 11,399. After these came 9,157 Unitarians. Of Lutherans there were 4.437; of Universalists 4,118; of Presbyterians 4,108. No other body counted a thousand members. It may be interesting to note that the much talked-of Christian Scientists, when they stood up to be counted, numbered only 931.—*Churchman.*

"According to a Pittsburg telebhone manager," says *Telephony*, "the telephone was put to a novel and unusual use in Washington county recently, enabling two boys, sons of farmers, to hold their positions in their classes in the public schools from which they will graduate in another year. Incidentally, the patience and long-suffering of the country school-teacher was put to an admirable test. Smallpox broke out in the neighborhood in question, and the two scholars were among the early victims. The home was quarantined, and there was every indication that the instruction which they had been receiving would be cut off for an indefinite period. But the teacher was resourceful and willing. He called up the stricken home one evening and proposed that the boys study their lessons as usual, and he would hear them over the telephone. The idea was eagerly received. Each evening they took down the receiver, and the teacher, located several farms away, heard them recite. Neither suffered to an appreciable degree through their absence from school, and their chances for graduation are just as bright as before the disease entered their home."

It were well if every college, as a public institution, made a full statement of its financial affairs each year, says *Leslie's Weekly*. Harvard College does make such a statement. It is interesting to know some of the forms of the investment of the funds of our oldest university. Railroad stocks and railroad bonds represent a favourite investment. A hundred thousand dollars in the Chicago and Alton 4 per cent. collateral notes; $100,000 in the Chicago Northwestern Railroad general mortgage 3½ per cents. of 1897; $200,000 of the Louisville and Jeffersonville Bridge Company first mortgage fours of 1904; $100,000 of New York Central and Hudson River Railroad 3½s. of 1898, and $100,000 of Schenectady Railway first mortgage 4½s. of 1901 are entries found in a single column. A score of the great steam railways of the country are represented in the list of securities. Many street railroads, too, as those of New York, Minneapolis and Massachusetts electric companies, are found in the list. The notes also of great manufacturing companies, such as the Manchester Cotton Mills and the Merrimac Manufacturing Company, are a favourite form of investment. Manufacturing and telephone stocks and real estate trust stocks are not absent. Real estate, too, for purposes of investment makes an impressive presentation—it amounts to a value approaching $3,000,000. The pieces are located in Boston. In parts in which land is valuable, and at the present time is increasing in value.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Silver bullion valued at $310,000 from Shanghai was delivered on May 24th at Moji.

During ten days ended May 20th, Mexican silver coins amounting to *yen* 1,484,900 were imported at Moji.

Mr. Yoshida, secretary of the Japanese legation at Vienna, arrived on May 19th at Kobe by the steamer *Sachsen*. He left by the 3 p.m. train for Tokyo.

A telegram from Nagasaki reports that a British steamer arrived there on May 19th with 6,500 tons of Cardiff coal.

The property, Lot No. 270, Bluff, was sold on Monday at public auction by Mr. Jno. W. Hall, and realized the sum of *yen* 7,700.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha held a general meeting on May 27th when an interim dividend for last half year was declared at the rate of 6 per cent.

K. Mikami (25), who murdered a wealthy woman, in Honjo, Tokyo, on March 5th last has been sentenced to death by the Tokyo District Court.

Ninety-two Russian officers and men captured in the fighting at Kumutan arrived on May 25th at Idzuharu by the transport *Kanagawa Maru* on their way to Matsuyama.

Japanese gold coins amounting to *yen* 3,350,000 and U. S. gold equalling *yen* 13,640 were exported on May 24th by the steamer *Coptic* to San Francisco.

A telegram from Chicago received on the night of May 22nd in Kobe, says new tea from Yokohama has been quoted at from 25 to 28 cents. The market was dull.

Lieut.-Commander Honda, commander of the steamer *Totomi Maru*, which was sunk at Port Arthur at the time of the third blocking operation, arrived on May 19th at Tokyo from Sasebo.

Two samples of new raw silk from the Fujisawa and Hodosawa factories were put on the Yokohama market on May 23rd. They were manufactured from cocoons produced in Idzu. The quality was fine.

The clothes and personal articles belonging to the soldiers who died in the fighting at Kiulientien were brought on May 25th by a transport to Moji. These souvenirs are to be sent to the families of the dead.

The Italian Minister at Tokyo, says the *Official Gazette*, on May 17th, informed the Japanese Foreign Office that Lieut. Bargagli, attaché of the Italian squadron on the Asiatic station, had been appointed naval attache to the Legation.

Mr. J. M. Somers of the Stanley Opera Co., charged with murder, was tried before the Chief Justice at Singapore on the 6th inst., and convicted "of a rash act not amounting to murder, resulting in death," and sentenced to nine months' simple imprisonment.

Miss McCaul and party arrived on the evening of May 23rd at Osaka, and proceeded to the Osaka Hotel. The following day the party were to pay a visit to the barracks of the Fourth Division and some military hospitals.

Says Major-General Floug, Quartermaster-general of the Russian Army, at the close of a telegram, dated May 13th:—"Some Japanese ships are hiding from our squadron on the Korean coast in the bay of Pallada." Well, well!

According to a Gratz newspaper, the Japanese Military *Attaché* in Vienna is negotiating with Prince Odescalchi, acting on behalf of the Prateli Syndicate, formerly the Austro-American Steamship Company, for charter or purchase of nearly the whole of the Syndicate's fleet for the transport of Hungarian horses to Japan.

Mr. H. H. D. Peirce, Assistant Secretary of State of the United States, was in Shanghai at last reports. Mr. Peirce is detailed for the duty of visiting the U. S. Consulates in different parts of the world, bringing them into a line of common action. He is now returning from a tour which extended as far as Cairo, took in India, and will embrace the China and Japan Consulates.

The rain on Saturday prevented the carrying out of the intention to open the cricket season of the Y.C. & A.C. in the afternoon by a match between the Captain's XI. and the Secretary's XI. Judging from the new material at the disposal of the Captain of Cricket, and the return of several old players, a good season should be anticipated, though the war, we imagine, will prevent any Naval matches from being arranged. The Baseball season may begin on the afternoon of Decoration Day, May 30.

Says the *Spectator*:—The journals, both at home and abroad, attribute much of the success of the Anglo-French negotiations to the King, possibly with justice; but we think it would be wiser to adhere to the old rule that as the King is not to be blamed for political mistakes, so he should not be praised for political successes. His Majesty is protected as well [illegible] concealed by the screen of the Constitution.

In connexion with the grounding of the German steamer *Quarta*, chartered by the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, further details are given by the *Jiji*. It seems she stranded in the afternoon of May 24th off Kurushima, Iyo province, on her way to Formosa. More or less damage was done to her bottom and a portion of her cargo was damaged. The passengers and cargo were removed to the steamer *Daphne*, which arrived from Kobe under instructions from the charterers.

The spring boat races of the Yokohama Commercial School were held on Sunday (May 22nd) off the Bund, Yokohama. Eighteen races were brought off, after which a junk fitted up to resemble a war ship and flying the Russian naval flag, was destroyed by gun-powder. In the events numbered 13 and and 15 the office staff of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, the Specie Bank and seven other banks participated. The weather was very fine with hardly any wind and nothing interfered to mar the afternoon's enjoyment. Music was supplied by a band and the affair was watched by many spectators, both foreign and Japanese.

THE British fleet, with Admiral Sir Gerard H. U. Noel in command, arrived outside Woosung from Hongkong on the 16th. Some of the ships will proceed up river as far as Nanking to make a friendly demonstration. The Admiral came to Woosung on the flagship *Glory*, transferring thence to the dispatch-vessel *Alacrity*, which went up river and moored at the Senior Naval Buoy. The fleet outside Woosung consists of the *Glory*, *Albion*, *Centurion*, *Ocean* and *Vengeance* (battleships), and *Amphitrite*, *Cressy*, and *Sirius* (cruisers). It is reported that permission has been given to the fleet to go into summer quarters at Weihaiwei.

According to a circumstantial dispatch printed by the *Stampa*, of Turin, from its correspondent at Shanghai, who gathered it in quarters favourable to Russia, the early naval successes of the Japanese have all been obtained by the treachery of Admiral Alexieff's valet—a Japanese in whom the Viceroy had complete confidence. This man, it is stated, succeeded in purloining not only a detailed plan of Port Arthur, but also a copy of the plan of mobilisation and of the Admiral's private telegraphic code. Provided with these documents, the Japanese were able to take their measures with full knowledge of the enemy's dispositions!

General Sir Frederick Maurice, in the *Nineteenth Century*, disposes of "Russia's Charge against Japan" by reference to his own volume, *Hostilities without Declaration of War*, compiled at the instant of Sir Archibald Alison, the head of the Intelligence Department in 1882. His conclusion is that the divergent action of different States is simply a question of opportunity. Maritime States have greater facilities for sudden strokes, and so since 1700 "Britain struck thirty of these blows, France thirty-six, Russia seven (not reckoning her habitual practice towards Turkey and other bordering Asiatic States, including China), Prussia seven, Austria twelve, the United States five."

The following extract from the *N.-C. Daily News* gives some idea of the speculative spirit of Shanghai:—The following statistics with reference to the pari-mutuel and cash sweeps during the three days' racing are of interest. On the first day 2,914 chances were taken in the pari-mutuel for a win, and 5,230 for places. On the second day, 2,807 investments were made for a win, and 6,105 for places. On the third day, 2,982 chances were taken for [illegible] win, and 7,112 for places. The total amounts in dollars which passed through the two pari-mutuels and the cash sweeps are as follow:—

	For Win.	For Places.	Cash Sweeps.
First Day	$14,570	$26,150	$12,660
Second Day ...	$14,035	$30,525	$14,385
Third Day......	$14,910	$35,360	$29,665
Totals	$43,515	$92,235	$56,710

Grand total ....$192,460.

A somewhat remarkable procession took place on the afternoon of May 26th, wending its way through the former Settlement and Japanese town of Yokohama. The procession consisted of several wagons carrying 860 bags (30,000 *kin*) of hominy donated to the Army and Navy of Japan by the American Hominy Company, Indianapolis, Indiana. The food-stuff arrived by the last Tacoma mail at Yokohama, and the Kondo-Shoka, customs brokers, who attended to the landing of it, thought it advisible to parade it through the town before sending it to the railway station. The procession was headed by a band and attracted a good deal of attention.

Japanese Consuls abroad send the following telegrams under date of May 21st.

New York.—No change has occurred since the previous report in the markets for raw silk, *habutae*, and matting. Business in new tea has opened, quotations being 25 or 26 cents on the average. The cotton market, which revived during the week ended May 21st has weakened again as demands were filled. Closing price on the 21st was:—12.61 cents for May delivery, 12.80 cents for June delivery, and 13.15 cents for present delivery. The stock was 475,590 bales.

Lyons.—The raw silk market is in the same state as during the previous week. Sericulture in France is expected to be good this year and the price for new cocoons is believed to be low.

Bombay.—The cotton market is very steady owing to pressure of demand by the spinning factories. The stock is estimated at 451,847 bales.

FROM THE BASQUE.

She came across the hills as a morning vapour dim,
That knows the sun is waiting to merge her in his splendour,
Her voice I heard afar, and its cadence was a hymn
That beat the bars of Dawn aside, and oped a lattice tender,
Where shone her nearing Presence, a vision framed in light
That grew about her footsteps and clothed her with Delight.

She neared the rock-cut stairway, and the sun had caught her tresses,
Her joyous song poured me-ward as a stream that sights the sea,
My wide arms opened for her—as a penitent confesses
She found her Home of homes and nestled close to me:
"Did you miss me, Manuelo? Was the night, without me, long?
Did you watch me coming, sweetheart—did you hear my bridal song?"

G. H. R. D.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ENGLISH-JAPANESE DICTIONARY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Will you kindly permit me space to make a few remarks relative to the Third Edition of the "English-Japanese Dictionary" just published by Messrs Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.

I have carefully examined the book and am convinced that it is by far the most useful and practical work on the Japanese language that has been published for many years.

The new Dictionary is one which every student of the colloquial should possess, and I unhesitatingly recommend it as quite indispensable to foreigners desirous of acquiring a correct knowledge of the Japanese language.

Realizing (as perhaps only few are able to realise) the immense amount of patient research and work involved in the compilation, I heartily congratulate Messrs. Hobart-Hampden and Parlett upon the successful conclusion of their labours, which certainly should earn for them the lasting gratitude of the foreign community.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

J. E. DE BECKER.

Yokohama, May 25th, 1904.

THE UNION JACK CLUB.

(TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL.")

SIR,—I have received a letter from Major Haggard, Hon. Sec. of the "Union Jack" Club, acknowledging the receipt of cheque for £102.13.2 for the Tokyo-Yokohama Room.

Major Haggard on behalf of the Committee of the Club begs me to let the different contributors know how much their generosity is appreciated. The grateful thanks of the Committee are also due to all those who took part in the Theatricals and thereby helped to realize so large a sum. The Committee hope that the room may be used not only by British but also by Japanese sailors when they visit London.

I am Sir, yours very faithfully,

CLAUDE M. MACDONALD.

British Legation, Tokyo,
May 25th, 1904.

MARQUIS ITO ON THE SITUATION.

The following is an authorized precis of a speech delivered by Marquis Ito at a recent meeting of leading bankers in Tokyo:—

Though holding no direct official relations with you, I have nevertheless been requested by the responsible authorities to lay before you my opinions in regard to the present juncture of our national history.

During the diplomatic negotiations which preceded the crisis, I entertained till the last moment a sincere hope that it might be possible to avoid war, without prejudice to the prestige and the interests of our country. I regret that my hopes and desires could not be realized.

Japan was obliged to take up arms, first, in self-defence and for the sake of self-preservation, and secondly for the maintenance of the principle of fair play and equal opportunity for all and of due respect for the territorial sovereignty of other nations.

As to the probable consequences of the war, I am endeavouring to collect from various sources sufficient data for forming a precise judgment, but unfortunately in spite of my best efforts, I have not yet been able to arrive at any definite conclusion, and I am afraid that everybody else is in precisely the same situation as myself.

At any rate, in order to attain ultimate success in the war, it is evident that there must be hearty and harmonious cooperation between the authorities charged with political powers, the men who are bravely defending the honour of our flag, and you, gentlemen, of the wealthier class of the nation, on whom falls the duty of supplying them with the sinews of war. It is, therefore, my earnest hope that you will not grudge your whole-hearted support to those in power, for thereby you will enable our armed forces at the front to carry on the war with undivided energy and freedom from all care and anxiety on the score of financial provision.

Turning now, to the outside world, it is to be observed that fortunately we enjoy in this war the hearty sympathy of a large section of the civilized public. The causes of this are various.

The first and greatest of these causes undoubtedly lies in the character of the fundamental policy which His Imperial Majesty adopted once for all at the time of the Restoration.

Some forty years ago when I visited Europe for the first time, nobody, except a few initiated, knew anything whatever about Japan, but to-day she is rivetting the attention of the whole civilized world.

That we have made such immense strides in so short a period of time is entirely due to the fact that at the time of the Restoration it was decided to make enlightened progress the end and basis of the nation's policy and, to the fact that the nation has never wavered in its aspiration to attain the object thus wisely set before it.

That the Restoration should have been combined with the opening of the country and the adoption of a policy of enlightened progress was a surprise to all. This great and decisive step is due of course to the keen foresight of the enlightened Sovereign and of the statesmen who surrounded and advised him at the time. No inconsiderable amount of credit, however, must in this respect be given to patriots and *savants* like Hayashi Shihei, Watanabe Kwasan, Takano Choei, Sakuma Shozan and others.

As a result of the Imperial decision to adopt Western enlightenment, on the one hand the elite of the younger generation were sent to receive education in Europe and America, and experts were invited here to educate our youth. In short we have striven hard to introduce Western institutions and culture and to supplement thereby what was wanting in our ancient systems.

That celebrated measure, the abolition of feudalism and its replacement by communal governments on the basis of modern Rechts Staat, which is only one out of the many innovatoins introduced under the new régime, was in one respect a political measure, but in another respect it was a great and radical social revolution which destroyed to its very foundation the class system of the old world.

The result of this revolutionary measure was to place Japanese subjects of all classes, high and low, on a footing of absolute equality before the law, to give them freedom of marriage, of abode, of profession, of speech and press, and other liberties, to grant them the right to be appointed to public office in accordance with their qualifications, and above all to foster in each and all of them the spirit of self-sacrifice for the sake of the common weal.

On the other hand, increasingly closer intercourse with Western nations naturally led to the permeation of Western ideas amongst our people, widening their sphere of vision and inspiring them with ambition to compete and co-operate with the civilized world for the higher ideals of humanity.

The brave men now so willingly sacrificing their lives for the sake of their fatherland, and risking their all in defence of the flag and honour of the nation, amidst the attention and applause of the civilized world—these brave and honourable men are products of the great social revolution have mentioned, the gift and outcome of the wise Imperial policy adopted at the Restoration. And you, gentlemen, are assembled here to deliberate on the best way of providing the means, so as to enable them, as it were, always to look forward and to fight with the consciousness that everything behind them goes on smoothly and needs no anxious attention on their part.

Another cause of the sympathy we are enjoying at present lies in the spirit of moderation and conciliation which had never failed to characterize the policy of our Government in its intercourse with other countries. Japan while always endeavouring to have her legitimate claims duly recognized and respected by other civilized nations has, at the same time, never once attempted to oppose the legitimate rights and claims which they in turn advanced.

But whatever the cause, that we enjoy the sympathy of the civilized world is a powerful asset in our favour, especially at a moment like the present when we are engaged in the greatest struggle our history has ever known. Our nationals must duly weigh the importance of this moral support and assistance, and do their best to be worthy of the spontaneous confidence reposed in them. In this respect, I attach special importance to the attitude of men of education and wealth like yourselves towards the civilized world outside, and to our country's firm resolve to sacrifice everything in order to lead the war to a successful issue.

In conclusion, I would invite your attention on one other point. There are in this world many who without possessing requisite resources themselves, are always prone to obstruct the enterprise of others more happily situated than they in regard to intellectual or economical capacities. Such is not the course I would advise my countrymen to take. Firmly resolved as she is to enforce the due recognition of her legitimate claims, Japan should also be satisfied with what is her due and with her proper mission, and must never for a moment waver in frank and broad-minded recognition of the legitimate claims and interests of other nations.

There is nothing new in what I have here said. But it is a frank expression of what I sincerely feel, and I shall be very happy if my views may have in any way helped you in connection with the solution of the problem before you.

HIOGO AND OSAKA GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

THE WAR TAXES.

An extraordinary general meeting of the above Chamber was held at the Offices of the Chamber, No. 26, Naniwa Machi, on Monday afternoon, to discuss the advisability of the Members taking joint action and coming to some decision as to what should be done in the matter of the additional taxes that have recently been imposed by the Japanese Authorities. We take the following report from the *Kobe Herald*.

Mr. Bardens, President of the Chamber, was in the chair, supported by Mr. de la Camp, Vice President, Mr. Buschel and Mr. Town (Committee men) and Mr. Dimock, Secretary, Amongst those present were Messrs. E. W. Noël, H. Clement, G. Weil, H. V. Henson, C. Roux, W. S. Taylor, Alex. Cameron, H. Marshall, W. W. Campbell, and A. W. Crombie.

The notice convening the meeting having been read by the Secretary.

The Chairman said a requisition for the meeting had been sent in by a number of the members of the Chamber to discuss the advisability of joint action in reference to the additional taxes. It seemed to be the general opinion that the taxes should not be paid.

Mr. Weil thought that foreigners should refuse to pay the additional taxes except under protest.

Mr. Matt. Smith considered the taxes should not be paid at all.

After some discussion it was moved by Mr. Noel, and seconded by Mr. Stucken,

"That the Committee of this Chamber be asked to address a letter to the Corps Diplomatique, requesting a decision as to whether under the Treaties foreigners should be called upon to pay the increased Taxation authorized by the Diet in April last."

Mr. Noël understood that very much the same action had been taken in Yokohama and that the Ministers had advised their nationals to pay under protest. That, of course, did not bind Kobe and he thought that independent action should be taken here.

The Chairman suggested a rider to the effect that pending receipt of an answer either payment should not be made or, if made, it should be made under protest.

Mr. Noël asked if the notice regarding the tax had been sent to every member.

The Chairman said several had not received notices; several on the other hand had.

Mr. Henson asked if the proposal referred to the business tax only or to other taxes.

The Chairman said it referred to the income tax and all other taxes on which the additional seventy per cent. was imposed.

Mr. Henson said, then the question arose in his mind whether the Chamber of Commerce had any status as to any other tax than the business tax. The notice as read included other taxes.

The Chairman said the intention was to refer to the business tax only.

Mr. Sargent asked if the representation was to be wired or written, because the taxes were due on the 25th.

The Chairman said it would be sent through the Consuls.

Mr. Henson considered that the resolution went too far. In his opinion the Chamber had no status to consider the income tax or anything beyond the business tax. He considered that the Chamber of Commerce had no right to deal with anything but the business tax. As to the income tax that was a question on which individual members could approach the Consul or Minister.

The Chairman enquired if Mr. Henson would alter the motion.

Mr. Henson said he was not sure that he was in favour of the motion at all.

The Chairman considered the Chamber had a right to protest against the increased income tax as well as the increased business tax.

Mr. Henson pointed out that the bill for increased taxation related to several taxes which did not concern foreigners at all, so why should the Chamber protest against it?

Mr. Noël was understood to say that members might be interested in one or the other.

Mr. Henson asked why they could not particularize the taxes they objected to.

Mr. de la Camp thought that the only additional tax asked for so far was the business tax. Other applications might follow, but so far only the increased business tax had been asked for. The extra tax on piece goods and so on they would have to pay anyway. He considered it would be wise to protest only against the present demand.

Mr. Noël pointed out that they were not making a protest but merely asking for the advice of their Ministers as to the validity of the increased taxation.

Mr. H. E. Green commented on the statement which had been made as to Yokohama having had advice; surely Kobe might also be advised.

The Chairman asked Mr. Henson if he would move an amendment.

Mr. Henson:—No, I will make no amendment to that.

The Chairman then put the motion, which was carried nem. con.

Mr. Matt. Smith suggested that the respective Consuls should be asked to put the matter through at once.

The Chairman:—In the meantime are we going to refuse payment or pay under protest?

Mr. Noël thought there would be no great hurry (in collecting the taxes).

After some informal discussion, Mr. H. E. Green proposed that this meeting agrees to defer payment of the tax until the Chamber receives the decision from the Consuls, unless payment is made under protest.

Mr. W. W. Campbell said he should decline to bind himself to any such proposition. He would propose that the tax should be paid under protest.

Mr. Henson proposed that the question of the payment of the additional tax should be left to the individual judgment of members.

The Chairman said the meeting would not be binding on members who disagreed with the action taken. If 20 or 30 favoured the motion and 5 disapproved, the vote of the majority would not bind the minority.

Mr. H. J. Marshall seconded Mr. Noël's motion that this meeting resolves that payment of the extraordinary special tax should be deferred until a reply has been received from the Consuls, unless it is paid under protest.

Mr. de la Camp proposed as an amendment that the words "that this meeting resolves that it is advisable to defer payment," etc. should be used.

Mr. Noël accepted this as an amendment.

Mr. H. E. Green remarked that as the meeting appeared to be unanimous he would withdraw his motion.

Mr. Town suggested the substitution of the words, "extraordinary special tax" for the word "additional."

The Chairman then put the amendment to the meeting. One voted for it; one against it.

After a few further informal remarks, the Chairman put Mr. H. E. Green's motion minus the words "unless under protest." Ayes 12. Noes 6. Carried.

Mr. Henson said the Chamber had no means of enforcing the resolution. Might he ask therefore what the object was, save as an expression of opinion?

Mr. Noël thought it would not much matter if the last resolution fell through.

Mr. Cameron enquired if the Committee had moved in any way with regard to the Woollen Consumption tax.

The Chairman said the Yokohama Board of Trade had taken the question up. That Board had received some information which they (the Kobe Chamber) had not received and the Chamber was now awaiting a reply. The Yokohama Board of Trade made a protest but had received no reply yet.

Mr. Fischer understood that a firm in Yokohama had paid under protest and had subsequently received a refund from the Government.

Mr. Cameron asked if the Committee had moved officially in the matter or only written to the Yokohama Board of Trade. The Chairman said the Committee had written to Yokohama.

Mr Cameron thought that had independent action been taken here it would have strengthened the Yokohama Board's hands.

There being no further business, Mr. Noël moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Committee for calling the meeting, and the members dispersed.

CHRISTIAN CHAPLAINS FOR THE AMRY.

Shortly after the opening of the war, a private "Instruction" was issued by the Minister of War authorizing the sending of two chaplains (*fukyeshi*) with each Division (*shidan*) of the Imperial army and one with the Commissariat. Judging from the terminology used, no restriction or limitations were made in favour of any religious sect, Buddhist, Shintoist and Christian, presumably all being placed on an equal footing. Accordingly the Central Committee of the Japan Evangelical Alliance (*Fukuin Domei Kwai*) met without delay, and decided to apply for permission to send Christian chaplains, and to make an appeal to the church throughont the Empire to render the financial assistance required.

As the divisional captains (*shidancho*) were charged with the responsibility of selecting the chaplains to go with their men, application was made directly to those soon to go to the front, to give Christians a place side by side with other religionists, but in every case without success. There seemed to be a fixed purpose to choose only Buddhists or Shintoists. It was alleged among other things that at the time of the Japan-China war some of the Christian "*Imonshi*" sent to Korea and China through the Government's liberality had taken advantage of their position for money making purposes, and a strong prejudice evidently existed against allowing Christians any recognized place as army chaplains.

Though deeply regretting that there had been the slightest occasion for such an objection, the Committee could not but feel that there was a serious misunderstanding and they were prepared to make assurances that the greatest care would be exercised in the selection of men who would worthily represent the Christian community. Prominent officials were interviewed and various efforts made to secure a more liberal interpretation of the "instruction," but with apparently little result.

It was felt that in a war like the present any discrimination against Christians on the part of the Japanese authorities would not only be a violation of that religious liberty guaranteed by the Constitution, but would have an unfortunate effect upon Japan's relations with such Christian countries as Great Britain and the United States, who are known to be so thoroughly in sympathy with Japan in her brave struggle for national existence and the peace of the Far East.

And so, without relaxing the effort to impress officialdom directly with the importance of strict impartiality in this matter, it was felt that the issues involved were sufficiently grave to warrant our asking for an expression of opinion from the official representative in Japan of that Christian nation with whom Japan's relations are most intimate, viz., Great Britain.

Accordingly, H. E. Sir Claude Macdonald was approached and informed of the progress of the negotiations, and of the appareant *impasse* which had been reached, and asked if he would be good enough to use his kind offices towards securing the appointment of Christian chaplains to the troops. To this request His Excellency very heartily responded and immediately called the attention of the Minister for Foreign Affairs—Baron Komura—to the matter, who shortly afterwards informed him that the Government had decided to attach a certain number of Christian chaplains to the army, permitting them to visit different Divisions as circumstances might allow, and directing that applications be make to the divisional captains. In the meantime the Committee had become quite convinced that it was very desirable to have foreign as well as Japanese chaplains and His Excellency was pleased to make this known also.

Formal requests were then presented in harmony with the information received, and time passed, but there seemed no evidence that the divisional captains were disposed to appoint any Christians. Whenever higher officials were approached, their reply was that the Government had already signified its attitude of equal favour to all religious sects, and that all that remained was to seek appointments through the channels already assigned. This however could only result in disappointment so long as the officers directly responsible for the selection of chaplains in fact excluded all Christians. The Minister of War was placed in a trying position. After handing over to the divisional captains the authority to choose the chaplains, he could not consistently withdraw it, while on the other hand the unwisdom of religious favoritism was becoming more apparent.

H. E. Count Inouye was apprised of the unfortunate trend of events, and he promptly brought it to the notice of the Cabinet and elder statesmen, and the broad impartial policy of the Government was soon vindicated by specific permission being granted to send six Japanese and six foreign (British and American) Christian "*imonshi*" with the first, second and third armies, and possibly more later. It was found easier to give separate and distinct permission to send Christian "*imonshi*" than to make any change in the order *re* "*fukyoshi*." (Either word may perhaps be translated "chaplain," the emphasis in the former case being upon their function as "comforters" of the soldiers, while in the latter it is more to their work as religious "teachers"). The treatment however to be accorded to the former is understood to be practically the same as that accorded to the latter, freedom being allowed them to fulfil the duties of their calling among the men on the field, according as circumstance will permit, and they being provided with transportation and commissariat facilities, etc., by the Department of War. The time for sending them to the front must of course be left to the judgment of the Minister of War, according to the progress of events, but the expectation is that it will be within this or the coming month.

The men to be sent are almost all chosen already, the nomination of the foreign missionaries being made by the executive of the Standing Committee of Co-operating Missions, while the Japanese chaplains are chosen by the Central Committee of the Evangelical Alliance, which also make the formal application for both to the Department. When the list is complete, the names of all will be announced. It is expected that the Missions from which the missionaries are chosen will make appropriations sufficient for their incidental expenses, but the appeal is being made to the Japanese churches everywhere throughout the Empire to contribute towards the support of the Japanese chaplains and their families. It is estimated that about 3000 *yen* will be needed for this purpose. It is believed that the missionary body as well as the foreign community generally will regard it as a privilege to contribute towards this important undertaking. *Promptness in this matter will put heart into our Japanese brothers.*

Subscriptions may be sent to the Rev. Harper H. Coates, 16 Tatsuoka-cho, Hongo, Tokyo.—*Japan Evangelist.*

THE PRIME MINISTER AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.

Growing out of the negotiations for the appointment of Christian Chaplains to the army is an important announcement from H. E. Count Katsura, the Minister President of State, intended for all Japanese Christians and foreign Missionaries in Japan; and as it has already appeared in Japanese for the former, the earnest attention of the latter is hereby called to it.

When, in pursuance of Count Inouye's representations, the Rev. Y. Honda was invited by the Premier and the Minister of War on April the 8th, to make a statement of the request of the Japan Evangelical Alliance for the appointment of Christian Chaplains to the troops, the Premier requested Mr. Honda to convey to the Christian church in Japan, including the foreign missionaries, an expression of the Government's earnest wishes at this time of national crisis. Similar intimations had already been sent to the official heads of the different Buddhist and Shinto sects, but in the absence of such ecclesiastical machinery in the Christian churches and the consequent difficulty of official communication, he desired Mr. Honda to transmit to the churches represented in the Evangelical Alliance a message from himself in behalf of the Government, of which the substance is as follows:—

"At the commencement of the war with Russia one subject which gave me no small anxiety was the danger of misconception and confusion of thought arising from racial and religious differences, and the dissemination of opinions calculated to foster mutual recrimination between the people of different nationalities and religious beliefs. Accordingly, the Minister of Home Affairs gave instructions to the governors of all the metropolitan provincial districts for the protection of all Russians in the Empire. Moreover the Minister of Education also issued an important instruction to be observed in educational circles.

"But in spite of these precautions, just as I had feared, numerous cases of religious rancour have occurred in different localities, indignities being heaped upon believers of the Greek church and even damage done to church property. Moreover failing to discriminate between one foreigner and another, and between one Christian denomination and another, some have unfortunately at the sight of a Christian allowed themselves to be filled with feelings of suspicion and distrust, and been guilty even of rude behaviour. Such things I deeply deplore.

"For my own part, regarding religion as an essential element of civilization, I have uniformly tried to treat all religions with becoming respect, and I believe it to be an important duty of statesmen under all circumstances to do their utmost [illegible] prevent racial animosities. And so in the year 1895 at the time of the Japan-China war my soldiers had no sooner set foot on the Liaotung Peninsula than I took special pains to see that the greatest care was exercised by them in extending protection from all harm to the Christian believers and churches planted there by the English and French Missionaries.

"As the present war is one carried on against Russia—a professedly Christian nation—I have felt that redoubled efforts should be made, that no unworthy sentiments should be tolerated, that we should adopt a thoroughly unbiassed and equitable attitude towards all, and that the whole nation should give practical effect to the policy so clearly set forth in the Imperial edict, that this is a war which has no other object than the safety of the Empire and the peace of the Far East. I sincerely hope that no one will be betrayed into the error of supposing that such things as differences in race or religion have anything whatever to do with the present complication.

"I had indeed thought of issuing an official instruction on the subject in the near future, but I wish through you to convey to the Christian churches and the foreign missionaries our mind at this time, so that all misgivings and misunderstandings may be prevented. I hope that each and all will act in this spirit of mutual forbearance, avoiding all racial and religious antipathies, and will use all means in their power to carry out the wishes of the Imperial Government."—*Japan Evangelist.*

DINING WITH THE EMPEROR OF KOREA.

In the last number of the *Tour du Monde* Dr. Hagen, who has travelled in Korea, recounts in a most interesting way his impressions of the country and of its people. Of especial interest is Dr. Hagen's description of an audience and of a State banquet at the Court of Korea. "When the time fixed for the audience arrived we entered into a very lofty room, the carpets of which were by no means costly. Behind a table sat the Emperor with the Crown Prince and the eunuchs. The Emperor Li-Hsi thanked us for our visit, and asked us how our trip was progressing, and whether we intended to remain a long time in Korea. The Crown Prince asked us exactly the same questions. He is about thirty years of age; he has an inert look, a beardless, fleshly face, and thus he does not give one the impression of being healthy and capable of doing much. He has several wives, but no children; he himself is the son of one of Li-Hsi's concubines. He certainly will not ascend the throne without a great deal of trouble; the Japanese already have another Crown Prince in readiness at Yokohama this latter Prince has joined the Japanese, and he will be supported by them when the proper moment comes. The Crown Prince joined but very little in the conversation; even the simple questions that he asked were suggested to him by the leader of the eunuchs. It is scarcely to be supposed that the Crown Prince will ever think of shaking himself free from the influeuce of that powerful and feared caste, whose rôle in Korea, as in China in olden times, is noxious. At the end of the audience, which had lasted scarcely twenty minutes, the Emperor took his leave of us in a few amiable words.

"Before the dinner we were offered a glass of vermouth in the next room. The dining-room was well heated, and furnished with European furniture; the table was decked out richly with cutlery, glass, linen, flowers, and fruits; the cooking was exquisite, and the wines were many and good. For some years the Imperial household has been managed by a lady from Alsace, and she knows her duty very well. Formerly the dinner would have cost the Emperor £20 per guest; now, each guest costs him only about £4. Korean servants, wearing the national garb, waited upon us most attentively and noiselessly. It seemed amusing to us that the Emperor remained invisible behind a curtain during the dinner; still, he kept himself informed of all that happened at table, and asked repeatedly what impression the foreigners were receiving. The Koreans present were fully acquainted with the manners of the West, and they did not offend either the rules of etiquette or those of 'good form.' After the dinner the room was turned into a concert hall for the entertainments that were to be given. In the outer hall played some thirty musicians, squatting upon the ground, mandolines, guitars, and other stringed instruments, as also drums and tambourines. To foreigners the Korean music seems to be only ear-splitting, for it has no rules of melody and is monotonous. At first appeared only two men, clad in very rich garments to represent [illegible] lion and a tiger. They danced around to the music, rubbed together their noses as they uttered all kinds of weird sounds, and then they vanished finally.

"Thereupon about a dozen remote dancers appeared in beautiful gold-shimmering colours, and with their hats and other head coverings decked with flowers and with sandals and well-fitting white stockings on their small feet. Although they were young and pretty, their faces were much painted. Round their necks and on their foreheads they wore pendants, and their dresses were covered with filigree. Their names were very pretty, for they were taken from flowers and trees. These dancers belonged to the *demi-monde* of Korea. At first they entered in pairs, went through various movements, and each crowned her partner with flowers. Then a large screen was opened in the room, and a dancer took her place on either side of it. Near the top of the screen a rather large hole had been made, through which a dancer had to throw a flower to be caught by her partner on the other side. There were fixed rules for this pastime; if the thrower missed the hole but could pick up the flower before it touched the ground, then she could begin again, and go on until she managed to throw it through. When she had done that a flower was stuck in her hair, but she at once pulled it out to present it to one of the audience. If the flower falls to the ground, then the thrower has to pay a penalty. This lively game was followed by a pantomime, which represented a family squabble between a man, his wife, and her friend. The evening came to an end with dancing and singing by the soldiers of the Ping-Yang Regiment. To their bravery in the war between Japan and China these soldiers owe the permission to wear Korean national costume, that is, the national hat and the broad white robe instead of the cap, trousers, and shoes that are worn by European soldiers. In this regiment certain musical traditions are kept up, and these traditions give the soldiers the honour of being invited to great Court ceremonies. Eight soldiers danced to an accompaniment of a chorus and of tambourines, while others gave some scenes in burlesque of rather a free nature. At midnight we took our leave."—*The Globe.*

A RUSSIAN ACCOUNT OF THE YALU BATTLE.

St. Petersburg, May 3.

In a report received by the Emperor from General Kuropatkin under to-day's date it is stated that at least from 3000 to 4000 men were killed in the Yalu-river fight. It is now admitted here that both General Sassolitch and Kashtalinsky were wounded and that twenty-seven guns were captured by the Japanese during the recent fighting on the Yalu river.

The Emperor has received the following telegram under to-day's date from General Kuropatkin:—

"General Sassolitch's report, dated to-day, on the fight of May 1st, says that the battle was fought under these circumstances:—

"'The Twelfth and Twenty-second Regiments and the Second and Third batteries of the Sixth Brigade of Artillery were engaged in the battle, which began with heavy cannonading of our right flank by seige guns at Wiju and field batteries in the distance.

"'After a lull the fighting was resumed with extraordinary violence against the left flank of our main position at Chiu-lien-cheng, and our position at Potietinsky. A fusillade was also begun by small parties of Japanese across the Ai river. The situation of the defenders' position became increasingly difficult, especially at Potientinsky, which was bombarded on the front and on both flanks.

"'Thirty Japanese guns were pitted against our battery at Potientinsky, which, after having silenced the enemy's mountain battery, directed its fire on the Japanese infantry, and sustained few losses so long as it was not obliged to take up another position owing to the withdrawal of our infantry from the bank.

BAYONET ATTACKS MADE.

"'The Japanese, under our fire, made continual bayonet attacks on our troops. Japanese bodies lay in heaps at the river fords.

"'Simultaneously with the attack at Potietinsky an attack was being made on our left flank at Chiu-lien-cheng, and the Russian trenches had to be abandoned under the Japanese enfilading fire. Our reserves several times mingled with the first line, thus enabling it for a long time to maintain its position.

"'Finally all of the supports were brought up into the firing line, but owing to the great distance from our main reserve it was impossible for them to reach the advanced force in time, and our men retired from the principal position in the rear of Chiu-lien-cheng, followed by the concentrated fire of the Japanese, who could not make up their minds to descend from the crest they occupied and face the fire of our batteries. They dug fresh trenches and opened a heavy artillery fire on our position, and began to turn our left flank toward Chingow.

"Two battalions of the Eleventh Regiment and the third battery of the Third Brigade of Artillery, belonging to the main reserve, were ordered to Lao Fun Hou. They occupied a position with a double firing line, thus permitting our advanced line, which had suffered heavily, and our wounded to retire.

ALMOST HAND TO HAND.

"A battalion of the Eleventh Regiment, both flanks of which were repeatedly turned by the enemy, advanced with fixed bayonet, preceded by buglers to clear a passage. The Japanese, however, declined a hand-to-hand conflict and recoiled. In front of the regiment a chaplain with a cross was struck by two bullets. It was only by advancing on the Japanese with the bayonet that the Seventh Regiment was able to retire. On the arrival of the battalion of the Tenth Regiment all the troops were able to beat the retreat.

"The losses of the Eleventh and Twelfth regiments were very great, but they are not yet exactly known. In the Eleventh the killed included Colonel Laming and Lieutenant-Colonels Dometti and Raievski. The Twelfth lost nine company commanders killed or wounded.

"The Second and Third batteries of the Sixth Brigade, having lost the greater number of their men and horses, were compelled to abandon their guns, after rendering them useless. For the same reason six other guns and eight timbrels, which could not be brought away, were also disabled. The mountainous nature of the country made it impossible to save the guns by means of drag ropes.

"Up to the present 800 wounded, including fourteen officers, have been brought to the hospital at Fengwhang. Their eventual transportation elsewhere is assured.

"Japanese cavalry appeared to the southeast of Fengwhang but seeing two companies with two guns opposed it, it did not venture to approach.

TRANSPORTING THE WOUNDED.

"The transportation of the wounded by hired Chinese bearers to Fengwhang was very difficult. Two-wheeled carts and horses lent by the cavalry were also utilized for this purpose. Most of the wounded, however, arrived on foot, assisted by their comrades, and reached Fengwhang within twenty-four hours.

"'Lieutenant-General Sassolitch declares that the troops retained their morale notwithstanding the heavy losses and are ready for fresh engagements.

"'The Japanese losses were very heavy at the passage of the Ai river, at their position at Chiu-lien-cheng, and on the hill occupied by the two battalions of the Eleventh Regiments.

"'According to the statements of participants in the battle, at least 3,000 or 4,000 were killed.'"

ITALIAN DEPUTIES WAX ANGRY.

Rome, May 5.

There was a great sensation in the Chamber of Deputies to-day at the conclusion of the parliamentary inquiry into the administration of Signor Nasi, former Minister of Public Instruction. The inquiry proved Nasi guilty of the misappropriation of large sums of money, the falsification of documents, the suppression of evidence and continuous peculation.

The law courts presented to the Chamber a demand that they be allowed to proceed against Nasi and arrest him, but under the rules of the Chamber the discusion of this demand was postponed until Saturday next.

Meanwhile the news that Nasi had been declared guilty of the charges against him spread, and the former Minister fled.

Nasi was a strong politician, and it was believed he was destined to become Premier. The result of the parliamentary inquiry into his conduct has caused great excitement.

There was a lively scene in the Chamber of Deputies to-day when Deputy Mirabelli, Republican, proposed that greetings should be sent to President Loubet in the name of the Italian Democracy. The President of the Chamber, interrupting, said:—

"A greeting should be sent to France in the name of the Italian Parliament."

Deputy Santini cried: "Remember Montana," alluding to where the French defeated Garibaldi, November 3, 1867, to maintain the temporal power of the Pope. Signor Mirabelli retorted:

"I listened to your panegyrics after the German Emperor's visit. Now be silent."

He continued: "Don't change a national demonstration into a party demonstration. I speak in the name of the Republicans."

The Chamber broke into applause, which the president quieted. The Deputies expressed varying opinions amid confusion.

Premier Gioletti disapproved of an attempt to have a national demonstration benefit a party, which, he said, represented the smallest portion of the Italian people.

Signor Mirabelli exclaimed. "You deny history. You knelt before the French empire and now kneel before the republic."

Amid violent protests the president closed the incident.

THE RUSSIAN PRESS ON THE YALU BATTLE.

A St. Petersbarg telegram says:—The Russian papers are rather sparing in their comment on the battle of Chiu-lien-cheng, evidently awaiting more complete details, but what they say contains no trace of discouragement.

The *Novoe Vremya* says the days of patience announced by General Kuropatkin have now begun, and declares that the Japanese difficulties will increase as they advance. The paper believes the chief danger now is in the attitude of the Chinese and says: "Our diplomats must make Peking realize the danger of Chinese violation of neutrality. Russia must win, but with heavier sacrifices a heavier price will be exacted from her enemies."

The *Viedomosti* remarks: "It is a Japanese victory. Do not let us seek for a scapegoat. It is the fortune of war. Glory to the dead and to the survivors of the heroic fight against overwhelming odds. But the Japanese probably would gladly exchange their dearly bought victory for a successful bottling up of Port Arthur."

"The Russians," the *Russky Invalid* says, "are accustomed to lay down their lives when duty calls. The Japanese paid too dearly for their victory. It will take them days to recover."

The *Novoe Vremya's* expert says the report of Major-General Kashtalinsky proves clearly that the Russians should have withdrawn during the night of April 30th, and adds: "Kashtalinsky foredoomed them to destruction. It was a miracle of heroism and fortitude that they escaped after staying and inflicting such tremendous losses upon the enemy.

"General Kuroki probably has eight divisions. This force will be joined by General Oku's army when the latter is landed. The Japanese have every reason to follow the southern road, where they will have the advantage of the co-operation of their ships. The roads are less difficult and mountainous through the Feng-hwang district, but the Japanese must dispose of the Russian force at Feng-hwang before they can cut off Liao-tung."

A high officer of the staff, who does not believe the Japanese will make an immediate advance in Manchuria, said to-day:

"They are too careful to commit such a blunder as to expose their flank to the Russians stationed at Feng-hwang. I think they will fortify their position at the Yalu and may land troops at Takusan and hold the sea-shore, but in no wise will they advance across the Liao-tung, where they might be taken on eithir flank by General Kuropatkin from Liao-yang and General Stoessel from the south."

THE FIGHTING AT CHEMULPO.

The following extract from a letter by Captain Lewis Bayly, of the British cruiser *Talbot*, at Chemulpo, dated February 20th has been published:—

In connection with the engagement between the Russian ships *Varyag* and *Korietz* and the Japanese fleet I beg to enclose the following remarks:—

Chaplain Rondneff states that the carrying away of the wounded on stretchers became impossible; several men when carrying them were shot down, and only five men altogether were brought down to the doctor below the water-line, while of these five the doctor of the *Varyag* says two were practically dead when they arrived. They had held classes on board the *Varyag* to instruct men in "first aid"; bags of bandages had been served out, and the doctor says that some lives were thus saved by being thus treated. The Russian sailors bear their perations wonderfully well.

There were 150 men employed on the *Varyag's* upper deck during the action, and nearly all the killed and wounded were out of this 150, which is—28 per cent. killed, 45 per cent. wounded. It must not be forgotten that, having no gun shields, her guns' crews were practically unprotected, and that shrapnel shell were largely used, to judge by the holes in the boats, funnels, etc. All was quiet in the engine-room, as though they had been at target practice. In one stokehold (they have five, with no fore and aft bulkhead) the water came up to the floor of the furnaces, but did not get into the other stokeholds. It is believed to have come through a hole made on the *Varyag's* water-line when she was inclined and travelling at a reduced speed while turning.

While suffering her severest punishment—*i.e.*, when she was turning, thus keeping the range constant and her speed reduced, she had only four guns (I am told by her commander who is living with me) that were not temporarily disabled. One 12-pounder was knocked clean across the deck from port to starboard. One set of cartridges caught fire on deck and burned so rapidly that two men were burnt to death, the body of one falling down the ammunition hoist with the clothes on fire. There were five fires altogether, of which four were successfully combated by the fire mains, and the fifth (which was caused by a shell bursting in the flour-tank and which caused such a smoke that the scuttles had to be opened) would probably have been put out had not the ship sunk.

The range was taken by an officer on the forecastle and shown to the guns by an instrument in the top, but both men in the top were seriously wounded, one having his leg so nipped by a portion of the fractured steel of which the top is made that they had to cut some of the flesh of his leg away so as to extract him. The doctor was below the water-line; the gunnery, forpedo, and navigating lieutenants, together with the helmsman and a man for working the engine-room telegraphs, were in the conning-tower, the commander was running from place to place on the upper and main decks to stop fires, assist supply ammunition, etc. The captain stood near the entrance of the conning-tower, and during the action, when his bugler and orderly who followed him about were on either side of him between the conning-tower and its entrance screen, some pieces of a bursting shell arrived, killed the bugler and orderly and bruised the captain in the cheek. None in the conning-tower were hurt. Very few signal haulyards were shot away! her fore topsail yard was shot in two, and her peak halyards were cut, bringing down one of her ensigns. The decks were wetted before going into action. All communications worked well, but after the steering gear was damaged the noise on deck was so great and the officers on deck were so deaf with the noise that the voice tube to the handwheel was of little service and the ship was steered with the propellers until out of action. The cause of the accident to the steering gear is very obscure, but the consensus of opinion is that the rods leading to the steering engine were shot through, all the connections, steam and electric and hydraulic, being cut through at the same time. Being only one rod as far as the telemotor, that would easily be the case were they not duplicated. The boats were riddled with holes except a steam pinnace, which was hoisted to davits on the starboard side forward; she was practically untouched, and has since been salved by the Japanese.

A very great deal of shrapnel must have been fired at the *Varyag*, judging by the round holes, and not much lyddite, for there seems to have been no inconvenience from poisonous gases. Much trouble has been caused to the wounded on account of the pieces of cloth that are constantly being extracted. Many men are wounded with punctures, holes about as large as the top of the little finger and from ¼in. to ½in. or inch deep, but with no foreign substance such as iron, etc., being present in the wound, and no sign of scorching round the mouth of the wound.

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

A RUSSIAN REPORT.

London, May 20.

Dispatches from General Kuropatkin and General Sakaharoff describe the Japanese evacuation of several points occupied by them in the advance on Liaoyang, and their retirement on Fenghwangcheng, where they are constructing earthworks. The rain has rendered the roads very bad.

AUSTRO-HUNGARY'S BUDGET.

Later.

The Austro-Hungarian Minister of War has explained to the Delegations that the extraordinary expenditure in the Budget is no way connected with the political situation, but is necessary in order to make up leeway as regards rearming the Artillery and the equipment of vessels in accordance with the modern developments of the science of War.

THE COTTON QUESTION.

Lord Lansdowne states that Russia has replied to Great Britain's enquiry with regard to the Russian Notification of the 11th inst., (declaring cotton contraband-of war) that it applies to raw cotton only.

BRITISH SYMPATHY WITH JAPAN.

London, May 21.

The English papers express sincere sympathy and deep regret at the loss of the *Hatsuse* and the *Yoshino*.

A STRANGE REPORT.

Later.

It is reported from St. Petersburg that it is expected Russia will shortly proclaim all Siberian ports, including Vladivostock, open to commerce.

ROOSEVELT'S NOMINATION.

London, May 22.

The nomination of Mr. Roosevelt for the Presidency is assured.

A TIBETAN AMBUSCADE.

Tibetans ambuscaded eight Sepoys carrying mails in rear of the British camp. The mail carriers reached camp after an hour's fight, with three casualties.

FRANCE AND THE VATICAN.

London, May 22.

France has recalled her Ambassador to the Vatican owing to the wording of the protest addressed to the Powers simultaneously with the protest sent to France on the 8th of May.

A RUSSIAN SORTIE.

It is reported in St. Petersburg that General Stoessel made a sortie from Port Arthur and drove back the Japanese, killing and wounding a thousand. The Russians lost 150.

A RUSSIAN TRIBUTE.

The news of the Japanese disasters have been received in Russia without exultation. The newspapers pay a tribute to the gallantry of the Japanese seamen.

JAPANESE MOVE ON LIAOYANG.

London, May 23.

Reuter telegraphs from St. Petersburg that according to a telegram received from General Sakharoff, the Japanese advance upon Liaoyang has been resumed. The General reports the movement of several detachments at different points within 50 kilometres N. W. of Fenghwhang, The horses and the infantry are reported to be much exhausted.

FRANCE AND ROME.

M. Misard has left Rome, but a councillor of the Embassy remains as Chargé d'Affaires.

THE "OREL" IN TROUBLE.

London, May 24.

The battleship *Orel*, recently launched, which stranded in the Neva owing to her great draught, again stranded at Cronstadt on May 19th. Her stern has since sunk deeply in consequence of her bilge-pipes having been opened for some unexplained reason. The ship is badly strained.

Later.

The battleship *Orel* has been re-floated. It is stated that the accident was due to the careless rivetting of her plates.

THE "BOGATYR."

It is stated in St. Petersburg that the Russians blew up the *Bogatyr*, finding it impossible to save her.

NEWCHWANG.

The General Staff at St. Petersburg considers that the re-occupation of Newchwang is due to changes in the situation produced by the loss of the Japanese ships, which renders unsafe the despatch and arrival of transports at Liaotung.

ADMIRAL SKRYDLOFF.

Admiral Skrydloff has arrived at Vladivostock.

VAGRANT MINES.

London, May 25.

There is increasing evidence that the Russians have been deliberately strewing mines on the high seas. This is evoking strong protests from the British press.

JAPAN PURCHASES STEAMERS.

The London *Daily Telegraph* says that Japanese agents have purchased at Antwerp several steamers of two to three thousand tons.

THE TSAR.

The Tsar returned on May 16th to St. Petersburg.

ARRESTS AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

Later.

Kemal Pacha, the son-in-law, and an aide-de-camp of the Sultan, were arrested on May 21st with other high officials, as the result of the discovery of secret correspondence with Princess Khadidje, daughter of the ex-Sultan Murad.

RUSSIA BUYING SHIPS.

London, May 26.

The Russian Government has notified the brokers in Antwerp and Rotterdam that thirty more large steamers are wanted, deliverable in Libau at the end of June. It is intended that they shall accompany the Baltic fleet.

ORDERS FOR TORPEDOES.

The Russian Government has ordered one hundred of the latest model Whitehead torpedoes, hitherto only in the possession of Japan; France, Italy and Austria have also given orders.

(RECEIVED AT THE LEGATION OF FRANCE.)

FRANCE AND THE POPE.

Saigon, May 23.

The Ambassador of France at St. Peters, M. Misard, has left Rome in consequence of a note of protest addressed by the Pope to the Powers with reference to the visit of President Loubet to Rome.

THE FRENCH BUDGET.

The Budget Committee consists of 18 opposition members and 14 ministerialists, with M. Doumer as president.

JAPANESE OPERATIONS.

General Kuropatkin confirms the report that the Cossacks have repulsed a Japanese detachment on the north of Fengwhang,

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(RECEIVED IN TOKYO.)

SUNKEN TREASURE.

The *New York Herald* has a telegram from St. Petersburg saying that the battleship *Petropavlovsk* had twelve million dollars on board when she sank. The report is that this money had been sent out, lest the Port Arthur communications should be severed and the place left in financial distress.

(RECEIVED AT HEAD QUARTERS).

RECENT FIGHTING.

General Kuroki reports that the Russian cavalry attacked on the 20th instant was the 3rd company of the Betneftinsky Regiment of the Baikal Cossacks. Two officers were captured by the Japanese, namely, one captain and one lieutenant, and four rank and file were also captured. The enemy left one captain and 9 rank and file dead on the field. Twenty-two horses were killed and 9 captured. The Japanese had one man killed at the time of making the prisoners. The enemy retired partly to Sungyuen and partly to Shalichai (a place in the direction of Fengwhang).

THE PORT ARTHUR RE-CONNAISSANCE.

Admiral Togo reports that in the reconnaissance made at Port Arthur the destroyer *Akatsuki* was struck by a shell and had one lieutenant and 24 men killed.

OPERATIONS ON THE LIAOTUNG PENINSULA.

May 22nd—The officer commanding the force that landed at Takushan reports that an officers' reconnaissance in the direction of Tashikiautsze encountered at Kaukiatang the remnant of the troop of Cossacks which had been defeated on the 20th instant and killed them all.

From the same source it is reported that an officers' reconnaisance sent to Wantaukan captured two troopers and several horses at Changkiatun.

MORE PRISONERS.

General Kuroki reports that on the 21st instant six members of the land transport corps who were in the vicinity of Shanchingtze on the S. E. of Tanshuntien, captured one first captain and one sergeant of the Chichinsky Brigade. These two men had penetrated far into the Japanese lines to make a reconnaissance.

FIRST ARMY OPERATIONS.

May 24.—General Kuroki reports that on the morning of the 21st instant a company of Japanese infantry encountered 200 Cossacks at Tautaukan, which is 10½ miles to the N.E. of Kwantien. The Japanese drove back the Russians to Aiyangtienmun. The Russians left 20 dead and four horses on the field. The Japanese had no casualties.

[Note.—This is apparently the affair which General Kuropatkin reported yesterday in exactly the opposite sense. - Ed. *J.M.*]

THE FIRST ARMY'S OPERATIONS.

General Kuroki reports that there have been several skirmishes in the S. and N. of Fenghwang, all of which resulted in favour of the Japanese. These, however, were very trifling affairs, with which it is unnecessary to perplex our readers as the names given are not to be found on an ordinary map.

(Received at the Foreign Office.)

THE FOREIGN PRESS ON JAPAN'S LOSSES.

The German newspapers make no special comment on the losses recently sustained by the Japan navy, but all agree that while the incident is profoundly regrettable from Japan's point of view, it does not materially affect her naval strength. The Russian squadron continues to be blocked in Port Arthur and can not go out to fight in the open.

The London *Times* says that while all nations will sympathise with Japan on this occasion she has the special sympathy of her ally, Great Britain. The loss, of course, is great, but Japan's command of the sea is not altered and is no danger of being impaired. Neither will the incident affect any of the strategical plans she has formed. The *Standard*, the *Morning Post* and the *Daily Telegraph* write in much the same sense.

ST. PETERSBURG NEWS.

It is firmly believed (May 21) in well informed circles in St. Petersburg that the *Bogatyr* has been lost. It is also stated that the battleship *Orel*, which recently went on a rock in the Neva, and went to Cronstadt for repairs, has met with some other accident and has gone to the bottom.

Viceroy Alexieff reports that intelligence having been received of the presence of a small Japanese force at Sanshilitao, a body of Russian troops was sent on the 16th instant to attack them. But it was found that the Japanese had two divisions and four batteries of artillery. In the fighting that ensued the Russians had 150 casualties, and it is believed that as the Japanese advance was not arrested by this attack the Russians must have suffered severely. General Nagien was slightly wounded and one officer was killed.

[This is evidently the affair already reported by the Japanese. They had 146 casualties, as our readers will remember, and they estimated the Russian losses at 300. Their advance was not arrested in any way.—Ed. *J.M.*]

(Official Report from Takushan.)

THE FIGHTING ON LIAOTUNG.

Received at the Head Quarter Staff in Tokyo on the 24th instant:—"In the fight on the 20th inst (the day after the landing) at Wangkiatun the Russian officers of cavalry were either killed or taken prisoners, and the detachment was altogether dispersed. Subsequently Russian killed and wounded were found in the neighbouring villages. The people of the vicinity say that they saw troopers escaping without their horses and without any semblance of being military men. It would appear that the enemy's squadron was wholly broken."

(From the "Jiji Shimpo.")

THE JAPANESE AT LIAO-YANG.

London, May 18.

A Japanese detachment from Kwan-lien is believed to have advanced along the rivers Yao-ho and Tatze. They are now stationed at Pansifu, 25 miles northeast of Liaoyang and have apparently outflanked the Russian force.

PESSIMISTIC VIEWS OF THE RUSSIANS.

General Kuropatkin has presented a pessimistic report to the Tzar in which he said that defective strategy in the past is being followed by failure which the future gives faint hope of retrieving.

It is believed that General Kuropatkin and Admiral Alexieff are at loggerheads.

ADMIRAL STOESSEL'S BELIEF.

Admiral Stoessel believes that the *Pobieda* was attacked on the 13th ultimo by a Japanese submarine.

THE TZAR

The Tzar in a farewell speech to the soldiers at Kalkoff said that the enemy was brave and powerful.

JAPANESE LOAN BONDS.

5-per cent loan bonds to-day advanced £1; 4-per cents, 10 shillings; and 6-per cent new bonds still maintain a premium of £2½.

JAPANESE FORCE AT LIAO-YANG.

Twenty thousand Japanese troops landed on Monday (the 16th) at a place 75 miles south of Kai-ping, and they immediately advanced in a Northerly direction toward Haiching.

A Japanese detachment from Chin-yuen yesterday reached the frontier at Haiching.

RUSSIANS EVACUATE NEWCHWANG.

The Russians have absolutely evacuated Newchwang. The Japanese are expected to occupy the town.

THE "BOGATYR."

London, May 20.

A telegram of Admiral Essen, commander of the Vladivostock squadron, has been published in Paris to the effect that the Russian armoured cruiser *Bogatyr* has gone ashore outside the port. It is supposed that her hull was destroyed and nearly all the crew were drowned.

THE "HATSUSE" AND "YOSHINO.

All the newspapers of Great Britain express profound sympathy at the casualties of the *Hatsuse* and *Yoshino*.

THE JAPANESE FORCES.

The Russians report that the Japanese have withdrawn from their defences sixty miles west of Fenghwang to their base.

THE RUSSIANS IN PORT ARTHUR.

London, May 22.

According to intelligence from St. Petersburg, General Stoessel made a sortie from Port Arthur taking the Japanese in flank with success. The point where the action took place is probably on the borders of Tu-ching-tze. The Russians later returned to their base.

The casualties sustained by the Japanese are greatly exaggerated by the Russians, so that their reports are not credible.

THE RUSSIANS AND KAIPING.

The Russians have evacuated Kaiping, withdrawing to Haiching.

ALEXIEFF AND SKRYDLOFF.

London, May 24.

It is reported from St. Petersburg that Admiral Alexieff refused to meet Admiral Skrydloff when the latter passed Harbin on his way to the front.

THE "BOGATYR."

The Russians have blown up the cruiser *Bogatyr* as she could not be floated.

THE "OREL"

After having sustained damage, the battleship *Orel* was sunk in the Neva. It is stated that she was deliberately blown up.

(From the "Asahi Shimbun.")

RUSSIA'S WAR FUND.

London, May 19.

At the opening of hostilities, Russia, it is reported, possessed 600,000,000 roubles for war purposes. There will be a monthly expenditure of 80,000,000 roubles up to August, after which the monthly allotment will be reduced.

THE LONDON "TIMES" ON THE WAR.

The London *Times*, commenting on the position, says that the initiative both on land and sea has passed to Japan.

THE JAPANESE NAVAL DISASTER.

London, May 20.

The Japanese naval disaster evokes the deepest sympathy. It is the opinon of naval experts that the mishap will not interfere with Admiral Togo's plans.

THE RUSSIAN BALTIC SQUADRON.

There is renewed talk of the sailing of the Russian Baltic Fleet, which, if it reaches the Far East, will be inferior to the Japanese Fleet.

RUSSIAN PESSIMISM.

London, May 24.

An influential Russian of high rank expresses pessimistic views regarding General Kuropatkin's military position and prospects.

Evidence accumulates that the war is producing a serious effect on the economic life of Russia.

STREWING MINES.

The conduct of the Russians in strewing the open waters with mines is the subject of severe comment in England and America.

(From the "N.-C. Daily News.")

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S SELF-SATISFACTION.

London, May 14.

Mr. Chamberlain, speaking at Birmingham, contended that his introduction of fiscal reform had produced a great change abroad. The nations no longer threatened us, and dumping had sensibly diminished. Mr. Chamberlain wished he could be certain that fiscal reform would be the issue on which the next election will turn, instead of the introduction of Chinese into the Transvaal, which he considered was fully justified.

UNCLE AND NEPHEW.

London, May 17.

King Edward is to visit the Kaiser at the Kiel Regatta in June.

THE MISSION TO TIBET.

General Macdonald has telegraphed to the Government that the absolute safety of our posts in Tibet is assured, and there is no cause for alarm. The reinforcements will be employed in safeguarding the communications.

LAST SPEECH OF THE GREAT PARLIAMENTARIAN.

London, May 18.

Sir William Vernon Harcourt, in a speech which he declared would be his last in the House of Commons, strongly supported a motion by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman condemning the recent increase in expenditure. He attributed this increase to the existing spirit of annexation, raids, retaliation, and appeals to international jealousy.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Chancellor of the Exchequer, repudiated these charges. He said that a reduction of the Army expenditure was being considered; but the shipbuilding programmes of France, Germany, and Russia showed the necessity that the two-Power standard for the Navy should not be changed. He did not share the view that the Japanese war had wiped out one of the great navies of the world.

The motion was defeated by 297 votes to 213, showing a majority of 84 for the Government.

GERMAN HOLD ON SHANTUNG.

Peking, May 19.

The German Minister (Baron Mumm von Schwarzenstein) has been consulting with the Chinese Government with a view to the placing of guard troops on both sides of the Shantung railway.

FISCAL HALF-WAY HOUSE.

London, May 19.

The House of Commons has debated a motion by Mr. A. W. Black (L. Banffshire) welcoming the declarations by Ministers that the Government is opposed to the taxation of food.

An amendment was proposed by the Prime Minister (Mr. Balfour) reaffirming the Sheffield programme and shelving the fiscal question during the life of the present Parliament.

Mr. J. Chamberlain supported the Government.

The motion was rejected by 306 votes to 251 and the debate on the amendment was adjourned.

THE MISSION TO TIBET.

London, May 20.

The Tibetans at Gyangtse are treatening the mission's communications, and systematically fortifying the surrounding hills.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Deucalion, British steamer, 4,478, Keay, 20th May,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Prosper, Norwegian steamer, 788, Christiansen, 20th May,—Moji, Coal.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Hydra, British steamer, 2,625, James Smith, 20th May,—Rangoon, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Oldenburg, German steamer, 3,187, Troitzch, 20th May,—Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Tjilatjap, Dutch steamer, 2,475, H. Koops, 19th May,—Macassar via ports, General.—Ed. L. van Nierop & Co.

Hugin, Norwegian steamer, 829, G. Selberg, 20th May,—Otaru, General.—Japanese.

Rugby, British steamer, 2,110, W. Brown, 20th May,—Anping, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Braemar, British steamer, 2,316, S. L. Saxby, 20th May,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sachsen, German steamer, 3,119, R. Pesch, 21st May,—Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Bengloe, British steamer, 1,933, J. Potter, 21st May,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bintang, Danish steamer, 873, Ingerman, 21st May,—Otaru, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, F. H. Armstrong, 21st May,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Lennox, British steamer, 2,361, McNair, 22nd May,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Titania, British steamer, 2,184, Remnant, 22nd May,—Barry, Coal.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Heathdene, British steamer, 2,277, W. J. Milburn, 22nd May,—Muroran, Coal—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Changsha, British steamer, 1,463, Moore, 24th May,—Melbourne and Hongkong, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Shantung, British steamer, 1,835, J. Warrack, 24th May,—Saigon, Rice.—Butterfield & Swire.

Mongolia, American steamer, 8,750, J. H. Rinder, 24th May,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Australien, French steamer, 2,900, Verron, 24th May,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Segovia, German steamer, 3,796, Foerck, 24th May,—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,055, J. C. Jensen, 24th May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Samara, British steamer, 1,760, W. Lewis, 25th May,—Muroran, Coal.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Indrasamha, British steamer, 3,367, Wm. E. Craven, 25th May,—Portland, Oregon, Mails and General.—P. & A. S.S. Co.

Ulysses, British steamer, 2,282, Bevan, 25th May,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Pera, British steamer, 4,916, Valentini, 25th May,—London via ports, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Ganges, British steamer, 2,721, W. Sibbold, 25th May,—Otaru, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Arabia, German steamer, 2,868, Bahle, 25th May,—Hongkong via ports, General.—P. & A. S.S. Co.

Khalif, British steamer, 2,219, J. H. Middleton, 25th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Claverhill, British steamer, 1,819, Seldon, 25th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Theodor Wille, German steamer, 2,386, Kruzfeldt, 26th May,—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Graaf van Bylandt, Dutch steamer, 933, van der Lees, 26th May,—Batavia via ports, Ballast.—Ed. van Nierop & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Algoa, American steamer, 4,897, Albert Lockett, 20th May,—San Francisco, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Crown of Arragon, British steamer, 1,474, Dorward, 20th May,—Yokosuka, Coal.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Salamanca, British steamer, 883, A. E. Wilson, 20th May,—Otaru, General.—Japanese.

Ernest Simons, French steamer, 2,162, Bourdon, 20th May,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Amoy, German steamer, 730, ——, 20th May,—Otaru, General.—Japanese.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, H. Pybus, 20th May,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Richmond Castle, British steamer, 2,298, McDowell, 21st May,—New York via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co.

Chingwo, British steamer, 2,517, G. Parkinson, 21st May,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Ascot, British steamer, 2,786, C. L. Cox, 21st May,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oceano, British steamer, 3,150, F. W. Davis, 22nd May,—Moji, Ballast.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Emma, German steamer, 1,681, Zeigenmeyer, 22nd May,—Kobe and Otaru, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Braemar, British steamer, 2,316, S. L. Saxby, 22nd May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Prosper, Norwegian steamer, 788, Christiansen, 22nd May,—Karatsu, Ballast.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Hop Sang, British steamer, ——, Jas. M. Hay, 22nd May,—Nagasaki, Ballast.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Tjilatjap, Dutch steamer, 2,475, H. Koops, 22nd May,—Kobe, General.—Ed. L. van Nierop & Co.

Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, F. H. Armstrong, 23rd May,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Rugby, British steamer, 2,110, W. Brown, 23rd May,—Taketoyo, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Bintang, Danish steamer, 873, Ingerman, 23rd May,—Otaru, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Titania, British steamer, 2,184, Remnant, 24th May,—Yokosuka, Coal.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Deucalion, British steamer, 4,478, Keay, 24th May,—London and Antwerp via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Hugin, Norwegian steamer, 829, G. Solberg, 24th May,—Otaru, General.—Japanese.

Ella, Norwegian steamer, 912, Jacobsen, 24th May,—Otaru, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Oldenburg, German steamer, 3,187, Troitzch 25th May,—Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Bengloe, British steamer, 1,933, Herbert W. Bee, 25th May,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Lennox, British steamer, 2,361, McNair, 26th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Heathdene, British steamer, 2,277, W. J. Milburn, 26th May,—Muroran, Ballast.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Ivydene, British steamer, 2,277, Teppett, 26th May,—Singapore via ports, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Hydra, British steamer, 2,625, James Smith, 26th May,—Shimidzu, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Jeseric, British steamer, 3,113, Shotton, 26th May,—Kobe, General.—American Trading Co.

Kanagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,813, J. McKenzie, 26th May,—Moji, Ballast.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per German steamer *Oldenburg*, from Europe via ports:—Mr. E. Wolf, Consul Pomar, Miss McKenzie Fraser, Miss D. G. Boyle, Mr. E. G. Barrett, Mr. Johnston, Mr. O. C. Clifford, Mr. J. McDonald, Mr. McGuire, Mr. Kischnamal, Mr. Feyaomusal, and Mr. M. S. Wiersum, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Coptic*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Cochrane, Miss Ellen Cochrane, Miss M. Cochrane, Mr. and Mrs. W. Croysdale, Mr. M. Egan, Mr. G. Blundell, Mrs. Freeman, Mrs. Mayers, Mr. T. B. Glover, Major Perkins, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Smith, Mr. E. Sanford, Miss Searles, Mr. J. Webster, and Mr. T. C. Randall, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Bengloe*, from Shanghai via ports:—Capt. Young, in cabin; 8, in steerage.

Per German steamer *Sachsen*, from Europe via ports:—Mr. A. Langfeldt, Mr. W. Richardson, Miss D. Richardson, Mr. Chien Lu, Mr. F. Zernichow, Mr. and Mrs. T. Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. H. Raspe, Mr. de Lalande, Mr. T. Lorenzen, Mr. E. Geiser, Mr. R. Serper, Mr. Lum, Mr. Tong Chow Tong, Mr. W. Willner, Mr. Suzuki, Mr. M. Tachenishi, and Mr. T. Nakada, in cabin.

Per American steamer *Mongolia*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. K. Arai, Mrs. K. Arai, Miss Arai, Miss E. Passingham, Mr. E. B. Rodgers, Mr. B. F. Weaver, Mr. John J. Walsh, Mr. R. Smith, Mr. R. A. Ashton, Mr. T. Hatano, Count Mutsu, Miss Mutsu, Mr. Jas. E. Reed, Mr. T. Yamada, Mrs. Walsh, Master Walsh, Mr. E. M. Webster, Mrs. Webster, Miss L. Wilcox, Dr. R. H. Campbell, Mrs. N. F. Smith, Mr. H. Yamaguchi, and Miss Walsh, in cabin. For Kobe:—Mrs. G. W. Carleton, Miss I. B. Carleton, Master C. Putnam, Mr. B. Fuller, Mrs. G. Gleason, Mr. Rowland Rowe, Mr. Yamaguchi, Mr. Geo. Martin, Mr. M. M. Shoemaker, and Miss K. Woods, in cabin. For Nagasaki:—Mrs. M. E. Day, in cabin. For Manila:—Mr. R. M. J. Armstrong, Mr. Frank Carll, Mr. M. Crane, Miss F. Furnas, Miss B. Kirkland, Mr. E. H. Merillat, Mr. W. P. Robertson, Mr. F. H. Bolster, Mr. E. K. Johnsohn, Mr. Jas. J. Sher, Hon. W. M. Shuster, Mr. W. M. Shuster, Miss A. M. Sleeper, Miss G. R. Thomas, Dr. H. C. Bierbower, Mr. R. J. Chard, Mr. A. M. Wiley, Mr. O. M. Clark, Mr. R. T. Reising, Mr. J. Silverman, Mr. C. R. Wise, Mr. D. M. Erwin, Mr. H. H. Hatwell, Dr. W. W. Langheim, Mr. C. A. McKee, Mr. Jas. C. Scott, Mrs. A. L. Sleeper, Mr. W. Williamson, Mr. O. W. Ferguson, Mr. J. H. Mackenzie, and Mr. F. L. Smith, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Dr. John Fryer, Mr. Lyman J. Mowry, and Mr. A. T. Miles, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Ernest Simons*, for Marseilles via ports:—Mr. J. Selles, Mr. J. Johnson, Mr. Lavacry, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Pakenham, Mr. A. Cooper, Mr. D. H. Blake, Mr. Georges Reid, Mr. and Mrs. T. Tomita, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Mauchan, Mr. C. Eymard, Mr. T. Nishimaki, Mr. A. J. Williams, Mr. Ch. Bell, Mr. Tum Wai Hing, Mr. and Mrs. Glyn Barlow, Mr. A. Troise, Mr. Paul Couchoud, and Mr. A. W. Newitt, in cabin; 1 French soldier, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—Miss V. Adams, Mr. E. Aeppli, Mr. C. Aiken, Mr. T. Aoyagi, Judge C. Arellano, Mrs. F. A. Batsch, Mr. W. G. Bayne, Lieut. Bertallette, Mr. T. B. Blow, Mr. H. Bevis, Mr. W. E. Brady, Mr. D. E. Brown, Mr. F. D. Browne, Mr. D. Cameron, Dr. E. O. B. Carberry, Mr. C. Coraze, Mrs. C. Coraze, Mr. W. Crake, Mr. A. Debrunner, Mr. C. W. Dickson, Mrs. C. W. Dickson, Mr. A. Ehrlick, Mrs. Evington, Mrs. G. A. Farlow, Mr. J. L. Fay, Rear-Admiral R. T. O. Foote, Mrs. R. T. O. Foote, Mr. J. L. Forster, Mr. J. C. Forster, Mr. F. Funahashi, Mr. Fung Soo Ming, Miss Godwin, Mr. H. Guigal, Dr. von Gulat-Wellenburg, Mr. P. C. de Hees, Mr. F. C. Heffer, Mrs. F. C. Heffer, Mr. Victor Heller, Mr. Ikeda, Mr. H. Inada, Mr. R. Ito, Miss G. M. Jackson, Mr. L. Jacob, Major Karmany, Mr. T. Kawaura, Capt. R. H. Keller, Mr. Kinch, Mrs. Kinch, Capt. H. C. King, Mr. I. Kubo, Mr. Max. Kutschera, Sir Bryan Leighton, Miss D. Longstaff, Dr. G. B. Longstaff, Mrs. Geo. Lynch, Mr. E. J. Mardon, Mrs. E. J. Mardon, Mr. C. K. Marr, Mr. H. W. Montell, Mr. H. Miura, Judge J. T. McDonough, Mr. A. Naito, Mr. M. Nakamura, Dr. S. H. Nathan, M.R.C.S., Mr. Ohlmer, Mrs. Ohlmer, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Palmer, Mr. C. Palmer-Moorewood, Mrs. R. C. Palmer-Moorewood, Bishop Partridge, Mrs. Partridge, Mr. G. Patin, Mr. A. G. L. Renny, Mr. S. Richards, Mr. J. W. Ritchie, Mrs. J. W. Ritchie, Mr. K. W. K. Ross, U.S.A., Mrs. N. B. Scantlebury, Mr. G. Schultz, Mr. K. Shinagawa, Mr. M. Shiraishi, Capt. W. J. Simpson, Mrs. W. J. Simpson, Mr. M. Shiraishi, Mr. A. F. Smith, Mr. F. Sternberg, Mr. A. E. Stewart, Mr. Assessor Stubenranch, Mr. G. B. Swann, Mr. Takata, Mr. E. V. Thorn, Mr. J. A. Tower, Dr. C. Vering, Mrs. K. Voltmer, Mr. C. E. Walton, Mr. R. P. Wand, Mrs. R. P. Wand, Eng. Com. J. S. Watch, R.N., Mr. F. C. Wilford, Mr. D. Winter, Hon. Beekman Winterrop, Mrs. Winterop, Mrs. Woeniger, and Miss E. Zitelmann, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Coptic*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. J. Ambrose, Mr. T. Asanuma, Judge H. C. Bates, Mr. E. Baumgartner, Mr. G. H. Bohner, Judge A. C. Carson, Mrs. J. Edgar Corlies, Rev. J. D. Davis, Mrs. J. D. Davis, Master J. D. Davis, Jr., Master L. Davis, Mr. F. W. Deal, Mr. C. G. Dennis, Mr. G. H. Drummond, Mr. H. C. Ehrenfels, Mr. P. H. Filmore, Capt. Forteath, Mrs. Forteath and child, Miss Forteath, Mr. Gallagher, Mr. H. B. Goodwin, Miss E. L. Gray, Miss Hardcastle, Mrs. Harold, Mr. F. W. Hartford, Rev. F. S. Hatch, Capt. R. Kilbee-Stuart, Mrs. R. Kilbee-Stuart, Mr. S. Kozai and servant, Mr. H. F. Lyon, Dr. N. MacLeod, Mrs. N. MacLeod, Miss MacLeod, Miss A. B. MacLeod, Mr. M. Matsunami, Miss Maya Das, Miss Dora M. Maya Das, Mrs. McCartee, Mr. H. A. McGee, Mrs. H. A. McGee, Mr. P. Menzel, Mr. M. Michand, Mrs. Milliken, Miss E. F. Milliken, Mr. C. Montbaron, Mrs. Moorehead, Miss Morehead, Mr. C. Poma, Mr. H. I. Priestly, Mrs. H. I. Priestly, Mr. A. G. Prince, [illegible]r. T. C. Reiser, Rev. Jas. P. Richardson, Mrs. Jas. P. Richardson and infant, Master Robert Richardson, Miss Beatrice Richardson, Miss Agnes Richardson, Mrs. F. Ringer, Mr. W. A. Sims, Mr. A. V. Smith, Mr. J. S. Smoyer, Mr. J. S. Stanley, Mr. B. L. Stoner, Mr. J. M. Switzer, Viscount T. Torii, Mr. A. W. Torkington, Judge G. Trant, Mr. R. A. Van Santos, Mr. G. I. Whaley, Mr. J. Howard Wright, Mrs. J. Howard Wright, Mr. J. Dunbar Wright, and Miss K. Young, in cabin.

Per German steamer *Oldenburg*, for Europe via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Strauss, Mr. Hill, Mr. Gapage, Mr. Edm. Johannsen, Mrs. Richardson, child and amah, Mr. A. H. Zellers, Mr. E. Cameron, Mr. Duce, Mr. H. Torigai, Mr. B. Kumada, Mr. Carl Ward, Miss von Fallot, and Mr. Schuttpelz, in cabin.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw & Waste silk shipped per steamer *Ernest Simons*:—

	RAW.				WASTE.			
	Lyon.	Italy Sw'land	Marseilles		France.	Italy Sw'land.	M'chester.	
Siber Wolff & Co....	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jewett and Bent ...	31	—	—	—	—	54	—	—
Ulysse Pila & Co....	6	—	—	—	17	—	—	—
Longin & Co.	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Otto Strenli	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
H. Bernarbin & Co.	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Herbert Dent & Co.	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Jardine, Matheson & Co...............	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—
Total...........	109	—	—	—	23	55	—	—

Raw and Waste Silk shipped per steamer *Oldenburg*:—

	Raw.				Waste.			
Sieber & Co.........	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Otto Streuli & Co..	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Siber, Wolff & Co...	—	—	—	—	40	—	—	—
Dell'Oro & Co.......	—	—	—	—	36	—	—	—
	15	—	—	—	76	—	—	—

CARGO.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan* for Vancouver B.C. :—

	TEA.					
From.	Canada.	Chicago & West.	New York & East.	Pacific Coast.	Other Cities.	Tota., Packages.
Kobe	268	503	558	—	—	1,329
Yokohama..	778	1,550	1,160	—	—	3,488
Total...	1,046	2,053	1,718	—	—	4,817

	SILK.				
From.	New York.	San F'cisco.	Easton.	South Man'ster.	Total. Bales.
Hongkong & Canton	260	—	—	—	260
Shanghai	637	—	—	—	637
Yokohama	1,118	—	—	—	1,118
Total	2,015	—	—	—	2,015

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
America	T. K. K.	America Maru 1	M. May 30
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Tremont 2	M. May 30
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Tartar 3	M. May 30
Hongkong............	P. M. Co.	Korea 4	Th. June 2
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Zieten	Sa. June 4
America............	P. M. Co.	China 5	M. June 6
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. June 6
Hongkong............	N. P. Co.	Shawmut	Tu. June 9
Europe	M. M. Co.	———	W. June 8
Hongkong............	C. P. R. Co	Em. of China	Th. June [illegible]
Hongkong............	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	M. June 13
America............	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Su. June 19

1 Left San Francisco on the 12th inst.
2 Left Seattle on the 12th inst.
3 Left Hongkong on the 21st inst.
4 Left Hongkong on the 25th inst.
5 Left San Francisco on the 19th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Sachsen	Sa. May 28
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Tartar	Tu. May 31
Hongkong............	N. P. Co.	Tremont	Tu May 31
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Taisang	W. June 1
Europe	M. M. Co.	Australien	F. June 3
America............	P. M. Co.	Korea	Sa. June 4
Hongkong............	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. June [illegible]
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Kanagawa Maru	Tu June 7
Hongkong............	P. M. Co.	China	Tu June 7
Tacoma............	N. P. Co.	Shawmut	W. June 8
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Em. of China	F. June 10
America............	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	W. June 15
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	M. June 20
Portland	P. & A. Co.	Aragonia	Su. June 26
Hongkong	P & A. Co.	Nicomedia	Su. June 26

VESSELS TO ARRIVE.

STEAMERS.

NAME.	FROM.	REPORTED.	
Alesia	Hamburg	Passed Canal	May 9
Ambria	Hamburg	Left S'pore	May 20
America Maru	San F'cisco	Left	May 12
Asama	London	At H'kong	Mar. 13
Atholl	Salina Cruz	Left	April 30
Briez Huel	New York	Left	Feb. 20
Bullmouth	Singapore	At S'hai	April 27
Caithness	London	At N'saki	April 11
Calchas	Liverpool	Due Kobe	May 26
Candia	London	Passed Canal	April 29
Ceylon	London	Leaves H'kong	May 20
China	San F'cisco	Left	May 19
Comeric	New York	Left S'pore	May 19
Dardanus	London	Due H'kong	May 21
Diomed	Liverpool	Passed Canal	May 5
Glenfarg	London	Passed Canal	May 5
Glenesk	London	Passed Canal	Feb. 29
Glenshiel	London	At Kobe	May 2
Handandine	New York	Left	Feb. 15
Himera	New York	Leaves	April 15
Indradeo	New York	due Kobe	April 29
Indrani	New York	Left Phila'phia	Mar. 20
Knight Com'der	New York	Passed Canal	May 9
Korea	Hongkong	Left	May 25
L'ther Castle	New York	Left	April 18
Nestor	Liverpool	Left	April 30
Ningchow	Victoria	Left	May 14
Nuernberg	Hamburg	At H'kong	May 23
Oanfa	Liverpool	Passed Canal	April 7
Ocampo	Liverpool	At S'hai	May 6
Olessia	London	Left	Mar. 12
Patroclus	Liverpool	Left S'hai	Mar. 22
Pera	London	At Kobe	May 20
Plitvice	Phila.	Passed Canal	Mar. 1
Sardinia	London	Passed Canal	May 12
Sagami	New York	Leaves	May 20
Schuylkill	New York	At S'hai	May 14
Sikh	New York	Left	April 15
Silverlip	Hongkong	Leaves N'saki	May 26
St. George	Norfolk	At Zebu	Jan. 28
St. Nicholas	New York	Passed Canal	Feb. 4
St. Fillans	New York	At Manila	May 5
Stentor	Liverpool	Passed Canal	May 12
Strathnevis	London	At H'kong	Mar. 14
Swanley	Barry	Left	Feb. 10
Tartar	Hongkong	Left	May 21
Tjimahi	Macassar	Left	May 10
Teenkai	Liverpool	At S'hai	May 15
Tremont	Seattle	Left	May 12
Ulysses	Liverpool	Left Kobe	May 23
Verona	New York	Passed Canal	April 7
Vindobona	Trieste	Passed Canal	April 18
Yarra	Marseilles	Left	April 17
Yangtsze	Liverpool	Due H'kong	May 28

UNDER SAIL.

Acme	New York	Jan. 24	Y'hama
Bretagne	Phila.	Nov. 14	Hiogo
Cannebiere	Phila.	Oct. 2	N'saki
Duguesclin	Phila.	Nov. [illegible]	N'saki
Houdoudin	New York	Jan. 6	Japan
Italia	Phila.	Jan. 20	Loading

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For NEW YORK, via ports, and Suez Canal, Prompt Despatch, the "ST. FILLANS."—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

For KEELUNG, via Moji (from Kobe), May 3rd, and 18th every month, at Noon, the "TUNGUS."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

For MARSEILLES, London, and Antwerp, via Kobe, Shanghai, Hongkong, Straits, Colombo, and Port Said, about May 27th, the "PERA."—P. & O. S.N. Co.

For TRIESTE, via Kobe, Hongkong, Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Aden, Suez, Port Said, and Fiume, about May 27th, the "VINDOBONA."—Pollak Bros.

For BREMEN and Hamburg, via ports, May 28th, at 9 a.m., the "SACHSEN."—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

For HAVRE, Hamburg and Bremen via ports, May 28th, at Daylight, the "SEGOVIA."—C. Illies & Co.

For KEELUNG, via Moji (from Kobe), May 30th, at Noon, the "DAPHNE."—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

For CANADA, United States, and Europe, via Vancouver, B.C., May 31st, the "TARTAR."—Canadian Pacific Railway Co.

For HONGKONG, via Kobe, and Moji, about May 31st, the "TREMONT."—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

For CHEMULPO, via Bakan, Fusan, and Mokpo (from Kobe), May 31st, at Noon, the "KANJO-GO."—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

For SHANGHAI, via Kobe, Moji, and Nagasaki, June 1st, at 4 p.m., the "TAISANG."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

For TAKAO, via Kobe, Ujina, Moji, Nagasaki, Keelung and Anping, June 2nd, at Noon, the "TEUCER."—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

For MARSEILLES, via ports, and Shanghai, June 3rd, at 9 a.m., the "AUSTRALIEN."—M. M. S.S. Co.

For SAN FRANCISCO, via Honolulu, June 4th, at 3 p.m. "KOREA."—P. M. S.S. Co.

For VICTORIA, Seattle, Tacoma, Wash., June 4th, at Daylight the "CALCHAS."—Butterfield & Swire.

For BONIN ISLANDS via ports, June 5th, the "HIOGO MARU."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

For HONGKONG, via Kobe, Inland Sea, Nagasaki, and Shanghai, June 6th, the "EMPRESS OF INDIA."—Canadian Pacific Railway Co.

For LONDON and Antwerp, June 7th, at Daylight, the "AGAMEMNON."—Butterfield & Swire.

For SEATTLE, Wash., via Victoria, B.C., June 7th, at 2 p.m., the "KANAGAWA MARU."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

For HONGKONG, via Kobe, (Inland Sea), Nagasaki, and Shanghai, about June 7th, the "CHINA."—P. M. S.S. Co.

For VICTORIA, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash., June 8th, the "SHAWMUT."—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

For CANADA, United States, Europe, and Vancouver, B.C., June 10th, the "EMPRESS OF CHINA."—C. P. R. Co.

For SAN FRANCISCO, via Honolulu, June 15th, the "GAELIC."—O. & O. S.S. Co.

For HONGKONG, via Kobe, (Inland Sea), Nagasaki, and Shanghai, about June 20th, the "DORIC."—O. & O. S.S. Co.

For HONGKONG, via Kobe, Inland Sea, Nagasaki, and Shanghai, about June 23rd, the "ATHENIAN."—Canadian Pacific Railway Co.

For AUSTRALIA, via ports, (from Kobe), June 24th, the "AUSTRALIAN."—Cornes & Co.

For AUSTRALIA and New Zealand (from Kobe), June 25th, the "CHINGTU."—Butterfield & Swire.

For PORTLAND, Ore., June 26th, the "ARAGONIA."—P. & A. S.S. Co.

For HONGKONG via Kobe, Moji, Nagasaki and Shanghai, June 26th, the "NICOMEDIA."—P. & A. S.S. & Co.

For GENOA, Maseilles, and Liverpool (from Kobe), early in June, the "TEENKAI."—Butterfield & Swire.

SHIPPING IN YOKOHAMA.

STEAMERS.

Arabia, German steamer, 2,868, Bahle, 25th May,—Hongkong via ports, General.—P. & A. S.S. Co.

Australien, French steamer, 2,900, Verron, 24th May,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Changsha, British steame, ,463, Moore, 24th May,—Melbourne and Hongkong, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Claverhill, British steamer, 1,829, Seldon, 25th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Doris, Norwegian steamer, 965, K. Jacobsen, 27th May,—Otaru, General.—Masuda & Co.

Ganges, British steamer, 2,721, W. Sibbold, 25th May,—Otaru, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gloucester City, British steamer, 1,409, C. R. Corfield, 14th May,—Rangoon, Rice.—Dodwell & Co.

Graaf van Bylandt, Dutch steamer, 933, van der Lees, 26th May,—Batavia via ports, Ballast.—Ed. van Nierop & Co.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,065, J. C. Jensen, 24th May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Indrasamha, British steamer, 3,367, Wm. E. Craven, 25th May,—Portland, Oregon, Mails and General.—P. & A. S.S. Co.

Rasbera, British steamer, 2,500, Morrison, 10th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Nothing special to report.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER YARD.
White Shirting—{40 yds. 36 in. / 50 yds. 36 in.} ...	0.09 to 0.10
	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	V. 2.85 to 3.60
Grey Shirting—9lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.80 to 4.25
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches...	3.00 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton Italians and Satteens...	0.20 to 0.40

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	V. 0.35 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 32 in....	0.30 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches...	0.16 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.50 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 to 65 inches ...	0.90 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0.60 to 0.66
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	9.50 to 12.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches...	0.90 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches...	1.90 to 2.25
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 5lb, 24-25 yards, 32 nches...	2.50 to 3.65

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	V. 140.00 to 150.00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	—
Nos. 38/42, Singles	—
Nos. 32, Doubles...	145.00 to 150.00
Nos. 42, Doubles...	155.00 to 160.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/100, Plain...	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	245.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	295.00 to 305.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	425.00 to 435.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling...	Nominal.	33
Indian Broach...		26
Chinese		23

METALS.

Only a small business to report.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward...	Y.4.05 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.30 to 4.60
Sheet Iron...	4.65 to 6.90
Galvanised Iron sheets	10.00 to 11.00
Wire Nails, assorted	5.15 to 5.75
Tin Plates, per box...	6.70 to 7.60
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.05
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1½ inch)	5.00 to 5.50

KEROSENE.

The market is unaltered.

American	$3.21
Russian	3.05
Langkat	3.15

SUGAR.

There is little business.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	Y.6.80 to 7.15
Brown Manila...	7.00 to 7.70
Brown Daitong	5.60 to 7.30
Brown Canton...	6.40 to 8.40
White Java and Penang...	8.20 to 9.10
White Refined...	10.50 to 13.00

INDIGO.

No change to report.

	PICUL
Java, Medium to best...	270.00 to 320.00
Calcutta, Medium to best	180.00 to 290.00
Madras (*Kurpah*), Medium to best ...	140.00 to 170.00
Madras (Dry Leaf), Medium to best ..	100.00 to 140.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

There has been a moderate amount of business during the week. Dealers have lowered their pretensions, especially for fine sized filatures, and considerable business is in progress for Lyons at the reduced rates. Sellers here have apparently realised the fact that crops are good all over the world and are anxious to close up their old ventures before the new season opens. New crop continues to go well in all countries. The cold weather of the present week has brought in a few complaints from some of the Japanese provinces, but they are of little importance and the recurrence of warm spring weather will soon abolish them.

QUOTATIONS.

	Y.
Filatures—Extra Best, Coarse	—
Filatures—Extra, Fine	—
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	930 to 940
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	—
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	890 to 900
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	870 to 880
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	880 to 885
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	850 to 860
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	—
Common—Coarse	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1½	—
Re-reels—No. 2	—
Re-reels—No. 3	—
Kakedas—Extra	—
Kakedas—No. 1	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 1½...	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 2	Nominal

WASTE SILK.

There is no change and practically no market, as we are between seasons.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	—
Noshi—Filatures, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Good...	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	—
Nsohi—Joshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	—
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	—
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	—

TEA.

The market is rather weak.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	56 & upwards
Choice	50 to 55
Finest	46 to 49
Fine...	40 to 45
Good Medium	38 to 39
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common...	—

WILD WITH ECZEMA

And Other Itching, Burning, Scaly Eruptions with Loss of Hair.

Speedy Cure Treatment.

Bathe the affected parts with Hot Water and Cuticura Soap, to cleanse the surface of crusts and scales, and soften the thickened cuticle. Dry, without hard rubbing, and apply Cuticura Ointment freely, to allay itching, irritation, and inflammation, and soothe and heal, and lastly take Cuticura Resolvent Pills, to cool and cleanse the blood. A single set [illegible] often sufficient to cure the most torturing, disfiguring, itching, burning, scaly, pimply humours, eczemas, rashes, irritations, and chafings, with loss of hair, when all else fails.

The agonizing itching and burning of the skin, as in eczema; the frightful scaling, as in psoriasis; the loss of hair and crusting of the scalp, as in scalled head; the facial disfigurement, as in pimples and ringworm; the awful suffering of infants and the anxiety of worn-out parents, as in milk crust, tetter, and salt rheum,—all demand a remedy of almost superhuman virtues to successfully cope with them. Such are the CUTICURA remedies, the purest, sweetest, most speedy and economical curatives for the skin, scalp, and blood ever compounded. Mothers are their warmest friends.

Millions of Women Use Cuticura Soap

Assisted by CUTICURA OINTMENT for preserving, purifying, and beautifying the skin, for cleansing the scalp of crusts, scales, and dandruff, and the stopping of falling hair, for softening, whitening, and soothing red, rough, and sore hands, for baby rashes and chafings, in the form of baths for annoying irritations and inflammations of women, or too free or offensive perspiration, in the form [illegible] washes for ulcerative weaknesses, and many sanative, antiseptic purposes which readily suggest themselves, as well as for all the purposes of the toilet, bath, and nursery.

CUTICURA RESOLVENT PILLS (Chocolate Coated) are a new, tasteless, odourless, economical substitute for the celebrated liquid CUTICURA RESOLVENT, as well as for all other blood purifiers and humour cures. Put up in screw-cap pocket vials, containing [illegible] doses.

CUTICURA REMEDIES are sold throughout the world. Australian Depot: R. Towns & Co., Sydney. British Depot: 27-28, Charterhouse Sq., London. French Depot: 5 Rue de la Paix, Paris. POTTER DRUG AND CHEM. CORP., Sole Props., Boston, U. S. A.

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, May 26.

London silver $\frac{1}{16}$ higher, Shanghai sterling quotations ¼ higher and Hongkong $\frac{1}{16}$ higher have caused local rates on China to rule easier, but no change otherwise.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0$\frac{3}{16}$ @ ¼
— — Bills on demand............	2/0¼ @ $\frac{5}{16}$
— — 4 months' sight	2/0$\frac{5}{16}$ @ ⅜
— Private 4 months' sight............	2/0⅝ @ $\frac{11}{16}$
— — 6 months' sight............	2/0¾ @ $\frac{13}{16}$
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	254
— Private 4 months' sight......	258 @ 8½
— — 6 months' sight......	259½ @ 60
Hongkong—Bank sight .... per $100.	90*
— Private 10 days' sight do.	87½*
Shanghai—Bank sight	80*
— Private 10 days' sight	82½*
India—Bank sight	150½
— Private 30 days' sight	153
America—Bank sight............	49¼ @ ½
— Private 30 days' sight	50
— Private 4 months' sight	50¼
Germany—Bank sight	206½
— Private 4 months' sight	210½
Bar Silver (London)	25¾

* Nominal.

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, May 26.

Bretts, sales at *yen* 7.25. Club Hotels, 70 nominal. Grand Hotels, sales at *yen* 235. Helms, sales at *yen* 50. Langfeldts, sellers at *yen* 45. Nickels, sellers at *yen* 33 Kirin Breweries, sellers at *yen* 100. Engine and Iron Works, sellers at *yen* 100. Y. U. Club debentures, sellers at *yen* 109.

	YEN.	
Brett & Co. Limited	7.25	Sales.
Club Hotel, Limited	70	Nominal.
Grand Hotel, Limited	235	Sales.
Helm Bros., Limited	50	Sales
Langfeldt & Co., Limited.........	45	Sellers.
C. Nickel & Co., Limited	33	Sellers.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Founders...	450	Nominal.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Ordinary...	75	Buyers.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Preference.	70	Nominal.
Japan Brewery Co., Limited ...	100	Sellers.
Yokohama E. & I. Works	100	Sellers.

Telephone No. 323.

JAPANESE SHARES.

Yokohama, May 27, a.m.

	Paid up. Yen.	Div'd 1 year. per cent.	Q'ation. Yen.
Consolidated Bonds (Seiri) ...	100	5	89.00
War Bonds (Gunji)	100	5	89.00
5 °/₀ Imperial Bonds (Goburi).	100	5	85.00
Navy Bonds (Kaigun)	100	5	*85.70
Tokyo City Public Loan Bonds	100	6	99.00
Y'hama Water-works Bonds .	100	6	90.90
Y'hama City Public Loan Bonds	100	6	87.80
Osaka Harbour Bonds	100	6	90.50
Sanyo Railway Debentures ...	100	6	91.00
Kawasaki Shipyard Deb'tures.	100	9	103.50
Osaka S.S. Co. (Shosen) 3rd Issue of Debentures	100	7	98.10
Sanyo Railway	50	8	*59.60
Kyushu Railway	50	8	*55.20
Hokkaido Colliery Railway ...	50	12	73.50
Sobu Railway............	50	8½	55.50
Tokyo Electric Car (Densha).	50	9	92.80
Tokyo Electric Car, new	37.50	9	90.80
Tokyo Street Railway (Shigai)	50	5$\frac{1}{10}$	83.80
Tokyo Street Railway new ...	1	—	16.80
Tokyo Electric Railway (Denki)	50	—	57.00
Tokyo Electric Railway, new.	20.00	—	27.10
Yokohama Electric Railway..	25	—	29.40
Odawara Electric Car	50	5½	28.00
Keihin Electric Railway	50	5	59.60
Yokohama Fire Insurance ...	12.50	10	16.25
Tokyo Fire Insurance	12.50	12	20.10
Kanegafuchi Spinning	50	7	39.00
Fuji Cotton Spinning............	5[illegible]	8	33.00
Tokyo G'sian Cotton Spinning.	50	8	44.00
Yokohama Dock	33	12	44.00
Tokyo Electric Light	50	12	73.30
Osaka Electric Light............	50	20	92.20
Tokyo Gas............	50	14	82.50
Tokyo Gas, new............	1.00	—	14.20
Osaka Gas new	12.50	15	†15.00
Yokohama Electric Light......	50	15	81.50
Nippon (Tokyo) Sugar Refined.	50	15	†60.80
Nippon (Tokyo) Sugar new...	44	15	†53.50
Nippon Beer Brewery (Yebisu)	50	23	99.00
Nippon Beer Brewery, new ...	25	23	53.50
Osaka (Asahi) Beer Brewery..	50	10	53.00
Marusan Beer Brewery.........	50	—	8.00
Y'hama Chuo Godown	50	12	51.50
Yokohama Boeki Godown ...	20	14	25.00

* Ex dividend. † Ex New share.

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Cure Indigestion, Bile, Sick Headache, Giddiness, Palpitation, and all Internal Disorders.

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sustenance and energy—that's what Bovril is. Bovril represents a perfectly scientific combination of the stimulative and flavouring features of meat extract with the nutritive properties of beef. Bovril is readily taken and easily digested and assimilated by even the most feeble constitution.

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 4TH, 1904.

BIRTH.

At 37, Tsukiji, Tokyo, on May 29th, 1904, the wife of Rev. A. W. COOKE, of Iwashiro, Wakamatsu, of a Daughter.

DEATHS.

At Kobe, on June 2nd, after a protracted illness, ERNST AUG. EVERS, in his 65th year.

At Kowaki-dani, Hakone, at 2.15 a.m., on June 3rd, JNO. W. HALL, of Yokohama, age 56.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

DURING May, the export of coal from Moji was 258,849 tons.

EIGHTEEN Chinese students from Canton arrived on May 30th at Nagasaki.

BARON VON HEYKING has been appointed German Minister at Belgrade, in place of Dr. von Voigts-Retz.

SIR ERNEST Satow has been left a legacy of £1,000 by the late Mrs. Selina Oddy-Gray, his mother's half-sister.

THE German steamer *Quarta* which stranded on May 24th off Kurushima, Iyo province, was floated on the 27th.

THE Crown Prince entertained on June 1st the Minister of War, and the various staff officers, including Marquis Oyama.

IT is stated that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's steamer *Satsuma Maru*, having been released from a special mission, will be employed on the Formosan line.

ON the morning of May 26th a train was derailed at Nakayama, Iwate prefecture. An engineer was injured.

FIVE thousand tons of Cardiff coal were delivered at Nagasaki on May 26th, having been brought by a British steamer.

THREE cases of diphtheria were reported on June 1st in Tokyo. The patients were all members of a family in Shitaya.

CAPT. PAUL A. DIFLEFSEN, who spent many years in Kobe as an Inland Sea pilot, died in San Francisco on April 24, aged 64 years.

THE advances to the Treasury by the Bank of Japan were increased on May 31st by two million *yen*, making a total of seventy-three million *yen*.

Two cases of small-pox were reported on May 30th at Moji. Small-pox patients number 42 from the first appearance of the disease this year.

A JAPANESE woman arrived on June 1st at Nagasaki from Mukden via Taku, China. According to her story three Japanese women are still in Mukden.

ON June 1st, hail fell in the district of Kamiminochi, Nagano prefecture, the depth of the fall being about three inches. Some damage was caused to crops.

THREE RUSSIANS from the *Varyag* who had been undergoing surgical treatment in the Matsuyama Hospital and who have since recovered, will shortly be sent home.

THE estate of the late Sir Edwin Arnold has been valued at £6,417 9s. 11d. Sir Edwin left all of his own property to his wife, Dame Kurokawa Tama Arnold.

MISS MCCAUL and party left Hiroshima on May 28th by the hospital ship *Hakuai Maru* for the front. The same day, Dr. McGee and her party arrived at Hiroshima.

A TELEGRAM from Nemuro reports under date of May 27th that owing to a gale five sailing vessels have been wrecked off Munijiri island. One of the crew was drowned.

A CASE of suspected cholera was reported on May 31st at Echizen-bori, Kyobashi, Tokyo, and the patient died on the evening of the following day. He was one of the crew of a junk.

THE Emperor and Empress were on June 1st to distribute five hundred *yen* among the people rendered homeless at Miyako-machi, Iwate prefecture where an extensive fire occured on May 27th.

THE price of the British steamer *Westminster* (3,859 tons) which Mr. Ukon, of Osaka, recently purchased is reported by the *Jiji* to be *yen* 250,000. The ship was delivered on May 28th at Kobe to the new owner.

THE Nippon Yusen Kaisha has purchased the British steamer *Mogul* (gross 3,781 tons) and re-named it the *Jinsen Maru*. A former *Jinsen Maru* was sunk at the entrance to Port Arthur at the first blocking operations.

ACCORDING to intelligence brought by the British steamer *Argo*, which arrived on May 26th at Nagasaki from Chefoo, the Japanese officers and men of the late *Kinshu Maru* captured by the Russians have arrived at Harbin.

THE wife of a carpenter, in Oami-machi, Yametake, near Chiba, committed suicide on May 25th by jumping with two of her daughters, one of seven years old and the other of four years, into a well. The cause is reported to be poverty.

THE *Asahi* says that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has cancelled the service between Kobe and Yuensan, Korea, on the advice of the Government authorities. The chartered steamer *Argo* was to have left Kobe on May 29th.

THE war correspondents of the London *Daily Chronicle*, the New York *Herald*, the Associated Press, the Chicago *Daily News*, and the *Daily Mail*, who returned to Shimonoseki after the battle of the Yalu, left again on May 29th for the front.

IN spite of the war, says a telegram from Osaka, the business of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha for the first half year was very successful showing an increase in net profits of 10 per cent. over the previous account. An interim dividend was declared of 5 per cent.

A LANTERN procession participated in principally by cocoon, raw silk, and silk piece goods traders took place in Yokohama on the evening of Saturday (May 28th.) Over three thousand turned out in spite of the rainy weather and fireworks were displayed in connection with the demonstration.

S. ISHIKAWA, a coolie, Chitose-cho, Yokohama, attempted to murder his wife on the morning of May 30th, inflicting severe injuries on her head and throat with a sword and also attempted to commit suicide by injuring himself in the throat. He was arrested by the police. The cause is believed to be jealousy.

A MOJI telegram to the *Jiji* reports that the steamers *Jinsen Maru* and *Daito Maru* collided on May 30th in the neighbourhood of the Taingnyon islands (which are commonly known as the Sir James Hall group) off Hoan-Hai-do, Korea. The details are not yet known. The damage, however, seems to be slight.

M. TOMIYAMA (19) who purchased a post money order for *sen* 5 at the Shiba Post Office, Tokyo, and attempted to obtain money from the Akasaka Post Office, by changing its value to *yen* 5 was sentenced on May 30th in the Tokyo District Court to two years' imprisonment with hard labour and to six months' police surveillance.

JAPANESE naval casualties from Feb. 9th to May 25th number 1,202. Of these 949 represent men killed, 88 missing (in the blocking operation on May 3rd); 15 died after receiving wounds; 78 were wounded but recovered; 83 were wounded and are still under treatment in the hospitals; and 89 were wounded and are under treatment but not in hospital.

LIEUT.-GENENRAL Baron T. Nagayama, who had been ill for some months past, died on the night of May 28th. His remains were sent on the following day to Sapporo, where his family reside. The General was a member of the Satsuma Clan and fought on the Government side in the Satsuma Rebellion and also took part in the Restoration struggle.

MR. N. SHIRASU, Japanese Consul at Suchou, China, telegraphed on May 27th that owing to the recent rainy and cold weather, sericultural work was much affected and the crop of cocoons is poor. The cocoon market was to be opened on the 30th, the nominal price being $36 to $40 per hundred catties. The crop of silk is forecasted to be about 5 per cent. reduced and the market shows a weak tendency.

THE BATTLE OF NANSHAN.

Saturday, May 28.

Below we print the official reports received in connection with the Battle of Nanshan:—

[Received at the Head Quarter Staff at 1 p.m. on the 21st.]

The enemy at the Kinchow position occasionally opens a desultory fire, apparently with the object of drawing us on. It would seem that the artillery on Nanshan (near Kinchow) consists of four 15-cent. rifled howitzers, ten old pattern guns from 9 to 15 centimetres, and two 13-cent. quick-firers. There are also some large field pieces but their number and calibre are uncertain. On the summit of the hill (Nanshan) there are at least ten forts or breast-works. The most advanced are designed to protect the approaches from the north and the north-east. There are also wire entanglements and mines at the base of the north face and of the east. The above statement as to the enemy's artillery is based on actual observations of his fire. Judging from the fragments of the shells, there appear to be 10½ cent., and 8½-cent. guns of old pattern, which have an effective range of 8,500 metres.

[Received on the forenoon of the 22nd.]

The attacking force has to-day commenced operations as previously arranged.

[Received on the forenoon of the 23rd.]

The attacking force is advancing upon Kinchow.

[Received on the forenoon of the 24th.]

The attacking force assembled on the line of the Kiulichwang, Chinkia-tun and Chaitszho hills, and a reconnaissance was made by the staff. From to-night a reconnaissance will be made of the camping ground for the force and of the road to be followed by it.

[Received on the afternoon of the 24th.]

The result of the above reconnaissances was as follows:—On the Hoshangtau promontry the enemy have 8 large guns all pointing sea-ward. The calibre and nature of these pieces is not known. Some of these guns can be trained on the Makiatung position. In the vicinity of Liushutun there is a large store house. On the eastern eminence of Nankwanlin there are works which appear to be trenches for skirmishers. At three places (Yangpauying, Houying and Tsoying) in the southern vicinity of Kiulichwang the enemy have three search-lights which they frequently turn on our positions. Judging from the fragments of the shells hitherto fired by the enemy, they have 20-cent., 15-cent., 10½-cent., 8.6-cent., and 7.6-cent., some of which are quick-firers. The shells fired at our reconnaissance from the Shihkiashan position show that there are 9-cent., quick-firers mounted there. On the east of Nanshan from Yenkiatun round by the north base of the mountain to the north-west and as far as a point about 1,000 metres to the north-east of Liukiautien, there is a wire entanglement the whole way. On the enemy's left wing there are no signs of defensive works. In Kinchow there continues to be only a small force of infantry and artillery.

[Received on the forenoon of the 25th.]

According to reports received from the naval squadron a section of the squadron will take part in the attack to-morrow, directing its operations against Nanshan (which is on the south of Kinchow).

[Received on the forenoon of the 26th.]

The attacking force moving on the line Lunwangmiao, Sanlichwang, Chinkiatien and Wangkiatun, assailed Kinchow and Nanshan from 5.30 a.m. until 9 a.m. There was no change in the enemy's condition near Kinchow. His artillery constantly searched the positions of our troops but inflicted little injury. Our force will attack Nanshan and Kinchow to-morrow morning (26th). The naval force that was to attack from Kinchow Bay has not yet appeared.

[Received on the afternoon of the 26th.]

The artillery on both sides opened fire at daylight to-day (26th) and maintained it for five hours. During this time three of our ships arrived in Kinchow Bay and took part in the fight. A gun-boat of the enemy's opened fire on our left wing from Talien Bay. The artillery duel is now at its height. At 5.20 a.m. Kinchow fell into our hands.

[Received at 4 a.m. on the 27th instant.]

The attacking force, after a fierce fight, captured the Nanshan position to-day and is now pursuing the enemy.

It will be very difficult for any reader to follow the above without the aid of a military map. We may explain, therefore, that the key of the Kinchow position is the hill called Nanshan. It occupies the centre of the Isthmus, the railway from Kinchow to Port Arthur passing it on the east and the road between the same two places passing it on the west. Nanshan is within the range of heavy ship's guns from Kinchow Bay. The Isthmus has a width of about 2 miles. The Nanshan eminence and slopes appear to have been bristling with parapets and breastworks affording cover for artillery and riflemen, and the approaches on the east and north were protected with wire-entanglements and mines. How many guns were mounted it is very difficult to say from the above account, but there were certainly from 20 to 25 of various calibres. On the west side, however, the defenses seem to have been weaker, so far as concerns such things as mines and entanglements, but the probability is that the slopes on that face down to the sea were completely commanded by guns and rifles from the forts and parapets. How this exceedingly strong position was taken, we can not see from the official account thus far published. The line along which the Japanese attacking force is said to have been extended was directed originally against the north and east, but we conjecture that after the fall of the town of Kinchow, which lies to the north of the Isthmus, the Japanese moved down the road on the western shore of the Bay and assaulted Nanshan from that direction. We suspect that the losses were very heavy on the side of the assailants. But the forcing of such a position was a glorious feat of arms, and in point of strategical importance it ranks not inferior to the battle of the Yalu. Possibly the co-operation of the navy had considerable influence, but we confess that we looked forward to a second Plevna at the Kinchow Isthmus, and truly the question now arises, can the Russians hold any position against a Japanese attack?

[Received May 27th, afternoon.]

The army, after driving the enemy from Kinchow at 4.40 a.m. to-day (26th), proceeded to attack Nanshan. We first silenced the artillery of the open fort and at 7 p.m. captured this position. The enemy had dug concealed pits all round the forts in several lines, and moreover resisted with the greatest resolution, using arms of the latest pattern. Our army made several attacks which failed, and it was not till our last charge at 3 p.m. that the Russians abandoned the position and retreated to Nankwanrin. A part of the railway station at Tafangshin was blown up by the enemy's mines. Our troops fought for 16 hours to-day, and their endurance as well as the bravery they showed in attacking a strongly posted enemy must be specially reported. Four of our war-ships engaged in this action and rendered material assistance to our right wing during the attack.

[Received at the Naval Department at 1.25 p.m. on the 27th, from Vice-Admiral Togo.]

According to report just received at the naval base by wireless telegraphy from Captain Nishiyama, whose squadron is on its way back, the *Tsukushi*, *Heiyen*, *Akagi*, *Chokai* and the Frst Torpedo Squadron steamed to Kinchow Bay at 6 p.m. on the 25th, and from dawn on the 26th took part in the operations on shore. It bombarded the enemy's position on the Sukiatun eminence. The *Akagi* and the *Chokai*, taking advantage of their light draft, assisted in the fight throughout the whole day. At 7 a.m. the enemy retired from the highland at Sukiatun, but continued to resist doggedly from the positions in rear so that the progress of the fight was not visible from the sea. At 8 p.m., however, it was seen that the enemy's positions had been carried. Captain Hayashi, who commanded the *Chokai*, was killed, and 9 men were killed or wounded. The ships did not suffer any appreciable damage.

Monday, May 30.

[Received at the Naval Department at 10.30 p.m. on the 27th instant.]

The report of Captain Nishiyama, commanding the Detached Squadron has just been brought in by the Torpedo Division. He says:—"The Squadron reached Kinchow Bay at noon on the 25th instant, but the wind was so strong and the sea so high that the enemy's positions at Sukiatung could not be discerned, and the ships steamed into shelter. From 5 a.m. on the 26th the weather at length cleared. The Second Army opened artillery fire from dawn on this day, and the *Akagi*, the *Chokai* and the torpedo squadron, taking advantage of the high tide, put in close to the shore at 6 a.m. and opened fire on the enemy's line of batteries in coöperation with the troops. At the beginning of the fight one of the enemy's shells swept over the deck of the *Chokai* forward, wounded Lieutenant Kono, killed 2 men and wounded 2 others. By 8 o'clock a.m. the enemy's batteries within sight of the shore were almost wholly silenced, and the Squadron ceased firing. But a part of the torpedo squadron directed its guns on the railway at Shanhei, while another part, taking advantage of the high tide, steamed slowly in, sounding as it went and showing the way for the *Tsukushi* and the *Heiyen*, which covered the advance of the right wing of the attacking force as they waded rapidly along the shore. At 10 a.m. the Squadron again opened fire with all its guns on the enemy's batteries, and as it appeared, by 11 a.m. that the Russians had retired from Sukiatung and that our troops had obtained possession of the heights there, we ceased firing. In consequence of the falling tide it became necessary for the *Tsukushi* and the *Heiyen* to steam out gradually from the shore, but the *Akagi* and the *Chokai* with a part of the torpedo squadron remained watching the enemy. Meanwhile our ships had established communications with the troops, and had learned that although the enemy had been driven from Sukiatung, a further attack upon Nankwan-lin was necessary. Therefore the *Akagi* and the *Chokai* at once opened fire on this latter position. During this bombardment a shell from the Russian batteries exploded near one of the *Chokai's* guns, killed Captain Hayashi and wounded Midshipman Sato and 3 men. The ship, however, was not injured, nor did any other of the vessels sustain any damage. At 7.30 p.m. the Squadron ceased firing and returned to the base."

[Received at the Head Quarter Staff in the forenoon of the 28th.]

The report of the Kinchow attacking force is as follows:—"The Force, at 10.30 a.m. on the 27th, despatched under Major Nakamura a detachment consisting of infantry, artillery and engineers, which took possession of Nankwan-lin. The main body of the Force took up its quarters in the hamlets near Nanshan. The various bodies were reformed and as soon as they are prepared the advance will be resumed along the previously determined line. The enemy in the direction of Port Arthur and the detachment guarding the South Sanshilipao station, burned the station and withdrew at 10 a.m. (Sanshilipao is the point where the Dalny line joins the main railway). The principal objects captured from the enemy in the fight on the 26th instant were some 50 guns of large and small calibre. The enemy left about 400 dead upon the field. Our casualties were about 3,000.

(Later). [Received at the Head Quarter Staff.]

"The Kinchow Attacking Force, as already reported, commenced the assault upon Nanshan at 6 a.m. But about one half of fortifications on the eminence were of a permanent character. In addition to some 50 guns, large and small, mounted in the forts, there were two batteries of field artillery (quick-firers), and the defending infantry was posted in two lines, or, in places, in three lines, the men being in trenches which completely screened them and were provided with embrasures. Further, machine guns were placed at the most important points and altogether the defence was most obstinate. Our Force deployed all its field artillery and cannonaded the enemy's forts so that by 1 p.m. the principal of these were silenced. Meanwhile he had withdrawn his quick-firers to Nankwanlin whence he continued to bombard us until the evening. Our artillery, after silencing the enemy's forts, directed its whole fire against his entrenchments, and our infantry, advancing to effective range, opened a heavy fire, thereafter advancing to within 400 or 500 metres of the position. But in front of the Russian position there were wire entanglements, mines, and stake-pits, while, on the other hand, his quick-firers and rifles had not been in the least weakened, so that he poured a hail of bullets upon us. Nevertheless our men advanced to within 200 metres, and attempted again and again to force their way through these obstacles, but again and again they failed, officers and men being struck down so that none reached nearer than 20 or 30 metres from the position. Once more, therefore, artillery fire was opened by way of preliminary to a new advance, and towards evening this fire was developed to its utmost capacity. Simultaneously a last charge was made, and with difficulty the entrenchments were forced at one point. From this place the hills were rapidly rushed and the enemy's positions were all captured. During these operations four of our gun-boats assisted by cannonading the enemy's forts from Kinchow Bay. A gun-boat of the enemy's meanwhile fired upon our left wing. The most fortunate incident of the attack was that we discovered the wire communicating from the battery to the mines at the base of Nanshan on the east, and this having been cut, the enemy was unable to fire the mines. The enemy left about 400 dead in the forts and their immediate vicinity. We took the whole of the guns in the forts together with their equipment.

A Later Report.

[Received at the Head Quarter Staff at 9.45 p.m., 28th instant.]

General Oku reports that on the 25th the preparations for attack were completed as previously effected, and operations were commenced from mid-night. The Fourth Division formed the right wing; the First Division the centre, and the Third Division the left. The force was directed against Nanshan on the Kinchow Peninsula. The weather proved extremely unfavourable, a violent thunderstorm greatly impeding the movements of the troops. A detachment attacked and took possession of the town of Kinchow. On the 26th at 4.30 a.m. artillery fire should have commenced from our side but it became necessary to wait until 5.30 owing to a heavy fog. Our whole park then opened against Nanshan, under the command of Major-General Uchiyama. At 6 a.m. one of our squadrons appeared in Kinchow Bay and added its fire to that of our park. The enemy replied with all the guns he had in position and a heavy artillery duel took place. After 3 hours the fire from the Russian side slackened greatly. Thereupon our line of infantry advanced by rushes and reached to within from 550 to 300 metres of the Nanshan position. By 11 a.m. all the guns that were mounted in the open on the Russian side had been silenced, but two batteries of quick-firing field-guns retreated to Nankwanlin, and taking up a position on the high-land there, maintained a persistent fire. At 10 a.m. a gun-boat of the enemy steaming to the east of the Hoshantou fort, opened fire on the left rear of our Third Division, keeping it up until 2 p.m. An attempt was also made to land a force from 4 or 5 transports in the vicinity of Hoshantou, but a detachment of our troops succeeded in frustrating this movement. Further, four 9-cent. guns which the enemy had posted at Tafangshan on the south of Nanshan, cannonaded our Third Division continuously. The artillery of our left wing replied to this fire but owing to the long range our guns effected little. The ground occupied by the enemy on Nanshan had very steep approaches and was fortified almost in a permanent manner. There were about 70 pieces in position supplemented by 8 machine-guns, and round these several lines of entrenchments had been erected with shelter trenches affording complete cover for rifle-men. In front of these again were lines of mines and barbed wire entanglements, the intervals between these obstacles being occupied by numerous machine guns. Our artillery exerted its whole strength to demolish these obstacles. Our guns changed their position several times, and shortened the range, rendering every assistance to the troops. But the enemy's resistance was so stubborn that up to 5 p.m. no opportunity could be found for a charge. The Third Division on our left was specially hard pressed by the enemy, being heavily fired on from the left flank and also from the batteries on Nankwanlin. Further the enemy strongly re-inforced his right so as to bear back our left. By this time the ammunition that our guns had brought into action was nearly exhausted, and it therefore became necessary, in spite of the prospect of heavy losses, to push forward by way of preliminary to charging, the artillery meanwhile using all its remaining ammunition for the purposes of a final and vehement cannonade. Our First Division rushed forward with extraordinary bravery, but the men dropped in their tracks under a hail of bullets and shells from overhead and from the flank and the advance was irresistibly checked. Happily at this moment our Squadron in Kinchow Bay poured a heavy fire upon the enemy's left, thus strongly re-inforcing the cannonade of our Fourth Division of Artillery. The Fourth Division took immediate advantage of this opportunity to advance vigorously and reached the heights. Thereupon the First and Third Divisions renewed their rush along the whole line, and springing over heaps of corpses came so close to the enemy's entrenchments that bayonets were crossed, and the enemy being driven from his position it fell into our hands at a little after 7 p.m. The enemy fled in disorder towards Port Arthur. He exploded the magazine at Tafangshin station while retreating. A part of our force went in pursuit and the remainder bivouacked on the field of battle. The men's spirit was splendid and shouts of "banzai" rent the air. The artillery fired hotly on the fleeing Russians. The enemy opposed to us had been about a Division of the Field Army, two batteries of field artillery, and a force of garrison artillery and marines. It would appear that the enemy did everything in his power to check us at Nanshan so as to cover Dalny and Port Arthur. There were evidences that he had contemplated additional works of defence. His casualties are uncertain, but he left at least 500 dead upon the field. We took some prisoners, officers and men. We also captured about 68 cannon and 10 machine-guns, as well as an electric-battery, three search-lights, and a dynamo, together with 50 mines. There was further a quantity of rifles, ammunition and other matters. Our casualties were about 3,500. We have to thank the Navy profoundly for its valuable assistance.

Any of our readers who have closely followed the course of the operations in the Kinchow distinct will probably have observed that the Tahoshang position has not hitherto been included in any official account of the fighting. We ourselves have been much perplexed by the omission, for without capturing Tahoshang—a mountain 2,210 feet high on the east of the railway immediately north of the Isthmus—the Isthmus itself could not have been attempted. But we learn now, incidentally, from the account of one of the wounded who have reached Hiroshima, that Tahoshang was captured on either the 16th or the 17th, and that the operation was very arduous and very sanguinary. The Japanese seem to have lost heavily. It will have been observed that the front of the Japanese, in their final advance against the Isthmus, extended from Sanlichwang on the west over the Shaukinshan and Shihkiashan eminences as far as Makiatun on the east. This last position could not have been included without the previous fall of Tahoshang.

The Emperor has raised the late Commander Hayashi Mineo to the rank of captain, and has conferred on him the Order of the Golden Kite, with a pension of 500 *yen* yearly for his family. Captain Hayashi was killed during the attack on Nanshan. He had command of the gun-boat *Chokai*. In naval circles he enjoyed a very high reputation and was regarded as an officer of great promise. His widow lost her elder brother at the sinking of the *Hatsuse*.

Tuesday, May 31.

Some Tokyo journals speak as though the Russians made a strategical mistake in selecting Nanshan as their principal point of defence instead of Nankwan-lin. The former is only 350 feet high, whereas the latter reaches an eminence of 800 feet and has consequently a wider command. But that is really not such a very important consideration. As between the two places there can not, we think, be any doubt. Nanshan is the key of the whole position: it covers Dalny, and batteries placed on it completely search the whole of the Isthmus. If there be any strategical objection to Nanshan it is that to hold the place against all contingencies its defenders should have access to the bays on either flank, Kinchow Bay on the west and Talien Bay on the east. The Isthmus being only 2 miles across it is easy to appreciate the importance of the water approaches. Indeed there is much reason to conclude that but for the coöperation of a naval flotilla from the direction of Kinchow Bay, the Japanese attack might not have succeeded without further heavy loss. What seems to have happened was that the First Division's repeated and most gallant attempts to force the position failed, and the failure appeared likely to be irremediable for that day at all events, when a portion of the Fourth Division, on the right, having waded along the shore under cover of a heavy fire from the gun-boats and torpedoers, succeeded in crowning the eminences on the enemy's left rear. That was the turning point of the long and desperate fight, and the inference is that had Russian ships commanded Kinchow Bay the Isthmus never could have been forced. On the eastern side, the side of Talien Bay, the Russians were in possession of the sea, and one of their gunboats seems to have galled the left wing of the Japanese terribly. Had they possessed access to the sea on the west also, the position would have been impregnable. Even as it stood, Nanshan presented one of the most formidable obstacles an army was ever required to negotiate. An eminence crowned with a great park of artillery, surrounded by line after line of shelter-trenches—trenches which completely concealed the troops occupying them except so far as loopholes offered a mark for the fire of assailants—, and these again defended by barbed wire entanglements and rows of mines; nothing stronger can well be conceived. One imagines that to launch troops against such a position during broad daylight must be suicidal, and that night would necessarily be awaited. But experience has proved that whatever protection darkness affords is more than counterbalanced by the difficulty of effective coöperation and intelligent direction. Besides, the darkness of 50 years ago is not the darkness of to-day, nor is the darkness of South Africa the darkness of Kinchow. The Russians had searchlights at Nanshan, and thus to have attacked at night would have gained little for the assailants in the matter of concealment. It was a magnificent fight. We offer the Japanese our highest tribute of admiration. That they would fight grandly and hold their against the best troops in the world, we never for one instant doubted. But such feats as the storming of Nanshan belong to a category apart.

The next question is, will the Russians make another resolute stand at any point north-ward of Port Arthur, or have they shot their bolt and will they now take their post finally behind the ramparts of the fortress. Had they retired from Nanshan in good order and without loss of artillery, a fresh stand at Nankwan-lin would have been in the natural sequence of events. But their retreat was a rout, and they lost every gun of position they had placed on the hill. Therefore it was impossible for them to organise any effective defence at Nankwan-lin, which is only 6,000 metres south of Nanshan. They had their quick-firing field-guns, however; two batteries, or 16 guns, at the least. These, it will have been observed by careful readers of the details, withdrew to Nankwan-lin at 11 a.m., and taking up a new position there, kept up an incessant fire on the Japanese until evening, when they finally retired in good order. The Japanese, on the other hand, did not move against Nankwan-lin until the following morning, and if the defenders of Nanshan had rallied on the former plateau, or if they had withdrawn thither in good order, and if, which was well within the range of easy possibilities, Nankwan-lin itself had been previously put into a stage of defence, we might now be awaiting the issue of another bloody encounter there. But the Russian infantry did not show the same tactical and strategical ability displayed by the artillery. The latter, so soon as the futility of remaining within easy range of the Japanese guns became apparent, changed its position to a commanding point in the rear whence it could thenceforth harrass the enemy without suffering any serious loss itself. The infantry, however, had no rallying point. Nankwan-lin should have been previously prepared to serve as such a point, and a strong body of reserves should have been posted there. Then the soldiers driven from Nanshan would have reformed at Nankwan-lin, and the Japanese would have had to overcome another serious obstacle. These things are so obvious that we can not for a moment suppose them to have been overlooked. There must have been some valid reason for neglecting the splendid advantage of the position, but what that reason was we are unable to conjecture. At any rate, as things now stand, the next point of resistance can not be further north than Shwangtai-kau, which is some 15 miles south of Kinchow and offers splendid facilities for defence, its only weak feature being that it is exposed partially to fire from the sea on the west. At all events it may now be assumed that the fate of Dalny is sealed, and if the Japanese can remove the mines from Talien Bay sufficiently to allow of its use as a base, their subsequent operations will be much facilitated. The attack of Nanshan was a much greater military feat that the escalade of the Kiulien heights. And on this occasion there can be no pretence on the Russian side that the obstinate tenure of the place was not contemplated. No military man can doubt for a moment that the resistance at Kiulien was intended to be cardinal. Had the Japanese been badly repulsed there, the immediate result would have been their confused retreat over the Ai and the Yalu under circumstances which, by a slight exercise of Russian initiative, could have been made crushingly disastrous. Zassulitch knew well what would be the fruits of a successful defence at Kiulien, and he fully anticipated success. Still in view of his comparatively small force, there is room for the pretence that has been advanced, provided always that the Russians are willingly to extenuate a heavy defeat by confession of stupendous blunder. But at Nanshan the preparations for resistance show plainly that Stoessel exhausted all the resources at his command to stay the passage of the Isthmus by the Japanese. He may have erred in not preparing a secondary position in view of the possible fall of the first. If so, we may read into his error the same miscalculation that informed the action of the Russian naval commanders at Chemulpo and the action of Zassulitch at Kiulien: a false estimate of Japanese fighting capacity. In every case, however, the Russians did their best. and their best at Nanshan was very formidable. All the more honour to the gallantry and dogged resolution of the Japanese soldier. He is a great fighter.

His Majesty the Emperor has addressed a warm message of approval and congratulation to the Second Army, and Marquis Oyama, announcing to General Oku the fact that he, the Marquis, in his capacity of Chief of Staff, conveyed the intelligence to the Sovereign and was a witness of His Majesty's great satisfaction, goes on to speak of the high achievement that the Army's work represents in carrying a position which the enemy had been for months fortifying and which possessed immense natural facilities for defence. The assistance rendered by the Navy is duly eulogised. Messages have been sent also by the Minister of State for War, by the Empress through Viscount Kagawa, and by Admiral Yamamoto.

[Received on the afternoon of the 28th instant from General Oku.]

The enemy opposed to us on the 26th instant consisted of the Third, Fourth, Fifth, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Sixteenth Regiments; a portion of the Kwantung Garrison Artillery; 5 companies of the Railway Guards and a section of marines. These various bodies camped at Nan-Sanshilipao on the night of the 26th, and from dawn on the 27th seem to have retreated to Port Arthur by train. There is no force of the enemy eastward of Tsienkehchingpau. In the Hwanshan fort there are neither, men nor guns. On the 27th instant Major-General Nakamura's force occupied Liushutan, and took 4 guns with a quantity of ammunition as well as 5 covered railway waggons and 41 trucks.

Wednesday, June 1.

It is explained that the fierce assault made by the First Division on the enemy's position at Nanshan after 5 o'clock on the evening of the 26th, was prompted largely by the necessity of relieving the enemy's pressure on the left wing, which pressure had then become almost intolerable owing to the fire from the sea, the strengthening of the Russian right, and the attempts made by the enemy to land a force from Talien Bay in the rear of the Japanese left. No effective way of changing the situation was available except to press home an attack from the centre, and for that reason, as well as because the time had come when the infantry must strike a final blow or the enterprise must be abandoned for the day, the First Division was thrown against the entrenchments, suffering terribly in the operation.

The brigade that marched under Major-General Nakamura to take posession of, and if need be to drive the enemy from, Nankwanlin on the 27th instant, had been in reserve during the battle on the preceding day. No opposition appears to have been encountered either at Nankwanlin or at Liushutau, where the enemy's battery of 4 guns on Hoshangtau promontory was captured. Probably General Floug will tell us by-and-bye that these too were old guns taken from the Chinese.

H.I.H. Prince Fushimi was in the battle, as commander of the First Division. It is said that with great difficulty could his staff induce him to seek a place of safety.

[Received on the afternoon of the 31st May from General Oku.]

According to the latest received reports there are over 100 warehouses and barracks intact at Dalny. The station and the telegraph office are also safe, and there are over 200 usable railway cars, passenger and goods. But all the minor railway bridges in the neighbourhood are broken. The large wharf has been wrecked and sunk, but there are some docks and wharves in good condition. Small steamers (or a steamer) are said to have been sunk at the entrance to the dock.

General Floug's version of the Kinchow battle is that the Russians had placed there only a few old guns and a small quantity of ammunition taken from the Chinese in the war of 1900, the object of the arrangement being merely to intimidate, not to seriously oppose. As to the positions southward of the Isthmus, General Floug alleges that without the command of the sea they are difficult to defend. He adds, however, that the fall of Kinchow has nothing whatever to do with Port Arthur.

It would be difficult to render the Russians more contemptible than General Floug is rendering them. We begin to doubt whether he is a Russian at all. Nevertheless he is accredited to the world by Viceroy Alexieff, and his most unmanly subterfuges must therefore be taken as deliberate official expressions. It is a terrible necessity which drives the Russians to practise this miserable deception towards their own people at the cost of incurring the ridicule of the nations.

The gunboat which cannonaded the left wing of the Japanese army during its attack on Nanshan is stated to have been the *Bobr*, which passed the winter at Newchwang. She was recently chased into Talien by a Japanese cruiser, and it is now believed that she has committed suicide. Chefoo sends this news to the *Kokumin Shimbun*.

Thus far the reports show that the loss of officers in the battle of Kinchow amounted to 30, the highest in rank being a major. These officers' names are on the death roll. As yet no statement has been published of the deaths among the rank and file. They will probably aggregate some 800.

NEWSPAPER COMMENTS.

The *Vossiche Zweitung* considers that the battle of Kinchow was one of the most terrible fights of modern times. It is truly marvellous that the Japanese troops should have escaladed a position defended with wire entanglements and other obstructions and garrisoned by men possessing all the best modern weapons of war. The Japanese have clearly demonstrated their contempt for death, which is a special feature of their disposition. Such a position as the Russians held must have seemed quite impregnable from the point of view of European strategists. That the Japanese carried it, overcoming all obstables, is a clear proof that the Russians can not make head against Japanese *elan*. Nay, more, this affair is also an emphatic lesson as to the future, and will have a great effect upon the science of war.

The *Tageblatt* of Berlin says :—" It would appear that heaven is not on Rnssia's side in this war. The superiority of the Japanese in strategy, in organization and in tactics is as great as was the superiority of Moltke to Napoleon the Third. Once the Japanese have decided to carry out an object, no loss of life or material deters them. From every point of view there can not be any doubt that the Japanese will soon accomplish their first object in this war. It is their sacred duty to the prestige of their country to recover Port Arthur which they were formerly unavoidably compelled to give up.

The *Neue Free Press* of Vienna says that Russia has broken down in strategy and tactics. There is no possible excuse for her last defeat. It is plain that her army must retreat and that it can not stand against the Japanese.

The other leading papers of Austria-Hungary say that the origin of Russia's defeats is the inability of her military leaders. All the qualities in which her troops used to excel have now proved useless.

Thursday, June 2.

There are several statements all pointing to an unexpectedly low death roll at Nanshan. When the news came that there had been 3,500 casualties, people naturally concluded that there must have been fully 700 killed. But from 300 to 400 is the number now spoken of. The public will not be disposed to accept such a favourable estimate without the fullest confirmation. It will be remembered that in the preliminary engagement on the 16th May when the Tahoshang position was captured, the casualties—146 in all—were said to include an extraordinary number of fatal wounds, which fact was attributed to the special knowledge the Russian had of all the ranges in the district where they were fighting. They must have had even better knowledge in the case of Nanshan, and moreover they had what is above all essential to good marksmanship, protection. It is probably true that the superior accuracy of Japanese rifle-fire in action is due to the coolness of the men: their aim is little disturbed by moral perturbation. Now the Russians at Nanshan were firing from shelter-trenches affording complete cover except at the loop-holes. If they did not hold straight then, they will never hold straight. Therefore one fails to see why the rate of mortality at Tahoshang should have so greatly exceeded the rate at Nanshan.

It is stated that the losses were divided thus among the three Divisions engaged :—

First Division	1,116
Second Division	1,300
Fourth Division	1,080

But these figures are not official. There is some ground to be surprised at the delay in publishing accurate returns, but we presume that a good reason exists.

Friday, June 3.

Tientsin states that 15,000 Russian troops have set out from Liaoyang in a southerly direction. The idea is that they may be intended to assist or to relieve Port Arthur. But that seems to us very improbable. What is more likely is that these troops—if they have really set out—are to effect a junction with the forces moving north from the Newchwang and Tashikiao districts, with the ultimate object of seeking to check the Japanese advance beyong Haiching. General Kuropatkin's plans remain absolutely inscrutable. Nothing can be inferred except that he wants time, and that to gain it he is employing all secondary means at his disposal, the principal of these means being to send out numerous squadrons of Cossacks, who hover on the right flank and even ride round to the rear of the Japanese. Skrydloff is said to be in Mukden, having apparently proceeded thither from Vladivostock for purposes of consultation.

PORT ARTHUR AND DALNY.

Monday, May 30.

[Received at the Imperial Naval Department. From Admiral Togo; dated 28th May.]

On the 26th instant when the Sixth Squadron was watching Port Arthur, examination was made of a junk which had come out of the harbour. In her were found several letters from Russian officers. Among them was one which said that on the 21st instant certain Russian destroyers had been blown up and sunk outside the harbour. In another letter it was stated in detail that on the night before the disaster to the *Hatsuse* a Russian torpedo squadron had gone out and laid mines at the place where the incident occurred.

The *Asahi Shimbun* alleges that according to the latest calculations, the Russian troops defending Port Arthur consist of the 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th regiments of the Fourth Division of Rifles (about 7,000 men); also of the 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th Regiments of the Seventh Division (about 8,000 men); of a squadron of Zabaikal Cossacks (150 men); of 6 squadrons of Belfneschensky's cavalry (600 men); of 3 companies of the East Siberia Artillery (900 men); of 300 men of the Zabaikal Horse Artillery; of 1,000 men of the East Siberia Engineers; of the Kwantung Engineers, one company (300 men); and of a brigade garrison artillery with two torpedo-mine corps. This would represent a total force of about 22,000 men.

Tuesday, May 31.

The *Jiji Shimpo* alleges that from information received in a certain quarter, the Russian force in Port Arthur is some fifty thousand and they have mounted guns even in boats on the river. In Talien Bay no less than 500 mines are placed.

Wednesday, June 1.

[From Admiral Togo, dated the 30th May, 8.10 p.m.]

To-day at 1 a.m. four of our gunboats, 2 squadrons of destroyers and two squadrons of torpedo-boats, went to the entrance of Port Arthur, and passing through the enemy's fire, performed a reconnaissance in force. During this operation gunboat No. 3 was struck by a shell, which killed one man, wounded 3, and injured a gun. There were no other casualties. The enemy was seen to have mounted a search-light on Liautishan Promontory and to have erected one or two new forts on the hill-side.

Thursday, May 26.

Chefoo says that the Russians have sold all their buildings at Dalny to a Chinaman named Chang, who is an agent of the Russo-Chinese Bank but a man of no substance.

Chefoo reports that on the 29th ultimo the Japanese took possession of Dalny. No Russians were found there. They had all retreated.

In connexion with this it is observed that the language of General Oku's last official report—or rather the language of such part of it as was published in Tokyo—suggested that Dalny had already been taken. The report said "subsequently it was found that so and so many barracks and warehouses were intact, &c." Unless the word "subsequently" referred to the previous capture of the place, its use in such a context seems inexplicable.

The distance of Dalny from Port Arthur is about 33 miles. If General Oku desires to move quickly he could easily be before the big fortress in five or six days so far as distance is concerned. But it will be necessary for him, we presume, to employ a park of heavy artillery, and the transport of such guns will require some time. If they could be landed at Dalny, as was done in the war of 1894-5, matters would of course be much facilitated, but Talien Bay being infested with mines, it appears very doubtful whether it will serve for a base of operations during the present war. The Japanese have shown throughout this campaign that while they do not hesitate to sacrifice life or material when an important object has to be attained, neither do they fail to utilize all the machines and implements of war that modern inventive genius has provided. At the Yalu General Kuroki waited patiently until he could deploy a force of artillery much superior to that of the Russians, and we may expect that though General Oku will throw his columns at Port Arthur resolutely when the right moment comes, he will leave nothing undone to prepare the way for their effort. Port Arthur is encircled with forts on the land side. Beginning from the east, and omitting the batteries that point seaward, we count no less than 9 forts in which are mounted guns of various calibres, but mainly 6-inch quick-firers. The reduction of such a place will be a great military problem. Besides, there remains the possibility of further resistance by the Russians on the route from Dalny to Port Arthur. Two excellent positions offer for such resistance. One is at Shwantaikau, the other at Tuchingtsz. At each of these places the high-road passes through defiles where strong opposition may be organized by even a small force. Southward of Tuchingtsz, again, there is a plain some 9 miles in length, which is fully commanded by the forts in rear of the fortress. It is scarcely conceivable that General Stoessel will not take the fullest advantage of all these opportunities. Therefore we regard as extremely apocryphal the information Reuter has been kind enough to convey, namely, that an assault will be delivered at Port Arthur within a fortnight from the battle of Kinchow: or, say, about the 9th or 10th of June. The last ten days of June seem to us a much closer approximation.

Friday, June 3.

It is reported that when a Japanese torpedo squadron approached the "new landing place" on the 29th ultimo, a large conflagration was observed in Dalny. Great volumes of smoke were ascending, and it was conjectured that these appearances indicated destroying acts of the Russians preparatory to abandoning the place. The report refers to the 29th of May, and we know that a telegram from General Oku received at the Head Quarters in Tokyo on the 31st of May, spoke of 100 buildings—barracks and store-houses—as being still intact. General Oku's statement may have been intended to refer to the state of affairs following a conflagration. That, indeed, is the only hypothesis reconcilable with the various rumours reaching Tokyo. What happened seems to have been that during the 26th of May—probably in the evening when the Nanshan position had been forced—, orders were conveyed to the officer commanding at Dalny to destroy the place and retire upon Port Arthur. All preparations for such an eventuality having been made previously, the match was applied and the current of electricity turned on, with the result that a big fire soon flared up, railway bridges were destroyed and railway tracks wrecked. It may, perhaps, be assumed that the cavalry van of the Japanese rode into Dalny on the 28th—if not on the evening of the 27th—and found the greater part of the town in ruins and such shipping as had been in the harbour sunk—there are said to have been 3 steamers, 1 dredger and some launches. The railway, therefore, can not be used for the purpose of transporting heavy guns to the attack of Port Arthur, but there can not have been any expectation of its remaining serviceable. The public must be much interested to learn how much destruction the Russians considered it necessary to work at Dalny. Immense sums had been spent in building the place, and within a few years it had grown to be one of the handsomest towns in the Far East. Has the whole creation been reduced to ruins?

It will be observed that in the above reports a "new landing place" is spoken of. Whether this is Kerr Bay or Talien Bay we have no information.

Some Chinese who left Port Arthur on the 28th ultimo and reached Chefoo on the 1st instant, are represented as saying that in the former place 5 disabled men-of-war are laid up in the vicinity of the dock, and that their guns and crews have been landed. About 600 or 700 Russian artificers are employed in the docks, but they complain that they have not received any salary for 2 months. They are assisted by 300 Chinese. Materials for repairing vessels, and also coal for the furnaces are very deficient. As to the ships actually available for fighting purposes, they number about 20, inclusive of torpedo-craft. (We give this figure as it appears in the *Asahi's* report of the Chinamen's conversation, but inasmuch as there were recently 16 destroyers in Port Arthur, the estimate of remaining ships is obviously too small). The stock of provisions would suffice for about 5 months. In the Chinese quarter there are some 2,000 residents, and the garrison numbers about ten thousand.

There is a rumour that the Russians have collected about a thousand junks in the Gulf of Pechili near Port Arthur, and that they are making preparations for escape should the worst come to the worst. We do not believe that, so far at any rate as it concerns the combatants. There may be a plan to embark the non-combatants in Pigeon Bay and send them across to Newchwang, but nothing is less likely than that Stoessel thinks of surrendering or evacuating a place of such importance.

It is noticeable that in the various estimates formed of the Port Arthur garrison, no mention is made of the sailors. Yet they form a most important element. Able or disabled, there are 6 line-of-battle ships in the port, and the crews of these number some 4,000 men. Then there are the men of the cruisers and the torpedo craft, aggregating some thousands more. These being be of no use on board their ships at the moment of the land assault, (unless, indeed, there is an idea of sending out the vessels to run the gauntlet of the Japanese squadron), might be landed for the purpose of fighting on shore.

Three Norwegian ships laden with coal are said to be waiting somewhere near Woosung, with the intention of trying to enter Port Arthur—a perilous adventure.

K. Suzuki, (28) a farmer, in Owada-machi, near Chiba, was found murdered on the morning of May 31st, having been injured on the head and other parts, in his room on the upper floor of the house the previous night. The culprit is not yet arrested.

FIERCE FIGHTING ON LIAOTUNG PENINSULA.

Saturday, May 28.

A telegram from Moji says that out of 107 casualties on the Japanese side in the attack on Shaukinshan nearly two-thirds were killed. This great morality is attributed by the Japanese to the fact that the Russians had all the ranges determined before-hand, and were able to open an effective fire on any point at a given moment. It is further said that a small body of specially skilled marksmen had been told off to shoot at the Japanese officers only. But we do not perceive how these explanations suffice. The ratio of killed to wounded is a question of the weapon rather than of the marksmanship, and the Russian weapon has not hitherto proved so deadly. Indeed no modern rifle, so long as expanding bullets are not used, kills 50 per cent. of those struck, still less 66 per cent.

It is evident that Stoessel had determined to make a desperate fight at the Kinchow Isthmus. He is said to have exhorted his men to die rather than yield as they had only to hold out until a relieving army arrives. The position is naturally one of immense strength.

BLOCKADE OF THE PENINSULA.

Admiral Togo has formally announced the blockade of the Liaotung Peninsula south of a line drawn from Pitsuwo to Pulantien. He announces that any vessel attempting to violate the blockade will be dealt with as an enemy. These limits comprise exactly the portion of the Peninsula leased to Russia. The following is the text of the announcement:—

I hereby declare. under command of His Imperial Japanese Majesty's Government, that on the 26th day of the 5th month of the 37th year of Meiji, the entire coast of that part of the Liau-tung Peninsula, Province of Shen-king, China, which lies south of a straight line drawn between Pi-tsu-wo and Pu-lan-tien, was placed in a state of blockade by a competent force of His Imperial Japanese Majesty's ships, and is now, and will continue to be in such state of blockade; and that all forcible measures authorized by the Law of Nations and the respective Treaties between the Empire of Japan and the different Neutral Powers, will be enforced on behalf of His Imperial Japanese Majesty's Government against all vessels which may attempt to violate the blockade.

Given on board His Imperial Japanese Majesty's Ship *Mikasa*, this 26th day of the 5th month of the 37th year of Meiji.

TOGO HEIHACHIRO.
Vice-Admiral Commander-in-Chief
of Combined Fleet.

THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT'S NOTE.

The Port Arthur journal of May 5th, having published Russia's grandiloquent declaration that she will not listen to any intervention, comments in bombastic terms on this display of resolution. "It is profoundly gratifying to Russian subjects," says our contemporary, "but in the ears of Tokyo it must sound like a funeral knell. Japan's preconceived plan of appealing to her ally in the hour of calamity, an outlook which betrayed her into taking up arms, thus becomes a bubble in the water, and one can not but feel sorry for her. Readers of the *Novy Krai* will remember that when the diplomatic relations were broken off between Japan and Russia, it was declared that terms of peace would be dictated by a Russian General in Tokyo. The foe who treacherously attacked peace-loving Russia contrary to all propriety must be severely punished. This war will suffice to prove that no one can with impunity flourish a sword in the face of Russia, solicitous as she is for peace."

OPERATIONS IN MANCHURIA.

Saturday, May 28.

From Peking it is stated that General Tseng at Mukden offered to send his troops against the Hunghutze, but Viceroy Alexieff declined, saying that the Russian troops were sufficient for the purpose. Considering that quite recently Alexieff was said to be urging upon Tseng the necessity of undertaking this duty, it would now seem that the Viceroy has become inspired with some sudden distrust of the good faith of the Chinese troops.

Peking further alleges that preparations are being made to retreat from Liaoyang in case of need, and speaks of a bridge that the Russians are throwing over the Liu River in connexion with that programme. But it is impossible to discover any relation between the two things, unless the Russians apprehend the cutting of their direct line of communications with Harbin, and are therefore contemplating a westward march. Little faith can be placed in any of these stories. The Russians are not going to give up Haicheng or Liaoyang or any other of their positions until the impossibility of holding them is very clearly demonstrated.

We find in the *Hochi Shimbun* a statement which would bear out Viceroy Alexieff's report that a detachment of Japanese troops was recently repulsed in the vicinity of the mountain road from Fenghwang to Liaoyang. Our contemporary says that on the 15th instant a company of Japanese infantry and a troop of cavalry were attacked by 1,500 Russian cavalry with 4 guns. The Japanese retreated slowly to Fenghwang, having ascertained the enemy's strength. A battalion was then sent out from Fenghwang, and the *Hochi's* correspondent opines either that the Russians have withdrawn or that they have been driven back. Our readers may remember that Viceroy Alexieff reported this affair to have occurred near the Saimuchu high-way (written on some maps "Samuzi"), and that as the place indicated in his report suggested a march by the Japanese *viâ* the Motienling pass, we ventured to question the accuracy of the report. But it would now appear that the small Japanese force engaged was merely a reconnaissance. The Japanese had 22 slightly wounded in this brush. They do not know the Russian casualties but they think that there were a good number.

A telegram to the *Nichi Nichi* from Shanghai alleges that General Tseng, apprehensive lest the Russians should fire Mukden when they march out of it, is adopting precautions against such a contingency. Tseng is surely a little previous.

The Chinese General is further said to have remonstrated with General Kuropatkin against some of the bridge-building operations of the Russians, which are considered to be violations of Chinese neutrality. Does this refer to the bridge over the Liu River mentioned above? The river named in connexion with Tseng's remonstrance is the Liao, which seems much more probable than the Liu, but we do not profess to understand either.

Monday, May 30.

Shanghai alleges that a thousand Russians stationed at a place transliterated into "Tosakashi" have surrendered owing to want of provisions. No map in our possession shows a "Tosakashi." Along the Mukden-Port Arthur line a little south of Kaiping there is a place called "Shirihatsz," which according to Japanese pronounciation of the same characters becomes "Jurikashi." But why there should be a force of a thousand Russians anywhere in that neighbourhood; why they should be in a starving condition; and why there should be any Japanese troops in their immediate vicinity, we do not immediately see. It is possible, however, that the right wing of the Japanese from Pitsewo has moved northward along the railway, and that the service of trains has been entirely interrupted south of Tashikiao. It is also possible that this is an undiluted Shanghai canard.

Peking telegraphs that the Russians are breaking up the railway south of Tashikiao and are transporting the rails and sleepers to Liaoyang. That is very probable. And we have no doubt that these rails and sleepers will be ultimately utilized in doubling the road between Harbin and Lake Baikal. If the Russians get time to accomplish that engineering feat, their strategical position will be materially changed.

Shanghai sends a story that a sanguinary engagement took place on the 22nd instant at Fanshuiling, which is a place north-east of Fenghwang on the route of an army marching towards Liaoyang and Mukden by the road through the vallies on the eastward of the hill high-way. Shanghai's story is that the Russians, having been falsely informed that the Japanese had retired to Fenghwang, sent a force of 15,000 men to obstruct any renewed advance from this direction, and that this force encountered thirty thousand Japanese. A battle ensued in which the Russians suffered a heavy defeat, lost about 4,000 in killed and wounded, and had 1,000 prisoners takon. If such an engagement had taken place, it is scarcely imaginable that news would not have been published by the Head Quarter Staff in Tokyo.

Wednesday, June 1.

[Received on the forenoon of the 29th instant from General Kuroki.]

On the 27th instant at 6 p.m. we captured Second Lieutenant Labovski and seven men at Taikiapautsz near Kaulimun. This party had come on foot to reconnoitre. The lieutenant—who belongs to the Guards and had arrived at Liaoyang from Russia on the 4th of May—says that several reconnoitering parties sent by the Russians to the rear of the Japanese army had been killed or taken prisoners and only a few of their number had returned. The dangerous operations were partly due to the command of the General but mostly to the desire of the officers and men to win distinction. To-day, a Japanese reconnaissance riding near Shantangkajisu on the Liaoyang road, was fired on by some foot soldiers and a trooper and and a horse were wounded. The enemy numbered about 20.

[Received on the 30th from General Kuroki.]

Colonel Yoshida's detachment, at 10 a.m. on the 28th instant, attacked some 2,000 of the enemy at Aiyangpienmun and drove them back by 11.30 a.m. He is now pursuing them. Meanwhile he has been joined by another force and Aiyangpienmun has been occupied. The enemy's main body retreated towards Samazi, one detachment heading for Kweipailinz. We had 3 killed and 22 wounded in Colonel Yoshida's force. The enemy's casualties are not yet known. The detachment that subsequently joined Colonel Yoshida had 1 killed and 6 wounded. This morning a reconnoitering party of ours met a party of 8 Russian troopers near Kinkiapaotsz on the Liaoyang road, and shot 2 horses capturing 2. Also an infantry reconnaissance encountered 5 Russian cavalry about a mile from Shatzukang on the Haiching road, and captured a trooper with his horse.

Telegrams to the *Asahi Shimbun* indicate that the First Army is directing its lines of march along the valley of the Taitsu River; in other words, is heading north and west from Fenghwang towards Liaoyang, or possibly towards Mukden. The army that disembarked at Takushan, on the other hand, is directing its march *via* Sungyuen towards Haicheng. These forces must soon come into action.

Friday, June 3.

London telegraphs to the *Jiji Shimpo* that Japanese troops have taken possession of Motien-ling. This is the celebrated pass on the high road from Fenghwang to Liaoyang. There is, of course, a possibility that a force of Japanese cavalry belonging to the First Army may have seized the pass, but we doubt it. No evidence was forthcoming that General Kuroki's troops were moving by this difficult road. He seemed, on the contrary, to have chosen for line of advance the valley of the Taitsz river, which flows into the Liao near Liaoyang.

In this context we may mention that communications have now been completely established between Fenghwang and Takushan, where the last landing was effected.

London reports official statements made in St. Petersburg that much confusion exists at Liaoyang owing to scarcity of provisions and activity on the part of the Hunghutze. Orders have been issued for sending away all the women and children.

Shanhaikwan sends word that a portion of the Japanese First Army has reached the north of Liaoyang and threatens the Russian left wing. How are we to reconcile that assertion with the news that Kuropatkin has despatched 15,000 men southward from Liaoyang for the relief of Port Arthur, or for some other occult purpose? If Liaoyang be threatened by Kuroki, Kuropatkin is not likely to be detaching large bodies for service elsewhere.

Each day the wonder grows as to what Kuropatkin is doing with his troops. If he has 270,000 men under his command, where are they?

THE YALU FIGHT.

Saturday, May 28.

The Russians say that their force actually engaged in the battle of the Yalu consisted of 15 rifle battalions of 800 men each, 12,000 men in all, and 5 batteries of artillery with 80 guns, which would give some 1,200 men more. Besides these there were 3 battalions and two batteries at Antung, which did not, it is said, take part in the fighting. Hence it would appear that the Kiulien position was held by from 13,000 to 14,000 infantry and artillery, and that there was a further force of from 2,500 to 3,000 at Antung. It is strange that we hear nothing of cavalry. The Russians certainly had a considerable force of cavalry. We have evidence that Cossacks took part in the operations immediately preceding the battle, and nothing is less likely than that they rode away before the engagement. As to the force at Antung its complete abstention seems singular. Antung is only 6 miles down stream from Kiulien, and if Zassulitch did not summon his Antung battalions to the aid of their comrades when the battle developed, he behaved very curiously.

The Russians further say that they were opposed by an army of eighty thousand

Japanese. It is not unnatural that they should exaggerate the numbers of their victorious enemy, but this exaggeration is beyond all limits. General Kuroki can not have had anything like eighty thousand men at the Yalu. It is extremely doubtful whether his three Divisions mustered more than ten thousand each, of all arms. We should say that 15,000 Russians and 35,000 Japanese may be taken as a very close approximation to the forces actually engaged. What deserves to be noticed is that the Japanese officers have shown no disposition to exaggerate the Russian number. They put it originally at from fifteen to twenty thousand of all arms, and they adhered to that estimate throughout.

Russian critics are saying that Zassulitch should have retired during the night of the 30th of April; retired before the Japanese delivered their attack. Why should he have done anything of the kind? We must assume that he had a tolerably accurate knowledge of the force the Japanese would put into their fighting line. His Cossacks must have kept him informed on that point at least. Suppose then that having some fifteen thousand men posted on a line of heights which could not be approached except by crossing such a formidable obstacle as the Ai river with the flat-lands on its banks, he saw himself threatened by an attack of thirty thousand or even forty thousand Japanese, and supplement this by crediting him with supreme contempt for the fighting qualities of his enemy, contempt which Russian officers, high and low alike, had been freely expressing from the time when the war broke out, is it conceivable that he should have retreated tamely? Is it not much more conceivable, if not actually certain, that he believed in the ability of his troops to inflict a crushing defeat upon the Japanese, that any Russian General in his position would have entertained the same belief and that Kuropatkin not only intended him to stay but looked to see very substantial results from his staying. It was with Zassulitch and Kashtalinsky just as it was with the captain of the *Varyag* and the captain of the *Korietz*. The naval men imagined that they were going out to force their way gloriously through the Japanese squadron, and the military men conceived that they were going to hurl the Japanese army back over the Yalu and strike a blow which would stagger the enemy. To tell us that a Russian General in command of some fifteen thousand men was posted in a splendidly defensible position merely for the purpose of retreating so soon as the enemy had unmasked their strength, is to tell us more than we can credit. A battalion of mounted infantry and a few troops of Cossacks would have been the proper force for such an inconclusive operation.

Wednesday, June 1.

General Kuropatkin reports that his total casualties at the battle of the Yalu were 2,347 of all ranks, and that he left upon the field 1,080 as to whose fate he is uncertain. Now we know that the Japanese buried 1,363 Russians and took 613 prisoners, making a total of 1976. There remains a difference of only 371 between this total and General Kuropatkin's, so it is to be assumed, if the General reports truly, that he carried off the field only 371 and that his killed were largely in excess of his wounded. What extreme silliness it is to palm off such deceptions on the world.

General Kuropatkin reports also the capture of Feng-hwang by the Japanese on the 6th May, or reports rather the retreat of the Russians from that place. But he offers no kind of explanation. If there was a strategical reason for evacuating Fenghwang, the public would like to hear it.

It is well to place on record the fact that by the Russians only is an attempt made to pervert the present war into a religious contest. The Russians marched to the attack in the Yalu battle with priests at their head holding up the cross to encourage them, and one of these priests was shot. Therefore it is by the Russians that the idea has been introduced of Cross against Crescent. They are the true Yellow Peril, as we have often said. They it is who in this twentieth century thrust their religion into the forefront of their fights and seek once more to awaken the terrible prejudices that plunged mediæval Europe in everlasting disgrace.

ERRANT MINES.

Saturday, May 28.

Shanghai says that the British Squadron is carefully refraining from going north owing to the danger of errant mines in the Gulf of Pechili and neighbouring waters. When will that peril be removed, we wonder. Thus the master of the *Fawan* reports that on the afternoon of the 24th instant he sighted, in latitude 28° 25′ and longitude 121° 16′, a large object striped with red and having a red flag tied to it. This he presumes was a torpedo-mine that had broken away from its moorings. It was right in the fair-way of vessels navigating from Newchwang to Chefoo. The *Independent* also, a steamer chartered by the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, reports that on her recent voyage from North-China ports, she observed a number of mines floating in the neighbourhood of Wei-hai-wei. She continued her voyage to Japan, but the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has considered it expedient to suspend its North-China service.

Monday, May 30.

A telegram from the *Nichi Nichi* correspondent at Moji says that the Russians, employing Chinese junks for the purpose, have laid something like ten thousand mines in the seas adjacent to Liaotung. Already the number observed and destroyed by the Japanese amounts to about a thousand. Probably these figures are exaggerations, but the fact emerges clearly that the maritime routes to north-China ports have been rendered absolutely insecure by the reckless planting of Russian mines. By and bye we shall have international tribunals enacting laws to avert such proceedings, but in the moment of storm and stress what belligerent will respect these laws? The truth is that war becomes more and more incompatible with modern civilization. When the nations abandon the savage resort of fighting, these problems will ceases to perplex them.

Wednesday, June 1.

The Chinese report that the Russians laid a quantity of mines in the neighbourhood of the Shoupingtao islands about the 23rd instant. Lest the inhabitants should observe the position in which the mines were placed, every one was driven into his house, and a sentry with a fixed bayonet was placed at the door. The Shonpingtao islands are off the Pingtau promontory, which is the southern extremity of the bay southward from Talien on the east coast of Liaotung. This mine-laying operation seems to have been subsequent to a similar performance off the entrance to Port Arthur by a squadron of Japanese gunboats and torpedo-craft, and the inference is that the latter operation was not effective as a means of preventing the exit of destroyers. Yet we have the statement of a Russian officer in a letter found by the Japanese that Russian destroyers were blown up by Japanese mines outside Port Arthur on the 21st, which was the day after Togo's operation. There is now no secret whatever that the principle by which the Russians are guided in laying mines is to use them as means of defence and offence in waters that are beyond the range of fort-artillery; that is to say, in waters over which, according to universally acknowledged principles of international law the Russians have no belligerent rights whatever. The old three-mile limit of territorial waters was fixed with reference to the utmost range of mediæval gnns, and ought therefore to be now extended in accordance with the increased power of modern artillery. But to deliberately lay mechanical mines outside the range of modern ballistic weapons, in other words, in waters where all commercial vessels are entitled to expect security of navigation, such procedure is savage warfare. No other term describes it, and the Russians will have to answer for it.

Friday, June 3.

It is stated that the Russians have placed an enormous number of mines in the neighbourhood of Port Arthur. Some speak of fifteen thousand as having been laid, but it is difficult to credit such a number, for no such stock of mines can have been at hand when the war broke out, and there can scarcely have been leisure to carry them by train. However, the main fact may be credited, namely, that every accessible place has been strewed with these engines of destruction and that the Russians have been guided by no consideration save that of preserving Port Arthur until the arrival of the Baltic Squadron. On the other hand it is to be observed that Admiral Togo has been able to make a reconnaissance in force at the mouth of the harbour twice within the past 10 days, the latest occasion being the 30th of May. If gunboats and destroyers can approach the place for such purposes, it would seem that the field of mines is not so impassable as the above account suggests.

NEWCHWANG.

Saturday, May 28.

There appears to be no doubt that the Russians have again occupied Newchwang. They evacuated it on receipt of the news that a Japanese force had taken Kaiping, but they sent back five thousand men so soon as this Kaiping movement was found to be unreal. The news is that they have wrecked the railway between Niukiatung and Tashikiao, but that one line has been preserved for the purposes of their own retreat.

Monday, May 30.

It is stated that the Russians are now engaged repairing the railway between Tashikiao and Kaiping. We presume that the injury was done by Hunghutze, for although the Russians themselves were said to have broken up the road between Newchwang and Tashikiao, nothing has hitherto been heard of similar destruction eastward of the latter place.

The Russians are said to have purchased 1,500 junk anchors at Newchwang, and to have forwarded them to Mukden, apparently for the purpose of mooring the bridge of boats they are said to be building over the Tsunghiantsz.

Shanghai says that the buildings in the Russian quarter of Newchwang are in process of being broken up, but no explanation of this singular proceeding is vouchsafed.

A Shanghai telegram alleges that the Japanese force which landed at Takushan has occupied Sungyuen and pushed its scouts as far as Tsungchi (?), which is only some 30 miles east of Newchwang. Sungyuen is 63 miles from Newchwang. If the main body be only at Sungyuen, its outposts would scarcely be over 30 miles in advance, but possibly Shanghai's indication may not be so far wrong. General Floug's latest report (dated at Mukden on the 27th) bears out this statement in a general sense. This accurate annalist says that the only change in the field of war is that the Japanese are advancing towards Sungyuen.

KOREA.

Saturday, May 28.

The question of granting fishing facilities to Japanese subjects along the coasts of Pyong-an-do and Hwang-hai-do came up for discussion by the Korean Cabinet on the 25th inst. Opinions are said to have been divided, and the matter will be left for decision by the Emperor. These two provinces represent the district through which the Japanese First Army moved from Seoul to the Yalu. The concession in question has considerable relation to commissariat arrangements.

Monday, May 30.

The Russians appear to be developing formidable activity in north-eastern Korea. On the 24th inst. 800 with 12 guns reached Songjin and are supposed by this time to have pushed on to Tauchhon, which is 36 miles further south. It is stated that these men form the van of a force of several thousands moving down the coast.

The above report comes from Seoul. A later telegram from Wonsan says that the principal local official of Tauchhon went out at 5 p.m. on the 24th to meet and welcome a reconnoitering force of Russians approaching from the north and having 7 guns with them.

Yet another telegram sent from Wonsan on the 27th, says that the Russian force at Kilju is 700 strong; that of these 100 advanced to Songjin; that 29 proceeded to Kopsan.

It is further stated that the inhabitants of Pakchhong, which is the third village southward of Tauchhon on the coast road, are in a state of great trepidation, and are taking measures to escape.

Our readers will observe that the main body, several thousands strong, spoken of in the above telegram, has not materialized as yet. It may be a reality, but it can scarcely be said to be in the field of operations. These movements on the part of the Russians present no formidable feature unless they prelude a strong flank attack against the Japanese line from Seoul to Wiju. The Russians can of course raid the interior of Korea where there are no Japanese troops to oppose them, but such doings could be effectually checked by landing a Japanese force in Possiet Bay or Unkwi Bay. As the operations in this part of the theatre of war are becoming interesting, and as the available maps are difficult to follow, we publish this morning a sketch map showing the principal places in north-east Korea from Possiet Bay to Wonsan.

It is stated that the Japanese application for a concession to fish off the coasts of the two north-western provinces of Korea has now received the approval of the Emperor and will be at once promulgated.

The Korean Government has at length consented to pay to Mr. Asada compensation amounting to 18,000 *yen* for the destruction of his store in Chemulpo nearly a year ago.

Tuesday, May 31.

The long awaited concession of fishing privileges on the coasts of the two north-western provinces of Korea, was duly granted on the 28th instant.

The Russian raid in north-eastern Korea has reached Iwon, and the telegraph between Hamheung and Pukchhong is interrupted.

There was a battalion of Korean troops in Hamheung, but they have retired to Wonsan.

Wednesday, June 1.

The Russian scouts are reported to have reached Pukchhong, whence all the inhabitants have fled. Although Pukchhong is nearly 100 miles from Wonsan, the Japanese settlers in the latter place, especially the women, are much perturbed, and are expected to retire to Fusan immediately.

From Iwon, however, comes a report that the men of that region, to the number of 100, have banded together and attacked the Russians, killing or wounding 7 Cossacks and 7 horses. It is indeed incredible that the Koreans should be so lacking in spirit as to allow their country to be devastated by a handful of Russian cavalry.

There is again trouble in Korean politics. Cho Pyong-sik has resigned and has been succeeded by Chhin Sang-heung. This incident is ostensibly attributed to a dispute about the appointment of local officials, but a report has been put about that Cho's trouble is due to his excessive earnestness in promoting Japanese interests. The *Jiji Shimpo* thinks, however, that Cho himself, or his friends, have started the pro-Japanese story in order to win the support of Mr. Hayashi.

Thursday, June 2.

On the 30th of May an exodus of Japanese residents, especially of women and children, took place from Wonsan to Fusan and Seoul. The Russian van has reached Hamheung and the telegraph has been cut between that place and Wonsan, the Korean guards also having withdrawn. It may be conjectured that before many days have passed some decisive measures will be taken to deal with this raid. From a military point of view the whole affair has an aspect of almost reckless rashness, the Russian communications being exposed to attack from the sea throughout their entire length from Possiet to Hamheung. To the Cossacks, so long as they are in small numbers, it does not perhaps matter very greatly whether their communications are severed or intact, since they live upon what they can find. That, indeed, seems to be what they are doing now, for we hear of requisitions for supplies being made at every point on the line of march, supplies which apparently the Russians do not think of paying for. But the resources available locally for such a purpose are very limited, and if the line of communications were severed at any point, one of two things must speedily follow, either the invaders must perish of hunger or the populace must be reduced to extremities. To this method of conducting warfare, equally to that represented by laying mines in non-territorrial waters, the epithet "barbarous" plainly applies. It is in the last degree cruel and unwarranted that the peaceful inhabitants of remote districts in Korea should be robbed of all their belongings to support a body of Russian troops which engage in campaigns without any properly organized commissariat. The fundamental principle of civilized warfare—if any war can be called civilized—is that private property should be respected by the belligerents, but Russia seems to regard all private property as duly seizable for the prosecution of her operations.

Friday, June 3.

The Russian outposts were pushed as far as Hamheung on the 30th of May. They are said to be busily collecting provisions for the main body, which has probably followed by this time. The telegraph between Wonsan and Hamheung has been interrupted. Evidently this raid is assuming dimensions too considerable to be neglected. We are prepared to learn at any moment that some strong counter-move has been made by the Japanese.

The Japanese Minister in Seoul is said to have submitted a strong representation to the Korean Government on the subject of telegraph cutting between Seoul and Fusan. He has ascertained that this is the work of Korean subjects, and he asks that the perpetrators be punished in the severest manner, if apprehended.

The long-standing question about compensation for outrages against Christian (Roman Catholic) life and property in Quelpart, has at length been settled by the payment of a sum of 6,300 *yen*. This money has been handed over by the Governor of the island, Mr. Hong Chhong-u, who has the immortal distinction of being the assassin of Kim Ok-kyun.

HONGKONG'S CHINESE POPULATION.

"Banyan," the writer of Hongkong Jottings in the *Daily Press*, says: The smallness of the birth-rate among the Chinese in the Colony certainly calls for remark, but there is something more to be said on the subject than what one is accustomed to find in the Registrar-General's annual report. "The number of the Chinese births registered," the Registrar-General says, "does not give an accurate record of the total number of births of Chinese that have occurred in the Colony, for many of the infants that die during the first month or so of life remain unregistered." But as it has been customary to add to the registered births the number of infants of one month old and under that die in the Colony, and as I suppose those children which survive the first month do eventually come on to the register the corrected birth-rate which the Registrar-General gives us may be taken as approximately correct. The rate here must certainly be far below that of any town on the mainland, and the explanation must surely be found in the great preponderance of males among our Chinese population, for it seems to be quite the thing for the wife to live at Canton and the husband in Hongkong. This state of things has been brought about by the increasing cost of living in Hongkong owing to the growing density of the population, and the necessity for sanitary measures which have resulted in making living more costly for the Chinese particularly in regard to rents, than their limited resources will stand. Our population shows astonishing growth, but it is growth by immigration.

THE BASIS OF ENERGY AND LIFE.

Under the title "Alter und Tod," Dr. A. Buhler, of the Anatomical Institute of Zurich, discusses the nature of life, and the cause of old age and death, in the *Biologisches Centralblatt* (Leipsic). The *Review of Reviews*, translating the article, says that the doctor asserts that the measure of the active energy of a living body is determined by its power of changing matter from one form to another; and this change of condition, in the main, is a chemical process. Potential energy stored up through chemical combinations are formed, and this may be considered as the only source of the energy of an organism. Through the activity of the cells composing the different systems of organs of the body, this energy is changed from potential to some form of kinetic energy, such as heat, motion, etc., or in changed chemical form is again stored up as potential energy in the material composing the body. From a knowledge of the process of growing old in a single system of the organs of the body, or of a single system of cells, comes an explanation for the growing old of the whole organism. A growing organism takes up more nourishment in comparison to its own weight than an adult, and the building up and tearing down of material is more rapid; but these processes of growth depend upon the innate nature of the organism, which fits it for the greater development of energy, and it is not the great amount of nourishment consumed that makes it grow. The difference in the activities of old and young cells is not due to changes in chemical media external to them, but to changes in the cells themselves, which can only be brought about by the dying out of the vital processes; and the longer the exchange of material has lasted, the more energy the living protoplasm has taken up and transformed, the more it loses its power to continue the process. For example, metallic potassim will unite most violently with a definite amount of water, freeing, as it unites, great energy of heat, light, and motion. Generation of these forms of energy ends when the chemical changes cease, and no further addition of water will renew the process. Living matter also assimilates chemical substances in the process of metabolism, forming loose chemical compounds which change and form other combinations, at the same time releasing the energy used in the various manifestations of life. The assimilation of new material, and the resultant transformation of the energy acquired in this way, can take place only so long as chemical differences exist between the living matter and its food material. If these differences are removed through the activities of life processes, if all the chemical affinities are satisfied, chemical equilibrium is established, no new combinations are possible, and the result is death. The chemical transformation of matter plays an important rôle in the life of the whole body. Assimilation is possible only so long as there are chemical affinities to be satisfied, or, in other words, as there are compensable electro-chemical differences between the living protoplasm and the non-living matter in the blood. The life-process, as such, works constantly toward the equalization of these differences, and when this is effected, no more assimilation is possible; growth, motion, heat, building up and tearing down of complex chemical bodies terminate, as well as all the appearances by which life is manifested. Death is the final aim and fulfilment of life. In life, the processes of chemical combination are not rapid, as in the union of metallic potassium with water, and changes brought about by the successive union and separation of new material and protoplasm do not produce a noticeable change in the appearance of the cell. As might be expected, the cells which have the shortest life are those whose protoplasm is most highly differentiated along certain lines,—that is, the red corpuscles of the blood. These cells can neither grow nor form new cells, and also lack the power to unite with anything except oxygen. The manifold forms of regeneration harmonize with the view that the continuance of life depends on the constant formation of new combinations by bodies in a state of unstable chemical equilibrium. Frequently, renewed or an entirely different kind of growth is brought about through the influence of new cell material capable of forming new chemical combinations. For example, a slip from a vine, when planted, will reach to the stimulus of its new environment by regenerating all the organs, such as roots, etc., which it lacks. Or, in the case of galls formed on plants, the insertion of an insect's egg in the stem or leaf or root of a plant will cause it to develop in a way entirely different from the usual growth of that part.

THE WAR CORRESPONDENTS.

Tientsin reports that the foreign correspondents with the Russian Army, not having been allowed to go to the front in the field, have returned in large part to Tientsin. This is decidedly a vexatious and unprofitable war for correspondents. Even among those that have been permitted to go forward with the Japanese First Army, there are some who complain that they are not treated with confidence and that the liberty accorded to them is quite insufficient for their purposes. Others appear to be tolerably content. Meanwhile the large band remaining idly in Tokyo murmur bitterly. They take the ground that if there was from the outset no intention of allowing them to accompany the Second Army, they should have been told so, since they would thus have been saved much futile waiting and much needless expense. It is impossible not to sympathise with the distress, embarrassment and impatience of these gentlemen, though we can not agree that the Japanese have, or ever had, no intention of sending them forward. The alternative explanation is much more credible, namely, that the Japanese do intend and have always intended to allow them to go to the field, but that these same Japanese, being after all only human, could not foresee the time and the season with any degree of accuracy, and are, for the rest, naturally inclined to consult their own strategical convenience rather than the convenience of the correspondents. We do not profess to understand the delay fully, and there occurs to us one very apposite reflection, namely, that the Japanese are doing themselves a great injury. They are making history and at the same time they are not making historians. Are the splendid achievements of their soldiers and sailors to be recorded only in skeleton outline by the dry-as-dust pens of official scribes, or are they to be related by men whose business it is to paint literary pictures and who know how to compile records such as the world will read with true interest? The Japanese authorities ought to think of this seriously. They are sensible of the value of the world's sympathy. They have spoken of its importance in the strongest terms and they have shown much skill in securing it diplomatically. But now they appear to have been suddenly overtaken with a fit of indifference. They leave their work uncrowned through failure to recognise the assistance the press can render. We say nothing of the palpable loss of alienating the good-will, if not of actually arousing the wrath, of a number of men possessing access to the ear of the public. That phase of the matter has been fully weighed, we presume. But have the Japanese considered that they are deliberately hiding their candle in a bushel, and that by the time they get ready to set it on the hill-top, there will be none to cöoperate in the work?

CHINA.

Saturday, May 28.

The United States Consul, Mr. Davidson, who is now at Newchwang, is expected to proceed at once to Antung, there to take up his duties. The Japanese Authorities are said to have intimated that no objection offers. It will be remembered that when the Russians were on the Yalu, they declined to allow the new Consul to proceed to his post. Mr. Davidson's appearance at Antung will herald the materialization of the Yellow-Peril spectre.

Monday, May 30.

There is a rumour of a Mahommedan rising in the Sinkiang region; that is to say in the extreme north-west of China. The Chinese Government has been directing attention to this region of late, and has made several changes of local officials, doubtless in consequence of memorials addressed to the Throne pointing out that if the Russians were defeated by Japan in Manchuria, they would probably turn their attention towards aggressions from the direction of Ili. We learn also (*Jiji Shimpo's* correspondence) that M. Lessar is showing activity in a manner which may have roused China's alarm on account of the north-west. His Excellency is said to have informed Prince Ching that if the Peking Government grant to Russia a concession for building a line from Kiakta to Changkiakou, Newchwang will be restored, and that if certain lands be leased to Russia in Ili, she will surrender Manchuria altogether. The time seems so ill-suited for advancing such propositions that we greatly doubt the truth of the above stories.

Tuesday, May 31.

The *Jiji Shimpo's* Shanghai correspondent telegraphs that Wei Kwan-tou, Chang Chih-tung and Sheng Ifai have memorialized the Throne, urging that China should follow Korea's example by annulling all her treaties with Russia. Any patriotic or shrewd Chinaman may well be excused for entertaining such a view, yet the wisest thing the Chinese can do is to remain quiet. Our contemporary adds that this news requires confirmation.

General Tseng reports that the Hunghutze have wrecked the railway in the neighbourhood of Mukden. He also requests the Peking Court to issue a proclamation in the sense that as the Japanese army will soon be approaching Mukden, the people may pursue their avocations in peace.

Wednesday, June 1.

The Chinese Government is reported to have held a council for the purpose of determining what course should be pursued with regard to local officials in regions evacuated by the Russians. It was decided that such officials should be changed, as unquestionably the authority of those administering under the Russian regimen must have been permanently impaired.

Another telegram, however, says that the one idea of the Chinese Authorities is to place no manner of obstacle in the way of the Japanese, and that, as far as possible, the latter will be left to come to an understanding with the local officials.

AN ENGLISH JUDGE ON JAPANESE PRIZE COURTS.

Lord Justice Vaughan Williams responded to the toast (proposed by Lord Claude Hamilton) of "His Majesty's Judges" at the banquet of the Worshipful Company of Paviors, held at the Great Eastern Hotel, London, on April 21. He said:—"I am told that in the Far East at the present moment there is nothing which the Japanese have so high a regard for and so fervent a desire to imitate as English administration of justice. This is illustrated by something which has happened in the course of the war. During the Napoleonic wars, when our ships were every now and then seizing prizes from the enemy, and when our enemies were every now and then seizing prizes from us, it was absolutely necessary for civilisation that some system for the seizure of prizes should be established. That system was established by English lawyers, headed by Lord Stowell. Is it not a marvellous thing that during this war the Japanese, having taken prizes, have already established a prize court, and the administration of justice there is just as true and just as firm as the administration of justice would be in an English court."

Commenting on this speech *The Globe* said:—"We hope that due importance will be attached by the English public to the remarkable eulogy of Japanese justice pronounced by Lord Justice Vaughan Williams. It is barely a hundred years since the system of prize courts was established even in this country, yet one of the foremost men upon the English Bench is able not only to congratulate the Japanese upon having a similar system in thorough working order, but to declare that the administration of justice in these courts in Japan 'is just as true and just as firm as the administration of justice would be in any English court.' We wonder of how many other prize courts Lord Justice Vaughan Williams could say the same thing!"

"ONLY PRETTY FANNIE'S WAY."

A recent number of the *Spectator* contains an article, written in a semi-whimisical vein, which is printed under the heading of "Ways." The writer begins by acknowledging that it is not easy to define exactly what is meant when one speaks of So-and-so's "way," for a "way" is something less fundamental than a characteristic, more significant than a habit. He then proceeds:

> In summing up a character we must give some indication of the subject's "ways." If we would make the estimate at all adequate, we cannot confine ourselves to reckoning up his qualities, just as in painting a portrait we must suggest the sitter's carriage as well as give a delineation of his features. All the same, a man's "ways"—according to the colloquial use of the word—are by no means always a key to his real self. How often do we hear some one abused by an acquaintance for certain faults, and defended by a friend on the ground that the conduct objected to is "only his way," and in no sense represents his true character.

Turning to another aspect of his subject, the essayist finds that a fruitful cause of "ways" which have no direct bearing upon character is pure perversity. Almost all boys and very young men have such "ways," he declares. Sometimes, alas! they stick by them through life. "What perversity is who shall tell us? Perhaps it is possession! Seriously, though, it does sometimes seem as if the citadel of self were shared by a sort of little, very inferior partner, who had no word in the graver transactions of life, but who made his disagreeable little voice heard every day in little things. Some delightful natures manage to chuck him out of the window in that hour of depression when they perceive the departure of their very first youth, but not all. It is curious how much commoner perversity is in boys than in girls. Every woman knows, both by training and instinct, that part of her duty in life is to be agreeable, or at any rate that her happiness depends greatly upon her success in that undertaking. In a very attractive woman, firmly convinced of her powers, we see it now and then. We excuse it for the sake of her charm, and—

> 'All that's madly wild or oddly gay,
> We call it only pretty Fanny's way.'

But for the most part it is not excused by the world, and, therefore, not indulged by the individual." In summing up his argument, the writer concludes that there can be no doubt that what we call "ways" are connected with what are, at any rate at first sight, faults of character; and yet the best beloved men and women have most of them.

> Are people, then, loved for their faults, and the worse more loved than the better? That is an ethical question which, like so many other ethical questions, admits of no direct answer. Virtue and vice are sometimes arbitrary terms. All qualities cannot be scheduled under two heads. There are some ill-balanced virtues which do not manage to hit off the happy mean between two vices, and which not only the outside world, but even those who possess them, often regard as faults.

So, on the whole, the *Spectator* leaves us at a point very much from where we started.

THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE.

We have received from Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, Ltd., a copy of the "Draft of the Proposed Code of Civil Procedure," translated from the original Japanese text by Mr. J. E. de Becker. Mr. Becker approached his task with special qualifications. To an intimate and scholarly acquaintance with the written and oral language of Japan he combines the further distinction of a practical acquaintance with the laws of Japan which the active profession of a counsellor-at-law necessarily implies. Practically and theoretically, therefore, the translation before us could scarcely have been placed in more competent hands by the enterprising publishers, and it is not detracting greatly from the eminent merits of the book, when we say that for all that it is not quite perfect, from a lawyer's point of view. Still the flaws which we, as laymen, have discovered here and there in the terminology or in the turning of a unique Japanese legal phrase into an English equivalent are remarkably few and far between. Mr. de Becker has surmounted many difficulties quite admirably, and for this he must receive great credit. The publishers, in the note with which they introduce the proposed Code to the public, say:—

> The Code of Civil Procedure now in force took effect on the 1st of January, 1891. It contains 805 Articles, the provisions of which are practically identical with those of the German Code. Since it became operative, the new Civil and Commercial Codes have been promulgated and taken effect, and many sweeping legislative changes have been introduced. This has made the provisions of the old Code well-nigh unworkable, and has directed the attention of the profession to the urgent need of revising the provisions of the laws governing the conduct of judicial proceedings, and the result of the efforts of the Government to improve the Code of Civil Procedure and bring it up to date is embodied in the present draft of 1004 Articles. Wether the draft is a material improvement upon the present Code is a moot question, but, in view of the vital importance of an acquaintance with those legal rules and principles which direct the course of proceedings in the Japanese Courts, the publishers believe that an English version of the proposed Code will be a welcome addition to the available legal works hitherto published in this country.

Of course the demand for such a work can scarcely be large and we fail to see where Messrs. Kelly and Walsh will reap their reward. The public to which it appeals must be very small: smaller nowadays than before we passed under Japanese jurisdiction, because with the dying down of the old, bitter feeling of antagonism has also faded away that meticulous scrutiny into Japanese laws that once prevailed so extensively among the residents in the former foreign Settlements. The average foreign resident of the present day is content to leave all these matters to his legal advisers, and to them therefore we recommend Mr. de Becker's book. The translator's reward will be found, we imagine, in having done the commendable service for his fellow men of undertaking such an uninviting task at the sacrifice of much time and labour. In conclusion we must compliment the publishers upon putting up the volume in such a neat and harmonious fashion, the type being excellent, the binding strong, serviceable, and in good taste.

THE PARISIAN SUNDAY GIRL

Every big city develops types of humanity particularly and peculiarly its own. But to Paris, we think, must be awarded the palm for the greatest variety in distinctive types, and for the infinitely greater charm and fascination which many of them exert over the foreign observer. What can be pleasanter than the following description of the "Paris Sunday Girl," which the correspondent of the *Globe* in the French capital sends to his paper:—

> The Sunday girl is the boiled down essence of Parisian wit, elegance, and *chic*, and she is neither fish, flesh, nor fowl, nor yet good red-herring. She is not a lady, though when she has occasion to resort to the dignified method of resisting the importunities of her admirers, she is an excellent imitation of one. She is not a demi-mondaine, and she is not a virtuous milliner—the "distressed seamstress" beloved of Francois Coppee. I should not like to say that she was an unvirtuous milliner, but I fancy that a milliner she often is, and a more or less—well, shall we say "larky" one. She is young, and she is usually not pretty—otherwise, as she would tell you with the frank cynicism of her nation and her class—she would not be a milliner. She usually has a sharp little face like a rat, a slim, straight figure, and a lot of perfectly dressed hair, dark if left to nature, red usually if recourse has been had to art. Her hat is of the latest shape, never eccentric and always well placed upon her head, her linen collar is clean and fresh, fastening at the back or front, and with a bow or a pin, according to the fashion of the moment. Her gloves and shoes are irreproachable, and her whole dress has a "chic" which all the Redferns in the world could not impart to a woman not possessed of an inborn taste for the adornment of her person. The Sunday girl likes the society of the youth of the opposite sex, and she likes plenty of it at a time. No moping in corners with some melancholy youth for her. Her appearance is usually heralded by the arrival of a couple of lately emancipated schoolboys, she arrives with a third, and after two or three more have appeared, the *bande* is complete, and the fun begins. It is harmless fun enough, if somewhat noisy, and though "Maurice" is playfully chided for his betting propensities, I do not fancy that the small moustached, exuberant youth who answers to that appellation, and apparently glories in his crimes, is at all likely to have betted more than a ten-franc piece at the "pari mutuel." Nor when "Gaston" yells to the waiter to bring "Champagne, beaucoup de champagne," and the summer girl adds, "Depeche toi

mon vieux et apporte plutot deux bouteilles qu'une," is it to be feared that the whole party will shortly be in a state of hopeless intoxication. The small glasses of frothy wine are accompanied by deep draughts of equally frothy conversation, and the latter is, by reason of its quality quite as much as of its quantity, the more intoxicating. The *bande* has its own topics of conversation, which include the races, the theatres, and the latest up-to-date songs, and it is nothing if not, at least apparently, "in the know."

At the Reservoirs, on Sunday, a certain well known actress was lunching with the rich, but sad-eyed young Jewish gentleman whose pleasure and privilege it is to obey her behests, and I noticed three bunches of youths each collected round a Sunday girl of the type I have described, every unit of which talked of the couple in question as though they had known each other all their lives, and had no secrets from one another, and yet when the general move was made I did not see so much as a salutation between any of the number. But this is a Parisian trait, and "Maurice," "Gaston," "Guy," "Gontran," and the female companions of those incipient boulevardiers were by no means remarkable in this respect, for hoary-headed and middle-aged sinners were doing exactly the same thing. To return, however, to the Sunday girl, I fear that she is apt to be misjudged by the average British tourist, at whom she sometimes pokes fun with that want of forbearance which doubtless should, but certainly does not, distinguish her. She shocks serious Boston families, too, by her levity, and if she is a milliner, as in most instances I suspect her to be, I am glad she does; for the ladies of those same Boston families are wont to make her life a burden to her during those periods when she is not the gay, the merry, the light-hearted Sunday girl, whose weekly outing with a lot of boys appears very wicked because it is Parisian, and because the boys are not quite of her own class; but who, did one but give her the benefit of the doubt, is certainly, in many instances, quite as well conducted as the "Society" girls of other countries. Her views may not be so exalted as those expressed by the Transatlantic belle, but she has her future as a *bonne bourgeoise* to look forward to, and she knows it.

THE GRAND-DAUGHTER OF A KING.

The Sailor King of England, William IV., in the days when, as Duke of Clarence, he had little hope of succeeding to the Throne of England, married a charming actress, Mrs. Jordan, and by her had a numerous family. Of course the union was never recognised and so the time came when the Royal Duke had to put away his morganatic bride and ally himself to one in his own station in life, espousing the kindly lady who afterwards became Queen Adelaide. It is an old story and one almost forgotten by the present generation of men, but its memories are revived by the publication of a book by the Countess of Munster, King William's grand-daughter, who, at the venerable age of seventy-three has put her recollections into print. London literary critics accord the volume a hearty welcome. Says one of them:—"In reading 'My Memories' we seem to be listening in a twilit room to a gentle, reminiscent voice telling old stories, sad and gay, with the flickering flame of a log on the hearth lighting up a gentle time-graven face. The windows of the room look on an ancient pleasaunce where old lovers tread, lost roses bloom and wistful ghosts linger in the gloaming. The Countess of Munster gives us a book as rare as is the spirit of gracious, restful old age in which she writes. Her memory wanders far from the days when the child 'Mina' was the pet of King William IV. to the days when 'weak, sad and tired' she writes of the years which lie between, for the friends who would hold her long, "waiting to go Home—'for good and all,' as the children say.'" Very pleasant is it to read of the Countess's "affectionate and respectful testimony to the gracious and Christianlike love and tenderness ever offered to the poor actress's children by the Duchess of Clarence, afterwards Queen Adelaide, who to the day of her death, treated the numerous Fitz-Clarence family as only a loving and gentle woman could." For the Queen felt "the wrong, the pity of it, and forgave." Of her grandfather, King William, the Countess, has, not unnaturally, many reminiscences to record, most of them exhibiting him in a favourable light. He could be rude, as many an anecdote still remembered in old England testifies, but he could also be very sorry and apologise for his rudeness. The Countess remembers him well in connection with long stays at Brighton and at Windsor Castle. Of the youth of the late Queen Victoria she narrates several interesting stories, and the early Court of the Queen forms the subject of a separate chapter, in the course of which the Countess recounts the following incident at a ball:—"The Queen and the other Royalties had been in to supper, and the signal had been given for the return to the ball-room. The Queen, in a fit of absent-mindedness, as she turned from the supper-table, instead of taking up her fan, which had been lying by the side of her plate, took up a large fork! She went forward some steps into the ball-room before discovering her mistake, bowing and smiling as was her wont; but then the Prince Consort, discovering the awkward fact, took away the alarming weapon, substituting the less dangerous one (the fan) instead." As a girl the Countess travelled a good deal and saw much of interest at foreign courts, and so we get glimpses of Dresden and Naples; of the Paris of Louis Philippe and the bourgeois homeliness of life in the Royal Family; later, in 1848, we renew acquaintance with the revolutionary mobs, the barricade in Faubourg St. Antoine and see passing in a one-horse *fiacre* the fugitive King and Queen. The book also gossips about a sojourn at the Court of Hanover, and contains sketches of the old King Ernest August, stately and erect in his hussar uniform, and of the blind Crown Prince, later George V. In the "Miscellanea" which closes the volume are wise, womanly talks on "True Refinement" and "The Servant Question," and the story of "A Noble Life," told with sympathy for the brave worker and the erring children of her care. Altogether these Memories, though delightfully garrulous, yet wisely reticent, intimate and self-revealing, form a collection that the book-lover will like to read and possess.

PUBLISHERS IN DIFFICULTIES.

There are many residents in the Far East who will be sorry to learn that the big publishing firm of Sampson Low, Marston and Co. has gone into liquidation. Fortunately there is every probability that the firm will be able to pay all its creditors in full. It would take a long time to summarise the admirable work which has been done by this enterprising house during its existence—the noble books of travel they have issued, beginning with the works of the late Sir H. M. Stanley. They have published the masterly volumes of Captain Mahan and the scholarly books of Professor J. K. Laughton, besides many a book on the Far East which occupies an honoured place on the bookshelf and library table. They also printed many pleasant books in an English edition of the "Tauchnitz Library" and the charming volumes of the "Bayard" series and the "Gentle Life" series. No firm has been more courteous in its treatment of those who wished to buy foreign books, particularly the works of German, French, and American authors. Altogether it is a fond and reasonable hope that Sampson Low and Co. will be resuscitated and will continue to place their imprint on many a good book in the future. The *Nineteenth Century*, by the way, bears now the imprint of Spottiswoode and Co., and the continual-selling Bickersteth's *Hymnal Companion* that of the Longmans.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

A correspondent sends us the following quaint anecdote:—

> The following anecdote may be of interest to your readers. It illustrates something, though I am not quite sure what.
>
> A lady living in the chief city of Satsuma had occasion to go to a lamp store to purchase a number of small chimneys. She asked for four, and passed out a twenty sen piece. The shop-keeper accepted the money and brought out four lamp chimneys but no change. It seemed to the lady that she had been getting chimneys cheaper than that, and she asked if it were not so. The merchant replied, "No. The price is five sen apiece, or eighteen sen a half dozen." The lady quickly responded, "Very well, I'll take a half dozen," whereupon the merchant, without demurring or evincing any surprise, went and got two more chimneys, and returned two sen change.
>
> It would be interesting to know just what the merchant's view of this transaction was.
>
> Perhaps something in your own experience will match it?

The *Kanazawa Maru* has arrived at Moji with 92 Russian prisoners, of whom 89 are wounded, 30 of them severely. Among the wounded is Lieut. Wilhelm Honwari, already spoken of as the son of a Russian nobleman. He was shot through the stomach, but is said to be rapidly recovering. This second batch of prisoners brings up to 540 the number thus far carried to Japan.

The Saseho Prize Court has now dealt with all the cases brought before it. Its latest decisions have been the confiscations of the *Mukden*, *Manchuria*, *Argun* and *Rossia*, all fine steamers.

Viceroy Yuen is said to have issued orders that inasmuch as a Japanese subject named Sato has leagued himself with the bandits, he is to be arrested if found and sent to Tientsin.

Russia's announcement of free ports in the Amur region provokes a great deal of amusement in Japan. A Power which, in time of peace, imposes all sorts of restrictions upon trade, but which, when war breaks out and when it finds itself embarrassed for provisions, removes these restrictions and invites the nations of the world to pour contraband goods into its harbours, such a Power becomes a mere laughing stock.

It is justly asked in Tokyo when Kuropatkin is going to begin. Will he allow Port Arthur to fall unsuccoured? The answer is very simple, we think: Kuropatkin does not believe that Port Arthur will fall; does not believe in the competence of the Japanese to reduce it. Possibly the accounts that will presently reach him of events at Nanshan may shake his confidence. If they do, it is rather too late for him to profit effectually by his conversion. But his present mood, we opine, is one of satisfaction. He sees a large Japanese force engaged in an enterprise which, according to his conviction, must prove abortive, and he says to himself:—"Excellent, let the enemy dash out a part of his brains against the parapets of Port Arthur. Let him fritter away a large portion of his strength in essaying impossibilities on the Liaotung Peninsula. Meanwhile I am leisurely completing my preparations at Liaoyang, and if not there, then at Harbin. When I am good and ready I will come down upon those pigmies with giant force and will roll them all into the sea. The division of their forces will then prove no small source of disaster to them." Unless Kuropatkin entertains that faith and intention, his attitude is inexplicable. And it will be for the Japanese to undeceive him. They have already done much towards that end already. The next great step is to force Kuropatkin either to fight before he is fully prepared or to retire.

The returns of traffic earnings for the nine days ending April 30th, for the Canadian Pacific Railway show an increase of $71,000 over the figures for the same period a year ago. The earnings for the month of April and for the ten months from July 1st last to April 30th, are as follows:—

	1904.	1903.	Increase.
April 21 to 30......	$ 1,239,000	$ 1,168,000	$ 71,000
Month of July......	4,030,000	3,763,000	267,000
July 1 to April 30.	37,685,000	35,849,000	1,836,000

The fine new road from Miyanoshita to Hakone is now open to *jinrikisha* traffic right through to the lake, and several foreign residents who have been over the track speak highly of the work and the facilities it offers. The other day 20 *jinrikisha* left Miyanoshita on a trial trip and managed to reach Hakone-machi in one hour and 50 minutes—an incredibly quick run: a record in fact, and one we imagine that will never again be attained. The official opening of the road by Governor Sufu will take place on the 1st of June. The cost of the new road falls heavily on the few tax-paying residents of the District, for we understand that Miyanoshita declined to contribute to the fund and the contributions from the Imperial Household Department and Kanagawa Ken were smaller than expected. There can be little doubt that the road will prove highly advantageous to the district.

It may have been observed that now for the first time reports from the Second Army are signed by General Oku. In other words the Army is now finally organized. It consists of Three Divisions; the First under Lt.-General Prince Fushimi, the Third under Lt.-General Oshima Yoshimasa, and the Fourth under Lt.-General Ogawa Mataji. Lieut-General Oshima, as a Major-General, directed the attack upon the Chinese at Yashan in 1894 and subsequently the attack upon Pyongyang. He is reputed to be a man for straightforward assaults. Lieut.-General Ogawa, on the contrary, has a reputation for extraordinary skill in conceiving and carrying out flank attacks and turning movements. He has added to his fame on this occasion by marching his Division through the sea against the left wing of the Nanshan position.

In 1900 the total number of Hawaiians of both pure and mixed blood was 37,635, little more than half the number of pure bloods a half a century ago. The causes that are bringing about this state of affairs are described by Mr. Lucien C. Warner in the *Outlook*. Mr. Warner says: "The general health of the natives, especially of the full-blooded Hawaiians, is far from satisfactory. They usually have small families, many of the children die in infancy, and among the adults consumption and other diseases indicating low vitality are prevalent. Their total number has been reduced from 70,000 in 1853 to less than 30,000 in 1900. The health and vigour of those of mixed Hawaiian blood is much superior to that of the pure Hawaiians. There are two leading types of these mixed races, the Caucasian Hawaiian and the Chinese Hawaiian. Of these, it is the testimony of all observers that the Chinese Hawaiians are the best race, both physically and mentally. Marriages between the Hawaiians and other races are quite frequent, and the number of part Hawaiians is steadily increasing. In 1872 the census gave but 1,487 part Hawaiians. In 1884 they had increased to 4,218, and in 1900 to 7,848. The larger proportion of children among the part Hawaiians is shown by the statistics of school attendance, which in 1902 showed 4,903 full-blooded Hawaiian children to a total population of 29,787, and 2,869 part Hawaiian children to a population of 7,848. In other words, the proportion of children is twice as great among the part Hawaiians as among those of pure blood. These facts force upon us the conclusion that within two or three generations the Hawaiian problem will find its solution in the gradual absorption of the natives by stronger races."

Engineer Rear-Admiral Miyabara, Engineer-in-Chief of the Imperial Japanese Navy, in a very interesting paper read before the Japanese Society of Naval Architects, which has been specially translated into English for *Engineering*, says that to discuss the history of the development of marine engineering would involve many important matters, and require too much time. His purpose is to give outline descriptions of recent developments in the Japanese Navy; and in a table following we are shown how the gross i.h.p. of that Navy increased in twelve years from 71,249 in 1892 to 662,062 in 1904; and how the boiler pressure has increased from 70lb. per square inch in the *Takao*, the first Japanese man-of-war to be fitted with machinery from Admiral Miyabara's own designs in 1888, to 220lb. in the *Otowa* launched in 1903; while the piston-speed of the former, which was only 333 feet per minute, has increased in the latter to 1,000 feet per minute. But the boiler pressure has gone far beyond that of the *Otowa*, that in the *Asahi* and *Mikasa* being 300lb. per square inch; and in one of Admiral Miyabara's boilers built from his designs by Messrs. Vickers, Sons, and Maxim at Barrow the pressure of steam was 325lb. per square inch. It may be gathered from the figures quoted that although Japan may have been somewhat behind the times in engine and boiler design in 1892 she is well abreast of them in 1904. It was in 1895 that Admiral Miyabara first patented in Great Britain the water-tube boiler which bears his name. From the drawings given of a couple of these boilers the reader is enabled to note the simplicity of design and the apparent readiness with which the tubes can be removed and replaced.

The May number of the *Mission News* just issued, has a good portrait of His Excellency the United States Representative, and an indifferent one of Mrs. Griscom. Appended is the following paragraph:—

> The United States Minister.—It is well for our constituency at home to know the men who represent our Republic here. Last spring, a few days before his sudden death, our beloved Minister Buck gave a feast at which some missionaries of our mission were the chief guests. I remarked to him that we should never again have another minister so cordial and sympathetic with missionaries and their work as he was. To which he replied, "If you get a man from the East he'll be all right." We have a man from the Eastern part of the States, and he's all right. Missionaries are seen at his receptions with the highest officials and nobility of Japan, with merchant princes and war correspondents. When representing our Government in Persia, he travelled 1200 miles on purpose to give aid and comfort to a few American missionaries in trouble. And when he was Chargé d'affaires in Constantinople he secured the indemnity for our losses at Harpoot. Our American diplomacy in the East, and especially in Japan, has generally been on the highest plane, and it has won the complete confidence of the whole nation. Our new Minister, Lloyd C. Griscom, is keeping up the old traditions, and though the youngest of the diplomatic corps, is already accepted as a statesman of experience and large ability. I am also glad to say that he has had that barn-like establishment that was a disgrace to the United States made over into a fine looking Legation. It is a pleasure to introduce His Excellency and Mrs. Griscom to our Board and churches.

The *Jiji Shimpo* says that the Russian prisoners now at Matsuyama number in all 556, of whom 22 are officers. Our contemporary's correspondent says that the clothes of many of these men are in an indescribable state of filth, and that steps are being hastily taken to supply new garments. Some of the officers are to be sent soon to the neighbouring hot springs.

In the *Novy Krai* of the 10th of May General Stoessel publishes a notification which suggests that things are not going well with his command. The gist of the announcement is that the Russian civil officials are disposed to sacrifice their offices and save themselves prematurely, and the General promises that unless they show more firmness and courage, he will try them by court-martial. That is a significant warning.

TWO NEW BOOKS ON JAPAN.

The publishers' announcements appearing in English papers at the present time bear witness to the great interest being taken in all matters concerning Japan. Among other items we notice that Mr. Heinmann has in preparation a volume written entirely by Japanese authorities, which should be a compilation quite unique and representative in character. For instance, Baron Sannomiya, of the Imperial Household, will write on the Imperial family; Marquis Ito on the Constitution; Baron Kaneko Kentaro on Parliamentary life; Marquis Oyama, on the Army; Admiral Saito, on the Navy; Count Okuma on Education, and Miss Shimoda, of the Peereses' School, Tokyo, on Women's Education; M. Sakatani, Vice Minister of Finance, on Finance; M. Yamamoto, Governor of the Bank of Japan, on Banking; Baron Shibusawa, President of the United Chambers of Commerce, on Industries and Commerce, &c. There are besides chapters on mining, labour, marine enterprises, railways, post office, police, and the press. The volume is edited by Mr. Alfred Stead, and was to be ready in the course of May. "Present-Day Japan" is the title of a book by Miss Augusta M. Campbell Davidson, published by Mr. T. Fisher Unwin on April 25. The materials for the work were gathered in the course of a lengthy visit to this country, during which the author associated chiefly with Japanese, and enjoyed exceptional opportunities of observing present social conditions. The book will be illustrated with a three-colour frontispiece and about sixty-five pictures in black and white.

The steamer *Tweeddale* left Hongkong for Durban on May 25th with 1,055 coolies, the first batch for the South African mines. The following other steamers have been chartered as transports for the conveyance of 8,000 to 10,000 coolies from China to Durban:—The *Brinkburn*, *Courtfield*, and *Cranley*, owned by Messrs. Harris and Dixon, London; and the *Indravelli*, owned by the Indra Line, Liverpool. The passage money has been fixed at £5 per head.

THE WAR-TAX QUESTION.

IT is most unfortunate that there can not be established among the Foreign Representatives in Japan and their nationals some relation such as would dispense with meetings like that held in Kobe on the 23rd instant. Failing a relation of better understanding the line of distinction between the foreign communities and the people of the country will never be obliterated. This meeting was essentially arelic of the old time. It adopted the following resolution :—

> That the Committee of this Chamber be asked to address a letter to the Corps Diplomatique requesting a decision as to whether under the Treaties foreigners should be called upon to pay the increased taxation authorised by the Diet in April last.

How can the Hyogo and Osaka Chamber of Commerce address a letter to the Corps Diplomatique? Presumably the Committee will send the document to Baron d'ANETHAN, in his capacity of Doyen of the Corps. But Baron d'ANETHAN has no competence to receive such a document. He will return it at once with an intimation that he is Belgian Minister and as such can attend to the affairs of Belgian subjects only. That, however, is a mere question of procedure. Incomparably more important is it to find the foreign residents collectively raising the question whether they are not entitled to occupy in Japan a privileged position as compared with the Japanese themselves; to form, in fact, a community apart from the people of the country, enjoying the same facilities but not discharging the same fiscal obligations. It really seems problematical whether any of the gentlemen who, on the 23rd instant, voted for the above resolution, had given the matter serious thought. Try to imagine a German for example, who, while living in London and carrying on business there under the provisions of English law, should assert a claim of non-liability to the payment of taxation increases arising out of War between Great Britain and some other Power. Or try to imagine a Japanese merchant residing and engaged in trade in New York who should venture to assert for himself exemption from taxes to which American citizens in general are liable. Either conception is quite preposterous: the German in England and the Japanese in America would be regarded as little short of a lunatic did he assume such an attitude *vis-à-vis* the law of the land. Why should the case be different for a foreigner residing in Japan? Some may thoughtlessly answer, "because we in Japan have special treaty privileges." We have nothing of the kind. The provisions of the treaties are explicitly reciprocal in this matter. What is the practice in England or America, that also must be the practice in Japan; whatever privileges or immunities are enjoyed by Japanese subjects residing in America or England, the same immunities and privileges, neither more nor less, are guaranteed to American citizens and British subjects residing in Japan. It is merely idle superfluity to argue whether such and such words in the conventions can be construed in such and such a manner or may have such and such a meaning read into them. The practice of Western countries constitutes the lexicon by which the treaties are to be interpreted in this case. Did the members of the Hyogo and Osaka Chamber of Commerce pause to examine the matter by that obvious light? We greatly doubt it. And we doubt still more whether, upon mature reflection, they would be willing to subscribe such a monstrous proposition as that foreigners who come to this country at their own convenience and simply for the purpose of making profit for themselves by trade or industry, ought to be more favourably circumstanced in a fiscal sense than Japanese subjects; ought to be exempted from fiscal burdens which all Japanese have to bear. On what principle of justice can we claim to be a specially privileged class in Japan? Are we here by right of conquest, or have we some heaven-conferred title to partial discrimination? The whole thing is extremely giddy and thoughtless. The days are past for arrogating the prerogatives of an *imperium in imperio*, and we can not too soon abandon the differentiations of the fine old time.

BEDFORD: A CENTRE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION.

(SPECIALLY WRITTEN FOR THE "JAPAN MAIL.")

In the year 1566 a certain Sir William Harper, who had amassed a fortune in London, gave to Bedford, his native town, thirteen acres of land in the parish of Holborn, for the purpose of endowing a school. These acres were then meadow land, and valued at £40 yearly. Now they are in the heart of London, covered with buildings, and produce an annual income of £15,000. With the increase in value of the property, acts of Parliament have from time to time been passed for regulating the expenditure. At present the income is thus spent: four-elevenths go to the Grammar School and the High School, four-elevenths to the two Modern Schools, two-elevenths to elementary schools, and the remaining eleventh is spent in eleemosynary objects. The large endowments of the above-mentioned four secondary schools have caused Bedford to become, more than any other town in England, a centre of secondary education, and to be chosen as a residence by those who have children to educate and are at liberty to choose their residence, such as retired government officials and widows.

The Grammar School, which is for boys, is the largest of the schools. The present school-house, erected on a new site, and completed in 1891, is a very handsome and commodious structure. The Preparatory Department, to which boys of the age of seven are admitted, has a separate building and a separate playground. There are chemical and physical laboratories, engineering and carpenter's workshops, and, in short, a thorough equipment for educating boys for universities, civil or military offices, professional or mercantile life. The playground covers twenty acres. As the name *Grammar School* implies, Latin is compulsory, but it may be dropped when a boy leaves the "Classical Side" of the school and enters the "Civil and Military" or other Department. Instruction in the Bible is given, but doctrinal teaching is strictly forbidden, the school being by its constitution non-sectarian. A chapel is to be erected, but it must be from private funds and situated outside of the school precincts. There is at present only one master in holy orders. The teaching staff numbers some five-and-forty, and the boys nearly nine hundred, the great majority being day-boys. Each class has not more than thirty pupils, generally fewer. Boarders are received in the houses of certain masters, and day-boys must reside with their parents or near relatives. Residence with distant relatives or friends is not permitted. A similar rule applies to all the four Harper schools. The fees for tuition vary from £10.10s. to £16.16s. yearly, and for boarding they are about £70. If the sons of parents living abroad are left during vacations in the charge of the master, he generally sends them to some country place, farm-house or seaside, where about 25s. a week is charged. Thus the whole cost of maintaining a boy throughout the year may be reckoned at an average of £100, plus whatever is required for clothes and pocket-money. It may be gathered from the above observations that Bedford Grammar School differs from most other large public schools in the great numerical preponderance of day-boys, in the lowness of its tuition fees, and in its freedom from ecclesiastical domination.

The High School is intended to give girls an education corresponding to what the Grammar School does to boys. It also has handsome and spacious buildings. In the higher classes there is no fixed course of study compulsory for all, but the head-mistress at her discretion may excuse a pupil from the study of Latin, algebra, botany, or any other subject she may deem undesirable. The teaching in this school, I can personally vouch, is excellent. The mistresses are as a rule thoroughly efficient, both well-qualified and enthusiastic in their work. Proper preparation of lessons at home is ensured by the system of making a girl return to school for further study in the afternoon if her answering in the morning has been unsatisfactory. The regular school hours are, as in most girls' schools, only twenty a week, from nine till one daily, except on Saturday which is a holiday. Music is generally taken in the afternoon. The reasons for the shortness of girls' hours compared with boys'—the boys have about 30 hours a week—are that girls generally have to spend time in needlework at home, and that many also devote much time to music. Sewing receives very scanty attention at the High School, and neither domestic economy nor cookery is taught at all. In these respects the girls at this and other high schools are at a disadvantage compared with Board School girls, and when they become mistresses of households they will be unfit to direct their servants if they have not remedied at special schools or at home the deficiencies of their high school training. For bodily exercises the High School has a large playing field where hockey is played in winter and lawn tennis and cricket in summer. It also has a gymnasium, but a very poor one, quite unworthy of the school. Each pupil has for twenty minutes twice a week what is called gymnastics, but what is really chiefly Swedish drill. Gymnastic exercises, in the proper sense of the word, are not much practised. There is an organ in the large hall, and the girls have an orchestra, but I observed that the violin was the only instrument they played in it. Girls' schools differ from boys in not encouraging social intercourse. At the High School, and at many other schools too, the girls are forbidden to walk with one another to or from school without express permission from parents and head-mistress. As the strict rules of discipline forbid speaking even in the cloak rooms it is only in the few minutes' recess that girls have an opportunity of making acquaintanceship with each other. Few of the day-girls go to the playing-field, and of course but a small number are in the orchestra. The rule forbidding girls to walk together amounts to a recognised approval of the notion that the girls are unfit as social companions for one another. It must increase the tendency, to which women are already too prone, of making much of petty social distinctions. To those who consider themselves to be of gentle birth and refined habits it is not complimentary for others to suppose, nor is it self-respecting for themselves to think, that their refined manners are a mere veneer which will be rubbed off by a little contact with a tradesman's daughter, that their superior speech and behaviour are a sort of hot-house growth which will wither if exposed to the slightest draught from the outer world. How different it is with boys! They mix freely with each other, and quickly form friendships. A well-brought-up boy may be trusted himself not to choose vulgar fellows as his most intimate friends. Why may not girls be equally trusted?

But I have wandered from my description of the High School, and must return. The girls exceed in number 500. The fees are from £9 to £12 yearly, music of course being extra. The post of head mistress is according to the *Journal of Education*, worth £1,200 a year, and is probably the most valuable of its kind in England. The fees for boarding, which is permitted only in the houses of certain mistresses, are from £60 to £70 a year.

The other two secondary schools are the Boys' Modern School and the Girls' Modern School. These are both situated more in the middle of the town, and their buildings, though not so new as those of the two schools described above, are modern and well equipped. They aim more at giving a commercial education, but many of the boys enter the army or other public service. The numbers of pupils are about 500 boys and 200 girls and the fees are respectively from £4 to £9, and £4. The endowment of the Modern Schools being equal to that of the Grammar and High Schools, while the number of pupils is about one half, the Modern fees are consequently much lower. But there is no reason to believe that the education is inferior. The inclusive fees for board and tuition are £50 to £60 for boys, and £45 for girls.

In the same town as these highly endowed schools it is somewhat surprising to find several private schools flourishing. Of these, the largest are the Crescent House for girls, and the County School for boys. And now, turning from the schools to the town of Bedford itself—What sort of place is it to live in? It is a town of 45,000 inhabitants and is situated some fifty miles from London, an hour's journey, in a flat agricultural district. It is a well-built clean town, without slums, and very largely composed of streets of private middle-class residences built to accommodate the families who flock to Bedford for the sake of the schools. The building seems to have been overdone, for a house-agents' list describes over 150 vacant unfurnished residences with rents from £20 to £100 and 50 furnished residences with proportionately higher rentals. Furnished appartments are easily to be found, and a family intending to settle in or make a trial of Bedford could not do better than reside in lodgings before making a decision. The soil is rather clayey, and damp, though the rainfall is not great. Those who are liable to catarrh or rheumatism or who need a bracing climate will perhaps find themselves better elsewhere, but on the whole the climate may be pronounced healthy. The River Ouse flows through the town and is suitable for boating and for bathing. The Embankment gardens and promenade extend over a mile below the town and are tastefully laid out with trees and flower beds. There are two large parks as well as smaller public gardens and playgrounds. There is a theatre, and concerts are frequent, but in so small a town it is not to be expected that there should be many first-rate performances, either dramatic or musical. In none of the churches is there good singing, and the lack of opportunity of hearing first-rate music must be set down as one of Bedford's drawbacks. The surrounding country is flat or undulating, and the scenery rather tame, but these are several quaint old villages with churches generally of considerable antiquity. In the village of Clapham the tall church tower is said to have been built by the Anglo-Saxons of old as a watch-tower to look out for invading Danes coming along the Ouse. In Bedford itself the tower of St. Peter's is said still to show traces of the fire wherewith the Danes burnt the church. In comparison with these, Bunyan's cottage, the tower where he was wicked enough to ring the bells, and the green where he danced and played tip-cat, seem to belong to our own times. The prison where he wrote his immortal book is no longer standing. For cycling the roads throughout the county are excellent, being made smooth with steam rollers.

The river is suitable for boating for three miles above the town and for all its course below. For lawn tennis there are several public courts, and there is also a club for golf. Good fox-hunting is to be had with Oakley hounds. Whether from choice or necessity, many families live very economically, the lady of the house doing a good deal of housework herself, having no resident servant but receiving assistance from one sleeping at her own home or from charwomen or boys. One hears a good deal about the difficulty of getting servants, especially maids-of-all-work or "general" as they are now called. But Bedford is a place where living is cheap, and where small means and corresponding frugality will not cause a gentlewoman or a gentleman to be looked down on. "I know of no place," said one of my friends, an officer invalided out of the army before he had earned an adequate pension, "I know of no place where a man with a small income can hold up his head better than in Bedford."

As regards the cost of schooling it must be remembered that at Bedford it is the tuition fee which is low, not the boarding-house fee. For the sake of comparison I shall quote from *Hampton's Scholastic Directory* the fees at a few well-known schools elsewhere in England. The tuition fees are: Rugby—£43, Eton—£30, Harrow—£38 9s, Cheltenham—£23 to £34, St. Paul's—£24 9s, Felsted £20. Board and tuition together are: Rugby—£120, Uppingham —£112, Harrow—£130, Felsted—£62, Clifton and Rossall—each about £70. To most of the above some extras must be added. Girls pay for tuition at Cheltenham from £12 to £24, and at the schools of the Girls' Public Day School Company from £12 to £16. The fees in private proprietary schools vary extremely and are generally higher in boys' schools than in girls'.

PATERFAMILIAS.

THE MODERN SCHOOL.

The ceremony of prize giving at this school took place at the Public Hall on Friday afternoon, the meeting being presided over by Mr. J. P. Mollison. There was a large attendance of parents and friends, and the proceedings evoked much enthusiasm. Mr. Mollison in opening the meeting said:—

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—During a somewhat lengthy residence in Yokohama it has been my privilege, or misfortune, I hardly know which, to occupy the chair on all sorts of occasions, from Cricket Club to Chamber of Commerce meetings, Theatricals to War Relief, but this is the first time it has been my lot to preside at a school gathering, and the very novelty of the situation must be excuse for any shortcomings that may be found in what I have to say. As an old resident, with sons of my own, I have long recognised the crying want in Yokohama of a good school for boys of foreign parentage. Many attempts were made to establish one, the most notable being the Victoria School, inaugurated by enthusiastic Britishers to commemorate our late Queen's Jubilee in 1887. It was started under favourable auspices, and as many of our young men can testify was carried on for some years with a considerable amount of success, first under Mr. Hinton as Head Master, and later on by Mr. Fardell (who had been Mr. Hinton's assistant) with the co-operation of Miss Abersohl, a most capable and successful lady teacher. Miss Abersohl formerly had a boys school of her own, and many of the young men in the Settlement to-day received their early training, and an excellent training it was too, at her hands. For various reasons, however, as to which I have my own opinion, the Victoria School did not prove a permanent success, in fact failure more nearly describes its closing years, until it was finally broken up, not however without leaving its mark, and a good mark too, on the education and training of the rising generation of Yokohama, many of whom will, I am sure, recall with pleasure the years they spent there under Mr. Hinton and Mr. Fardel. Mr. Schurr, with Winton House Academy, was the next attempt to establish a boys' school and a very successful attempt it was while it lasted, the number of scholars when Mr. Schurr for private reasons was obliged to go to England being, if I remember rightly, over 40, thus proving that given the opportunity of going to a good school the boys would always be forthcoming. Unfortunately Mr. Schurr was not able to make very satisfactory arrangements for the maintenance of his School during what was believed to be only a temporary absence, and when it finally became known that he would not return at all, the whole edifice collapsed like a pack of cards. Mr. Mitford has stepped into the breach thus created and if we may judge from what we see before us to-day, he has every prospect of establishing amongst us a permanently successful educational institution. His opening I know was not very encouraging, the School roll for the first year numbering I think only some 7 to 8 boys. In fact the prospects just then appeared very discouraging, so much so that I don't think I am wrong in saying that Mr. Mitford was on the point of accepting an appointment in Hongkong that would have relieved him from all anxiety, when he honoured me by asking my advice on the subject. Feeling that his departure would be a distinct loss to Yokohama, and by adding one more to our long list of failures here in scholastic endeavours, perhaps deter others from making the attempt, I advised Mr. Mitford to remain, pointing out that undoubtedly there was a good field and a fine opportunity for the right man. Further that here he would be working to make a name for himself and a school of his own; could carry out his own views in regard to scholastic matters without let or hindrance, and that if he once gained the confidence of the community his success was assured. That was, I think, less than two years ago and beginning then with 7 or 8 boys the school now consists of thirty with every prospect of an increasing roll as time goes on. In anticipation of this, as we know, Mr. Mitford has found it necessary to obtain assistance in the person of a thoroughly qualified and competent master from England. Mr. Argent only arrived the other day and I am glad to have this opportunity of tendering him a word of welcome on behalf of the parents of the boys under his charge. To Mr. Mitford I offer my sincere congratulations on what he has accomplished so far, and I am sure I am only echoing the wishes of all present when I express the hope that complete success will be the result of his efforts. I will now ask Mr. Mitford to read his report for the current year.

Mr. Mitford said:—

Mr. Chairman, References of the school, Ladies and Gentlemen:—It is not without some diffidence that I submit to you this the first report of a newly established school. Such a report must inevitably partake of the nature of a looking forward rather than a looking back. But Mr. Chairman, I am glad to be able to say that either is a pleasant process. We take pleasure in looking back because our efforts have been blessed with some measure of success and I may venture to add that, inasmuch as we are not without our hopes and ambitions, we are looking into the sky of the future with anticipations no less fair. That is because, Ladies and Gentlemen, the history of the school may be briefly summed up in the simple but pregnant words of the great American poet—"Something attempted, something done."

I fear however that you will hardly be satisfied with so cursory a review of the school life whose first birthday, if I may be allowed the phrase, we are celebrating this afternoon. The goodly assemblage gathered in the Hall gives token of an interest in the school's life and doings which will not be content with an aphorism, but calls for a fuller survey upon which will the next day of distribution, that interest may rest and live. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I will make the first part of my remarks a historical sketch of the school life from its inception, rather than a formal report.

Education in Yokohama, Mr. Chairman, judging by its past history does not seem to be without its Scylla and Charybdis, which scholastic navigators in the past have not all steered clear of, and which must on that account specially be avoided if the haven of success is to be reached. It is this circumstance which in the main has dictated the lines on which any institution aiming at growth, permanency and efficiency, must be conducted. Those are the lines, Mr. Chairman, to which this school has been adapted, and the rapid increase in numbers which its registers show would seem to indicate that upon them the community is fast setting, if it has not already set, the seal of its approval.

Our beginings, Mr. Chairman, were small: but we have no more compunction in making the admission now, than a soldier has at the end of a victorious war in narrating the toils and difficulties of his first campaign. I believe that no small pride is taken by the earliest pupils of the school in the distinction which they possess of their names being the first on registers of the school and I believe they still look back with vain longing to the time when the company was small and select. I could not let this period of its history pass without a grateful reference to the timely and sympathetic encouragement the school received from yourself, Mr. Chairman, the gentlemen accompanying you on the platform, as well as from the parents of those first alumni. That support bridged over for us pleasantly the interval of waiting. It was about this time that the fate of the school may be said to have hung in the balance, owing to an offer which I received of an educational appointment under the Government of Hongkong. In view of this it was felt by those interested in the school that a demonstration of approval and the practical support that follows therefrom was urgently required. That demonstration, I am happy to say, was forthcoming in a very unmistakable manner. In the course of the succeeding term, the school was joined by no fewer than twenty-three new pupils.

Before that date, efforts had been made to secure qualified assistance. This is a matter involving considerable time and trouble, in view of the distance at which the appointment had to be made, and the slowness of communication. Further delay was caused by the regrettable outbreak of the present war, creating in England at least a feeling of insecurity with regard to the conditions of life out here. All difficulties have however been surmounted, and the school has been joined by Mr. S. W. Argent, lately assistant master of Stafford College, Forest Hill, London. Short as has been the time during whice we have been working together I have no hesitation in saying that the school has in Mr. Argent a capable and energetic master and myself a valuable colleague and collaborator.

Valuable assistance has also been rendered to the school for some time past by Miss Allison, who has taken almost entire charge of the Preparatory Form. So much did she endear herself to her juvenile charges, that I am told one wept when the time came for her place to be taken by our new master. I am of opinion that the tuition by a lady of boys under the age of nine or ten has so much to recommend it, while they at the same time are able to have a part in the larger life of the school, that the Preparatory Form will after the Summer Vacation continue to be taught by a lady.

A famous Oxford coach once described teaching boys as equivalent to "fighting against savages with weapons vastly inferior. In consequence of this he took to coaching young men at the University, whom he considered more amenable to reason. A colleague of mine in England, who was also a lecturer under the Science and Art Department of South Kensington, once gave expression to a somewhat similar opinion. He much prefered lecturing to adults he declared, whether male or female, because they were people of sense, who had learnt how to sit still. Whereas with boys half his time was taken up with getting them to attend, and reproving them for one or other kind of misbehaviour, so that the thread of his discourse was frequently broken. If any of my audience have similar views on the instruction of youth, (and I rather suspect they have) they will doubtless have extended to me their sympathy during the time when, for six months continously, I had some thirty boys of all sizes and ages on my hands, I do not mention this because I feel that I was in need of that sympathy, for I think we got through this difficult period fairly satisfactorily, but the imperfections and short comings which necessarily result from such a situation are many, and I attribute it to the existence of some such sympathetic feeling, as well as to the kind consideration of parents that these imperfections were passed over, for the period though full of faults was singularly free from complaint.

With regard to school work the curriculum which is followed by the Upper School corresponds closely with that of the middle forms of an English school subjects—too often neglected in institutions with high sounding curricula—and to the systematic study of English and English Literature. As an example of the latter I may mention the fact that quite a number of the boys correctly recited that lyrical gem Milton's "L'Allegro." The mental training and refinement imparted by a classical education are too valuable to permit of the exclusion of the classics from the curriculum. Latin therefore has its due place in the school course, and the progress made in this important subject is very gratifying.

Manual training receives attention in the handling of geometrical instruments and in physical exercises, which include dumbbell practice. All able bodied boys are also taught the elements of military drill.

To turn to the modern aspect of education in its preparation for commercial life, the study of shorthand is largely taken up. The knowledge of this time-saving art seems destined to become universal, and it is already largely in demand for business purposes. Some thirty per cent. of the boys in this school are now going forward with this valuable subject.

I am sure my listeners will agree with me that no view of boy life is complete which takes no account of their games. Apart from the important part which these play in the processes of physical development, there are many manly qualities which are imparted by the honourable rivalries of sport. We know that it has been said, and with a large amount of truth, that Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton. It is not at all probable that many of us will be called upon to take part in active warfare, but it is undeniable that many of the same qualities which go to make the successful soldier are required in the battle of life.

In the playground adjoining the school, for the use of which we are indebted to our courteous neighbour, Mr. Nunes, our boys have daily exercise in the accepted forms of out door recreation. The majority of them have also joined the recently constituted Junior Athletic Club, which may now be said to be almost identical with the school. Here cricket and football may be indulged in twice a week on the excellent ground of the Y. C. & A. C. Occasional excursions are made into the country, which I need hardly say are set down as "red-letter days" in the diary of the school. These and and all other matters of interest connected with the institution's work and play are recorded in the pages of our magazine, the *Modernian*, a young and vigorous publication which has taken a firm hold on the imagination and affection of the boys. On the broad lines of school policy, we believe in development, in education in its true and literal sense, rather than in constant repression; and the inculcation of the teachable spirit as implied in our motto *Doceas iter, et sacra ostia pandas*. We strive to get boys to realize that work is after all the main business of life, and to give it the first place in their thoughts. The multiplication of rules and regulations is avoided; red-tape is eschewed and the machinery of discipline reduced to a minimum. The ideal education is that of the natural development of mind and body amid the most favourable surroundings, each working out its own salvation under the influence of a guiding rather than a restraining hand. It is this at which we aim. We aim at turning out manly, honest, sober and industrious men, fitted in all essential points for the struggle of life. Any expenditure of time or energy in this direction we regard as a small sacrifice to win so worthy an end.

Mr. Bruce Mitford read the following list of prizes awarded:—

PRIZE LIST.

PRIZE.	PRESENTED BY.	WINNER.
Dux Scholæ	H. E. Sir Claude MacDonald.	W. Worden.
English IV.	Mr. J. P. Mollison.	W. Worden.
Form Prize IV.	Mr. James Dodds.	G. Upton.
Latin IV.	Mr. James Walter.	A. Bishop.
Mathematics IV.	The Director.	G. Upton.
Mathematics and Drawing	Mr. P. E. F. Stone.	J. Mollison.
Shorthand	The Director.	P. A. Gorman.
Attendance	Mr. A. L. Bagnall.	A. Gorman.
Industry	Mr. J. H. Sharp.	F. Booth.
English III.	Capt. E. P. Bishop.	V. Worden.
Form Prize III.	Mr. S. Isaacs.	E. Esdale.
Mathematics III.	The Director.	J. Hayes.
Preparatory Form.	The Director.	W. Wilson.

MEDALS.	CERTIFICATES.	
	Writing.	General Improvement.
Worden.	Stone.	Gray.
Worden II.	Vincent.	Gorman.
Bishop.	Tipple.	Bailey.
Upton.	Gray.	Cahusac.
Gray.	Conduct.	Esdale.
Vincent.	Booth.	Booth II.
Stone.	Worden.	Box.
Scott.	Dinsdale.	Bagnall.
Drummond.	Gray.	Howe.
Neville.	Mollison.	
	Worden II.	

The Chairman next addressed a few words to the boys, reminding them that this occasion of receiving prizes should be amongst the most memorable of their lives.

Rev. W. P. G. Field then presented the prizes, congratulating Mr. Bruce Mitford on the state of the School; after which votes of thanks to the Chair and to Mr. Field for presenting the prizes were proposed by Mr. James Walter and carried with acclamation.

MADAME HENKLER'S ENTERTAINMENT.

A rather scanty audience gathered at the Public Hall on Thursday evening on the occasion of the musical and operatic performance by the pupils of Madame Henkler. The first part of the programme brought out several promising young ladies, among the most commendable of whom were Miss Georgie Tresize, Miss M. Cameron, Miss R. Stornebrink and Miss Flossie Eagling. Some very delightful vocal numbers were given by the Misses Summers, and we hope that Yokohama programmes will often be graced by them now that they have made their *debut*. The selections given by the Bijou Orchestra, as usual, drew forth hearty applause. The second part was taken up with an Operetta, "Three Little Kittens," which went with a merry swing all through. It was a happy idea to dress the three Princes as soldiers of Great Britain, Japan, and the United States respectively, and the representative of Japan covered himself with glory, as was only to be expected. We append the full programme:—

PART I.

"Hands Across the Sea"... ....Sousa.
Bijou Orchestra.

Piano Quartette:—Battle March of Priests in "Athalie."
Misses D. Abbey, M. Cameron, A. Gray and R. Stornebrink.

Two Small Songs:— } "The Blacksmith" } "In May"
Children's Singing Class.

Piano Trio........ "Capriccietto" ....Gurlitt.
Misses M. Cameron, F. Eagling and D. Hearne.

Song.................. "An Rose" ....Cursehmann.
Miss Agnes Summers.

Piano Solo........... "Sonatine" ....Kuhlau.
Miss Flossie Eagling.

Song.................. "Frühlingzeit" ....C. Bohm.
Miss Maggie Summers.

Piano Duet ..." Morris Dance"... Edward German.
Misses G. Tresize and M. Hearne.

Vocal Duet ......" The Crimson Glow"...... F. Root.
Misses Agnes and Alice Summers.

Piano Solo........" Scarf Dance".........Chaminade.
Miss Georgie Tresize.

Song ...." Suleika".............. Mendelsohn.
Miss Alice Summers.

Piano Duet ......" Polish Dance"...... Scharwenka.
Misses M. Cameron and R. Stornebrink.

Vocal Trio ...." Birds' Voices,"........ Taubert.
Misses Alice, Agnes and Maggie Summers.

"Valse Bleue" ....Margis.
Bijou Orchestra.

PART II.

Operetta:—Three Little Kittens.

Characters:

King Jollyboy, a merry monarch .....George Neville.
His Queen, his better half, by odds,........Emily Fox.

Prince Goldenlocks Prince Merryeyes Prince Curleypate	His 3 sons, chips of the old block.	May Cameron. Dwyer Neville. Basil Cahusac.

Fairy Faithful...............................Flossie Eagling.
Kitty Little, a small specimen...........Rosie Witschi.

Princess Velvetina Princess Silverina Princess Satinpaw	Three enchanted kittens.	Mattie Fox. Edith Unite. Maudie Hearne.

Maids of Honour,—Courtiers and Cats-in-Waiting.
Accompanist ....Mrs. McIvor.
"Anona"..*Grey.*
Bijou Orchestra.

OMORI RIFLE CLUB.

The second spring meeting of the Yokohama branch of the Omori Rifle Club was held on Sunday at the range and despite the threatening weather attracted a good attendance. The special prize given by the Secretary for the highest aggregate of the day was awarded to Mr. Gampert for a total of 277.4, though the Secretary himself (Mr. Mottu) made 291. Results:—

500 Yards (Open.) 1,000 Points.

Schellenberg M.	580 points	1
Gibbs, J. B.	490 "	2
Mottu, L.	390 "	3

500 Yards (Handicap) 50 Possible.

		Handicap.		
Gampert, P.	40	5.7	45.7	1
Mottu, L.	44	Scratch	44.0	2
Gibbs, J. B.	39	4.7	4.37	3

300 Yards, 20 Shots—Prone. (Handicap).

	Handicap.	200 Possible.	
Mottu, L.	Scratch	178	1
Schellenberg, M.	Scratch	174	2
Thwaites, C.	11.3	169.3	3

300 yards. 10 shots—Standing.

Dubourg, A.	74	4.3	78.3	1
Hood, G.	66	10	76	2
Mottu, L.	69	Scratch	69	3

300 yards. (Open) highest possible 1,000
10 shots—Prone.

Mottu, L.	300 points	2
Schellenberg, M.	280 "	1
Gibbs, J. B.	220 "	3

THE LATE MR. EVERS.

By the death of Mr. E. A. Evers, at the age of sixty-five another link with the early days of foreign residence in Japan is snapped. Coming first to Nagasaki in 1862, he took up his residence later in Osaka when that port was first opened, being then Prussian Consular agent. He was an eyewitness of one of the decisive battles of the Restoration, when Keiki, the last Shogun, was defeated at Fushimi. Mr. Evers took an active part in the public life of both Kobe and Yokohama during his long residence in Japan and his death is universally deplored, for he was a man who won friends and kept them. The funeral takes place on Saturday.

Y. C. AND A. C. ATHLETIC SPORTS.

PATRONS:—Governor Sufu and J. Carey Hall Esq.

PRESIDENT:—Dr. E. Wheeler.

VICE-PRESIDENT:—D. H. Blake, Esq.

COMMITTEE:—W. S. Moss (Hon. Secretary), W. B. White (Hon. Treasurer), Dr. W. M. Garton (Baseball), F. E. White (Captain of Cricket), W. Y. Showler (Ground), H. W. Kilby (Football), S. Wheeler (Athletics).

OFFICERS OF THE DAY.—Judges: Dr. W. M. Garton, A. H. Dare, Rev. W. Western.

STARTER:—E. Mendelson.

CLERK OF THE COURSE.—W. Y. Showler.

HANDICAPPERS:—W. S. Moss, S. Wheeler, H. W. Kilby.

TIMEKEEPERS:—F. H. Bugbird, A. W. Read J. W. Thompson.

MEASURERS:—F. E. White and W. B. White.

The Yokohama Cricket and Athletic Club held their annual sports on Saturday afternoon. Despite the threatening aspect of the weather there was a large attendance of spectators, and the grounds and Pavilion were gaily decorated with flags. The "Society" band played selections of music during the afternoon. The various events were generally well contested and the times, considering the heavy state of the ground, were good. Unfortunately before the sports concluded rain fell steadily, and most of the spectators sought the shelter of the Pavilion.

The 100 yards flat race for the "Silk" prize opened the proceedings, and was run in three heats, Fairhurst, Lambert and Libeaud not competing. The first heat was won by Drummond, Correa being a very close second. Mason and Wheeler contested the second heat, the former winning by a small margin. Later in the afternoon the final heat was won by Mason in 10½ secs. (equalling the Club record made by E. Abbott in 1884). Drummond was a close second and Correa third.

The high jump is always an interesting event, and in this instance the final efforts of Drummond to beat the Club record of 5 ft. 6⅞ in. were watched with keen interest. Foster fell out at 5 ft. and E. W. Kilby at 5 ft. 1 in. Graham cleared 5 ft. 5 in., jumping in excellent style, and being conceded 2 inches by Drummond won the "Tea" prize.

J. L. Graham (2 ins.) 5″ 7′ 1
J. F. Drummond (scr.) 5″ 6′ 2

There were six competitors in the quarter mile race for the "Ladies" prize—Wheeler, 10 yards; Mason and E. W. Kilby 13 yards; Fairhurst, 15 yards; Cooper and Correa, 20 yards. The latter went off at a pace that could not be kept up, and was overtaken at the top bend by Mason and Kilby, the former winning by about three yards from Kilby in the record time of 52$\frac{9}{10}$secs. The Club record was 52¼sec.

W. B. Mason 1
E. W. Kilby 2

Immediately after the race the prize, a handsome silver bowl, was presented to the successful runner by Miss Amy Mendelson with a few graceful remarks, Mr. Mason suitably acknowledging and presenting the donor with a bouquet.

Messrs. Kingdon, Kuhn, Drummond, E. W. Kilby and Thorn competed for Mrs. J. Carey Hall's prize for putting the shot. The result was rather weak compared with the Club's record (36ft. 8½in), Kuhn (who has just risen from a sick bed) winning with 29ft. 1 in., Kingdon second.

S. H. Kuhn 1
A. Kingdon.................................... 2

In the 120 yds. hurdles (3 ft. 6 in.) race for the "Insurance" prize there were five competitors and another record was broken. In the first heat E. W. Kilby, B. C. Foster and W. Graham ran. Foster (15 yds. 2 hurdles removed) dropped out, the winner being Kilby with Graham second. J. F. Drummond (scratch) and W. E. Mason (8 yds. and 1 hurdle removed) simply trotted over the course in order to qualify. The final was won by the winners of the first heat in the same order and in the record time of 16⅗ secs.

E. W. Kilby 1
W. Graham.................................... 2

There were seven "starters" for the "Doctor's" Cup (to be won twice before becoming the property of the winner). A good race resulted in a win for Correa, with E. W. Kilby second, the remaining competitors being Wheeler, M. Mendelson, Dannaher, Mason and Cooper. The prize was presented directly after the race by Mrs. W. M. Garton with a few appropriate remarks, and briefly acknowledged, the donor being presented with a bouquet by the recipient of the prize.

The half mile race for the prize presented by Messrs. Arthur and Bond brought forth E. W. Kilby, (scatch) H. W. Kilby, (25 yds) T. W. Kilby (35 yds), Graham (35 yds) and J. E. Drummond (40 yds.). The latter ran in fine style and won by about ten yards, T. W. Kilby being second. Time, 2 m. 8¼ sec.

J. E. Drummond.............................. 1
T. W. Kilby 2

There were five competitors in the long jump contest for the Broker's prize, viz., J. F. Drummond (Scratch), Mason (1 ft.), Wheeler (1 ft.), E. W. Kilby (2 ft. 3 ins.), and J. L. Graham (2 ft. 6 ins.). Drummond cleared 20 ft. 10½ ins., but was beaten on the handicap by Graham with a jump of 19 ft. 6 ins., Mason being second with 20 ft. 6 in.

J. L. Graham 1
W. B. Mason 2

The rain marred the competition in throwing the cricket ball for the "Bankers" prize, making the ball slippery. The event was won by Dannaher with a throw of 100yds. 1ft. 10ins. (including 20yds. handicap), T. Temme second.

H. Dannaher 1
H. Temme 2

The mile race for the "Dare" Challenge Cup (winner to beat the Club record to win the cup outright) was contested by E. W. Kilby (scratch), H. W. Kilby (50 yds.), J. S. Graham (75 yds.), T. W. Kilby (100 yds.), and W. Graham (100 yds.). The first time round H. W. Kilby and J. S. Graham were running together, W. Graham being third and E. W. Kilby gradually coming up in the rear. The scratch man, however, could not overtake the leaders and the race was won in a final spurt by J. S. Graham, with H. W. Kilby second time, 4.55$\frac{2}{10}$.

J. T. Graham 1
H. W. Kilby 2
T. W. Kilby.................................... 3

Fire couples competed in the three-legged race, the winners being W. B. Mason and H. Y. Irwine; S. Wheeler and J. M. Mollison second.

The sack sack caused considerable amusement and was won by H. Russell, with T. W. Kilby second.

The obstacle race, with which the sports concluded, evoked much merriment, the rain having made the truck soft with mud. In consequence, by the time the competitors got to the winning tape, having gone through the water jump twice, under netting and tarpauling, etc., they looked literally like "drowned rats" Mason came in first but was disqualified for having run off the proper track.

K. Dannaher 1
W. J. Waddilove 2

After this event the prizes were presented to the successful competitors by Mrs. J. Carey Hall, and three cheers for the ladies and donors of prizes closed a good afternoon's sport.

WAR PICTURES.

The illustrations published by the picture papers in England are improving considerably in quality, though still some things appear that irritate people acquainted with the Far East. The *Illustrated London News*, among other matter of great merit, includes a sketch headed: "Taking the Mikado's Shilling" and showing a number of "new recruits following a sergeant to the rendezvous at Tokyo after the outbreak of the war." Japanese soldiers are not recruited, do not take any coin resembling the shilling, and if the scene here represented ever existed, the "recruits" were conscripts or reservists being conducted to the quarters assigned to them. A sketch on April 16th illustrative of the Japanese operations in Korea is of a highly imaginative kind, which is about its only claim to approval. The views of the Russian fleet emerging from Port Arthur in single line, ahead on Feb. 9th to repel the Japanese attack, and of the *Retvisan* and *Cesarewitch*, after being torpedoed, are exceedingly good. We must, however, resent the suggestion plainly conveyed by some pictures that have come under our notice, which pretend to be reproduced from "the first photographs of a naval action." These, as could be easily ascertained, are not the first photographs of a naval action. A series of photographs of the battle off the Yalu during the China-Japan war exist for the information of enquirers. They were taken from the *Saikio Maru*.

The *Bystander* continues to present periodically much interesting and valuable matter. We protest, however, against the introduction of a part of the Ginza in Tokyo as "The Main Street of Yokohama." There is a capital portrait of Admiral Makaroff and a whole supplement is devoted to the city of Bath and its attractions.

BASEBALL.

Dr. W. M. Garton, Captain of the Y. C. and A. C. Baseball Team, kindly sends us the following schedule of Baseball games so far arranged, together with some remarks interesting to players and spectators alike:—

June 4, Y.C.A.C. Ground	......	Tokyo High School.
" 11, Honmoku "	......	U. S. Naval Hospital.
" 18, Y.C.A.C. "	......	Keio University.
" 25, Honmoku "	......	U. S. Naval Hospital.
July 2, Y.C.A.C. "	......	Waseda University.
" 4, Y.C.A.C. "	......	U. S. Naval Hospital.
" 9, Tokyo "	......	Keio University.
" 16, Y.C.A.C. "	......	U. S. Naval Hospital.
" 23, Open.		
" 30, do		

Games are to be played later with the Nobles' School of Tokyo and the Commercial School of Yokohama.

Mr. W. S. Stone has been appointed the official umpire of the Club and Mr. E. Mendelson the official scorer.

A cup, given by the older baseball members, is to be played for during the season between the Y.C. & A.C. and the U.S. Naval Hospital teams—best three out of five games.

The Grand-stand for the ladies will be in its usual place, while no one but the players will be allowed on or around the players' bench; great annoyance was caused by this being tolerated last year.

A new supply of baseball goods has just been received, also New Rules of 1904 in which a number of changes have been made since last year.

The foul strike rule, pitching distance, infield fly, and forced run are the most important.

Players to be chosen from those who come down to the grounds and practice. Practice every evening at 5 p.m.

The U.S. Hospital baseball team opened their season on Sunday with a match against the Tokyo High School, which was played in Tokyo. The home side won by ten runs to four. The U.S. Hospital team consisted of Pfaff—2nd b., Webster—p., Dannaher—1st b., Dietrich—c.f., Montgomery—3rd b., Rorex—l.f., Thomson—catcher, Dene—s.s. and Bridenstine—r.f. Naturally the Hospital team are not yet in good trim but they expect to make a better showing in the return match in July.

YOKOHAMA AND TOKYO FOREIGN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE RELIEF OF SUFFERERS BY THE WAR.

The Executive Committee beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following further sums:—

Amount already acknowledged	¥26,495.35
Messrs. Winckler & Co.	500.00
Messrs. Hunt & Co..........................	500.00
Mr. W. Emery	5.00
Mr. F. Abegg (Zurich)	100.00
Mr. R. J. Ward (2nd contribution)	100.00
Mr. T. S. Baker.................................	100.00
Mr. W. N. Wright..............................	10.00
A Portuguese	10.00
Mr. M. H. Gomes	5.00
Total	27,825.35

YACHTING.

The wind was light northerly when half a dozen 21 raters started on Saturday afternoon for a race to the Hommoku Buoy and back. *Winsome* took the lead early and maintained it to the close, winning the first prize and two record points, while *Valkyrien* took second prize and one point. The times were:

	Finish. h.m.s.	Handicap. m.	Corrects. h.m.s.
Valkyrien...........	5.53.05	—	5.53.05
Sunbeam	6.10.03	—	6.10.03
Winsome	5.41.32	—	5.41.32
Beatrice	—	—	—
Chocho..............	6.17.12	1.00	6.16.12
Pima..................	6.25.19	9.00	6.16.19

Thirteen "Larks" started but only five went round the course prescribed for them. The first prize went to No. 13, with two record points and the second to No. 10 with one point. The times were:

	h.m.s.
No. 4.	4.55.10.
No. 5.	4.46.32.
No. 8.	4.55.04.
No. 10.	4.39.51.
No. 13.	4.30.52.

U.S. MEMORIAL DAY.

Memorial Day was celebrated in Yokohama on Monday, May 30th, by the holding of services in the buildings of the U.S. Naval Hospital, the gathering being presided over by His Excellency Lloyd C. Griscom, U.S. Minister in Tokyo. The ceremony was largely taken part in by ladies and was, as such events usually are, highly impressive. There was a very large supply of flowers, which added in no small sense to the interest of the gathering.

Shortly after 4 p.m. Mr. Griscom called the meeting to order and the exercises were proceeded with. These were opened by the singing of the National Anthem, (the leading parts in which were taken by Mrs. McIvor, the Misses Mendelson, and Mrs. Jas Walter) and afterwards, responses preceded the reading by Rev. H. Loomis of Psalm 19 and readings from Rev. 7: 9-17 and from Matthew 25: 34-40. Psalm 100 was then sung after which prayers were engaged in by Rev. E. S. Booth. The final hymn "Oh! worship the King," announced by Mr. Griscom, was sung under impressive conditions and at the close the benediction was pronounced by Rev. J. H. Ballagh. Afterward Mr. Griscom intimated that for the most part the flowers provided would be placed upon the graves of American soldiers and sailors in the Cemetery by men from the Hospital, but other flowers were at hand which it was hoped would be taken by those present and, in lots of three bunches, be used in decorating the graves in the Cemetery. The store of flowers was then distributed in accordance with the arrangements intimated by the Chairman. The weather was beautifully mild and bright and from the Hospital grounds at the time the service concluded a beautiful view of the Cemetery Grounds and of Fuji beyond presented itself.

There was a large attendance, among those present were Mr. E. C. Bellows, U.S. Consul-General, and his wife, Mr. G. H. Scidmore and Mr. J. McLean of the Consular-General Staff, Lieut.-Col. Wood, U. S. Military *Attaché* at Tokyo, Dr. Mattholius, of the German Naval Hospital, etc.

Out of respect to the memory of the late Mrs. L. E. McChesney, whose sudden death has evoked wide-spread sympathy with her bereaved husband, the baseball match fixed for Memorial Day was abandoned.

NOTES AND COMMENTS ON WAR NEWS.

The following notes have appeared from time to time in the *Daily Graphic* over the initials "C.B." On April 14th the sinking of the *Petropavlosk* is discussed and much of what is said applies to the *Hatsuse*:—

The incidents leading to the sinking of the *Petropavlosk* were preceded by the usual routine movements. Looking back over my notes in the *Daily Graphic* of last month, I find the following reference to the mines at Port Arther: "Such mines in tidal waters subjected to gales as well, are likely to be more dangerous to friend than to foe. In Port Arthur there is a rise of tide of from eight to twelve feet." Well, the event has happened, though it is conceivable the mine in question was one laid by the Japanese. I incline strongly to the view that it was one of the Russian mines. In any case there is once again the thought which I have reiterated in this column again and again, of how much better to take chances of a night action to damage the Japanese fleet than to be caught like rats in a trap at Port Arthur or impaled on their own mine defence. For that Togo would succeed in blocking the harbour of Port Arthur with sunken ships, I have never doubted, and I am confident that the past attempts would have succeeded, but for the fact that they were on too cheap a scale with old steamers of a date earlier than 1880. Now the complement of the lost battleship was 636 officers and men, and 600 have perished uselessly, and the morale of the squadron is probably at its lowest ebb since the war began. The *Petropavlovsk*, like her sister ships at Port Arthur, the *Sevastopol* and *Poltava*, was in many respects an extraordinary ship. She represented in many respects the high-water mark of the craze for cramming in armaments without much regard to the other qualities required by a sea-going battleship. I have by me some of the Press comments of the period, pointing out how this marvellous ship could beat our more modern *Majestic* of over 4,000 tons greater tonnage. This was enforced on the reader by the usual elaborate comparisons of muzzle energy in foot tons. The light armour on the sides which would only serve to burst shell and make matters worse, the narrow belt, the unprotected ammunition supply all told their tale of where weight had been "saved," and there was left a strong suspicion that the structure of the ship was defective and double bottoms omitted. Later telegrams may give us fresh information on this head, and as to what internal explosions took place on board to wound so many men. The water-tight doors would naturally have been closed, as there had been a possibility of meeting the enemy, and Admiral Makaroff had probably every reason to distrust the mine field. The loss of the *Victoria* was due to the water-tight doors not being closed. The organisation required for closing these doors requires constant practice, for there are no fewer than 208 in a ship of the *Majestic* class. Curiously enough, Admiral Makaroff had probably made a closer study of the sub-division of ships into water-tight compartments, so as to prevent sinking by mines, than any living man. He advocated models of ships being supplied, so as accurately to give the compartments, and allow the officers to experiment with different compartments full of water.

With regard to mines and destroyers the following notes have appeared:—

An American paper has certainly beaten everything in connection with sensational journalism that I have ever seen by a telegram from Chefoo that the *Yenissei* had laid 389 mines at Dalny, all of which had been blown out to sea by the storm. One has a vision of 389 mines floating invisibly near the surface blowing up vessels, mostly British merchant steamers and Chinese junks, for six months to come. There are, however, several limitations which have been omitted from the canvas of this picture. The mines are provided with sinkers, and in England these would be about a quarter of a ton in weight; but supposing the Russians only used sinkers of about an average man's weight, such as are used by the British Navy for some mining purposes, and allowed too much mooring rope, then the mines would only be carried into deeper water by the gale and then sink, for it is hardly conceivable that they broke adrift altogether from their moorings. If the guncotton in most of the mines did not exist, as I was informed was the case some time ago, it is very certain that it was in place in the mine that blew up the *Yenissei*. In the former case the Russian officers would do as they did in a previous war, when they substituted an equivalent weight of sawdust for the powder they had sold. If, however, this precaution was omitted, the mines would have considerable buoyancy, and I can well understand the gale blowing them out to sea. In the Russo-Turkish War there was a story of a field battery which disappeared. The enemy never claimed to have captured it. When I heard the stories of peculation in the Far East I thought the best confirmation would be if losses were attributed by the Russian to "acts of God." I expected to hear of fire destroying food stores at Port Arthur, and so forth. Nearly 400 mines being blown out to sea is, however, rather beyond the courage of Russian invention, and suggestive of the inventive genius of an American skipper.

In nothing are we likely to learn so much from the Japanese as in the use of destroyers. Our present ideas are that destroyers must be re-coaled and have fresh crews every third day, that they require depôt ships to nurse them, and that they must be towed as much as possible by day to give rest to the officers. Considering that destroyers have done the journey from Port Said to Colombo, or 3,550 miles, without stopping, and arrived with coal in their bunkers, and then gone on, after two or three days, we must allow that we under-estimate the possibilities of the craft. I expect the Japanese will teach us that we can increase the demands on destroyers. It is of great importance to us to arrive at some approximation to truth on this subject, for if we have to provide a division of eight destroyers to blockade each French torpedo station in the Mediterranean, as well as a reserve division, we shall absorb forty-eight destroyers for that station alone in war. It is a train of thought well worth following up, as to whether the small craft idea cannot be overdone. Few people realize that cruisers and destroyers are merely subsidiary to battleships, and yet in the British Navy they cost more than double the outlay on the battleships, though on the latter depend our command of the sea, and the issues of peace or war. Supposing Russia had succeeded in getting five *Borodinos* out to the Far East, and had twelve battleships out there, does anybody suppose that if they had confidence in their skill as seamen the fleet would have remained at Port Arthur, and become the prey of destroyers? One can go further, and ask the question whether war would have broken out at all.

Togo has been teaching the Japanese fleet his methods ever since October 21st, but Admiral Makaroff will never have the opportunity. He cannot teach manœuvres on a blackboard, and even the entrance and exit of warships to Port Arthur is done by pilots and tugs. This last is apparently a slow process, and Admiral Togo must now regret that he did not find an opportunity to strike with his torpedo craft again on the night of February 9th—the first attack was February 8th—for the Russian ships were not all taken into the inner harbour until February 10th.

The following note which appeared on February 22 is out of date in some respects, but it gives reasons for the failure of the Russian Fleet.

If there are no imperative orders to the contrary, I think the human factor will decide for this course. If the ships remain at Port Arthur, they will be caught like rats in a trap, without having been able to inflict any injury on the enemy. There is also likely to be a strong inclination to do something before the arrival of Admiral Makaroff, and most men of spirit would prefer to sell their lives dearly in a fight to the long-drawn siege on short commons, or to a repetition of the inglorious part played by the Russian Navy in the Crimean War. The chief reason is, however, the desperate feeling engendered by the knowledge of the naval officers that they have lost caste among the military. There can be no question as to the magnitude of the Russian Navy's failure, and to a proud nation there can be only one atonement. Whatever course the Russians take must be a choice of evils. It is better to do their best for Port Arthur by inflicting what damage they can on the enemy, and then sink with colours flying if they cannot regain Port Arthur, than to crouch inside the harbour with the stinging disgrace that now clings to the Russian naval officers; so that I question if they dare show their faces on shore.

Last Saturday I commented on the corruption and want of training of the Russian Navy, but there is really a good deal more to be said. It is stated that on the night of the torpedo-boat attack on Port Arthur a party was given by the Admiral's wife, and fully half the officers returned to their ships unfit for duty. The old idea that gentlemen should be hard drinkers still exists in the Russian Navy, and one has to resort to subterfuges to avoid an invitation to dinner from a Russian ship. A few years ago some of the Russian officers were before the magistrates at Plymouth for attacking the police. The whole thing was a drunken freak, but the painful part of the business is that it was characteristic. Of all professions, a navy least of all can tolerate drunkards. The chief point, however, to bear in mind as affecting the present is that the Russian naval officers at Port Arthur have lost caste both in the eyes of their men and of the military. Admiral Makaroff is reported to have said: "They want men in Port Arthur, and I am going." They must surely be only too anxious to wipe out their disgrace, and, though demoralised, yet prove that they can face death.

There is only one course for the Russians with regard to the large store of coal at Port Arthur, and that is to store all that is not required for present day purposes under sea water. Stored in sea water it will lose none of its qualities, for salt water does not injure coal, while there is no risk of it causing conflagration under a bombardment. A great deal of the town had much better be destroyed in advance, and storehouses and docks will require protection by sandbags. I hear at second hand from a Japanese military authority that Japan has accurate knowledge of the amount of corruption and peculation that has gone on at Port Arthur, and that the place is not provisioned to the extent it might have been under honest rule.

The blocking operations are criticized on March 28th as follows:—

The second attempt of the Japanese to block the entrance of Port Arthur is probably connected with the coming transport operations, for since the Russians are showing more initiative it becomes more than ever necessary to prevent them from displaying that initiative. However much Admiral Togo might personally prefer a direct issue by a fleet action, he has ever to bear in mind that he has no possibility of reinforcement in this war, while the autumn will threaten him with the appearance on the scene of a formidable force from the Baltic. The Russians are employing skilled men from other countries as well as their own on the new battleships, and throughout the night as well as the day work goes on unceasingly. The result is that I must now revise my estimate, and add the *Orel* to the *Borodino, Imperator Alexander III.*, and *Kniaz Suvaroff* as likely to be ready in the early autumn. If Admiral Togo could only seal Port Arthur, and the Japanese troops capture it before September, he would have no difficulty in beating the Baltic reinforcements, while the Port Arthur fleet would be eventually added to Japan's naval strength. This double failure in the attempt to seal Port Arthur is no condemnation of the attempt. It is undoubtedly a more difficult operation than in the early days of the war, for the Russians are more watchful and have learned by experience. This time they met mobile force by mobile force, and they upset the whole operation through the destroyer *Silni*, very rightly making the leading steamer her objective, successfully firing a torpedo. I am inclined to attribute the Japanese failures in part to too great economy over the enterprise. The operation is essentially one to be performed rapidly, and therefore modern steamers of high speed should be used with an engine-room complement trained to the engines. If the Japanese can seal Port Arthur, any sort of craft will do for transport. Let them then try the experiment, even at this late hour, of using three of their finest mail steamers with a speed of 18 knots. One thing puzzles in Admiral Makaroff's telegram. Because the leading steamer was torpedoed and sheered off to starboard (to the right), why did the others follow? It is essentially an enterprise which must not be made to depend on one vessel, and it appears to have been the case that the second and third steamers were basing their movements on the first.

According to the St. Petersburg account telegraphed from the East, there are over forty warships and transports at Chinampo. Here, then, is a possible opportunity for the Russian torpedo craft to revenge Port Arthur, for what they have lacked hitherto is authentic information as to where they can find their quarry at anchor. At this season the Korean coast is subject to dense fogs, and so the Japanese transport and naval work is hampered. Although it is very difficult for the inferior maritime Power to use her torpedo craft, since they cannot move by day and night with similar freedom to those of her more fortunate opponent, still, if the Russian torpedo craft were manned by a personnel as intrepid as the Japanese, a success under cover of a fog or of night might well be scored. There are plenty of places on the Korean coast where torpedo craft could work concealed, and if coal briquettes were carried on deck there would be no necessity for a very speedy return to Port Arthur. Of course, it is a forlorn hope, but what else except forlorn hopes are open to the inferior maritime Power. It is better to fight and be defeated than to be caught like rats in a trap at Port Arthur.

With regard to the probable attack on Port Arthur the following note appeared on March 7:—

A number of absurd paragraphs have appeared to the effect that the Emperor of Japan has ordered that Port Arthur is to be taken at all costs. This suggests visions of direct assault and hazarding the battleships against the fortifications. It is difficult to believe that anything so foolish is contemplated. Expectations of Port Arthur falling an easy victim—based on the want of preparation and the general corruption—are being indulged. Similar forecasts were formed about Sebastopol, which Sir Edward Hamley has told us, in his "Campaign of Sebastopol," was expected to fall "after shot cannonade." The siege lasted nearly a year. Port Arthur is very liberally defended, and there is no sure evidence that corruption has led to an insufficient supply of ammunition. The defences of Sebastopol were mainly created by Todleben in the presence of the besieging force; those of Port Arthur are already in existence. A certain faith is being pinned to the long-range fire of the fleet. I repeat that such long-range fire with cordite ammunition is disastrous to the life and accuracy of guns which may be required to meet a naval attack in September. If the Japanese had reserve 12in. guns and plenty of reserve ammunition they would be justified in using up these guns, but I do not believe they have reserve guns.

The following criticisms of the Japanese operations appeared on March 9th:—

The reason so many criticisms of the war are proved by the events to be untrustworthy is that the critics do not possess the necessary detachment to enable them to see that the Japanese can make mistakes as well as the Russians, and that the disadvantages under which the Russians are fighting are not necessarily infinite. So when it was known that the Japanese had bombarded Vladivostock for nearly an hour the Russian accounts of the practical absence of all damage were rejected. One naval critic is thrown back on the somewhat futile statement that "the fear of the attacks was planted in the hearts of the defenders." I should think that the power of the Japanese fleet has distinctly lost ground through recent futile efforts to "do something." They have wasted ammunition, which does not matter if they have plenty sent out to them by merchant ships, but they have also used up some of the accuracy and the lives of their guns. There is no more dangerous feeling, and one which has to be more sternly repressed in war, than the desire to do something theatrical instead of the more useful drudgery of cutting off supplies by blockade work. Popular opinion is largely responsible for this attitude, and has infinitely greater respect for the winners of a victory than for a long-drawn blockade, involving a display of seamanship and tenacity as brilliant at that of Cornwallis. The greater, therefore, is the necessity for the critics to endeavour to inform public opinion, and to preach the doctrine that armed forces, which constitute the vital defence of the country, should be used for vital work where the probabilites of success are good. As instances I would select the Chemulpo fight, the torpedo attack at Port Arthur, and the long-range action with the Russian fleet at Port Arthur. In the case of the attempted blocking of the entrance to Port Arthur no vital forces whatever were hazarded, and therefore it was a very proper operation to engage upon. If guns which can range over six or seven miles were mounted upon specially strengthened merchant vessels, as I have again and again suggested, nothing vital would be risked in carrying out a bombardment of the dockyard of Vladivostock. There must be many guns with their ammunition in the fortifications of Japan which are now absolutely useless, and could, therefore, be used for such a purpose.

FIRES.

The Kurata kerosine oil refining factory, Niigata, was destroyed by fire on May 26th. The loss is estimated at over ten thousand *yen*.

On May 27th at 11.30 p.m., fire broke out at Miyako-machi, Shimo-hei, near Morioka, destroying about seven hundred buildings including the forestry office, the village office, etc. Some persons were injured. Details are not yet known.

A telegram from Otaru reports that fire broke out on the morning of May 29th in the district of Takashima, burning down about 130 buildings.

Fire broke out on May 30th at 5 a.m. in the Buddhist temple, Amida-ji, Kita-Matsu-ura, near Nagasaki, burning down the building. A priest was killed.

THE CLUB HOTEL, LIMITED.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of the Club Hotel, Limited, was held on Monday, at the Club Hotel. Mr. H. C. Litchfield, presided and there were also present, Messrs. H. J. Neville, W. R. Bennett, Capt. A. Weston, and Mr. R. J. Ward.

The CHAIRMAN said he presumed from the absence of shareholders that the report of the directors was approved of. As to the declaring of a dividend there was a quorum and consequently he moved that the minutes of the last meeting be taken as read and that the dividend be paid as stated.

This was duly seconded and the meeting then adjourned.

REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,—The Profit and Loss Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the year ended the 31st March, 1904, are now submitted to you. The Gross Receipts for the past year were *yen* 100,551.38, including Rent and Transfer Fees. An interim Dividend of *yen* 7 per share was paid to Shareholders in November last. The Directors recommend that the balance at credit of the Working Account be applied in writing down value of properties. The Directors are pleased to be able to report that the litigation against the Company at the instance of a former manager is finished; the final decision being in favour of the Company. Two members of the Board, Mr. LITCHFIELD and Mr. RYSSELD, retire by rotatation, but are eligible for re-election.

HENRY C. LICHFIELD,
Chairman.

Yokohama, 4th May, 1904.

BALANCE SHEET—31ST MARCH, 1904.

WORKING ACCOUNT.

Dr.	Yen.
To Legal Expenses	2,035.00
,, Firing and Lighting	6,930.20
,, Fire Insurance	2,657.40
,, Auditor's Fee	200.00
,, Salaries and Wages	18,107.70
,, Repairs and Improvements	774.15
,, Interest	8,359.34
,, Taxes	1,400.20
,, Stores and Provisions	36,164.45
,, General Expenses	7,660.37
,, Washing	1,061.45
,, Balance	15,201.21
	100,551.38
Cr.	**Yen.**
Gross Receipts	100,551.38
	100,551.38

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

	Yen.
Buildings	66,000.00
Furniture	43,000.00
Ground	100,000.00
New Property	91,000.00
Steam Launch	5,000.00
Cash	610.12
Fire Insurance, Value of Unexpired Policies	1,570.00
Sundry Debtors	4,231 68
Stock	3,715.65
	315,127.45
Capital	185,000.00
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank	1,831.65
Unclaimed Dividends	315.09
Sundry Creditors	7,841.23
Debentures	120,000.00
Profit and Loss	139.57
	315,127.45

	yen
To Interim Dividend	12,950.00
,, Amount written off Furniture	3,944.64
,, ,, ,, ,, Steam Launch	1,650.00
,, Bad Debts written off	589.13
,, Balance	139.57
	19,273.34
By Balance from 31st March, 1903	4,072.22
,, Balance from Working Account	15,201.12
	19,273.34

I have compared the above statement with the Books and Vouchers of the Company and find the same in accordance therewith.

J. COX-EDWARDS,
Yokohama, April 23rd, 1904. Auditor.

AMERICAN TOPICS.

The Standard Oil steamship *Hudson*, from Philadelphia for the Far East, and the schooner *T. Charleton Henry*, from Baltimore for Boston, were in collision 80 miles off Cape Henlopen on May 2nd. The steamship had her bows stove, and Captain Bennett was compelled to jettison some cargo from the forehold between decks in order to raise the bow of the *Hudson*. The *Henry* was leaking badly.

That no further proceedings be taken is the recommendation of the Court of Inquiry appointed to investigate the explosion in the after turret of the U.S.S. *Missouri* on April 13th. The Court finds the explosion was due to a "flare back," caused by an inexplicable combination of oxygen with certain usually latent gases in smokeless power. The officers and crew of the *Missouri* not only are relieved from all responsibility for the accident, but are warmly commended for the bravery they showed after its occurrence in rescuing the victims.

In recent speech at Philadelphia, President Eliot of Harvard University said:—"The public school system of our country is a very great success, the greatest success in our land. It is a failure only relatively to our attainable ideals. In recent years I have been making a test at Harvard of the value of our public schools in comparison with our endowed and private schools. Our students are drawn in about equal numbers from these three types of schools. I have found that the public school boys pass the best entrance examination, and they are the best at graduation."

President James J. Hill, of the Great Northern Railway, will supplement his many gifts to the Roman Catholic church by a donation of $1,500,000, given jointly by himself and Mrs. Hill, toward the erection of the new $3,000,000 cathedral, in which two of the wealthiest of St. Paul's parishes will join. The announcement was made public by members of the clergy in connection with further statements of the progress of the cathedral movement. The remaining $1,500,000 is already in sight and will be subscribed by wealthy citizens. The cathedral will be the most costly edifice in the West, and will crown a height on St. Anthony Hill, in the centre of the aristocratic residence district of St. Paul (Minn.) The cathedral is only a few hundred yards from President Hill's residence.

A prayer that President Roosevelt might be returned to the White House caused an unusual demonstration during the opening exercises of the twenty-second quadrennial conference of the African Methodist Episcopal church, held in Chicago on May 2nd. Shouts of "Bless him, Oh, God," "Yes, yes," and "Amen" greeted the words of Bishop W. J. Gaines, of Georgia, when he invoked the blessing of God on the President of the United States, "who has had the manhood and courage to stand up and do his duty at all times to men of every colour and creed, in spite of bitter criticism." "If consistent with thy will, Oh, God, when his term of office expires," continued the speaker, "send him back to the White House to serve another four years." The utterance of this sentiment was the occasion of deafening shouts by the assembled delegates.

The request for Japanese silks has been large this season, says the *New York Commercial*. If merchants understood where the Japanese silks have gone and what the present supply is they would appreciate better the situation. The cutting-up trade has taken large quantities of these silks this year for silk waists. One American factory alone has already used 1,000 pieces for silk waists. Then there are other factories in addition that are needing the silks for cutting-up purposes. The demand has been early and heavy. When the counter trade begins, the situation will be better understood by merchants. If the war continues six months, prices will be very much higher than they are now and there may be great difficulty in getting them. Both the natural and the finished Japanese silks are selling. The cold weather has not affected silk fancies, illustrating the great popularity of fancy silk this season.

An interesting decision involving the question of the duty of the captain of a ship to a wounded sailor was rendered by the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of Chesebrough *et al.* vs. Bridges. It appeared that on a voyage from New York to San Francisco, while the ship *Iroquois* was in a gale off Cape Horn, the appellee fell from aloft and broke his leg. The fracture was set by the captain and apparently knitted, but on arrival at San Francisco the hospital surgeons found it necessary to amputate the leg because the bones had not been properly set. The sailor sued for damages on the ground that the ship should have gone back to the Falkland Islands, or else put in to Valparaiso for medical treatment. The Supreme Court affirmed a judgment for $3,000 in favour of the sailor, holding that while the interests of the ship and her cargo were against the return to the Falkland Islands, which would mean a delay of perhaps a month, the captain should, on the ground of humanity, have put into Valparaiso, where, with proper medical attendance, the leg might have been saved at the expense of a delay of but four days.

Some curious statistics bearing on the amounts of legislation and of oratory in Congress have been compiled by a clerk of the House of Representatives. The session just closed was the shortest first session in years. It lasted only 124 days, the next session in order of duration having been fifteen days longer. During the session 16,170 bills were introduced, the greatest number since the Fifty-first Congress. The number of reports made, 2,945, was also the largest made, in the period covered. There does not, however, appear to be any constant relation between the number of bills introduced or of reports made and the amount of public legislation enacted. It seems, for example, that the Fifty-third Congress, whose committees made the smallest number of reports for the period, and which was not among the leaders as regards the number of bills introduced, is credited with the largest number of public laws enacted, the session just closed holding third place in this respect. The session, however, heads the list as regards the number of private laws enacted; the Fifty-third Congress, which enacted the greatest number of public laws, passed the smallest number of private ones. The amount of discussion had in the last-mentioned session was evidently not very large, for it does not figure among the leaders in that particular, and the session just closed ranks third.

According to a report recently issued by the Minister of Railways and Canals, the length of railways in the Dominion of Canada on June 30, 1903, was 19,836 miles. Of this, 12,077 miles were operated by steam and 759 by electricity. The latter includes street as well as suburban and general lines, which latter are growing with some rapidity, especially in Ontario. The capital reported as being paid up on both classes of roads was $1,193,647,222. The gross earnings amounted to $103,298,404 and the working expenses to $71,945.381, leaving net earnings of $31,843,822. The number of passengers carried was 177,881,554, with 47,744,703 tons of freight. The steam railways number 167, including two lines owned by the Government. However, owing to tendency toward amalgamation, this classification may be classed rather as nominal than real, as the number of operating companies, in addition to the Government, is seventy-nine. The length of the roads (in Canada) controlled by the leading systems is as follows: Canadian Pacific, 7,439 miles; Grand Trunk, 3,154 miles; Canadian government, 1,516 miles; Canadian Northern, 1,235 miles; Canada Atlantic, 458 miles. More than two-thirds of the railways of the country, it will thus be seen, are controlled by the Government and four companies.

The growth of a permanent criminal class, showing persistency in a course of crime, is made the subject of special treatment in the seventy-fourth annual report of the Board of Prison Inspectors of the Eastern State Penitentiary, Pennsylvania, just issued. Last year 436 prisoners were received at the penitentiary and of these seventy-six have served one or more terms there. There is one prisoner in the institution who is serving his ninth term there. Eight of his sentences were for larceny and one for counterfeiting. He was 18 years old at the time of his first conviction and 42 at his ninth. One convict is serving his seventh sentence for assault; five are there for the fifth time; three for the fourth and seventeen have been there three times. On December 31st last there were 1031 prisoners in the penitentiary. Many of these, it is said, prove that crime is hereditary, and some of them have relatives in the same prison. Almost every crime in the calendar is represented among the convicts, who belong to almost every trade and profession. Of those now in prison 173 were born in Pennsylvania and seventy-three in Philadelphia. The other convicts come from twenty-three states and sixteen foreign countries. Russia leads the foreigners with fifteen, Italy comes next with the eleven, and England with ten, is third. Maryland and Virginia lead the states outside of Pennsylvania, with twenty-two each, mostly negroes. There is one Chinese in the prison.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Prince Arisugawa, who has been visiting Saseho and other places in the west, left Moji on May 31st for Tokyo.

The *Nichi Nichi* reports that Russian notes amounting to over twenty thousand *yen* were delivered on May 28th at Kobe having been brought from Korea.

The Yokohama Specie Bank received a telegram on May 31st from its branch in London to the effect that Japanese loan bonds have generally advanced. The quotations were: 4-per cent. £86.7.9; and new bonds, £90.1.9.

A meeting of the Yokohama section of the Omori Rifle Club was held at No. 23, Yokohama, on Friday evening. After some discussion Mr. J. C. Hartland was elected President of the Yokohama Section, a Committee consisting of Messrs. G. Gilbert, A. Scott, A. Baud and G. Weinberger being appointed, Mr. L. Mottu being elected Hon. Secretary.

At about a quarter to six o'clock on Friday morning a shock of earthquake was felt in Yokohama. It was very slight and proved premonitory to another shock of greater violence three minutes later. This was of a most pronounced character, but we have not heard of any damage being done. Shortly before eight o'clock there was a third shock, but this time in lighter degree of intensity.

Miss Kemmel, one of the party of Dr. McGee, whose departure from America was delayed on account of illness, arrived on May 28th at Yokohama by the steamer *Tremont*. Some lady nurses of the Red Cross Society and Mrs. Taniguchi, wife of the secretary of the Kanagawa Prefectural Office, welcomed her on her arrival. Miss Kemmel puts up at the Grand Hotel, and will leave shortly for Tokyo.

L'Echo de Chine has a leading article by "X." in which the Russians are consoled for their defeats by being assured that they have all occurred through their undervaluing their enemy. This will now be remedied, and in his concluding paragraph "X." warns the Japanese what they have now to expect:—"The wounded white bear will rise up again more terrible than ever, his fur bristling as he shakes off the few drops of blood which might stain his robe, and throws himself on his prey with little thought of pity as a slight irritation near his heart reminds him of the first bullet he received."

It is interesting to note that the *Varyag* was called after the "Varyags," or Vikings, who in the eighth and ninth centuries came over to Russia in great numbers from Scandinavia and founded the Grand Duchies of Kieff and Novgorod, which afterwards became powerful States, and the beginning of the present Russian Empire. Most of the old aristocracy of Russia, prior to the invasion of the Tartars, were of "Varyag," or Norse, origin. This can be seen by studying the names on the old treaties between the Grand Dukes of Kieff and the Emperor of Byzantium. One of the Grand Dukes of Kieff married the daughter of the brave and unfortunate Harold, King of England.

With perhaps the single exception of the Hackenschmidt and Madrali encounter at Olympia in January, said a London paper of April 22nd, no match since the wrestling "boom" commenced has created so much public interest as that arranged between James Mellor, of Stalybridge, the English light-weight champion, and Yukio Tani, the popular little Japanese wrestler, which took place at the Tivoli Music Hall before a crowded house. In the result Tani won the match by two falls to one, and with it the £200 stake money. There was a scene of excitement at the finish. Tani's friends rushed on the stage, clapped him on the back, shook his hands, almost embraced him.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

As is no doubt known to many of our readers, the *Shin Bukkyō* (New Buddhism) is the organ of the Buddhist Protestants, a denomination which aims at presenting old Buddhist doctrines to the modern world in a form that shall suit the tastes of persons of ordinary education. There are many people who hold very strongly that neither Buddhism not Christianity can be altered to phase the palates of people of different ages. But history shows that the alteration has been going on perpetually in almost every country of the world and in every age. The extent to which Chiristianity has been altered in this country might well form the subject of a bulky volume, and the alteration is going on still and nobody can stop it. The new Buddhists have been sneered at as the new type of Christians are habitually sneered at by the orthodox school of Buddhist thinkers. But at the same time it is well worthy of note that at any big Buddhist gathering which may be held it is the men of the new school of Buddhist thought who succeed in making the deepest impression on their audiences and the large body of learned Buddhist laymen to be met with in every town of Japan are almost invariably found to be supporters of the reformed Buddhist faith. The creed of the new Buddhists is stated in 6 short articles which appear on the opening page of the *Shin Bukkyō*. They are as follows:—(1) Our fundamental principle is steadfast faith in Buddhism. (2) We endeavour to reform society by stimulating and spreading religious faith and morality. (3) We maintain the principle of free religious investigation. (4) We aim at getting rid of superstition. (5) We do not recognise the importance of preserving the traditional Buddhist system nor its ceremonies. (6) We object to Government patronage of and interference with religion. In the May number of this magazine a very well written article appears entitled: *Waga Kokumin no kompon-teki jikaku to wa nanzo ya* (What is our deepest national self-consciousness)? Nations, like individuals, says the *Shin Bukkyō*, certainly realize what they are and what part they aim at playing on the world's great stage. The self-consciousness of nations reveals itself in many ways; and the self-consciousness of one country often clashes with that of another country and leads to war. In regard to the position we aim at occupying in the Far East in politics, commerce and industry, our national self-consciousness has been taking very rapid strides within the past decade. So that we find ourselves to-day acting a part in the great drama of the world's politics. In the use we have made of the material part of Western civilisation we have reason to congratulate ourselves. But to fight well, to trade well and to manufacture well does not by any means exhaust the potentialities of a nation. There are higher things than these. It is not enough that we should realize the necessity of self-assertion among the great Powers. We have to show that we come before the world with a deep-seated conviction that we are the emissaries of a high type of civilisation—of civilisation that has real religion and a superior moral code as its basis. It is only by our making sure that as individuals we have this higher mental consciousness that we can lay deep the foundations of true national greatness. The fate of nations is decided to a very large extent in this world of ours by the nature of their ideals. There is everywhere a survival of the fittest. Mere militarism will not serve the purpose of a reliable foundation for any State. After discussing the views of Count Tolstoi and dwelling on the effectiveness of such reforms as have been instituted by well-meaning Russian Emperors, the *Shin Bukkyō* proceeds to dwell on the function that religion will fill in the Far East when an entirely new situation shall have been created by the success of the Japanese arms in China. When that time comes, and it will soon come, says the *Shin Bukkyō*, it will only be religious teaching that is abreast of the age, which is purged of the superstition and the lifeless, irrational dogmas on which the slaves of tradition rely, that will be qualified to act as a beacon light to the nations in the creation of a new Far Eastern world. The New Buddhists aim at laying deep the foundations of the reformed faith.

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It is realized by Christians of all denominations that the present situation of the adherents of the Greek Church is a very difficult one. Their connection with Russia has ever been and still continues to be of the closest kind. It has been maintained by one or two Christian journals that it is quite natural that a certain amount of sympathy should be felt for Russia by the Greek Christians. Several journals have undertaken to map out the course which Greek Christians should follow in the present crisis. The *Seikyō Shimpō* has dealt with the questions brought up for discussion in a very able manner. The advice given by the *Kirisutokyō Shūhō* (Christian Weekly News) some weeks ago was that the Japanese branch of the Greek Church, in order to remove all suspicion from the minds of the general public as to its sympathy with Russia, should at once take steps to sever its connection with that country. In finance and management this church should no longer be subject to the control of Bishop Nicolai. In No. 562 of the *Seikyō Shimpō* Mr. Suzuki Tōru refers to this advice and at the same time calls attention to two articles that appeared in the April numbers of the magazine in reply to the editor of the *Jidai Shichō* (思潮) "The Flow of Contemporary Thought," who, it seems, had tendered the same kind of advice. The numbers referred to are not now in our possession, but what is said in the copy of the Magazine we are now dealing with leads us to think that the Greek Church resents interference on the part of outsiders in this matter and sees no reason whatever why the Japanese Christians should sever their connection with a man so disinterested, devoted and single-minded as Bishop Nicolai. By statements made in the *Seikyō Shimpō* we percieve that certain silly Protestant Christians have been trying to make religious capital out of the present situation to the detriment of the Greek Church Christians. It is stated that an evangelist connected with a Protestant Episcopalian Church in Shimōsa, in order to attract an audience, placed the following words after a preaching notice:—*Warera wa Rokoku ni kwankei aru kano Nikorai no ha ni arazu; Dōmei-Koku naru Eikoku no kokkyō nari.* "We do not belong to the Russian Nicolai Sect, but to the Church Established by England, our ally." The *Seikyō Shimpō* says that the tone of the comments of the *Christian Weekly News* is not to the liking of Greek Church Christians. It seems to think that the words used by that journal in expressing its sympathy bear a sinister meaning and that they fail to make plain the fact that the Greek Christians as a body are altogether above suspicion of the faintest shadow of treachery to their country.

In the latest number of the *Seikyō Shimpō* the Rev. K. Ishikawa discusses in an editorial the various ideas entertained in reference to the functions of States. He reaches the conclusion that every State has three principal aims in view. (1) The thorough development of the intellectual powers with which each individual is endowed. (2) The fulfilment of the moral aspirations of each individual. (3) The effective protection of the persons and property of each individual. Mr. Ishikawa further observes that States are to be regarded as instruments for carrying out the will of God.

Among the quotations from religious contemporaries published monthly by the *Seikyō Shimpō* we find one from the *Kirisutokyō Shūhō* (Christian Weekly News) on the term "A Christian Country," written by the editor of that journal. He says, countries are called Christian either because Christianity is, as in England, the State religion and enjoys certain privileges as such or because, as in America, Christianity is the religion professed by the majority of the inhabitants, though without any direct connection with the State. In neither of the above-named countries can it be said that Government administration is invariably carried on in accordance with Christian principles; and in the case of countries like Russia, where the Emperor declares himself the head of the Church, the acts of the Government are in many cases un-Christian or anti-Christian. When we come to actual Christian practice and real faith, then it is quite certain there is no such thing as a Christian State in the whole world. Were there one, the Kingdom of God would have been already set up among men and we should now see an ideal State that would be as different from all existing States as heaven is from earth. The position of Christianity in professedly Christian countries cannot be ascertained by simply comparing the number of persons who attend places of worship with the number of those who stay away. The strength of Christianity in England and America and even in Russia is seen in the belief and lives of individuals. Christianity in whole families is certainly comparatively rare, (*Kirisutokyō-teki kojin* (個人) *no ōkii hodo Kirisutokyō-teki kazoku wa ōkarazu.*) If this is the case in the most advanced Christian countries of the West, much more is it so in this remote corner of the civilised world, says the *Kirisutokyō Shūhō*. In the whole of Japan how many Christian families are there? Speaking generally, Christian family life cannot be said to have been established here (*Waga kuni no Kirisutokyō wa imada kazoku no shūkyō to narazaru nari*). And when from considering the state of households we pass on to examine the state of villages, towns and cities, we see that as yet the influence of Christianity is extremely slight. (*Sono seiryoku sara ni hakujaku to nari*). So that on the State as a whole it is naturally slighter. Though among officials there are sincere Christians yet these men have not sufficient influence to prevent the Government's acting in an un-Christian manner. Japan is still a very long way off from being entitled to be called "A Christian Country" in the true sense of that term, concludes the *Kirisutokyō Shūhō*. But still the work that has begun in the hearts of individuals will go on till by degrees the State is reached.

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Last month we epitomized from the *Seisho no Kenkyū* a portion of Mr. Uchimura Kanzō's statement of his attitude to existing Christian Sects. This statement covers nearly 30 pages of the magazine. While acknowledging that he is a member of the invisible church of Christ, Mr. Uchimura denies that he is under any obligation to join any one section of the visible church. The different sects of Christendom, says he, cannot lay claim to authority over individual Christians. They were all founded with the object of emphasizing some special doctrine or doctrines. They were the creation of special circumstances and are historically connected with certain countries or with certain classes of Christians only. As for their having world-wide claims to perpetuation, the notion is absurd. What has the Calvanism of Geneva, the Lutheranism of Germany, the Sacerdotalism of Roman Catholic countries or English Protestant Episcopalianism to do with Christianity in Japan? Nothing whatever. To exalt these sects into bodies possessing authority over the followers of Christ in every part of the world is to mistake the accidental for the essential, the form for the substance. No Christian sect can lay claim to permanency or to universality. They are all mere temporary expedients, with nothing more than local and extremely limited claims to consideration. This is proved by their very numbers. From extreme sacerdotalism to Quakerism every shade of religious belief and opinion finds zealous supporters, and the authority set up by one constitutes a real though a tacit denial of the paramount authority of another. These sects may claim as much authority as they please, but the amount that is granted to them by the general public depends entirely on the indulgence each one receives from its special adherents. Their historical *raison d'être* does not suffice to establish claims of a far-reaching kind. Methodism may have been needed in England when it was founded by John Wesley. That does not say that it is needed in Japan to-day. The one mistake of all mission work has been the attempt to perpetuate European and American forms of Christianity in countries where the soil is uncongenial for their development. If a Methodist Christian comes to Japan and preaches the gospel of Christ to me, I willingly listen to that Gospel. But when he asks me to become a Methodist, I reply, "What have I to do with Methodism, or Methodism with me?" In order to become a Methodist I should have to change the nature which God has bestowed on me and that would not be pleasing to God. *Mesodesuto Kyōkai wa nijū seiki no Nihonjin naru watakushi ni wa nani no yō mo nai mono de arimasu. Moshi watdkushi ga shiite Mesodesuto Kyōkai no kai-in to naran to hossureba, watakushi wa tashō* (多 少) *watakushi no honsei wo mage-nakereba narimasen. Sōshite kakaru koto wa Kami ga kesshite watakushi yori motome-tamau koto de wa arimasen*). Asked whether he thought that the existence of Churches was necessary for stimulating the faith of Christians, Mr. Uchimura replies in the negative. Christian faith is not a product of the Christian Church nor dependent on the church for its existence or increase, says Mr. Uchimura. The planting of churches in foreign countries is to be distinguished from the planting of Christianity. The acceptance of the outward forms of a creed is no proof that real Christianity has been accepted. At one time the King of Hawaii was an Episcopalian Christian and hundreds of Hawaians were Congregationalists, but great political changes have come to that country, resulting in religious backsliding. How has Congregational Christianity fared in Madagascar under French rule? There has been a wholesale exit from the Protestant churches in that country. How far has English Episcopalianism been successful among the 300 million inhabitants of India? Let us come to Japan. What is the result of over thirty years' Christian work in this country? Is it the creation of a large number of self-supporting, independent Churches? No. If the 40 odd missions which send money and workers to this country were to decide to leave us to our own resources to-morrow, how many churches would be able to stand this test of the faith and sincerity of their members? Very few. What is the reason of the backward state of Christianity in this country? Simply this, that so much time is spent every year in explaining the non-essentials connected with every sect. We need men who will only preach Christ and who make no attempt to form Church bodies. The notion that after a person has accepted Christianity his or her soul has to be nourished and attended to by human instruments or it will not thrive is essentially Roman Catholic. It is of the essence of sacerdotalism, which we Protestants condemn *in toto*. To place church teaching on a level with biblical exposition, with the preaching of the Gospel, is to debase the latter and rob it of its claim to special attention. In order to show in what slight regard I hold the authority claimed by Christian sects for their special tenets, I keep aloof from them all and stand before the world as a Church-less Christian. I ask no one to follow my example; nor do I advise even the persons whom I have been the means of leading to Christ to follow my example. Some of them have joined the Episcopalian Church, some the Methodists. I leave them to do as they please.

The Rev. H. Haas has favoured us with a copy of the *Kirisutokyō no Shinzui* (The Essence of Christianity); which is a translation made by Mr. Wada Rinkuma of Professor D. Adolph Harnack's *Das Wesen des Christentums*. The work contains two prefaces, one by Mr. Haas and one by Mr. Wada. In his preface Mr. Haas informs us that Dr. Harnack has promised to write a history of Christianity specially adapted for Japanese readers, to be called "The journey of Christianity from Jerusalem to Edo." In the mean time, in order to acquaint Japanese readers with the learned professor's views, the present work has been published. Three books recently issued in Germany have caused a great stir in the thinking world, says Dr. Haas. One was Mr. Chamberlain's (brother of Mr. B. H. Chamberlain) *Grundlagen der Zivilisation des 19 Jahrhunderts* (The Basis of 19th century Civilisation), the next Professor Ernst Haeckel's treatise on Monism entitled *Weltrātsel* (The World's Riddle) and the third is Dr. Harnack's work on Christianity alluded to above. "The Essence of Christianity" has already been translated into French, Russian, English and Italian. It is most desirable, says Mr. Haas, that Japanese Christians should familiarize themselves with the trend of modern German thought on Christianity. It seems that Dr. Harnack's work was partially translated into Japanese some time ago by Mr. Takaki Jintarō, a Christian pastor, but Mr. Haas says that Mr. Takaki's translation is in some parts an adaptation, and having been made from the English translation of "The Essence of Christianity" is not always an adequate rendering of the original. Then, too, Mr. Takaki has made it too evident that he disagrees with Dr. Harnack's views, interposing his own criticisms in various places in the original work, —an objectionable practice in a translator.

In his preface Mr. Wada calls attention to the great stir in the European and American Christian world made by the publication of Dr. Harnack's book in 1899. Mr. Wada furnishes a list of the principal replies and critiques on Dr Harnack's work published during the past three or four years. In order to fully appreciate Dr. Harnack's treatise, it is necessary, says Mr. Wada, to sympathize with the point of view of the writer. Though the work is called "The Essence of Christianity" it by no means pretends to state all that is included in that essence. As the basis of all that is written are the Bible and Christian experience. The principal object of the writer is to show that apart from rites and ceremonies there exists a religious life of the most sublime kind. In a sense this book opens up to view a new heaven and a new earth. This is its strong point. In parts the argument may appear unsatisfactory to certain readers. Some will object to Dr. Harnack's views on the miracles, on the resurrection and on the nature of Christ! The purpose of the work is to exalt experimental Christianity above doctrinal and even rational Christianity. In doing this Dr. Harnack has struck a chord of sympathy in many hearts. His work should correct a fundamental mistake commonly made in the way of regarding the object of the Christian religion. When the lectures which form the basis of this work were first delivered, Dr. Harnack told his audience that his observations were founded on 30 years of Christian experience. He has never aimed at figuring as a mere logician or as a mere historian, but at expressing the sentiments and the belief of an enlightened and well read Christian in these modern days amid the wreck of ancient faiths.

The Japanese edition of Dr. Harnack's book covers 300 good-sized pages. The work is divided into two parts. The first part deals with the Gospel of Christ as taught in the Bible, the second part with the historical development of the creed, beginning with the Apostolic age and going on to the establishment of the Eastern Church (or the Greek Church) and the Western Church (Roman Catholic), and concluding with a history of Protestantism. On the last page of his work Dr. Harnack claims for modern Christianity that it answers the questions: Whence and Whither? in a manner that neither science nor mere logic can ever hope to do, and that it satisfies the higher aspirations of devout souls to a greater extent than any substitute which can be found for it. The *Kirisutokyō no Shinzui* is published by the Shinrisha and sells at 55 *sen* a copy.

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We find in the *Koye* a very interesting editorial entitled "The Attitude of Buddhists in the Present War." It appears by two letters published by the *Koye* that in certain parts of Japan there has been an attempt on the part of ill-informed and unenlightened Buddhist priests to make the war an occasion for stirring up anti-Christian feeling. The first letter given by the *Koye* was sent to Umai Benkô (an assumed name), a Rector of a Tōkyō temple, by a young country priest called Kūden Konryū. In this epistle it is stated that the war has been the means of stimulating flagging Buddhist zeal in many parts. Charms and amulets have been in request. The priests have been called upon to attend farewell meetings and their prayers have been solicited, &c. But the writer goes on to add that this war being against a Christian country, all Buddhists must feel that they are fighting for their religion, &c. "Umai Benkō" severely censures this spirit, remarking that great harm would be done to Japan's reputation in the world did she sanction the notion that this war is connected in any way with religious creeds. He then refers to the big meeting held in Tōkyō a few weeks ago, at which all creeds were represented, as a proof that the cause for which Japan is fighting is one for the success of which Buddhists and Christians can alike pray. It says much for the enlightened modern Buddhists represented by "Benkō" that they should take this sensible and liberal view of the situation, and the *Koye* is to be commended for making this known to its Christian readers.

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In the *Rikugō Zasshi* Mr. Matsuo Otojirō discusses the function of religion in an article entitled *Gojin wa Shūkyō ni tai shite nani wo motomubekiya* (What are we to expect of religion)? It seems to me, says Mr. Matsuo, that in past ages men have either expected too much or too little of religion. There are those who think that religion should control every part of man's complex life; that even government, finance and general business should be subject to it. There are others who, on the other hand, consider that religion is a mere device for governing weak minds and a means of providing ceremonies for those who have a craving for such things. I, continues Mr. Matsuo, am neither a believer in the universal power of religion nor in its inadequacy to effect anything. It certainly cannot do all that is claimed for it, but it can do some things. Religion is accepted by most people for two reasons. (1) It confers benefits on those who believe in it. (2) It affords comfort to the mind. Perhaps it is correct to say that the utility of religion is the chief reason for accepting it, in the case of 99 out of every hundred persons. It is supposed to improve a man or woman's mind in various ways, to enable him or her to discharge the duties of life more efficiently. But many are those who accept it on the ground of the comfort it gives them. The craving for comfort is almost universal, and religion offers solaces to those who can accept it.

The *Rikugō Zasshi* (No 280) prints a long address delivered at the Unitarian Hall by Dr. Murakami Sensei on "Man's Capacities." He considers man (1) As a being endowed with certain intelligence and knowledge; (2) as a being actuated by benevolence; (3) as a being whose life is controlled by etiquette, that is by a sense of what acts are proper and what improper; (4) as a being endowed with a sense of shame; (5) as a being who realizes that he has received favours and gifts from a higher Power; (6) as a national unit, and (7) as a being endowed with religious ideas. Dr. Murakami does not clearly define wherein human attributes differ from those with which the higher animals are endowed. Many of his assertions would be contradicted by a modern naturalist. Dogs, for instance, in addition to being intelligent and to possessing many other human attributes are highly endowed with a sense of shame and come skulking to their masters in a most humble manner when conscious of being in disgrace for bad behaviour. So when Dr. Murakami says "To be conscious of shame is to be human," he is not correct; as there are many animals besides dogs that distinctly show that they possess this sense of shame. At the end of his address Dr. Murakami points out very clearly that religion more than anything else differentiates man from the lower animals. In discussing religion Dr. Murakami, as is his wont, dwells especially on its relation to the pursuit of truth. To know what is true is one of the highest of man's aspirations and it is only by a close study of the working of the higher laws of nature, says Dr. Murakami, that we can obtain glimpses of the purpose which the great machine of the universe is carrying out.

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Dr. De Forest, of Sendai, writes to the *Kirisutokyō Sekai* on the connection between Missionaries and Evangelists. He says that his experience goes to prove that the plan of making evangelists work under missionaries, and receive their salaries direct from missionaries is a mistaken one. It has the disadvantage of leading evangelists to think that their chief responsibility is towards the missionary instead of to the native churches which they serve. A church run on this method is manifestly in a very unstable position. If the missionary and the money he supplies were suddenly withdrawn, in most cases the work would stop. Dr. De Forest says that it is better to begin from the first to give Christian Churches small grants of money in aid of the support of evangelists and pastors. The engaging and management of these men should be left entirely to the native churches. The foreign missionary should never interfere with their action. It is only by removing the restraints which in some missions harass the movements of evangelists that you can turn out a set of men who will act on their own initiative and who will become enterprising in the work in which they are engaged. A man who is brought up only to do what the missionary orders is a very poor specimen of a Christian worker. As a rule his one object in life is to please his employer. With the flock which he is supposed to shepherd his connection is anything but close. Dr. De Forest says that for many years he has adopted the plan he recommends in and around Sendai with most satisfactory results.

The *Kirisutokyō no Sekai* publishes a favourable review of Mr. Wada's translation of Dr. Harnack's "Essence of Christianity," mentioned above. Mr. Wada is at present one of the teachers in the Dōshisha, and a leading man in the Kumiai Kyōkai.

Commenting on the views of Mr. Pownall, as stated in his article published in the *Nineteenth Century and After*, already alluded to in these columns, the *Kirisutokyō Sekai* observes that while it cannot endorse altogether the opinion of the missionary quoted by Mr. Pownall in reference to the extreme difficulty of getting to know the Japanese thoroughly, since it does not represent the whole truth bearing on the subject discussed, yet it must be acknowledged that there are in this country still a very large number of people who have all the exclusiveness and narrow-mindedness of the proverbial islander. The attitude of a certain section of the nation towards foreigners still resembles that of feudal times. (*Hōken jidai no seishin imada jokyo* (除去) *serarezu; jōi-teki seishin wo motte gwaijin ni tai suru mono mata mattaku naki ni arazu*). It should be the endeavour of all Christians, says the *Kirisutokyō Sekai* to banish this spirit and to encourage cosmopolitanism as much as possible.

The large religious meeting held in Tōkyō already reported fully in these columns is favourably commented on by the *Kirisutokyō Sekai* and other Christian journals. It would be perhaps true to say that as far as Japan is concerned the days of strong religious bigotry and jealousy are past, if they ever existed here as they were known in Europe in past ages. Certain it is that among all enlightened Buddhists, Shintoists and Christians there is at present a very strong desire to act charitably towards each other and especially to keep the matter of alien creeds out of discussions on the political situation in the Far East. Liberality in religion is natural to the Japanese. They are made that way. Their indifference to Christian dogmas that in the past have set the world ablaze, literally and figuratively, is one of the most conspicuous traits of national character, explain it how one may.

THE JAPAN SOCIETY.

THE NUN RYONEN.

At a meeting of the Japan Society held on April 13th, at 20, Hanover-square, London, W., a paper by Professor Lafcadio Hearn, on "The Nun Ryonen; Fragments of a Japanese Biography," was read by Mr. Arthur Diosy (chairman of the Council). Professor Lafcadio Hearn, in the course of his paper, wrote:—

About 250 years ago, during the reign of the Emperor Go-Mizuno, a samurai scholar from Suruga, named Kudzuyama Taméhisa was a descendant of Takéda Shingen, the famous Lord of Koshu (than whom there is no more romantic figure in Japanese history). His father, Kudzuyama Yoshihisa, was high priest of the cult of the Goddess of Fuji in Suruga. As being the eldest son, Taméhisa was entitled to succeed to that office: but he did not wish to become a Shinto priest, his tastes being literature and painting. His wife died young, and he vowed not to marry again. He went to Kyoto with his little daughter Fusa, an only child, and there he adopted the profession of an expert in literature and art. This venture proved successful, and his real learning soon won him the favourable consideration of some of the Kugé, or Court nobles. Kudzuyama's daughter, Fusa, grew up into a very charming woman. At the age of 16 she was said to be the most beautiful girl in Kyoto, and also the most learned. Her father had been her only instructor. At one time he desired she should also learn music, embroidery, and the other accomplishments of a lady, for he hoped that she would marry into some family of rank; but she had protested that she wished to study only literature and painting, and that she did not want to marry, so he let her have her own way. More than once he had been informed that Fusa would be gladly received as daughter-in-law by persons of distinction; and it seemed likely that some proposal would soon be made, which, by reason of the rank of the person proposing, might have the weight of a command. But Fusa herself unexpectedly found means to quiet her father's anxiety. One day she said:—"Father, the matter of marriage is indeed a matter about which I do not now like to think. You have taught me that it is the duty of a woman to marry; but I am still very young; and I believe that I ought first to enter into the service of some noble household, where I should be able to train myself for the duties of a daughter-in-law. Having thought carefully about this subject, I may now venture to say that I hope to be received into the service of Tofuku-Mon-In Sama (the widowed empress). If I could obtain even the lowest place in that august service, even the place of a kitchen-servant (*osui* or *hashitamé*), I should be very happy."

Kudzuyama answered:—"That wish of yours, my child, is the wish of a noble heart. But it is a wish, and it may be difficult to fulfil. However, there is to be a meeting of Kuge to-morrow at the residence of my patron, the Lord Yanagiwara, who belongs to the Imperial household, and I have been ordered to attend that meeting in order that I may give evidence about the date of certain manuscripts. I think that I shall then find an opportunity to tell Yanagiwara Sama of your good wish."

Next day Kudzuyama went to the meeting, at which there were only five old scholars present—all of them Kugè, and patrons of literature. He found a chance to inform Lord Yanagiwara about Fusa's wish, and he was requested to send for her. They questioned her and were astonished at her learning. One of the Kugè then proposed a subject to Fusa, asking that she should first make a Chinese poem about it, and afterwards a Japanese poem. Without a moment's hesitation Fusa improvised a Chinese composition of four lines; then a Japanese poem of 31 syllables. She then wrote down both improvisations, and respectfully presented the writing. In the poems there was no fault, and everybody was amazed at the beauty of the written characters. Each of the Kugè in turn then tested the girl's powers, and each time she improvised, with equal skill and quickness, a Chinese and a Japanese poem. At last the Lord Yanagiwara, speaking in the name of all, thanked Fusa for the pleasure which she had given, praised her accomplishments, and promised that he would speak in her behalf to the Empress.

The next day Fusa was summoned to the palace, and there also she pleased and astonished everybody. The Empress graciously thanked Yanagiwara Sama for his recommendation, and said that she was delighted to have the opportunity of attaching such a charming girl to her service. So Fusa was received into the household of the Empress as a personal attendant, and a high rank was conferred upon her, together with the name of honour, Yadorigi (Misletoe). Fusa gave to her new duties the same patient and loving attention that she had formerly give to literature and to painting. The kind old Empress soon came to regard her with the affection of a parent. But in the very happiest year of Fusa's life the good Empress died. To pierce her own throat, after the manner of a samurai woman was Fusa's immediate wish, so that she might follow Tofuku-Mon-In, and continue to serve her in the world of the dead. But the girl had been trained never to act according to her feelings only, and in the moment of this great sorrow did not allow her heart to become the master of her will. She thought carefully about her duty as a woman and as a subject, and after much unselfish and patient reflection she decided what to do. She went to her father and told him her decision. "Father," she said, "a long time ago you taught me that it is the duty of a woman to marry and to bear children. I wanted to die: but I remembered your honourable teaching, and I hope to follow it. Now I am ready to become a wife. But I will marry only on this condition—that my future husband shall make a written promise to divorce me as soon as I have borne him three children." Kudzuyama agreed, but doubted whether a worthy husband would be found upon the terms. Indeed several who had desired to marry Fusa gave up all hope when informed of her conditions. But there was one young scholar, Matsuda Bansui, who was not discouraged by the strangeness of the terms. "Fusa cannot now foresee how greatly her heart will be changed when she has become a mother." So Matsuda Bansui became the husband of Fusa. He was a true and loving husband; and Fusa proved a matchless wife; but he began to perceive that he had not rightly judged the quiet force of Fusa's character. Capable of great tenderness, but equally capable of great sacrifice, this strange woman had the patient resolve and the courage of a man.

A year after the marriage Fusa gave birth to a son, and Matsuda's joy was great. Fusa proved to be the most loving, the most wise, the very best of mothers; and Matsuda's hopes began to strengthen. But at the end of another year Fusa bore another son. This time Matsuda felt less joyful, and he hoped that he would have no more children. For five years he did not. Then Fusa gave him a daughter, and he tried to persuade himself that the pious resolve had been quenched by maternal affection. One morning, after she had again become strong, Fusa said that she wanted to visit her father, and Matsuda suffered her to go out, unattended, taking the baby with her. At a late hour she same back, accompanied by a pretty young woman, who carried the child. "I could not help being anxious about you," said Matsuda. "This is the first time you were so long away from me. Who is this young person?" "She is a very good person," answered Fusa, "and she has come to take care of the child. She will be an excellent nurse, or, if you wish, she will be a good wife for you, and a kind stepmother to the boys. I have known her since I was very young, and I trust that you will permit her to take my place. For you must now divorce me, according to our agreement To-morrow I shall be a nun."

Matsuda was too much troubled at the moment to answer a word. He took his baby from the arms of the strange woman, and walked up and down with it awhile, trying to control his feelings. At last, in a choking voice, he appealed to her; but she reminded him of his seal and signature, and that he was a man of honour. Not without tears Matsuda yielded, and wrote the necessary declaration. Then she bade her boys be good samurai and good scholars, and left her home for ever, returning to her father. She told him all that had happened, and showed him the writ of divorce, and she said that she wished to go to Yedo as soon as possible to study the Good Law under the direction of some great teacher. On the morrow Fusa, in the garb of a travelling nun, departed from Kyoto, and began her long journey to Yedo.

Fusa reached Yedo on a bright spring morning; but, as a stranger, she had some difficulty in finding her way through the great city, and the bats were already beginning to fly when she arrived at the gate of Kofukuji, the temple of Tetsugiu Zenshi. She gave her story, at which Tetsugiu Zenshi smiled an unpleasant smile, and said:—"Your present wish is probably sincere; and all that you have stated I can suppose to be true. Even if you had not told me the fact, I could not but know that you had been a court lady. You now want to become a nun; but that desire is likely to weaken in time. The fashionable world to which you have been accustomed will call to your heart again; and you will find the call hard to resist. But, in any event, I would not receive you here. You are young, and you are still a temptation to the eyes of men. Among my pupils your presence would prove a distraction, perhaps a scandal. What you ask is quite impossible. I will not receive you."

After she had been dismissed by Tetsugiu Zenshi Fusa felt her courage give way, and thought of drowning herself in the Sumidagawa, but having to wait till some timber rafts passed by, she heard the conversation of the raftsmen who spoke of Tetsugiu Zenshi as having a great name—but what a name! "Iron Cow!" But they spoke also of the priest of Komagome; "they call him Hakuo. That is a fine name, 'White Seabird.' Everybody likes Hakuo."

Next morning she went to the temple, and was able to see Hakuo, a gentle and courteous old man. He heard her story with interest and much sympathy; he asked no harsh questions; he commended her pious purpose. But at last he said to her, "There is one reason—one reason only—why I cannot accept you. To admit you into this temple, as a novice, would be a cause of distraction to the young men here; and it might also be a cause for evil-speaking on the part of evil-minded persons. You are too beautiful to be received as a novice." This time Fusa did not lose heart; her samurai blood had quickened again. She thanked the old man for his frank and kind words, and she returned to the cottage where she had passed the night. From the housewife there she bought a small hand-mirror of bronze, and on the back of the mirror she wrote, in the Chinese manner*:—"In time long past, when amusing ourselves in the palace, I used to burn incense. Now, going to the Dhyana Grove, I burn the skin of my face. So vary and pass the seasons of life. No more is recognisable the person herein reflected."

There was in the room a large brazier containing lighted charcoal, and beside the brazier was an ash rake. Fusa heated the ash-rake in the embers until it was bright red; then she drew it strongly across her face, over and over again, burning and seaming her beauty out of existence for ever. She then went to the Temple. Hakuo came to the entrance, and saw at the foot of the steps a veiled woman holding up to him a mirror inscribed with a Chinese poem; and he took the mirror from her hand and read the poem. Then Fusa uncovered the wreck of her face, and the old man understood, and his eyes filled with tears. Immediately descending the steps he prostrated himself on the ground before Fusa; then, with his own hands, he loosened the strings of her sandals, and with his own silken robe he wiped the dust from her feet. And he led her into the temple, and seated her there in the place of highest honour, and again bowed down before her, saying, "My daughter-in-the-law, assuredly you shall be my disciple, so long as I can humbly serve you by my teaching—so long as you will deign to continue my pupil." And yet a third time he bowed down before her, exclaiming, "Surely another Buddha has descended into our world! How wondrous that a woman should display such holy courage."

So Fusa became a disciple of Hakuo, taking the Buddhist name Ryonen; and she studied so well that she became the most learned nun of her time. In Buddhist literature she is remembered by several names—such as Sodaikin and Chishu; but she is best remembered by her popular appellation, Ryonen-Ni, "the Nun Ryonen." She might have been in charge of Taiunji, the temple of Ochiai-mura, but wished to remain the disciple and the assistant of Hakuo. He went to Ochiai-mura, taking her with him. After his death she succeeded to the management of the temple, and lived to 66 years. Her tomb is still to be seen at Ochiai-mura, in the cemetery of Taiunji.

In the course of discussion which took place afterwards Professor Longford, in proposing that the heartfelt thanks of the meeting be conveyed to Mr. Hearn for what he considered one of the most beautiful narratives he had the pleasure of listening to, said such determination as was shown by the Nun Ryonen was one of the characteristics of the Japanese, both male and female, and would bring the nation through all trouble and trials. He likened the impressive language of the story to that of the Bible.

Mr. Osman Edwards seconded, and the vote having been carried, Mr. Diosy in closing the meeting, made reference to the Red Cross Fund, of which the Japan Society had charge. The amount subscribed through the Society was nearly £2,000, an amount which he considered very satisfactory, seeing that their Society did not push the fund beyond giving notice to members of the existence of the same. The fund would benefit the Russian wounded in Japan as well as the Japanese.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A LETTER OF THANKS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I shall much appreciate your kindness in allowing me a little space in your paper to publicly tender my warmest thanks to every one who gave their services in the production of the operetta: "Three Little Kittens," held at the Public Hall on the 24th and 26th inst.

Yours faithfully, M. HENKLER.
Yokohama, May 30th, 1904.

JAPAN CLUB OF HARVARD.

(To the Editor of the "Japan Mail.")

Sir,—The Japan Club of Harvard University was organized during the past winter with the object of promoting social intercourse between the Japanese students and other members of the University, both officers and students, who are specially interested in Japan. Incidentally the club hoped to contribute its modest share toward making Japan and her institutions better known to the people of America and thus to make more solid the grounds for sympathy already existing between the two countries. The club abstained, however, from making any formal declaration of its objects at the start, preferring to show what it could actually accomplish before defining too exactly the scope of its efforts. The organization of the club was influenced by no thought of the impending war, but after two or three social meetings had been held, and the members had become well acquainted with each other, the war broke out and the club assumed the duty of seeing to it that the Boston and Cambridge community, at least, should be posted as accurately as possible on the merits of the issue. The Honorary Japanese Consul in Boston, Mr. Osborne Howes, was invited to address the University at the Harvard Union on the conflicting claims of Japan and Russia, and his address was prefaced by an historical sketch of Japan's international relations, given by the President of the Japan Club, Mr. B. S. Kimura of the Harvard Graduate School. Next, Professor Ira N. Hollis, of the United States Navy, gave at a private meeting of the club an informal address on the strategic aspects of the present struggle. Every week since the war began members of the Japan Club have been in demand to speak about Japan and the war in different parts of New England, and even so far away as New York City. Ten bound volumes of the *Japan Weekly Mail* and a current subscription through one of the members have been given to the University Library in the name of the club, and the improvement of the Library's collection of books relating to Japan has been actively begun. Last week, under the patronage of Boston society, several mem-bers of the club, with the co-operation of several Japanese residents, gave in that city a play entitled "Danjiro no Tanjobi"; and the proceeds, amounting to over a thousand dollars, were forwarded to Consul-General Uchida of New York for the Japanese Red Cross Society.

On Baron Kaneko's arrival in the United States an urgent invitation was sent to him to revisit Harvard, his *alma mater*, as the guest of the Japan Club, and this invitation, which was re-enforced by one from the Faculty of the Harvard Law School to speak under its auspices on Japanese law and the constitution, was happily accepted. The Baron arrived in Boston on April 27th, accompanied by his Secretaries, Messrs. Suzuki and Sakai. That evening he was entertained at dinner by the Dean of the Law School, Professor James Barr Ames, and then gave his address at the Law School. The following evening the Japan Club gave a dinner in the Baron's honour at the Harvard Union, whence the company went in a body to Sanders Theatre where they listened to a moving but dispassionate address by Baron Kaneko on "The Present Situation in the Far East." In spite of the fact that the worst storm of an exceptionally inclement season was raging without, a large audience representing teachers, students, and the Cambridge and Boston public was present. On the same platform Baron Kaneko had received in 1878 Harvard's degree of Bachelor of Laws, and in 1899 the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*,—the latter occasion having been the first on which Harvard's highest academic honor had been bestowed upon a Japanese subject.

For over an hour and a half Baron Kaneko held the attention and won the repeated applause of a proverbially reserved and undemonstrative audience. It was sympathetic from the beginning—that would be true of any American audience from Maine to California—but his clear, dispassionate resume of the correspondence between Baron Komura and Mr. Kurino during the six months before the war, showing as it did the candour and forbearance exhibited by Japan throughout the negotiations, his unanswerable disposition of the Russian baby-cry of treachery and violation of international law on Japan's part, his demonstration of Japan's advantage over Russia with regard to civil and religious liberty, public education, and the practical observance of some fundamental Christian teachings, and finally his declaration of Japan's allegiance to the "open door" policy made a deep impression on all his hearers, and replaced what was in many of them a mere prejudice in favour of Japan, with a genuine conviction of the righteousness of her cause. A Harvard audience naturally welcomed with cheers the reminder that both Baron Komura and Mr. Kurino were Harvard graduates; and after the recital of their important labours in the present crisis Baron Kaneko's hearers heartily agreed that these men had worthily upheld the traditions of loyalty to country and to truth which were their Harvard heritage.

The Japan Club of Harvard has asked Baron Kaneko's consent to publish his address in pamphlet form.

Though I have already trespassed too much upon your space, I venture to add that the Japan Club of Harvard is glad to be of service to Japanese students intending to enter the University, whether before their departure from Japan or upon their arrival in Cambridge. Letters of inquiry may be addressed to the Secretary of the Japan Club, in care of the undersigned.

I remain, Sir, etc., your obedient servant,
JEROME D. GREENE.
Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A., May 4, 1904.

A DENIAL.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In your issue of the 25th inst., the following paragraph, under the heading of "News of the Day" appears:—

> "Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., shipbuilders, of Elswick, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, are, it is announced, contracting largely to replace the Russian fleet after the war."

In reply to a telegram from us enquiring as to the above, Messrs. Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co. Ltd., wired at once stating that they knew nothing whatever about the matter and asked us to contradict the report absolutely.

We shall feel very much obliged if you will give the same publicity to this denial as you did in connection with the above paragraph, which we observe crept into several of the Japanese papers.

May we ask you, further, for the source of your information?

We are, dear Sir, Yours faithfully,
JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
Per H. Irving Bell.
Agents,
Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., Ltd.
Yokohama, May 30th, 1904.

[The paragraph was taken from the *China Mail*, which copied it from a Bombay journal, which received the news, we presume, in its regular London cable service.—Ed. *J.M.*]

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Special Service.)

JAPANESE OPERATIONS IN MANCHURIA.

London, May 26.

Reuter's correspondent with the Russian Headquarters at Mukden reports that the Japanese have resumed their advance. Several columns are moving northward, though the bulk remain near Feng-hwang. Small bodies of Japanese troops have been seen north-east of Mukden, but no important body has been located.

RUSSIAN INTERNAL DISORDERS.

London, May 27.

The London *Daily Standard* publishes the following from a well-informed Russian correspondent, which is undated. It is rumoured that after the recent disturbance at Warsaw, 600 persons were hanged by administrative order without trial. There have been similar executions at Kronstadt, while in Moscow 80 coffins have been seen leaving the city at the dead of night escorted by troops. This correspondent gives the gloomiest account of the effect of the war upon commercial and agricultural life. He also forecasts poor crops.

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* Readers of my *Gleanings in Buddha Fields* may remember that the young woman, Hatakeyama Yuko (who in 1891 offered up her own life by way of a national expiation for the attack made at Otsu on the Tsarevitch), wrote a verse upon the back of her mirror before cutting her throat. The custom of thus writing on a mirror before the undertaking of some memorable or solemn act still exists. To understand Fusa's use of the mirror purchased at the farmhouse, one should remember that the mirror is a symbol of truth, as well as the symbol of a woman's soul.

GREAT BRITAIN AND RUSSIA.

London, May 27.

Sir Charles Hardinge, the newly-appointed British Minister to Russia, in presenting his credentials to the Tsar, handed his Majesty a private letter from King Edward, and also expressed the latter's desire for the maintenance of the best possible relations between Great Britain and Russia.

ANGLO-FRENCH AGREEMENT.

The French yellow-book on the Anglo-French Agreement contains the letters sent by M. Delcassé to the French representatives abroad. M. Delcassé, in referring to Egypt, says that the Agreement safeguards the financial interests of Frenchmen, which are strengthened by the undertaking not to convert or redeem their Egyptian bonds for several years.

ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO SEAL PORT ARTHUR.

London, May 27.

A report from Admiral Witgert, dated the 25th inst, states that a fresh attempt was made by the Japanese to block Port Arthur by means of mines on the night of the 19th inst. It is believed that two Japanese torpedo-boat destroyers and a launch were sunk between the 18th and the 21st. The Russians have removed eleven of the Japanese mines.

RUSSIA PURCHASES STEAMERS IN ENGLAND.

London, May 28.

It is stated that the Russian Government has recently bought in England a number of fast cargo vessels adaptable for troopships.

A DENIAL.

The Russian executions at Warsaw, reported on the 26th inst., are declared in St. Petersburg to be purely imaginary.

ENGLISH PRESS ON THE KINCHOW VICTORY.

London, May 29.

The Japanese victory at Kinchow has been hailed by the London press as establishing an even stronger claim than the Yalu victory, and proves the superiority of Japan on land as well as on sea. The Russians at Kinchow, they say, had ample time to prepare.

The *Daily Telegraph* says that the victory is one of the most perfect examples possible of how a fight ought to be conducted and of the principles with go to make and develop an ideal army. The Japanese soldiers are now the compeers of the proudest European soldiery.

The *Standard* says that the valour of the Japanese soldiers has again refused to recognize any obstacle as insurmountable. All the odds were against the victors.

The *Graphic* says that the Russians were driven out of their stronghold by superior generalship and indomitable bravery.

CAPTURED BY BANDITS.

The Moorish bandit, Ras Zuli, has captured a European named Varley and an American named Cergeris (?) in the vicinity of Tangiers. The United States has refused the terms of the suggested ransom and has ordered seven warships of the South-Atlantic-European squadron now at Tenerifle and the Azores to proceed to Tangiers.

THE BATTLE OF NANSHAN.

London, May 30.

The Japanese casualties at the battle of Nanshan are now estimated at 3,500. The captured Russian guns are estimated at 70. The Japanese hope to be able to storm Port Arthur within a fortnight. They realise that the losses will be of the heaviest, but they think that better than keeping a large army idle for three months.

[NOTE—This is really carrying coals to Newcastle. If Reuter has nothing to tell us, he had far better save the expense of telegraphing such "news" as the above and hold his hand until something worth sending occurs.—ED. *J.M.*]

JAPAN'S TERRIFIC EXPLOSIVE.

London, May 31.

Washington Government advices dwell upon the terrific power of the Japanese Shimose powder. The results following the explosion of shells astonished the United States Army observers.

FIGHTING IN TIBET.

The correspondent of the *Daily Mail*, wiring from Chumbi, says that Lieutenant Garston and three sepoys were killed, and Captain O'Connor, Lieutenants Mitchell and Walker, and nine men were wounded on the 26th May while clearing a village which the Tibetans were fortifying near the Mission Camp. The Tibetan losses were heavy.

CHINESE AT THE CAPE.

The Governor of the Cape has withheld his assent to the Chinese exclusion bill, awaiting His Majesty's pleasure.

THE FIRST ARMY.

Later.

Reuter's Mukden correspondent says that Cossacks are harassing Kuroki's rear, hence there is a suspension of the Japanese advance.

JAPANESE NAVAL PRISONERS REACH TOMSK.

London, June 1.

Two hundred and sixty-eight Japanese prisoners have arrived at Tomsk. They are largely naval men captured at Port Arthur from the blocking steamers. The officers receive an allowance of 50 to 75 roubles a month; the men 16 kopecks a day. Russian visitors to the prisoners' camp are surprised at the men's cleanliness and neatness.

MOORISH BRIGANDAGE.

It is stated in Washington that Mr. John Hay, U.S. Secretary of State, has asked France to exercise her good offices in order to secure the release of Mr. Pericardis (who, with an Englishman named Varley, was recently captured by brigands near Tangiers) to which request France has consented. In the meantime four U.S. warships have arrived at Tangiers. The British Admiral has also arrived from Gibraltar on board the dispatch-boat *Surprise* to confer with the British Minister at Tangiers.

DERBY BETTING.

The latest betting on the Derby (run Wednesday, June 1) is as follows:—7 to 4 against Gouvernant; 4 to 1 Henry; 5 to 1 St. Amant; 11 to 2 John-o'-Gaunt; 100 to 8 Andover; 33 to 1 each against Lancashire, St. Denis, Coxswain, La Rogue, Bobrinski, Jupiter Pluvius, and Montem.

THE DERBY.

London, June 2.

The following is the result of the Derby:—

St. Amant	1
John o' Gaunt	2
St. Denis	3

(Note—The owner of St. Amant is Mr. Leopold Rothschild. St. Amant, who was by St. Frusquin out of Lady Loverule, has won the Coventry Stakes at Ascot and the Prince of Wales' Stakes at Goodwood, worth £1,958 and £2,200 respectively. He was considered one of the best colts of his season.—ED. *J. M.*)

A RAMPANT PAN-SLAVIST.

Later.

Prince Dolgorouki violently assaulted Count Lamsdorf when the latter was walking in the streets of St. Petersburg. The Prince was arrested. The Pan-Slavist feelings of the Prince are strongly opposed to Count Lamsdorf's pacific policy. He is believed to be insane.

[Note—Prince Dolgorouki comes of one of the oldest families in Russia. An ancestor of his once bluntly reminded the Emperor Nicholas of this fact. As Russian Ambassador in Paris this Dolgorouki offended the Emperor and was ordered to return. Instead of doing so the Prince replied that his ancestors were Grand Dukes of Moscow when those of his Majesty were not even Dukes of Holstein-Goltorgo, and that he would not accept the recall.]

THE ANGLO-FRENCH AGREEMENT.

The House of Commons has passed the second reading of the Bill giving effect to the Anglo-French agreement.

DEATH OF GENERAL IVANOFF.

General Ivanoff, Governor-General of Turkestan, is dead.

THE DERBY.

The Derby was run in a thunderstorm.

(RECEIVED AT THE LEGATION OF FRANCE.)

FRANCE AND THE VATICAN.

Saigon, May 29.

The Chamber of Deputies, in connection with the interpellation relating to the Pontifical protest, approved by a vote of 427 to 95 of the recalling of the French Ambassador from the Vatican.

(RECEIVED AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE.)

FRENCH COMMENT.

The principal French journals do not make any special comment on the Kinchow battle, but in publishing the report, they call the affair a brilliant success, and agree that it illustrates Japanese bravery, patriotism and loyalty. They do not consider, however, that the battle will have any cardinal effect on the issue of the war.

WHAT THEY SAY IN ENGLAND.

The news of the victory at Kinchow and the taking of Dalny evoked in Great Britain even stronger praise than did the battle of the Yalu. The papers say that the bravery, celerity, discipline and strategical ability shown by the Japanese will dispel Europe's dream and will show that Japan ranks with the first military power in the world.

RUSSIAN COMMENT.

The Russian newspapers do not withhold their meed of praise.

JAPANESE BONDS.

Japanese bonds have gone up greatly in value.

KUROPATKIN ORDERED TO RELIEVE PORT ARTHUR.

It is expected in London that as the Russian fleet is largely officered by noblemen, the Tzar will order General Kuropatkin to advance to the relief of Port Arthur.

GERMAN COMMENT.

The *Vossiche Zeitung* says that despite all the Russian pretence that the defences at Kinchow were merely of the nature of temporary intimidation, the fact that strong forts had been erected there disposes of this fiction. The fight at Kinchow may be taken as an indication of the fate of Port Arthur. As a military feat it ranks with the capture of St. Privat by the Prussian generals. The Russians may regard the battle as a trifling affair and make light of it but the truth is that the prestige and power of the Russian army exists no more. That Japan with her splendid troops will soon reduce Port Arthur cannot be doubted. The Tzar is said to have ordered General Kuropatkin to advance to the relief of Port Arthur, but if that be true it is a most unfortunate step. It will be like MacMahon's obedience to orders in spite of the promptings of his own better judgment.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

DEATH OF MR. EVERS.

Kobe, June 2.

Mr. Ernst August Evers, head of the firm of Messrs. Simon Evers & Co., died this morning, after a long illness. The flags at the Clubs and steamship companies are half-masted. Universal regret is being expressed by all foreigners in Kobe.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
America	P. M. Co.	China [1]	M. June 6
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India [2]	Tu. June 7
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Shawmut	Tu June 7
Europe	M. M. Co.	——	W. June 8
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China [3]	Th. June 9
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Korea	Sa. June 11
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	M. June 13
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Seydlitz	F. June 18
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric [4]	Su. June 19
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Athenian	Th. May 23
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Lyra	W. June 29

[1] Left San Francisco on the 19th ult.

[2] Left Vancouver on the 24th u.t.

[3] Left Hongkong on the 1st inst.

[4] Left San Francisco on the 1st inst

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	Tu. June 7
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Kanagawa Maru	Tu. June 7
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	China	Tu June 7
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Shawmut	W. June 8
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Wingsang	W. June 8
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Em. of China	F. June 10
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Zieten	Sa. June 11
America	P. M. Co.	Korea	M. June 13
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	W. June 15
Europe	M. M. Co.	——	F. June 17
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	M. June 20
Portland	P. & A. Co.	Aragonia	Su. June 26
Hongkong	P. & A. Co.	Nicomedia	Su. June 26
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Lyra	Th June 30

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Rasbera, British steamer, 2,500, Morris, 27th May, —Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Doris, Norwegian steamer, 965, K. Jacobsen, 27th May,—Otaru, General.—Masuda & Co.

Ujina, British steamer, 3,389, S. Roon, 27th May,—Rangoon, 10th May, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Teucer, British steamer, 1,803, Silverlook, 27th May, —Kobe, 25th May, General.—Sale & Co.

Etolia, British steamer, 2,113, H. Harvey, 27th May, —Rangoon, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Ettrickdale, British steamer, 2,468, McKenzie, 28th May,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tremont, American steamer, 6,195, T. W. Garlick, 28th May,—Seattle, Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Tai Sang, British steamer, 1,544, R. C. D. Bradley, 28th May,—Shanghai via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, K. Sato, 28th May,—Bonin Islands, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

America Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,360, W. W. Greene, 28th May,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Ocampo, British steamer, 1,329, G. Gordon Graham, 29th May,—Kobe, 27th May, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Crown of Arragon, British steamer, 1,474, Dorward, 28th May,—Yokosuka, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Maharaja, British steamer, 1,666, Groves, 29th May, —Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Anna, Norwegian steamer, 773, Olsen, 30th May—, Karatsu, Coal.—Japanese.

Braemar, British steamer, 2,316, S. L. Saxby, 30th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ningchow, British steamer, 4,894, James Riley, 30th May,—Puget Sound, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Tetartos, German steamer, 1,812, Dessler, 30th May, —Anping, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Tartar, British steamer, 2,768, F. W. Evans, 30th May,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,110, ——, 30oht May,—Jinsen, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Calchas, British steamer, 4,279, W. H. Hannah, 31st May,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Verona, German steamer, 4,036, Debronz, 1st June, —New York via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Batavia, German steamer, 7,100, Dempwolff, 1st June,—Saigon, Rice and General.—C. Illies & Co.

Agamemnon, British steamer, 4,462, Day, 1st June, —Hongkong, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Loyal, German steamer, 1,337, J. Bruhrman, 1st June,—Otaru, General.—S. Oya.

Whitgift, British steamer, 2,842, Porrett, 2nd June, —Cardiff, Coal.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Schuylkill, British steamer, 3,344, Nicholas, 2nd June,—Shanghai, Ballast.—Standard Oil Co.

Heathdene, British steamer, 2,277, W. J. Milburn, 2nd June,—Muroran, Coal—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Mongolia, American steamer, 8,750, J. H. Rinder, 27th May,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Kelvin, British steamer, 2,290, McLennan, 27th May, —Manila via Moji, Ballast.—Captain.

Changsha, British steame, 1 463, Moore, 28th May, —Kobe, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Samara, British steamer, 1,790, W. Lewis, 28th May, —Muroran, Ballast.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Pera, British steamer, 4,916, Valentini, 28th May,—London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General. —P. & O. S.N. Co.

Segovia, German steamer, 3,796, Foerck, 28th May, —Bremen and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Doris, Norwegian steamer, 965, K. Jacobsen, 28th May,—Muroran, General.—Masuda & Co.

Indrasamha, British steamer, 3,367, Wm. E. Craven, 28th May,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. & A. S.S. Co.

Arabia, German steamer, 2,868, Bahle, 28th May,—Portland, Oregon, Mails and General.—P. & A. S.S. Co.

Khalif, British steamer, 2,219, J. H. Middleton, 29th May,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rasbera, British steamer, 2,500, Morrison, 29th May, —Kobe via Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ulysses, British steamer, 2,282, Bevan, 30th May,—Rangoon, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Shangtung, British steamer, 1,845, J. Warrack, 30th May,—Kobe, Rice.—Butterfield & Swire.

Graaf van Bylandt, Dutch steamer, 933, van der Lees, 31st May,—Yokosuka, Ballast.—Japanese.

America Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,460, W. W. Greene, 31st May,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Tartar, British steamer, 2,768, F. W. Evans, 31st May,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Maharaja, British steamer, 1,666, Groves, 31st May, —Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Etolia, British steamer, 2,113, Harvey, 31st May,—Kobe, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Tetartos, German steamer, 1,812, Dessler, 1st June, —Kobe, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Anna, Norwegian steamer, 773, Olsen, 1st June,—Nemuro, Coal.—Japanese.

Braemar, British steamer, 2,316, S. L. Saxby, 1st June,—Otaru, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ettrickdale, British steamer, 2,468, McKenzie, 1st June,—Muroran, General.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Taisang, British steamer, 1,544, R. C. D. Bradley, 1st June,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tremont, American steamer, 6,195, T. W. Garlick, 2nd June,—Manila via ports, Mails and General. —Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Whitgift, British steamer, 2,842, Coltar, 2nd June,—Yokosuka, Coal.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,055, J. C. Jensen, 2nd June,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Teucer, British steamer, 1,803, Silverlock, 2nd June, —Kobe, General.—Sale & Co.

Ningchow, British steamer, 4,894, James Riley, 1st June,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Ujina, British steamer, 3,389, S. Roon, 2nd June,—Kobe, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *America Maru*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. S. Uyama, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. John J. Carl, and Mr. A. H. Witham, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Tartar*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. C. C. Karaujia, Mr. D. J. Petigara, Mr. A. Olivare, Mr. G. W. Kooy, Mr. A. Poten, Mrs. C. G. Davies and infant, Mr. A. Wright, Mr. R. Matsujima, Mr. J. R. Saunders, Mr. L. A. Summerhays, Mr. Auker, Mr. D. B. Fullerton, Mr. L. Lazarus, and Mr. Schopflocher, in cabin. For Vancouver:—Mr. E. C. Charrington, Mr. J. J. McGuigan, Judge E. C. Smith, Miss Smith, Mr. Hugh O'Neil, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Podwell and child, Lieut. A. H. de Kautzon, R.A., Mr. H. H. Teale, R.A., Mr. J. B. Wilshire, R.N., Mr. John Foster, Mr. Heyl, Lieut. Stokes, R.N., Lieut. Leigh, R.N., Lieut. Tompson, R.N., Mr. E. H. Hinwood, Mr. H. I. Hennage, Mr. E. C. Kright, Mrs. Owen Hughes, and Mr. Matsuda, in cabin; 45, in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per American steamer *Mongolia*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. L. Abenheim, Mrs. M. T. Allen, Mr. B. M. J. Armstrong, Mr. R. A. Ashton, Miss Betts, Dr. H. C. Bierbomer, Mr. F. H. Bolster, Mr. F. S. Cains, Mrs. F. S. Cains, Master K. S. Cains, Mrs. G. W. Carleton, Miss I. B. Carleton, Mr. Frank Ceril Mr. B. J. Chard, Mr. A. R. Clark, Mr. O. M. Clark, Mr. J. W Copmann, Mr. M. Crans, Mrs. M. E. Day, Mrs. Dike, Mr. D. M. Erwin, Mr. O. W. Ferguson, Mr. A. A. Forshee, Mrs. A. A. Forshee, Mr. D. John Fryer, Mr. B. Fuller, Miss F. Furnas, Mr. M. de Gray, Mr. George Gleason, Mrs. George Gleason, Mr. F. C. Gratwick, Mr. G. D. Gregory and servant, Mrs. G. D. Gregory, Mr. J. T. Hamilton, Mr. O. Hashimoto, Col. A. P. Hatfield, Mrs. A. P. Hatfield, Miss Hatfield, Mr. C. W. Hellyer, Mr. C. H. Hickling, Mr. B. C. Howard, Mr. P. F. Jernegan, Mr. E. K. Johnson, Mr. T. Kershaw, Mrs T. Kershaw, Miss B. L. Kirkland, Mr. S. Kodera and servant, Mrs. S. Kodera, Mr. I. Kuhn, Dr. W. W. Lugheim, Mr. Boland Rowe, Mr. J. H. T. MacKenzie, Mr. E. O. Magie, Mr. Geo. Martin. Paymaster M. McDonald, Mr. C. A McKie, Bishop John McKim, Mr. E. H. Merillat, Mr. A. T. Miles, Mr. Carl M. Moors, Mr. Lyman L. Mowry, Mr. J. Narita and servant Mrs. J. Narita and maid, Mrs. G. Pratt, Mr. I. Putnam, Mrs. I. Putnam, Master C. Putnam, Mr. Jas. E. Reed, Mr. B. T. Reisling, Dr. N. C. Fietz, Mr. Jas. C. Robbins, Mrs. Jas. C. Robbins and infant, Mr. W. P. Robertson, Pay-Inspector E. B. Rogers, Mr. E. Schmid, Mr. Wm. Schopflocher, Mr. Jas. C. Scott, Mr. J. C. Seveeny, Mr. Jas. J. Shea, Mr. M. M. Shoemaker, Hon. W. Morgan Shuster, Mrs. Morgan Shuster, Mr. J. Silverman, Mrs. A. L. Sleeper, Miss A. M. Sleeper, Mr. E. L. Smith, Mr. E. G. Smithers, Mr. Geo. E. Summers, Mr. U. Soma, Miss G. P. Thomas, Miss M. Thompson, Mr. E. E. Weaver, Mr. A. M. Wiley, Mr. W. Williamson, Mr. C. E. Wise, Miss K. Woods and Mr. Yamaguchi in cabin.

Per German steamer *Sachsen*, for Europe via ports:—Mr. T. Schmidt, Mrs. G. Morrison Mur and amah, Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Raspe, Mr. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Zabel and servant, Dr. Baelz, Mr. J. P. D. Bland, Mr. F. F. Jaques, Mrs. S. Wilcockson and amah, Mr. and Mrs. J. Reynolds, Dr. Crusen and native servant, Mr. L. Scharpenseel, Mr. M. Stewart, Mr. C. Bryan, Mr. K. Tawara, Mr. Aslet, Miss Madge Detlor and infant, Miss Eileen Detlor, Mrs. Deltor, infant and 2 amahs, Mrs. Silva, Mr. A. V. Pinson, Mr. and Mrs. K. Iwasaki, Mr. W. L. Mitchell, Miss Cockshaw, Mr. A. L. Cook, Mr. McCafferty, Mr. and Mrs. Ah Long, Mr. Bustamante, Mr. W. van Orden, Mr. P. Hessel, Mr. T. A. Bongaarót, Mr. O. Herrebrugh, Mr. W. den Hond, Mr. P. de Jong, and Mr. Ah Long, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Pera*, for London via ports:—Mr. E. B. Blyth, Major-General Sir A. Tulloch, K.C.B., C.M.G., and Mr. J. B. Sutton, in cabin; 4 Indians, and 1 European, in steerage.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

In Yarns there is no business worth mentioning; the market for Lancashire spinnings is be coming a dead letter. Considerable sales from stock of Grey Shirtings are reported; no contracts for forward delivery have been made as Manchester is still above local prices. There has been a fair demand, both "spot" and "future," for White Shirtings and sales have been made at quotations.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER YARD
White Shirting—{40 yds. 36 in. 50 yds. 36 in.} ...	0.10 to 0.08
	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	Y.2.85 to 3.60
Grey Shirting—9lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.80 to 4.25
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches...	3.00 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton Italians and Satteens...	0.20 to 0.40

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	Y.0.35 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 32 in...	0.30 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches...	0.16 to 0.33

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SUPPLEM

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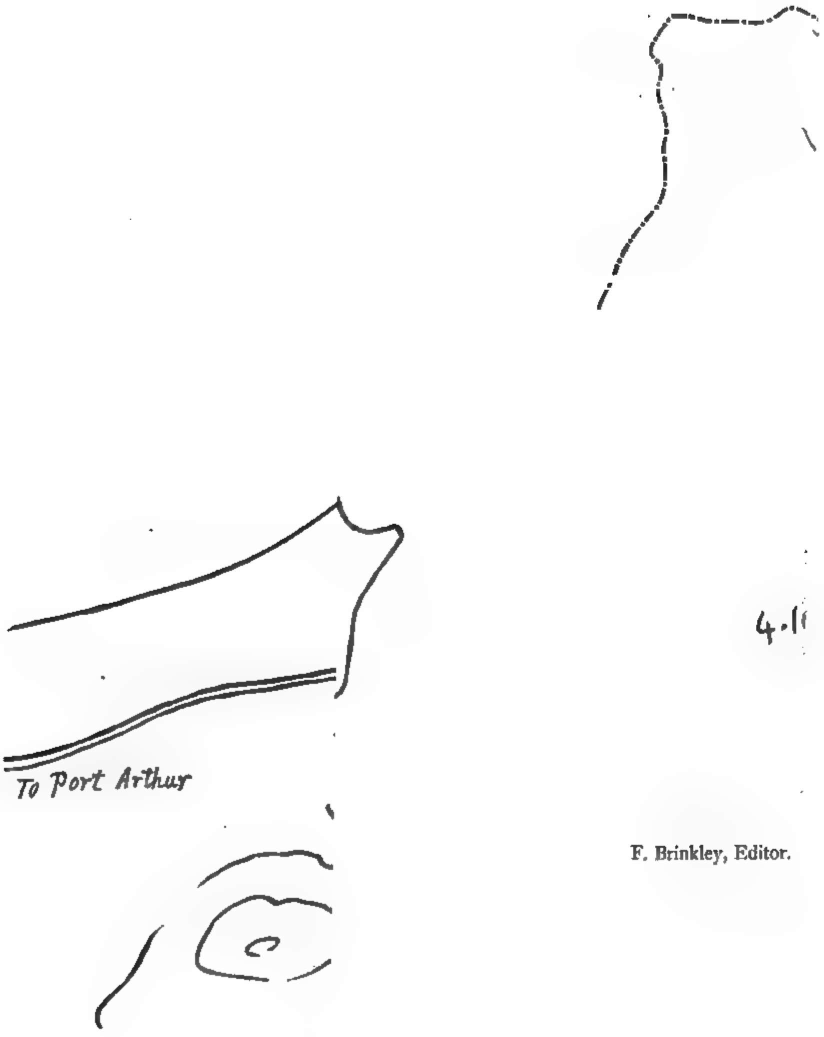
4.1
To Port Arthur

F. Brinkley, Editor.

Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.50 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 to 65 inches ...	0.90 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0.60 to 0.66
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	9.50 to 12.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches...	0.90 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches...	1.90 to 2.25
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 5lb, 24-25 yards, 32 nches...	2.50 to 3.65

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles ... ... Y.	140.00 to 150.00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	—
Nos. 38/42, Singles	—
Nos. 32, Doubles...	145.00 to 150.00
Nos. 42, Doubles...	155.00 to 160.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/100, Plain...	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	245.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	295.00 to 305.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	425.00 to 435.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling...	Nominal.	33
Indian Broach...		26
Chinese		23

METALS.

Dealers are buying sparingly.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward... Y.	4.05 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.30 to 4.60
Sheet Iron...	4.65 to 6.90
Galvanised Iron sheets	10.00 to 11.00
Wire Nails, assorted	5.15 to 5.75
Tin Plates, per box...	6.70 to 7.60
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.05
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1½ inch)	5.00 to 5.50

KEROSENE.

The market is quiet.

American	$3.21
Russian	3.05
Langkat	3.15

SUGAR.

The market is strong and advancing but sales are limited, buyers' ideas of prices not having yet come up to the altered conditions.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao ... ... Y.	6.90 to 7.25
Brown Manila...	7.10 to 7.80
Brown Daitong	5.60 to 7.30
Brown Canton...	6.40 to 8.40
White Java and Penang...	8.40 to 9.40
White Refined...	11.00 to 14.50

INDIGO.

There are no sales to report.

	PICUL
Java, Medium to best...	270.00 to 320.00
Calcutta, Medium to best	180.00 to 290.00
Madras (*Kurpah*), Medium to best ...	140.00 to 170.00
Madras (Dry Leaf), Medium to best ...	100.00 to 140.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

We withdraw all quotations as the market is between seasons and there is no regular price current quotable. The reports of the crop are very encouraging. The cocoon market is cheaper day by day. Holders are hurrying to quit their stocks of old stock and fine-sized Filatures have been done for Europe as low as *yen* 970 per picul. There have been fin contracts made for new silk, but prices on the sko exchange for forward delivery are lower and weak. Everything points to a large crop of silk at low prices. Similar news comes from Europe about the crop there and Shanghai reports a crop equal to last year.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra Best, Coarse ... ... Y.	—	Nominal.
Filatures—Extra, Fine	—	
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	—	
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	—	
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	—	
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	—	
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	—	
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	—	
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	—	
Common—Coarse	—	
Re-reels—Extra	—	
Re-reels—No. 1	—	
Re-reels—No. 1½	—	
Re-reels—No. 2	—	
Re-reels—No. 3	—	
Kakedas—Extra	—	
Kakedas—No. 1	—	
Kakedas—No. 1½...	—	
Kakedas—No. 2	—	

WASTE SILK.

The market is in suspense, pending the opening of the new season. In sympathy with the raw silk market, of course, the new crop is expected to be large with low prices.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	—
Noshi—Filatures, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Good...	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	—
Nsohi—Joshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	—
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	—
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	—

TEA.

A good business continues, especially in the better grades, Mediums and Good Mediums being of poor quality.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	56 & upward
Choice	50 to 55
Finest	46 to 49
Fine...	40 to 45
Good Medium	38 to 39
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, June 2.

London silver unchanged but China sterling quotations are 1/16 to ⅛ higher and local rates on China are easier accordingly, other rates keeping steady.

London—Bank T.T. ...	2/0¼
— — Bills on demand ...	2/0 5/16
— — 4 months' sight ...	2/0½
— Private 4 months' sight ...	2/0 11/16
— — 6 months' sight ...	2/0 11/16
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight ...	254
Private 4 months' sight ...	258½
— — 6 months' sight ...	260
Hongkong—Bank sight ... per $100.	89¾*
— Private 10 days' sight do.	87¾*
Shanghai—Bank sight ...	80*
— Private 10 days' sight ...	82½*
India—Bank sight ...	151
— Private 30 days' sight ...	153¼
America—Bank sight ...	49⅝
— Private 30 days' sight ...	50
— Private 4 months' sight ...	50¼
Germany—Bank sight ...	206½
— Private 4 months' sight ...	210½
Bar Silver (London) ...	25¾

* Nominal.

JAPANESE SHARES.

Yokohama, June 3, a.m.

	Paid up. Yen.	Div'd. 1 year. per cent.	Q'ation. Yen.
Consolidated Bonds (Seiri) ...	100	5	*86.45
War Bonds (Gunji) ...	100	5	*86.45
5 °/o Imperial Bonds (Goburi).	100	5	85.00
Navy Bonds (Kaigun) ...	100	5	85.50
Tokyo City Public Loan Bonds	100	6	*96.10
Y'hama Water-works Bonds .	100	6	*87.80
Y'hama City Public Loan Bonds	100	6	87.80
Osaka Harbour Bonds ...	100	6	*87.40
Sanyo Railway Debentures ...	100	6	91.00
Kawasaki Shipyard Deb'tures.	100	9	*99.50
Osaka S.S. Co. (Shosen) 3rd Issue of Debentures ...	100	7	*94.70
Sanyo Railway ...	50	8	60.00
Kyushu Railway ...	50	8	55.20
Hokkaido Colliery Railway ...	50	12	73.50
Sobu Railway...	50	8½	55.60
Tokyo Electric Car (Densha).	50	9	*87.70
Tokyo Street Railway (Shigai)	50	5 1/10	*83.00
Tokyo Street Railway new ...	1	—	16.50
Tokyo Electric Railway (Denki)	50	—	59.30
Tokyo Electric Railway, new.	20.00	—	29.00
Yokohama Electric Railway..	25	—	*29.30
Odawara Electric Car ...	50	5½	26.50
Keihin Electric Railway ...	50	5	59.00
Yokohama Fire Insurance ...	12.50	10	16.20
Tokyo Fire Insurance ...	12.50	12	20.10
Kanegafuchi Spinning ...	50	7	39.30
Fuji Cotton Spinning...	50	8	32.20
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Tokyo Gas...	50	14	82.50
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Osaka Gas new ...	12.50	15	15.00
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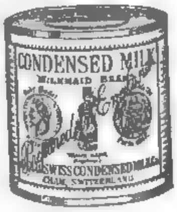

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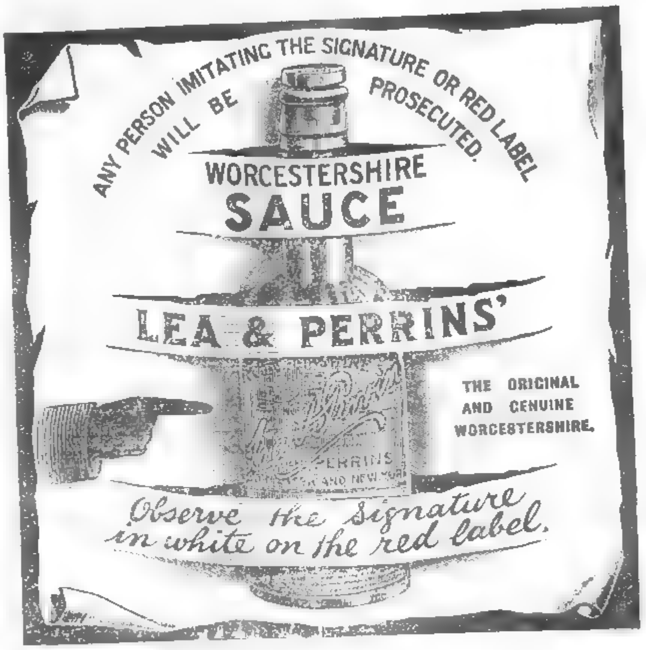
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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 11TH, 1904.

DEATH.

On April 2nd, at Cairo, C. WILLSON PORTER, of pneumonia.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THREE cases of typhus are reported at Motomachi, Hongo, Tokyo.

THE hospital ship *Rosetta* left Ujina on June 6th with nurses for the front.

THE Red Cross Society has opened hospitals at Hiroshima, Matsuyama, and Saseho.

Two rats bearing plague bacili have been found at Kojimachi 12 chome, Tokyo.

M. SAKUMA, late of the Bluff Police Station, has been arrested on a charge of fraud.

ANOTHER Russian undergoing treatment in the Matsuyama Hospital died on June 4th.

A CASE of cholera appeared in Tokyo on June 1st. The patient died on the following morning.

MR. MEGATA, Director of the Tax Bureau, left Saseho on June 4th for the front by the steamer *Echigo Maru*.

THE Emperor has presented one of his horses, Ki-chi by name, to Prince Kan-in. It was bred in Miyagi.

A NORWEGIAN steamer with four thousand tons of Cardiff coal arrived on June 7th at Nagasaki from Shanghai.

THE rumour that the Government proposes to float another loan in the United States is contradicted by Tokyo papers.

IT is reported by telegram from Takamatsu that twenty-six nurses of the Red Cross Society left there on June 7th for Kinchow.

MR. M. MAETA left Saseho on June 5th for Korea and China to investigate the condition of commerce and industry.

Two men who were charged with robbery and murder are to be executed this morning (the 6th) in Ichigaya Prison, Tokyo.

FIVE hundred emigrants will leave Kobe on June 18th by the steamer *Akebono Maru* (the former *Crown of Aragon*) for Mexico.

MR. C. FUKAZAWA, President of the Yonezawa City Assembly, says the *Jiji's* correspondent, was arrested on June 3rd on suspicion of fraud.

MR. TAKAHASHI, Vice-President of the Bank of Japan, who is now in London, will leave England in the middle of June for home *via* America.

VARIOUS spoils of war captured at the battle of the Yalu were brought to Tokyo on June 2nd. They were immediately shown to the Emperor.

MR. R. TANIGUCHI has been appointed a member of the Upper House. Baron T. Kikuchi, a member of the same House, retired on June 1st.

VISCOUNT MATSUDAIRA YASUHIDE, ex-Daimyo of Kawagoe, was promoted on June 5th to the Junior Cross of the Second Rank. He is seriously ill.

A TELEGRAM from Shidzuoka reports that during a gale on June 6th, a junk capsized off Umaesaki point. One of the crew was drowned and seventeen were saved.

THE interim dividend of the Tokyo Electric Light Co. for the first half year is believed to be 6 per cent. A general meeting of shareholders will be held on June 15th.

MAJOR VON ETZEL and another military attaché of the German Legation paid a visit on June 5th to the War Department, where they inspected the spoils brought from the front.

LOCOMOTIVES and cars for the Seoul-Wiju railway, brought by the steamers *Mongolia* and *Tremont* from America, were re-shipped at Yokohama last week on the *Fushiki Maru* and *Kagoshima Maru*.

MR M. NOMA, Japanese Consul at Hongkong, says the *Official Gazette*, reports that during the week ended May 21st, thirty-nine cases of plague appeared there and of these thirty-five proved fatal

A TELEGRAM from Shidzuoka reports that the crop of barley and wheat in the prefecture for this year is expected to be about 515,340 *koku*. The estimate shows 36 per cent. of an increase over that of the previous year.

THE leading politicians of the *Seiyu-kai* held a meeting on June 2nd to investigate industries in Saghalien. Mr. Uchiyama delivered a detailed report with regard to industrial conditions in the island.

THE Yokohama city assembly has decided to borrow *yen* 136,800 from the Seventy-fourth Bank to spend in preparations for preventing an outbreak of plague this summer. The rate of interest is reported to be *sen* 1.4 per *yen* 100 per day.

ABOUT 5 o'clock on the evening of June 7th in Benten-dori, Yokohama, K. Akiyama (30), a jinrikisha coolie, attempted to murder another coolie, S. Tomita (44) by inflicting severe injuries with a large knife on the other's neck and breast. The culprit was arrested at the scene. The Isezakicho police say that the men quarrelled as to which should convey a gentlemen who needed a vehicle and the excitement led to a fight.

THE barley harvest in Ishikawa prefecture this year seems very prolific. A telegram from Kanazawa says that the crop is expected to be about a hundred thousand *koku* (one *koku* about five bushels) which shows an increase of 50 per cent. over that of last year.

A TELEGRAM from St. Petersburg to the Paris *Journal*, about the middle of April, says:—"Many corpses are being thrown up by the sea on the shores near Port Arthur. Most of them are disfigured, but it is believed that the body of Admiral Makaroff had been recovered."

THE funeral of the late Lieut.-General Baron Nagayama took place on June 2nd at Otaru, Sapporo. The commander and officers of the Seventh Division, and five thousand inhabitants took part in the obsequies. The Emperor presented fifteen hundred *yen* to the family of the deceased.

K. IKOMA (39) who stole several articles from the residences of Marquis Hachisuka, Count Inouye, Viscount Kuroda, etc., to the value of over thirty thousand *yen*, was sentenced on June 2nd in the Tokyo District Court to five years' imprisonment with hard labour and one year's police surveillance.

MR. LI YONG-IK, lately Korean Minister of State, left Tokyo on June 8th for Ashikaga, Kiryu, Ashio and other places near Nikko, accompanied by Mr. M. Kato, Japanese adviser to the Korean Court. The distinguished visitor is to investigate the weaving and mining industries.

THE Kagacho police report that the *Kokumin Shimbun* has been prosecuted on a charge of having infringed the press regulations regarding the movements of the Army and Navy. It appears that the *Kokumin* on June 8th published a statement in which it identified the place where a certain Japanese army landed.

THE sailing vessel *Kowo Maru* collided on May 31st at 8 a.m. with the British steamer *Heathdene* (chartered by the Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha) between Nambu and Sendai. The junk was sunk. R. Okajima and eight others of the crew were rescued by the British steamer and brought to Yokohama on June 3rd.

THE Governor of Ishikawa prefecture telegraphed on June 3rd at 11 p.m., that fire broke out at Shimo-Omi-machi, Kanazawa, burning down 257 dwellings, a temple, 2 banks and several telegraph and telephone poles. The *Asahi* adds that the loss to be paid by the fire insurance companies is estimated at about half a million *yen*.

REAR-ADMIRAL TAKAGI passed away on June 2nd. He belonged to the Saga clan of Kyushu. At the time of the Restoration he was a midshipman on the *Kinonie Maru* and fought at Hakodate where Enomoto (now Viscount Enomoto) and the supporters of the Tokugawa made their last stand. He also fought in the Satsuma rebellion. In 1882, he was promoted Lieutenant and appointed Commander of the *Iwaki*. During the Japan-China war he was on the flagship *Matsushima* as vice commander. In 1895 he was promoted Captain and decorated with the Golden Kite of the Fourth Class. At the time of his death he was Chief of the Kure Naval Barracks, and also chief surveyor of the Hydrographic Office.

PORT ARTHUR AND DALNY.

Monday, June 6.

The *Jiji Shimpo's* Chefoo correspondent writing on what he calls good authority, says that whereas several of the Russian destroyers used to remain outside the harbour of Port Arthur, chiefly near Golden Hill Fort and Liautishan promontory, they now keep inside altogether, perhaps because some of them have lately been sunk by mines. The Russians are straining every nerve to place the coast defences in an efficient state and to guard against any renewed blocking attempt. Since the battle of Nanshan vigorous efforts are being made to fortify the Tuchingsk position, which is the last of the outlying works where a determined stand can be made before the final investment. Most of the non-combatants have already left Port Arthur, but the wives and families of the officers and soldiers are in the new town. The troops of the original garrison number 15,000, to whom must be added 6,000 marines, as well as some 8,000 that have come in from Dalny, Nanshan and other places. Thus the total is about 29,000. The so-called gun-boat that the Russians used in Talien Bay at the Battle of Nanshan was a steamer of the East China Railway Company which had been armed for the occasion. Dalny has already fallen into Japanese hands but the Bay is said to be thickly strewn with mines. From other sources information is given that fully 10 days will be required to clear out these impediments. The Chinese inhabitants of Kinchow and Talien welcome the Japanese enthusiastically, and gladly supply any labour that is required.

Wednesday, June 8.

Japanese leading newspapers agree that the explosions recently heard at Port Arthur are to be connected, not with any destruction of material, as war-ships or docks, but with attempts to clear away the obstructions at the entrance of the harbour. This impression is confirmed by the proceedings which involved the loss of the *Greniiastchy* and the *Gaidamak*. These boats and their torpedo consorts were clearing away the Japanese mines, evidently with the object of providing for the exit of the Russian squadron when the supreme moment comes. It is almost inconceivable that the Russians should sink their ships in the harbour instead of making an attempt to run the gauntlet of the Japanese squadron. They could at least inflict some injury on the latter and they would have a reasonable chance of effecting their escape, in part at any rate. They need not steam for Vladivostock. What they might do would be to head direct for Saigon where they could get coal enough to carry them to the next port *en route* for home. As between that alternative and wholesale suicide there can not, we think, be much room for choice. The only question is, what moment will be regarded as psychological. When will the Russian Admiral think it his duty to abandon the Port and make his final break for safety? If he take that step before the assault the effect upon the spirits of the garrison will be disastrous. If he defer it until after the assault its difficulties will be greatly augmented. It is a perplexing situation. Meanwhile the Japanese must be nearing Port Arthur. It is 12 days since the battle of Nanshan was fought and the distance is insignificant. Twenty days separated the landing at Pitsewo from the assault of Kinchow. We are getting very close to events of immense historical interest. If, however, it be deemed necessary to utilize Dalny as a basis before the final movement against Port Arthur, some time may still be needed, and in any case the transport of heavy artillery and the work of placing it in position must require many days. We ourselves do not look for anything decisive before the close of June.

Chinese junkmen report hearing repeated detonations in the vicinity of the coast of Liautung south of Talien Bay and at inland points on the 3rd and 4th instant. Some of these sounds would seem to have been connected with the destruction of mines but some also suggest that operations were in progress on land. On the 3rd instant these junkmen observed the smoke of a conflagration at Dalny, but were of course unable to determine the origin of the fire.

It is stated that nothing embarrasses the Russians more than the repeatedly successful attempts of the Hunghutze to destroy fuel collected for use on the railway. A wholesale operation of that kind is said to have recently taken place at the Manchuria station.

Thursday, June 9.

News continues to come of explosions at Port Arthur. The steamer *Wenchow*, which arrived at Chefoo on the 7th, reported that on the 6th—the hour is uncertain—she heard the sound of what seemed to be heavy guns, and a Japanese who came from Dalny on the 7th says that at 7 a.m. on that day the noise of a violent explosion was heard and a heavy column of smoke was seen ascending. Apparently the Russians are making strenuous efforts to free the entrance of the harbour. There is no visible reason why they should not succeed if they continue the work with sufficient persistence. But does this prelude a final dash for freedom?

The *Jiji Shimpo* has a telegram saying that the Russians in their southward movement find themselves embarrassed for provisions and are eating horse-flesh. At least there are indications that such is the case. But the thing is scarcely credible for the troops sent towards Liaotung are understood not to exceed 30,000 and there should be no difficulty in keeping them supplied so long as the railway is free. It is just possible, of course, that an inconveniently large quantity of rolling stock has been tied up southward of Pulantien by the action of the Japanese, but can we assume that Kuropatkin would have undertaken to despatch an army southward without previously assuring himself of his ability to supply it.

The Chinese in Dalny are said to be carrying on their business in tranquillity.

In foreign diplomatic circles in Peking it is said (*Jiji Shimpo's*) that the arrangements for wireless telegraphy on Liautishan are intended to connect with a station at the Russian Consulate in Chefoo. How could that be? A wireless telegraphic apparatus is not like a prismatic compass that a man can put in his pocket. It is a big, unwieldy and conspicuous object. Any attempt to make such an installation in Chefoo would be at once detected and stopped by the Chinese as a gross breach of neutrality.

A big fleet of junks, says the *Nichi Nichi's* Chefoo correspondent, arrived at that place on the morning of the 31st ultimo from Dalny. They carried refugees from the Russian town. According to the report of the Chinese a crowd of civilians and soldiers, carrying all their valuables, embarked in these junks between 6 a.m. and 11 a.m. on the 26th instant. If so, they must have anticipated the result of the battle of Nanshan which was just then beginning, and which was not won by the Japanese until 7 p.m. on the 26th. The Chinese further said that before leaving Dalny the Russians burned three of the principal official buildings and sunk three steamers which were at the wharf. They did not, however, destroy the wharves or the dock. General Sakaroff left the place at 11 a.m. having previously caused two bombs to be exploded for the purpose of wrecking the station. Many of the Russian soldiers are said to have thrown away their arms and accoutrements as impeding their flight, which fact, if it be credible, would indicate that there was something like a panic. Another strange allegation is that the Russians opened the prison and released some 300 criminals who naturally interpreted their liberation as a mandate to commit excesses. They spread in all directions and commenced a crusade of pillage and murder. The Chinaman who tells the story and who is described as a responsible person, says that he himself saw 60 corpses, and that, being seized by the rioters, he had to pay 600 roubles to be released. Some Chinese residents were mulcted to the extent of thirty thousand. These 300 criminals subsequently embarked in junks, taking with them their booty, and set sail, probably for the Shantung coast. They seem to have robbed indiscriminately, taking Russian property as well as Chinese. It may prove, however, that they were not purposely released, but that they took advantage of the demoralization of their guards.

There is a strange story about a yacht which arrived at Weiheiwei from Dalny on the 31st of May. She belonged to a Mr. Soper (or Sopher) of the iron-works at Dalny and when she left the latter place she had on board her owner and two Russians. They were bound for Chefoo, but the yacht ultimately made Weihaiwei with the Russians only on board. They declared that owing to rough weather they had been unable to reach Chefoo, and had to run for Wei-hai-wei, losing Mr. Soper *en route*. He was washed overboard by a heavy sea, with all his money on his person. Grave suspicious are entertained as to the truth of this statement, and the British Consul at Chefoo is said to have made application that the two Russians should be sent on to that place.

Another report says that the men on the yacht were originally 4, namely, the owner, an Austrian subject, a Russian subject and a British subject. The little vessel was overhauled *en route* by a Japanese war-ship, but nothing suspicious being found, she was released. This statement we take from the *Asahi*, which adds that subsequent examination convinced the authorities of the innocence of the men.

It is alleged that Port Arthur has been kept supplied with coal throughout the whole period of the war by Norwegian vessels plying between Shanghai and that place.

Another allegation made by Chinese from Dalny is that a number of German subjects have undertaken to erect a wireless telegraphic station in the Miao Islands for the uses of Port Arthur. But it will be remembered that search made a few days ago by the Japanese failed to discover any apparatus of the kind in the Miao Island.

Japanese accounts indicate that the Russians blew up all the bridges on the railway between Kinchow and Dalny, and that much time and expense will be needed to repai them. Immediately on reaching Dalny th

Japanese troops applied themselves to extinguish the flames which had been started by the Russians, and were so successful that only the city offices, the school and the buildings in the immediate neighbourhood of the station were destroyed. In fact, not more than one-fifth of the whole town suffered. The private residences and the business quarter are safe. No locomotive was found at the station and a great quantity of the other rolling stock was in flames, but some 70 waggons and trucks were intact. The post and telegraph offices, the electric-light station and the harbour-master's office were uninjured. The public garden, the club and the East China Railway Company's premises are safe. It had been the intention of the Russians to burn the whole town, and the Japanese count themselves very fortunate that the destruction was confined to such small limits. There were mines laid in various places and the Japanese engineers took immediate steps to remove them. The aqueduct pipe is broken, and there is distress for want of water. The Japanese have taken possession of the brick factory and the iron-works, where a great quantity of material was found. This account says that on the night of the 26th some 1,300 Russian troops made their escape to Port Arthur by rail or by junk. From the morning of the 27th the place was virtually in the hands of bandits and criminals, and a reign of terror lasted until the arrival of the Japanese troops. This is a foretaste of what Newchwang might expect under similar circumstances. Order has now been completely restored, and the civil administration is in the hands of Captain Kawaki. There were only 11 Japanese in the town, 3 men and 8 women.

Friday, June 10.

It is alleged in the *Jiji Shimpo's* telegrams that the Port Arthur Squadron has received orders from St. Petersburg to break out of Port Arthur at all hazards and join the Vladivostock ships. There is just a possibility that the attempt has been made. London reports the receipt of intelligence from Chefoo and Tungchow (in Shantung near the Liao Islands) to the effect that from the afternoon of the 6th until the morning of the 7th the sounds of violent cannonading were heard in the direction of Port Arthur. Now Admiral Togo's latest "reconnaisance in force," which included, we presume, the laying of mines, took place between midnight on the 6th and daylight on the 7th, consequently unless Chefoo and Kinchow have been mistaken in their dates, the sound of cannonading reported by them must have been connected with some operation distinct from Togo's reconnaissance. It may possibly have been an operation on shore, but scarcely at Port Arthur, for the Japanese can not yet have planted guns to bombard the place. There is, however, the Tuchingtsz position, which we have already indicated as the place where another stand is likely to be made by the Russians before allowing the Japanese to approach the last line of forts. Tuchingtsz is 7 miles from Port Arthur, and the sounds of a battle there might easily be heard at Chefoo and Tungchow, supposing the wind to be in the right direction. On the other hand, such a battle would not commence at noon and continue throughout the night, and the same comment applies to an attempt on the part of the Russian squadron to effect its escape from Port Arthur; instead of setting out by mid-day it would probably choose mid-night for the moment of making the essay unless, indeed, the Russian Admiral saw a fair chance of annihilating the Japanese squadron. Then there is another consideration. Had this been a sea-fight having for ultimate object the flight of the Russians to Vladivostock, the sounds of firing would not have been heard at Port Arthur alone; they would have gradually extended sea-ward. We must await some clue to this mystery, but, on the whole, it seems more likely that the cannonading had to do with an operation on shore.

In estimating the probability of a naval rush from Port Arthur, we have to remember that the disabled ships must remain behind. Everything points to the truth of the belief that the *Czarevitch* and the *Retvizan* have not yet been rendered seaworthy, and we also know that the *Pobieda* was again disabled by striking a mine between the 6th and the 12th of May. The *Petropavlovsk*, too, has to be subtracted from the Russian fighting force, and thus there remain only three line-of-battle ships, the *Sevastopol*, the *Peresviet* and the *Poltava*. Three iron-clads, therefore, might engage in the attempt to escape and three would have to remain in the port. Then for cruisers the Russians would have the *Bayan* and the *Novik*. In short, their total effective strength for the purposes of a sortie would be 3 battle-ships and two first-class cruisers, against 5 battle-ships and at least six first-class cruisers on the Japanese side, to say nothing of smaller craft. It would be a desperate adventure, and though the world watches for it breathlessly as the squadron's alternative to total destruction, the difficulty of believing that it will be made is almost insuperable. To us what looks more probable is that the Russians will rely on being able to hold Port Arthur. The fortress is immensely strong and unless there be some secret source of weakness, the course most consistent with Russian methods would be to cling to the faith in its invulnerability and to refrain from any desperate enterprises justifiable only on the hypothesis of its fall.

RUSSIAN METHODS.

Monday, June 6.

It is affirmed that the Russians grossly abused the white flag at the Battle of Nanshan. When the First Division delivered its attack in the afternoon, a portion of the enemy raised the white flag, whereupon the Japanese ceased firing and moved forward, only to be received with a hot fire from both flanks. Naturally the men were much incensed, and when the Russians subsequently raised the flag, no attention was paid to it. Probably we shall hear something from the Russians on this subject just as was the case at Pulantien where, having themselves grossly abused the Red-Cross Flag, they sought to turn the tables by charging the offence to Japanese account. It is stated that Russia's complaint with reference to this incident was actually forwarded through the French Authorities, but that the Japanese Government declared it to be wholly untenable, the fault being really on the Russian side.

In this context may be mentioned another terrible accusation against the Russians. Prior to the fight at Tahosang on the 16th of May, a reconnoitering party of 4 or 5 men under a non-commissioned officer was sent out by the Japanese and did not return. It was assumed that these men had fallen into the enemy's hands. Such proved to be the case, but the result is almost incredible. For when Kinchow was taken, the corpses of these men are said to have been found in a state of most barbarous mutilation, leaving no doubt that they had been put to death by methods shockingly cruel. It is affirmed that the spectacle roused the Japanese soldiers to extreme fury, as well it might. This is the second story related of savage mulilation. The first was connected with the skirmish at Husan when some privates of the Guards were made prisoners by the Russians, and the body of one of them was subsequently found entangled in the branches of a tree overhanging the river and horribly disfigured.

A first-class private of the 24th Regiment of the Twelfth Division, Horio Zenroku by name, declares that he was an eye-witness of the murder of wounded Japanese by the Russians. Having been struck by a bullet in the cheek, he had rolled into a kind of ditch and was there endeavouring to bind up his wound when two companies of Russians charged the position and drove out the few survivors of its Japanese holders. Horio Zenroku, raising his head, saw the victorious Russians use their bayonets as daggers to stab the prostrate Japanese. They spared none, and as they gradually approached the place where Horio lay, the prospect of such a fate gave him the strength of desperation. He sprang to his feet, so disconcerting the Russians nearest to him that he obtained a minute's respite which he utilized to fly at top speed amid a shower of bullets.

Peking reports that according to statements made by Chinese in Manchuria, the Russians have transported a quantity of poison to the upper reaches of the Yalu, their plan being to throw it into the stream and thus destroy everything, man or beast, that drinks the water. Is this a Chinese invention? One can not readily credit such utter savagery, nor will it be credited without the strongest evidence. The Chinese themselves have resorted to such a device on many occasions. To poison the wells in a district is one of their recognised modes of warfare; or, at any rate, it was so once. May they not have judged the Russians subjectively?

Wednesday, June 8.

Mr. Kuroda, the well-known correspondent of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, writes under date of May 28th from the position of the First Army that so far as fighting is concerned it has degenerated into a succession of skirmishes. The Russians seem to confine their operations to the despatch of small parties of Cossacks and mounted infantry. About 6,000 of these with several mountain guns are scattered through the district in the neighbourhood of Aiyangpien and Samazi. They threaten the right wing of the Japanese and they aim at attacking the line of communications. But it is noticeable that the Cossacks are careful to keep out of range of Japanese rifles and that they have a most wholesome dread of the Japanese infantry. The result of it all is merely to keep the outposts busy without in any way impeding the doings of the main army. Not an infrequent occurrence is the inroad of a small reconnoitering party deep into the Japanese lines. A young Russian officer and two or three men will conceal themselves in a grove to watch the movements of the Japanese, and, if discovered, will emerge boldly and fight with pistols. It resembles the tactics pursued by the insurgents in Formosa, but gives no indication of decisive movements.

LIAOTUNG.

Saturday, June 4.

London telegraphs that according to St. Petersburg rumours, Stoessel's instructions are, in the event of the fall of Port Arthur, to destroy everything capable of being destroyed. The remains of the naval squadron, however, are to be sent to Vladivostock should that be at all feasible. Otherwise the ships also must be broken up. If General Stoessel has any such instructions, they will greatly hamper his capacities of defence. He can not destroy all this material at an hour's notice, and if he makes preparations to destroy it the effect upon the morale of his troops will be great. But how has he been placed in receipt of instructions? And if he possessed them before his communications were severed, is it conceivable that they were instructions of that nature? We know the bombastic tone adopted by Admiral Skrydloff before he set out from St. Petersburg. To him the fall of Port Arthur did not seem inclusable in the category of even remote possibilities.

General Floug's report of the battle of Kinchow says that the Japanese had 3 Divisions and 120 guns in action, as well as four gun-boats and 6 torpedo-craft. They directed their artillery chiefly against the Russian guns which were in great part put out of action. The battle commenced at 5.30 a.m., and the Japanese waded through the sea up to their waists to attack the Russian left. In consequence of the greatly superior strength of the Japanese, the Russians retired to Nankwanlin at 8 p.m., having previously destroyed such of their guns as had not already suffered from the Japanese fire. The Russian losses were 40 officers and 800 rank and file killed and wounded. The Japanese seem to have suffered very severely.

There is nothing to be said against this report until the veracious General comes to speak of the killed and wounded. These he puts at 840, whereas the Japanese claim to have found 500 Russian dead upon the field. General Floug has studied his art badly. His reports never fail to provoke incredulity. But he seems to be improving. His latest essay stands certainly on a higher plane than its predecessors.

The admission as to the superiority of the Japanese artillery is very noteworthy. We know that the Japanese captured 78 guns, and that, in addition to these, the Russians had a battery at Tafanshan and two field batteries on Nankwanlin. That makes 98 guns accounted for, and we can not suppose that they failed to carry away any of the quick-firers posted for the defence of Nanshan. Altogether, therefore, their park of artillery was not inferior to the Japanese park, numerically—taking the figure (120) of Floug himself—and whereas the Russians had guns of position and had hills 300 feet high for platforms, the Japanese had only field-guns—so far as we know and so far as seems probable—which were posted on much lower elevations. Yet Floug admits that a great part of the Russian park was put out of action. This superiority of the Japanese artillery is becoming a very interesting feature. It was not predicted by certain European experts; quite the contrary, indeed.

Shanghai contributes information as to the latest estimate of the troops garrisoning Port Arthur. There are, it is said, 4 regiments, or 8,000 men, of the Rifles Division; from 2,000 to 3,000 garrison artillery; about 6,000 marines; some 2,000 Railway Guards, and a number of soldiers that have retreated from Kinchow, Dalny, &c. This would bring the total to something between 20,000 and 25,000.

From Peking comes confirmation of the rumour that the Russians are passing through Tashikiao in large numbers and are moving southward, with the intention of engaging the Japanese in the Liaotung Peninsula. Kaiping is spoken of as the proposed battle-ground. This would be a very hazardous move on the part of the Russians, supposing the Japanese to be advancing against Haiching. In fact, the position of General Kuroki's army threatening the line of railway at Liaoyang and Haiching makes it extremely problematical whether Kuropatkin can attempt anything for the relief of Port Arthur. If he materially weakens his forces at Liaoyang by sending a large army southward—and only a large army could effect anything useful—he will expose his whole line of communications. He would resign, we imagine, rather than attempt anything so suicidal.

From Chefoo we learn that on the 28th and 29th of May Japanese Cavalry rode into Dalny, and were speedily followed (on the morning of the 30th) by infantry of the Third Regiment. The soldiers immediately took steps to extinguish the flames and to arrest the bandits.

An officer who returned to Moji on the 2nd instant compares the position at Nanshan to the celebrated Temmoku-zan in Japan where Takeda Katsuyori met with his final defeat at the hands of Oda Nobunaga and Tokugawa Iyeyasu. There were 5 cardinal points of vantage, and each was strongly fortified. The wire entanglements proved a formidable obstacle. There were two lines of them, one stretching right to the sea-shore on the West. Each was 5 feet high and behind each was a breastwork from which the Russians poured a deadly fire. The greatest number of the enemy's casualties occurred near the second line of entanglements, evidently owing to the fierceness of the Japanese gunfire. There was no question of exhaustion of fighting power: the killed and wounded were found in possession of an ample supply of ammunition. In fact, the Japanese ultimate success was due mainly to their artillery which from an early hour directed its fire on the enemy's obstructions and thus broke his line of defences. The condition of the camp showed that at the last moment the Russians retreated in confusion. for they left quantities of half-cooked food. The severest time for the artillery was at about 3 p.m. when the gunners had to fall back on their reserve ammunition. But the arrangements for renewing the supply were so efficient, that by 4 p.m. the limbers were again full. The enemy suffered terribly on his left flank. The troops he had there were almost wiped out, a proof of the stubborn nature of his resistance. The co-operation of the navy at this point and the fury of the Fourth Division's last charge were most destructive. The Russians had made splendid preparations for defence. So thoroughly were their riflemen concealed that their presence remained undetected by some of the Japanese troops until the latter came within 150 metres. Every effort is being made to deal with the casualties, but many bodies remain still unburied.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* has a telegram from the front to the effect that the Russian army at Liaoyang, which is said to number eighty thousand, is now moving to attack the Japanese in the neighbourhood of Fenghwang.

Thursday, June 9.

Both the *Jiji Shimpo* and the *Asahi* speak of the landing of a Japanese force at a place which neither journal names. The transports seem to have experienced heavy weather but the debarkation was safely effected on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Various small parties of the enemy had failed to evacuate the neighbourhood and their presence caused much insecurity owing to the difficulty of identifying their nationality at night. A forward movement was therefore made immediately after the landing, though the troops were in need of rest after their voyage, and by this movement the Russian line of retreat having been cut off, it is expected that they must surrender.

The Second Army appears to have pushed its outposts northward as far as Chiukiatun, in the sequel of the recent skirmish at the latter place when the Russians evacuated Wafangkau. Chiukiatun is 28 miles north of Pulantien on the Kaiping high-road. If the Russians who made their appearance there on the 3rd instant, were the van of a strong force moving south to reduce the pressure on Port Arthur, it may be presumed that they had been sent merely for reconnoitering purposes and that a heavier effort will soon be made, Meanwhile there is no appearance of any southward movement on the part of the Russians in Foochow.

THE FIRST ARMY.

Monday, June 6.

Shanghai telegraphs that the outposts of the First Army have reached Taipinglin. This place, if in the vicinity of Taipingshan, which we presume it is, lies northward of the Taitsz River and is consequently between Liaoyang and Mukden. If General Kuroki's army is making a movement so far north, Mukden would suggest itself as his immediate objective. Of course, could he strike successfully at Mukden, the whole of the Russian troops southward of that place would be paralysed, their only line of communications being severed. But can Kuroki leave Liaoyang on his left flank? He certainly could if another Japanese army were moving against Haiching *viâ* Sungyuen. Outside the four walls of the Head Quarter Staff no one in Tokyo seems to possess knowledge of the Japanese plan of campaign, and the longer it can be kept secret, the better. This Shanghai telegram for the matter of that, may prove to be a baseless canard.

Tuesday, June 7.

The *Jiji Shimpo's* Peking correspondent telegraphs that in addition to the force of 15,000 infantry already reported as having passed through Tashikiao, moving southward, another column of 48 guns and 3,000 Cossacks has passed the same place. Further there are 20,000 Russians at Langtszshan between Liaoyang and Fenghwang, and 10,000 between Tensantien (? Tienshintien) and Taikorei (? Takuling). To put the matter briefly, Kuropatkin is moving an army of 15,000 infantry, 48 guns and 3,000 cavalry into the Liaotung Peninsula, and is posting an army of 30,000 troops of all arms along the main road—the mountain road—between Liaoyang and Fenghwang. It is further stated that there are 2 divisions of infantry with 3,000 cavalry and 70 guns in Liaoyang. All the buildings that interfere with the defences have been burned; trenches have been dug, wire entanglements laid, and stake-pits prepared. All the approaches are patrolled by Cossacks. This detail shows an aggregate of 65,000 infantry, 115 guns and 6,000 cavalry divided into three armies, of which one is moving south towards the Japanese positions in Liaotung, one is holding Liaoyang, and one is thrown forward to cover the latter place.

Kuropatkin is said to be in Liaoyang and Alexieff is living in a railway car at Mukden.

No Chinese are allowed to travel by rail northward of Mukden.

Floug telegraphs from Mukden, under date of the 4th, that on the 3rd instant a conflict took place at Wafangkou near Tehlisz between a Russian detachment and 2 or 3 battalions of Japanese infantry with two squadrons of cavalry. One of the Japanese squadrons had a hand-to-hand fight with a squadron of the Siberia Cossacks and was virtually annihilated. The other squadron was attacked by Russian mounted infantry and suffered heavy loss. The Japanese account of this affair is, as usual, very different. They claim that the enemy numbered 2,000 infantry, with some cavalry and a battery of artillery, and that they were driven back, the Japanese casualties amounting to 4 killed and 4 wounded. General Floug's story is a trifle too tall.

An officer of a Japanese torpedo-craft which has just entered Moji is reported to have stated that the Russians are making every possible effort to put Port Arthur in a state of defence. They have built and armed new forts and are omitting no precaution. But their positions within gunshot from the sea have been much damaged by Japanese fire. The harbour is effectually sealed, no vessel larger than a destroyer being able to emerge. The Russian shells range with accuracy to a distance of 10,000 metres and are very formidable. The clearing of Talien Bay is going on, but many mines are still in place there and navigation is very dangerous.

This may be supplemented by a report from officers who recently took two Japanese vessels as far as the immediate vicinity of Tiger's Tail Spit for the purpose of reconnoitering. The result of theirobservations was that the third blocking operation succeeded admirably. The steamers were sunk right in the fairway, and ingress or egress became impossible for anything large than a gunboat. Thus the Russians are now compelled to carry on their business with the other world by means of Chinese junks when destroyers are not suitable. As confirming this account we may note that since the blocking operation on May 2nd, now more than one month ago, there has not been a whisper of the emergence of a Russian war-ship from Port Arthur. The Russians may perhaps explain this by saying that they have received orders not to send out any ship pending the arrival of the Baltic Squadron, but the blocking steamers constitute a more credible explanation. We suspect, however, that strenuous efforts are being made to clear the passage. No other explanation offers of the explosions reported to have been heard within the past few days, for it would be extravagant to suppose that any precautionary destruction of material is going on. Connected with this matter is the vitally interesting question of the squadron's behaviour in the event of an assault being delivered by the Japanese at Port Arthur. Will the ships emerge and fight for their lives, or will they remain dependent upon the result of the land conflict, surviving if the defence proves stronger and being sunk in the other contingency? There are rumours that the vessels' secondary armament has been mounted in the forts, and that their crews, to the number of 6,000, have been enrolled in the garrison. If that be so, Stoessel is going to stake everything upon the land defences. But is it so? Will the ships remain an inactive factor in the situation? That seems scarcely credible. The question for them will lie between death and life, and if they are to die, their business is to die hard, inflicting a maximum of loss on the enemy. To sink one Japanese cruiser would be a distinct gain from the Russian point of view; on the other hand, there is the chance of augmenting the Japanese force by captures, and to the Russians that may seem the worst outlook of all. At all events, unless they can clear away the blocking steamers, they can not have any latitude of choice.

The *Asahi's* Chefoo correspondent states that on the evening of the 3rd a pigeon flew from Port Arthur to a Norwegian ship, the *Saimar*, and on being captured the bird was found to be carrying a cipher letter from the Russian stronghold. It is added that the Russian Consul did not deny the fact. That would be a perfectly legitimate way of communicating, but the public are curious to hear something more about the alleged Russo-French coöperation for establishing wireless telegraphy between Port Arthur and Chingwantao.

Of course it is premature to form any opinion on this point. We are ourselves entirely confident, and so doubtless are the Japanese, that France will not be guilty of any breach of neutrality. Besides, as Liaotung is fully blockaded, there could be no secret interchange of wireless telegraphic messages between Port Arthur and Chingwantao: they would be all intelligible to Japanese receivers. At all events it will be time enough to treat this matter seriously when it assumes a more practical aspect.

It is exceedingly difficult to ascertain the exact military position in the vicinity of Takushan. The *Asahi's* Shanhai-kwan correspondent says that, according to a Chinaman who returned from that district on the 27th ultimo, the Japanese troops had reached a point 13 miles south of Sungyuen, where 7,000 Russian troops were in garrison. The same informant said that there were 8,000 Russians in Kaiping.

The despatch-boat of the Chicago *Daily News* reports having heard a violent detonation in the direction of Port Arthur on the forenoon of the 3rd. Of course it is possible that these explosions signify the destruction of buildings which interfere with the defences, but we strongly suspect them to be the result of operations for freeing the fairway.

Thursday, June 9.

There is no special news from the First Army. It appears to have fully occupied Aiyangpienmun, and the Russians are said to be gradually retreating to Liaoyang. But they keep a strong force in the Motienlin defile; in other words, they guard the main road to Liaoyang. General Kuroki is evidently moving leisurely. His proceedings seem to indicate a concerted strategical plan, certain parts of which have to develop elsewhere.

Friday, June 10.

Kuropatkin, according to a London telegram, is now at some point between Haiching and Tashikiao. That would imply that he is really organizing a resolute move for the relief of Port Arthur. It is further stated from Shanhaikwan that 5,000 Russian troops have left Liaoyang for Sungyuen (or "Shuyen" as it is marked on some of the maps). As to this the only comment is that if Kuropatkin seriously entertains the intention of making a campaign on the Liaotung Peninsula, he must organize three armies; one to meet and contain Kuroki's force which threatens a point between Mukden and Liaoyang; one to meet and contain Nogi's force, which, so far as we can see, threatens, or will speedily threaten, a point between Liaoyang and Haiching; and one to operate against Oku's force in southern Liaotung. Concerning the suggestion that the Russian General's southward movement is merely a demonstration, intended to cover a retreat of the main army from Liaoyang, it is to be observed that no indications of such a retreat have yet been discerned, and that if it be intended, the effect upon the Port Arthur garrison must be most dispiriting. We do not believe that Kuropatkin can afford to efface himself and his army to the extent of leaving the Japanese in possession of all Manchuria south of Mukden. Perhaps he can afford to await an attack at Liaoyang, but the success of that strategy would depend upon the Japanese, whose natural and evident plan would then be to strike at the Russian communications above Liaoyang. On the whole, therefore, it would appear that Kuropatkin's only resource lies in assuming the offensive. He must not allow the Japanese to get too near his line of communications. He must beat them back, and with that aim in view the organization of three armies to move out and make head against Kuroki, Nogi and Oku, seems to be the soundest scheme. We welcome it because it promises to greatly hasten the issue of the war. Fabian tactics on Kuropatkin's part might have prolonged matters indefinitely.

KOREA.

Friday, June 3.

The military critic of the London *Times*, writing on the 26th of April, makes the following remarks which have much interest in view of the development of events in north-eastern Korea:—

> The Russians still talk of finishing the campaign in September, and the favourite plan for the attainment of this end is a march from Vladivostock upon Gensan. It is considered that during the summer a large army can be collected between Kharbin and Vladivostock and that no insuperable difficulties intervene to prevent the march proposed. The defeat of the Japanese, the occupation of Seoul, and the humble acceptance of peace by Japan are all discounted in advance. It is a model of that essential trait in strategical plans—*rarissima simplicitas*. The appearance of Cossacks at Chang-seng will certainly serve as a reminder that General Kuroki's right flank is in some degree vulnerable unless the necessary measures are taken to protect it, but it is very improbable that any serious danger threatens from this side at the present juncture. We have, it is true, lost sight of General Mishchenko and his Cossacks for the best part of three weeks, and after his departure from the Lower Yalu we were informed that he was about to do something which would make our flesh creep. A raid upon Northern Korea from the north-east, and endeavour to strike in upon the line of communications with Ping-yang and Seoul was evidently the only action that lay open to the Russians, and we should judge that the reported advance of a body of Cossacks by Song-ching and Pukchen makes the opening of this new phase in the operation.
>
> If the Japanese have taken the precaution to run a chain of forts and stout blockhouses across the narrow part of the Korean peninsula, as the stiuation plainly required, and have quartered here a garrison of second line troops, these raiders should do no serious injury, since the Japanese on the Ya-lu ought by this time to have shifted their base close up to the river and to have made themselves independent of the land line of communications.

If the advance of the Russians along the east coast is taking place in any force, the fact points to a somewhat contemptuous regard for the enemy. The coast line of march is at the mercy of the side controlling the sea, and by the slightest effort this advance can be checked and thrown back upon the mountains. In view of the opinions held in Russia respecting an eventual attack in force on this line, it would, however, be a prudent measure for the Japanese to reserve for themselves a sally-port upon the mainland, well in advance of each flank of the Gensan-Anju barrier. A defended harbour near the Ya-lu on one flank and at Songching or Plaksin Bay on the other would make it dangerous for the Russians to advance upon Gensan and Seoul, since Japan could always land troops at these places and attack her enemy in flank and rear. Each port would then fulfil the *rôle* assigned to El Arish by Napoleon in the defence of Egypt against a land attack from Syria.

Meanwhile the Japanese Consul at Wonsan has warned his countrymen there that the Russians are advancing and that serious events may at any moment be expected. He urges them to be calm and collected, and to make timely preparations for departure in case of need. But there are always many folks who can not possibly make such preparations, since their getting ready depends upon finding a market for their goods and chattels and no market can be found in a moment of panic.

The Russians appear to be advancing steadily. Their base is said to be Kyongsong where they are collecting large quantities of ammunition. Their requisitions for supplies continue on an increasing scale. It is alleged that the so-called Korean soldiers are working in the service of the Russians. It is also reported that the Russian outposts have reached Kowon, which is only 25 miles north of Wonsan, but inasmuch as the telegraph is not working, rumours of this kind can not be implicitly accepted. We hear nothing of the strength of the Russians, but it may be taken as very doubtful whether they are in considerable force. We have frequently pointed to the fact that such a line of march as that along the north-east coast of Korea is in the last degree perilous, being within easy striking distance of the sea-shore throughout its entire length. This must be, just as evident to the Russians as it is to outsiders, and the presumption therefore is that they are employing a very mobile force, probably of cavalry only, or perhaps of cavalry and mounted infantry, which, should its communications with Kyongsong or Possiet Bay be severed, could without much hardship ride westward and recover touch with its starting-place by the Tumen route. On the other hand, to possess such capabilities a force must be small. Even a small force, however, may work great mischief in the absence of opposition, and the Japanese public will be glad to hear that some step has been taken to check this incursion. The capture of Wonsan would place the Russians within striking distance of Pyongyang, for it will be remembered that in the China-Japan war of 1894, one Division of the Japanese army landed at Wonsan and marched thence to the attack of Pyongyang, a distance of 119 miles.

Korean domestic politics seem to have fallen once more into a welter. We hear again of rivalry between the factions of Lady Om and the Crown Prince. This is alleged to be the remote origin of the trouble while for proximate cause students of the situation say that Hyon Yong-un and Li Yong-tai have been acting in collusion to effect the overthrow of Cho Pyong-sik, but that Hyon's power having declined, he has resigned and is likely to be replaced by Chhin Seng-heun. What the precise significance of these things may be we are not clearly informed, but as Hyon Yong-an was understood to be the head and front of the pro-Japanese party, his fall is perhaps to be associated with the activity of the Russians in north-eastern Korea.

Saturday, June 4.

Accounts differ as to the point reached by the Russian outposts in the north-east Korean raid. One story names Yongheung, 25 miles from Wonsan, as the further point reached; another mentions Kowon, which is only 13½ miles distant. Wonsan telegraphed on the 3rd that the Russian force in Hamheung is 220, and that at Kapsan there are over a thousand, who seem to be about to move to Songjin.

It is stated that the rapid growth of Roman Catholicism in Korea has led to various abuses of an indirect nature, inasmuch as men of bad character embrace the foreign faith for the single purpose of availing themselves of its protection against the consequences of their own law-breaking. There has therefore been much negotiation between the French Representative and the Korean Government, with the result that a draft convention has been prepared and is likely to receive final approval. Its principal provisions are (1) that French religionists shall not employ any improper methods to propagate their faith; (2) that French religionists shall not have unlimited liberty to acquire lands and build places of worship in Korea; (3) that French missionaries when travelling in the interior must have passports; (4) that when converts violate the law they shall be impartially judged by local officials; (5) that if any law-breakers take refuge in the houses of missionaries, the latter shall give them up, and shall not be subject to arbitrary domiciliary visits from local officials; (6) that French missionaries shall not interfere directly in civil or criminal cases, but shall submit their complaints, if they have any, to their own Legation; (7) that French missionaries shall strictly forbid converts to take advantage of their religious status for illegal purposes, and shall duly inform against any persons violating this interdict; and (8) that further details essential to the carrying out of this convention shall be subsequently discussed and arranged.

Sunday, June 5.

The Russians in north-eastern Korea have advanced far enough to come into collision with the Japanese. A force of twenty odd Cossacks reached the vicinity of Munchhon on the 3rd instant at 1.45 p.m. That forenoon a squadron of Japanese cavalry under Lieutenant Nakamura proceeded to Munchhon, and at 12.15 p.m. some Koreans hastened in with news that the Russians were advancing. The Japanese rode out, and presently sighted two Cossacks at very close range. One of these was killed and the other wounded. The Japanese then occupied an elevation which commanded the district, and found themselves confronted by some 23 or 24 Cossacks on another elevation scarcely within effective range. The Russians opened a harmless fire, and then moved down across the rice fields. When they had come within 700 metres, the Japanese opened fire and killed 3 of their number, whereupon the remainder retreated. Subsequently these Russians went northward, doubtless to join their main body. They burned a Korean village as they passed through it, which kind of performance now becomes characteristic of the Russian army and navy. Unable to effect anything warlike in the field or on the sea, they wreak their vengeance upon private property.

The Russian force at Hamheung, already 600 strong, is said to have been re-inforced by 200 Cossacks, a portion of the band of 700 that attacked Anju on the 10th of May.

The foreign residents of Wonsan are said to have sent away their families.

Monday, June 6.

The Russian raiders seem to be now stationary at Yongheung, which is about 25 miles north of Wonsan. They appear to have been effectually checked, for the moment at all events, by the skirmish at Munchhon on the 3rd instant. There is no news of any re-inforcements reaching them from Pukchhong, which is regarded as the advanced base of the invading column. What did these Cossacks expect, we wonder. They can scarcely have looked to expel the Japanese garrison from Wonsan without a struggle. It is altogether a very inexplicable movement.

Tuesday, June 7.

The Russians appear to be establishing a most cruel record is north-east Korea. After their repulse at Munchhon, where they had 2 men killed and 3 wounded, they burned 8 houses before evacuating the place, and they then retired to Kowon, where they set the torch to 52 houses. Moreover, at the latter place they stabbed the chief local official. charging him with having opposed the collection of supplies for their use and with having failed to give information of the vicinity of a Japanese force. The official escaped to a place some miles distant, bui seems to have subsequently died of his wound. It is alleged that an interpreter attached to the Russians was shot by a Korean hunter, and that a private person in Kowon met his death at the hands of the Cossacks.

As for the raid itself, the appearances are that the Russian intention had been to capture Wonsan, where the presence of a Japanese garrison was seemingly unsuspected, and to make that place a base of operations against Pyongyang. Failing in that part of their design, the Russian forces are said to have struck westward from a point northward of Kowon. They live upon the resources of the country and therefore it matters little to them whether they have or have not a base, or whether or not they become a column in the air. It is a comparatively new method of warfare, not unlike that pursued with so much success by the Boers in South Africa, except that the Boers generally carried ten days' provisions in their holsters, and regulated the length of their ride by the quantity of their supply. There is no reason why this Russian column should not give a great deal of trouble. Above all its unrestricted operations must have a most disquieting effect upon the minds of the Koreans. The Russians are in very paltry strength. We hear now of 200 men arriving at Yongheung and striking thence westward towards Pyongyang in the rear of the small detachment which has already taken that line from the neighbourhood of Kowon. Probably not more than 300 troopers are engaged in the raid. But 300 men are amply sufficient where there is no organized resistance. At all events they hold the unhappy Korean population at their mercy. It is easy for the Japanese to land a force at some point along the north-eastern coast and thus sever all connection between the raiders and their original base. Had the invasion been an affair of any magnitude such a step would involve its immediate collapse. But being what it is, to deal with it strategically seems almost impossible. We do not doubt that some step will be taken by the Japanese, but in the meanwhile demoralizing effects will have been produced on the Korean mind.

The Korean local officials along the line of the First Army's advance seem to be now seeking to reap profit for themselves out of the disturbed conditions. They are said to have forwarded a vague statement to the central authorities, in the sense that the Japanese, while requisitioning large stores of provisions and fodder, paid in some cases only one half of the cost and in others nothing at all. Hence it became necessary to defray these charges out of the public funds. This complaint is said to be regarded simply as a device for diverting the proceeds of taxation into the hands of the officials themselves, and the Seoul Government has addressed a strong note to the complainants, censuring them for such vague statements, declaring that nothing of the kind is credible with regard to the Japanese Army, and ordering that chapter and verse should be given for the charges preferred. It is a difficult task to deal with such people as the Koreans.

A disturbance is reported from Kyongsando. We gather from the reports that it was a very disorganized attempt on the part of three or four hundred unarmed Koreans either to wreck the Seoul-Fusan Railway or to destroy one of the construction stations. A small force of 6 Japanese gendarmes sufficed to disperse the victors, who could only oppose stones to bullets. One or two of their number were killed and 3 or 5 taken prisoner—the accounts vary. The place of the occurrence is some 70 miles from Fusan, and the rioters are called by a name which suggests that incendiarism is their principal employment.

A small section—apparently only one mile—to the north of Yongsan on the Seoul Wiju line has been completed and a trial train has run over it.

The long-sought privilege of fishing along the coasts of the two north-western provinces of Korea has been granted to the Japanese. A formal declaration of the fact was conveyed to the Japanese Minister in Seoul on the 4th instant.

Mr. Hayashi is expected to return immediately to Japan for the purpose of consulting with the Government in Tokyo.

Prince Li Chi-yong and Messrs. Chhin Sang-heung and Li Hwai-on are said to be contemplating a strong movement for the reconstruction of the Korean Cabinet and for general administrative reforms. Their success, however, is considered problematical unless they can secure Japanese support.

Wednesday, June 8.

It is now stated that the headman of Kowon has not died from the wound inflicted on him by the Cossacks. The latter burned 59 houses in Kowon. The bodies of the Russians who perished in the Munchhon skirmish lie still unburied. The hunter who shot a Russian says that the Russians, after the skirmish at Munchhon, retired to Kowon and proceeded thence westward towards Pyongyang. The 300 Russian troopers who had come as far south as Chongpyong, have now moved towards Nyongwon, which is among the mountains in northern Korea. There are now no Russian soldiers in Yongheung. This hunter says further that the Cossacks, *more suo*, carry no provisions. They live on the resources of the country, and when the natives are unwilling to furnish supplies, the Cossacks simply take what they want. It was because the headman of Kowon did not show sufficient alacrity in the matter of supplies and because he failed to give information of the propinquity of Japanese troops, that the Russians stabbed him.

Thursday, June 9.

It is reported from Wonsan that on the 6th instant a detachment of Cossacks destroyed the telegraph office at Pukchhong and carried away one of the operators. They have similarly treated the office at Songjin. There is uncertainty as to the place whence the former detachment came, but as Pukchhong is the point where the coastwise road joins the road running inland to Kapsan whither some of the Cossacks are understood to have proceeded, it is evident that the town lies exposed to raids from both directions.

In all this business the salient fact is that the Russians are fighting against Korea, not against Japan. The people they rob are Koreans, the murders they commit are done on the persons of Korean subjects, the women they outrage are Koreans, the houses to which they apply the torch are Korean. There has been no declaration of war against Korea, nor is there any pretence that a state of war exists. On the contrary, the Russian Government has declared its emphatic intention of declining to regard as autonomous any announcements made by Korea so long as Japanese troops are within the latter's borders. No grounds whatever can be perceived for this cruel warfare which the Cossacks are carrying on. It would be inexcusable even if they were openly fighting with Korea. But truly one is reluctantly obliged to admit that their strength in this combat has been exercised mainly against defenceless and peaceful persons and their prowess displayed against private property.

Cossacks are said to have appeared in the vicinity of Nyongwon, away in the interior of northern Korea among the mountains. They seem to be playing a kind of bogie game.

There is talk of organizing a Korean militia and distributing it in bands here and there thoughout the raided regions. Such a remedy would probably be of little avail.

CHINA.

Monday, June 6.

We read in the Peking correspondence of the *Asahi Shimbun* that some of the Hunghutsze, to whom the Russians have furnished arms and provisions, are only awaiting an opportunity to made a coup on behalf of the Japanese. One band of 500 or 600 is especially mentioned. It is under the command of the often-heard-of Tien Ipan, and has its head-quarters at Teian, a town some 52 or 53 miles from Sinmingtun. Tien's party are at present serving under a Russian flag, but their chief is said to have stated to a Chinese official who upbraided him for helping the enemies of his country, that he had ostensibly joined the Russians merely to get good weapons and food for his followers, and that he would know how to act when occasion arose.

Meanwhile M. Lessar is said to be vehemently pressing the Chinese Government with regard to the Hunghutsze. His Excellency is said to have represented that these people, to the number of some thousands, are wrecking Russian railways and causing much annoyance to the Russian army generally. He believes that their possession of modern arms and munitions of war clearly indicates receipt of assistance from some powerful source, and he suspects the Chinese Government of being that source. Unless speedy steps be taken to check the nuisance, he declares that the consequences will be on China's head. It is almost amusing to find a Russian Representative taking such a line. If Russia expected China to preserve order in Manchuria, why were the Chinese officials deprived of all efficient administrative authority? It is too late to appeal to these officials now. By her own arbitrary aggressions Russia has thrust aside the Chinese, and she can not expect them to suddenly recover authority for the purpose of exercising it in her interests.

Tientsin says that the Russians have formally announced that in the event of any wrecking of the railway, all residences of Chinese subjects within 20 kilometres on either side of the line will be burned. This is the second time that such a threat is said to have been made. We shall believe it when it is actually put into operation.

Wednesday, June 8.

We hear again (*Asahi's* telegrams) of approaches by M. Lessar to the Chinese Government with reference to a lease of the Sinkiang district. This project is supposed to be a set off to England's doings in Tibet, and to be also intended to remind China that if the pressure be relieved on her eastern frontier, it will begin to be exercised on her north-western. The Peking Government probably regards Sinkiang with very little favour. A constant source of outlay, the region contributes nothing to the Empire except a certain measure of extension, and if its leasing to Russia could materially relieve the political situation, Chinese statesmen would probably not be averse. What one can not but admire is the vitality of Russia's diplomacy. Her hands ought to be full enough in all conscience, yet at this moment when the districts in Manchuria upon which she has lavished such immense sums are rapidly slipping from her grasp, she seems to be thinking of launching out in new directions. If she can not reach Peking and strike for the domination of China from the East, she will change her point of advance and attack from the north-west. Such indomitable perseverance should succeed.

Thursday, June 9.

The Chinese Government (according to the *Jiji's* Peking correspondent) have rejected Russia's application for railway, telegraphic and mining privileges in Sinkiang. The formal refusal was handed to M. Lessar on the 6th. This is very natural. China must be blind indeed if she consent to the construction of any more Manchurian railways.

STANDARD OIL DIVIDENDS.

On the 15th of June the holders of the $100,000,000 of stock of the Standard Oil Corporation will receive $8,000,000, making the dividend for the past half of the current calendar year $24,000,000, which compares with $27,000,000 for the first six months of 1903. In 1903 stockholders of the Standard Oil Co. received in dividends $44 a share; in 1902, $45 a share: in 1901 and 1900, $48 a share each; in 1899, $33 a share; in 1898, $30 a share, and in 1897, $33 a share. The dividend declared on May 16th makes the total of such payments since and including the year 1897, $205,000,000.

OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.

(Received at the Headquarters Staff, on the afternoon of June 3rd).

The total Japanese casualties at the battle of Kinchow were 4,204. The killed numbered 749, amongst whom were 33 officers and 3 sergeant-majors. The wounded totalled 3,455, including 100 officers and 12 sergeant-majors.

(Official Telegram.)

Liaotung Peninsula, June 2.

A body of Japanese cavalry, in the neighbourhood of Likiatun, some 23 miles from Pulantien, on the 30th May at a little after noon, encountered a force of the enemy consisting of one or two companies of infantry, five or six squadrons of cavalry and a company of mounted infantry. After a fight of about 2 hours, the Russians were compelled to retreat northwards. The Japanese casualties were 26 killed, including one officer (lieutenant), and 37 wounded, including 4 officers, namely, a captain and 3 lieutenants.

(Received in Tokyo, June 3rd.)

The Harbin newspaper states that great inconvenience has been caused owing to the burning of fuel by the Hunghutze. This fuel was intended for use on locomotives running on the Manchurian and Chinese railways.

The ingress and egress of Chinese into and from Blagovestchensk is strictly forbidden.

Admiral Skrydloff is accompanied by Admiral Bezobrazoff, who is to take command of the first squadron now in the Far East.

Prince Kilkoff, Minister of Communications, arrived at Harbin on the 23rd of May.

Batches of wounded men from the Yalu are constantly arriving at Liaoyang. As each arrives they are visited by General Kuropatkin, and many received decorations from his hands.

[Received from the Officer commanding the Second Army on the afternoon of the 4th.]

Our cavalry detachment which took up a position near Chukiatien on the 3rd instant, found itself gradually attacked by the enemy in increasing force at 3 p.m. Reinforcements were therefore despatched and by 5.30 p.m. the enemy was driven back in the direction of Tehlisz. His force consisted of about 2,000 infantry, some cavalry and a battery of artillery. Our casualties were 4 men killed and 4 wounded.

(Received from General Kuroki on the forenoon of the 5th.)

A detachment of our troops in the neighbourhood of Aiyangching sent out a company on the 3rd instant to reconnoitre in the direction of Samazi. At 2 p.m. this company encountered a force of 500 or 600 of the enemy's cavalry and drove it back, inflicting heavy loss. We had one man killed and 3 wounded. This occurred to the west of Sinkailing.

[Received at the Naval Head-quarters on the 5th instant.]

Captain Takagi, of the *Chitose*, which ship is on guard duty off Port Arthur, sends word by wireless telegraphy, that 4 poles and a building like a guard-house have been erected on Liautishan. One of these poles is apparently arranged for purposes of wireless telegraphy. This morning (4th) several heavy explosions were heard in the direction of Port Arthur, and columns of smoke were seen to ascend. Commander Ishida, of the Second Destroyer Squadron, reports that the *Ikazuchi* sighted and destroyed a mine (or mines) off the Nan-San-shan Islands.

Captain Takagi further reports that no signs of a wireless telegraph station are to be seen at Tachin-tao or Pechinhwang-tao (*i.e.* the Miao Islands). Again at some time after 7 p.m. on the 4th fresh explosions were heard in the direction of Port Arthur, but there was no smoke.

Some French citizens are reported in Tientsin to have erected a wireless telegraph station at Chingwan-tao. (This station may be in connexion with the constructions made by the Russians on Liautsihan.)

[Received at the Imperial Naval Department on the 5th instant from Vice-Admiral Togo.]

This morning the Fifth Destroyer Squadron, returning from watch duty at Port Arthur, reports that at 7.40 p.m. on the 4th instant, when scouting on the immediate east of the port, a Russian gunboat like the *Giljak* was seen to blow up and sink off the Chingtaoshan promontory. Probably she struck one of our mines. Another gunboat, several torpedo-craft and some steam-launches, which were engaged clearing the approach, hastily entered the port on observing the disaster.

(The *Giljak* is a gun-boat of 1,300 tons displacement. She was launched at St. Petersburg in 1897 and had a speed of 12 knots.)

[Received at the Foreign Office.]

The Vladivostock journal of the 26th of April alleges that the circum-Baikal line has been completed. It is not yet complete, but it amply suffices for the transport of troops. The cost of the line has been immense, namely, 217,777 roubles per verst. The most expensive of the Russian railways hitherto constructed in the Far East had been the Zabaikal, which cost 77,170 roubles per verst. The total outlay on this circum-Baikal section was 53,620,745 roubles. There are 19 tunnels and 189 bridges. The work was commenced in 1889.

[Received at the Naval Department on the forenoon on the 6th.]

Vice-Admiral Kataoka reports that a section of the Talien Bay clearing squadron re-entered the northern Sanshan Islands and also Taku-kau on the 4th, and found no houses in the former place nor any hostile preparations. The people said that several days previously the Russians had removed the telegraphic instruments, and that in retiring they had poisoned the sources of the drinking water. Steps are being taken to analyze the water.

Admiral Togo reports in reference to the operations of the squadron engaged in clearing Talien Bay, that the work, begun on the 3rd, was continued with unexpected success, despite the unfavourable weather. Forty-one of the enemy's mines had been found exploded by 2 p.m. of the 6th. Also a person employed by the enemy in the capacity of pilot, had been engaged, and by his aid a good channel was discovered so that light draught vessels are enabled now to ply in the bay. The clearing squadron continues to work hard, and crews and ships are all safe.

[Received at the Naval Department on the forenoon of the 7th instant from Admiral Togo.]

Captain Nagai, commander of the Fourth Destroyer Squadron, which was on blockade duty at Liautishan, reports that on the 4th at 7.40 p.m. the Russian ship which was sunk by the mine at Port Arthur seems to have been the gunboat *Gremiastchy* (1,492 tons). The Destroyer Squadron when approaching Hsienshang Promontory was fired at several times from the Laoluichui fort. The Squadron therefore drew off to the south, whereupon the Russian vessel advanced from Port Arthur to attack the destroyers, when suddenly, at a point about a mile south of Chingtao Point, she blew up with a heavy explosion and went to the bottom. At the same time another vessel like the gunboat *Gaidamak* (411 tons), which was near her, disappeared. The enemy appear to be working hard to clear away the mines at Chingtao and Liautishan promontories. Several small craft thus engaged were observed, but immediately on the explosion they hastened to enter the port. Several of the enemy's shells fell near our squadron but did not inflict any injury.

(The *Gremiastchy* was built in 1893 and the *Gaidamak* in 1894).

[Received at the War Department on the forenoon of the 7th from the Takushan Army.]

On the 5th instant in the morning the detachment stationed at Fankiatun on the Kinchow road, proceeded to Chienkiatun, about 10 kilometres to the north-west of Takushan, and lay in ambush for a squadron of 30 Russian cavalry. The enemy was driven off in disorder. Two troopers and 13 horses were captured. This cavalry detachment belonged to the 2nd company of the 5th Regiment of Siberian Cossacks.

[Received at the Naval Department on the afternoon of the 7th instant from Admiral Togo.]

Four gun-boats went in to Port Arthur after midnight on the 6th instant and performed a reconnaissance in force. The enemy opened a fierce fire on them. No 4 gunboat was struck 8 times and suffered some injury; she had one man killed and 2 slightly wounded. All the rest are safe,

(We presume that explains the sound of cannonading heard in the direction of Port Arthur by Chinese junkmen during the night of the 6th.—ED. *J.M.*)

[Received at the Foreign Office in Tokyo.]

The Harbin *Daily News* of May 27th says that Prince Kilkoff reached Harbin on May 24th and left on the 26th for Moukden, where he had a consultation with Viceroy Alexieff. He subseqnently set out for Liaoyang.

Viceroy Alexieff reports that when the battleship *Pobieda* had been repaired and was about to take her place at the battleship anchorage, she struck a Japanese mine which had floated into the harbour, and was again injured. This happened between the 6th and the 12th of May.

The whole of the Manchurian Railway has been placed under military control, the Director-in-Chief being General Chitoroff, who is now in Moukden.

Vice-Admiral Kataoka reports in a telegram received at the Naval Department on the 8th instant at 11 p.m. that the Squadron engaged in clearing Talien Bay found 11 mines on the 7th and 10 on the 8th, all of which were exploded. The vessels and their crews are all safe. (The Authorities at the Naval Department note that from the 3rd to the 8th instant the total number of mines destroyed in Talien Bay was 62.

[Received on the 8th instant at 4.20 p.m.]

Vice-Admiral Kataoka reports that the operation of clearing Talien Bay proceeds satisfactorily and that the first section is already finished. At a point about 1,000 metres north of Northern Sanshan-tao and at a point south-west of Southern Sanshantao there are sunken ships. The former seems to be the *Bayarin*, the latter the *Noni*.

[Received on the afternoon of the 8th from Admiral Togo]

Between the night of the 7th and dawn on the 8th, eight torpedo-launches were sent to Port Arthur to perform a reconnaissance in force. The enemy directed some fire against them. The *Yakumo's* launch had one warrant officer and one sea-man killed. All the rest were uninjured.

[Received at the Naval Department on the 8th at 9.40 p.m.]

Vice-Admiral Kataoka state that on the 6th instant a party of marines were landed on Southern Sanshan Island from the *Matsushima*. The light-house appeared to be undergoing construction: some materials for the purpose lay near. There was no lighting apparatus. Of four attached brick-buildings one was destroyed and three had their floors broken, but these three can be used. There were signs that the electric-lighting station and machinery had been blown up. One look-out roofed with iron stood intact. In the left bay there were two wharves. Their sides had been broken, but they offer facilities for landing. On the south-east of this island there were 5 building which appeared to have been used for hospital purposes. They were entirely unfurnished, and their floors, doors and windows were all broken, but the fire-places and the plaster were intact so that some use could be made of the buildings. One of these had evidently served for disinfecting purposes. The implements were intact but one of the interior boxes was missing. (Here follow some other unimportant particulars, including the taking of some horses, cattle and fowls).

The Japanese Consul at Lyons telegraphs under date of the 8th instant with reference to the increased duty on silk fabrics:—"The French Chamber of Deputies has unanimously approved a bill for increasing the import duty upon pure silk fabrics and *habutaye*.

DEATH OF MR. JNO. W. HALL.

One of the most prominent and well-known figures in the Yokohama foreign community passes away with the death of Mr. John W. Hall, which we record to-day with regret. Mr. Hall, who was born at Sevenoaks, Kent, in 1848, came to Japan in 1870, and engaged for some time in teaching in the Kaisei Gakko, Tokyo. Afterwards he came to Yokohama and spent some years in the firm of Busch Schraub and Co., and in conducting the business of an accountant at No. 55 and No. 61, finally starting as an auctioneer in 1884 and occupying the large premises at No. 58, now converted to the use of the Chartered Bank. It was as an auctioneer that Mr. Hall became so well-known to the foreign communities of Tokyo and Yokohama. A man of keen business instincts, the exercise of which was only slightly impaired by the deafness with which he was inflicted, he conducted the operations of his extensive and varied business with marked energy and ability. Last year he took a trip to England via Siberia, returning to Japan by way of America, all within the space of some three months. There is no doubt that this hurried rush around the world was too much for his stock of strength, besides making a great demand upon his nervous energies, for he was never the same man again. The end came very quietly at Kowakidani at 2.15 a.m. on June 3rd, those gathered around his bedside being Dr. Wheeler, Mr. Tom Abbey, and Miss Wright, the nurse. He had been a prominent Freemason and held high office in the Craft but latterly retired from participation in its proceedings. Though averse to assuming part in the public affairs of those among whom he lived, Mr. Hall was a warm supporter of any movement for the relief or the betterment of others and many have had occasion to be grateful for his unostentatious kindness. The deceased leaves a widow, who is at present residing in England, a mother, age 91, and some sisters to whom we extend our sympathy.

The mortal remains of Mr. Jno. W. Hall, were interred in the General Cemetery on the afternoon of Sunday last in presence of a very large company of mourners. A service was opened at 5 p.m. in Christ Church, Rev. W. P. G. Field officiating, after which the urn with the many floral tributes sent by friends of the deceased gentleman, was conveyed to the Cemetery and the concluding portion of the funeral service was performed. The pall-bearers were: Dr. E. Wheeler, Capt. Tipple, and Messrs. H. C. Litchfield, E. P. Pallister, R. Abbey, P. Nyffenegger, H. J. Neville, and S. Moss. Mr. E. J. Moss and Mr. T. Abbey were present as chief mourners. There was a large representation of the Freemasonic bodies, with which Mr. Hall was closely connected, and the tributes of which were duly rendered to the memory of the deceased gentleman.

"TOKYO PATCHWORK."

One of the most touching and not the least effective devices for assisting the wives and children of soldiers at the front, is a monthly journal published in Tokyo under the editorship of Miss Dorothy Barclay. This little maiden of some twelve summers tells the story of her enterprise in verse thus:—

This spring, though you and I be glad
The people of Japan are sad;
For many families are left
Of Father, Son, or Friend bereft.

We English wish to help Japan,
And children must do all they can
To help collect the gold to send
Far, far away to suff'ring friend.

Now I have just a little plan,
Which, though it would not save Japan,
Will save a household from starvation
And give us all some occupation.

Its just a simple little book,
Inside of which you cannot look,
Unless you pay a ten *sen* fee;
But ah! what wonders then you'll see.

Such tales you never *can* have read,
And you on literature 'll be fed.
Now surely you 're not going to shirk
The reading of this fine "Patchwork."

The title "Patchwork" seems to be derived partly from the cover, which is in fact what the name implies, and partly from the contents which consist of contributions by several lads and lasses all of tender years, a principal qualification being that the inferior limit of a writer's age must be 8 and the superior limit 16. In short, the periodical is an essay on the part of some of the children of Tokyo to assist a cause with which their elders universally sympathise, and so successful have they been that although the perusal of the journal costs only 10 *sen*, nearly 20 *yen* has already been collected. The little contributors and their talented editress promise further issues, and we venture to predict that they will find a constantly increasing number of readers. The periodical is illustrated, and the pictorial artists observe consistency, for their efforts also partake of the character of patchwork. It should be mentioned that the frontispiece consists of three flags, the Stars and Stripes, the Union Jack and the Rising Sun, united by a true lover's knot, and that beneath this auspicious combination some very clever draughtsman has depicted two soldiers, a blue and a white, marching, in very truth marching, to the war. The soldiers, too, are patchwork.

THE BAKU OIL FIELDS.

The total production of the Baku oil fields in Russia for 1903, according to the report prepared by United States Consul Chambers, was 71,626,611 barrels, as compared with 76,383,463 barrels in 1902. This represents a decrease of 4,756,852, which is at the rate of 13,000 barrels a day. In addition to the Baku oil fields, there is a production at Grosni of about 3,000,000 barrels, which would bring the total yield Russian oil up to 74,626,616 barrels, or 204,456 barrels a day. Mr. Chambers estimates that the total fire and strike loss in the Russian oil fields in 1903 was about 4,200,000 barrels. In the Baku fields the average daily production in 1903 was 196,237 barrels, as compared with 209,270 barrels in 1902. Allowing 75,000,000 barrels for the production of the United States, the total yield of the world in crude petroleum for 1903 must have been about 155,000,000 barrels. There were 189 wells completed in the Baku oil fields during 1903, with an average yield of 317 barrels each. In 1902, 236 were completed and the average output was 292 barrels. The new wells ranged from 1,225 to 1,500 feet in depth. There were 2,431 wells at the close of 1902 and 3,434 at the close of 1903. Of the total on Dec. 31 last, only 1,420 were actually producing, while 1,276 were standing idle, and the remainder were being drilled deeper or undergoing the process of cleaning out and repairing. No new territory was added during the year and the Russian oil fields are still confined to a few square miles on the Apsheron peninsula, near the borders of the Caspian Sea. The most remarkable fact in connection with the Russian oil industry is that such an immense amount of production should come from such a comparatively small number of wells, and from such a limited area of productive oil lands.

ASPARAGUS.

Asparagus, which is still somewhat of a luxury in England and some parts of the United States, is a vegetable greatly *en evidence* on the tables of foreign residents in Japan throughout the Summer. Originally introduced on the Government experimental farms in the Hokkaido, its cultivation has rapidly spread until at the present time it is almost as cheap and as succulent in Yokohama as in the greatly favoured state of California, where most of the tinned product comes from. The cult of this vegetable is very ancient, running back, we believe, some 2,000 years at least. Cato gave his countrymen detailed instructions regarding its culture which are direct and sensible enough to appeal even to a modern market-gardener. Even giant asparagus, three or four heads of which went to the pound, was produced in Pliny's time. In our own day the British farmer has been frequently urged to grow it on a large scale, with every encouragement that can be derived from the results obtained by the few who have done so. There is the standing case of the Californian grower, who made £1,200 out of asparagus in a single season. Speaking of which well-deserved success, the British grower dryly remarked, that "if London drew its supply of the little vegetable queen from California, one could understand why it costs about a penny a stick in London restaurants, and even then turns out all stick." As a matter of fact the best English asparagus bed requires three or four years to come to its full estate, but this being attained, it will be prolific for twice as long afterwards. As to the wholesomeness of asparagus, there are not two opinions. Evelyn instructed his readers that "next to flesh nothing is more nourishing than asparagus," which must, however, be regarded as a far-flown fancy of the old gossiper. Of more interest is the fact that Queen Elizabeth was extremely fond of asparagus, which she preferred cold, and served separately, with oil. A household book of this period has an entry, "twoe roots of sparrowgres 12d.," which, being a housekeeping item, probably refers to two "sticks," presumably of a "giant" variety. In those days asparagus was, doubtless, considered a luxury, and wealthy people had learned to appreciate it. But a century ago the French "ouvrier" looked upon his early asparagus as a necessary, and he could get it both cheap and good. "Asparagus" comes to us through the Latin from its original Greek source; while the old English name "sperage" is as clearly derived from the French "asperge." But "sparrowgrass" may have been corrupted from either form, nor is it of much consequence from which. Dr. Johnson undoubtedly thus asked for another portion at the "Mitre," and also enrolled the word in his dictionary. The learned Dr. Parr always called it sparrowgrass; and the no less eminent Dr. King—who imitated Horace in an "Art of Cookery"—speaks of those who "your infant peas to sparrowgrass prefer." Epicures, however, care less for the form of the word than for the quality of that which it represents. Long may asparagus find its place on foreign tables in Japan.

LIFE INSURANCE STATISTICS.

The annual report of the New York State Insurance Department shows that the gross assets of the life insurance companies doing business in that State on December 31, 1903, were $2,226,423,202, an increase of $163,992,398 over 1902. Of this amount New York state companies have $1,347,102,262, an increase of $92,661,332, and companies of other states $879,320,940, an increase of $71,331,065. The liabilities of the several companies, excluding gross surplus of $167,795,982 and special funds of $151,006,074, are $1,907,621,145. The liabilities of the New York state companies are $1,141,581,196; those of companies of other state $766,039,948. For New York companies gross surplus (including $3,490.000 of capital) is $93,470,849, and special funds are $112,050,216. For companies of other states the surplus (including $7,875,500 of capital) is $74,325,133, the special funds are $38,955,857, and the aggregate surplus and special funds are $318,802,057. The aggregate income of New York state companies was $318,943,432, an increase over 1902 of $25,331,608; for other states' companies it was $215,218,426, an increase of $20,093,977, making the gross income $534,161,859 and the gross increase over the income of 1902 $45,425,586. The net excess of income over disbursement for 1903 was $184,708,151, while for 1902 it was $175,804,716. The total premium income for 1902 was $393,832,410; for 1903, $431,839,093. The disbursements of the year were $349,453,707, an increase of $36,522,152 compared with 1902. Of the total, $158,131,967 was paid for claims, $31,497,758 for lapsed and surrendered policies, $30,617,368 in dividends to policy holders, $528,556 on supplementary contracts not involving life contingencies, $766,057 in dividends to stockholders, $62,994,980 for commissions, $33,638,979 for salaries and medical examiners' fees and $31,278,040 for miscellaneous purposes. This classification shows that $220,775,650 was paid to policy holders, while the cost of management, including dividends to stockholders, was $128,678,057. The New York state companies issued 609,883 policies, insuring $1,107,643,517, and terminated 317,640 policies, insuring $619,851,237. The companies of other states issued 366,308 policies, insuring $652,038,006, and terminated 183,785 policies, insuring $338,895,523. The aggregate of the above is 976,191 policies issued, insuring $1,759,681,523, and 501,425 policies terminated, insuring $958,746,760. Compared with 1902, it appears that the companies issued 69,020 policies more, and increased the amount of insurance written $113,668,342. There were 40,200 more policies terminated in 1903 than in 1902, and $58;062,367 more insurance. These phenomenal figures may explain why the recent Japanese loan, paying 6 per cent. interest, and issued at 93, was subscribed seventeen times over in New York.

THE GENESIS OF THE TORPEDO.

Mr. Alan H. Burgogne, Author of "Submarine Navigation Past and Present," sends the following interesting letter to the *Globe*:

SIR,—In your issue of to-day appeared a small paragraph relating to the history of the torpedo. It is stated that the first application of this mode of offence was made in 1861. To David Bushnell, of Connecticut, is attributed the idea of attacking a ship by applying to its submerged part a magazine of powder, which when exploded by devices contrived for the purpose should disable or destroy her.

In a paper read before the American Philosophical Society on June 8, 1798, Bushnell relates:—"In the year 1777 I made an attempt from a whale boat against the *Cerberus* frigate (British, 32 guns, Captain Sir Jacob Wheate, Bart.), then lying at anchor between Connecticut River and New London, by throwing a machine against her side by means of a line. The machine was loaded with powder to be exploded by a gun lock, which was to be unpinioned by an apparatus to be turned by being brought alongside of the frigate. This machine fell in with a schooner at anchor astern of the frigate, and concealed from my sight. By some means or other it was fired, and demolished the schooner and three men, and blew the only one left alive overboard, who was taken up very much hurt."

Bushnell was shortly followed by Fulton, whose torpedo was less primitive, being made of metal, and not wood. In 1805 Gillot a French officer, discovered the value of electric ignition, and a few years later Captain Parizot made experiments with a dormant torpedo for coast defence. We next hear of torpedoes in Russia, a Colonel Firzow carrying out many interesting trials with submarine explosives in 1813-1819. After propositions from Barnes and Gassendi, and the valuable treatise of Montgery on torpedoes, we hear of Cotty in 1822; in 1829 (Colonel) Samuel Colt, although a boy in years, commenced a series of experiments with torpedoes, that excited the attention of older and more experienced heads. It was asserted that he could ignite a destructive charge under water by electricity at a distance of 10 miles. On June 4, 1842, he exploded a torpedo in New York Harbour with a galvanic battery, and on July 4 of the same year completely destroyed the old gunboat *Boxer*. Lieutenant Fabien, of the French Navy, made valuable experiments in 1831, and the same year Mr. Moses Shaw, of New York, and Dr. Hare, of Philadelphia, discovered simultaneously a method of electric ignition, and at once constructed torpedoes to prove the utility of their inventions.

In 1837 Chevalier Lemelt advocated the use of an explosive mine for destroying rocks in fairways; this machine he called a "fulminifère." Two years later Col. Pasley destroyed the remains of the *Royal George*, sunk at Spithead in 1789, by means of an electric mine. In 1844, a Mr. Warner made his sensational experiments involving the destruction of a barque, and the Crimean War brought a Professor Jacobi, an eminent Russian chemist, to the front with torpedoes for the defence of Cronstadt and Sebastopol. In 1854 the first dirigible torpedo was proposed by Lieut.-Col. Hennebert, of the French Army. From then until the present day many hundreds of inventors have turned their minds to the invention of torpedoes, and the excellent weapon now in general use may be traced in gradual steps from the time of its recognition as an asset of value in warfare. During the American Civil War no fewer than 34 vessels were blown up by mines or torpedoes.

With reference to the present war, a few notes on the torpedoes of both combatants may be interesting. Russia has in use the Schwartzkopf and Whitehead, though only the latter are now constructed. They are made either at the Oboukov Works or the Loesner Factory, St. Petersburg, though there are torpedo depôts at both Sebastopol and Vladivostock. About 50 a year are turned out, but a new factory is shortly to be opened, and the capacity is expected to be doubled. The type in favour at present has a length of 19.68 ft., diameter of 17.72 in., and a speed of 30 knots. The charge is 300lb. of gun-cotton.

Japan, until recently, favoured the Schwatzkopf, but Whiteheads, similar to the latest British projectiles, are now employed. A novel type was constructed for harbour defence; it has dimensions as follows:—Length, 16ft.; diameter, 24in.; charge, 200lb.; air pressure, 4,500lb. to the square inch; speed, 25 knots for 3,000 yards. A truly formidable weapon.

The more recent Japanese torpedoes are fitted with the Obry gyroscope.

MR. HENRY NORMAN ON THE SITUATION.

Mr. Henry Norman, M.P., immediately on his return to England after having had a private audience with the Czar, started a pro-Russian campaign in the English press. We give below extracts from a somewhat extraordinary letter which he sent to *The Times*, in the course of which he said:—

It cannot be realised too soon that the war can have but one ending. It is out of the question for Russia to be defeated by Japan. Such a defeat would be the destruction of Russian prestige for generations; it would be a national humiliation too colossal to be even thought of by Russia. If the war must endure for years, if the last Russian regiment must be mobilised, if the last rouble must be spent, if even vast international complications must be faced, and whatever losses or sacrifices must still be suffered, the end will be the same. Russia cannot and will not accept such a defeat. The statesmen of Japan should have thought of this before they declared war. It seems inconceivable, indeed, that so obvious a fact should have escaped their recognition, and therefore it is probably more correct to assume that they counted upon defeating Russia up to a certain point, and then inducing other Powers to intervene to complete their victory and Russia's defeat. If so, however, the calculation was no less baseless.

The suggestion of intervention may arise at several points. I take first the supposition most favourable to Japan. If Japan should have further successes at sea, if Port Arthur should fall, if victory at the outset should attend Japanese arms on land, if she should become temporarily mistress of a large part of Manchuria, then it is probable that Japan would offer to cede Manchuria to China on the condition of the Powers guaranteeing the integrity of China and stopping the war. Alternatively, let us suppose the course of events most favourable to Russia. Namely, that the chapter of her misfortunes is at an end, that Port Arthur holds out, that General Kuropatkin first repulses the coming Japanese attack, and then successfully assumes the offensive, and that a powerful Russian fleet sails eastward two months hence with good prospects of reversing the present naval situation, and rendering it possible for General Kuropatkin to continue his advance to Japan itself. Under these circumstances, again, intervention would undoubtedly be sought, both by Japan and by her friends in England and the United States. Or, finally, suppose that without immediate decisive victories on either side it becomes evident after a while that Japan has shot her bolt, that she cannot find either men enough or money enough to continue the struggle indefinitely, and that the greater staying power of Russia renders a Russian victory ultimately assured. Under these conditions, too, it is certain that a call for intervention would arise.

Now, it may be stated without hesitation that Russia will not accept intervention in any shape or form, and that until she is victorious she would regard everything beyond the mere offer of mediation, which she would politely decline, as an unfriendly act, and would at once direct her own course accordingly. What, then, would be the position of England? The answer is easy: she would stand alone face to face with Russia, with the direct possibility of war under conditions where there would be practically nothing for the Navy to do. I do not think any one familiar with American policy will suppose that the United States Government would join us in military operations on the mainland of Asia in order to attempt to coerce Russia into accepting intervention at a moment unfavourable to herself and favourable to the nation which declared war upon her. Of other possible intervening Powers there are two only, France and Germany. The former, it need not be said, would not dream of joining in any attempted coercion of her ally; while as for Germany, she is, as many people know, making every possible effort at this moment to establish herself in cordial relations with Russia. In view of the vast service in the direct line of the gratification of the most cherished object of German foreign policy, which Russia can, if she choose, render her at a not distant date, there is hardly anything German statesmen would not do, even to rendering possible the removal of the flower of the Russian army from the Polish frontier, to cement a *quasi*-alliance between the two nations. Japanese statesmen, and especially the Japanese people, when it becomes clear beyond doubt that the war, however prolonged, cannot have a successful issue for them, will look to the fact of alliance with us, rather than to the precise conditions of that alliance, and will doubtless feel a deep resentment against us, for—as they will say—leaving our allies in the lurch. It is a lamentable probability that the result of the Anglo-Japanese alliance will be that of all nations we shall in the end enjoy the smallest share of the goodwill of the Japanese people. The end of the war will, of course, produce a different situation as regards the relations of Russia and other Great Powers. All will depend upon the Russian terms of peace, as regards both territory and trade, and there is happily every reason to believe that, while assuring herself against the immediate preparation of future attacks upon herself from the same quarter, it does not enter into Russian plans to seek to impose in either respect conditions which would inevitably provoke a union of European and American interests against her.

It is some twelve years since Mr. Norman was in Japan and much may therefore be forgiven him, especially when we remember the exceptionally handsome treatment accorded him during the past few years on the occasions of his frequent visits to Russia, treatment to which he modestly refers in every other chapter of "All the Russias." But he has fallen wholly under the influence of Russian glamour. His sight is dazed and nothing remains to him but a confused sense of Russia's colossal dimensions. Size, however, does not necessarily signify strength.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

Among the killed at the battle of Kinchow was the eldest son of Lieut.-General Baron Nogi, who has just gone to the front, though it has not yet been announced in what capacity he is to act. Some speak of his taking command of the Third Division, Lt.-General Oshima having been wounded; and some say that he will direct the operations against Port Arthur. At all events the Lieut.-General will have high command in the army with which his son was serving, and the fact is noted by Tokyo journals as strikingly parallel to the case of Lord Roberts, who, just before setting out to lead the British forces in South Africa, heard of the death of his only son at the Tugela.

The Government has announced the abolition of the silver currency in Formosa, except for purposes of subsidiary coins. It is announced that the Bank of Formosa shall have note-issuing power up to 5 million *yen*, the notes to be of denominations of one *yen* and upwards. This measure is indirectly due to the war, which enables the Japanese Government to find a large field for the use of silver. Hence no inconvenience will be experienced in dealing with all the stores of silver in Formosa, and thus extending the gold monometallic system to that island.

Two buildings of the Imperial University in Tokyo were destroyed by fire on the 4th instant at 12 a.m. One contained the classrooms of the Marine Engineering College; the other those of the Civil Engineering College. Both were new buildings, the former having been finished in 1903 and the latter being still under construction. The loss is very heavy.

A rumour was diligently circulated in Tokyo shortly after the Battle of Kinchow, to the effect that Lieut.-General Oshima of the Third Division had been seriously if not fatally wounded, and that Colonel Nambu, of the same Division, had been killed. These statements prove to be untrue. Both officers were safe on the evening of the 2nd instant, when telegrams came from them to their friends.

It is stated that the following promotions are imminent:—

Lieut.-General Baron Okazawa to be General.
,, Nogi ,,
,, Hasegawa ,,
,, Nishi ,,
,, Baron Kodama ,,
Vice-Admiral Togo to be Admiral.
,, Baron Yamamoto ,,

Rear-Admirals Uriu, Dewa, Saito and others will also be promoted to be Vice-Admirals, and Major-Generals Ishimoto and 5 or 6 others will become Lieut.-Generals.

It is stated that the recent promotions in the highest ranks of the Army and Navy will not involve any changes in the positions now occupied by the promoted officers. The usual custom is that a Major-General commands a Brigade and a Lieut.-General a Division, while a full General has command of an Army Corps (3 Divisions). Were this rule observed, Lieut.-Generals Hasegawa and Nishi, who are commanding the Guards Division and the Second Division, respectively, would now, on promotion to be full Generals, be obliged to give up their commands. But such will not be the case. The promotions are merely rewards.

It is now confidently stated that there will be no serious difficulty in raising the *Yoshino*. Careful examination shows that she has sustained very little damage. We do not learn that salvage operations have actually commenced. The *Hatsuse*, however, went down in 300 fathoms of water, and to raise her would be impossible. There is talk of getting up her guns and other equipment.

There is reported from a hamlet in the Chartres district, not far from Corancez, a case which might be roughly described as one of hypnotism, used to induce suicidal mania. In the result a whole family of three persons—father, mother, and a son aged 20, have perished. The mother, who had just been released for the third time from a lunatic asylum, had obtained such complete ascendancy over her husband and son, that, notwithstanding her obvious chronic insanity, she succeeded in imbuing both with her own mania that they were being persecuted. She then suggested suicide, and all three lying down on one bed, were found asphyxiated by charcoal fumes.

The Conference of Missionaries in Korea in 1904, has been postponed in consequence of the Russo-Japanese War. Due notice will be given when events make it possible to hold the Conference.

Forty Chinese students from Kwangsi and Szchuan have arrived in Nagasaki. There are fully a thousand of these youths now receiving instruction in Japan.

The fact that because a journal in Finland was sufficiently incautious to print the Czar's recent manifesto concerning the war without giving in full his Majesty's titles, all the Finnish newspapers were ordered to reprint the document with those titles *in extenso*, and not omitting the newest one, "Successor to the Throne of Norway," serves once more to illustrate the extreme sensitiveness in this regard entertained by Russian rulers, says the *Westminster*. A striking instance was afforded in our own history when, not long before the Civil War, the then Czar, replying to a letter from Charles I., wrote, as "Great Lord Emperor and Great Duke Michael Fedorvich, of all Russia absolute Upholden," that "to our Imperial Majesty in your letters you have not given us our titles of Vatskey, Rustoveskey, Yereslaveskey, Udorskey, Condinskey; and in place of Everskey Land is written Everskey Mewe, and in place of Cuberdinskey is written Cuberdinskey Mewe, and the Duke of Udorskey is not written, but you should have written Cuberdinskey Land Charraskey Udorskey Dukes." His Imperial Majesty, therefore, testily desired "your Kingly Majesty our brother Carolus in your Kingly letters hereafter to write our name and true titles, as all other great potentates write unto us, both Christian and Heathen Princes, for the Heathens do give us our full titles and name"; and he urged that the "disrespective" secretary should be punished for lessening and leaving out his titles. But this pleasant request is not recorded by "the Emperor's sworn interpreter," who in 1637 translated the Imperial epistle "out of Russ into English," to have been in any way complied with.

A telegram to the *Seattle Post Intelligencer* dated at Los Angeles, Cal., May 23rd, says: Dr. C. M. Harris, of the Methodist Episcopal Church was elected this morning to the missionary bishopric of Japan, and May 26 was fixed upon as the date for the consecration ceremonies.

The recent birth of a baby has placed a a family at Yeadon, Leeds, in the remarkable position of having representatives of five generations living at the same time. This is no doubt a most creditable record, but it is one that has been badly beaten more than once. A few years ago the following remarkable letter appeared in the columns of the *Standard*, referring to an experience of the correspondent in Newfoundland in 1849: "I there saw in a fisherman's tilt seven generations, all females. The youngest was a newly born infant; its mother was twelve years of age; its grandmother twenty-six; and so upward. The age of the great-great-great-grandmother was such as to render it quite possible that before she died she might see a member of an eighth generation." At Byfelt, Massachusetts, there was living in 1887 a family of the name of Kent with living representatives of six generations; and a few years ago, at Skillington, near Grantham, there were five generations of a family all very much alive, beginning with Thomas Duffin, a hale veteran of ninety-six, and ending with George Duffin, a hale veteran of ninety-six, and ending with George Duffin, his great-great-grandson, a boy of six.

On the 16th of May the Russian Government, though the French Representative in Tokyo, complained that on the 5th of May, when a Russian hospital train containing 200 patients and flying the Red-Cross Flag, was proceeding northward from Port Arthur, it was fired on by the Japanese troops and two of the patients were wounded. The Japanese Foreign Office replied on the 23rd that, according to the report of the officer commanding the Japanese troops, an ordinary Russian train when passing, had fired upon the Japanese. They returned the fire, whereupon the people in the train displayed the Red-Cross Flag. But when the Japanese, having ceased firing, proceeded to examine the train,-it resumed its journey at full speed. Other reports show beyond question that the train was loaded with soldiers and officers who were in a perfectly sound state of health. If the train were really a hospital train, why did not it submit to examination? There can be no doubt that the Red-Cross Flag was abused by the Russians and that their complaint was designed solely to anticipate remonstrances from Japan. The Japanese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs declared that the Imperial Japanese Government could not for one instant entertain such an outrageous charge.

The Democratic conventions held in the United States thus far show Judge Parker and Mr. William R. Hearst as the leading candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination. Up to date there have been 377 delegates chosen. There will be 1,000 delegates in the convention and 667 will be required to nominate, under the two-thirds rule. The action of conventions held up to date may be summarized as follows:—

States.	Parker.	Hearst.	Gorman.	Olney.	Uninstructed.
Connecticut	14	—	—	—	—
Dist of Columbia	—	—	—	—	6
Florida	—	10	—	—	—
Indiana	30	—	—	—	—
Iowa	—	26	—	—	—
Kansas	—	6	—	—	12
Maine	—	—	—	—	2
Massachusetts	—	—	—	25	—
Nevada	—	6	—	—	—
New Hampshire	4	—	—	—	—
New Jersey	—	—	—	—	24
New Mexico	—	6	—	—	—
New York	78	—	—	—	—
Ohio	2	8	—	—	4
Oregon	—	6	—	—	2
Pennsylvania	—	—	—	—	68
Rhode Island	—	6	—	—	—
South Dakota	—	8	—	—	—
Washington	—	10	—	—	—
West Virginia	—	2	12	—	—
Total	128	24	12	25	118

The Governor of New York State, to the great rejoicing of many folks in all parts of the republic, has vetoed the bill extending the corporate life of the Niagara, Lockport and Ontario Power Company. Mr. Odell has issued a memorandum explaining his reason for the step, part of which we append:—

> The plea that other corporations are enjoying similar privileges to those which this bill seems to bestow is no justification for the continuance of policies which dissipate the rights of either the state or the municipalities. That governmental policy which does not respect the expressed will of our citizens in relation to both safeguarding their rights and exacting a compensation for them, is sure to meet with just criticism and disapproval.
>
> That these privileges are valuable is beyond question and the state has the right to demand a proper recompense for them, therefore, should never be lost sight of. That this proposed act does not take cognizance of these facts makes it, in my mind, undesirable legislation.
>
> There is another strong reason which has been urged against approval of this bill, a protest which is not confined to the State of New York only, but which has come to me from all over the Union. Our state has expended large sums of money for protecting and beautifying the surroundings of the falls. Niagara has been and is still the Mecca of all those who delight in scenic beauty and wonders.
>
> Thousands of people from all over the world annually visit it, and among those who are actuated perhaps, largely by sentimental reasons there has arisen the fear that the constant inroads that are being made upon it under charters heretofore granted may result eventually in its destruction.
>
> I am of the opinion that however we may discount and depreciate the interference of the sentimental with the practical in life, that we cannot get away from the fact that this sentiment is not one of retrogression, but of constant progression in civilized life. There is due to it, therefore, the same consideration which should be given to all practical affairs of life. This seems to me to be a second and fully as important a reason for objection to approval of this measure.

A QUARTER CENTURY OF MISSION WORK.

On June 1st, 1879, Rev. A. D. Gring and wife, the first missionaries sent to Japan by the Reformed Church in the United States, arrived in Yokohama. Since then the Mission has grown until it now embraces nine families and four unmarried ladies. Tokyo was headquarters at first, but in 1886, at the earnest solicitation of Rev. M. Oshikawa, work was started in Sendai, which city is now the centre of the Mission's operations. Here a flourishing college including a theological department (the Tohoku Gakuin) and a rapidly growing young women's seminary (the Miyagi Jo Gakko) are maintained. The former has an enrollment of 254 and the latter of 199. In connection with the Tohoku Gakuin there is an industrial home department, in which needy students are given an opportunity to work their way through school. Most of the missionaries of the Reformed Church live in Sendai, but there is also one family each in Tokyo and Yamagata. Besides its educational enterprises, the Mission carries on extensive evangelistic operations, aiding 43 congregations. The total membership is 2,126. The celebration of the Mission's twenty-fifth Anniversary took place in Sendai June 1, 2, and 3. 1904.

I. In order to make a good beginning the Mission held a thanksgiving at 10 o'clock a.m., June 1st at the same time partaking of the holy communion of the Lord's Supper. Next followed a Mission dinner with toasts and healths. These two functions, the only items in the day's programme, were thoroughly enjoyable.

II. On the following day (June 2nd) ground was broken for the new buildings,—recitation hall and dormitory of the Tohoku Gakuin. This was rather a private affair and took place in the forenoon at 10.30 o'clock.

In the afternoon at 3.00 o'clock the handsome new recitation hall of the Miyagi Girls' School was formally dedicated. Over two years ago, that is, on March 8th, 1902, the old school building was totally destroyed by fire. This catastrophe proved a blessing in disguise, for it fired the home Church with enthusiasm to erect better buildings. A very commodious dormitory was completed and occupied last September, 1903. The new recitation building is known as the Christine Vollmer Faust Memorial Hall, in memory of a missionary who died after being on the field about a year. Dr. J. P. Moore, the oldest member of the Mission, and formerly principal of the school, preached an excellent dedication sermon on "The truth shall make you free." Quite a number of notable personages were present including Count Kokumune Date and family, the Governor of Miyagi Ken, the Mayor of Sendai, and others. It might be added that the new dormitory cost less than $8,000 U. S. gold, and the recitation hall less than $18,000 U. S. gold, exclusive of all furnishings. Both were erected under the supervision of Rev. W. E. Lampe. Miss Lena Zurfluh is principal of the Girls' School.

A reception to the foreign missionaries and other foreign residents of Sendai was held by the Mission in the evening. Music, congratulatory addresses and refreshments, &c., made the time pass pleasantly, and the gathering dispersed at a late hour.

III. The celebration reached its climax on June 3rd. A reception to Japanese Christian workers was held in the Bairintei (Sendai Cherry Park) at 1.30 o'clock, p.m., when a number of very pleasant congratulatory addresses were delivered by representative Japanese Christians.

At 7.30 o'clock, p.m., a large public meeting was held in the beautiful Minamimachidori (2nd Street) Church. This meeting was under the auspices of Miyagi Classis (Presbytery) with which most of the Mission's work is connected. It so happenes that this year also the Rev. Kametaro Yoshida celebrates the 25th anniversary of his entrance into the Christian Ministry. Very appropriately, therefore, Mr. Yoshida was asked to preach the sermon. Professor Teizaburo Demura, in behalf of the Tohoku Gakuin and the Miyagi Jo Gakko; Rev. J. H. De Forrest, D.D., in behalf of the missionary community; Rev. A Kawasumi' in behalf of the Sendai Ministerial Association; Mr. Chikabaru Akihu, in behalf of evangelists working outside of Sendai; and the Hon. Saburobei Suzuki, burgess of Fukushima, in behalf of friends addressed the members of the Mission in words of warm appreciation. The general public was represented by Count Date, Governor Tanabe and Mayor Hayakawa, who also in the kindest manner delivered congratulatory addresses. Rev. D. B. Schneder, D.D., in behalf of the Mission and of the Board of Foreign Missions made a suitable reply. The Miyagi Classis sent its greetings to the Board of Foreign Missions in a very practical way. A box containing a Japanese Bible and a copy of the new Hymnal, both beautifully bound in leather, was handed Dr. J. P. Moore for transmission to the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in the U.S. These books printed and bound by Japanese were to be a symbol of what has been accomplished by the young Japanese Church. A characteristic picture of Mount Fuji, drawn upon silk and framed by teachers of the Tohoku Gakuin was also presented for transmission to the Board of Foreign Missions. The idea of this present is to express the fond hope that Japan will become as beautiful and excellent among the nations of the earth as is Mt. Fuji among mountains.

Mention should also be made of two very pleasant incidents connected with the 25th anniversary celebration. Steady growth of the Tohoku Gakuin has necessitated the erection of a new dormitory and recitation hall.

Careful inquiries demonstrated that it would be impossible to erect both these buildings for $25,000, the amount appropriated for the purpose. The Mission with a view to future contigencies recently decided to ask the Board of Foreign Missions for an additional appropriation of $3,000 U.S. gold, in order that the original plans might be carried out, notwithstanding the financial stress under which the Board is now placed. This action of the Mission was greatly appreciated by the Board of Directors of the Tohoku Gakuin, but when the Japanese members learned the circumstances they cheerfully and unanimously decided so to change their plans as to make the $25,000 reach.

Another agreeable feature of the celebration was the decision of the Japanese workers to raise a special fund for missionary work. A meeting was appointed for June 4th at which to devise ways and means for carrying out this praiseworthy object.

It was hoped that His Excellency the American Minister, Hon. Lloyd Carpenter Griscom, might be able to attend the anniversary exercises, but being unavoidably absent, Mr. Griscom telegraphed his congratulations and regrets.

A Moji telegram says that five Russians captured by the First Army arrived there on June 8th by the hospital ship *Hakuai Maru*. They are to be removed to Matsuyama.

THE MILITARY SITUATION.

THE indications are that a strong force of Russians is attempting to push southward through the Liaotung Peninsula for the purpose of succouring Port Arthur. On the 30th ultimo the scouts of this advance were discovered and driven back by the Japanese at a point (Chukiatun) some 28 miles north of Pulantien. This last place lies, as our readers probably know, on Adam's Bay, where the Peninsula narrows to an isthmus forming a strategical position not nearly so strong, it is true, as the Kinchow Isthmus, but still the second strategical position on the Peninsula. The Japanese are holding this position—from Pitsewo on the east coast to Adam's Bay on the west—and have evidently thrown out scouting parties to a distance of 20 or 30 miles along the railway running northward from Pulantien. The skirmish at Chukiatun on the 30th was followed by a Japanese advance against Tehlisz, and *en route* they had two skirmishes—one at Changkiatun and one at Lungwangmiao—in both of which the Russians were driven back. The enemy is still in possession of Tehlisz, and we shall presently hear of an engagement there or in its neighbourhood. Foochow, a town near the west coast in the region of these affairs, is said to have a garrison of 2,000 Russians, and something will soon be heard of it also. All these things tend to show that the Russians are assuming the aggressive, and that they see, or think they see, a weak point in the Japanese strategical programme. It is very conceivable, of course, that KUROPATKIN has received orders from St. Petersburg not to leave Port Arthur to its fate, and that he is about to throw an army of thirty thousand men against the Japanese lines from Pitsewo to Port Adams, hoping ultimately to catch the Liaotung invaders between two fires, his own and that of Port Arthur. But we think it more likely that he conceives the existence of a fragile link in the strategical chain and that he is about to strike at it. Two Russian Divisions, the First and the Ninth, are said, on apparently good authority, to have passed Tashikiao, moving southward, and to be concentrating in the neighbourhood of Kaiping, namely, at Kaichow, which is on the Liaotung Peninsula near its extreme north-west. London telegraphs that a cardinal difference of opinion between KUROPATKIN and ALEXIEFF was submitted to St. Petersburg for decision, and that a council of war having been called, the verdict was in favour of KUROPATKIN with, however, a rider that Port Arthur should be succoured as a prime object of the General's assumption of the offensive. That is vague, but the impression conveyed is that ALEXIEFF held to the policy of DRAGOMIROFF, namely, that Port Arthur should be abandoned and that the Russians should retreat to Harbin, obliging the Japanese to follow them thither. Harbin is 617 miles from Port Arthur and 341 miles beyond Mukden. It would undoubtedly be a heavy strain on Japanese resources to have to feed an army more than 600 miles from the sea coast, and if winter overtook their troops in such a position, great hardships would have to be borne. But it remains to be seen whether, even if Russia had sufficient moral courage to choose such a self-effacing policy, Japan would play into her hands by going to Harbin. We should think not, most decidedly not. Were Mukden, Port Arthur and the East-China Railway between these places in Japanese possession, Russia would be beaten for all practical purposes. Now, however, the Great Northern Power seems to find such Fabian strategy quite intolerable, and KUROPATKIN is going to strike southward strongly and boldly. It appears to us that he is too late. In fact it is almost impossible for military men to believe that KUROPATKIN seriously contemplates any advance into the Liaotung Peninsula southward of Kaiping. If any one looks at the map he will perceive that from the moment when a Russian force passes Kaiping moving southward, its line of communications to the north of Kaiping in the direction of Haiching, lies exposed to the assaults of an enemy advancing from Takushan *viâ* Sungyuen. Nothing could justify such a programme except the possession of sufficient force to hold Haiching against all attacks from the east. Perhaps KUROPATKIN believes that he has sufficient force for that purpose. But then again the First Army under General KUROKI is operating on the east of the Russian line of communications at a point northward of Haiching; a point as far north as Liaoyang if not Mukden. Thus there is nothing in military history more perilous than the programme upon which KUROPATKIN seems to be now entering. To accomplish anything in the Liaotung Peninsula he must be prepared to mass a force of fully thirty to forty thousand men south of the Kaiping-Takushan line, and he must be prepared to keep it there for some time. He must be prepared to show an efficient front to the First Army, and in all probability to the Third Army also. The one conceivable theory is that by moving down towards the rear of the Japanese positions on the Liaotung Peninsula, he hopes to delay the operations against Port Arthur, and even to relieve the pressure on that place sufficiently to allow its garrison to beat off the assailants. It is a bold move and boldness, even to the verge of recklessness, sometimes succeeds. But in our opinion this new policy, if it has really been adopted, will greatly shorten the war.

The funeral of the late Oki Teizuke, who was executed by the Russians in Manchuria on suspicion of being a spy, took place on June 5th at 2 p.m. at the Buddhist temple Rinshosu, Ushima, Tokyo. Several hundered persons, including General Terauchi, Minister for War, Mr. Yamakawa, a Councillor of the Navy, Mr. Senge, Governor of Tokyo, and Mr. Yamakawa, President of the Imperial University, were present.

AN ENGLISH-JAPANESE DICTIONARY OF THE SPOKEN LANGUAGE.

BY E.M. HOBART-HAMPDEN, B.A., and HAROLD G. PARLETT. Publishers, Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, Ld.

WE do not hesitate to say that the publication of this dictionary opens a new era in Japanese-speaking by foreigners. Such an appreciation sounds hackneyed, and so does the equally true verdict that the work supplies a long-felt want. Nevertheless both expressions are absolutely accurate. The public already has access to tolerably good Japanese-English lexicons, but until the appearance of this work there was nothing that could be called even an approximately satisfactory English-Japanese dictionary. The authors tell us briefly on their title-page and explicitly in their preface that their book is a third edition of the Satow-Ishibashi Vocabulary. Well, the Satow-Ishibashi Vocabulary was good so far as it went: everything to which Sir Ernest Satow puts his hand is good. But truly one is moved to a little quiet mirth by this assertion of relationship. The second edition of the Satow-Ishibashi book appeared in 1879, and we do not consider it an exaggeration to affirm that if a Japanese scholar of 1879 were suddenly transplanted from his own era into 1904, he would find himself listening to an almost unintelligible language, so greatly has Japanese changed, so largely has it grown, in that interval of 25 years. Further, whereas the Satow-Ishibashi Vocabulary was by no means up to its time, the Hampden-Parlett dictionary appears to be fully abreast of its time. Of course it would be mere presumption on the part of any reviewer to speak with absolute assurance about these things. To go through such a work page by page and word by word would involve a month's labour, and would still be an inconclusive performance, unless the reviewer were himself better equipped than the authors for lexicographical work, which ability could scarcely be claimed by any scholar in existence. A few misprints or errors might possibly be detected. One or two, indeed, have been pointed out to us; as when *ji* in *kummin-dôji-seiji* ("limited monarchy") is written with the ideograph representing "time" instead of the ideograph representing to "govern" (*osameru*), and when the order of the ideographs in *haisetsu* (to "eject") is accidentally inverted. No volume was ever compiled without some slips and it has always appeared to us the very acme of impertinence and conceit on the part of a reviewer to seek to elevate his own scholarship on a pile of minor blemishes discovered in the book he reviews. This new dictionary, however, may safely defy any reasonable scrutiny. We hail with delight the publication of exact equivalents for numerous English idioms which have hitherto obstructed many a student's freedom of speech. Take for example the word "objection." If the average English speaker of Japanese be asked to translate "have you any objection to my doing so and so," he probably can not get nearer than "*Ko ko shte mo yoroshiu gozaimasu ka*," a phrase which conveys the required meaning in only a very partial degree. The new dictionary tells him to say "*Ko ko shte mo go ison wa gozarimasenu ka*," which makes the personal character of the appeal quite plain. Then again if we have to say "he refused," the old method used to be simply "*muko de kotowarimashita*," whereas educated men now-a-days say, as this dictionary shows, "*kiyozetsu shimashta.*" Messrs. Parlett and Hampden, we observe, include "*shazetsu*" under the heading of "refusal," thus placing it on the same level as "*kyozetsu*," though in translating "decline" they rightly use "*shazetsu*" and omit "*kyozetsu*," the latter being in fact much more emphatic than the former. Under "tendency," again, it is a comfort to find the now much needed word "*keikô*" instead of the hackneyed "*katamuki*" alone; and under "confirm" one is glad to be introduced to "*kakutei*" and "*kakuin*" instead of "*tashikameru*" only. "Contradict," we venture to think, is not quite so satisfactorily treated. For instance, if a man under judicial examination were asked why he had not performed a certain duty, and if he were to plead that same one had obstructed him, the magistrate would naturally say "*Sore wa kōben no riyû ni wa naranu*," where "*kôben*" could scarcely be translated "contradiction." Moreover "*bempaku*" is given as the equivalent of "contradiction" and also as the equivalent of "refutation," which seems unsatisfactory. In illustration of the immense difficulty of compiling an up-to-date dictionary of a language changing so rapidly as that of Japan, a difficulty which Messrs. Parlett and Hobart-Hampden fully recognise, we may quote the word "block" when used in a military sense. Six months ago, at the time when this dictionary was passing through the press, no such thing as the blocking of Port Arthur had entered people's heads, and therefore no one used the terms "*fusa*" or "*heisoku*." Now, however, they are in daily employment. It is not to be inferred, however, that the dictionary is deficient in military terms. On the contrary, it is richly furnished. We may instance such expressions as "reconnaissance in force" (*kyôkô teisatsu*); "surround" (*hôi* as in *hôi kogeki*); "demonstration," *i.e.* of armed force (*shii undo*); "intimidation" (*ikaku*); "feint" (*kensei undo*); "contraband of war" (*senji kinsei-hin*); and so on. Of course students in special lines will probably find something to complain of here or there in the volume. Under "practicable," for example, we do not see the common rendering "*hodokosubeki*" (e.g. *jigane no kakaku made geraku seshimuru no hoka hodokosu beki saku nashi*; "there is no practicable plan except to let it fall to specie value"), but the authors would probably object that *hodokosu beki* is not a colloquial form, and that the dictionary is explicitly a lexicon of the spoken language. The same explanation would scarcely apply, however, to the every-day idiom *kanjô wo gai suru* (to "hurt the feelings"), which we do not find. And again, it may be objected that *washiru* ought to be inserted under "run after" (*riron ni washitte jikkô wo okotaru*); that "kôdei suru" should be given as one rendering of "to be absorbed in" (*sasa taru dôgi ni kôdei suru*); that *nusumi-giki suru* is used in the sense of "over hear" (*tageu subekarazaru himitsu wo onore htori nusumi-giki shitari tote nan no yeki ka aran*); that a greater variety of "insurance" terms should be inserted (as *kinshi hoken*, *yôro hoken*, *shûshin hoken*, *yûki hoken*, &c.) and so on. Twenty or thirty years hence, perhaps, it will be possible to have a lexicon which defies all complaint. But in the meanwhile every student of Japanese should be profoundly grateful to Messrs. Hobart-Hampden and Parlett. They have given us a book far above any of its predecessors; so far, indeed, as not to be mentionable in the same breath. How great will be the assistance rendered to hundreds of persons, especially missionaries, now toiling to discover accurate renderings of idioms never previously authoritatively translated, it would be difficult to over-estimate. We offer the authors our most hearty congratulations, and we trust that their work will receive at the hands of the public the recognition it deserves. It remains to note that some valuable tables are appended—a table of chronological eras, one of auxiliary numerals, one of ordinary numerals, one of weights and measures, and one of cities, prefectures and circuits. The book is printed in admirably clear type on good paper; it is of very handy size; the binding is sober and solid; the publishers are Messrs Kelly and Walsh and the price is only 6 *yen*.

BAPTISTS IN JAPAN.

By Ernest W. Clement.

[A paper read before the Baptist Conference at Arima, May 10th, and published by request of the Conference.]

The history of Baptist mission work in Japan may be properly divided into three periods; one from 1860 to 1872; one from 1872 to 1889; and one from 1889 to the present time. The first period was under the auspices of the American Baptist Free Missionary Society; the second period was under the auspices of the American Baptist Missionary Union and the English Baptists; and the third period is that of the work of the American Baptist Missionary Union, the English Baptists and the Southern Baptist Convention. In the first and second periods, the workers were changing often and reinforcements were few. In the third period, especially in the first two years (1889 and 1890), the American Baptist Missionary Union received large accessions; and in 1889 the Southern Baptist Convention opened work and in the past few years have sent out several new missionaries. The first two periods may be united into one period, that of foundations; and the third period is certainly a period of expansion.

Baptists enjoy the distinction of having as a sailor in Commodore Perry's fleet one who had joined the Expedition expressly for the purpose of spying out the land with reference to mission work. In Commodore Perry's official report this man is mentioned as "one of the marines named Goble, a religious man." Among the Japanese whom the Expedition had picked up on the way was one Sentaro, to whom the sailors gave the nickname of Sam Patch. Goble, "finding in his docility and intelligence promise of good fruit from a properly directed religious training, had begun with him a system of instruction which he hoped would not only make the Japanese a fair English scholar, but a faithful Christian."* Sam Patch united with the Baptist Church in Hamilton, N.Y., and awakened a hope in the minds of Christians in America that he would lead many of his countrymen to a knowledge of Christ."† But this hope was not realized.

Goble, having pursued a course of study in the Theological Seminary at Hamilton, came out to Japan in 1860, with his wife, as the first missionaries of the American Baptist Free Missionary Society. They lived in Yokohama, where, if various reports may be believed, Goble distinguished himself as a rigidly orthodox and strenuous Christian of the militant type. Moreover, the first portion of the Bible to be printed in Japan in the Japanese language was the Gospel of Mark, translated by Goble and published in 1871.

In the following year (1872) the American Baptist Free Missionary Society transferred its work in Japan to the American Baptist Missionary Union, under whose jurisdiction thus fell not only Goble but also Rev. Nathan Brown, D.D. These two came to Japan in 1873: Goble, however, soon resigned; but others were added to the mission in the same year. Dr. Brown at once gave himself to the work of translation, for which he was unusually gifted. In March, 1873, the first Baptist church in Japan was organized: it originally consisted only of the missionary families: but in July of the same year the first Japanese convert‡ was baptized.

In 1874 the Arthurs removed to Tokyo and shortly afterwards opened on Suruga Dai a girls' school which has developed into the Sarah A. Curtis Home still in that locality. In the year following (1875), the first lady missionaries arrived in the persons of Miss Kidder and Miss Sands (now Mrs. Brand), both of whom are still on the field; 1875 was also the date of the baptism of the first Japanese woman. We quote from Miss Kidder's paper on "James Hope Arthur" before the conference of 1892: "The Kanda river, which flows between Suruga Dai and Hongo was our first baptistery, and into this were led, from time to time, sixteen professing faith in the living Christ. Mr. Arthur with his own hands made a safe way down the steep embankment, and in this stream on November 6, 1875, the first Japanese woman, Uchida Hama, known to have received Christian baptism, was buried with Christ, from this grave to rise and work with her risen Redeemer." §

The first Baptist church in the capital of the Empire was organized in 1876. It was three years later that Kawakatsu, who was originally one of the Yokohama band trained by Rev. S. R. Brown, D.D., but had afterwards joined the Baptist Church, became the first ordained native Baptist minister. The same year (1879) is the date of the arrival of Rev. (now Dr.) A. A. Bennett and wife, who are the senior couple of the Baptist mission in Japan.

It was likewise in 1879 that the English Baptists established their work in Japan through Rev. W. J. White, who had already served several years as a teacher in both private and government schools and was quite familiar with the language. Their work was finally transferred to the American Baptist Missionary Union in 1900.

In the work of translating the New Testament into Japanese, the Baptists had no mean share. For about 18 months, Dr. Nathan Brown, the veteran linguist, who had already translated the New Testament into Assamese, sat with the Union Committee in Japan. But finally, on account of conscientious views concerning the proper translation of *baptizo* and its derivatives he resigned from that committee and continued his labours alone. In 1879 he had the pleasure and the honour of publishing the first translation of the New Testament into Japanese. And, although, for obvious reasons, this version does not enjoy a wide circulation, it is generally acknowledged to be clearer, simpler, and truer to the original than the other version. A remarkable tribute to the excellence of Dr. Brown's translation appeared in 1885 in a Pedobaptist magazine, called *Kirisuto-kyo*, to the effect that students of the Bible "who understand English should use the Revised Version, and that those who read Japanese only should use the New Testament published by the Baptist Mission."‖ It is not expected that this version will ever come into general use; but it will always be useful as a work of reference.

The classes for preachers which Mr. Bennett started in 1879 were organized in 1884 into a Theological Seminary. At first each school year consisted of two terms, each of four months, in which the students alternated, so that one set studied in school, while another set worked in the field as evangelists. In 1888 a fixed curriculum was adopted: but irregularity in attendance, as well as lack of teaching force, rendered it impossible to divide the students into classes, and made it necessary to teach them as a body.

In 1886 Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter arrived and opened their work in Nemuro. This year is also the date of the death of the Baptist Nestor, Dr. Brown, who, in spite of the number of his years, which amounted to almost 80 at his death, was most indefatigable in labour. He died, loved and mourned by both Japanese and foreigners. His constant prayer became his epitaph: "God bless the Japanese."

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* Commodore Perry's official report.

† Dr. Verbeck at Osaka Conference.

‡ Not counting Sam Patch.

§ She still survives, happy in the faith.

‖ *Gleanings*, January, 1896.

The period from 1889 till the present time has been denominated, so far as Baptist work is concerned, the period of expansion. It was opened by the arrival of 10 or more new missionaries in 1889 and several others in 1890. It may seem a little peculiar that such large reinforcements should come at just that time, which was the height of the anti-foreign and anti-Christian reaction. But, although it was a rather discouraging epoch in Christian work in Japan, it was nevertheless a good opportunity for new missionaries to devote themselves to the language study which is such an important preparation for active work. Thus the new missionaries of the American Baptist Missionary Union and the Southern Baptist Convention were fully prepared later to improve the excellent opportunities afforded by the revival of interest in the Gospel.

From about the very beginning of the work of the American Baptist Missionary Union in Japan, the importance of female education was recognized. Miss Sands and Mrs. Brown in Yokohama, Mrs. Arthur and Miss Kidder in Tokyo, were the pioneers in this work. The first formally organized school was that now known as the Sarah A. Curtis Home, opened in Tokyo by Miss Kidder in 1875. The work among girls in Yokohama has grown into the present Mary A. Colby Home. The other schools all date from the second period of Baptist work in Japan: Sendai and Chofu* from 1891 and Himeji from 1892. Kindergartens came still later in organization: that in Kobe under Mrs. Thomson was the pioneer dating from 1894, while the two in Tokyo date from 1897. The girls' schools and kindergartens are now among the mightiest forces in the Baptist work in Japan.

The education of boys was sadly neglected in Baptist work until a comparatively late period. It is true that there had been no little attention paid, in a somewhat desultory way, to primary schools, where boys and girls were educated together, or even where boys alone were educated. But no provision was made at all for the secondary and higher education of boys until less than a decade ago. It was not until the fall of 1894 that the writer was appointed, and not until February of 1895 that he arrived in Japan, to start a school which eventually received the name of Duncan Academy. Its growth has been slow and steady, both in number of students and in equipment; and, thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Robert Harris, Mr. E. M. Runyan and others, it now has a fine plant with good prospects. And in April of this year it opened with the first year class of a three years' higher, or college, course (*Kotokwa*).

In 1894, Mr. Bennett, after just a decade of faithful labour in charge of the theological training work in Yokohama, gave over the presidency of the Seminary to Rev. J. L. Dearing. At the same time the institution moved into new buildings, including a dormitory and a recitation-building, to which has more recently been added a residence for the President, making altogether a valuable plant. Moreover, the curriculum has been improved, the standard of admission raised, and the work of the school expanded in many ways. The alumni of the Seminary have been holding most important positions in Baptist work in different parts of Japan, from Nemuro in the extreme north to Kyushu and the Riukiu Islands in the extreme south, and even abroad, especially among the Japanese on the Pacific Coast of the United States of America.

It was under Baptist auspices that mission work was opened in the Riukiu (Loochoo) Islands in 1891. The means for this expansion of our work was provided by a Scotch Presbyterian lady, whose interest therein was aroused by Rev. R. A. Thomson. The man to institute this work was Mr. Hara, who thus enjoys "the honour of being the first Christian Japanese evangelist to take up work" among that people. Mr. and Mrs. Thomson made their first visit to the islands in 1892.

By the generosity of the same Scotch family mentioned above, the Baptist mission was enabled to open work in 1899 among the islands of the Inland Sea, famed for its beauty. This work is carried on by means of the gospel ship *Fukuin Maru*, in charge of Capt. Luke W. Bickel, who is, indeed, "a rare man for this special field and fitted in every way for this peculiar pioneer work."

It was only by an accident that the Southern Baptist Convention was not among the very first societies on the Japanese field after it was opened to the work. In 1860 two missionaries of theirs started for Japan, but were lost at sea; and others who had intended to come later were prevented by the Civil War. An interval of almost 30 years passed before missionaries were again appointed and started for Japan (1889). The pioneers were Brunson and McCollum, the latter of whom is still in the work and may honestly say of it, *Magna pars fui*. These men lived a short time in Kobe and Osaka in study of the language: but in 1892, after a consultation with the A.B.M.U. missionaries, removed to Kyushu, which was to be their special field. The harmony and coöperation that marked all relations between the two Baptist bodies have been a source of great pleasure and comfort to all.

The evangelistic work of the Baptists in Japan has not been limited to any special locality or district, as in the case of some missions, but has been spread out over an extensive area. Its stations, for instance, stretch out, with larger or smaller gaps, from the Hokkaido in the extreme northeast to Kyushu in the extreme south-west, and jump over to the Riukiu Islands. At a few points it reaches to the west coast. The chief stations in geographical order, are Nemuro, Otaru, Morioka, Sendai, Mito, Tokyo, Yokohama, Kyoto, Osaka, Kobe, Himeji, *Fukuin Maru*, Chofu, Kokura, Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Kagoshima, Kumamoto and Naha. The biggest gaps in Japan proper are between Yokohama and Kyoto, Himeji and Chofu. There appears to be still plenty of land to be possessed; but where are the possessors?

We wish, in conclusion, to institute some comparisons between conditions in 1853 and 1903, that we may better appreciate the progress that has been made. In 1853 there was not a single Baptist missionary in Japan, and only one in prospect in the person of Goble; in 1903 there were about 70 Baptist missionaries in all. In 1853 there was neither church nor chapel of the Baptist name; in 1903 there were 40 organized churches and more than 60 buildings used for Church purposes. In 1853 there was not a single Japanese who had received Christian baptism, unless possibly Sam Patch; in 1903 there were more than 2,300 nominal Baptists in Japan. In 1853 there was not a Bible or even a portion of a Bible publicly circulating in Japan; in 1903 a Baptist version of the New Testament was circulating along with the common version of the Bible. In 1853 not a single Christian hymn had been sung in Japanese; in 1903, after several editions of Baptist hymnals had been used, a Union Hymnal had been issued. In 1853 there was not a Sunday-school in all Japan; in 1903 the Baptist schools alone numbered about 90 with over 4,000 pupils. In 1853 there was not a Christian school in the Empire; in 1903 the Baptists owned one theological seminary, one academy, four ladies' seminaries, two primary schools and three kindergartens.

But it is important to note that what has been said of 1853 and 1903 may be said, with only slight changes, of 1873 and 1903. We can not ignore the preparatory work done here between 1860 and 1873; but we can also see plainly that the greater part of the present results have been accomplished during the three decades since the first missionaries of the American Baptist Missionary Union came to Japan in 1873. We may rejoice over what has been done, feel ashamed of what has not been done, and push on with renewed vigour and faith to what is to be done.

THE LAW COURTS.

THE CAMPHOR MONOPOLY CASE.

The hearing of this appeal, instituted by Messrs. Samuel, Samuel & Co. against a judgment given in the Yokohama District Court in favour of Mr. Hioki, liquidator of Messrs. Mourilyan, Heimann & Co., which was adjourned on Sept. 29th last, was resumed on June 4th in the Tokyo Appeal Court before Judge K. Suzuki and four associates.

It may be remembered that the Yokohama District Court ordered Messrs. Samuel, Samuel & Co. to pay *yen* 226,250 to the liquidator, with interest at 6 per cent per annum from April 20th, 1902, till the execution of judgment, and also to bear costs; and also the costs arising from the intervention of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. The Court also rendered an interlocutory judgment as to the responsibility of Mr. E. C. Davis, one of the partners of Messrs. Samuel, Samuel & Do., dismissing the joint claim against him.

Mr. Hioki, the liquidator, appealed against the interlocutory judgment. For the convenience of the Court the two appeals were taken jointly, and Mr. Hioki took a seat as appellant and Mr. Akiyama and two other lawyers represented Messrs. Samuel, Samuel & Co. as respondents.

On account of the re-organization of the Court, Counsel repeated their statements made in the previous proceedings, after which Mr. Hioki added that Mr. E. C. Davis and Mr. W. F. Mitchell were carrying on business with two other partners—Mr. Marcus Samuel, and Mr. Samuel Samuel—under the firm name of Samuel, Samuel & Co. They made a contract with the authorities of the Civil Administrative Bureau, of the Formosan Government on March 24th, 1900, with regard to the camphor monopoly for a term of three years. Mr. Davis and Mr. Mitchell also made a contract on May 18th of the same year with Messrs. Mourilyan, Heimann & Co. regarding the monopoly business under which the latter was to invest a sum equal to one-eighth of the capital required by the former, in respect of which Mourilyan, Heimann & Co. were to receive a share of the profits obtained and also to bear any loss arising from the transaction. Messrs. Mourilyan, Heimann & Co. paid to Messrs. Samuel, Samuel & Co. *yen* 12,500 in May 1900, *yen* 106,875 in June, and the same amount in August, making a total of *yen* 226,250. After July, 1901, the former received dividends of profits from the latter upon the invested capital. On April 18th the following year, Messrs. Mourilyan, Heimann & Co. were declared bankrupt by the Yokohama District Court and consequently the contract between the parties ceased. As a natural result the capital invested by Messrs Mourilyan, Heimann & Co. had to be refunded by Messrs Samuel, Samuel & Co. It was, however, left unpaid. Messrs Mourilyan, Heimann & Co. had borrowed the money from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, agreeing to pay interest at the rate of 7 per cent per annum. Mr. Davis was not a partner of Messrs Samuel, Samuel & Co. when the contract with regard to the camphor monopoly business was made with the bankrupt firm. He became a partner in December, 1901, and assumed the rights and obligations of the firm as one of the partners from that date.

Mr. Akiyama, counsel for respondents, having admitted that Messrs Samuel, Samuel & Co. made a contract with regard to the camphor monopoly with the Director of the Civil Administration Bureau of the Formosan Government and that they also concluded a contract with the bankrupt firm as shown by Exhibit A-1, and that as the result of the contract the appellant's firm paid *yen* 226,250 in all, contended that Messrs. Mourilyan, Heimann & Co. borrowed the money from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank after promising that Messrs. Samuel, Samuel & Co. should deposit the money with the Bank of Formosa in order to obtain Government loan bonds offered to the Formosan Government as security of the monopoly business, and that after the expiration of the term of the contract this money should be paid directly by Messrs. Samuel, Samuel & Co. to Messrs. Mourilyan, Heimann & Co. Counsel further said that (1) the firm under the name of Mourilyan, Heimann & Co. was an anonymous association but not a *Gomei-Kaisha* (partnership association) as was the case of Messrs. Samuel, Samuel & Co. This fact was not found out until the decree of bankruptcy had been given in the Yokohama Court. Messrs. Davis and Mitchell were quite ignorant before the camphor monopoly contract was concluded that Messrs. Mourilyan, Heimann & Co. was an anonymous association and that the partners were consequently "sleeping" and not active partners as was the case with their firm. (2) Mr. Davis was not one of the parties to the contract relating to the camphor business. The firm of Messrs. Samuel, Samuel & Co. was organized in accordance with British law, and according to the provisions of British law any one partner of an association is held exempt from a responsibility which was entered into by the firm before he became a partner. (3) Mr. Davis had no responsibility for the contract, Exhibit A-1. (4) The sum of *yen* 226,250 was not capital invested by Messrs. Mourilyan, Heimann & Co., but was employed by them as a guarantee or security with the Formosan Government. The money was paid at the application of Messrs. Mourilyan, Heimann & Co. to Messrs. Samuel, Samuel & Co., but as an actual fact the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank delivered the money to the latter firm under the name of the former, and for the money thus transferred from one hand to the other, Messrs. Mourilyan, Heimann & Co., were to receive a share of profits arising from the camphor business, but if this guarantee was at any time confiscated by the Formosan Government, Messrs. Mourilyan, Heimann & Co. were to repay the amount themselves to the Bank. The foregoing arrangement was made between Messrs. Mourilyan, Heimann & Co. and the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, but not put into a formal contract.

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* Burned down in 1902.

Mr. Masujima, another representative of the respondents, having delivered supplementary explanations as to the nature of the dormant partners of Messrs. Mourilyan, Heimann & Co. and as to the money received from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, stated that the contract of Exhibit A-1 must be dealt with in accordance with British law as it was concluded by British subjects, with the exception of one American citizen.

Judge—Where was the contact made? Mr. Akiyama—In Yokohama.

Mr. Hioki, appellant, having presented the documentary evidence to Court, stated that the contract was signed by Mr. Harris *per pro* Messrs. Mourilyan, Heimann & Co., which was a firm in Yokohama and which had a real qualification. Messrs. Samuel, Samuel, & Co. made a contract with the Formosan Government regarding the camphor monopoly in which business Messrs Mourilyan Heimann & Co. participated, investing a portion of the capital needed. The books put in evidence showed the entries concerned with the business. As the bankrupt firm borrowed the necessary money from the bank to invest in the camphor business the former paid the interest to the latter. The money borrowed from the bank was instantly deposited with the same bank on current account and Messrs Mourilyan,Heimann & Co. made out cheques which amounted to *yen* 226,250 in all and delivered them to Messrs. Samuel, Samuel & Co. Mr. T. S. Baker, sub-manager of the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, did not touch this point when he was examined in the lower Conrt as a witness. The bank, however, lodged a claim when the decree of bankruptcy was given; the claim was made under the title of "over-drawn." On the other hand, Messrs. Samuel, Samuel & Co. gave receipts of the Bank of Formosa for *yen* 226,250 on July 4th, 1902, to Messrs. Mourilyan, Heimann & Co. It is clearly understood that the former recognized the relation between the latter and the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank with reference to the loan. Mr. Hioki further repeated the statements made by Mr. T. S. Baker, Mr. H. C. Pigott, and Mr. Y. Hijikata, a professor of the University, to support his contention.

Mr. Akiyama, Counsel for respondents, having introduced his evidence, gave a brief explanation. He added that the bankrupt firm was not a legal person as provided for in the Japanese Commercial Code and that the incognito partners of the firm had no right to claim the guarantee money offered to the Formosan Government. After the expiration of the contract the money was to be returned to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank through Messrs. Samuel, Samuel & Co. In concluding his remarks,he criticized strongly the evidence offered by theliquidator.

Mr. Masujima supported Mr. Akiyama and said that the statements of Messrs. Pigott and Baker were all in favour of respondents.

Having replied to the representative of the respondents, Mr. Hioki stated that the money invested by the bankrupt firm was a portion of the capital needed in the camphor business though the other side said that the money was employed as guarantee only. Even if the money was only employed as guarantee, it made no difference as to the nature of the capital invested.

A brief discussion followed, after which the Court declared that the hearing was completed and that judgment would be delivered on June 9th at 8.30 a.m.

Judgment was delivered in this appeal on June 9th in the Tokyo Appeal Court by Judge K. Sudzuki and four associates as follows:—

1.—The claim of *yen* 226,250 with interest, lodged by the liquidator of the bankrupt estate of Messrs. Mourilyan, Heimann & Co., is dismissed.

2.—The appeal of the same liquidator against the interlocutory judgment given in the lower Court as to the responsibility of Mr. E. C. Davis is also dismissed.

CLAIM FOR ADVERTISING.

The hearing of the case in which the Teikoku News Agency claims *yen* 313.23 from the Japan Super-Aeration Co. was resumed on June 6th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Nakanishi. B. Kakehi was examined as a witness.

He stated that he was employed by plaintiffs from June last till March this year. Defendants opened business last year in Yokohama. About the middle of August the firm entertained the journalists of Tokyo and Yokohama in celebration of the starting of the business, and this invitation was arranged by the news agents. On August 25th last, witness paid a visit to the office of defendants and enquired about advertising the aërated water in Japanese papers. Defendants asked witness to draw up an advertisement and an estimate of charges. These were later presented to them. At the end of August, defendants informed the News Agency, through Mr. Sasaoka, sole agent in Tokyo for defendants, that they had decided to publish advertisements in Japanese papers with a limit of *yen* 300. To ascertain the truth of this order, witness went to the office of defendants where the directors were just holding a meeting. Some gentlemen made an alteration in the advertising design and the corrected copy was later given to plaintiff through Mr. Sasaoka.

Defendant's counsel held that the advertisement was ordered by the agent in Tokyo and not by the company. Counsel asked the Court for leave to examine Mr. C. K M. Martin and T. Sasaoka as witnesses.

The Court rejected the application.

Plaintiffs' counsel presented two letters to the Court as evidence and explained that these documents show that defendants ordered plaintiffs to publish the advertisement in Japanese papers.

Defendants' counsel was quite ignorant of the existence of these letters, and asked the court to adjourn the hearing till he could examine them with his clients.

The proceedings were adjourned till June 15th.

A LEASE CONTRACT.

This case, instituted by Mr. Paul Helm against two Chinamen, Chao-tze-chin and Chao-wei-li by name, petitioning for the cancellation of a lease and claiming *yen* 2,100, came up on June 7th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno.

Plaintiff's counsel stated that Mr. Helm on Jan. 1st, 1898, leased the compound at Nos. 119 and 120, Yamashita-cho, and several buildings situated thereon to Chao-myong-lung, father of defendants for a term of twenty years. The lessee died last year, and his sons, the present defendants, succeeded to the lease and occupied the estate and buildings. Defendants, however, had not paid any rent since October last.

Defendants' counsel held that the deceased Chinaman was survived by many other sons besides the present defendants and that defendants did not succeed to the lease or occupy the property. Counsel further stated that the buildings in dispute did not exist when the lease was made and some had been re-built after further agreement between the parties, so that plaintiff could not claim on the new buildings.

As a mistake was found in the complaint of plaintiff, the Court ordered plaintiff's counsel to correct it and also to ascertain the point as to the succession to the lease by the present defendants.

The proceedings were adjourned till June 25th.

BAMBERGER *v.* SCHROEDER.

In the Yokohama Local Court, the hearing of this case, in which plaintiff claims *yen* 50.85 and defendant counterclaims for *yen* 99.99, was resumed on June 7th before Judge Hasegawa. Mr. N. Morgin was examined as a witness.

He stated that the fire which occurred in the Central Hotel, No. 72, he believed to have originated from an oil-stove in an upstairs room. In the room were a wardrobe, a bed and some furniture. The matress of the bed having been stuffed with bamboo-shavings the fire seemed to have caught hold of the bed and further extended to the wall, which had been lined with thin planks. During the fire witness ordered some firemen to throw out the bed, and it was taken from the room when almost destroyed.

Having concluded the examination of witness, the Court adjourned the proceedings. The date of the next hearing was not fixed.

CLAIM ON SHARES.

In the Yokohama District Court the hearing of the case in which Mr. R. J. Ward claims *yen* 8,515.60 against B. Sho, a share-broker, was resumed on June 9th before Judge Danno.

Defendant's Counsel stated that in connexion with this case, plaintiff's counsel brought a charge in the criminal section of the Yokohama District Court against B. Sho and M. Muramatsu and subsequently they were examined by the Public Procurator. According to the statements given by them at the preliminary examination, it was found that last autumn Mr. Ward ordered Muramatsu to sell fifty shares of a Japanese association when the latter told the former that the market price of the shares was expected to reach *yen* 188.20 per share. Mr. Ward, however, did not give a limit of price to sell. Tokumiya, which is a share-broking office belonging to defendant, sold the shares on January 19th for *yen* 7,206. The money was delivered on Feb. 1st to Muramatsu who the same day paid the amount to Mr. Ward. Mr. Ward, who had been told by Muramatsu that the anticipated quotation would be *yen* 188.20 per share, making *yen* 9,410 for the fifty shares, was much astonished at the amount he actually received. There had consequently been a misunderstanding among the parties and the Public Procurator acquitted them. Counsel further said that Mr. Ward carried on his share transactions with Muramatsu on joint account. At the close of the business, the Japanese owed the foreigner over one thousand *yen*. As the former could not pay the debt, he gave a note promising to pay in monthly installments and he affixed to it the office stamp used by Tokumiya. This also caused a misunderstanding between Mr. Ward and B. Sho, as the latter was certainly ignorant of the promissory note given by Muramatsu.

Plaintiff's counsel stated that Muramatsu was the Manager of the Yokohama branch of defendant's firm when the transactions between the parties took place.

Defendants counsel held that Muramatsu was a broker and had no relation with defendant.

Mr. Masujima, representative of Mr. Ward, asked the Court for leave to examine the Manager of the Tokyo Branch of the Sumitomo Bank, Osaka, as a witness regarding the stamp used by defendant.

The Court, having granted consent to this petition, adjourned the proceedings till June 21st.

CLAIM ON THE H. & S. BANK.

The hearing of this case, in which an Indian merchant, Dhunamal Chellaram, claims *yen* 300 against the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, was resumed on June 9th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno.

The parties presented several letters to the

Court as evidence regarding the spelling of the name of plaintiff and they discussed the difference between D-h-u and D-h-a, after which the case was again adjourned.

HAIM v. BRETSCHNEIDER.

This case came up again on June 9th in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno, when two Japanese were examined as expert witnesses.

H. Tashiro stated that the original commission given in Yokohama was 5 per cent. or a little more, charged on the cost of merchandise. In case a manufacturer failed to supply goods which he had promised to deliver in due-time he was held responsible to pay damages, but the amount was not to exceed 5 or 10 per cent. except for special contracts. The witness having compared the porcelain cups made by defendant with the samples supplied by plaintiff, stated that the quality and pattern of the cups were quite similar, but that one of the cups seemed to be smaller than the sample. It was not defective in manufacture. The ware was a cheap lot so that nobody could complain about a slight difference in size.

K. Kawamoto, another witness, gave a statement nearly similar to the foregoing and added that freight to Alexandria or Port Said was 40 shillings per ton of 40 cubic feet and that the rate of marine insurance had risen since the outbreak of war. He believed it to be between *sen* 50 and 70 per *yen* 100. The packing charges for inferior porcelain would be about *sen* 20 per cubic foot. Having compared the cups and samples he said that the larger one was superior to sample, but the smaller was inferior so that a reduction of about 10 per cent. should be made in its price.

The proceedings were adjourned.

YOKOHAMA AMATEUR ROWING CLUB.

SPRING REGATTA.

The spring regatta of the Yokohama Amateur Rowing Club, which began on Friday afternoon, was favoured by the very best of weather and happily there was a large attendance of ladies as well as of the other sex who are interested in aquatic athletics. Of course the attractions of the local sports were enhanced by the inclusion in the programme of several interport events, Kobe having sent up several crews to contest the interport rowing supremacy. It may be said at once that the Junior Double Sculls were an easy win for Kenderdine and Schwabacker, that the Interport Fours were a "moral" for Yokohama, which got home easily in front, aided, no doubt by Kobe's exhausting effort at the outset of the race; that the Junior Fours was a close contest for the three boats involved, and that the Senior Paris was a narrow business for Cartwright, whom Poole was pushing close. The Interport Single Sculls were easy for Irwine, though, here as in other races the rowers were greatly impeded by bamboo stakes in the course, of the Skiff Race little need be said except that the fair steerswomen did their best to bring their craft home to victory; and the Senior Double Sculls ended as many people expected in a win for Irwine and Hayward against whom Timm and Poole made a very poor show. After the last race Miss Irwine very gracefully presented the Ladies Purse to the winners, the usual honours being paid to the young lady for gracing the occasion with her presence.

During the afternoon a band discoursed dance music and various selections. Following were the Committee:—Messrs H. C. Litchfield, President; F. J. Hall, Captain; Dr. Wheeler, H. E. Hayward, L. Mottu, Rev. W. Weston, M. Schellenburg, W. Goddard, F. H. Abbey, Hon. Treasurer, O. Strome, Hon. Secretary.

It should be said that the arrangements of the Committee were most complete and that the boats were sent away very promptly from the pontoon, for which, as well as for energetic coaching of various crews the Rev. W. Weston deserves the thanks of the Y.A.R.C. and of others interested in the sport of rowing.

Following were the events:—

JUNIOR DOUBLE SCULLS.—¾ Mile.

	"PEARL."	lbs.	
Bow.	R. Schwabacher	135	1
Str.	G. Kenderdine	136	
	"TERN."	lbs.	
Bow.	J. L. Graham	142	2
Str.	P. E. Nicolle	158	

Kenderdine in the outside position took the lead at the start, both crews finding the sharp south-easterly breeze and following sea a bit awkward at first. *Pearl* kept her lead till near the P. M. Wharf, where Nicolle drew up a little and, later, coming level fouled a bamboo stake and ran into the other crew. The race was re-started from this point but Kenderdine had it in hand any way and won easily by five lengths. The steering was bad on both sides, but perhaps that can be excused.

INTERPORT FOURS.—1 Mile.

	Y.A.R.C. "DARTER."	lbs.	
Bow.	H. Y. Irwine	150	1
2.	H. A. Poole	160	
3.	J. S. Cartwright	160	
Str.	Jas. Helm	154	
Cox.	W. Goddard	135	
	K.R. & A.C. "SWIFT."	lbs.	
Bow.	D. Weed	140	2
2.	H. Janke	173	
3.	C. Mancini	156	
Str.	E. Moller	149	
Cox.	A. J. Chalfant	120	

Kobe had the outside berth and probably the worse of the water, which was pretty lumpy at the mile, but they got off fairly level. Kobe set a fast stroke—as to the wisdom of which it will, perhaps, be sufficient to point to the results—and drew out in front. At the ¼ mile Kobe was shaping for daylight between the boats, and as they neared the ½ mile the visitors, still going about 15 to the half-minute, were nearly half a length of clear water to the front. But here the Yokohama steady stroke began to tell and with no special call upon the crew, but doubtless with the aid of a favouring wave or two the black boat shot up and a powerful "six" disposed of Kobe's lead and sent the home stroke into the premier position. Yokohama kept it up for a minute or so, and then slowed down and rowed in through the smooth water of the inner harbour three lengths ahead of their opponents. This distance, as a minimum estimate, separated the boats at the finish. Time, 8.05.

JUNIOR FOURS.—¾ Mile.

	"FLAMINGO" (RED).	lbs.	
Bow.	B. Meyer	141	1
2.	J. Lipmann	170	
3.	F. S. Booth	145	
Str.	P. E. Nicolle	158	
Cox.	W. Goddard	142	
	"DARTER" (BLACK).	lbs.	
Bow.	W. Graham	125	2
2.	T. Cassady	125	
3.	G. B. Spain	150	
Str.	J. de Figuierido	128	
Cox.	G. Kenderdine	135	
	"SEA-MEW" (GREEN).	lbs.	
Bow.	A. P. Miller	125	3
2.	E. W. Kilby	144	
3.	R. Wallace	135	
Str.	J. L. Graham	143	
Cox.	D. L. Abbey	120	
	"SWAN" (WHITE).	lbs.	
Bow.	C. M. Henning	125	4
2.	O. T. Gillon	147	
3.	H. J. Hearne	147	
Str.	C. H. Abbey	114	
Cox.	J. Abbey	116	

The Junior Fours started on about equal terms, White (C. H. Abbey) being perhaps a little the promptest in getting off. All four crews rowed with admirable pluck over the first stage of the course, but Red (Nicolle) gradually came away and led comfortably at the breakwater, Figuerido and Graham fighting for second place. Nicolle got home by 2½ lengths, but Figuerido was only able to finish half a length ahead of Graham, C. H. Abbey, from whom better things were expected, a length behind third. Time, 7.46.

SENIOR PAIRS.—1 Mile.

	"SCOTER."	lbs.	
Bow.	R. C. Bowden	140	1
Str.	J. S. Cartwright	160	
Cox.	D. L. Abbey	120	
	"SHELLDRAKE."	lbs.	
Bow.	J. Helm	154	2
Str.	H. A. Poole	160	
Cox.	C. H. Abbey	114	
	"SCAUP."	lbs.	
Bow.	H. Goddard	142	3
Str.	H. S. Goddard	145	
Cox.	J. P. Abbey	116	

A good start, and they rowed very level for some time, Goddard gradually falling back. At intervals Poole forged in front but in the sea then to be encountered the leading boats momentarily changed their relative positions. At the half mile Poole seemed to have something the better of it but Cartwright caught him and though at the breakwater there was little to choose between them he held his lead to the end, Poole making a fine effort at the close and, moving up gradually, getting his gun only a bare quarter of a length astern of the leader; Goddard was lengths away. Time, 9.08½.

INTERPORT SINGLE SCULLS.—1 Mile.

	Y. A. R. C.	lbs.	
	H. Y. Irwine	151	1
	K.R. & A C.	lbs.	
	E. Moller	149	2

Wind and water were somewhat smoother on the inshore course, but the Committee decided to bring off the race inside the breakwater, that is from the harbour entrance into a line opposite the Grand Hotel. Irwine had the berth farther trom the Breakwater and found the sea somewhat awkward at times but had his opponent easily in hand all the way and finished many lengths to the good. Time, 8.17¾

SKIFF RACE.—From p.m. Wharf.

	"NO. 1 BOAT."	lbs.	
	H. Goddard	142	1
Cox.	Miss Cameron		
	"NO. 2 BOAT."	lbs.	
	W. Goddard	141	2
Cox.	Miss Goddard		
	"NO. 3 BOAT."		
	J. L. Graham	142	3
Cox.	Miss M. Austen		

The Skiff Race was a bustle in from the P. M. Wharf which, after a hard-rowed race, resulted in victory for H. Goddard, who was steered to his win by Miss Cameron. It was a close race, about a length separating each boat from the other.

SENIOR DOUBLE SCULLS.—1 Mile.
Ladies' Purse.

	"BOAT NO. 2."	lbs.	
Bow.	H. E. Hayward	140	1
Str.	H. Y. Irwine	151	
	"BOAT NO. 1."	lbs.	
Bow.	H. A. Poole	160	2
Str.	C. L. Timm	155	

Irwine led from the outset and won with comparative ease by four lengths. The water had moderated considerably when this race was rowed. Time, 6.22.

The Second Day of the Spring Regatta was even more favoured by the weather than was the first part of the programme. The sun shone strongly but the heat was tempered by the southerly breeze which prevailed all day. The water was also satisfactory. The ladies graced the occasion with their presence in even larger numbers than on the first day; a band was again in attendance and supplied plenty of music, and as, while the proceedings went on no fewer than four yacht races were sailed, and a series of Japanese crews had contests off the Bund, the regatta was animated enough to please both eye and ear. The Boathouse verandah with its *parterre* of bright colours was quite a pretty sight. Kobe lost the two interport events set down for this day; the Pairs proved a good race with a fairly close finish, but unfortunately the Double Sculls was a mere procession. A match between Timm and Irwine, which had no place in the programme, aroused considerable interest. They went over the mile course in Single Sculls, and Timm, securing a lead at the outset, maintained it to the end, finishing over a length to the good. But it has to be added that one of Irwine's outriggers was sufficiently out of order to impose a considerable handicap upon him. The prizes were presented, at the close of the Regatta, to the winners by Mrs. F. J. Hall, wife of the Captain of the Club. Mrs. Hall also proposed and led three cheers from the ladies of Yokohama to the winners and also the Kobe visitors, hoping they would come again. Mr. H. C. Litchfield, President of the Club, presented Mrs. Hall with a bouquet and called for three cheers for gifts the recipient, a call which was heartily responded to. Mrs. W. Weston presented little personal souvenirs to the local interport crews to remind them of the stringency of their training. In the evening the Kobe visitors were entertained at dinner by the Yokohama Club. Afterwards they attended the dramatic performance in the Public Hall.

Mr. F. J. Hall acted as Starter, Mr. H. C.

Litchfield as Judge, and Mr. L. Mottu as Timekeeper.

Following were the events :—

JUNIOR PAIRS.—¾ Mile.

	"WIDGEON."	lbs.	
Bow.	G. B. Spain	150	
Str.	J. L. Graham	142	1
Cox.	C. L. Manley	132	

	"MALLARD."	lbs.	
Bow.	H. J. Hearne	147	
Str.	G. Charlesworth	125	2
Cox.	D. L. Abbey	120	

The first race was got off with most commendable punctuality, the boats being in position (*Mallard* inside) and the gun fired exactly at 2 p.m. They went off level but Graham soon began to draw in front and, establishing a decided lead, held it to the finish, winning by four or five lengths—16 seconds separating the boats. Time, 6.47¾.

SINGLE SCULLS.—1 Mile.	lbs.	
C. L. Timm	155...	1
H. Y. Irwine	151...	2

The match between Timm and Irwine was a surprise to many, because Irwine had for years represented Yokohama in Single Sculls. But the water suited Timm, who has been trained on riverine courses and, showing excellent form, took the lead and won by over a length. Time, 8.13. One of Irwine's rowlocks was out of order, and it is just possible that another match may take place.

INTERPORT PAIRS.—1 Mile.

	Y. A. R. C.	lbs.	
Bow.	J. S. Cartwright	160	
Str.	Jas. Helm	154	1
Cox.	W. Goddard	114	

	K. R. & A. C.	lbs.	
Bow.	C. Kalbrenner	173	
Str.	E. Moller	156	2
Cox.	A. J. Chalfant	120	

They went off very well together and when the crews settled down they were both rowing about 29 to 30. They raced in fine style to the breakwater where Kobe was nearly a length ahead, but in the smooth water Yokohama put it on very nicely, and through the visitors spurted gamely, got home first by a length and a half. Time, 8,52.

JUNIOR OPEN FOURS.—¾ Mile.

	"FLAMINGO" (RED).	lbs.	
Bow.	R. Wallace	135	
2.	J. L. Graham	142	
3.	F. S. Booth	145	1
Str.	P. E. Nicolle	158	
Cox.	A. Nicolle	132	

	"PELICAN" (BLUE).	lbs.	
Bow.	G. Charlesworth	125	
2.	G. B. Spain	150	
3.	J. Charlesworth	144	2
Str.	F. Luther	145	
Cox.	C. L. Manley	132	

	"SWAN" (WHITE).	lbs.	
Bow.	C. M. Henning	125	
2.	O. T. Gillon	147	
3.	H. J. Hearne	147	3
Str.	C. H. Abbey	114	
Cox.	J. Abbey	116	

Luther had the inshore berth, Nicolle in the middle. They went off very evenly. As they came along Nicolle began to show in front, and Abbey fell astern of Luther. The latter, however, could not reach the leader, who increased his advantage and won by a couple of lengths. Time, 8.01¼.

INTERPORT DOUBLE SCULLS.—1 Mile.

	Y. A. R. C.	lbs.	
Bow.	H. E. Hayward	140	1
Str.	H. Y. Irwine	151	

	K. R. & A. C.	lbs.	
Str.	D. Weed	140	2
Bow.	E. Moller	146	

Moller at first refused to go out and Chalfant and Weed took the boat away from the pontoon. Later, however, the first named changed his mind and went out. It was a disappointing race. The home crew assumed the lead early and at the ¾ mile had already five lengths. Both crews were hampered by junks and a steam launch crossing the course almost on top of them, but they got through without accident. Yokohama won easily by a handful of lengths, 25 seconds elapsing between the guns. Time, 8.13¾.

SENIOR FOURS.—1 Mile.

	"SWAN" (WHITE).	lbs.	
Bow.	G. Kenderdine	136	
2.	C. L. Timm	155	
3.	O. Strome	195	1
Str.	H. A. Poole	160	
Cox.	A. Nicolle	132	

	"SEA-MEW" (GREEN).	lbs.	
Bow.	R. Schwabacher	135	
2.	J. C. Fletcher	142	
3.	O. Strome	140	2
Str.	J. S. Cartwright	160	
Cox.	J. E. Moss	140	

	"DARTER" (BLACK).	lbs.	
Bow.	J. P. Abbey	120	
2.	E. J. Moss, Jr.	136	
3.	F. Pollard	170	3
Str.	J. Helm	154	
Cox.	C. H. Abbey	114	

	"PELICAN" (BLUE).	lbs.	
Bow.	A. E. Caro	118	
2.	P. V. Mitchell	150	
3.	B. J. Jackson	197	4
Str.	F. H. Abbey	135	
Cox.	D. L. Abbey	130	

Some time was spent in getting the boats in line but at length they went off to a good start. Poole in the inside position soon drew out a length and at the half mile was quite a couple of lengths ahead. Cartwright and Helm had a fight for second place but Abbey was out of it. Won by three lengths. Time, 8.03¼.

BOY MEMBERS' SKIFF RACE (HANDICAP).—

¾ Mile.

Gerald Irwine, scratch	1
Neville ; 3 secs	0

For this race there were only two starters, Irwine conceding three seconds. He soon overtook his opponent, however, and won easily by several lengths.

SENIOR OPEN FOURS.—1 Mile.

	"SWAN" (WHITE).	lbs.	
Bow.	G. Kenderdine	136	
2.	C. L. Timm	155	
3.	O. Strome	115	1
Str.	H. A. Poole	160	
Cox.	D. L. Abbey	120	

	"SEA-MEW" (GREEN).	lbs.	
Bow.	R. Schwabacher	135	
2.	J. C. Fletcher	142	
3.	R. C. Bowden	140	2
Str.	J. S. Cartwright	145	
Cox.	L. Mottu	137	

	"DARTER" (BLACK).	lbs.	
Bow.	J. Abbey	120	
2.	F. H. Abbey	135	
3.	F. Pollard	170	3
Str.	J. Helm	154	
Cox.	C. H. Abbey	114	

Poole had the best of the race almost from the beginning, but Cartwright made a splendid effort at the close and was only a length astern. Time, 8.10.

SCRATCH FOURS.—FROM P.M.S. WHARF.

	BOAT NO. 5.		BOAT NO. 1.	
Str.	J. Charlesworth		W. Graham	
	Hearne		Serkis	
	F. Luther	1	F. Abbey	2
	J. Graham		Gillon	
Cox.	Clausen		Hood	

	BOAT NO. 2.	BOAT NO. 3.	BOAT NO. 4.
Str.	Cassidy.	Kaufner.	Miller.
	Lipman.	Spain.	H. Goddard.
	Caro.	Schwabacher.	Kilby.
	F. Abbey.	Figueiredo.	Wallace.
Cox.	Dr. Wolf.	Levedag.	Tobin.

The Scratch Fours as usual resulted in a fine scurry in from the P. M. Wharf, and the substantial welter-weight steersmen in combination with their strokes outdid one another in their attempts to sneak starts. There was the usual crop of fouls.

YACHTING.

The yachts had on Saturday a fine whole sail breeze. Among the cruisers *Nina* was quickest across the line on gun fire, but not setting a spinnaker for the run out of harbour was passed just before the entrance by *Daimyo*, *Asagao* and *Spray*. At the lightship *Daimyo* still led from *Spray*, *Nina* next, with *Asagao*, *Wanderer* and *Kathleen* in the order named. On the beat down to the Widow Buoy *Nina* assumed the lead, which she held until the wind fell away, allowing *Daimyo* to come up on her with jackyarder set by the Nagahama mark. *Asagao* was doing remarkably well as long as the fresh breeze lasted, but like *Nina* she is poor in light airs. At the Nagahama buoy a foul occurred between *Daimyo* and *Nina*, and the latter has lodged a protest. *Daimyo* got clear of the buoy first, but on the run back to the Lightship under spinnakers *Nina* passed her once more. Reaching in from the Lightship *Nina* ran away from *Daimyo* until the wind fell very light again, and just inside the harbour entrance *Daimyo* got in front, finishing 50 secs. ahead. Times :—

	Finish. h.m.s.	Correct Club. Times. h.m s.	Correct. Handicap. h.m.s.
Spray	5.41.25	5.41.25	5.41.25
Wanderer	5.55.18	5.54.09	5.35.18
Nina	5.27.05	5.18.20	5.17.05
Daimyo	5.26.15	5.17.30	5.16.15
Asagao	5.39.10	5,10.46	5.21.10
Kathleen	6.12,50	5.33.38	5.32.50

The prizes are subject to decision of protest. *Asagao* takes 2 record points.

Of the 30 raters *Mary* was first over the line and held the lead throughout, increasing her distance to the finish. Times :—

	Finish. h.m.s.	Correct Club. Times. h.m.s.	Correct. Handicaps. h.m.s.
Mary	5.12.05	5.11.14	5.12.05
Maid Marion	5.41.20	5.36.44	5.26.20
Kingfisher	5.37.15	5.37.15	5.22.15

Mary takes 1st prize and 2 record points ;
Kingfisher 2nd prize ;
Maid Marion 1 record point.

Two "Larks" only started, the wind being a bit heavy for such small craft :

Finish :	h.m.s.
No. 11	3.19.30
No. 15	3.19.38

No. 15 protested against No. 11 for a collision during the race, No 15 being closehauled on starboard tack and No. 11 on port tack.

The Mosquito Yacht Club had a good race on Saturday. *Pele* and *Sunbeam* got away together at the start, *Winsome* 30 and *Vixen* and *Chocho* 45 seconds later. *Pele*, which has had lead added to her keel, got out of the harbour entrance first and kept in front all round the course. All the boats except *Winsome* worked down to the Widow Buoy in inshore tacks : *Winsome* experienced a heavy sea outside and had her sail torn at the first reef points. She finished the course to secure record points. Times :

	Start. h.m.s.	Finish. h.m.s.	Corrected. h.ms.
1 *Pele*	2.15.00	4.23.35.	4.23.35
2 *Vixen*	2.15.45.	4.30.25.	4.29.04
3 *Sunbeam*	2.15.00.	4.29.06.	4.29.06
4 *Winsome*	2.15.30.	4.42.15.	4.42.15
5 *Cho Cho*	2.15.45.	4.54.10.	4.51.26

Sunday was observed as Ladies' Day by a cruise to the Mosquito Club House at Tomioka. The flag ship, the *Aborigine*, started early in the forenoon but, the breeze being light, several boats availed of a tow by *Tommy Atkins* to Tomioka.

We learn that the protest lodged by "Lark" No. 15 against No. 11 has been sustained.

The protest by *Nina* against *Daimyo* for fouling at the Nagahama mark on Saturday has also, we understand, been upheld. The point involved was as to the blame involved by *Nina* closehauled, touching *Daimyo* as the latter bore away round the mark.

BASEBALL.

TOKYO HIGH SCHOOL v. Y. C. & A. C.

The baseball team of the Yokohama Cricket and Athletic Club opened their season on Saturday afternoon with a match with the Tokyo High School, and in the result were completely snowed under. The score, 8 to 0, does not fairly tell the tale of the game, however, for the fielding of the home side was excellent, and it would therefore be grossly unfair to apply to them the criticism which Mr. Dooley passed recently upon the present occupiers of Port Arthur : "They were prepared for what they expected, but not for what they got." A school team with its abundant opportunities for combined practice must ever have the 'vantage of any team which the Y. C. and A. C. can put in the field ; while again it must be confessed that the Tokyo High School team includes the very best of the Japanese players ; and the Y. C. & A. C. is composed of nearly all new hands.

Summer has set in very suddenly this year, and Saturday afternoon was broiling hot, the high southerly breeze doing little to temper the heat. This breeze, too, must be held responsible for spoiling many a good hit over third-base. Third-base, by the way, was held by J. Murray Mollison, and seldom have we seen better and neater fielding at that position. Time and again he put men out by smart stopping and throwing to first base and his display in the field alone atones for Yokohama's defeat. Given a few hard practices, the team should, however, acquit itself well in the coming season, and the memory of their first match will serve, we hope, but as a stimulant to greater effort.

Dr. Garton brought his team on the ground in stylish order, amid the cheers of a very large gathering, and the game was called at five minutes past 3 o'clock. Tokyo went to bat, Kobayashi, their "star" hitter, opening with a strike that failed to earn first base. Nakano took first on balls, and slid down to second, which he reached only just in time. Kuroda took first on an error set down to Parker, and Nakano moved on to third. Ishikawa, after hitting a foul, got down safely to first and all bases were filled. Nakano then ran home, but Konishi perishing at first and Sugiura going out on strikes, the side retired.

Yokohama began its inning with Parker, the first to bat, being badly hit on the inside of the arm, paralyzing the limb temporarily and handicapping him for the rest of the game. He took first, but was put out at second. Garton, taking first on balls, got down to second on an overthrow. Jenks took first on balls and then had the extreme bad luck of being hit by a ball struck by Thorn as he was running to second; Correa being put out at first, the side retired.

Nothing was scored by either side in the second innings, the fielding being very smart all round. The third innings saw Tokyo put one more on to their score, Nakano making the point. This innings was marked by a capital catch by Messer in centre field, putting out Kuroda; and by a smart bit of double play between Messer and Garton by which Ishikawa was forced off first. Yokohama again went out for nothing. The fourth inning saw the home team rattled, the visitors scoring four runs, Tashiro, Uyeno, Kobayashi, and Nakano all getting back to the home plate. From this time on the play was all with the fielders; and it was hard to decide which side was playing the better game. In the fifth innings, for instance, when Tokyo went to bat, only four balls were pitched. Sugiura opened by rapping out the first ball pitched to him to third base. Mollison smartly fielded and sending the ball down to first put out the batter. Mollison repeated the movement with the next strike, Moreodsumi being put out; then Pitcher sent down his fourth ball which Tashiro sent high up in the air and Parker held him—the inning lasting barely 60 seconds.

In the last innings Tokyo scored two runs—Nakano and Sugiura—and the game concluded with Yokohama failing to notch a point, despite all their efforts. A feature of the game was the number of times men were hit by the pitcher, both sides suffering about equally in this respect. Yokohama only made two hits that earned a base. The teams were:—

TOKYO HIGH SCHOOL.

Kobayashi	C. F.
Nakano	2nd base.
Kuroda	P.
Ishikawa	1st base.
Konishi	C.
Sugiura	S.S.
Moreodsumi	L. B.
Tashiro	R. F.
Uyeno	3rd b.

Y. C. & A. C.

C. G. Parker	2nd base.
W. M. Garton, (Captain)	1st base.
P. E. Jenks	S. S.
C. H. Thorn	Catcher.
F. J. Correa	L. F.
P. Messer	C. F.
J. M. Mollison	3rd base.
R. J. Tobin	R. F.
K. Dannaher	P.

Mr. W. S. Stone was umpire, Mr. E. Mendelson scorer.

SCORE BY INNINGS.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
T.H.S.	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	2	—8
Y.C. & A.C.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—0

THE WILLIAMS SHAKESPEARIAN RECITAL.

The plan of the Public Hall and reserved seat tickets for the recitals of Shakspeare's plays will be available after nine o'clock this morning. Of the skill and cleverness of Mr. and Mrs. Williams in their special field there can be doubt. For his sixth performance in Bombay "Julius Caesar" was given, of which the following is an extract from the *Daily Gazette*:—

"Mr. Hannibal A. Williams gave further evidence yesterday afternoon, at the Novelty Theatre, of his mastery of Shakespeare's plays by a remarkable performance of the greater part of the Roman historical tragedy, "Julius Cæsar," before the advanced students of the several schools and colleges of Bombay. The theatre was well filled and the students entered thoroughly into the spirit of the great drama. The well written comments assisted materially in giving a clearer idea of the scenes interpreted. Two portions of the tragedy were looked forward to with special interest—Mark Antony's famous address at the funeral of his friend, and the quarrel between Brutus and Cassius before the battle of Philippi. The oration of Antony was indeed finely delivered, the reciter interpreting with wonderful art the appealing pathos, the tender eulogies and above all the subtlety and astuteness of the faithful Antony, who compelled the crowd to "mould opinion on his gifted tongue." The delivery was listened to with wrapt attention and at its termination, hearty applause was accorded. Mr. Williams also exhibited great talent in interpreting the war of words between the military leaders, making a sharp distinction between the deep bass tone of the gentler Brutus and the shriller voice of Cassius. The quarrel and subsequent reconciliation in which the nobleness of Brutus is evidenced was a piece of work of great excellence."

Admirers of Shakespeare who gathered at the Public Hall on Tuesday evening in large numbers were certainly not disappointed in their expectation of an entertaining evening. Mr. Hannibal A. Williams is a really fine reciter, and his gift was shown by the keen attention displayed by the audience throughout the recital. It is not an easy thing to give a good interpretation of "Julius Cæsar," but Mr. Williams discharged his task with such success that the comments at the close were all of an eulogistic character. His finest efforts were in Scene 2, Act. III., where Brutus first wins the ear of the mob with his speech at the bier of Cæsar, only to have the crowd won from him by the more adroit oration of the dead man's friend, Mark Antony. If Brutus' speech was very effectively given the latter's oration—with the shouts of citizens—was even more dramatically pourtrayed. The only criticism we have to offer is that the biting sarcasm of the oft repeated.

"Yet Brutus is an honourable man."

was scarcely emphasized sufficiently. With this one exception, to mention which perhaps is to pose somewhat hypercritically, Mr. Williams gave an excellent interpretation of the work selected, and his declamation of Brutus' speech in the Camp at Phillippi needs a special word of praise:—

Who is here so base, that would be a bondman? If any, speak; for him I have offended. Who is here so rude, that would not be a Roman? If any; speak; for him I have offended. Who is here so vile, that will not love his country? If any, speak; for him have I offended.

At the close of each scene Mr. Williams was rewarded by loud outbursts of applause from the delighted audience and at the finish of the recital he had to return to the stage to bow his acknowledgments.

It only remains to say that the stage was most tastefully arranged and that Mr. Williams may be assured of a full house at his next evening.

FIRE ON THE BLUFF.

Fire broke out, about 3.20 p.m. on June 9th, in the engine room of the Japan Brewery Company No. 123, Bluff. It was put out before the flames extended far, so that the damage reported is very slight. A quantity of turpentine which had been piled near the engine boiler caught fire and caused the outbreak.

SOME AMERICAN TOPICS.

Ex-Governor William A. Stone, speaking before the Cieutenant James Lisle Post, G. A. R., took a fall out of Carnegie's hero fund as follows:—"I consider this newly established Carnegie hero fund, the most ridiculous, foolish and inane organization of the present day. True heroes need no official endorsement other than the friendship of their comrades and fellow men. Heroes who are heroes would shun public charity for their deeds."

Mr. Andrew McNally of Chicago, head of the printing and publishing firm of Rand, McNally & Co., died on May 7th of pneumonia at Pasadena, Cal. Mr. McNally was born 66 years ago in the north of Ireland, and landed in New York in the 1858, going to Chicago shortly afterward. He started a printing office and issued an evening paper. Later he became head of the *Tribune* job office, but after the fire he embarked on a larger scale for himself and gradually built up one of the greatest establishments of its kind in the world.

Mr. Hearst's expenses are a matter of considerable interest, remarks *Public Opinion*. He has gathered together about forty instructed delegates so far at an estimated expenditure of $15,000 a day since the first of February. This is the figure given by the Washington correspondent of a Chicago paper who usually knows what he is talking about. One hundred days at $15,000 a day would be a million and a half. Supposing that this sum will cover all his expenses and supposing, as Mr. Walter Wellman does, that Hearst goes to St. Louis in July with 150 delegates, each one will have cost him $10,000. Only Mr. Hearst can say whether the investment has been a paying one because no one knows how much he is willing to charge off to advertising.

According to the *National Geographic Magazine*, the total catch of food fishes in the United States and Alaska, as shown by the last canvas, was 1,733,314,324 pounds, valued at $45,531,165. The number of men employed was 214,056 and the capital invested was $72,261,646. The salmon pack of Puget Sound alone in 1901 exceeded $4,500,000, an amount more than four times as great as the entire silver output of the whole region drained by the Columbia river. The salmon output of Alaska for 1903 is valued at $10,000,000, which exceeds by more than $2,500,000 the amount which Alaska cost; and if we add to the salmon the value of the cod, halibut and other fisheries of Alaska, the total greatly exceeds all the other resources of Alaska combined.

Commissioner Wright's bulletin, says a New York paper, on the increase in the cost of living was not needed to convince people that prices of everything from bread to rent have gone up. But it is desirable to have the figures before us in the form of official statistics. Farm products have increased all the way from 5 to 59 per cent. Thirty-five articles of food have increased from 5 per cent. for bread to 72 per cent. for pepper. Fifty-six out of seventy articles of clothing are higher, fuel and light are also higher in price; in fact, the only thing that is relatively cheap is beef. The statistics show a decrease in the price of beef from 1902, but the relative price compared with the period since 1890 shows an increase in cattle prices of 4.7. The family that has been wondering why it was pinched on the income that formerly sufficed for its needs can have it all explained by reading the Bureau of Labour bulletin.

Statistics of the coinage operations of the United States mints in the months of February and March rendered it certain that the coinage of gold for the current year would be exceedingly large, and the publication of the figures for April not only bears out the earlier anticipations, but indicates that the figures reached this year will be the largest in the history of the Government. The coinage for January was not large—only $2,765,000—but that for February amounted to $35,603,500, that for March to $63,605,790 and that for April to $26,177,600. The total for the four months amounted to $128,151,890, which represents an increase of over $84,400,000 as compared with the gold coinage for the whole of last year and of over $16,800,000 as compared with the previous record year, 1899. As the result of the heavy coinage of gold, coupled with the gold exports, it is now found that the supply of gold bars for export has been reduced to a very low level, and it seems as though resort would have to be made to the shipment of gold coin for exchange operations.

The Bureau of Insular Affairs of the U. S. War Department has issued a bulletin on gutta percha and rubber in the Phillipine Islands in which it is shown that the increasing demand for gutta percha, which has run parallel with the construction of submarine cables, has resulted in the exploitation of the rubber-producing zone in the Philippines. This zone is confined to the islands of Mindanao and Tawi-Tawi. The Government is deeply concerned because in the past the only way of gathering gutta percha known to the natives involved the destruction of the trees. The Forestry Bureau has prohbited this and has provided rules which require the tapping of the tree in such a manner, with a bolo, as not to destroy its future usefulness. The wild natives, however, continue to violate the regulation. Islands such as Mindanao and Tawi-Tawi cannot stand this for any length of time and already the gutta percha trees have entirely disappeared from the vicinity of the coast regions and of the large rivers. Most of the Philippine gutta percha passes through three hands and the rise in price is quick and decided, the native collector receiving about $10, Mexican, for a picul of 162½ pounds. This is then carried by the trader to export towns and sold to the Chinese at $40 to $80, Mexican, per picul of 137⅓ pounds and is worth at Singapore about $150 per picul.

It is held by some that through the disruption of the Bessemer Lake Ore Association and the consequent curtailment of iron ore production, the United States may lose temporarily its position as the largest ore producer in the world. It is urged that should the lake output be limited to 12,000,000 tons, as now seems probable, and the southern output to 3,500,000 tons, making a total of 15,500,000 tons, Germany will pass the United States and take first place among ore producers. Last year the total ore output of the United States was about 28,000,000 tons, while Germany produced about 18,000,000 toos, Great Britain 12,000,000 tons, France 4,500,000 tons and Belgium 220,000 tons. The comparison of ore production, in tons, of the five leading countries for a number of years is as follows:

	1903.	1902.	1901.
United States*	27,500,000	33,000,000	28,887,479
Germany	18,000,000	—	16,570,258
Great Britain	13,000,000	—	12,257,198
France	4,700,000	5,400,000	4,790,732
Spain	8,478,600	8,063,555	8,320,000

*Estimated.

The world's output of ore in 1901 was 86,868,000 tons, of which the United States produced 33.25 per cent., Great Britain 14.13, Germany and Luxemburg 19.08, France 5.51 and Belgium .25. In 1902 the United States increased its percentage of the whole to about 36 per cent., but in 1903 it fell below 1901. Germany is making the greatest strides next to the United States, both in ore production and pig iron output. It is considered practically certain that Germany's ore putput this year will exceed that of the United States because of the present situation.

Mrs. Antonio Navarro (Mary Anderson), has declined an invitation to reappear in public in the United States, though it was supported by a beautifully engrossed memorial, signed by 26 prominent Americans, including Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop Farley, Bishop Potter, Senator and Mrs. Depew, General and Mrs. Miles, W. K. Vanderbilt, Mayor McClellan, George Gould and Mrs. Sage. It was proposed that she embody readings from Shakespeare, Tennyson and Longfellow, in her programme, the formation of which was left to herself. It was stated that part of the gross receipts would be devoted to charity.

The committee of fifteen, which was appointed by the National Triennial Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church at San Francisco in 1901, to consider the advisability of changing the legal name of the denomination, has secured an extended report in which the opinion is expressed that any change at this time is inexpedient. The report is to be submitted to the General Convention, which will assemble in Boston next October. The committee recommends the passage by the Boston Convention of the following resolution: "Resolved that the committee be discharged from further consideration of the subject."

General plans for reclamation projects in the West so far approved by Mr. Secretary Hitchcock provide for an expenditure of about $27,000,000. These cover projects in California, in the vicinity of Yuma on the lower Colorado River, in North Dakota, in the vicinity of Fort Buford, in South Dakota north of the Black Hills, near Belle Fourche and in Oregon on the Malheur River west of Boise, Idaho. The projects will reclaim in round numbers 1,000,000 acres of land. Expenditures are to be made from the reclamation fund, which Congress created from the proceeds of land sales in the semi-arid district. It is intended to reimburse this fund from sales of reclaimed land after the projects are completed.

In a few years we shall read epitaphs like this, says the *Portland Oregonian*:—

Here Lies
JOHN PITTSBURG SKIBO SMITH,
Who was born in a
CARNEGIE TOWN,
Educated in a
CARNEGIE INSTITUTE,
Studied in a
CARNEGIE LIBRARY.
At the age of thirty he became a
CARNEGIE HERO
And has now gone to be with
CARNEGIE.

Mr. John Langdon Dodge, for half a century one of the foremost men of finance in New England, died at his home in Great Barrington, Mass., on May 18th from apoplexy, in his 90th year. Born in poverty on a worn-out farm in New Marlboro, in the Berkshire Hills, in 1814, Mr. Dodge accumulated a fortune of nearly $1,000,000. At one time Mr. Dodge owned nearly half the business section of Duluth and the principal bank. He came to Great Barrington in 1849 and was elected a director of the National Mahaiwe Bank, becoming its president five years later. He held this office 50 years, retiring on Jan. 1st last. He was well known in New York and western financial circles and a power in the Republican politics of Massachusetts.

From the *Boston Transcript*:—It is unpleasant to learn from Bishop Satterlee that "the tone of life in Washington has become less natural; social conditions have changed, and for the worse." In the old days whatever faults Washington may have had, it cultivated a wholesome and even amusing democracy. Every man was better than every other because no one knew when next he might be on top, and to whoever had the requisite clothes—even the clothes were not absolutely essential—the national free lunch route lay open day and evening through the houses of political and social notables. But lately all that has been changing. The beginning of the end appeared several years ago, at a certain memorable dance in a private house, when the foreign potentates and a few American exclusives were roped off from the herd of everyday folks in evening clothes. Since then, *facilis descensus Europae.*

The New York Society of the Order of Founders and Patriots of America held its eighth annual dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria on May 13. Admiral Dewey, the new Governor-general of the Order, and Lieutenant-General Nelson A. Miles were the guests of honour. Admiral Dewey spoke briefly of the U.S. Navy. He said that the officers and enlisted men and the ships of the United States were the best in the world. "I think," he added, "the American people intend we shall have a good Navy, not for aggrandizement, but for protection. When the present programme of naval construction is completed, we shall stand third. England will be the first, as always; France second, then the United States." General Miles complimented the American soldier. He spoke of the Japanese as hardy, fatalistically brave and loyal soldiers. He said the Cossacks knew how to fight, and that the Turks are deserving of respect when the green banner waves, but that the *personnel* of these armies is vastly different. "The principle of fighting for republican ideas is absent," said the General.

Edward Bok, in a page of the May number of his periodical, addresses himself to array the Women's Christian Temperance Union against the patent-medicine industry. He prints a list of thirty-six kinds of "bitters" and other familiar patent remedies with the well-known official report of the analyst of the State of Massachusetts as to the percentage of alcohol each mixture contains. The percentages range from 12 to 47 5, the average being about 23. These patent medicines, which are enormously advertised and which are consumed in vast quantities by the public, are swallowed without scruple by great numbers of persons who are either outspoken foes of "rum" or are particularly wary in their use of it, says *Harper's Weekly*. They are, as a rule, unaware that they are using compounds some of which contain more alcohol than ordinary whisky does, and all of which contain vastly more alcohol than exists in beer. Mr. Bok feels that the W. C. T. U. is neglecting a field of great promise in not opening a campaign against these deceptive beverages, which warm the insides of temperance folk who don't know what they are drinking.

Governor Blanchard, of Louisiana, was installed in office on May 16, and in the course of the proceedings said:—"Mob law in contravention and defiance of law will not be tolerated. Lynchings will not be permitted under any circumstances. The negro is here. He is a man and a citizen. He is useful and valuable within his sphere. Within that sphere he must be guaranteed the equal protection of the law, and his education along proper lines—mainly agricultural and industrial—is at once a duty and a necessity. He must be encouraged in industry and taught the habits of thrift. No approach toward social equality or social recognition will be ever tolerated in Louisiana. Separate schools, separate churches, separate cars, separate places of entertainment will be enforced. Racial distinction and integrity must be preserved. But there is room enough in this broad southland for the two races to live on terms of mutual trust, mutual help, good understanding and concord. The South asserts its ability to handle and solve the negro question on humanitarian lines—those of justice and of right. We brook no interference from without."

Mr. George B. Cortelyou, Secretary of the Department of Commerce and Labour, seems very likely now to be selected as chairman of the Republican national committee. While in no sense endeavoring to anticipate the action of the Chicago convention or that of the national committee to be chosen at that convention, President Roosevelt and leaders of the Republican party generally have canvassed for months the subject of the national chairmanship. Several widely known and influential Republican leaders have been considered for the important position. Some time ago the name of Secretary Cortelyou was suggested. It met with instant favour. It is known that Mr. Cortelyou sustains very close relations not only with the President, but also with party leaders throughout the country. He is regarded as being admirably equipped for the position, possessing fine executive ability and a thorough knowledge of men and affairs. For several years he has been intimately identified with political management, scarcely any man sustaining more confidential relations with President McKinley, Senator Hanna and President Roosevelt than he. If he should be elected national chairman he would resign his position in the cabinet and devote his entire time to the work of the campaign. In a measure this would involve a big personal sacrifice.

NOTES AND COMMENTS ON WAR NEWS.

he following comments appeat in the *Daily Graphic* over the signature "C. B.." It is easy to be wise after the event, and useful too. The following note, appearing on April 18, shows how the sinking of the *Petropavlovsk* might have been avoided, and discusses the comparative strengths of the navies:—

It is noticeable that the *Sevastopol* did not come out with the ill-fated squadron under Admiral Makaroff on Tuesday, April 12th, a fact which appears to confirm the report that this vessel had been in collision with another. Such accidents, which amount to disasters in war, owing to the loss of fighting force, are usually the result of want of training. In nearly all cases of collisions of battleships in our own and other navies it will be found that at least one ship had new officers in charge or was a newly commissioned ship. In the Russian Navy the accidents are the direct result of the attempt to organise a Navy with only four months' instruction in the year, and practically no fleet training. The anxiety which this state of affairs must have caused Admiral Makaroff must have been terrible. How else account for the Admiral himself spending the night in "a guard boat" (destroyer?), if he could place the implicit reliance on subordinates which is given by Admiral Togo to his devoted officers? We do not find the latter departing from his battleship to do the work of subordinates. Take this eighth attack on Port Arthur on Monday night, April 8th. Everything worked to perfection. The improvised torpedo depot ship was escorted to Port Arthur by destroyers to beat off other destroyers, and under cover of the clouds and rain lays mines, her movements, owing to the heavy rain, being unrevealed by the searchlights. The mines themselves are laid in positions fixed by careful observations of the course Admiral Makaroff invariably steered in returning to harbour. Of course, the risks were enormous so far as the crew were concerned, but infinitesimal as regards the vital forces of the Japanese Fleet. Even now that the *Petropavlovsk* has been destroyed by these mines and the *Pobieda* disabled, the Japanese Minister of Marine enjoins Admiral Togo to be careful of his precious armoured vessels, for their work is not nearly completed. There are the Baltic reinforcements, and there is still a naval squadron in Port Arthur. Admiral Makaroff in his last sortie had also with him the cruisers *Bayan*, *Askold*, *Diana* and *Novik*. It is a thousand pities he did not adopt the common-sense plan of using one of the old steamers in Port Arthur to lead the way in and out of the harbour. She could have booms rigged out from her bows so as to explode the mines thirty feet away. It is better in any case to lose an old steamer and a junior officer than a battleship and a splendid admiral. After all, Admiral Makaroff had a good deal to fear from his own mines and a daily sweep of the channel might not have been an unnecessary precaution. In addition to the other losses, the Russian destroyer *Strashni* was found alone and sunk by the Japanese destroyers.

There seems little doubt that the explosion of a Japanese mine on the starboard side of Admiral Makaroff's flagship was followed by an internal explosion, and probably fires leading to fresh and final explosions as she was sinking. It should be remembered that weight was probably saved in the construction of the *Petropavlovsk* by the omission of the double bottoms, so that there was no ship inside a ship system, as we are in the habit of adopting. Such a ship would have far less resistance to damage from a mine or torpedo than a British battleship.

Though this has been a war of torpedo-boats and mines so far, in a note on April 2nd, the necessity of a strong backing of battleships is discussed in connection with the promises of a reinforcement of battleships from the Baltic.

If the late Admiral Colomb had lived to witness the present war, his remarkable article on the future of the torpedo in war, which appeared in the *North American Review*, April, 1895, would have been very differently written, for a day of practice is worth a year of theory. I remember the distress with which I read the papers, a distress which was felt because of the effect so able an argument from so high an authority would have on the public mind. We had just embarked upon a programme of seven battleships, and here was our leading public naval authority declaring that the battleship was doomed, that perfection was the sign of disappearance, and involving himself and the public in a maze of doubts; and one felt that, like the Duke of Wellington, in his old age Admiral Colomb had become an alarmist. The admiral's ideas, re-affirmed in a lecture at the the United Service Institution in 1897, were based in part on a fallacy which I have exposed several times in the *Daily Graphic*, namely, that you can compare cost of ships by mere comparisons of cost of building. In this way he assumed we could obtain twenty-five destroyers for one battleship, and if twenty-five destroyers attacked one battleship he argued that the battleship was doomed. As a matter of fact, the total annual cost, taking interest on first cost, depreciation, cost of crew, stores, maintenance, etc., is the only safe basis of comparison. Then we want practical experience as to how many destroyers must be built in order to maintain a certain number constantly in commission during war. If this is done I maintain that we should not obtain twelve destroyers constantly in commission for the same price as we obtain one battleship. Waiving this objection, however, we find that Admiral Colomb saw in the destroyer and the battleship mutually destructive principles which could not exist by side. In the discussion at the United Service Institution, Admiral H. J. May put the matter in its true light by saying that "under certain conditions the destroyer can help the battleship, and other conditions much more likely to occur, the battleship may help the destroyers." Admiral Colomb would have found all his questions answered in this war. "If our battleships are not going to meet battleships, what is the use of sending them to sea?" Well, the Japanese battleships have been the moveable base from which all the operations of their cruisers and torpedo craft have been made. The Russian battleships did not proceed to sea, not because they feared the Japanese torpedo craft, but because they feared the Japanese battleships. Hence their torpedo craft had to base themselves on Port Arthur, and, not having, like the Japanese, the protection of battleships, they have been deprived of all initiative, for their only secure cover can be the cloak of invisibility furnished by darkness. Other conditions being equal, supposing the Russians had possessed a superiority in battleships, would they not naturally have proceeded to sea to fight the Japanese fleet, and to keep open the sea communications of Port Arthur? On the other hand, supposing they possessed a superiority in number of destroyers, what would it have availed them? In the answer to those two questions lies the justification of the battleship. Admiral Makaroff's hopes are said to be to endeavour to weaken the Japanese fleet (battleships again), so that the Baltic reinforcements of five new battleships and three old ones can engage it with success. The battleships, we see, are the pivot of the whole problem; and, apart from their special duty of acting as the eyes of the battleships, we only consider the armoured cruisers, with inferior guns and inferior armour, as capable of being used against vessels of their own class, or, as a last resort, as very inferior battleships.

It is understood in Japan that it is the navy that is pressing for an attack on Port Arthur. The critic of the *Graphic* takes a different view in a note appearing on April 20th.

In the news to-day will be found an interview with the Japanese naval attaché, which affords the comments of a clear-headed man with a thorough grasp of the principles of naval strategy. My only fear is that the Japanese fleet will be sacrificed to the army, and when the gallant officer talks of a combined attack of the fleet and army on Port Arthur, I have in my mind the disastrous conduct of Admiral Dundas in sacrificing the prestige of our navy to the insistence of the allied generals, and attacking Sevastopol against his better judgment. Dundas had, however, no alarm that any naval force could interfere with him, and, therefore, in hazarding his ships he did not gamble with the fortunes of the campaign. It is very different with Admiral Togo. He has done magnificently with quite inadequate resources, but he would be the first to acknowledge that he owes as much to the deplorable inefficiency of Russian naval officers as to his own skill. Nelson would probably have made a similar acknowledgment concerning the French and Spanish sailors of the Revolutionary and Napoleonic periods. "We are the laughing stock of Europe," said Villeneuve, of the allied fleet which fought at Trafalgar. The Russians have probably five months in which to train the new crews of the Baltic fleet. If the officers and men are trained as new officers and men have been trained in modern days, by being subjected to the strain of incessant work at sea, manœuvring the whole time, especially at night, and practising at the guns with equally assiduous care; if specialism be carried to its highest pitch; and if when they are not at sea all the officers and skilled ratings are constantly taken over their new ships, where each man should be familiarised with his prospective duties, I think a very formidable fleet could be trained. On the way out there will be eight weeks on board the new ships. The great aim of the Russian Admiralty should be to insist at all hazards on night work, on the principle that a fleet which can fight by night will make light of day work. At Port Arthur they may repair some of the battleships, and the *Daily Graphic* correspondent at Sevastopol states that 1,500 shipwrights and artificers are being sent to Port Arthur from the Black Sea, together with 2,000 from the Baltic yards. It is intended to employ them in building new destroyers at Port Arthur besides repairing the damaged warships.

With regard to the use of torpedo-boats and lessons to be learned in naval construction the following note appeared on April 7th.

In my notes of yesterday there was a misprint concerning destroyers. What I wished to say was that to keep two destroyers constantly at sea required at least three destroyers in commission, and I might go further and say that to keep two destroyers constantly off Port Arthur would require four destroyers in commission. The latter proceeding the Japanese have never even attempted, as is proved by the daylight trips of the Russian fleet and the supplies carried into Port Arthur by Chinese junks. The Japanese have never used their destroyers except in conjunction with their fleet, so that if a destroyer of destroyers, such as the *Novik*, were to proceed to attack the Japanese destroyers, she would find herself cornered, by the fact that the Japanese cruisers are behind the destroyers. The Japanese small craft are soon likely to have quite other work to do, for as soon as the drift ice is clear of the Yalu they will be required to cooperate with the Japanese forces on the Yalu.

One thing the naval world wishes to hear from correspondents is the experience of the Japanese of nearly two months' sea work. What breakdowns have there been? Admiral Domvile's fleet was nearly crippled last year as regards information by the numerous breakdowns of cruisers. But the interest of the Japanese ships lies in the heavier armament carried for a given displacement. It was confidently prophesied that they had economised on the framings, double bottoms, and scantlings, and that the ships would not stand the test of real service. I remember seeing the cruiser *Kasagi*, of only 4,784 tons, and I thought of the British *Hermes*, of even date 5,600 tons. How comes it that the *Kasagi* does 22½ knots and the *Hermes* 20 knots? They both have the same coal capacity. The *Kasagi* has two 8-inch guns and ten 4.7-inch guns, against eleven 6-inch guns in the *Hermes*, while the *Kasagi's* guns are well protected by shields. In the armoured cruiser class the *Idzumo*, of 9,800 tons, has a 7-inch belt, does 22 knots, and carries four 8-inch guns and fourteen 6-inch. The British *Monmouth* class are of exactly the same tonnage and of even date. They are a knot faster, but have only a 4-inch belt, and carry only fourteen 6-inch guns. The gun protection in the *Monmouth* is 5-inch, as compared with 6-inch in the *Idzumo*, and the conning tower 10-inch, as compared with 14-inch. If the *Idzumo* and *Kasagi* are doing perfectly well, then we have clearly been cheated of a good deal of fighting strength through adherence to old-fashioned methods.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The scarcity of water is at present very much felt in Hongkong.

Marquis Ito proceeded to his villa at Oiso, on June 2nd by the 3 p.m. train from Tokyo.

The Vice-ministers of various Departments held a conference on June 6th at the official residence of the Premier.

According to a telegram from Wiju, dysentery is prevalent among the Koreans in that neighbourhood.

Rear-Admiral Robley Evans's flagship, the *Kentucky*, has just made a record voyage from Hongkong to New York.

A violent shock of earthquake was felt in Yokohama on Tuesday the 7th about a quarter to five in the afternoon.

Telegrams report that serious shocks of earthquake were felt early on the morning of June 6th at Kure, Okayama, and other western cities.

Intelligence from Osaka says that the gross income of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha for five months ended May amounted to *yen* 3,480,852.67, including Government subsidy. Of this sum, *yen* 2,642,124.56 were paid out for sundry expenses.

The Sixty-second Bank of Mito, Ibaraki, prefecture, which has suspended payment, was adjudged bankrupt on June 8th in the Mito District Court.

Mr. M. Nambu, Director of the Engineering Bureau in the Interior Department, was released on June 6th, and Mr. R. Nakakoji was appointed to the vacancy.

The Tokyo Chamber of Commerce held a conference on June 6th and decided to convey profound condolence to the family of the late Mr. Tata of Bombay.

The amount subscribed in Hongkong, towards the relief of the wives and families of Russians and Japanese serving in the war, reached a total of $29,587 on the 28th ult.

Mr. C. Fujikawa, editor of the *Himeji Shimbun*, was, on June 6th, ordered by the local Governor to leave the city. He is reported to have published a statement injurious to the public peace.

The officers and crews of the French gunboat *Decidee* saw the sea serpent, about 100 feet in length, in the Bay of Along near Haiphong. It was seen in the same bay by the French gunboat *Avalanche* in 1898.

A Chinese girl fell from a window on the third storey of a house on Connaught Road, Hongkong, on the 26th May into the street below. She luckily fell on a jinrikisha, which was smashed, but she got up unhurt, and quietly walked upstairs again.

The Rev. E. C. Corfe, formerly minor Canon of Rochester Cathedral, son of the late Dr. Corfe, of Oxford, and brother of the Bishop of Korea, was on April 28th installed Precentor of Truro Cathedral, in succession to the late Canon Donaldson.

During fifteen days ended May 31st, 4,652,400 *kin* of tea were brought from the interior into Yokohama market, and of this quantity, 4,198,700 *kin* were sold to foreign firms or exported direct by Japanese traders.

The members of the Naval Society held a meeting on the evening of June 6th when Major General Ishimoto, Vice-Minister for the Army, delivered a speech with regard to the fighting at Nanshan and Kinchow.

Mr. T. Obata (88) belonging to the former Mori clan, Yamaguchi, Nagato province, was promoted on June 6th to the Junior Class of the Fourth Rank on account of meritorious services at the time of the Restoration.

No fewer than 114 officers of the British Imperial and Indian Armies have, according to the *Naval and Military Review*, now qualified as interpreters in the Russian language. The study was almost unknown a few years ago.

A telegram from Gifu says that a panic has overtaken the money market. The Ogaki Ginko and other banks are about to suspend payment while creditors are endeavouring to withdraw deposits. The cause of this disorder is not reported.

Lady Durand, wife of the British Ambassador in Washington, has contributed $100 (£20) to a tea-booth at the fair organised by the Countess Cassini, wife of the Russian Ambassador, for the Russian Red Cross Society. Sir Mortimer Durand has sent $100 to M. Takahira, the Japanese Minister, for the Japanese Red Cross Society.

Although the late M. Verestchagin was considered a rich man he had nothing to leave except a country house near St. Petersburg and a little villa in the Caucasus. His long journeys and his exhibitions cost him much money, and he was very open-handed. He has left behind a large number of studies, but only one large picture, "The Burial Place of Kings," which he valued at £1,200.

Lord Brooke left London on 27th April for Manchuria as Reuter's special correspondent with the Russian headquarters. Lord Brooke, who is twenty-two years of age, after being a lieutenant in the 1st Life Guards, served in the King's Royal Rifle Corps and on the Staff in the South African war, and was for some time an aide-de-camp to Lord Milner.

The P. and O. Company announce a new departure in that the steam yacht *Vectis*, 6,000 tons and 5,000 h.p. is to sail on a pleasure cruise to Norway and the Far North in the first week of July. No expense has been spared in specially adapting the *Vectis*, and her cabins, saloons, card and recreation, smoking, music, and photographic rooms are in all respects equal to what they should be for the work. The *Vectis* is the company's former steamer *Rome*, which has been entirely altered to fit her for her new *rôle*.

The Twentieth Century Fund, formed in England to raise 1,000,000 guineas for the extension of Wesleyan Methodist Church work, has realised its ambition, for the donations and interest now amount to more than the desired sum. The majority of the donations were in contributions of one guinea, although there were some of less amount and others for much more. One or two donations were of £5,000, whilst at least one was for double that sum.

The performance at the Public Hall on Saturday evening, given in aid of the Perry memorial fund, went along very brightly and was greatly enjoyed. "The Queen's Messenger" improved somewhat upon second acquaintance, both Mrs. MacWilliams and Mr. Cyril Allen getting all that was possible out of their parts. The second half of the programme brought out two new performers in Mr. W. H. Lewis and Mr. Glossop and they received a hearty welcome. The octett and double sextett brought down the house, and Mr. Windett and Mr. Horne were as amusing as ever.

Three Russian bluejackets of the destroyer *Steregustchi*, captured on March 10th, who underwent treatment in the Matsuyama Hospital, having recovered were removed on June 4th to Kobe to be sent home. At the Hyogo prefectural office they took an oath before Governor Hattori, Mr. P. H. de Lucy-Fossarieu, French Consul, Mr. Mishimura, the Chief of Police, and other officials that they would not take any further part in the war; after which they embarked on the French mail steamer *Australien*. The Russians were attired in the uniforms of Japanese blue jackets. The Kobe branch of the Red Cross Society presented them with a box of cigars each.

Bankers in Yokohama have decided to subscribe the following amounts to the issue of Second Treasury Bonds.

	Yen.
Specie	5,000,000
2nd	750,000
74th	750,000
Yokohama	500,000
Soda	300,000
Yokohama Boyeki	50,000
Kanagawa Noko	50,000
Chuwo	20,000
	7,420,000

The Mogi, Wakao, Buso, and three others banks will shortly announce their offers.

A curious mistake was brought to the notice of the House of Lords on April 24, says the *Standard*, by the Lord Chancellor, in connection with the admission of a new Peer on his succession to the title. It appears that the late Lord Hartismere, commonly known as Lord Henniker, died during the present Parliament without taking up the writ which is issued to every Peer at the commencement of every Parliament. The writ accordingly lay at the office directed to him. His son at his father's death was unaware of this fact, and went to the office to obtain a writ to enable him to take his seat in the Upper House. His father's writ was handed to him by mistake; and without the difference of the Christian name being observed, he was introduced with the customary formalities into the Upper House, and took the oath and his seat among the other Peers. The Lord Chancellor moved that all the proceedings be cancelled, and the entry in the Journals of the House deleted. He regretted, he said, that the mistake had occurred. It was a mistake, and nothing more, but he was compelled to make the motion. Accordingly, the motion was agreed to and Lord Henniker will have to go through the formalities of introduction again, when a writ in his own name has been prepared.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

Mr. T. Fisher Unwin is publishing "China from Within: A Study of Opium Fallacies and Missionary Mistakes," by Mr. Arthur Davenport.

The scene of Mr. John Oxenham's new story, to be published in the autumn, probably under the title "Hearts in Exile," is laid in Siberia, the tale dealing with exiles in that cold land. There is a flavour of "Enoch Arden" in the plot.

The original warrant for John Bunyan's arrest was sold at Sotheby's the other day for £305, and a quarto edition of Shakespeare's "Second Part of Henrie the Fourth," published in 1600 at the price of eighteenpence, fetched £1,035. A supposed autograph, "Wm. Shakespere," in a copy of William Rastall's "Collection in English of the Statutes now in force from Magna Charta to XXXV. Q. Eliz.," sold for £80.

Of the 7,865 books published in the United States in 1903, the New York State Library selected 784. They sent this list to other New York libraries in order to get a vote on the best fifty of these books. The result is now published. Among the chosen fifty are Senator Beveridge's "The Russian Advance," Mrs. Ward's "Lady Rose's Daughter," Hamlin Garland's "Hesper." Mrs. Deland's "Dr. Lavendar's People," J. J. Bell's "Wee Macgreegor," and Booth Tarkington's "Cherry." Of the fifty books chosen just half were fiction.

The new Master of the Temple, the Rev. H. G. Woods, who has been Rector of Little Gaddesden, Hertfordshire, since 1899, was presented to the living by Earl Brownlow, to whom he had acted as chaplain and librarian. He was formerly President of Trinity College, Oxford, and he has also held the appointment of Treasury Commissioner for the Inspection of University Colleges. Dr. Woods, who is in his 62nd year, has published an edition of Books I. and II. of "Herodotus, with English Notes." His wife is a daughter of the late Dr. Bradley, Dean of Westminster, and is well known as a poet and novelist.

Mr. Quiller-Couch told an amusing story against himself the other night (says the *Bystander*). In a little shop at Fowey, where the products of the press are mingled with pipes and tobacco, he was buying some of the latter commodity one day, when the good lady who kept the shop said to him:—"You'd be surprised, Mr. Couch, to know how many people ask for your books." The novelist admitted that he was at once surprised and gratified, and wondered why his works could be in demand. "Well, I suppose," said the old lady, "when folks is staying down here they wants to read something local."

The Delegates of the Clarendon Press have taken over the series of geographical memoirs known as "The Regions of the World," which is under the general editorship of Mr. H. J. Mackinder, and in future this series will be published by Mr. Henry Frowde. Two new volumes will be issued this year:—"North America," by Prof. Israel Russell, of the University of Michigan, at the end of this month, and "India," by Sir Thomas Holditch, K.C.I.E., in the early autumn. It is hoped that "The Far East," by Mr. Archibald Little will soon be in the press. The three volumes which have already appeared are "Britain and the British Seas," by Mr. Mackinder, "Central Europe," by Prof. J. Partsch, and "The Nearer East," by Mr. D. G. Hogarth.

The spring poet shooting season opened yesterday in Fleet-street and neighbourhood in dull weather (says a writer in the *Bystander*). Poets were weak on the wing, few reaching any height at all, and it was noticed that the large majority suffered from deformed feet. There is no more delightful sport than that of spring poet shooting. The breed is easily recognised by the length of its hair, and the peculiar sound it emits when on the wing. One distinguishes a soft murmur of "love-dove-above"—and then the poet darts before one's eyes, only the next moment to disappear or fall beneath one's gun. When not flying, the common note heard amongst those poets is something like this: "Did you use my little verses?" but at these times they easily become the victim of one's powder and shot. During our first day over the Fleet-street coverts my party did a large amount of execution. Poets were numerous, so that sport was good, and, though it was my first attempt, I myself brought down seven brace. Great keenness was shown in rooting out poets who had taken refuge in the offices of certain weekly journals, the staffs of these papers acting as bearers with the greatest willingness. Our total bag for the day was 240 brace spring poets, and two journalists, of beautiful yellow plumage, shot by Mr. Cadbury.

The figures of Jonathan, David and Samson in the Blackmore Memorial Window at Exeter are intended, we learn, to be symbolical of the character of John Ridd, of "Lorna Doone" fame. The subscribers to the memorial include many Americans. The wording, surely somewhat shaky in grammar as regards line 1, on the tablet beneath the window is:—

This Tablet with the window above are a tribute of
admiration and affection to the memory of
RICHARD DODDRIDGE BLACKMORE, M.A.
Son of the Rev. John Blackmore, Educated at
Blundell's School, Tiverton, and Exeter
College, Oxford (Scholar) Barrister of the
Middle Temple, 1852
Author of "Lorna Doone," "Springhaven," and other
works. Born at Longworth, Berks, 7 June, 1825
Died at Teddington, Middlesex, 20 Jan. 1900.

"Insight, and humour, and the rhythmic roll
Of antique lore, his fertile fancies sway'd,
And with their various eloquence array'd
His sterling English, pure and clean and whole."

"He added Christian courtesy, and the humility
of all thoughtful minds, to a certain grand
and glorious gift of radiating humanity."
"Cradock Nowell."

An elaborate work on the liver companies ofy the City of London, entitled "The City Companies of London and their Good Works," being a record of their history, charity and treasure, by P. H. Ditchfield, M.A., will be published shortly by Messrs. Dent. A noteworthy and charming feature of the volume will be found in the drawings by Mr. A. R. Quinton (brother of Mr. Quinton of Yokohama) of the ancient headquarters of the City companies. These illustrations, drawn in wash or pen-and-ink, number nearly fifty; several are reproduced in photogravure and the remainder in half-tone and line.

The fourth Part of the Oxyrhynchus Papyri, which will be issued by the Graeco-Roman Branch of the Egypt Exploration Fund early in June, is likely to surpass in interest all the previous publications of Drs. Grenfell and Hunt. The place of honour is naturally assigned to the new 'Sayings of Jesus' and a fragment of a lost Gospel, a few details with regard to which were announced last autumn. A cheap popular edition of the new Sayings and the Gospel fragment, together with the 'Logia' discovered in 1897, will be issued by Mr. Henry Frowde on behalf of the Egypt Exploration Fund as a separate pamphlet. One of the most striking features of the new Sayings is the introduction connecting them with St. Thomas. It is very probable that the original 'Logia' papyrus was part of another manuscript of the same collection of Sayings.

The book of the day is emphatically the autobiography of Herbert Spencer. In this connexion some highly interesting reminiscences of the late philosopher appear in the *Forum* from the pen of the late Grant Allen, who in his time knew Mr. Spencer as intimately perhaps as anyone. The article, it is explained, was written in 1894, on the understanding that it should not be published till after Spencer's death. Mr. Allen found Spencer's appearance disappointing at first sight. "The forehead was magnificent, showing massive thinking power; but the lower half of the face, which most of all expresses emotion, was poor and ill-developed. If you held up your hand so as to screen the lower part you would say, 'What a glorious head!' If you held it so as to screen the forehead and see only the chin and mouth you would say, 'What a feebly endowed emotional nature!'" Another thing which Grant Allen recalls was Spencer's touchiness in small things: "Mr. Andrew Carnegie was surprised to hear the greatest living thinker call out to a steward on board an Atlantic liner, 'You've brought me Cheddar; I asked for Cheshire.' That a philosopher should be particular about his cheese seemed to Mr. Carnegie incredible. But, indeed, in all such matters of every-day life Spencer was not only particular but extremely exacting." Of Spencer's conversation we are told that his talk was always in general terms—never of personalties. "Almost everything he said was a generalisation. If you observed that Mrs. Jones was a pretty woman, Spencer would reply: 'Her father was a West Highlander and her mother an Irishwoman; and intermarriage between Highlanders and Irish almost always produces physically handsome but intellectually inferior children.'" The whole articles is excellent reading.

Mr. Joseph C. Lincoln, whose "Cap'n Eri" has been called "the David Harum of the Atlantic coast," is a native of Brewster, Massachusetts, a typical Cape Cod town, to which he goes every Summer. His love for the sea is inherited from both his parents' ancestors. Until he was twelve years old he attended the village schools, when he went with his mother to live in one of the Boston suburbs and complete his education in a Boston school. After some experience in business and banking houses, young Lincoln decided to study art. He entered the class of Henry Sandham, where he remained for some time. Later, in company with another student, he rented a small studio, where many drawings were made and a few sold. Mr. Lincoln wrote and illustrated verses and sketches that were sold to minor magazines to help pay studio rent. Finding that these brought more than the drawings, he paid more serious attention to them. Then he became associate editor of *The League of American Wheelmen Bulletin*, also contributing to it every week a verse and a humorous sketch. These attracted the notice of the editors of the various magazines, and he soon became a regular contributor of short stories and verse to the periodicals. In 1898 he left the *Bulletin* to give his entire attention to literary work. He now resides in Hackensack, N.J. Besides "Cap'n Eri," he has to his credit a volume of verse, "Cape Cod Ballads."

CORRESPONDENCE.

JAPANESE LOSSES IN THIS AND OTHER WARS.

(TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL.")

SIR,—As far as I know there has been no attempt made to compare the number of casualties during the recent Yalu operations with that experienced in any other battle in the history of this country. In order to stimulate somebody with more energy and ability than myself, I will start with Saigo's defeat by the Imperial troops in 1877 at the battle of Tawarasaka, when according to Mr. Mounsey in his record of the Satsuma Rebellion, there were 20,000 men engaged; 2,966 were killed and 4,499 wounded, thus making a total percentage of 37.3. Supposing 15,000 men took part in the Battle of the Yalu, then 6,797 casualties form a percentage of 45.3, which I should say is the highest on record, for this country at all events. Of course there must necessarily be a good deal of supposition in making use of figures where the press consorship is so strict, but one may be allowed a latitude where the object in view is more to interest than instruct.

Yours truly, B. T.

Kobe, 2nd June 1904.

REMARKABLE EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY.

(TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL.")

SIR,—Sympathy is the feeling, characteristic of mankind. It is true that sympathy does not necessarilly follow from the mere fact of gregariousness Cattle do not help a wounded comrade, on the contrary they are more likely to dispatch him. To cultivate sympathy, you must be among living creatures and thinking about them. In the newspaper *Asahi*, I notice the two following remarkable instances of the expression of sympathy:—

(1) When the news arrived of the death of a bluejacket, in the sunken man-of-war *Yoshino*, one of the staff of the *Asahi* hastened to visit his home. Awakened in the midst of a deep and peaceful slumber, and hearing unexpectedly the death of her cherished son, the mother became insane, as is reported in that paper of 25th ult. The reporter may explain that his motive was to inform and condole with the old mother as soon as possible. A deep sympathy indeed! But the result!

(2) When the news of the victory of Kinchow arrived some honourable gentlemen of Osaka, at the instigation of the Mayor of the city, celebrated the victory with a lantern procession and a splendid feast. In this way they celebrated the success of the victorious officers. But what about the sad hearts of the people whose sons and brothers are engaged in the War?

CANADJA.

JAPAN ON THE WAR.

The following circular has been issued:—

To the President of the Chamber of Commerce.

To persons living in Japan it seems unaccountable that because a war is waging in the Far East tourists should have turned away their feet from this land where they have always found so much to charm and to delight. During recent years the stream of travel had set steadily Japan-ward in ever-increasing volume, and simultaneously there had taken place a marked development of all the facilities that make for the comfort of tourists. Railways had been opened, vehicles of every kind had multiplied, inns had been established with special accommodation for foreigners, regions presenting new beauties had become accessible, steamship services had increased, guides associations had been organized, the irksome necessity of carrying a passport had been abolished so that absolute freedom of travel and residence was enjoyable by all, excellent handbooks had been compiled, museums stocked with objects of ancient and modern art had sprung into existence, a welcome society under the auspices of noblemen and gentlemen had placed its invaluable assistance at the disposal of tourists, all the art industries of the country had made rapid strides of progress and in every direction the attractions of the land had been enhanced. No change in any of these conditions, no dislocation of any of these facilities, resulted from the outbreak of war between Japan and Russia. On the contrary, to the many objects of interest which invite inspection in normal years, there was added the remarkable spectacle of an insular people preserving a demeanour of absolute calm and imperturbability while engaged in a struggle for life or death with the greatest of continental military powers. Since the outbreak of this war, as well as during the period of suspense that preceded it, the quiet self-possessed attitude of the Japanese people has been a theme of constant admiration and surprise to foreign onlookers, and has been described in eulogistic terms by foreign journalists. In truth the country is just as it has always been. The Japanese people are not swayed by any frenzy of revenge or fired by any heat of territorial ambition. They are fighting for what they believe to be the minimum of their just right; for the cause of free institutions; the cause of security against the spread of military despotism; the cause of a commercial field untrammelled for all, and the cause of lasting peace; causes which they have fervently embraced and for which they are ready to make any sacrifice. Under such circumstances this war has not impaired in the slightest degree the friendly feeling entertained by the Japanese nation for the peoples of Europe and America. On the contrary, it has greatly intensified that feeling inasmuch as the crisis has elicited throughout nearly the whole Occident expressions of sympathy with Japan which she welcomes with profound gratitude and satisfaction. She appreciates that the purposes for which she is shedding blood and treasure have the full endorsement of the enlightened nations of the West, and she sees that by lending her whole strength to the promotion of those purposes, she has drawn greatly closer the bonds of amity between herself and the Occident. Therefore she is prepared to extend a heartier welcome than ever to all Europeans and Americans visiting her shores, and therefore also it pains her to think that possibly some doubts as to the quality of her welcome may have operated to diminish the tide of tourists usually setting toward her shores. It would be a permanent source of regret to her people that their wholehearted espousal of the best ideals of Europe and America should have created even a temporary barrier between them and her.

Baron E. Shibusawa, President of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce.
M. Doi, President of the Osaka Chamber of Commerce.
J. Nishimura, President of the Kyoto Chamber of Commerce.
S. Kurusu, Vice-President of the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce.
T. Kishimoto, President of the Kobe Chamber of Commerce.
M. Okuda, President of the Nagoya Chamber of Commerce.
Y. Saito, President of the Kanazawa Chamber of Commerce.

TRADE OF JAPAN.

Summary of the foreign trade of Japan for May, 1904, and comparison with the corresponding month of the previous year:—

EXPORTS.

MANUFACTURED ARTICLES.

	1904. Yen.	1903. Yen.
Silk tissues, habutae	2,908,439	1,809,758
Silk tissues, kaiki	9,618	61,431
Silk handkerchiefs	538,792	273,455
Cotton tissues	519,961	343,189
Towels	119,977	72,251
Matches	898,280	896,790
Mats and mattings, hanagoza	210,755	92,976
Porcelain and earthen ware	329,714	234,168
Lacquered ware	104,781	86,110
Umbrella, European	135,580	100,482
Cigarettes	718,724	190,397
Others	1,619,798	1,623,563
Total	8,117,419	5,783,570

MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, HALF WROUGHT.

	1904. Yen.	1903. Yen.
Silk, raw	3,814,538	5,019,952
Silk, noshi and kibiso	265,809	395,734
Cotton yarns	2,592,996	3,373,270
Straw-plaits	359,440	237,757
Tea	1,491,318	2,002,981
Camphor	340,901	419,743
Others	1,943,757	1,218,007
Total	10,808,759	12,667,444

RAW PRODUCTS.

	1904. Yen.	1903. Yen.
Coal	1,560,423	1,880,810
Rice	298,841	328,846
Cuttle-fish	177,507	143,283
Sea-weeds & cut sea-weeds	8,264	10,422
Mushroom, dried	140,923	79,224
Copper, coarse & refined	1,060,180	1,099,566
Fish oil	29,579	53,180
Vegetable wax	52,175	97,416
Others	1,064,439	1,190,837
Total	4,501,331	4,883,584
Grand total	23,427,509	23,334,598

Summary of total value of specie and bullion exported from and imported into Japan for the same period.

	1904.	1903.
EXPORTS.		
Gold coin and gold bullion	12,354,899	87,197
Silver coin and silver bullion	32,467	134,729
Total	12,387,366	221,926
IMPORTS.		
Gold coin and gold bullion	971,348	1,040,638
Silver coin and silver bullion	3,913,631	6,637
Total	4,884,979	1,047,275
Excess of exports	7,502,387	—
Excess of imports	—	825,349

Summary of the shipping (foreign trade) for the same period.

ENTERED.	Ton.	Ton.
Japanese	69,844	461,151
Foreign	960,096	735,072
Total	1,029,940	1,196,223
CLEARED.		
Japanese	72,477	463,528
Foreign	923,518	763,561
Total	995,995	1,227,089

IMPORTS.

GROUP I.

	1904. Yen.	1903. Yen.
Cotton, raw	8,438,388	6,341,051
Cotton yarns	14,342	106,770
Wool	779,400	325,923
Flax, hemp, jute, &c.	205,054	226,044
Iron nails	130,350	129,911
Rails	350,014	251,737
Iron, bar and rod	417,142	317,850
Iron pipes and tubes	137,344	274,387
Other iron and steel	1,017,008	835,497
Indigo, dry	195,623	345,492
Paper	299,873	271,747
Leather, sole and other	193,891	128,187
Machinery and engines	847,370	954,118
Locomotive-engines, railway passengers and freight	433,261	124,753
Steam vessels	772,498	—
Others	3,827,596	2,809,626
Total	18,059,154	13,443,093

GROUP II.

	1904. Yen.	1903. Yen.
Mousseline de laine	57,913	283,782
Woollen cloths	42,809	59,799
Shirtings & cotton prints	134,838	597,567
Cotton satins & velvets	49,337	38,518
Sugar, brown & white	339,748	1,631,360
Others	2,257,300	1,032,903
Total	2,881,945	3,643,929

GROUP III

	1904. Yen.	1903. Yen.
Rice	6,569,546	4,263,980
Beans, peas & pulse	542,030	852,253
Flour, wheat	738,377	566,238
Kerosene oil	1,607,496	1,026,097
Oil-cake	501,848	1,527,327
Others	3,729,452	1,282,541
Total	13,688,749	9,518,436
Grand total	34,629,848	26,605,458
Total of exports & imports	58,057,357	49,940,056
Excess of exports	—	—
Excess of imports	11,202,339	3,270,860

Summary of the foreign trade and shipping of Taiwan (Formosa) for the same period.

	1904. Yen.	1903. Yen.
Exports	1,161,452	1,604,984
Imports	898,452	1,373,327
Total	2,509,904	2,978,311
Excess of exports	263,000	231,657
Excess of imports	—	—
Exports, specie and bullion	11,601	9,300
Imports, specie and bullion	25,888	307,627
Excess of exports	—	—
Excess of imports	14,287	298,327

Summary of the shipping (foreign trade) for the same period:

ENTERED.	Ton.	Ton.
Japanese	1,106	9,599
Foreign	20,961	15,142
Total	22,067	24,741
CLEARED.		
Japanese	1,209	6,563
Foreign	18,852	10,096
Total	20,061	16,659

LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE.

Messrs Mollison & Co., Agents for this large and deservedly popular insurance Company, send us the sixty-eighth annual report, from which we extract the following figures:—

Fire Deaprtment.

The Fire Premium income for the year 1903, after deducting the sums paid for re-insuring surplus risks, amounts to £2,067,194. The Losses, inclusive of full provision for all claims that had arisen up to the close of the year amount to £1,043,512. The Account, after providing for Expenses, shows, without the addition of interest, a surplus of £337,742, to which £100,000 has been left in the Fire Account, to increase the Fire Re-insurance Fund. The balance has been carried to Profit and Loss Account from which the Directors have transferred £100 000 to the General Reserve Fund. The Fire Re-insurance Fund. now amounts to £900,000, and the General Reserve Fund to £1,400,000.

Life Department.

During the year the Company has received

1,006 proposals to assure the sum of	£565,173
848 policies were issued for	486,923
of which £56,100 was re-assured	
102 proposals were not completed for	55,850
56 proposals were declined for	22,400

The Premiums on New Assurances during the year amount to £21,825 of which £3,815 was disbursed for re-assurances as above, the total Premium Income, after deducting the amount paid for re-assurances, being £246,080. The net Claims paid and outstanding (including Bonuses) amounted to £283,307 of which the sum of £6,340 was in respect of Endowment Assurances matured. Two hundred and thirty-two Annuity Bonds have been issued for a consideration of £130,159, these Bonds granting Annuities amounting to £13,067. One hundred and ninety-one Annuities, amounting to £9,864 have terminated in consequence of the deaths of the Annuitants.

The Directors have to report that the Life and Endowment business of the "Liverpool and London and Globe" for the Quinquennium which ended on the 31st December last has been valued by the British Offices Life Tables O^m and O^m (5) and the Annuities by Finlaison's latest Government Tables, both at 3 per cent Interest. The "Globe" business has been valued as formerly, as laid down by the "Liverpool and London and Globe" Amalgamation Act of 1864.

The result of the valuation after giving to the Policy Holders the large Bonus they are entitled to, with former accumulations shows a surplus of £275,488.

Of this amount, from the same prudent motives that obtained at the last four Quinquenniums, there is left £188,585 as a surplus in the Life Funds, and the balance of £86,903 is carried to an account styled "Proprietors' Life Profits Account."

The guaranteed Bonus class was closed in 1875, the existing Policy Holders of course preserving their full rights to future Guaranteed Bonuses. It is satisfactory to note that during the Quinquennium, reversionary Bonuses amounting to £150,764 have been added to the sum assured in that class and also that the sum in hand to meet future Guaranteed Bonuses amounts to £99,305.

As regards the new participating class the surplus thereon amounts to £182,111, and there has also been paid £3,811 for Interim Bonuses during the Quinquennium. This surplus affords the sum required to provide a reversionary Bonus to the Assured at the rate of 35s. per cent per annum on the sum assured under those Policies entitled to participate. The repetition of this large Bonus will no doubt attract considerable new business in the future, which will in itself add to the prosperity of the class. The Directors have provided that Policies in this class which having been in force for at least five complete years, and becoming claims by death, or maturing as endowment assurances, before the end of the current Quinquennium shall be entitled to an intermediate Bonus at the rate of £1 per cent per annum on the original sum assured for each completed year since their inception for Policies effected in 1903, and since the last Division of Profits for older Policies.

The Directors, instead of transferring to Profit and Loss, as formerly, have this year as already stated, carried £86,903 to "Proprietors' Life Profits Account" for distribution during the current Quinquennium. After this transfer the Life and Annuity Funds have during the Quinquennium just closed been increased by £307,319 and now amount to £5,528,029.

Profit and Loss Account and Dividend.

The Profit and Loss Account with the addition of the Fire Profits above referred to as having been carried to it, and of the Interest earned on the Funds other than those of the Life Department, after deducting the amounts paid for the Globe 6 per cent. Perpetual Annuities for 1903, leaves a balance of £994,356. Of this amount £100,000 has been carried to the General Reserve Fund which now amounts to £1,400,000. It is proposed, out of the remaining balance of £894,356 to pay on account of the Fire Department a Dividend of 33s. per share, an additional 3s. per share Dividend being derived from the Proprietors' portion of the Life Profits, making in all 36s. per share, free of Income Tax. On the 23rd November last an interim payment of 13s. per share was made on account, and it is proposed to issue warrants for the balance, viz., 22s. per share, payable on the 21st May.

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Special Service.)

THE ANGLO FRENCH AGREEMENT.

London, June 2.

Mr. Balfour, speaking with reference to the Anglo-French agreement, incidentally referred to the use of the French flag at Muscat. He said that it was quite true that last year a very difficult question arose between France and ourselves, but that question has now been referred to the Hague tribunal.

NO CONSCRIPTION FOR BRITAIN.

London, June 3.

Mr. Arnold Foster, speaking in the House of Commons as Secretary for War, said that the Government does not intend to make any proposal in favour of conscription.

KUROPATKIN'S PLANS.

Reuter's correspondent, telegraphing from the Russian headquarters at Mukden, says that it is understood that General Kuropatkin is ready to. take the offensive on an important scale.

LORD CURZON HONOURED.

London, June 4.

The corporation of the City of London has decided to confer the freedom of the City on Lord Curzon of Kedleston, in recognition of the ability and zeal with which he discharged his duties as Viceroy of India.

The London *Standard* reviews Lord Curzon's administration in the most laudatory terms.

BRITISH ADVANCE ON LHASSA.

Later.

The Headquarters of the British Mission to Tibet, with two companies of Royal Fusiliers, has arrived at Chumbi.

THE NANSHAN FIGHTING.

London, June 5.

General Stoessel's report of the fighting at Nanshan, hastily pencilled and sent by junk to Yingkow and thence telegraphed, says that the Japanese fire, especially that of the gunboats and torpedo-destroyers, annihilated the batteries at Kinchow. Before evacuating Nanshan he ordered the guns to be blown up but his instructious were only partially carried out, owing to the necessity for a prompt retreat.

RUSSIA AND GERMANY.

Later.

The German semi-official newspapers strongly repudiate the reports of an agreement with Russia concerning the ultimate settlement in the Far East. They also strongly deny that any negotiations are proceeding in Germany for a Russian loan.

NEWS FROM PORT ARTHUR.

London, June 6.

Russian pigeon messages forwarded to St. Petersburg declare that the news from Port Arthur is very satisfactory.

A COSSACK SKIRMISH.

General Sakaroff reports that Cossacks on the 31st of May encountered the Japanese at Fenchoninling pass and dislodged the latter from a strong position on the heights. Twenty Cossacks were killed and wounded,

RUSSIAN FRONTIER TROUBLES

London, June 7.

Increasing anxiety is being felt in St. Petersburg regarding the situation on the Manchurian frontier, owing to the restlessness of the Chinese troops. It is feared that General Ma will lose control of the forces under his command.

RUSSIAN MILITARY MOVEMENTS.

London June 7.

All the correspondents in St. Petersburg unite in affirming that General Kuropatkin has ordered a southward movement to relieve Port Arthur. It is suggested by some critics that this unaminity is deliberate, and intended to conceal the fact of a general retreat northward, which the strong rearguard is now demonstratively covering.

BRITAIN AND GERMANY.

In view of the efforts of the German press to represent King Edward's visit to Kiel as a political move on the part of Great Britain who is anxious to secure the friendship of Germany on the Bismarckian principle of re-insurances, *The Times* emphatically declares that the visit is dictated solely by considerations of international courtesy and family relationship, and by no political motive. It is believed that in this *The Times* reflects the official view.

MILITARY OPERATIONS.

London, June 8.

The Tsar has ordered the mobilization of the First Army Corps, in which is included the St. Petersburg district.

General Kuropatkin reports that a five hours' fight took place on June 3rd at Khotsioputse, eighteen miles to the west of Feng-whang-ching. The Japanese, attempting to advance from their fortified position, were repelled by Cossacks assisted by field guns. Sixteen Cossacks were wounded.

THE BALTIC SQUADRON.

London, June 9.

Naval experts are convinced that the Baltic squadron—the date of departure of which is constantly being deferred—will never reach the Pacific even if it starts.

THE "PLEIADES" IN TROUBLE.

The steamer *Pleiades* from Yokohama has arrived at Vancouver after having been towed for 800 miles, in consequence of losing her propeller.

(From the "Jiji Shimpo.")

THE BALTIC SQUADRON.

London, June 6.

It is said that Russia will abandon her intention to despatch the Baltic squadron to the Far East if Port Arthur is occupied by the enemy.

RUSSIAN STRATEGY.

According to intelligence from St. Petersburg a council presided over by the Tzar has been held at Head Quarters, as the result of which Russia has decided to take offensive steps.

JAPANESE LOAN BONDS.

All Japanese bonds have generally advanced ten shillings on the average. The quotations are:—4 per cent. £76; 5 per cent, £87; and new bonds are at a premium of £3.

PORT ARTHUR.

London, June 7.

According to intelligence from Chefoo and Taochow, the sound of heavy firing was heard last night at the entrance of Port Arthur. It continued till this morning.

It is reported from St. Petersburg that the Russian squadron at Port Arthur has been ordered to make a sortie with the object of breaking the blockade and effecting a junction with the Vladivostock squadron. Probably this intention has been abandoned.

THE BRITISH PREMIER.

London, June 8.

Mr. A. J. Balfour, Premier, has delivered as peech in Parliament in which he said that the public interest did not call for the publication of papers regarding the Naval questions which have arisen in connexion with the Russo-Japanese war and which have to be dealt with under international law. He added that the British Government was carefully investigating such questions.

BRITISH WARSHIPS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

The British battleship *Prince* of *Wales* will leave Gibraltar for Tangiers. One cruiser and seven battleships which had been ordered to leave postponed their departure.

A WAR CORRESPONDENT SHOT.

A German war correspondent named Etzel has been shot by Chinese soldiers while ascending the Liao River in a launch. He appears to have been mistaken by them for a pirate.

(From the "Asahi Shimbun.")

KUROPATKIN AND RUSSIA.

London, June 6.

The foreign military officers following the Russian forces are reported to have informed their respective Governments that they are wasting their time as General Kuropatkin is not yet prepared for an active campaign and that he has lost the confidence of the Russian Court. The attaches further say that Russia's plan is dependant on the maintenance of Port Arthur, internal complications being apprehended in the event of the capture of the fortress.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong............	P. M. Co.	Korea	Su. June 12
Hongkong............	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic [1]	M. June 13
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Seydlitz	F. June 18
America..............	O. & O. Co.	Doric [2]	Su. June 19
Tacoma..............	N. P. Co.	Lyra [3]	Su. June 19
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Athenian	Th. May 23
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. June 27
America..............	P. M. Co.	Siberia	W. June 29
Hongkong............	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	Th. June 30
Hongkong............	N. P. Co.	Tremont	Sa. July 9

[1] Left Hongkong on the 1st inst.

[2] Left San Francisco on the 1st inst.

[3] Left Seattle on the 31st inst.

[4] Left Vancouver on the 6th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Zieten	Sa June 11
America..............	P. M. Co.	Korea	M. June 13
America..............	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	W. June 15
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Bengloe	W. June 15
Europe	M. M. Co.	Himalaya	F. June 17
Hongkong............	O. & O. Co.	Doric	M. June 20
Hongkong............	N. P. Co.	Lyra	M. June 20
Portland	P. & A. Co.	Aragonia	Su. June 26
Hongkong............	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. June 27
Hongkong	P. & A. Co.	Nicomedia	Su. June 26
Hongkong............	P. M. Co.	Siberia	Th June 30
Vancouver...........	C. P. R.	Em. of India	F. July 1
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Tremont	Su. July [illegible]

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Ceylon, British steamer, 2,637, C. F. Lockston, 3rd June,—London via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Dardanus, British steamer, 2,992, Robt. A. Tillotson, 3rd June,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Ganges, British steamer, 2,721, W. Sibbold, 3rd June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Zieten, German steamer, 5,052, B. Wilhelmi, 3rd June,—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Ambria, German steamer, 3,288, Porzelius, 4th June,—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Glenartney, British steamer, 1,944, J. S. Stevenson, 4th June,—Kuchinotsu via Kobe and Moji, General.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Kanagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,813, J. McKenzie, 4th June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Samara, British steamer, 1,790, W. Lewis, 4th June,—Muroran, Coal.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Wingsang, British steamer, 1,644, Wm. Lambie, 4th June,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ascot, British steamer, 2,786, C. L. Cox, 5th June,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Vindobona, Austrian steamer, 2,689, Cobol, 5th June,—Trieste via ports, and Shanghai, 1st June, Mails and General.—Pollak Bros.

Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,716, T. L. Harrison, 5th June,—Moji.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

St. Fillans, British steamer, 2,307, Dalgleish, 5th June,—New York via Suez Canal and ports, Kobe, 4th June, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

China, American steamer, 3,186, D. E. Friele, 6th June,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Doris, Norwegian steamer, 965, K. Jacobson, 6th June,—Moji, Coal.—Masuda & Co.

Eretria, British steamer, 2,255, Mulcahy, 6th June, Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Vicksburg, (13), U.S. Gunboat, 1,000, Com. Arthur P. Nazes, 6th June,—Hongkong via Shanghai.

Dunblane, British steamer, 2,402, W. Martin, 6th June,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,055, J. C. Jensen, 6th June,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 7th March,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Ras-Berra, British steamer, 2,500, A. G. Morris, 7th June,—Kobe, General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tjimahi, Dutch steamer, 2,476, N.V.N. Jurriaanse, 7th June,—Macassar via ports, General.—Ed. L. Mierop & Co.

Nuernberg, German steamer, 2,663, Jaburg, 7th June,—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Bintang, Danish steamer, 873, Ingerman, 7th June,—Otaru, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ettrickdale, British steamer, 2,468, R. McKenzie, 8th June,—Muroran, Coal.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Shawmut, American steamer, 6,195, Wm. Smith, 8th June,—Manila and Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 6th June, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Himalaya, French steamer, 3,364, Combe, 8th June,—Moji, Ballast.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, E. Beetham, Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 8th June, Mails and General.—C.P.R. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Australien, French steamer, 2,900, Verron, 3rd June,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Verona, German steamer, 3,306, Debronz, 3rd June,—Kobe, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Sheikh, British steamer, 2,228, C. Jones, 3rd June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Heathdene, British steamer, 2,277, W. J. Milburn, 4th June,—Muroran, Ballast.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Calchas, British steamer, 4,279, W. H. Hannah, 4th June,—Puget Sound ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Schuylkill, British steamer, 3,344, Nicholas, 5th June,—New York via ports, General.—Standard Oil Co.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, N. Nielsen, 5th June,—Bonin Islands, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Claverhill, British steamer, 1,829, W. H. Seldon, 6th June,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ganges, British steamer, 2,721, W. Sibbold, 6th June,—Kuchinotsu, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Loyal, German steamer, 1,337, J. Bruhrman, 6th June,—Kobe, General.—S. Oya.

Ceylon, British steamer, 2,637, C. F. Lockstone, 7th June,—London via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Batavia, German steamer, 7,100, Dempwolff, 7th June,—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Agamemnon, British steamer, 4,462, Robert Day, 7th June,—London and Antwerp via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

China, American steamer, 2,422, D. E. Friele, 7th Jnne,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Ascot, British steamer, 2,786, C. L. Cox, 7th June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of India, British steamer 3,003, O. P. Marshall 7th June,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Go.

Dardanus, British steamer, 2,992, Robt. A. Tillotson, 7th June,—Sourabaya, Ballast.—Butterfield and Swire.

Glenartney, British steamer, 1,944, J. S. Stevenson, 7th June,—Otaru, Ballast.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Samara, British steamer, 1,790, W. Lewis, 9th June,—Muroran, Ballast.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Kanagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,813, J. McKenzie, 7th June,—Seattle, Wash., via Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ambria, German steamer, 3,288, Porzelius, 7th June,—Kobe, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,055, J. C. Jensen, 7th June,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Vindobona, Austrian steamer, 2,689, Cobol, 8th June,—Trieste via ports, General.—Pollak Bros.

Wingsang, British steamer, 1,644, W. Lambie, 8th June,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Dunblane, British steamer, 2,402, W. Martin, 6th June,—Kobe via Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Doris, Norwegian steamer, 965, K. Jacobsen, 9th June,—Otaru, Ballast.—Masuda & Co.

Vicksburg (13 guns), U.S. gunboat, 1,000, Com. Arthur N. Nazro, 9th June,—Bremerton, Wash.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per German steamer *Zieten*, from Hamburg via ports:—Miss F. Eldridge, Mr. H. A. Bell, Mrs. J. Davis Allen, Mr. and Mrs. MacHaig, Mr. C. Kirchner, Mrs. M. Dôebel, Mr. J. M. Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. Desinargières, Mr. and Mrs. Tarias, amah and child, Mr. K. Hansen, Mr. and Mrs. Grün, Mr. Brodineyer, Mr. Li Chi Son and servant, Mr. Li Wi Chu and servant, Mr. J. A. Cooper, Mr. Hill, Dr. W. F. Dunlop, Mr. Copmann, Mr. Kuhn, Mr. Sillius, Mr. Stephens, Mr. Hamilton, Mrs. Fostor, Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Idano, Mr. Franz Schaefer, Mr. Chan Poo Gee, Mr. Paul Helm, Mrs. Ehlers, Dr. W. N. Whitney and family, Dr. Med. Sato, Mr. B. B. Vaile and party, Mr. Duce, Mr. Chong Chin Tai and son, Mr. G. Shibuya, Mr. Wong Cbee Chung, Mr. Wong Chung King, Mr. Cheung Jung Yem, Mr. Yeung Woi Tsai, and Mr. Lee Jam in cabin.

Per British steamer *Wingsang*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. B. Machada, and Mrs. N. Brunn, in cabin.

Per American steamer *China*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Dr. A. C. Bernays, Miss T. M. Bernays, Mr. T. Endo, Master P. Gedge, Master V. Gedge, Mr. Lee Fu Heng, Dr. Sen Kawazu, Mr. S. Kishi, Mr. C. Maffuieu, Mr. S. Nunome, Mr. G. Shiba, Mr. Y. Shima, Mr. C. Tamari, Mr. Huntington Wilson, and Mrs. Huntington Wilson and maid, in cabin. For Kobe:—Mr. N. Kataoka, Mr. W. D. Stubbs, and Miss L. Stubbs, in cabin. For Shanghai:—Capt. E. Weber, and Miss Grace Whitmore, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. F. C. Arrance, Mrs. F. C. Arrance and son, Miss B. Barin, Mr. Geo. N. Anderson, Mr. L. C. Balz, Mr. B. B. Barton, Mr. T. W. Barnett, Mr. L. L. Bernhein, Mrs. W. F. Boyle and infant, Mr. W. E. Bridenstine, Mr. C. H. Crooks, Miss M. A. Coville, Mr. G. A. Dragoo, Mr. H. E. Engle, Mrs W. J. Edmonds, Mr. A. F. Fluno, Mr. M. W. Fox, Mrs. M. W. Fox, Mr. David G. Gunnell, Mr. R. E. Haas, Mr. J. R. Hazeltine, Mr. J. J. Heffington, Hon. J. C. Jenkins, Mrs. J. C. Jenkins and family, Mr. F. Kennedy, Miss E. C. Kine, Mr. John C. Koch, Mr. E. C. Koerner, Miss L. M. McElhanon, Mr. Wm. Mustard, Mr. Arthur Nelson, Mr. A. A. Norsworthy, Mr. R. F. Nyman, Mr. Victor Oltman, Mr. Rudolph H. Petersen, Mr. F. H. Pinkstaff, Mr. Frank Pittmann, Major P. Rigby, Mr. J. L. Sibley, Mr. B. E. Swem, Mr. T. M. Templeton, Mrs. T. M Templeton and child, Mr. R. G. Treat, Mr. Oscar Ulex, Mr. H. S. Woodhull, Mr. J. E. Walther, Mr. O. G. Wolcott, Mr. G. M. Zerbe, Mr. Willard Tyler, wife and child, Mr. G. D. Gregory, Mrs. G. D. Gregory, and Mr. E. A. Magie, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. J. F. Bateman, Mr. O. Bergmann, Miss I. S. Blackmore, Mr. Geo. Butler, Mr. D. C. Campbell, Mr. W. H. Conrad Mrs. Conrad, Lieut.-Col. Dobble, Mr. Hamburger, Mr. T. Hance, Capt. J. de M. Hutchison, Mr. S. Kawamura, Mr. S. Lurman, Mr. A. McLean, Miss M. McLean, Lieut. R. J. McLaren, Mrs. V. Miller, Mr A. K. Prain, Mr. C. H. Ryde, and Mr. Yamanaka, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, from Hongkong via ports:—Miss F. H. Gray, Mr. W. A. Tremont, Mrs. and Miss Wolfoon, Mr. F. Keyes, Mr. J. B. Aitken, Mrs. W. H. Anderson, amah and child, Mr. H. T. Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. Myers, Mr. A. Unger, Misses C. and F. Mosley, Miss J. Remedios, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Brockelbank, Sir Chas., Lady and Miss Dudgeon, Mrs. Max. Nagler, Mrs. G. V. T. Marshall, Mr. J. D. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. B. P. Sheldon, Miss Perkins, Mr. A. B. Giles, Mr. W. F. Smith, Mr. Kauffmann, Mrs. Gibbens, Mr. Shoemaker, Mr. and Mrs. Tuska, Bishop McKim, Mr. Lefroy, Mr. Leybold, Mr. B. Guggenheim, Mr. H. A. Cox, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Gill, Mr. A. Cameron, and Mr. Lenzmann, in cabin; 5, in intermediate. For Vancouver:—Rev. W. J. Sommerville, Mrs. E. W. Taylor and maid, Miss V. L. Herrick, Mr. F. Joy, Mr. R. F. Figueras, Mr. Miguel Pla, Mr. F. Kauffmann, Mr. J. C. Sloan, Mrs. H. A. Woodruff, maid and child, Mr. F. Rollin, Mr. A. W. Barnes, Mrs. H. T. Richardson, amah and 3 children, Mr. W. Helms, Mr. Barry Baldwin, Mr. A. N. Small, Mrs. T. Sincock, Mr. G. Apcar, Mr. D. C. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Gottwold, Miss Little, Mr. Hermano, Mr. J. Douglas, Mr. V. and Master Dent, Mr. and Mrs. P. de T. Evans, Rev. and Mrs. Rees and 2 children, Miss Porter, Mrs. P. Vaughan Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Oswald, amah and infant, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Hellier, Mr. J. F. Sanborn, Mr. and Mrs. Paxton and child, Mr. A. J. Dickson, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Little, Miss Carter, Mr. Fiquet, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Raumann, Mr. G. Browning, Dr. G. Zellweger, and Mr. F. G. Little, in cabin; 17, in intermediate; 48, in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Australien*, for Marseilles via ports:—Mr. P. Ternes, Mr. and Mrs. Kimmins and infant, Mr. Lefroy, Mr. Arthur Baumann and daughter, Mr. Kann, Mr. and Mr. W. D. Graham, Mr. and Mrs. K. Inabata, Mr. L. Meadows, Mr. Fioravanti Chimenz, Mr. N. Dalmur, Mrs. W. W. Greene, Mr. McKechnie, Mr. Calder, Mr. A. Paget, Mr. A. Leicester Bryne, Mr. Waruneull, Mrs. Kann and amah, Mr. Kikuta Sukejiro and governess, Mr. Carpentier, Mr. W. Jenkins, Mr. W. Rowberry, Mr. J. Wilson, Mr. D. Christison, Mr. G. L. Morris, Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Mollison, Mr. Hagg and Mr. Jenkins, in cabin; one sailor, in steerage.

Per American steamer *China*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. Geo. N. Anderson, Mr. F. C. Arrance, Mrs. F. C. Arrance, Master Arrance, Mr. L. C. Balz, Miss B. Barin, Mr. B. B. Barton, Mr. L. L. Bemhein, Mrs. W. E. Boyle and infant, Mr. W. E. Bridestine, Miss Bessie Callman, Mr. M. A. Coville, Mr. C. H. Crooks, Mr. G. A. Dragoo, Lieut. A. Dymock, Mrs. W. J. Edmonds, Mr. H. E. Engle, Miss Esdale, Mr. A. S. Fluno, Mr. M. W. Fox, Mrs. M. W. Fox, Mr. E. W. George, Mr. Davis G. Gunnell, Mr. R. J. Hazeltine, Mr. J. J. Heffington, Hon. J. C. Jenkins, Mrs. J. C. Jenkins and family, Mr. N. Kataoka, Mr. F. Kennedy, Miss E. C. Kinne, Mr. John C. Koch, Mr. E. C. Koerner, Mr. C. S. Lee, Mr. C. Mancini, Mr. L. M. McElhanon, Mr. Wm. Mustrad, Mr. Arthur Nelson, Mr. A. A. Norsworthy, Mr. B. F. Nyman, Mr. F. H. Pinkstaff, Mr. Frank Pittman, Major P. Rigby, Mr. J. L. Sibley, Mr. A. W. Stiven, Mr. W. D. Stubbs, Miss L. Stubbs, Mr. R. E. Swein, Mr. T. M. Templeton, Mrs. T. M. Templeton and child, Mr. R. G. Treat, Mr. J. E. Walther, Capt. E. Weber, Mr. O. G. Wolcott, and Mr. G. M. Zerbe, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Ceylon*, for London via ports:—Mr. J. R. Lancaster, Mr. C. S. Curties, and Mr. J. L. Kimmins, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. Longuett, Mrs. Longuett, Mis-Scott, Mr. Marie Leitao, Mr. A. Wright, Mrs. C. G, Davies and infant, Capt. McMillan, Mr. A. Wilckens, Mr. P. Kalkbrenner, Mr. H. Janke, Mr. E. Oldensburg, Mr. P. Moller, Mr. Foos, Count Wallfsheel, Major Von Stellor, Miss Abenheim, Mr. D. Weed-Mr. F. Maitland, Mrs. F. Maitland, Miss Smith, Miss Kidd, Mr. Burkill, Mrs. Bukill and child, Mr. H. M. Fleming, Mr. J. Hayes, and Lieut.-Colone, Nunes, in cabin; Mr. H. Hall, Mr. C. A. Dewitt. Mr. E. F. Eichenburg, Mr. A. Bragan, Mr. C. Millert Mr. Fujita, Mrs. Fujita, Mr. Chan Kan Sam, and Mr. R. Du Hodway, in intermediate.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw & Waste silk shipped per steamer *Australien*:—

	RAW.				WASTE.			
	Lyon.	Italy Sw'tzerland	Marseilles		France.	Italy Sw'erland.	M'chester	
H. Bernarbin & Co.	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Siber Wolff & Co....	39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jardine, Matheson & Co..............	—	—	—	—	23	—	—	—
Cl. Eymard	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Jewett and Bent ...	—	—	—	—	30	11	—	—
Total...........	59	—	—	—	54	11	—	—

Per British steamer *Ceylon*, for London via ports:—Raw Silk for Europe, 67 bales; Waste Silk for Europe, 16 bales.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

No special movement to record.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER YARD.
White Shirting—{40 yds. 36 in. / 50 yds. 36 in.} ...	0.10 to 0.08
	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼ lb, 38½ yds, 39 inches	¥.2.85 to 3.60
Grey Shirting—9lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.80 to 4.25
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches...	3.00 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton Italians and Satteens...	0.20 to 0.40

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	¥.0.35 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 32 in....	0.30 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches...	0.16 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.50 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 to 65 inches ...	0.90 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0.60 to 0.66
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	9.50 to 12.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches...	0.90 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches...	1.90 to 2.25
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 5lb, 24-25 yards, 32 inches...	2.50 to 3.65

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	¥. 140.00 to 150.00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	—
Nos. 38/42, Singles	—
Nos. 32, Doubles...	145.00 to 150.00
Nos. 42, Doubles...	155.00 to 160.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/100, Plain...	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	245.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	295.00 to 305.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	425.00 to 435.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling...	Nominal.	33
Indian Broach...		26
Chinese		23

METALS.

A small business passing.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward...	¥.4.05 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.30 to 4.60
Sheet Iron...	4.65 to 6.90
Galvanised Iron sheets	10.00 to 11.00

Wire Nails, assorted	5.15 to 5.75
Tin Plates, per box	6.70 to 7.60
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.05
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1½ inch)	5.00 to 5.50

KEROSENE.

Nothing special to report.

American	$3.21
Russian	3.05
Langkat	3.15

SUGAR.

The market is still strong, and sales are limited.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	Y.6.90 to 7.25
Brown Manila	7.10 to 7.80
Brown Daitong	5.60 to 7.30
Brown Canton	6.40 to 8.40
White Java and Penang	8.40 to 9.40
White Refined	11.00 to 14.50

INDIGO.

Nothing doing.

	PICUL.
Java, Medium to best	270.00 to 320.00
Calcutta, Medium to best	180.00 to 290.00
Madras (*Kurpah*), Medium to best	140.00 to 170.00
Madras (Dry Leaf), Medium to best	100.00 to 140.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The position is in the main unaltered from last week. Some old silks have been quitted at very low prices, but there is no regular market either for old or new silk. About 50 boxes new filatures are in the market, but no transactions as yet. *Yen* 850 have been offered by buyers for new filatures, fine-sized, 10-12 deniers for Lyons, but holders will not yet accept that price. Crop news is good all over; prices of cocoons declining and we can only repeat that every prospect is for a large crop of good quality at low prices.

QUOTATIONS.

	Y.	
Filatures—Extra Best, Coarse	—	Nominal.
Filatures—Extra, Fine	—	
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	—	
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	—	
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	—	
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	—	
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	—	
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	—	
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	—	
Common—Coarse	—	
Re-reels—Extra	—	
Re-reels—No. 1	—	
Re-reels—No. 1½	—	
Re-reels—No. 2	—	
Re-reels—No. 3	—	
Kakedas—Extra	—	
Kakedas—No. 1	—	
Kakedas—No. 1½	—	
Kakedas—No. 2	—	

WASTE SILK.

The position is unchanged. The market runs on all fours with the raw silk market. Prospects for the new crop are good. There will be a lot of fibre of good quality and prices will be reasonable.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	—
Noshi—Filatures, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Good	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	—
Nsohi—Joshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	—
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	—
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	—

TEA.

A substantial business continues to pass.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	56 & upward
Choice	50 to 55
Finest	46 to 49
Fine	40 to 45
Good Medium	38 to 39
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, June 9.

London silver ⅛ lower and Hongkong sterling quotations $\frac{1}{16}$ lower, but Shanghai unchanged; local rates on China are firmer, but other rates are unaltered, closing for the mail per steamer *Empress of China* as under.

London	Bank T.T.		2/0¾
—	—	Bills on demand	2/0$\frac{13}{16}$
—	—	4 months' sight	2/0⅞
—	Private 4 months' sight		2/0$\frac{15}{16}$
—	—	6 months' sight	2/0$\frac{31}{32}$
Paris & Lyons	Bank sight		254⅝
—	Private 4 months' sight		258½
—	—	6 months' sight	260
Hongkong	Bank sight	per $100.	89⅝*
—	Private 10 days' sight	do.	87½*
Shanghai	Bank sight		79½*
—	Private 10 days' sight		81⅛*
India	Bank sight		151¼
—	Private 30 days' sight		153¼
America	Bank sight		49⅜
—	Private 30 days' sight		50
—	Private 4 months' sight		50¼
Germany	Bank sight		206½
—	Private 4 months' sight		210⅝
Bar Silver (London)			25½

* Nominal.

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, June 10.

Y. U. Club debentures, sales at *yen* 108, ex the accrued interest. Kirin Breweries, sellers at *yen* 100. Nickels, sellers at *yen* 32 Engine and Iron Works are obtainable at *yen* 100, offer for shares are wanted. Langfeldts, sellers at *yen* 50. Helms, are wanted at *yen* 50. Grand Hotels, sales at *yen* 235. Club Hotels, *yen* 70 nominal. Bretts, sales at *yen* 7.25.

	YEN.	
Brett & Co. Limited	7.25	Sales.
Club Hotel, Limited	70	Nominal.
Grand Hotel, Limited	235	Sales.
Helm Bros., Limited	50	Buyers
Langfeldt & Co., Limited	50	Sellers.
C. Nickel & Co., Limited	32	Sellers.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Founders	450	Nominal.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Ordinary	75	Nominal.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., Preference.	70	Nominal.
Japan Brewery Co., Limited	100	Sellers.
Yokohama E. & I. Works	100	Sellers.

Telephone No. 323.

JAPANESE SHARES.

Yokohama, June 10, a.m.

	Paid up. Yen.	Div'd. 1 year. per cent.	Q'ation. Yen.
Consolidated Bonds (Seiri)	100	5	*86.50
War Bonds (Gunji)	100	5	*86.50
5 % Imperial Bonds (Goburi).	100	5	85.00
Navy Bonds (Kaigun)	100	5	85.70
Tokyo City Public Loan Bonds	100	6	*96.20
Y'hama Water-works Bonds.	100	6	*88.30
Y'hama City Public Loan Bonds	100	6	87.80
Osaka Harbour Bonds	100	6	*87.40
Sanyo Railway Debentures	100	6	91.00
Kawasaki Shipyard Deb'tures.	100	9	*99.50
Osaka S.S. Co. (Shosen) 3rd Issue of Debentures	100	7	*94.70
Sanyo Railway	50	8	60.30
Kyushu Railway	50	8	55.40
Hokkaido Colliery Railway	50	12	74.50
Sobu Railway	50	8½	55.80
Tokyo Electric Car (Densha).	50	9	*87.80
Tokyo Street Railway (Shigai)	50	5⅒	*82.50
Tokyo Street Railway new	1	—	19.00
Tokyo Electric Railway (Denki)	50	—	59.00
Tokyo Electric Railway, new.	20.00	—	30.50
Yokohama Electric Railway.	25	—	*31.50
Odawara Electric Car	50	5½	26.50
Keihin Electric Railway	50	5	59.30
Yokohama Fire Insurance	12.50	10	*15.10
Tokyo Fire Insurance	12.50	12	20.60
Kanegafuchi Spinning	50	7	39.00
Fuji Cotton Spinning	50	8	32.50
Tokyo G'sian Cotton Spinning.	50	8	43.50
Yokohama Dock	33	12	44.50
Tokyo Electric Light	50	12	*72.20
Osaka Electric Light	50	20	93.00
Tokyo Gas	50	14	83.50
Tokyo Gas, new	1.00	—	16.00
Osaka Gas new	12.50	15	15.00
Yokohama Electric Light	50	15	81.20
Nippon (Tokyo) Sugar Refined.	50	15	*55.50
Nippon (Tokyo) Sugar new	44	15	*58.00
Nippon Beer Brewery (Yebisu)	50	23	99.50
Nippon Beer Brewery, new	25	23	53.00
Osaka (Asahi) Beer Brewery.	50	10	52.50
Marusan Beer Brewery	50	—	8.50
Y'hama Chuo Godown	50	[illegible]	51.00
Yokohama Boeki Godown	20	14	25.00

* Ex dividend.

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 18TH, 1904.

BIRTH.

On the 14th June, at 258-B, Bluff, Yokohama, the wife of ERNEST ARTHUR TAPLIN, of a Daughter.

DEATHS.

At No. 7, the Bund, Yokohama (the residence of Mr. M. Beart), on Friday, the 10th instant, HELEN LOUISA, wife of ALEXANDER WRIGHT, Shanghai.

At his residence, No. 11-A, Bluff, Yokohama, at 8.20 a.m., on the 16th inst., ROBERT MEIKLEJOHN, after a long illness, of apoplexy. Aged 58.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

DR. MORRISON, the London *Times'* Peking correspondent, has arrived in Tokyo.

THE *Jiji Shimpo* has been fined *yen* 40 on a charge of an infringement of the press regulations.

A CASE of diphtheria is reported at Sakuragi-cho, Yokohama, the patient being an infant three years old.

PRINCE MORI, ex-Lord of Choshu, arrived on June 13th at Kokura to pay a visit to the military hospital.

LORD GWYDYR, who has been present at four Coronations, celebrated his ninety-fourth birthday at Stoke Park, Ipswich, on April 27.

H.I.H. LIEUTENANT PRINCE YAMASHINA, of the cruiser *Yakumo*, arrived on June 10th at Ujina by the *Sakata Maru* from the front. By the evening train of the same day he left for Tokyo, where, he arriveed on the 12th. It is reported that the Prince has been appointed an attache of the Imperial Headquarters.

CAPTAIN TAKATSUKASA, *Aide-de-Camp* to the Emperor, has arrived at Kukusan to inspect the military hospital, under instructions from His Majesty.

A TELEGRAM from Nemuro reports that the Governor of Hokkaido has ordered the fishermen not to go to the North Kuriles during the war.

T. IWAMURA (35) a coolie was crushed to death by a landslip on June 10th while working under the hill at Negishi-machi, Yokohama.

ENGINEER LIEUTENANT S. IWASAKI has been discharged from the service and deprived of his rank and decorations on the ground of dissolute conduct.

JAPANESE gold coins amounting to *yen* 2,410,000 and U. S. gold value *yen* 5,837.46 were exported on June 14th by the steamer *Korea* for San Francisco.

THE interim dividend of the Tokyo Street Railway Co. for the first half year is believed to be 4 per cent. A general meeting will be held on June 20th.

OWING to heavy rains since June 10th, the Yamato and Yoshino rivers, in Osaka, overflowed, and traffic on the Kiwa rail-way was suspended on the 12th.

A TELEGRAM from Kanazawa reports that the new crop of cocoons was put on the market on June 13th, the price being *yen* 3.60 per *kwamme*. The quality is fine.

ABOUT midnight of Sunday, the 12th June, fire broke out at Minami-ota, Yokohama, destroying two dwellings. The cause is reported to be the upsetting of a lamp.

A TELEGRAM from Peking to the *Kokumin* reports that the first number of the Chinese paper *Yuen-tsz Pao*, the organ of the Russian Government, was issued on June 14th.

THE *Jiji's* Nagasaki correspondent reports that 150 cases containing Mexican silver were brought there on June 13th from Shanghai. The coins were immediately sent to Kobe.

The transports *Hitachi Maru* and *Sado Maru* were sunk by the Russian Vladivostock squadron near Tsushima on the 15th inst. involving the loss of over 1,500 lives.

A CONDENSED Milk Company in America has donated five thousand cases of milk to the Red Cross Society of Japan. The milk arrived at Yokohama on June 7th by the *Empress of India*.

WITH a view to preventing an outbreak of plague, the heads of police at the several stations in Yokohama met on June 10th and decided to commence a general city cleaning on July 1st.

DURING May the export of tea was as follows:—To San Francisco, 219,173 *kin*; to New York, 976,423 *kin*; to Canada, 87,212 *kin*; to Chicago, 719,491 *kin*; and to Pacific Coast, 11,535 *kin*.

K. KAMIYA, an earthenware manufacturer, Minami-Ota, Yokohama, committed suicide early on the morning of June 14th by cutting his throat with a razor. The cause is reported to be temporary insanity.

ON June 12th, the members of the Ladies Patriotic Society entertained Major-General Prince Kan-in, Commander of the Narashino Cavalry brigade, who is expected to start shortly for the front.

MR. T. DAVIES (55), the keeper of the "American Restaurant," No. 106, Yokohama, has been attacked by small-pox. He was removed to the Manji Hospital. The authorities of the Municipal Office are making investigations to ascertain the source of infection.

THE *Jiji's* Moji correspondent reports that the hospital ship *Rosetta* arrived on June 14th at Ujina with 9 officers, 28 non-commissioned officers and 331 men who were wounded at Nanshan.

COMMANDER ARIMA arrived on June 12th at Osaka, from the front. The following day he delivered at the Nakanoshima public hall a speech dealing with the naval operations at Port Arthur.

THE Fukushima and Settsu Cotton Spinning Companies, Osaka, have re-commenced night work, which was suspended since the outbreak of war. The *Jiji* remarks that the industry seems to be recovering from its threatened depression.

THE steamer *Oura Maru*, of the Mitsu Bishi Shipbuilding Yard, left Kobe on June 12th for Chemulpo to assist in the work of floating the Russian volunteer ship *Sungari*, which was sunk at the first naval engagement.

ACCORDING to the captain of a steamer which arrived at Moji on June 12th from Yong-ampho, that port has recovered its normal quiet and business is carried on as usual. The preparations of the Japanese commissariat are all completed.

THE remains of Major Midzutani, who sustained severe injuries on May 16th during the fighting at Lu-shanli tai (near Kinchow) and who died in the field hospital, arrived in Tokyo on June 12th. He was commander of a battalion of the First Field Artillery.

MR. K. MIDZUMOTO, the Superintendent of the Tochigi police, has been decorated by the Emperor of China with the Double-Dragon and Sacred Crown of the Third Class. He attended Prince Tsai on the occasion of his visit to Japan.

H. ITO and five other coolies were arrested on June 14th by the Harbour police, Yokohama. It is reported that they stole two bales of raw silk on the night of June 2nd from the French mail steamer *Australien* when employed on board.

THE Sanyo Railway Co. will commence shortly the branch line, 13 miles, between Atsusa and Omine. The line is specially to be employed in the carriage of coal from the Omine mine belonging to the Naval Department.

COUNT NISHISANJO, who has been ill for some time, died on the evening of June 13th. He was a *Kuge* (Court noble) before the Restoration. In October, 1869, he was appointed Governor of Suibara, and the following year removed to Niigata. In December, 1876, he was appointed a Steward of the Imperial Palace, and in 1884 was promoted to the Peerage with the title of Count. He was raised in 1903 to the Senior Class of the Second Rank. Just before death he was decorated with the Sacred Treasure of the Fifth Class.

A TELEGRAM from the Japanese Minister at Paris has been received at the Foreign Office to the effect that the Chamber of Deputies' Committee for revising the customs duties, have unanimously decided to raise the rate on pure silk woven goods and *habutae*. This information has been transmitted to the Commercial Bureau and through them to the Yokohama Silk Goods Traders' Guild. The latter held a meeting on June 10th and decided to convey a sense of their opposition to the Bill. The following day, the Chamber of Commerce held a conference to investigate the effects on the Japanese silk business of such a revised tax.

ON THE LIAOTUNG.

Friday, June 10.

We find in the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* an account given by a dock carpenter who left Port Arthur on the 26th of May, reached Dalny on the 28th and arrived at Chefoo on the 31st. He says that five injured Russian ships are lying in the neighbourhood of the dock; that their guns have been landed, and that not more than one-tenth of their crews are on board. The remainder of their crews are mainly in the sea-front forts, those on the land-front being in the hands of the regular garrison artillery. There is scarcity of materials for use at the dock, especially of timber, and no wages have been paid for the past two months to the hands, of whom there are 600 or 700 Russians and 300 Chinese. A certain quantity of coal is stored in the vicinity of Liautishan, but there is very little near the dock. Provisions are scarcely sufficient for five months, and the Chinese inhabitants especially are distressed, for their food-stuffs have been requisitioned without payment and they are nevertheless forbidden to leave the place. These Chinese inhabitants number over 2,000 and there are some ten thousand Russian troops in garrison. Two Japanese officers and six blue-jackets who were among those that attacked the forts on the occasion of the third blocking operation are still held prisoners. Within the fortress nothing is known of affairs outside. Only when a Russian ship is injured can some disaster be conjectured. The Russians speak in loud terms of Japanese losses but the Chinese discount these statements. For the rest, war-talk is interdicted so far as possible. There can be no concealing the fact that the spirits of the garrison are at a very low ebb, and probably if a resolute attack were made there would be more disposition to escape than to resist. In proof of this the Chinaman states that whereas a number of junks collected in the harbour had been deprived of their masts and otherwise disabled to guard against their departure, their owners are now permitted to repair them. Just before leaving Port Arthur, he observed that a number of Russians arrived by the new road from Dalny, among them being many women and children.

The suspicions as to the manner of Mr. Soper's death are repeated by this informant. He alleges that Soper, having been long in the employment of the Russians, possessed information which, if imparted to Japanese, might have proved very valuable to them. Therefore his murder was contrived. But all this is very vague.

Another Chinaman who arrived at Chefoo on the 2nd instant by junk from Shaupingtau, says that the latter place was occupied by Japanese troops on the 31st of May. Shaupingtau is a promontory some ten miles south of Dalny and 12 miles north of Port Arthur. If the Japanese have reached Shaupingtau they are almost within artillery range of the Hwangkinshan fort, and they are also in the rear of any advanced positions which the Russians may have contemplated occupying along the main-road.

Saturday, June 11.

Some interesting statements, evidently from a Japanese source, appear in the *Asahi*. They read as though they had emanated from an officer. It is alleged that the Russians have a strong outpost at Shwangtaikau with videttes pushed forward as far as Yingchingtsz. They have fortified Tuchingtsz. Tuchingtsz is 7 miles from Port Arthur and Shwangtaikau is 6 miles further north. These, as we have already explained, are the best defensive positions between Kinchow and Port Arthur. But if it be true, as was reported by telegraph on the 9th, that the Japanese have reached Pingtu, moving along the coast from Dalny, then the above two positions are are turned.

This authority puts the Russian losses in the battle of Nanshan at 4,000—the Chinese refugees speak of 2,000 killed—and alleges that the wounded have been carried to Shiuishiying where a hospital has been erected under the Red-Cross flag. Shiuishiying is 3½ miles from Port Arthur. The wounded officers only have been sent to Port Arthur. In the event of an assault the non-combatants will be handed over and the troops declare their intention of fighting to the death, but the garrison is so dispirited that many surrenders would probably take place. (We do not believe it). The repeated attacks of the Japanese navy have harrassed the garrison almost beyond endurance and have rendered the town nearly uninhabitable. (All this sounds much exaggerated).

Shanghai telegraphs, under date of the 10th, that the Japanese outposts have reached Shiuishiying. If so they are within easy range of the forts at Antsz-shan and Tongchaitsz. Possibly the sound of cannonading reported to have been heard on the land-face of the fortress is to be explained by reference to this approach. But if Shiuishiying has been reached, then the two strong positions further north have been either carried or turned. Perhaps before we go to press some news will have been published about the movements of Oku's Army, but it is noticeable that since the battle of Nanshan on the 26th of May nothing has been given out with reference to this Army except a meagre statement relating to the conditions found at Dalny. Even the fact that Dalny has been taken is not yet officially announced. Of course the Head Quarters in Tokyo know exactly what is happening, but their method is to give out the news in batches.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* publishes a rumour that the Japanese have reached a point 6⅔ miles from Port Arthur. This adds to the perplexity.

In the *Asahi Shimbun* there is a statement said to have been made by someone who has just returned from Dalny. He says that the Russians at the latter place were living in placid confidence that the position at Nanshan would defy all Japanese efforts to force it, and that they were consequently taken completely by surprise. They escaped hastily to Port Arthur, some going by rail and some by road. Much of the destruction done in the town was the work of Chinese desperadoes, who took advantage of the interregnum. This informant denies that the principal wharf has been destroyed. He explains that it is in process of building and not having yet been carried to completion, its unfinished state created the impression that it had been wrecked.

A Chinese ship-carpenter who has the advantage of having received his education in America, reports (*Jiji Shimpo*) that of the 9 Russian war-ships in Port Arthur, 5 are fit for service but 4 are hopelessly injured. (By "warships seems to be meant battle-ships and cruisers.) He adds that the armaments of the disabled ships have been landed and mounted in the forts, and that the crews of the other 5 are employed mostly on shore, no attempt having been recently made to get the vessels ready for sea. There are 9 or 10 uninjured torpedo-craft, two or three of which frequently go out of harbour for a brief interval. All the troops and sailors are busy putting the place in a state of defense. The garrison numbers about fifteen thousand. Constant requisitions for supplies are made, the Chinese being promised large returns in the event of Russian victory. The shells fired by the Japanese ships on the 6th did not cause much damage in the town, with the exception of the last few projectiles, but these constant attacks have created something like a panic among the dock hands.

Sunday, June 12.

A Russian lady who arrived at Chefoo on the evening of the 10th, is represented (*Jiji Shimpo's* correspondent) as saying that throughout the 8th and 9th perpetual cannonading took place at Port Arthur on the land and sea sides. Especially on the 8th the Japanese squadron approached and bombarded the place, thereafter retiring, which operation it repeated several times.

A naval officer who recently returned to Saseho from the base is said (all Tokyo journals) to have asserted that the Russian squadron in Port Arthur is making preparations to escape, and as a necessary preliminary steps are being taken to clear away the obstructions at the harbour's mouth. This has been effected to the extent of permitting the exit of gunboats, but there remain the mines strewn by the Russians themselves about the entrance. The exact positions of these have not been recorded and it is therefore essential that they be searched for and removed, which work is now affording occupation to the gun-boats.

It has been definitely ascertained, according to the Chefoo correspondents of the leading Tokyo journals, that a wireless telegraphic apparatus is fitted up within the compound of the Russian Consulate at Chefoo. Accordingly Mr. Mizuno, Japanese Consul at Chefoo, has lodged a protest with the Taotai, in the sense that this use of Chinese territory for the purpose of communicating with a place which the Japanese have declared to be in a state of blocade, is a flagrant breach of neutrality and must be at once stopped. There can be no manner of question about that. If the Russian Consul—which can not be credited for a moment—is acting thus without his Government's sanction, he should be removed from office without a moment's delay. If he has his Government's approval and authority—which can not be doubted for a moment—then Russia is deliberately guilty of a gross abuse of China's neutrality, and in the face of such practices no protests she can formulate on the subject of neutrality in other directions deserve any consideration.

Further rumours arrive of some kind of operations near the north-western section of the Liaotung Peninsula. Newchwang reports the sound of cannonading throughout the 8th and the 9th, especially the latter day, and from the direction of the sound—south of Newchwang—it would appear that this is to be connected with the reported appearance of 9 Japanese transports off Hiunyo-ching, which is a few miles southward of Kaiping.

A Chinese subject despatched by the *Asahi's* Shanhai-kwan correspondent to report upon the state of affairs at Liaoyang, left the former place on the 28th May and returned on the 9th of June. He says that on the 29th he heard at Palihotsu (3 miles west of Haiching) that 2,000 Russians had just passed through, moving southward. Reaching Haiching he saw 1,000 infantry of the 2nd Regiment with 2,000 cavalry and transport waggons drawn by 42 oxen, marching out on the Suiyen road. On the 30th again, there also moved in the same direction from Haiching 1,000 infantry of the 3rd Regiment with some cavalry and a train of 50 oxen. About one third of this latter force were mounted in Chinese carts. Apparently the troops remaining in Haiching did not exceed 1500 or 1600. Another body of 300 were stationed at Sanlikiau on the road to Liaoyang. On the east of Haiching, at a distance of a mile, entrenchments, measuring about a mile each in length, had just been finished. (We presume that these are to cover the approach from Suiyen but their number and total extent are not stated). Between two places (Kwantienpau and Chiushan), northward of Haiching, he met, on the 1st instant, a strong body of Russians numbering some 10,000. They were moving south, and they consisted mainly of infantry with a part of a battalion of Zabaikal artillery, some 600 cavalry, a considerable body of land-transport, 16 field guns, 200 ammunition waggons each drawn by 2 horses, 500 waggons of provisions, 200 oxen, and 70 nurses (including 3 women). This man passed 4 days in Liaoyang. On the higher of two eminences 5 miles south of the town the Russians had observatories whence a constant look out was kept. Entrenchments had been dug on the lower eminence but guns were not yet mounted. On the south of Taitszshan at a hill called Minkiashan the ground had been levelled for artillery positions but guns were not yet placed. At a distance of 2 miles from the southern gate there were 16 forts, each separated by about one-third of a mile. In front of them were a great number of trenches 10 feet deep and 6 feet wide, with stakes and wire-entanglements. Additional trenches were being dug between this place and the Taitsz River. No one was allowed to pass northward of the Taitsz, but it did not appear that any great preparations had been made in that direction. The forces at the place were 7,000 in the town and 8,000 outside, with small bodies of cavalry and artillery. On the way back it was observed that the number of troops at the various stations along the line had undergone diminution, probably because of the southward movement.

It is difficult to perceive where Kuropatkin's forces are. The above account shows about 35,000 men of all arms stationed at Liaoyang and Haiching or moving in the Siuyen direction. But the Russian General ought to have at least 80,000 under his immediate command. The inference is that he has sent out 30,000 or 40,000 to oppose Kuroki's advance. Another inference is that he intended to make a strong stand at Suiyen, which place he ought to hold, if possible, if he be really moving any considerable force down the Liaotung Peninsula. Suiyen, however, was occupied by the Japanese on the 8th without much trouble, and unless the Russians make an effective stand at Tomuching, we may look for an important engagement at Haiching; important because if Haiching were in Japanese possession, the railway and the main road to Liaoyang would be closed to all troops operating southward.

It appears that the total number of Chinese junks which left Port Arthur on the afternoon of the 7th was 28. Of these 19 steered for Chefoo and the route taken by the remaining 9 is not mentioned. They speak of firing at Port Arthur until the afternoon of the 8th, but the statements of such people as to such matters are not very trustworthy. The junks that reached Chefoo had 1500 Chinese on board and 6 Russian women. They say that there is still a foreign non-combatant element in the Port Arthur population, but that its units fear to leave lest they should be captured by the Japanese *en route*. As for the Chinese some 3000 of them remain in the place. The Russian force, counting only troops fit to fight, numbers 20,000. (How can Chinese civilians distinguish between "fit to fight" and "unfit to fight"?). There is scarcity of provisions, of coal and of fodder. More than 2,000 Russians were killed at Nanshan. There are still 18 Japanese naval men alive in Port Arthur. These junks had engaged to devote only 5 days to the voyage either way, and they therefore left Chefoo at once for Port Arthur.

Previously to the arrival of the above party at Chefoo a smaller detachment of refugees, including some Koreans and Russia women had reached the same place from the beleagured fortress. They were all workmen, not easy to converse with, but they agreed in saying that provisions were very scarce. They added that the Police authorities had charged 5 roubles for a ticket by the junks, but the junk people had received only 2½ roubles.

These Chinese stories of short provisions are probably based solely on the condition of the Chinese themselves. They might be in a state of semi-destitution and yet the Russians might be living in plenty.

The Chinese further say that the serviceable squadron is now limited to 2 or 3 warships and 12 or 13 torpedo-craft. What has become, then, of all the others?

Junks containing Chinese refugees from Port Arthur continue to arrive at Chefoo. They report that preparations are being made to send away all the non-combatants.

Thursday, June 16.

London telegraphs that Kuropatkin having been entrusted with the supreme direction of military affairs, has abandoned the idea of succouring Port Arthur, which idea was forced upon him by the politicians of St. Petersburg, and that he will now retire upon Mukden, with the object of leisurely completing his military preparations. So various and so conflicting are the published versions of Russian strategical plans that one is altogether perplexed to choose between them. Kuropatkin certainly acted at one time as though he intended to attempt the relief of Port Arthur, or at any rate to make some movement which would delay the Japanese operations against the fortress. Delay has to be procured at all costs, for unless Port Arthur can be preserved the coming of the Baltic fleet to the East ceases to be a conceivable measure. The fleet could accomplish nothing without a base at this end, and apart from the scarcely tenable hypothesis that Russia has secured some ally capable of satisfying her want in this respect, we do not see what hope there is for her at sea. At present the interpretation still suggested by the facts of the situation is that Kuropatkin aims at impeding the assault upon Port Arthur and also checking Kuroki's advance by massing a tolerably formidable body in the northern part of the Liaotung Peninsula. Rumour recently said that 4 battalions of infantry and 6 guns passed Tashikiao, going south, on the 30th of May, and that these were to be the van of an army of two Divisions. Since then there has been talk—vague it is true but not inconsistent—of other movements pointing to this concentration. A force of two Divisions would be too formidable to be left on the left rear of either the Takushan or the Yalu army, and pending the operation of dealing with it, Kuropatkin might effect a still more considerable concentration at Liaoyang than he already possesses there. It is hard to believe in his alleged retreat to Mukden. That would involve an abandonment so striking that its moral effect must be taken into account.

Meanwhile it would appear that the Japanese troops have pushed southward beyond Tuchingtsz, where opposition was expected, as we have more that once explained. The Russians are now reported to be concentrating their advanced defences at Shiuishiying, which is only some 5 miles from Port Arthur. They are said to have dug trenches and constructed parapets of a most formidable nature at that position. There is some difficulty, however, in reconciling this version with Admiral Togo's official report, which stated that on the 10th instant from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., one of his squadrons bombarded the Russian positions at Tungchingtsz and Shwangtaikau. Perhaps this naval essay was made in combination with a land attack which resulted in the capture of the position and the falling back of the Russians to Shiuishiying. That no news of any such event has been published by the Military Authorities would be consistent with the strict reticence they are now observing, for it must have been observed that ever since the forcing of the Kinchow Isthmus, the public has remained virtually without news of the doings of General Oku's army.

The Commissioner of Customs at Chefoo is said to have telegraphed to Shanghai, under date of the 13th, that during the preceding 5 days the sound of violent cannonading had been heard in the direction of Port Arthur, and an anonymous Russian is quoted as saying that if the fortress can hold out for two weeks it will be relieved. Such tales must be received with great caution. They suggest that the bombardment of Port Arthur from the land side commenced as early as the 8th or the 9th, which it certainly did not.

The latest reports from Tientsin do not indicate any idea of the Russian Squadron's emergence. A Chinese who arrived at that place on the 13th is stated (*Asahi's* correspondence) to have alleged that the armaments of most of the Russian ships have been landed and mounted in forts at Shiuishinying and Likiatun, which are the two elevations forming the principal outposts of the fortress. The crews of the vessels are also said to have been put ashore and to be now a part of the garrison. The same authority puts the ships now actually fit for the battle line at one ironclad, one cruiser, three destroyers and 13 or 14 torpedo-boats. These figures are obviously untrustworthy. He adds that the Hwangkinhshan fort has suffered much from the fire of the Japanese squadron; that the exit of the port is impracticable for large ships; and that provisions are getting very scarce.

It is now stated that the two ships sunk by mines outside Port Arthur on the 4th instant were the *Giljak* (1,300 tons) and the *Rasboynik* (1,329 tons). Our readers will remember that there was some doubt about the identity of the vessels, and that Japanese naval officers thought they resembled the *Gaidamak* and the *Gremiastchy*. The *Nichi Nichi* suggests that perhaps 4 went to the bottom.

The *Asahi's* Shanhaikwan correspondent

reports that on the 11th instant a sharp engagement took place at Fuhchow. About 7,000 Russian troops with several hundred ammunition waggons arrived at Niukiatun in a disorganized condition on the 12th instant at noon. Among the wounded was an officer, apparently a General of Division. They seemed to have left their guns behind. A number of defeated Russians made their way to Tashikiao also, but their force is uncertain. It is said that the Russian casualties were over 1,000.

Friday, June 17.

[Received from the Officer commanding the Liaotung Army.]

1. Sent on the 14th at 10 p.m. and received at the Head Quarters in Tokyo in the forenoon of the 15th:—"The main body of the Army, forming two columns, advanced northward on either side of the railway to attack the enemy at Wafantien. At 5 p.m. the enemy were found in position between Lunwangmiao and Tafangsin. For about 2 hours an artillery duel was fought, when our forces captured the line from Pangkiatun to Yuhotien. Night-fall interrupted the fight. We had some losses. Meanwhile another column of our troops had threatened the enemy's right, and in order to protect our flank and rear, had marched eastward of Fuhchow, and captured the Tunkiakou-Nakialin line. The Army will to-morrow advance against the enemy's right wing with one column, while the main body will force his centre and right back to Tehlisz.

2. Despatched on the 14th at midnight and received in Tokyo on the forenoon of the 15th:—"Reports indicate that the enemy's force on the Lunwangmiao and Tafangsin has been gradually increased and that he evidently contemplates a stubborn resistance. Our Army will to-morrow fight a decisive engagement."

3. Despatched at noon on the 15th and received on the afternoon of the 15th:—"Our Army, as previously arranged, opened the attack upon Tehlisz at dawn to-day and the battle is now at its height."

4. Despatched at 10.30 p.m. on the 15th and received on the forenoon of the 16th:—"The enemy's force at the Tehlisz position consisted of two Divisions and held the line from Tafangsin to Chingtszshan. Our Army opened the attack at dawn to-day. Our main body advanced along the railway; one column moved to the attack from Sukiatun; and another column, on our left wing, at 9 a.m., advanced from Tunglung Kau. At noon our cavalry joined the fight from Kukiatun. Then the enemy was surrounded at Tehlisz and after a fierce fight was driven north. We took Russian colours" (how many stand the report does not say) and a number of quick-firing guns. Our casualties on the two days were about one thousand. The enemy lost very heavily but we have not yet ascertained the number of his killed and wounded.

5. Despatched at 11 p.m. on the 15th and received on the afternoon of the 16th:—I specially call attention to the fact that in to-day's engagement the Russian forces abused the national flag of Japan. A patrol under one of our officers actually witnessed some Russian troops marching with Japanese colours flying. They were observed by our artillery also which thereupon ceased firing."

6. Despatched at 10 a.m. on the 16th and received on the afternoon of the 16th:—"Our Army yesterday morning attacked from three sides a force of the enemy at Tehlisz, consisting of about two Divisions and a half. The fight lasted until 3 p.m. when the Russians were dispersed. Exact reports have not yet been received, but we have taken 14 quick-firers and have captured about 300 prisoners, including the officer in command of the Third Regiment of Rifles. The enemy must have left 500 dead and wounded on the field.

A Japanese who had resided for a considerable time in Port Arthur, whence he recently returned to Chefoo and thence to Japan, is represented as saying that in the middle of April some troops and provisions were sent from Port Arthur to the Yalu position. Subsequently the remaining stock of provisions was carefully stored and guarded. It would suffice for 3 months at the outside, namely, to the middle or end of July. Already, according to this informant, scarcity is felt, and horse flesh is beginning to be eaten. Various estimates of the garrison's strength have been published, but the truth is that, including the marines, there are about 20,000 men available for the defence. The non-combatants, including the Chinese, number about ten thousand.

GENERAL FLOUG.

General Floug telegraphing from Mukden, under date of the 10th, says with regard to the general features of the campaign, that General Kuroki has resumed his advance and that his right wing is moving on Samachi. (These are Floug's exact words, but General Kuroki's report shows that Samachi was actually occupied on the 7th, namely, three days before the date of Floug's document.—Ed. *J.M.*). Further, "a remarkably large body of Japanese troops have been discovered in Suiyen." (Is not this beyond all measure an exquisite touch? "Discovered in Suiyen." The Japanese took Suiyen on the 8th instant, driving off a force of some 4,000 Russians. Floug describes this by saying that the Japanese were discovered to be at Suiyen in remarkable strength.—Ed. *J.M.*). The Russian cavalry having finished their reconnaissance, have quietly withdrawn to their base. (Kuropatkin telegraphs that they were obliged to withdraw in the presence of a greatly superior Japanese force and that they lost 100 men. Floug has it that having done what they wanted to do they sauntered home smoking their cigarettes.) Skirmishes are daily taking place. The most important of these engagements was on the 7th when the Japanese pressed hard on a small detachment of Russians near Saimachu. Another Japanese army is drawing near Port Arthur. On the 8th and 9th a Japanese squadron attacked the coastwise district at Hiungyochin and Kinchow but accomplished nothing. According to Japanese reports the force of Russian cavalry which attacked Anju at the beginning of May has partly surrendered and is partly about to surrender. That is untrue. The force merely suffered slight loss. (There have not been any such Japanese reports. Floug is coming out in a new light. He makes the Japanese mendacious for the sake of practising his own art.)

HOSPITALS AND THE TREATMENT OF THE SICK.

It may be mentioned that extensive temporary buildings for the accommodation of wounded men are in process of erection at the Red Cross Hospital. There are ten of these buildings and as each measures 360 feet by 24, the whole represent accommodation for 1200 men. The work is to be extended so as to afford space for 4,000 men.

The *Jiji Shimpo*, writing about hospitals, says that the killed and wounded in the Japanese Army and Navy since the beginning of the war exceed 7,000, and that a very large increase must be expected. Then there is the question of sick men, who will certainly exceed the killed and wounded. The method hitherto pursued with regard to sick soldiers has been to put into the field hospital those expected to recover quickly and to send the rest back to Japan. The latter, on arrival, are again divided, those that seem likely to be long ill, are being sent to their own houses and released from further service, while those likely to get well quickly are put into hospital. There is obviously a great hardship in this method. Many families are so poor that they find difficulty in procuring the commonest necessaries of life after their bread-winners have gone to the front. What must be the condition of these unhappy folks when they have to support a sick man and pay for his medical treatment? The thing is impossible to them, and it follows that many of these sick men must die for want of proper care and nourishment. The *Jiji* suggests that all sick soldiers returned to Japan, should be divided according to their circumstances, and that whether seriously or slightly ill those whose families are well off should be sent home for treatment, all the rest being put into hospital. But our contemporary does not say how the men that have recovered could be again drafted into the ranks. Evidently medical boards would have to be organized all over the country, a troublesome and costly undertaking. Yet without some means of recalling these men to the colours, an invidious discrimination would evidently operate in favour of the well-to-do.

RUSSIA.

The *Kolnische Zeitung* is of the opinion that one signal result of this war will be the overthrow of military despotism in Russia and the inauguration of constitutional institutions. That is to say, if she be defeated. But according to Mr. Henry Norman she can not be defeated. According to Mr. Henry Norman's view it is impossible for Russia to accept defeat; she must go on until she wins, and consequently Japan was under the influence of suicidal mania when she undertook to dash her head against this undemolishable wall. We recall that more than one high authority, on the eve of the China-Japan war, said of China just what Mr. Henry Norman now says of Russia, though in the former case the tone of the prediction was less confident. Japan was then declared to be about to follow the example of the Biblical madman who placed himself under the rock: she would be ground into powder. However, the believers in China's might limited their estimate to Japan. They did not venture to say what Mr. Henry Norman says in effect of Russia, namely, that her ultimate defeat under any circumstances is impossible, and that, consequently, her dictation must be tamely accepted by any Power, the only alternative being destruction. If Japan adopted Mr. Norman's way of thinking, if she cravenly bowed her head to all Muscovite aggressions and injustices merely because the aggressor and the wrong-doer is strong, she would deserve to be thrust out of the rank of independent states, and Mr. Henry Norman would be one of the first to assist in passing sentence of ostracism.

THE VLADIVOSTOCK FLEET.

Tuesday, June 14.

It is difficult to credit Skrydloff's telegram about the Vladivostock Squadron. If he really brought the three cruisers to within 30 miles of Port Arthur on the 7th instant, what object has he in proclaiming the fact? The utmost secrecy should be his aim. Again, had he any serious hope of finding Russian ships outside Port Arthur? We fail to see how he can have expected anything of the kind. For he knew well that a state of blockade existed at Liaotung and that the least likely thing in the world was the presence of Russian vessels in the open sea. At any rate, unless he has now abandoned all hope of effecting a junction, his first business is to keep silence. From no point of view do we find it easy to believe that his squadron has been within 30 miles of Port Arthur. His story may be classed with Kuropatkin's anuouncement of a great southern march to relieve Port Arthur. The Russian weapons just at present are ruses and ruses only.

Wednesday, June 15.

Japanese newspapers ridicule the story that the Vladivostock Squadron made its way to the vicinity of Port Arthur on the 7th inst. Perhaps the ghosts of the dead Russian ships paraded in that vicinity then or about then, but that Skrydloff with his cruisers made any such appearance is not to be credited for an instant. If he sighted the Japanese ships, as he claims to have done, the Japanese ships must have sighted him, and then we should have heard more about it. At any rate his tale is comical. What did he expect to find when he reached the vicinity of the fortress? Did he anticipate that the Russian Squadron would be drawn up to receive him off Liautishan Promontory with manned yards and dressed ships, while Admiral Togo's fleet lay politely beyond range? Some Russian officers seem bent upon making their country ridiculous. "Managed to steal down unobserved to within 30 miles of Port Arthur; could not see any Russian ships to help me; saw some Japanese ships; made haste to beat a retreat." A fine entry for the official log of the Russian flag-ship!

The *Jiji Shimpo* thinks it very probable that the Russian squadron in Port Arthur will make a dash from the place, taking advantage of either a fog or of stormy weather. The climatic conditions that prevail in and near the Gulf of Pechili at this time of year are eminently favourable to such an enterprise, and no matter what vigilance Admiral Togo exercises, he may be unable to make his blockade absolutely effective at all times. The Russian ships would not emerge with the intention of fighting, according to the *Jiji's* view. Their purpose would be to run into Chefoo and there to pursue the tactics followed by the *Manjur* in Shanghai; namely, weeks devoted to wrangling among diplomats and then, at worst, disarmament, the ships and their crews being saved. Of course the Tokyo journal urges that in such an event Japan must not allow herself to be played with as was the case at Shanghai. She would have to insist on the departure of the ships within 24 hours.

There is one contingency not considered by our contemporary. If the Russian ships, or some of them, managed to slip through the blockading line, why should they not steer for Saigon, where they could obtain a fresh supply of coal for their homeward voyage and could even refit? That appears to us to be a much more practical scheme than the Chefoo programme.

There seems to be no doubt that on the morning of the 15th instant the Vladivostock Squadron was somewhere in the neighbourhood of the Tsushima Straits. The first report of its presence came from Oki Island, which is off the province of Chikuzen. The report was to the effect that three ships resembling the Vladivostock cruisers had been seen in the neighbourhood. Subsequently intelligence was received from Tsuno Island on the north-west of Nagato to the effect that the sound of cannonading had been heard in the neighbouring sea. Finally the Naval Authorities received a report from Iki Island confirming the fact that a sound of cannonading had been audible. In the face of all these statements it seems plain that Skrydloff has brought down his ships and is engaged in some enterprise. Before leaving St. Petersburg he announced a bold and also a wise programme. It was based on the conviction that, in the circumstances, the first duty of Russian naval officers was to reduce Japan's fighting strength whatever their own ships might suffer in the process. Probably Skrydloff is now putting that theory into practice. The sound of cannonading should mean one of two things: either that the Russians are attacking the forts in the Tsushima Straits, or that they have fallen in with a Japanese squadron. The former is in the last degree improbable and we shall probably be right in assuming the latter.

Later.

The latest account comes—since the above was written—from Katsumoto on Iki Island. It is dated the 15th and says that an engagement was then actually going on.

Moji alsoreports that on the evening of the 14th three three-masted Russian ships were sighted and the forts at Tsushima opened fire on them. It is further stated that three Russian vessels were seen on the morning of the 15th at a point some 50 nautical miles from Moji in the neighbourhood of Oki Island. The passage of merchant vessels was stopped. Sounds of distant firing were heard.

Takeshiki sends word that from 8.15 a.m. on the 15th fighting commenced with Russian ships and was going on at the time—9.24 a.m.—of sending the telegram.

From Oki Island comes a statement that ships were sighted and firing was heard, and from the look-out on Tsuno Island a telegram dated 8.30 a.m. on the 15th announces the sound of cannonading.

There are other similar reports from other places. The most definite is one from Kure which says that the fight was between the cruiser *Niitaka* (3,423 tons, a coast-defence ship) and two vessels of the Vladivostock Squadron.

Thursday morning.

On Wednesday evening persistent rumours circulated in Tokyo to the effect that the transport *Hitachi Maru* had been sunk or captured by the Vladivostock Squadron in the neighbourhood of Tsushima. She left Moji on the morning of the 15th before news had been received of the appearance of the Russian cruisers. At or about the same time there steamed out the *Hino Maru*, the *Kinai Maru*, the *Sado Maru* and the *Kanazawa Maru*. The destination of these ships is not stated but presumably they steered west. Among the five steamers the *Hino* returned, apparently in the afternoon. She said that she had sighted the Russian cruisers and had immediately put back to port. She also said that she had seen the *Hitachi Maru* surrounded by the Russian cruisers and fired upon repeatedly by them. Smoke was observed ascending from the ship and the presumption is that she was sunk. A report has also reached Kobe that the *Fuyo Maru* fell in with the enemy at a point south-west of Tsushima, but that she managed to escape into harbour at Iki. The *Ugo Maru*, too, had a narrow escape. She was fired on 16 times by the Russians without suffering any serious injury, and she alsomanaged to effect her escape to Iki. All this leaves it uncertain whether the *Hitachi* was sunk or whether she escaped. Moreover nothing had been heard up to the evening of the 15th of the *Sado Maru* and the *Kanazawa Maru*, and it is possible that these vessels also fell in with the Vladivostock Squadron.

The *Hitachi* and the *Sado* belong to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's European service. They are vessels of 6,000 tons each, the finest ships among the Japanese transports. If the situation was such as these various rumours would suggest, we must conclude that all the firing heard at Tsushima and in the neighbouring seas was done by the Russians, and that no Japanese men-of-war were at hand. There are indeed some vague reports that Admiral Kamimura's Squadron subsequently fell in with the Vladivostock ships, but this story receives no confirmation as yet. On the contrary, there is a telegram from Iki that the Russians escaped, steaming eastward at 3.20 p.m. on the 15th. The strange thing is that a number of fine transports should have been allowed to put to sea without any naval escort. That is scarcely credible. Even the *Kinshu Maru* had an escort from which she was separated by a mere accident. Nevertheless we hear little of Japanese war-ships in connexion with this affair, and had they been present or in the neighbourhood they must have given a good account of themselves. The *Miyako Shimbun* alone publishes an assertion that a Japanese squadron, consisting of the *Izumo*, the *Yakumo*, the *Azuma*, the *Tokiwa*, the *Nisshin* and the *Niitaka* fell in with the Russians and sunk the whole three after a severe engagement. The *Miyako* gives this information on the strength of a telegram from Moji dated at 8.50 p.m. on the 15th. It also publishes a statement that at [illegible] a.m. on the 15th some Japanese war-ships encountered the Russians and that a fight took place, but operations were very difficult owing to a heavy wind and boisterous seas. Nevertheless the Japanese shells set one of the Russians on fire. On the other hand, it is notable that the people on board the *Hino Maru* say nothing whatever about Japanese war-ships being at hand. Thus at this moment of writing (9 a.m. 16th) the situation is full of perplexities. It looks as though Admiral Skrydloff had struck a bold and very effective blow, taking heavy risks for the purpose. His avowed policy is to inflict damage on the Japanese at all cost to himself, and in pursuance of that object his plain course would be to place himself in the direct route of the Japanese transports and be prepared to subsequently meet any Japanese Squadron that might encounter him. If he has sunk the *Hitachi* and made good his own escape it will be a very clever procedure. We do not yet know what troops the steamer was carrying. Rumour alleges that General Nogi and all his staff were on board, but such was not the case.

By way of marked contrast to the above is a telegram from Saseho, dated 4.30 p.m. on the 15th. It says that three Russian cruisers appeared off Oki-no-shima and opened fire upon three Japanese merchantmen, but the latter all escaped uninjured. At once a Japanese squadron put out and engaged the Russians, and a fortunate issue will probably be learned soon. Saseho, in short, seems quite confident.

Later.

A ship which effected her escape wires (*Jiji Shimpo*) from Moji on the forenoon of the 16th instant that while steaming through the Genkai Nada, she observed a Russian man-of-war approaching in the direction that the *Iburi Maru* would take, and she immediately signalled the danger. Just then the Russians opened fire, and the reporting ship—which was between Chinoshima and Oshima,—signalled that the enemy were in sight. The *Kanazawa Maru*, observing the signal, steamed at full speed to the same position between the islands. It was now seen that a four-funnelled ship like the *Rossia* or *Gromoboi*, together with the *Rurik*, were making some movement at a point about 6 miles away, there being thus three of the enemy's vessels in sight. The transports therefore headed for Kanzaki in Tsushima for a distance of 20 miles, when the fog lifted and Mutsura Island was passed at 8 a.m. At this time the sound of firing was heard in the north and west.

The Master of the *Hi-no Maru* reports that at 5 a.m. he left Moji but there being a heavy fog he steered for Sirasaki and slowed down there, making signals, which, after some 30 minutes, were answered by the arrival of the *Iburi Maru*. The two ships made for Mutsura Island, and on reaching it at 1.50 p.m. the sound of firing was heard.

(Apparently then the firing went on from 8 a.m. to 1.50 p.m., which fact is difficult to reconcile with any theory of cannonading merchant-steamers only. It would seem that some kind of engagement must have taken place.—Ed. *J.M.*)

Another telegram sent to the *Jiji* from Moji on the afternoon of the 15th at 5 o'clock, says that the Russians were seen firing upon the *Sado Maru*, the *Hitachi Maru*, and the *Kanazawa Maru*. Further, the *Izumi Maru*, which ought to have returned, has not been heard of and anxiety is felt on her account.

From Saseho at 6 p.m. on the 15th a telegram came saying that Iki reports the passing of the Russians eastward at 2 p.m., when the position of the Japanese squadron was unknown. There was a report that a part of the Japanese squadron had encountered the enemy at Tsushima, but had subsequently lost sight of him.

From Ujina at 8 p.m. on the 15th another telegram says that the *Hitachi Maru* and the *Sado Maru* were surrounded by the Russians, and that the *Izumi Maru* was pursued by them.

Following are some of the foreigners known to be on board the *Hitachi Maru*: Captain W. Campbell; First Officer M. Svendson; Chief Engineer D. Glass.

THE LATEST.

The latest report comes from the Governor of Fukuoka. He says that a vessel with 300 refugees of the *Hitachi Maru* has just arrived. The term he uses for "vessel" is *dofune*, which should mean "earth boat," but in that sense seems inexplicable. If the word be *dōfune*, then the sense is that the *Hitachi* has returned with 300 of her crew.

Telegrams received from various sources confirm the news that at least two transports have been sunk by the Russian ships, and possibly three. The two certainly sunk are the *Hitachi Maru* and the *Sado Maru*.

OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.

[Received at the War Department.]

First Paymaster Imagawa, telegraphs from Okino Island, that at 10 a.m. on the 15th inst. the *Sado Maru* was fired upon by three Russian vessels in Genkai Sea. The combatants on board were ordered to proceed to the Russian ships; the non-combatants were ordered to leave the *Sado Maru*. Seventy of the crew have reached this place.

[From the Headquarters of the 10th Division.]

On the 15th inst., the *Hitachi Maru* and the *Nagato Maru* were sunk by the enemy near Oku-shima. One of the crew was saved by a fishing-boat and arrived at Abura-mae, Yamaguchi Prefecture.

[Despatched from Kokura.]

At 10.20 o'clock on the forenoon of the 15th June, the *Sado Maru* and the *Hitachi Maru* sighted four Russian ships in the Genkai Sea. Both were sunk by torpedoes at 3 p.m. The Captain of the *Sado Maru* was picked-up by a passing fishing boat. About 100 of the crew have reached Kokura.

[Despatched from the Headquarters of the Twelfth Division.]

Seventeen of the crew of the *Sado Maru* were saved by fishing boats and reached Kokura. About 30 others were saved, being picked up by fishing boats, but it is not known what has become of them. Also 30 of the crew of the *Hitachi Maru* were saved and reached Wakamatsu.

[Despatched from Moji.]

The *Tosa Maru* has arrived with 37 men from the *Hitachi Maru*. Search is now being made at the scene of the catastrophe. A sergeant, Tadokoru, from the *Hitachi Maru* says that at 10 a.m. on the 15th, they sighted three Russian men-of-war, steaming at full speed. The Russians first fired blank cartridge and then opened with their quick-firers. Many of the crew of the *Hitachi Maru* were killed. The boilers burst, which also caused much consternation, and fire broke out. The Captain of one of the companies ordered Fujisaki, a 2nd class soldier, to guard the regimental colours, but Lieut.-Col. Tsuchi had already burned them and smashed the staff. He called out to the men that if any of them escaped they were to report this fact, and then, just as he was speaking, he was struck on the shoulder by a piece of shell and killed. Many of the officers killed themselves with their swords or pistols: several jumped into sea. The Superintending Officer was killed; the 2nd Engineer committed suicide. At the third volley from the enemy the vessel sank. The *Sado Maru* was then seen steaming in a westerly direction. Thirty-seven of the crew were rescued by fishing boats and taken to Mutsura island. Another fishing boat took 30 others, but there whereabouts are not at present known.

WAR TAXES.

We observe that attempts are still made to defend the foreign residents' claim of exemption from war taxes, but as is usually the case in these arguments, the opposing contention is now altogether misstated. It is put into the form that exemption can not be demanded by foreigners in Japan "since Japanese living abroad have not claimed such exemption." That presentation of the case is quite silly. The question is, not whether Japanese abroad have or have not claimed exemption but whether exemption would be granted to them if they did claim it. To reduce the whole position of the claimants to an absurdity nothing was needed except what one of their champions has now done, namely, advanced an argument that there are probably no Japanese subjects residing in England who have incomes large enough to be liable to taxation! *Sancta simplicitas!* Was ever such irrelevance gravely perpetrated? It is quite plain that the advocates of exemption are conscious of the quagmire in which they are floundering. Otherwise they would not resort to obviously contradictory arguments. Just consider the following contentions side by side:—

> 1.—Japanese residing in England escape war taxes because their incomes are not large enough to be taxed. Therefore it is obvious that they would not be taxed if their incomes were large enough!!
>
> 2.—Japanese residing in England escape taxes imposed to meet war expenditure because such imposts are not called "extraordinary war taxes." Therefore the Japanese Administration need only change its nomenclature and it can subject foreign residents to any kind of imposts. The treaties furnish no protection whatever except against indiscreet terminology!!

We really doubt whether the framers of such arguments entertain one scintilla of faith in their own case, or believe for one instant that foreigners residing in an Occidental country would, under any plea whatever, be exempted from war taxes for which the natives generally were liable.

WAR NOTES.

The naval editor of *Le Temps*, writing on the 11th instant, with reference to the reported despatch of the Baltic Fleet in two squadrons to the East, says that, from every point of view, the enterprise is impossible unless the Fleet have a half-way base.

According to a telegram from St. Petersburg General Kuropatkin has issued a proclamation to the effect that respect is due to a brave enemy. Should wounded Japanese soldiers or the corpses of Japanese killed fall into the hands of the Russians, the latter must be duly interred and the former must be treated just as the Russian wounded are.

His Imperial Highness Prince Kanin, who is a Major-General of Cavalry in the First Division, will set out for the scene of war in a few days. On the 12th he paid a farewell visit to the Red Cross Hospital in his capacity of President of the Red Cross Society. He explained that although the date of his return was uncertain, he saw no reason for appointing any one to take his place during his absence, as all the duties would be performed by the Vice-President, Count Matsukata.

M. Davidow, the assistant-manager of the Russo-Chinese Bank in Shanghai, who is about to proceed to Peking, is represented (*Jiji Shimpo's* correspondence) as saying that Russian strategists divide the war into three periods. The first ends next December; the Second is the winter, and the third is next May. During the first two periods Russia will suffer considerably. But in the third she will have an immense army on the scene and the Japanese will be rolled back finally. M. Davidow does not think that the Baltic Squadron will come eastward this year.

There was a rumour in circulation in Yokohama on Wednesday night that the two former Northern Pacific boats, *Tacoma* and *Olympia*, which were lately sold to a Siberian Company, have reached Vladivostock safely and landed big cargoes of provisions. A further rumour adds that both vessels have been damaged in an explosion.

OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.

[Received in the forenoon of the 9th instant at the Headquarters Staff from General Kuroki.]

On the 7th instant one detachment of the First Army drove back the enemy in the neighbourhood of Samachi. He retreated in the direction of Szantai and at 3 in the afternoon our troops took Saimachi. The force of the enemy posted there was one battalion of infantry with two guns. Our losses were three men killed and 27 wounded. There were 23 killed and wounded on the field and we took 2 officers and 5 men prisoners. According to the statements of the Chinese the enemy carried away 2 officers and 70 men wounded.

A detachment which went in the direction of Tung-yuen-pau, met on the forenoon of the 6th instant 50 or 60 Russian infantry near Lin-kia-tai and drove them off. On the 7th instant from 5 p.m. this detachment fought for two hours with and drove back to Tung-yuen-pau about six companies of the enemy's infantry and about 300 cavalry. This fighting took place in the neighbourhood of Chang-kia-shih. The enemy lost 70 or 80 wounded. Four men were killed and 16 wounded.

[Received on the forenoon of the 10th instant from General Kuroki.]

On the evening of yesterday the 8th, a detachment of our troops attacked the enemy near Taholiang and defeated them, and at 5.20 p.m., effecting a junction with a part of the army that landed at Takushan, they took Siu-yuen. The enemy confronting the two detachments totalled about 4,000 cavalry with 6 guns. They retreated in the direction of Tomu-ching and Kaiping. We had one man killed and one lieutenant and 21 men wounded. All the wounds were slight.

[Received on the 10th instant at Headquarters.]

According to a report from the Takushan army, a detachment of this army, together with a detachment of the First Army, on the afternoon of the 8th attacked the enemy at Siu-yuen and at 5.20 p.m. captured Siu-yuen. The enemy there numbered about fifteen or sixteen hundred cavalry with six guns. The artillery and part of the cavalry retreated to Tomu-ching and the greater part of the cavalry retreated to Kaiping. Our losses were two men killed; one ensign and seven men wounded.

[Received at the Naval Department at 7 p.m. on the 11th instant from Vice-Admiral Kataoka.]

The clearing squadron discovered and destroyed 16 mines in Talien Bay on the 8th and 9th instant. We had no loss. At Takushan there are four filter-ponds made by the Russians, one covering an area of about 100 *tsubo*, and the others about 30 *tsubo* each, and all have a depth of 10 feet, but the conducting pipe is somewhat injured and needs repairing.

(Takushan is on the northern promontory of Talien Bay. Probably these filter-beds are for the purpose of supplying water to ships.—ED. *J.M.*)

With reference to the story that the Russians when retiring had poisoned the water supply at Dalny, the Chinaman who made the report has disappeared, and it would therefore seem that the tale was invented merely to cause apprehensions. But accurate analyses are now being made.

[Received at the Military Head Quarters in the 12th instant].

The dead left by the enemy on the field at Nanshan after the battle of the 26th of May have all been honorably buried. They numbered 10 officers and 664 rank and file. Besides these some 20 or 30 were buried in the vicinity of our various regiments, but the total number is not actually known.

(The Japanese killed were 749 in number. It may fairly be assumed, therefore, that since the Russians must have carried off some of their dead, and since their wounded must have borne at least the same ratio to their killed as was the case with the Japanese, the casualties were about equal on both sides.—ED. *J.M.*)

[Received at the Naval Headquarters from Rear-Admiral Togo, commanding the Third Squadron.]

The detached squadron which was engaged in blockading the land side of Port Arthur, sent some vessels to the coast near Kiachow for the purpose of making a demonstration. A railway train was observed moving south from Taushan, and was fired on by our ships The train then steamed north. No other train was subsequently observed during the day. The enemy, apparently with the object of opposing the landing on our part, assembled a force of infantry and cavalry on the Kiachow promontory, where they waited under cover. The gun-boats *Akagi* and *Uji*, taking advantage of their shallow draft, steamed in close to the shore and opened fire on the Russians, who seemed to have sustained heavy loss.

[Received at the Foreign Office.]

A junk which reached Chefoo on the 10th instant reports that prices have risen sharply in Port Arthur. A bag of flour costs 8 roubles, 15 eggs cost 1 rouble, a millet cake 15 *sen*. Chinese foot-gear and hats have become very dear, there being a demand for them on the part of people who seek to escape in disguise.

[Received on the afternoon of the 12th inst., at the Naval Headquarters, from Admiral Togo.]

The United Squadron continues to blockade Liaotung to assist the Army on the landside, and to send squadrons to shell the enemy on shore. No. 6 squadron, which had been specially detached for the last duty during the past few days, consisted of the *Akagi*, *Uji* and No. 6 Torpedo Squadron. On the 7th and 8th they shelled the enemy near Kaiping and inflicted severe loss on them, returning on the morning of the 12th. Again No. 4 Destroyer Squadron, which has returned to blocking duty, bombarded the enemy at Ying-ching-tsz and Shwan-tai-kau for two hours from 11 a.m. on the 10th inst. and inflicted severe loss. No. 2 Squadron, which has been patrolling Talien Bay, observed four Russian destroyers on the 12th in the neighbourhood of Shau-pin-tao and opened fire on them, driving them back as far as Hsienshang Point.

The clearing of Talien Bay of the enemy's mines is going on rapidly. The first section is finished and over 70 mines have been destroyed. We are now beginning to clear the 2nd section. There are still very many of the enemy's mines floating about in the fairway. Our vessels have destroyed about 30 of them. They are driven by wind and tide down Pechili Bay. The Fourth Destroyer Squadron sighted one near Tiehtao and destroyed it. Three others were seen in the neighbourhood near Tou-kiao-kao.

At present there is one fog every week. A fog started on the 9th inst., and lasted till this morning. Our operations are greatly impeded in consequence, but all are working with great assiduity and happily since the loss of the *Yoshino* there have been no casualties of any kind.

No. 6 Squadron, which, as described above, carried out a bombardment of the enemy on the 7th and 8th, reports that the Russians, in order to prevent any landing by the Japanese near Kaiping, have assembled there a force of 3,000 infantry and cavalry. The people say that look-outs have been stationed all along the shore. These troops retired inland before the fire of the Squadron.

On the 7th, all trains moving southward turned back, in consequence of our fire, and on the 8th no train was seen. On the morning of the 8th, two companies of infantry and one squadron of cavalry in the neighbourhood of Kaiping suffered heavy loss from our fire.

The commander of a foreign steamer which left Newchwang on the 7th, says that the Russian troops in Newchwang, numbering 3,000, with 20 guns, left that place and proceeded north, when news of the Japanese attack on Kaiping reached them.

No. 10 Torpedo Squadron captured two Russian soldiers on their way by boat from Fuhchow Bay to Port Arthur. They stated that the troops at Wankialing Wafang-kau and Wanfangtien consisted of two regiments of Infantry and 1½ regiments of Cavalry under Major-General Sansom. This estimate agrees with the estimate of the natives, who put the number at 5,000. The same prisoners say that from 3 to 4 trains proceed daily to Wankialing, but few go south of that point, and when they do they move very slowly. These prisoners carried a quantity of official letters.

[Received at Naval Headquarters from Admiral Togo on the morning of June 14th.]

While the *Taihoku Maru*, of the mine laying squadron belonging to the Fleet, was laying down mechanical mines last night, a mine suddenly exploded. The casualties were: Sub-Commander Masaki Yasuichi and 18 petty officers and men killed; Chief Paymaster Mori and 4 petty officers and men severely wounded; and Commander Oda Kiyozo and one boy slightly wounded.

[Received from Admiral Togo on the forenoon of the 15th.]

(1) The torpedo-launch squadron commanded by Commander Yamamoto, escorted by the 3rd Destroyer Squadron and the 1st, 14th, and 16th Torpedo Squadrons, performed another reconnaissance in force at Port Arthur on the 13th instant at 11.30 p.m. None of the squadrons was seen by the enemy. They passed through the field of the search-lights and having cleverly laid mines as previously determined, returned to-day.

(2) Captain Tsuchiya of the 3rd Destroyer Squadron reports that on the 14th instant, when the Squadron, together with the 1st, 14th and 16th Torpedo Squadron were assisting a reconnaissance in force made by the army at Shaupingtau and were cannonading a position of the enemy's on the west of Shaupingtau, the *Novik* and ten Russian destroyers emerged from Port Arthur. They were fired on by our Squadrons, which sought to draw them further to sea, but at 3 p.m., they retired. We had no damage whatever. Our Squadron proceeded that night to their appointed duties.

On the same day at 4 p.m. the *Chitose* reported from Cap Island that sounds of explosions and cannonading were audible at Port Arthur, but the cause is not yet known.

[Received at the Foreign Office.]

The Russian Government is said to be again seeking to float a foreign loan. Application has been made to the Berlin and Paris banks and to the Rothschilds, but the latter are unfavourable. Strong pressure is being brought to bear on the Berlin banks.

[Received from General Kuroki Commanding the First Army.]

A detachment under Capt. Yoshida, on the 11th inst. attacked a detachment of 100 mounted infantry at Kanchuankau. On the 12th another detachment dispersed 300 of the enemy, who were assisted by 300 mounted bandits, and took possession of Hwaijen. The enemy retired in the direction of Wutanho. His casualties cannot at present be ascertained but he had 3 killed and 3 wounded in the first affair.

THE SITUATION IN MANCHURIA.

Saturday, June 11.

London telegraphs that Kuropatkin is to lead 40,000 men to the relief of Port Arthur, and that General Stalkenberg has arrived at Tashikiao. But in Japan it seems to be still considered uncertain whether these operations are intended to deceive or to be practical. To us the latter appears to be the case. Kuropatkin can not lie idle for ever. If he retreats to Mukden or Harbin, he openly avows inability to help Port Arthur. If he remain inactive at Liaoyang, he equally leaves the fortress to its fate, to say nothing of his implied confession of inability to meet the Japanese in the open. He must come out. To military men the wisest strategy for him would seem to be a rapid concentration of all his force for an attack upon the First Army under Kuroki. And it is plain from the deliberation of Kuroki's proceedings that he is preparing for such a contingency. Instead of pushing on rapidly or rashly towards Mukden and Liaoyang, the Japanese General is moving with the utmost circumspection, adopting at every step such precautions as seem advisable should a stand become necessary in the face of a superior force. There is of course a possibility that all this talk about a southward movement on the part of the Russians is merely designed to cloak some enterprise against the First Army. A Napoleon in Kuropatkin's place would be very apt to adopt that line of strategy, namely, to organise the various forces south of Haicheng into an army for menacing the Liaotung Peninsula, and having thus compelled a counter-move on the part of the Japanese, to throw the whole of his remaining available troops against Kuroki's army and, if possible, force it back to Fenghwang and the Yalu. Before many days have elapsed the situation must develop so as to make these things clear. The present is just the critical moment. We must assume that Kuropatkin has been awaiting the Japanese dispositions before finally mapping out his own strategy, and it is very difficult to believe that he can seriously think of leading 40,000 men southward while Kuroki menaces his left flank and his line of communications. But the degree of that danger must depend largely upon the forces the Russian General has at his disposal. He may be able to undertake the two things simultaneously, namely, to send fifty or sixty thousand men against Kuroki, or to leave them guarding his communications, and to march himself with forty or fifty thousand to the relief of Port Arthur. It is in that sense that we interpret his strategy, and the thing becomes much more conceivable if we assume—a reasonable assumption—that he has placed the cardinal positions along his line of communications in a state of thorough defence. Still it is beyond question that this division of his forces and this southward prolongation of his line of operations constitute the most perilous strategy he could adopt under the circumstances. He will be moving across the front of two Japanese armies, one prepared to strike from the direction of Takushan, the other from the Valley of the Taitsz.

Monday, June 13.

The public have received news of so many petty skirmishes lately that probably very little attention is paid to intelligence of this kind, as no event of importance has hitherto followed the receipt of the news. But Friday's telegrams must not be summarily dismissed, for they convey intelligence of moment. In the first place they show two armies operating in Manchuria in addition to the troops on the Liaotung Peninsula. One of these armies is General Kuroki's; the other is an army spoken of as "the army that landed at Takushan." The name of the officer in command of the latter is not mentioned in the telegrams, but the fact that a report is sent independently from the army proves conclusively that it does not form a part of General Kuroki's force. We have no exact information as to the organization of this Takushan Army or the time when it took the field, nor are we permitted to discuss such matters. But it will not be improper to note the obvious inference that, as we suggested in a recent issue, General Kuroki's movements have been purposely delayed so that they could ultimately synchronise conveniently with those of a force operating westward from Takushan.

In the second place, we have the two armies simultaneously commencing a forward movement. Kuroki's Army, on the 7th of June, captures Samachi (or Samazi) and also fights an outpost action which places it in possession of Changkiashih. Samachi is an important town lying 40 miles north of Fenghwang. It is 64 miles distant from Liaoyang on the northern route to the latter from Fenghwang. Changkiashih is on the main, or middle ronte, which leads through the mountains across the celebrated Motien Pass The First Army, then, may be said to have performed, on the 7th instant, the opening stages of its advance towards Liaoyang or Mukden, or both. It is not likely that Kuroki contemplates forcing Motien. An advance along the northern route through the valley of the Taitsz would effectually turn that position. But he can not leave the Motien-route open for the enemy's use, and therefore he sends a containing force along it. As for the Takushan Army, it made the first stage of its advance by the southern route towards Liaoyang, that is to say, the route which, setting out from Takushan, leads via Siuyen to Halching on the railway, and thence up the line to Liaoyang. The Takushan army's first stage was the capture of Siuyen. This it effected on the evening of the 8th, assisted by a detachment of the First Army, which had doubtless been previously thrown out from Kuroki's left wing in a south-westerly direction to watch the enemy in that quarter. Siuyen is 50 miles from Haiching, and the march of the Takushan army towards the latter will soon unmask Kuropatkin's plans. If he really entertains the intention of attempting to succour Port Arthur, he must lose no time in beating back the Takushan army, for should it reach Haiching every Russian soldier southward of that point will be cut off. Simultaneously he must employ a force at least sufficient to check Kuroki's advance by the Taitsz Valley, for were that consummated a still more disastrous measure of communications-cutting would be achieved.

The above operations did not involve anything more serious than outpost engagements, though the Japanese had altogether 10 killed and 73 wounded. But it is observable that the Russian outposts were almost strong enough to be regarded as occupying forces. At Samachi there was a battalion of infantry with 2 guns. Whether they had entrenched themselves or not the report does not say, but if they really lost the number admitted by Kuropatkin himself, namely, about 100 of all ranks, either their resistance must have been altogether in excess of outpost function or they managed matters very badly. Again at Changkiashih the Russians are said to have had some 6 companies of infantry and 300 cavalry, or over a thousand in all. Here too they lost from 70 to 80, so that they evidently fought to hold their ground. Their largest force, however, was at Siuyen—4,000 cavalry with 6 guns. Their losses in this engagement are not estimated, but it is significant that a part of them retreated towards Tomuching, which is on the road to Haiching, and a part towards Kaiping, which is near the neck of the Liaotung Peninsula. Such movements do not suggest any concentration of the Russian forces on the line of the Takushan army's advance. It must be confessed that Kuropatkin is a passed master in the art of concealing his designs. Do they fathom him in St. Petersburg we wonder. Evidently St. Petersburg is profoundly perplexed about Port Arthur at all events. The people there must know very well that the Japanese troops did not force the Kinchow Isthmus until night-fall on the 26th of May, and that from Kinchow to Port Arthur the distance is 39 miles. Yet, according to a telegram *viâ* Paris, they think it credible that an attack by land and by sea was delivered against the fortress on the 29th. Certainly their credulity implies an immense compliment to the potentialities of a Japanese army.

London reports the appearance of another small flotilla of Japanese transports off Hiung-yo-ching, near Kaiping. This is confirmed by a Petersburg message which appears in the *Asahi*. It puts the number of Japanese transports at nine. Our readers will remember that a pretense of landing at this point on the north west of the Liaotung Peninsula was made on the 15th of May, and that it led to the evacuation by the Russians, and to the retreat of all their forces in the direction of Haiching.

There are indications that the Twelfth Division is moving along the main road from Fenghwang towards Liaoyang. This news comes *viâ* Kokura, the head-quarters of the Division, but unfortunately the names of places are elided, asterisks only being employed. Even asterisks, however, afford some information, and we infer that the Division, if it has not actually passed Motienling, is very close to that formidable defile.

Tuesday, June 14.

In the *Asahi's* correspondence from the front we read that the Twelfth Division (First Army) celebrated the festival Shokonsai on the 2nd instant, and that Prince Kuni and General Kuroki took part in the affair.

To guard Chinese women against all danger of insult this correspondent says that any of them residing near the place where the troops have their quarters, are removed to some distant village as a temporary measure. Where the Twelfth Division was on the 2nd this correspondent carefully avoids saying, but subsequent reports indicate that it was near the main road from Fenghwang to Liaoyang on the 8th instant.

The guns captured at Kiulien were tried by the Japanese in the interval between the 26th of May and the 7th of June. Some of them were found to be effective up to 8,000 metres.

Wednesday, June 15.

The Russians are said to be again invading the West Liao district. They retired from it at the close of May but a report now comes that a thousand men with 8 guns have advanced to Sinlipao, their pretext being to drive back the Hunghutsz. Judging from the constantly rumoured enterprises of these latter, one imagines that the Russians may have valid reason for the above move.

The requisitions of the Russians at Mukden have been so large and so frequent that great scarcity of cereals is now said to be felt. Governor-General Tseng is reported to have appealed for aid to Peking, and the Chinese Government, in response to this appeal, has instructed Viceroy Yuan to minister to the wants of the Mukden folks. That is a frank manner of whipping the devil round the post. The Russians draw upon the people for supplies and the people draw upon Peking, the net result being that the Chinese Government is supporting the Russian troops in their struggle against Japan. It is inevitable that many anomalies should disfigure a situation like the present, where the territory of a nominally neutral State is under the practical control of a belligerent.

Kuropatkin is said to have posted notifications in Mukden to the effect that the large Russian Army at Liaoyang is about to retire to Mukden, but that no apprehensions need be felt as the movement is part of a plan to crush the Japanese. Meanwhile all ingress and egress to the Russian camps at Liaoyang, Mukden and Taiyuen are strictly interdicted to Chinese subjects. It will be admitted that the Russian General is at all events succeeding in bewildering the public. This is the month, this month of June, when he was to have arrived in Tokyo for the purpose of dictating terms of peace, and now his talk is of retreating to Mukden. A few days ago, however, he was undoubtedly moving troops southward, apparently for the relief of Port Arthur. That may have been mere bluff, but so may be his present talk of retreat. For can we easily believe that he means to surrender the whole railway from Mukden to Port Arthur into Japanese hands? If all the rhodomontade the public has heard about the stupendous operations that were to be undertaken by the Russians in June and July—if all this has been mere prattle, what must be the feelings of the Russian nation to-day? For the Russian nation too has been as egregiously deceived as all the rest of the world. The only explanation suggesting itself is that from first to last Kuropatkin has under-estimated the Japanese. It is now known that he himself paid a visit of inspection to the Yalu position on the 25th of April, and we must assume that he then approved all Zassulitch's arrangements for preventing the passage of the river. It is further demonstrated by many evidences of elaborate preparation that the evacuation of Fenghwang without striking a blow never entered into Kuropatkin's programme. Neither did the evacuation of Haiching and Liaoyang, unless we are much mistaken. If the retreat he now announces be real, it is a retreat before necessity not a step back for a better spring.

Meanwhile the most urgent business of the Russians seems to be the building of a military road from Mukden to Harbin. Two thousand men are said to be engaged on it day and night. A three-hundred-mile road is a big undertaking.

KOREA.

Saturday, June 11.

There is no change apparently in the situation on the north-east coast of Korea. The Russians have disappeared entirely from Kowon, but a few are still in Hamheung. They have evidently abandoned, for the moment at all events, their intention of pushing down to Wonsan, and we shall probably hear of them next in the interior, attempting something, perhaps, against the Japanese line of communications on the west coast, though some time must elapse before they get so far. Thus far their operations have represented a purely wanton raid. They are merely robbing the Koreans and varying the occupation by burning houses. The whole affair falls worthily into the context of the doings of the Vladivostock squadron and of the Port Arthur fleet's achievement at the Miao Islands.

Tuesday, June 14.

Mr. Hayashi left Seoul on the morning of the 12th, and embarked on the *Ohayo Maru* at Chemulpo. A great number of persons assembled to see him off.

A Japanese who has just returned from Wiju is represented as saying that there are 800,000 logs of timber in the upper waters of the Yalu and 50,000 at Yong Ampho. The Japanese authorities have handed them over to their rightful owners wherever the latter could be found.

Wednesday, June 15.

A traveller who arrived at Wonsan on the 12th instant, having left Songjin on the 3rd, reports that the local officials at Hamheung and in the neighbourhood made preparations to welcome the Cossacks on the occasion of the latter's recent coming, and are now collecting supplies for them, as well as urging the inhabitants not to fly from the district. In connexion with this it is interesting to read the following which appears in the last number of the *Korea Review*:—

> It is difficult to guage the sentiment of Korean Officialdom in respect of this present conflict. The general drift of feeling seems to be in favor of the Japanese, but the Korean official is much more likely to ask your opinion as to the probabilities of the outcome of the war than to express a decided sympathy with either of the contestants. In fact, the Korean people come the nearest to observing strict neutrality, in this war, of all the people not directly concerned. Of course the "Powers" are all equally neutral but the "peoples" are not and, in truth, cannot be. Whether it be from financial, moral or sentimental considerations, each man who takes an intelligent interest in the conflict must inevitably side with one party or the other. There is no such thing as an equilibrium. Neutrality does not demand this, but only that people should refrain from such an expression of sympathy, whether by act or word, *as will give either belligerent definite aid.* Yes, the Koreans are very reticent about expressing a decided preference either way, but the usual form their question take is "Will the Russians be down this way?" to which we make the interrogatory reply, "Do you want them to come?" and to this question we never receive an unequivocal answer. Each man denies that his opinion or his individual preference is of any weight. This throws a curious light upon the effect which political life in Korea for the past four centuries has had upon the individual. The expression of political preferences has so often led to the executioner's block that it is a second nature to the Korean to refrain sedulously from committing himself to a definite policy until he sees which way things are going to turn out. This again leads to the interesting question of political leadership in Korea, but this would carry us too far afield to be relevant to the present crisis.

Meanwhile it seems doubtful whether any Russian soldiers are on the coast road south of Songjin, though some have probably passed westward into the interior from Puckhhong and Hansheung. They have apparently constructed some kind of defensive works at Kyongsong, which is their advanced base, but their force southward of the Tumen is reported not to exceed 700 or 800 of all arms. There seems to be a nomad body of Cossacks in Pyongyang-do. They were last heard of at Nyongwon whence they were retreating towards Changjin.

It now turns out to be untrue that any preparations for flight were advised by the Japanese Consul at Wonsan or made by the inhabitants. Absolute reliance was placed on the ability of the Japanese garrison to hold the place against any Russian assault.

There seems to be a new explanation of the curious lingering of Mr. Li in St. Petersburg. He has been recalled by his Government, but his Russian creditors do not like to lose sight of him. The story is that he wants 40,000 *yen* to pay off debts contracted in running his legation. The money was actually sent to him some time ago from the Customs Office, but he continues to ask for it, and there are suspicions that it was diverted into channels which could probably be better indicated by the Russophil Mr. Hyong, now in Shanghai, than by any other politician.

The question of the water-works concession in Seoul is not yet settled. It appears to be very intricate—too intricate to have any general interest.

There is a story that the Korean Government recently presented Orders to the various Foreign Representatives but that it distinguished the Italian Representative by offering him a star of lesser magnitude. The Italian declined to endorse this discrimination.

Thursday, June 16.

The Russians at Kyongsong are said to be removing all the telegraph apparatus northward. Rumour further credits them with adopting a course of extreme violence towards all travellers. These are stripped completely and subjected to a vigorous examination.

Major-General Haraguchi, who commands the Japanese troops remaining in Korea, reports that the force of Japanese which defended Anju against the Cossack attack on the 10th of May was only 68 men. The Cossacks totalled over 300. It is remarkable that the Japanese were able to hold out for 13 hours until the arrival of reinforcements.

CHINA.

Saturday, June 10.

Again the Hunghutze are making themselves obnoxious to the Russians. There is news (*Jiji Shimpo's* Tientsin correspondent) that they have wrecked the line near Liaoyang and that very great inconvenience has thus been caused. With reference to this it need scarcely be observed that Viceroy Alexieff's proclamation concerning the protection of the railway has caused the greatest indignation in Peking. Alexieff, as our readers know, has announced that all the people living along the railway to a distance of 25 *li* (8 miles English) will be held responsible for these outrages;

that they will be fined on the first occasion and that their houses will be burned on the second. These people being unarmed it is plain that they can not prevent the Hunghutze's doings nor can they protect themselves against the latter's vengeance if they give information to the Russians. Alexieff's method is therefore harsh in the last degree and unjust also. It must be a difficult task for China to restrain her soldiery in the face of such cruelties perpetrated against peaceable folk.

Our readers doubtless remember the report recently received in Tokyo to the effect that Chang Chi-tung, Sheng Ifai, and Wei Kwan-tou after a secret consultation had advised the Throne to denounce China's treaties with Russia. In welf-informed circles in Tokyo it is now denied that there is any truth in this rumour.

Monday, June 13.

The latest exploit of the Hunghutze is said to have been the stealing of a quantity of Russian ammunition at Tashikiao. Japanese journals begin to speak somewhat more accurately than usual of these Hunghutze. They repeat the story told some time ago that the free-booters have leagued themselves into a body called the "Loyal Army"; that they are under the leadership of Li Yuen, and that they have sworn not to rest until the Russians are expelled from the cradle of the Chinese dynasty. They carry a flag closely resembling the Japanese, and it is whispered that not a few Japanese adventurers hold prominent positions in their ranks. Their second in command has a name which, read according to the Japanese sound of the ideographs, would be "Tsunekichi." He is said to be neither a Chinese nor a Japanese, but to have simply "fallen from the sky." He is also said to be a strong and resourceful leader of men.

A telegram to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* from Chefoo alleges that beyond all question the Russians have succeeded in establishing a system of wireless telegraphy between Port Arthur, Chefoo, Newchwang and Chingwantao. This statement does not command credence. Any connivance at such an organization would be a flagrant breach of neutrality on China's part, and if receiving stations were erected at Chefoo and Chingwantao, she would be bound to have them removed at once. Newchwang is a different matter. Very likely that route of communications has been opened. Meanwhile it appears that carrier pigeons are being largely employed.

On the 11th instant the Japanese Consul-General in Shanghai announced that a plague patient had been found on the French steamer *Australien* and that the vessel had been duly disinfected.

Wednesday, June 15.

Shanghai sends sensational telegrams suggesting that the British squadron is engaged in, or is about to undertake, some demonstration. Sir Ernest Satow is said to be about to pay a visit to Wei-hai-wei for the purpose of meeting Admiral Noel, and the *Alacrity* will be sent to meet the Minister. The whole thing is so vague that we can not gather any definite idea, unless Great Britain contemplates taking some strong action in support of her protest about contraband of war.

The Japanese in Shanghai, especially the ladies, are said to have taken a conspicuously active part in an entertainment which has just been given to the blue-jackets of the British squadron. A telegram speaks of 15,000 men having been recipients of this hospitality, but we should think that 1,500 is nearer the mark.

It is rumoured that Russian agents in Shanghai are endeavouring to purchase the P. & O. steamer *Ballarat*. They allege the pretext of sending her to Vladivostock, and there does not appear to be any reason why it should not be a true pretext. Just at present one can not see what the Russians in the Far East want with steamers. They can scarcely think of running the blockade of Liaotung.

A certain firm in Shanghai is said to have supplied to the Russian Consulate in Chefoo a quantity of apparatus for wireless telegraphy. Everything goes to show that there is reality in the rumours recently circulated on this subject, and now again we hear talk of a French station at Chingwan-tao in communication with Port Arthur. Wireless telegraphy is a kittle thing. It needs only the atmosphere for its transmission and the atmosphere is free to all. Possibly the Russian Consul in Chefoo, if called to task for his performances, might plead that his compound is extraterritorial from the point of view of Chinese jurisdiction, that he is just as free to have some wireless telegraphic apparatus in operations there as he is to brew vodka, since he does not trespass upon anyone's domain. Of course that would be a mere subterfuge. Wireless telegraphy, owing its the extreme novelty, has not yet been brought within the purview of international law, but that it can not properly be used for the purpose of destroying the efficiency of a lawful blockade is beyond all question. Principles, at all events, survive intact whatever perplexing factors human ingenuity may introduce.

The Hunghutsz are reported to have made a raid against the railway south of Mukden, and to have destroyed 5,000 *kwan* (over 40,000 lbs.) of fuel stacked for the locomotives.

It is stated that China has appointed a Viceroy and Assistant-Viceroy of Liaotung to restore order.

PRISONERS.

The difference between the cost of supporting Russian wounded prisoners and the cost of supporting Japanese, is discussed by the *Hochi Shimbun*. In the case of Japanese wounded, officers and men get exactly the same food; their rooms alone are different. The allowance per head for everything apart from rice is 6.9 *sen* daily, and if the price of rice be added, the total is about 15 *sen*. For each wounded Russian soldier, however, the allowance is 25 *sen* and for each officer 42 *sen*. Our contemporary supposes that intelligence of this special treatment having reached Kuropatkin, led to the issue of his recent order that Japanese prisoners should be kindly used. Writing on the same subject the *Jiji Shimpo* observes that the conduct of the Russians throughout this war has been distinctly barbarous. The sinking of helpless merchant vessels, the strewing of mines in the world's fair-ways, the murder of wounded men, the mutilation of prisoners—all these things make a terrible record. One notable exception was the honourable burial extended to the Japanese dead at Port Arthur, but even that may have been merely in return for the respect paid by Japan to those that perished in the *Varyag* and the *Korietz*. If the Russians are now about to adopt different canons of conduct, some at any rate of the horrors of war will be mitigated.

It is not generally known that the Japanese Authorities allow all letters and parcels addressed to Russian prisoners to pass through the post free of charge, and farther remit customs duties on articles coming oversea to a similar destination. There is also in Tokyo an office called the *Furyo Jōhō Kyoku* (prisoners intelligence bureau) which immediately answers all letters, questions or telegrams relating to the prisoners, and which sends, once in every ten days, a detailed report to the Legation of France, showing the names and condition of the officers and men. Various articles and sums of money have already been received from Russia and handed to the prisoners, and special mention is made of a sum of over 500 *yen* which came through the German Minister to an officer of German origin who was wounded and taken prisoner near Fenghwang.

THE CASE OF MR. COWEN.

Mr. John Cowen writes again from Tientsin repeating his allegation that a note which appeared in our columns at the time when the acting judge of the British Consular Court at Tientsin ordered his deportation contained a suggestion that he had committed some crime other than the writing of the articles in question, and therefore we ought in justice to him to fully and explicitly withdraw it. We certainly had no intention of making any such suggestion and cannot see that anyone could read it into our words, but if the paragraph did convey any such sinister meaning and thus unintentionally wronged an innocent man we are only too pleased to withdraw it altogether. Sir Hiram Wilkinson, the Chief Justice of the British Supreme Court at Shanghai, has reviewed the whole case at great length and revised the order of the Tientsin Court by quashing it, and we regret that limitations of space prevent us from giving the judgment in our columns. Sir Hiram Wilkinson, who has had experience both in Japan and China, pays a compliment to the general high level maintained by British journalism in the Far East, which we think our readers will pardon us for reproducing.

> "I am impressed very strongly with what I believe to be a fact, that this the first time since the Order was made in which the provisions of the first part of Article 106 have been applied to the conduct of any journalist in China or Japan in respect of anything written by him as a journalist. My recollection goes back to the making of the Order, and I can remember no case where proceedings such as the present have been instituted, and I wish to say, to the credit of British journalism in the Far East, I can remember no case in China or Japan where they were necessary. British journalism here has had the faults as well as the merits of journalism at home, and in its criticism of peoples, institutions and authorities it has sometimes gone beyond what those who are concerned in maintaining friendly relations with the Governments and peoples of these countries and with the authorities and subjects of other Treaty Powers would like to see. But I think it will be conceded that the standard it has maintained is one it may under all the circumstances well be proud of. It has not often condescended to language such as forms the subject of complaint in the present case, and if in rare cases it has done so, the circumstances have not called for drastic action."

SOME ASPECTS OF THE ANGLO-FRENCH TREATY.

Mr. E. Dicey, C.B., in the *Fortnightly*, considers the new Anglo-French treaty mainly in its bearing on Egypt. At the outset he remarks that all who hold that a war between England and France would be one of the greatest of calamities "will feel grateful for the courage and the foresight of the Ministry which has pledged England to the armed defence of Japan, in the event of France being dragged, however unwillingly, into armed co-operation with Russia." In Mr. Dicey's view, the one paramount advantage which England obtains from the settlement is "the acknowledgment on the part of France that Egypt belongs henceforth to the British sphere of influence." Only those who have followed the history of the question from Ismail Pasha's time can fully understand what this means. Britain's mistakes in Egyptian policy had been such as to render her retention of the country a logical if not a practical impossibility.

> Mr. Gladstone commenced the comedy of errors by going out of his way to pledge our good faith to the assertion that our occupation would only be of a provisional and temporary character, and that our troops would be withdrawn as soon as order was re-established in Egypt. Fairness forces me to add, that this desire to preclude, if possible, the establishment of a British Protectorate over Egypt was not confined to the Liberal Party; it was shared certainly by Lord Iddesleigh, and I believe to a very late period by Lord Salisbury himself. Our Ministers at home clung with a tenacity worthy of a better cause to the delusion that Egypt, under British supervision and control, would rapidly become imbued with Western ideas of honesty, justice, integrity, and constitutional government, so as to render the native government capable, after the withdrawal of our troops, of carrying on the institutions established by Great Britain. On the faith of this misconception of Oriental character our Government committed itself, time after time, to statements declaring that the reorganisation of Egypt was on the eve of completion, and that our occupation was rapidly approaching its end.

An authoritative article on the bearing of the agreement on Morocco is contributed by Mr. Walter B. Harris to the *National Review*. The interests of France in Morocco, says Mr. Harris, are incomparably greater than our own. "We have a considerable trade with the coast towns of the Atlantic, and the neutrality of the Straits of Gibraltar is of great importance to us; and so long as these are guaranteed, there is no need for more." But Morocco forms for France an extension of her great possession in North Africa, and she has hundreds of miles of frontier to protect. Declining to discuss the question of equivalents for English concessions, Mr. Harris declares that a long residence in Morocco, and a careful study of its political and geographical position, have convinced him that the agreement has brought about the only possible solution, and that "our sole interests in the country—the open passage of the Straits of Gibraltar and the protection of our commerce—have been sufficiently and satisfactorily guaranteed." He even foresees an increase in British trade in the near future, just as France's trade in Egypt has increased since our occupation, for in both cases equivalent facilities are secured.

The *National Review* calls the treaty "The Emancipation of England." It "consummates the emancipation of England from the German yoke, which commenced last year, and we venture to say it affords a complete vindication of those who, in season and out of season, have pressed the view that when once other Powers saw that England was no longer the satellite of Germany, our statesmen would have little difficulty in doing business with them." In some subsequent remarks, the editor of the *National* observes:—"We have no hesitation in saying, as careful students of this question, that without the courageous initiative of King Edward in paying his respects to France last spring, we should not now be celebrating an Anglo-French understanding. The anti-English sentiment which had been so powerful in France for many years, and which were largely due to the skilful stoking of foreign agencies, of which Berlin and the Vatican were the most active, had by no means spent its force when the announcement was made that King Edward, "who always rises to emergencies, came to Paris, where he saw, and conquered."

THE CANTON-SAMSHUI RAILWAY.

The opening of the Fatshan-Samshui section of the Canton-Samshui railway on June 1st was the occasion of some speech-making at a luncheon which followed the ceremony. Mr. Robert W. McWade, Consul-General for the United States at Canton, seemed to have been in excellent form, if we may judge from the report in the *China Mail*. We quote:—

> He said it had been left to H. E. Governor Chang, representing the Tartar General and the Viceroy, to declare the road formally opened. The men who were responsible for the building of the railway deserved more than a measure of credit for the work they had completed. But atlhough the Americans had come to China to help China, they had also come to benefit themselves. It was unnecessary for him to dilate upon the benefits which would accrue from the building of the railway, but he was sorry to say that it seemed to him that the people of Hongkong were not of the opinion that railways were beneficial. [A Voice—Don't mention Hongkong: It's British!]— The railway just completed by the Americans would be advantageous to every merchant in Hongkong within his rights, and when he said within his rights he did not mean to those men who joined in with the Chinese to defraud the country of its proper revenue, but he meant the men, like himself, who meant business and meant that the country should be thoroughly and properly represented by honest and true men. He was ready, he said, speaking advisedly, to accept the responsibility of building the railway from Canton to Kowloon. If the building of the railway from Macao to Canton was turned over to the Americans, by the eternal thunder, they would build it. [A Voice—You bet we will!] Consul McWade, continued, that they would build it and turn it over to the people who gave them the contract free of charge. They had shown by this railway what they could do, and if they were judged by past experience, then, as business men, they would be depended upon as men who would and did stand by their word.

Our Hongkong contemporary says that the line just opened does not reach Samshui, but stops short about two miles from the town. The delay in this section was occasioned by the repeated subsidence of the soil, owing to the heavy rains experienced of late in that district. With the return of the dry weather, however, a foundation will be secured on which ballast to maintain the weight of the train will be placed. All along the route of the line the same difficulty was met with, the soft spongy soil of the flat country through which the line passes not lending itself to the formation of a firm track. After repeated sinkings, however, the land settled, and, as far as the line goes, a permanent way has now been built, from which no danger of subsidence is feared. The total length of the line, when completed, will be 30 miles 950 yards, or roughly speaking 30½ miles, and of this distance almost the whole is level country, but one or two small hills being met with. Several streams, only one of which—the Sainam River—being of any great width, are encountered in the course of the journey, and no difficulty was met with in bridging them. The track almost throughout its entire length is above the level of the surrounding country, and running parallel to the track is a ditch, excavated by the railway contractors, for the purpose of securing ballast for the line. This ditch is now full of water and forms a valuable adjunct to the paddy-fields which cover the country side, enabling the Chinese farmers to conserve a greater quantity of water than they were formerly able to do.

The *Asahi* says that the steamer *Owari Maru* has left Hakodate for the Kuriles to carry back residents who have passed the winter there.

RAILWAYS IN CHINA.

After experiencing many vicissitudes at the hands of military administrators of various nationalities, the Imperial railways of North China, says *Engineering*, reverted to their original owners in the course of 1902; and, having since then repaired damages and been thoroughly reorganised, are paying handsomely. While the lines were still under military control, the Peking terminus was brought up to the main gate of the Tartar city, and the traveller now finds himself deposited within a few yards of Legation-street. A branch line was built from Peking to Tungchow, 14 miles away, the head of navigation on the Pei-ho, and the former port of Peking, whither in the old days all tribute rice was brought. This rice travels now almost exclusively by rail from the sea direct. The earnings of this branch have not come up to expectation. It may ere long, however, be carried along the base of the triangle to Ku-yeh, and bring the capital into even more direct touch with the coast. On the return of the Court to Peking after the Boxer troubles, a line 25½ miles long was built from Kao-pei-tien, on the Peking-Hankow line, to the Western Tombs, so that now his Majesty can perform his sacrificial rites there with the minimum of inconvenience and loss of time. The much-discussed extension from Honpangtzu—56 miles west of Newchwang—to Hsimmin T'un is now an accomplished fact, and the traffic thereon is said to be large and remunerative. It is 99½ miles in length, but it is unlikely that it will be carried farther by its present owners. The total mileage of the Imperial railways of North China is, continues *Engineering*, thus brought up to 580 miles, and there are projected extensions of the system by building a chord line from Tientsin to Paoting, and from Feng-t'ai, *via* the Nanku Pass to Kalgan—100 and 115 miles long respectively. As Kalgan is just outside the Great Wall on the confines of Mongolia, the latter would bring Tientsin so much nearer to its sources of wool supply, and in the interests of trade expansion its construction ought not to be deferred. In what direction it may then push forward to join the Trans-Siberian trunk line, whether north-westwards *via* Urga to Verkneudinsk, or due north *via* Dolonnor to Khaïlar, remains to be seen. The results of the present war between Japan and Russia will not only settle many political questions, but also many engineering proposals.

THE 25-KNOT CUNARD ATLANTIC LINERS.

The contract has now been definitely arranged and signed for the construction of the two high speed Atlantic liners, for which provision was made in the agreement between the British Government and the Cunard Company, the Government, to put it briefly, practically guaranteeing interest on the money—about 2½ million sterling—required for building the two vessels, on condition that they will be at the disposal of the British Admiralty and other departments for merchant cruisers and other maritime service. Very considerable interest has been taken in the negotiations, principally owing to the fact that a speed of 25 knots is to be maintained. This, remarks *Engineering*, involved great size. The dimensions are now fixed at 760 feet of length and 88 feet of beam, so that the displacement, even although no cargo be carried, will be between 32,000 tons and 33,000 tons when the vessel leaves Liverpool. To get the speed, between 66,000 and 70,000 horse-power will require to be developed, and a measure of the cost of the engine power is afforded by the fact that the coal consumption will exceed 1,000 tons per day. But not alone in size and speed do the vessels mark a great advance: the adoption of the Parsons steam turbine as the prime mover will invest them with great interest. It is not necessary to give general particulars of the turbine machinery, but it may here be stated that there will be four shafts, each with one powerful go-ahead turbine, the high-pressure units being on the side shafts, so as to enable the shaft to be as near the shell of the ship as possible, while the low-pressure units will be on the inside shafts. These latter will extend much further aft than the wing shafts, and the propellers will take the place of the ordinary twin screws, with the deadwood of the ship between them cut away. The lines of the ship aft will be specially fine, so that although the wing propellers are well forward from the stern, the blades will not project beyond the vertical line of the hull. We understand that the turbines are being so proportioned as to enable the revolutions to be 140 per minute, so that the propellers will be of sufficient size to ensure efficiency in a heavy Atlantic seaway. The inner shafts will also be fitted with go-astern turbines. Howden's system of draught will be adopted in connection with the cylindrical boilers, which will be divided into three separate units, and thus there will be three funnels. It goes without saying that the Cunard Company, with their great experience and desire to please their patrons, will see to it that the vessels are perfect from the habitable, as well as from the mechanical, and structural standpoints. As has been anticipated for some months now, one vessel will be built by Messrs. John Brown and Co., at their Clydebank works, where so many high-speed vessels have been created, and the other by Messrs. Swan and Hunter, the machinery for the latter being by the Wallsend Slipway and Engineering Company, also on the Tyne.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

Some interesting experiments have been carried out at the mouth of the Thames with H.M.S. *Widgeon*, a shallow-draught twin-screw gunboat, recently built by Messrs. Yarrow and Co. to the order of the Admiralty for use in Chinese waters. The vessel is similar in general design to the *Teal* and *Moorhen*—two gunboats built by the same firm for the British Admiralty. The *Widgeon*, however, is fitted with the flap arrangement for tunnel screw-boats, and it was with this device that the principal interest of the trials rested. By the hinged flap provision is made for maintaining the efficiency of screws working in tunnels at various draughts of water. With the ordinary original arrangement the tunnel has to be made all round so that its edges will dip below the surface of the water, so as to keep the tunnel full of water and the propeller fully immersed in the way explained in our former issue. This naturally puts a considerable drag on the vessel by reason of the screw-race impinging against the after-part of the tunnel. In the new arrangement the flap forms the after part of the tunnel, and at deeper draughts than extreme light draught this flap can be raised so as to just touch the water. At the recent trial the vessel was brought to her full-load draught of [illegible] ft. 8 in., and on the earlier trials the flap was raised. On the third and last trial the flap was lowered, thus bringing the boat to the condition she would be in if the ordinary tunnel had been in the design. The trials altogether extended over a period of ten hours without a stop. A run of six hours was first made, the speed being 11.030 knots, and was immediately followed by a two hours' run at 13.058 knots. The flap was then lowered, and a one hour's run was made, all conditions in other respects—such as steam pressure, &c.—remaining the same, and the speed came out at 12.218 knots. It will be seen, therefore, that the flap arrangement gave an increased speed of 0.84 knot, with the vessel at load draught. The *Widgeon* is 160 ft. long and 24 ft. 6 in. wide, the depth of hull being 6 ft. She carries two 6-pounder quick-firing guns and four machine guns in an armoured battery similar to that of H.M.S. *Teal*.

A small batch of Russian prisoners, 32 in all, have arrived at Moji. This brings the number now in Japan to 580. The same ship brought some guns, waggons and other matters taken at Kiulien.

The trans-Baikal railway had been in use just 4 weeks, according to *l'Avenir de Tonquin*, when the breaking up of the ice enabled the Russians to remove it. It had cost 250,000 roubles.

The operations for raising the *Varyag* are said to be proceeding steadily, and it is expected that the vessel will be raised in September. It will have been a long job.

The Japanese speak with much admiration of a Russian officer who had command of the detachment guarding a fort at Deep Bay when the Japanese commenced their mine-clearing operations there—the operations that involved the loss of the *Miyako*. This officer sat on the rocks carressing the head of a pet dog, and issuing orders to his men with the utmost *sangfroid*. The bursting of a shell in his vicinity did not disturb him in the smallest degree.

The total number of Russian prisoners now in Japan is 546, including 19 officers. Among these 386, including 10 officers, are wounded. Five of the wounded died after being taken into hospital, but there were no officers among them. The rest are all doing well.

Subscriptions to the new domestic loan are coming in rapidly. On the first day the sums offered totalled 93,830,125 *yen*. The Imperial Household again figures for 20 millions. If the sums over and above the minimum price (93) be included, the total for the first day is over 99 millions.

We are informed that Messrs. Carl Rohde & Co. have, on behalf of Farbenfabriken vorm. Friedr Bayer & Co., Elberfeld, the well known German factory of Aniline Colours, paid to the Japan Red Cross Society the sum of *yen* 1,000.

The *Aki Maru* arrived at Ujina on the 11th instant with 324 wounded men of the First, Third and Fourth Divisions which were engaged at Nanshan. She had also 11 Russian prisoners. Among the latter was one Captain and one Sergeant-Major. The *Jiji Shimpo's* correspondent visited these Russians. He found the Captain in a first class cabin studying a Russo-Japanese conversation book, by the aid of which he endeavoured to exchange ideas with his visitor but the effort does not appear to have been very successful. The wounded Russian soldiers seemed to be on the best possible terms with the Japanese. They had learned three words of Japanese *ohayo*, *arigato* and *itai*. Among the privates there were only 3 men that could read and write.

The construction of a railway to the summit of Mont Blanc has for several years been under consideration in France, and a proposal has recently been put forward by M. Duportal, a former General-Inspector of the Ponts et Chaussees, to build a line running mostly in the open, in order to increase its attractiveness. The line, says *Traction and Transmission*, would start from the neighbourhood of St. Gervais, and would reach the Bosses du Dromadaire, *viâ* the Col de Voza and the Aiguille du Goûter. From the Col de Voza a view of the Chamonix valley would be obtained. The line would be on the southern slope, from which the snow, as a rule, disappears more rapidly; and its construcrion would be facilitated by the narrow roadway which now gives access to the Bionnasset hamlet, at an altitude of 4,343ft. Further on, and as far as the Tête Rousse, at an altitude of 10,384ft., there is a pathway which would be found very serviceable during construction. In the first place, a concession is to be obtained for the portion of the line, 11.5 miles in length, to the Aiguille du Goûter, at an altitude of 12,533ft.; together with a provisional concession for the extension of the line to the summit; the route to be followed by this extension has not yet been agreed upon.

Operations are to be commenced immediately at the site of the new smokeless coal factory, the acquisition of which by the Government was announced some time ago in these columns. The place is Tokuyama, in Nagato. A space of 17½ acres has been presented on the sea coast, free of charge, by the people, but apparently this land has to be still reclaimed. The total cost of the factory is put at 1,1000,000 *yen*. The mine cost 250,000 *yen*, and a railway to connect the place with the Sanyo line—a distance of 10 miles—has to be built.

The many friends of Dr. Seymour will be glad to hear that having finished the business which took him to England, he has decided to again take up his residence in this country, and has accepted the post of English teacher at the Fourth High School (Kanazawa). He is expected in Yokohama early in August.

In a paper read before the American Philosophical Society, reported in *Nature*, Mr. Percival Lowell discusses the 375 drawings of the Martian surface made by him during the opposition of 1903. Having plotted the values allotted to the "visibility" of 85 canals, at different periods, with regard to the time of their minima visibilities after the Martian summer solstice, he found that these minima appeared in regular sequence from the North Pole towards the equator. Mr. Lowell believes that the canals are strips of vegetation dependent for their growth—and therefore for their visibility—upon the simultaneous presence of sunlight and water, and he points out that on a planet, such as the earth, where water is constantly present all over the surface, the appearance of vegetation solely depends upon the amount of sunlight received; therefore, in the northern hemisphere, it simply progresses northward with the sun. On the other hand, he concludes, from his curves, that there is no constant supply of moisture on the surface of Mars, and, therefore, although the sun may have reached the summer solstice, it is not until the snowcap melts and looses the water supply that the vegetation appears. Further, his curves indicate that when loosed the water moves southward at a remarkably steady rate of 53 miles per day, and, as the figure of the planet is shown by its spheroidity to be in a state of fluid equilibrium, he contends that the water must of necessity be conveyed southwards by artificial means.

The Palma Trophy which has been returned to England by the American National Rifle Association owing to the American team last year violating the rules, is a handsome piece of plate offered to teams representing the various armies of the world. The conditions are that the teams shall use in the competition the rifles used by the regular arm of their respective armies. Thus the Americans should have used the Krag-Jorgensen rifle, the weapon with which the national troops of the United States are armed. The Palma Trophy was shot for last July at Bisley at the annual meeting of the British National Rifle Association, the trophy being then in the hands of the English representative team. The shooting was of a very high character, the winning team, the American, making 1570 points, or 11 more than had ever previously been recorded. The English team came next with 1555. The other teams competing included representatives from the armies of Canada, Australia, Natal, Norway and France.

It is stated that the French Consul at Nagasaki has intimated to the Japanese Authorities that the Russian Government desire to place its naval hospital in Nagasaki at the disposal of the Red Cross Society. Probably this gracious offer will be accepted. Nagasaki would be a good place for the Russian wounded now in Japanese hands. They would probably feel more at home there than in any other part of Japan, and it may further be assumed that the Hospital is specially fitted for the accommodation of foreigners.

General Yamaguchi, who commanded the Japanese forces in the war of 1900, is dangerously ill.

On the eighth of June the British Minister in Tokyo received a telegram from London stating that the British Red Cross Society had decided to make a grant of £2,000 to the Japanese sick and wounded; the amount was transmitted the same day by telegraph. After consultation with the Authorities, it has been decided to present half of the above amount to the *Juppeibu* in the Ministry of War and half to the same section in the Ministry of Marine.

From the 10th instant the new Japanese bonds were placed on the New York market. The opening price was 93⅛ and the closing price on the 12th was 93½.

The Japanese Consul at Singapore reports, under date of May 21st, that the following places are declared plague-infected: Swatow, Amoy, Hongkong, and Canton.

We have received from Mr. Tanetaro Megata, Director of the Customs Maritime Works in Yokohama, a copy of the Yokohama harbour plan showing the depth of water below lowest water level of ordinary spring tides all over the harbour. The chart is an excellent piece of work and should be in great demand among all nautical men using or frequenting the Yokohama anchorage. The soundings, we might mention, are printed in English as well as in Japanese characters and were all taken in the first four months of this year, and since Mr. Megata assumed control of affairs in the port. It speaks well for his well-directed industry.

Up to the evening of the 14th instant the subscriptions to the new domestic loan aggregated 170,371,223 *yen*. The 16th is the last day, and as there is always a rush at the end it is anticipated that the required amount, 100 million *yen*, will be covered three times over.

An Imperial Ordinance has been issued authorizing the payment of military rewards and gratuities with bonds instead of coin. This has always been the custom of late years in Japan, and it may be said to have been bequeathed from old times when the approval of the Government took the form of allowances of rice.

From Moji comes news that a steamer called the *Taisan* has arrived there carrying 150 Chinese students. She reports that the British Squadron is making some kind of demonstration, and that the Japanese residents of Shanghai are looking confidently for news of the fall of Port Arthur.

London sends a rumour that General Stoessel has been wounded and that it has been found necessary to amputate one of his legs.

TOKYO SCHOOL FOR FOREIGN CHILDREN.

At the annual meeting of the Standing Committee of Co-operating Christian Missions held in January last a committee was appointed to visit and report on the school for foreign children now carried on in Tsukiji, Tokyo, under honorary principalship of Mrs. B. C. Haworth. The following is the report of this committee to the Standing Committee of Co-operating Christian Missions in Japan:

The undersigned, your Committee appointed "to visit the Tokyo School for Foreign Children, examine its course of study and its general work" take pleasure in reporting as follows:—

After visiting the school, seeing the class room work, interviewing the teachers and some of the Trustees, and examining the printed course of study, we are satified that the school is meeting a long felt want, that it is prepared to do substantial and satisfactory work and that it is worthy of the fullest confidence and patronage of the foreign community of Japan.

While the school is an attempt, specially, to provide educational facilities for the foreign families resident in Tokyo, still its attendance is not restricted to these. Even during this, its first year, a goodly proportion of its students have come from a distance, while other families, we understand, are planning to take advantage of the excellent opportunities it affords. We would particularly recommend the school to the careful consideration of those parents who contemplate sending their children to their respective home lands, as presenting an opportunity for obtaining here in Japan, under the best moral influences, a training which will fit them for entrance into the universities of England, Canada, or the United States.

The chief needs of the school, as we observed them, are a permanent building of its own, increased boarding facilities for children from a distance, and one or two more salaried teachers, who will be able to devote all their time to the work of the institution. We are satisfied that the Trustees fully recognise the urgency of these needs and are glad to know that they are seeking to provide for them.

We cannot commend too highly the very praiseworthy efforts of those who have given so much of their time and strength, both among the Trustees and its able Faculty, towards making the Tokyo School for Foreign Children the success that it is. They deserve our most hearty sympathy and co-operation. We take real pleasure in recommending the school to the helpful consideration of the Standing Committee and particularly to the various missions and boards which we individually represent.

W. E. TOWSON.
JOHN L. DEARING.
A. D. HAIL.

THE BOOKSHELF.

A recent number of *Harper's Magazine* was made notable by the presence in it of a paper on "Hamlet," from the pen of Mr. Theodore Watts-Dunton. Whatever the subject on which he discourses, Mr. Watts-Dunton always writes freshly, and with a wealth of suggestive generalisation, which is his distinctive "note" as a critic. He has, moreover, a shrewd common-sense, which refuses to be blinded by the sentimentalities of the ordinary Shakespeare-idolator. Speaking of the attempt to evolve "a spiritual order" for Shakespeare's dramas, he asks—"Does any one really think that such a man wrote plays to bring out his thoughts and emotions as they arose?"

> "The more we study any one of his plays with the others the more clearly shall we see that Shakespeare, as soon as the chance came to him, harnessed his genius to business—harnessed it far too thoroughly to dream of producing plays for the purpose of expressing that great inner life of his which circumstances and temperament had been building up. To the really great writer Life is far greater than Literature. . . . As "the Poet" in "Timon of Athens" says most profoundly,
>
> Our poesy is as a gum, which oozes
> From whence 'tis nourish'd: The fire i' the flint
> Shows not, till it be struck.
>
> When the Globe Theatre demanded it, Shakespeare could throw into the market more of this precious "gum" than all his contemporary dramatists—more than has been produced by the combined efforts of all the poets that have lived since."

Of "Hamlet" itself, Mr. Watts-Dunton remarks:—"Such a favourite was this play with Shakespeare that he seems to have kept a sort of 'Hamlet' note-book, full of 'Hamlet' thoughts, of which 'To be or not to be' may perhaps be taken as the type. These he seems to have crammed into 'Hamlet' as far as he could, and then to have tossed the others into other plays, tragedies, commedies, and histories, sometimes regardless, apparently, of the character who uttered them." Surely, adds Mr. Watts-Dunton, it was from the "Hamlet" note-book that such thoughts as those beginning "Ay, but to die and go we know not where" "slipped into the mouth of a man like *Claudio*, who never could have had them himself." "But it is in 'Macbeth' that the borrowings from the 'Hamlet' note-book are most in evidence."

From the College of Science of the Imperial University of Tokyo we have received four seperate articles forming parts of Vol. XIX. of the excellent *Journal* issued from this institution. The first one deals with Notes on Chimæra and describes two Japanese species of this fish of which, despite the largeness of the group, very little is known. The *Chimæra Phantasma*, described by Mr. Bashford Dean, was found in the neighbourhood of Misaki, Sagami, where he had an opportunity of examining living specimens. The second fish of the same family, described in the brochure, is the *Chimæra Mitsukuri*, also caught at Misaki, and very rare. A capital plate illustrating both fish and their egg-cases accompanies the article.

The second article before us, also by Mr. Bashford Dean, describes the long snouted Chimæroco of Japan, the *Rhinochimæra* (*Harriotta*) *Pacifica*, a very ugly looking inhabitant of the waters outside Tokyo Bay. There are seven specimens of this fish to be seen in various parts of the world: three are in the Imperial University of Tokyo; one in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University: one in the Bohemian National Museum at Prague; one in Columbia University, New York, and "the seventh is now in the hands of Mr. Alan Owston of Yokohama." Two plates illustrate a most interesting study.

The next articles, numbered 16 and 17 on the cover, are short dissertations by Dr. Edward Divers on Peroxylaminesulphonic Acid and the Constitution of Nitric Peroxide, which display all the learning and research which have long since made for the Emeritus Professor of Chemistry of the Imperial University of Japan a name famous among the leading chemists of the world.

The last article to be dealt with is from the pen of Dr. Matajiro Yokoyama, Professor of Paleontology in the Tokyo. He deals with the Jurassic Ammonites from Echizen and Nagato now deposited in the Science College of the University, and he accompanies his remarks with four excellent plates.

The Widow's Mite and Other Psychic Phenomena, by Dr. Isaac K Funk; New. York, the Funk and Wagnalls Company.

To one who dabbled in the literature of Spiritualism some dozen years, hoping, poor human atom, to find therein some clue to the perplexing mysteries of life—only, alas! to meet with nothing but the Dead Sea apples of vexation and disappointment—to take up this book just issued by the publishing house of Funk and Wagnalls, is to renew acquaintance with old friends. They are all here, the Rev. Stainton Moses, the mediums Home and Slade, Kate Irving John Brown, Mollie Fancher, Mrs. Tuttle; the "spirit controls" of the seances; the "Katie King" of Sir William Crookes, with her rich auburn tresses, one of which she allowed the Professor to cut from her head, spirit though she was (or is); Mrs. Piper; Dr. Minot Savage, etc., etc.; and so are the well-known phenomena; and all their tales are told in the self-same language of over-emphasis and nervous intensity. Like every book on a similar subject, "The Widow's Mite and other Psychic Phenomena" is very prolix and it requires no small amount of will-power to read it through from cover to cover. When will writers on Spiritualism and Psychic Phenomena learn to compress their too abundant flow of words and reduce their statements to more moderate dimensions? Quite half of the present volume could have been left out with advantage and Dr. Funk's case would have undoubtedly gained rather than lost if it had occupied fewer pages in the telling.

The reason for the writing of the book was the extraordinary manner in which an ancient Hebrew coin lent to Dr. Funk many years ago for the purpose of illustrating the well-known Standard Dictionary, was restored to the son of the original owner. Dr. Funk had had an illustration made from the coin and then thought he returned it to the owner, as the coin was both rare and valuable. Instead, the coin was put in an envelope along with another and placed in a safe in the counting house of the Funk and Wagnalls Company. There it lay for years entirely forgotten. One day Dr. Funk, who was investigating spiritualism, attended a seance and a "spirit-control" informed him that the spirit of the late Henry Ward Beecher greatly desired that Dr. Funk should return the coin—the Widow's Mite—to its proper owners. At a subsequent seance the spirit of Beecher said the coin was lying in the drawer of a safe under some papers, and on search being made the coin was discovered. Such is the story in brief, but it serves for Dr. Funk to fill a book of 534 pages in which he brings forward all the latest information to hand concerning Spiritualism. He disavows at the outset that he is a spiritualist "in any sense in which the public understands that term;" his attitude toward the spiritualistic hypothesis of explanation of psychic phenomena being, "I don't know." He is willing to admit that there is a great deal of fraud in the business, but, as he says, "that which fraud explains is not important in the psychic problem of to-day, the problem which is bothering such men as Prof. James of Harvard, Sir William Crookes, Sir Oliver Lodge, Prof. Richet of Paris, Alfred Russel Wallace, and others. I know Spiritualistic frauds; possibly I may be thought too confident, but I venture to believe that no man in America understands the ear-marks of such fraud better than myself. It is well to remember that surrounding alchemy, a few centuries ago, was a world of fraud, but underneath it, struggling into the light, were the imperishable laws and facts of chemistry; the same was true with astrology and astronomy, and with what a generation ago was called mesmerism, and now hypnotism. There is reason to believe that through the psychic phenomena and the attendant atmosphere of fraud there is a world of law and facts struggling into recognition—a very important world, a world which may be of extraordinary proportions and importance."

Dr. Funk gives at elaborate length the experiments of Prof. James, Dr. Minot J. Savage, Sir William Crookes, Sir Oliver Lodge and others and says:—"While telepathy and other subjective faculties are visible in these experiments, it is easy to see how many people may find in them sure evidence of the presence of spirit intelligences at work."

The book concludes with some pages in which are given the peculiar phenomena of spirit-chirography, and some especially interesting spirit photographs, which are here printed for the first time. These are most uncanny and we should not advise a nervous or highly-strung person taking up the book after dark if alone in a silent house, when he or she may have come so far towards the conclusion. There can be little doubt that there is a large and growing class, particularly in the United States, who view Spiritualism as the new gospel of life and to them the arguments advanced by such a commanding intellect as the late Frederic Myers will appeal with telling force. He undoubtedly believed in the psychic phenomena which he saw and investigated. But all the same we think it would be better for the cause of the Spiritualists were they to boldly abandon the paraphernalia and mummery of cabinets, darkened rooms, sealed slates, table-rapping, etc., and allow the light of day to shine boldly on their phenomena. Then if they have anything to tell the world that will conduce to the world's healing, it will be gratefully received. Those who work in the dark must not expect credence for their tales, be their experiences ever so real and convincing to themselves.

Dr. Funk submitted the case of the Widow's Mite to many eminent scientists and professors in various Universities and he prints their replies in an appendix to his book. Among other letters we find the following:—

> From M. Anesaki, Professor of the Japanese Language, Literature, and History, College of Literature, Imperial University of Tokyo.
>
> I regard fraud quite impossible as an explanation. Coincidence is not impossible, but I can not think it at all probable in this case.
>
> Point III. 3 B of your paper excludes the possibility of the existence of subconscious faculties as the explanation.
>
> It seems to me that the only possible explanation of the facts is the hypothesis of spirit communication. My conception of a *spirit* may differ a little from many others, but I find it not necessary to state it here in full. The existence of spirit forces, not necessarily of spirit individuals, will be enough for the explanation.

With this quotation we leave the "Widow's Mite."

We beg to acknowledge receipt of the "Handbook of Information for Shippers and Passengers by the steamers of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha." The book has been brought right up to date and in addition to a brief history of the big steamship company, contains a vast amount of detail concerning its European, Australian, American, Bombay, Shanghai and coastal services, with interesting notes on all the ports called at, famous places in the vicinity of ports of call, the environs of Tokyo, Nikko, etc., and miscellaneous information for passengers. The book, which runs to over 300 pages, is freely illustrated and contains several excellent maps. It is altogether a production worthy of the Company.

The Middle Eastern Question, by Valentine Chirol,; London, John Murray; Price 18/ net.

Mr. Chirol's illuminating work about the Far-Eastern Question raised him at once to the position of the leading authority on one important section of Oriental politics and he has now strengthened and confirmed his high reputation by the publication of another exhaustive volume dealing with a not less momentous phase of the same problem. It would be difficult to over-estimate the benefit that publicists like Lord Curzon and Mr. Chirol confer on the British Empire by their writings. The march of great events is very slow. Generally the preliminary stages escape observation altogether, and thus when the crisis comes catastrophes are involved which a little prevision might have averted. Mr. Chirol is among the very few that exercise this prevision. He possesses the rarely combined faculties of mastering details and at the same time apprehending broad issues. Lord Curzon is a man of similar gifts, and by the clear, forceful and attractive writings of these two able politicians and *literateurs* England's eyes have been opened to many things which, though they concern her vitally, might otherwise have escaped her attention until the time opportune for noting them had passed irrevocably. Mr. Chirol may be said to have taken for the text of this profoundly interesting work some words used by Lord Curzon in his speech concluding the Budget debate in the Indian Council at Calcutta (March 25th 1900). "Europe," said the Viceroy, "has woke up and is beginning to take a revived interest in Asia. Russia with her vast territories, her great ambitions, and her unarrested advance, has been the pioneer in this movement, and with her or after her have come her competitors, rivals and allies. Thus, as all these foreigners arrive upon the scene and push forward into the vacant spots, we are slowly having a European situation recreated in Asia with the same figures upon the stage. The great European Powers are also becoming the great Asiatic Powers. * * * Europe is so accurately parcelled out between the various States and Powers, the balance of power is suspended on so fine a thread, and the slightest disturbance of it would imperil such wide interests, that short of some serious and unforeseen convulsion, which every one would wish to avert, great changes are not to be anticipated there. Africa is rapidly being over-run by the few European Powers who have obtained a foothold upon that continent, and before long its political destinies and territorial grouping will have taken something like definite shape. But in Asia a great deal is still in flux and solution, and there must, and there will, be great changes." This is only another way of saying that in Europe and Africa the civilized nations of the West no longer find any safe arena for the exercise of their elementary passions, that they have consequently turned towards Asia, where the field is large and the opportunities are still many. In the forefront of this field stand to-day Russia, Germany, France and England, with America in the middle distance while in a background growing always more remote are grouped the rightful owners. Nothing can be of more vital interest than to trace the lines along which these great Powers are pursuing their interests, and to determine whether the lines are parallel, divergent or convergent; whether, in other words, the exercise of European activities is to develop peacefully or to produce collisions. Such is the question which Mr. Chirol in this volume undertakes to answer with regard mainly to the Persian section of the field, and in a less elaborate though not less convincing degree to Afghanistan, Tibet and India. At the time when he set himself to collect materials for the work, Japan and Russia had not crossed swords. Therefore he makes only passing allusion to the rapid rise of Japan's power, which he counts a distinct gain from the British point of view, since the influence of the Far-Eastern State is placed in the conservative end of the scale. Into everything connected with Persia he makes a close scrutiny, and yet at the same time his lucid and easy style invests with interest details which might otherwise be wearisome. England's record in Persia is most disheartening. By one device after another British influence and British trade have been supplanted by Russian, and one feels after perusing these chapters of Mr. Chirol's work how true is the old political principle that quiescence means decay. It is very disheartening to read such a story, but to leave it unread, to disregard the lesson it teaches, would be to invite results still more disheartening. Russia and Germany are the growing Powers, and while it is true that the methods they adopt to promote their interests are not always such as we should willingly see our own country adopt, we must remember that precisely the same and even less creditable methods were practised by Great Britain herself at one time, and that human ingenuity has not yet devised any blameless means of self-aggrandisement at the expense of others and in the face of unscrupulous rivalry. It is possible, however, to check aggression and to disappoint unlawful ambition by the use of perfectly legitimate weapons, and Mr. Chirol's book shows that the apathy displayed by the British home Government is happily not reflected by the Viceregal Administration in India, though, at the same time, so ubiquitous, so resourceful and so untiring are the efforts of Russia that to protect British rights and vested interests is seen to be impossible without whole-hearted cöoperation between London and Calcutta. We have no business to object to Russia's development, but we are entitled to wish that it should not take place at England's expense, as it is most undoubtedly doing, and will continue to do unless Mr. Chirol's warnings be heeded. "Let Russia be established in Persia by the methods with which she has made us familiar in Manchuria," writes Mr. Chirol in the sequel of an entirely convincing demonstration, "thus impinging upon the Western frontiers of Afghanistan and Beluchistan, and the flank of the whole position upon which we now rely would be turned and India exposed to attack along a wholly new line of frontier." * * * The development of India is reaching a stage in which, if we have the interests of her people at heart, as we profess to do, we shall have to sanction the application of a larger proportion of her financial resources than has hitherto been the case to the advancement of her agriculture, to the promotion of her industries, to improved methods of education, to administrative reforms, in fact, to all the needs of a community which is rising in the scale of civilization. Is it just at this stage that British statesmen can contemplate with indifference the creation of a new and at least potentially dangerous situation outside her frontiers which would cripple her exchequer and hamper all her progress?" This is the trouble about Russia. Herself a colossal military despotism, her presence imposes upon every neighbour the necessity of choosing between effacement and a crushing burden of armaments. The route to permanent peace seemed some years ago to lie in the direction of a full adjustment of differences and a complete *entente* between Russia and Great Britain such as has now been happily effected between England and France. But to-day Germany is in the arena, and being only on the threshold of a career of aggrandisement which she appears determined to pursue without many qualms, Germany might be very hard to draw into any pacific union. Possibly the terrible war now going on may throw some light on the situation, and as we watch its phases we shall do well to bear in mind Mr. Chirol's words:—

> Russian policy in Asia was still professedly governed by the principal solemnly laid down in a famous despatch from Count Nesselrode, elicited by the firmness of Lord Palmerston in 1838: "Both Great Britain and Russia,' wrote Count Nesselrode to the Tsar's Ambassador in London, "must have the same interests at heart—the maintenance of peace in the centre of Asia and the avoidance of anything that might cause a general conflagration in those vast regions. To prevent such a misfortune the tranquility of the intermediate territories which separate the Russian and British possessions must be sedulously preserved. To consolidate order in those countries, to avoid fomenting their jealousies, to confine rivalry to commercial competition, not to become involved in a struggle for political influence, and above all to respect the independence of the countries which separate us; that is, in our opinion, the system which both Governments are equally interested in pursuing in order to avert the possibility of a conflict between two great Powers who, to remain friends, must avoid friction or collision in the heart of Asia."
>
> Most excellent principles indeed, but how has Russia carried them out in practice? How can they be reconciled with the changes which have already so profoundly altered the whole situation in Asia and are still proceeding with ever-increasing rapidity? Russia has not only advanced right across the Continent of Asia to the Pacific, and consolidated her dominions by the construction of the greatest trunk railroad in world, but she has moved southward all along the line with gigantic strides. In the west the Black Sea is, except in name, a Russian lake like the Caspian, and in the east a fortress more formidable than Sevastopol ever was is growing up at Port Arthur to command the entrance to the Gulf of Chi-li. The Central Asian Khanates and the Turcoman tribes have been swallowed up. The Trans-Caspian Railway skirting the north-eastern frontier of Persia runs through Merv to the boundary stone of Afghanistan, and Tashkend will shortly be connected by rail with the Siberian Railway, as it already is with the Caspian. Nor is the onward march of Russia to be measured merely by the tens of thousands of square miles which have been brought under direct subjection to her rule. She holds the Shah and the Central Government of Persia in the hollow of her hand by the twofold power of the sword and of the purse. In the northern provinces she is supreme in all but name and she makes no secret of her intention to carry her ascendency down to the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean. Her frontier marches with that of Afghanistan where the latter is most vulnerable. Further east, in Chinese Turkestan and Mongolia, her power waxes in proportion as that of Peking wanes, and all these outlying dependencies of the Chinese Empire are going the way that Manchuria has already gone. Even Tibet, the Forbidden Land of Buddhism, shows signs of yielding to her insistence. At her present rate of expansion not many years are likely to elapse before she is in a position to join hands with France, who is pushing up steadily into the interior from her base on the Pacific, not merely up the valley of the Mekong, where she is already conterminous with Upper Burmah, but through Yun-nan into Sze-chuan and on to the upper waters of the Yang-tsze. Germany is firmly established in the Shantung peninsula in the Far East, and if she is not actually casting about for another Kiao-chau in the Persian Gulf, she clearly intends to push her influence down to its waters along the track of the Baghdad Railway.

KAMAKURA.

"A tourist show, a legend told,
"A rusting bulk of bronze and gold,
"So much, and scarce so much, ye hold
"The meaning of Kamakura?"

Slumberous eyes, yet eyes that know not sleep;
Sensuous lips that know not sensuousness,
And sloping shoulders, bent as though to keep
The weight of wrongs—of wrongs without redress.
Time-wearied eyes, yet eyes that may not weep.
Oh thou, so godlike, yet so like to man,
Who, with impassive gaze dost ever scan
This shady grove, that strip of shadeless deep;
Thou calm onlooker at thy creed's decay:
If thou should'st speak is it that thou should'st say:
"The men who planned me were a nobler race,
"For making me they sought to testify,
"By moulding human passions in my face,
"Weakness controlled is true Divinity."

M.K.

FUNERAL OF MR. A. B. GLOVER.

The mortal remains of Mr. Alfred B. Glover were brought back to Japan by the *Empress of China*. Our Nagasaki contemporary says that on the arrival of the steamer from Hongkong, the body was at once conveyed to the English Church, Higashi-yamate, and there the first portion of the burial service was carried out at 3 p.m., on Tuesday. At the time the services commenced the church was filled with friends, both foreigners and Japanese, among them being the foreign Consuls, Governor Arakawa, and the chief officials of Nagasaki, all desirous of paying the last tribute of respect to one whom they sincerely mourn. Bishop Evington officiated and read the first portion of the impressive burial service of the Church of England. This over, the coffin was borne from the church by Messrs. Officer, Crowe, and members of the firm of Messrs. Holme, Ringer & Co., and afterwards transferred to a hearse for the long journey to Urakami, where the interment took place. At the graveside Bishop Evington read the concluding portion of the burial service, and then, the last ceremonies being performed, the large concourse of friends returned to Nagasaki. In accordance with the wish of the relatives the funeral ceremony was as simple as possible, only the large number of friends present denoting the position which the deceased held in the community. There were numerous wreaths, most of them very beautiful, sent both by foregn and Japanese friends.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF JAPANESE CURRENT LITERATURE.

The June number of the *Taiyō* contains a rather important article on the views of Mr. Kurino, Japan's Minister at St. Petersburg up to the outbreak of the war. By what is said in this article we judge that the Government deems it expedient for Mr. Kurino not to be ventilating his views too freely just at the present moment, for fear of their damping the ardour of the nation in the prosecution of the war. But Mr. Kurino has already stated to newspaper correspondents and others his opinions on the actual state of Russia, and her preparedness for the war now going on. These opinions are epitomized in the *Taiyō* pretty much as follows:—Mr. Kurino is represented in some quarters as being pro-Russian, as advocating Russia's cause and so on, because he has made us acquainted with facts which tend to neutralize our optimistic views on the course that events will take in this war. Mr. Kurino says that in Japan the importance of certain disaffection in Poland, Finland and elsewhere is greatly exaggerated. There is no probability that any rising against the Government will assume uncontrollable dimensions. Without arms, without means of organization, and with no great leaders, disaffected subjects scattered over a wide area can do little harm. Russia's financial position is supposed by Japan to be very insecure. But this is the reverse of the truth, says Mr. Kurino. With her large specie reserve kept in London, Paris, Berlin and elsewhere, and as a result of numerous financial precautions taken by Sergius de Witte, Russian stocks do not fall to-day as we might expect them to do, and it is quite safe to say that Russia can continue this war for two years at least without the necessity of borrowing from another country. We omit the figures bearing on the Russian reserve supplied by Mr. Kurino. Thus financially, says Mr. Kurino, Russia is more happily situated than Japan. Just at the present moment it may be wise not to lay much stress on the above-facts, observes the *Taiyō*. Had Mr. Kurino's comments on the present situation stopped here, the public generally would have attached little importance to them. But it is alleged that Mr. Kurino has made far more serious statements than those referred to above. He is reported to have said that during the progress of the negotiations Russia never intended to go to war; that Witte and Lamsdorff and Alexieff were all in favour of compromise and peace. Such assertions, if they were actually made, are in direct opposition, says the *Taiyō*, to Baron Komura's statement bearing on the course of the negotiations; to the published correspondence between the two countries, and to the definition of the *casus belli* contained in Japan's Declaration of War. If Mr. Kurino, as is quite possible, has been misinterpreted by newspaper interviewers, then he should at once take steps to rectify the mistake. For as the matter now stands we have the anomaly of one of our public servants championing a view of the cause of the war that is repudiated by the Government and the nation alike.

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The *Taiyō* publishes a long but very instructive article on "The Future of China," written by Mr. Nakahashi Tokugorō. We shall confine ourselves to briefly recording the salient facts marshalled by this writer. The principle maintained throughout the whole essay is that Japan for her own sake, for China's sake, and for various political reasons, must in the future establish the closest relations possible with the Chinese nation and the Chinese Government. In the potentialities of China under proper guidance the essayist has implicit confidence. Neither physically, intellectually nor morally are the Chinese in a moribund state, says this writer. Among the political forecasts which subsequent events falsified, was that oft-repeated one referring to the world's dominant races. There are only three great races in the modern world, said the wiseacres of the last century, the Anglo-Saxons, the Slavs and the Chinese. The Japanese were left out of account. But first the China-Japan war and recently the Russo-Japan war have tended to show it is not always numbers that tell in the establishment of national power. The Anglo-Saxon alliance so much talked of shows no signs of coming off; China has in recent years turned to Japan as her warmest friend and her guide and Slav predominance is receiving at the present moment a severe check. One fact to which it is important to call attention is this: Japan has during the past 7 or 8 years certainly done more than any other Power to save China from disintegration, from falling as a victim to the greed of certain Western Powers. Korea has been rescued from the same fate by our interference with her affairs. As our interests in that country are still greater than they are in China, it is necessary that we should establish a Protectorate over the peninsula and take steps to effect a thorough reform of the administration of government. China, having now obtained a protector and a teacher, having been saved from both disintegration and destruction, will certainly address herself to the task of reform. The changes that are needed to make the country strong and rich may all be included under three headings. (1) Military and Naval Reform. (2) Reform of her Finances. (3) Reform of her Civil Service. (1), In reference to the necessity of China's possessing a thoroughly well equipped and well trained army, since the Chino-Japanese war there has been no difference of opinion among the various viceroys, and at the present time Japanese military officers are employed in all the principal provinces of the empire. Russia's aggressiveness during the past few years has immensely deepened the desire of the Chinese to qualify themselves to hurl back the Muscovites whenever they may venture to appear on Chinese soil, without direct foreign aid. This supreme object of the Chinese will undoubtedly be realized through Japan's help. The enthusiasm on the subject among young men in China is too great to die out. (2), If China is bent on improving her armaments she will need large sums of money for this purpose. This money can only be obtained by a thorough change in her financial system. In effecting this she cannot do better than consult us. We have transformed our finances and placed them on a stable basis. With a rich, thickly inhabited country like China there ought to be no difficulty in finding abundant sources of revenue. (3), But no reform of any kind can take place as long as the administration of Government is left in the hands of a number of corrupt officials. If the money collected in the provinces never finds its way to Peking, no fundamental changes can be made. Government must be centralized to be safe, and if China is to possess big armaments they must be under the control of the throne. To allow the viceroys to institute reforms and carry them through independently would be a dangerous experiment. Mr. Nakahashi next considers the changes which this war will bring about. He does not anticipate that Russia will finally abandon her present Far Eastern policy. Having lost Manchuria and the railway that runs through it; she will connect the Siberian railway with some other line and work her way to the sea by another route. Her eyes will be turned to Mongolia, Turkestan, Persia and Thibet. But in attempting this new enterprise she will certainly run the risk of clashing with England at some point or other. Our policy in future must be to induce China to throw open her water-ways and her railways to the world as much as possible. This will effectually stop aggressive designs on the part of certain European Powers. What will happen after the present war is over will be the flocking of Europeans and Americans to China for tradal and industrial purposes. For some time to come the various settlements formed will each constitute an *imperium in imperio*. Extra-territoriality may eventually be abolished; but till that time comes there is bound to be great confusion, and the various foreign settlements will not contribute in the same degree or in the same way to the safety, consolidation and prosperity of the Chinese Empire. The task of bringing such a vast region under one control in such an effectual manner as to insure uniformity of local government in every province will be found to be one of enormous difficulty. In order to govern effectually it may be necessary some years hence for China to give up attempting to control such a wide area as that over which she now claims jurisdiction. She may find it to her interest to consolidate her strength in the centre of the empire, where the population is thickest, and relax her hold somewhat on distant provinces; allowing local autonomy there as far as possible. But one thing is certain, namely, that just as the beginning of the Twentieth Century shows Japan establishing an entirely new relationship to Korea, so the end of this century will see Japan connected with China by many indissoluble ties. The essayist we are quoting concludes his article by treating under separate headings the connection of Russia, Germany, England, France, America and Japan with China and reaches the conclusion that if Japan plays her cards well no other Power stands a chance of ousting her from the position of chief adviser to the Peking Government and of figuring as the stoutest defender of the integrity of the Chinese empire.

Under the title *Jikyoku Zakkan Sūsoku* Dr. Katō Hiroyuki comments on five or six phases of the present crisis. He takes up the following subjects (1) *Prayer for Victory.* This is practised by the Russian nation at present and has been a common practice in Christian countries for a very long time. It was practised in Japan down to the beginning of the Meiji era. But now it may be said to have been entirely abandoned by the Court, the Government and by the nation as a whole. A few uneducated people are to be found who think that they can protect their relations and friends from the dangers of the battlefield by soliciting the aid of a god or a divinity. (2) *Suicide.* In Christian countries suicide is condemned as bad. But in Japan not only is it not condemned, but under certain circumstances it is highly commended. For men to commit suicide rather than yield to the foe is worthy of all praise, according to our notions (*Teki ni atama wo sagete kudaru yori wa, mushiro jibun no mi wo horoboshite shimau hō ga kokoromochi ga yoi, yukwai de aru to iu kishō de aru kara, yohodo kore wa shōsubeki koto de arō to omou*). If suicide is not invariably to be commended, neither is it invariably to be condemned, says Dr. Katō. (3) *Heaven's Help* (天佑, *Ten-yū*). To attribute victory to Heaven's help as is done in some of our public documents is at once meaningless and misleading.* To talk as if the weak could conquer the strong by means of what is called supernatural aid is of course foolish, continues Dr. Katō. Even when defeat is rather expected if a victory be won, to attribute the success to Heaven's interference, explains nothing and encourages superstition. There is really no such thing as chance in war, though men are apt to attribute things to accident when they can't discover adequate causes for them. Yet the causes exist all the same. (4) *Knowledge and mind.* In the present war the knowledge possessed by us and that possessed by the Russians are about equal, but when we come to the minds of the troops engaged in fighting, we are in every way superior to the Russians. Their troops have neither the will nor the intelligence of our men. Admiral Makaroff is reported to have said that the issue of this war depends more on the personality of the two armies than on tactics or weapons, and the truth is being proved every day. Because of this Russia can't eventually conquer us. The rest of the essay we reserve for another occasion.

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Last month we extracted from the *Jitsugyō no*

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* The *Jiji Shimpō* in its issue of May 27th had a very sensible leading article on this subject, condemning the practice as an anachronism and as calculated to encourage silly superstition. The success of the Japanese army is easily traceable to certain definite causes, and to drag in the word "Heaven", whatever that may mean, to explain this success is unscholarly and unphilosophical, says the *Jiji*. Here are the concluding words of the article: *Karisome ni mo gakumon, chishiki aru hitobito ni arite wa, Tenyu, Tenyū, un un no gotoki danjite kore wo haiseki shi, mizukara shinzuru tokoro wo shinji, tanomu tokoro wo tanomi, ku-ku* (區々) *mokuzen no shōseihai* (小成敗) *wo i ni kai* (介) *sezu shite, ōini kokoro wo tsuyō subeki mono nari.*—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

Nihon (Business Japan) some remarks bearing on the prosperity of Fusan and of the success scored by Mr. Hasama Fusatarō, the Chief Manager of the Ioi mercantile business in Korea. We cull from the same source a few more interesting facts bearing on the career of this remarkable man. When he began business in Fusan he exercised the strictest economy and his yearly savings were carefully laid by. His Japanese friends thought him stingy and miserly and said there was little use in living if money earned was not to be spent in pleasure, and so on. But his frugality was part of a big scheme. He plainly foresaw that if he could purchase land when it could be had at a ridiculously low figure,* he would eventually be able to wield immense power in the town. By degrees he bought up about a third of the whole settlement. This land is worth to-day some 500,000 *yen*, and in another 50 years it will certainly be worth quite double that amount. Directly the railway is finished all property in Fusan will go up. The port undoubtedly has a great future before it. One of the principal reasons of Mr. Hasama's great success is the practical knowledge which he possesses of every branch of the large export and import business carried on by the firm which he represents. Having given his whole life to examining commodities of various kinds, he is regarded by all good judges as a thorough expert in every line of business to which he has turned his attention. He is throughly up in rice, beans, gold dust, hides and marine products—the chief exports of the firm—and in calicoes, silk, raw cotton, filatures, copper, and porcelain—the chief imports. Though he is a man of little education, his knowledge of business is so accurate and thorough that every specialist who comes to Fusan in search of information applies to him. "But even a monkey falls from the tree now and again." And Mr. Hasama among his many successes had one rather amusing failure. In order to improve if possible the Korean methods of tilling the land, he introduced a number of small farmers from his native province of Kishū. At first they worked well, but feeling themselves to be infinitely superior to the Koreans and affected by the manners of certain low-class swaggering Japanese in Fusan, they gradually began to put on airs and, instead of sticking to their country farms, were to be seen swelling about Fusan in frock coats and the like, and so Mr. Hasama's scheme failed. There are two principal reasons for Mr. Hasama's success as a merchant. (1) Unlike so many Japanese who go abroad, from the first he determined to make Korea his home.† The reason that so many Japanese who have gone to Korea have failed is because they have been mere sojourners rather than permanent colonists. It is nearly 30 years since Mr. Hasama settled in Korea. (2) Another reason for his success is his antipathy to all forms of speculation. The Koreans are great speculators and hundreds of Japanese who have gone over to that country have been led by the nose by the sharp-witted Koreans and have started all sorts of ill-advised lines of business, ending in many cases in bankruptcy. So great is Mr. Hasama's fear of encouraging speculation that he has always opposed the establishment of a mercantile exchange in Fusan, maintaining that the effect of the adoption of such a measure would be the derangement of the business habits and the injury of the characters of the staid merchants. Another reason for Mr. Hasama's success is his thorough straightforwardness and reliableness as a business man. He never goes back on his word, but, on the other hand, never makes a promise without deliberation. He is not more than about 45 years of age; tall in stature, much sunburnt, with extremely sharp-looking eyes. By his subordinates he is highly respected and loved. Though there is no Japanese in Korea to be compared to Hasama, there are two rich houses of which we propose to give an account at some future time, concludes the *Jitsugyō no Nihon*. They are those of Oike Chūsuke and Fukuda Zōhei.

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Under the title "Effects of the War" the *Kyōikukai* (Educational World) says that while every trade and every industry is affected by the war the educational world suffers in a special manner. The Report of the Education Department for the 30th year of Meiji showed that the total number of Primary School teachers was over 109,000. But now it is stated that over 36,000 teachers have had to relinquish their work on account of the war. All along there has been a complaint that the Primary Schools were poorly manned; so that the state of things now that no less than a third of the total number of men have been taken away may be easily conjectured. Now that the schools are so poorly manned a system has been devised whereby double work can be got out of the teachers. Afternoon and evening as well as morning classes are held. The technical term applied to this system is *Nibu Kyōju* (二 部 教 授), Bisection Teaching. In poor districts at the present time resort to this method of economy is said to be imperative. The day is divided into two halves and different pupils attend in the morning and afternoon. But the *Kyōikukai* protests against its being considered anything more than a temporary experiment. The plan has many disadvantages. With the teachers and pupils alike the first hours of the day are certainly usually the best hours, and the result of teaching double time in the case of ordinary Primary School instructors is likely to be slovenly work. The general educational situation at the present time is described by the *Kyōikukai* as sufficiently unsatisfactory to demand some special action on the part of the Education Department. This organ wishes to know what the Mombushō is going to do. It asks: (1) Is the Department going to content itself with looking on while education in numerous towns and villages suffers to a tremendous extent by the exigencies of the present situation? (2) Or is it going to shelve its responsibility by issuing orders to local officials to take the necessary steps for remedying existing evils? or (3) Is it going to step into the breach itself and do all that it is possible to do to relieve the situation? If the Mombushō adopts the course of letting things go as they will, since there are places where local assemblies because talking of abolishing Normal Schools because they involve an outlay the country cannot afford just at present, the consequences will be serious. By throwing responsibility on the local authorities at the present time the Department can save itself trouble. But this is not a course to be recommended to a Department of State. But judging by present indications, says the *Kyōikukai*, there is not much prospect of the Department's making its power felt at this crisis.

The *Kyōikukai* next takes up the question of the proposed reform of the Literary College of the Imperial University. Exactly what has been effected we do not gather from the note published on the subject. But this information will be found in a later part of this Summary.

Under the title *Jiji Ōgo* (謳 語) "Words for the Times" the *Kyōikukai* publishes from month to month short comments on current events or gives counsel to educationists. Vol III. No. 8, contains a number of these. No. 1, advocates earnestness and serious-mindedness in the performance of duties. No. 2, denounces what we call "putting on side," the assumption of airs. In all things, be natural, appear to be what you are, says the *Kyōikukai*. No. 3, contains words of comfort for the low rank in society occupied by Primary school teachers, reminding them that straightened means shield them from many temptations and save them much boredom from the society of fools. No. 4. asserts that we are about to enter on a stage of educational competition, in which those teachers who have real character and personal force will occupy the first rank.

The *Kyōikukai* announces the publication of a book entitled *Nibu Kyōju*. This work contains a number of valuable articles written by such men as Baron Kikuchi, Mr. Izawa Shūji, Mr. Sawayanagi Masatarō and Mr. Kuroda Teiji on the principles which should be observed in instructing pupils in sections during the fore part and after part of the day. Such subjects as the methods of dividing the hours, the number of hours to be given to the first and second section of scholars are treated in this book. This method of economising educational force is quite new in this country. The only question is whether the strength of the Primary School teachers can stand the strain of so many hours work. We presume that their salaries are raised when they take extra work of this kind. The price of the volume explaining the system is 30 *sen* a copy—for sale at the Kinkōdō.

In various newspapers and magazines it is maintained that the practice of insisting on school girls being medically examined in a state of nudity is quite unnecessary and ought no longer to be allowed. Some little time ago there was a good deal of excitement over an incident that took place at the Okayama Higher Girls' School. One of the girls asserted that she had been robbed of money in the school, throwing suspicion on her classmates. Whereupon the master in charge ordered the girls to strip before him in order to see whether anybody had the money. This proceeding was denounced by the *Jiji Shimpō* and other papers as highly improper. , It was subsequently discovered that the girl who had caused the commotion had left the missing money at her house. The *Kyōikukai* discusses the whole question of the rights of women and condemns the liberties taken with school girls referred to above.

The *Kyōiku Kai* criticizes unfavourably the new Text-books issued by the Education Department in a series of articles; making quotations and calling attention to defects. It is stated that the Department is still continuing the work of compilation and has appointed a Committee to examine and report on the work already accomplished.

* * *

The *Teikoku Bungaku* has followed the fashion of the rest of the literary world and begun to issue extra numbers. The one that appeared or May 15th contains three prize novelettes. Last October a notice was issued by the Imperial University to the effect that prizes would be given for the three best stories that were written. Some 20 stories were sent in. The first prize was 50 *yen*, the second, 30 *yen* and the third 20 *yen*. The titles and names affixed to the successful novelettes were No. 1 *Kokorotsukushi*, by Kaiga Hentetsu.* *Hoshi no yo no Koi*, by Arai Reisen, and *Hakumei* (薄 命), by Yoshida Tekishū. Mr. Yoshida is a literary graduate, but the others have no degree. The first of these literary productions covers 70 pages of the *Teikoku Bungaku*. Kana has been supplied throughout and it may be recommended to students of the language as a specimen of modern colloquial speech. The second story is called a Romance and is 43 pages in length, while the third covers 51 pages.

* * *

Dr. Inoue Tetsujirō is no longer the head of the Imperial University Literary College. Before he resigned his post he was the means of bringing about a radical change in the system of teaching followed in that college. A statement of the rules now in force will be found in the *Official Gazette* of March 2nd last. For the sake of indicating the direction which the reform has taken, we make a few extracts from the new regulations issued by the Department of Education bearing on that subject. (1) The subjects studied in this College shall be (*a*) Philosophy. (*b*) History. (*c*) Literature. (2) Subjects will be divided into voluntary subjects and compulsory subjects. The following is a list of the compulsory subjects: General Philosophy. Logic, and Psychology bearing on Cognition. Absolute (純 正, *Junsei*) Philosophy. History of Oriental Philosophy. History of Occidental Philosophy. Chinese Philosophy. Indian Philosophy. Mental Philosophy. Ethics. The Science of Religion. Æsthetics. Education. Sociology. History of

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* The expression used to describe the cheapness of land in Fusan is 二 束 三 文, two *soku* for 3 cash, *lit*, "two bundles (of sandals) for 3 cash,"—a figure of speech for extreme cheapness.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

† The Japanese for this is "he makes Korea his burial place." *Uji ga Chōsen wo motte fumbo no chi to shite oru.*—(WRITER OF SUMMARY).

* The surname only is the real name, Hentetsu being a *nom de plume*. The same is the case with the other names given.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

Religion. History of Art. History of Education. National History (general). Japanese History. Chinese History. Occidental History. Modern History. Methods of Studying History. The Science of Chronology (*Nendaigaku*). Archaic Records. Geographical Science. Languages. Literature (Outlines). The Japanese Language. Japanese Literature. Chinese. The following are the chief changes that have been made in the rules of the college. Hitherto students have been divided off into year classes, and have been required to pass annual examinations in order to join higher classes. The annual examinations have been abolished. The student need only pass one examination prior to graduation and he may go up for that just when he pleases after 3 years' residence, and is allowed to try to pass the graduation examination as many times as he likes within 8 years. Hitherto students have not been free to attend what lectures they please. Their hours of attendance have all been mapped out for them, consisting of 24 hours in the week. According to the new rules students may within certain limits attend what lectures they like. Hitherto students have had to decide on the subjects which they will take up on entering the University and keep to them to the end of the course, graduating in those subjects. But now they are allowed to select any subjects they like in which to graduate any time they please during their connection with the College of Literature, and a student may if he wishes graduate in several subjects and thus win a name for himself in various branches of knowledge. According to the new rules students need only attend lectures for 12 hours in the week, the rest of the time is their own to use as they please. It will thus be seen that the principle of the new reform is to leave the student to himself as much as possible. University students are grown up men and it is felt that hitherto they have been treated too much as though they were mere boys. In recent years a number of new subjects of investigation have come up, which are treated from time to time by well known lecturers at the Universities. Hitherto very few students have been able to spare time to attend these lectures. The change which has been made will affect lecturers as well as students. Popular lecturers will command large audiences, but their less gifted *confrères* will often find themselves lecturing to practically empty benches. So will the fittest survive and learning be thrown open to competition in the same way as it is now being increasingly thrown open in the most advanced countries of the world. It remains to be seen whether other Colleges connected with the University will adopt a similar course to that now followed by the College of Literature.

* * *

In an article on "Education and the War" the *Jiji Shimpô* maintains that there is a tendency in many quarters to carry economy and retrenchment too far in the matter of education at the present time. The *Jiji* says that there is no denying that the State at the present moment is unable to do all that it desires to do to supply the educational needs of the country. The war must be seen through whatever it may cost, and expenditure that can be postponed must be postponed. This is interpreted by some to mean that in the view of the State education is of secondary importance when compared to war. But that is not the view held by intelligent men. So important in their opinion is education that Japan's success in this war has been largely owing to it. The explosive she is using is the invention of one of her scholars. The efficiency of her sailors and soldiers is largely due to the fact that their intelligence has been developed by the school instruction they have received. There is no tendency among those in power to underrate the importance of education, but in a comparatively poor country like Japan when the country's resources are subjected to a severe strain all manner of shifts and expedients have to be temporarily adopted. One of the proofs of the value attached to education by the State even in time of war is the large sum granted to education out of the indemnity paid by China nine years ago.

* * *

The Kinkōdō has issued a pamphlet covering about 200 pages entitled *Gunkoku no Kyōiku* as an extra to the *Kyoikukai*. Among the writers we observe the names of Dr. Inoue Tetsujirō, Mr. Kano Jigorō and Mr. Izawa Shūji. There are some 20 contributors to this work. It is illustrated throughout, containing about 100 pictures. The title it seems to us is open to objection and the compilers of the work appear to be conscious of this, as in the introduction they have found it necessary to say a great deal in explanation of the sense in which it is to be understood. It may usually be taken for granted that titles which need lengthy explanations are defective. *Gunkoku no Kyōiku* to most people would mean "Education suitable for a Military Country." But for Japan to figure as such a country before the world permanently would be most damaging to her reputation. So the compiler explains that he only means by the title *Senji ni okeru kyōiku no ikanarubeki ka to iu koto nari*, that is, the changes in the school system necessitated by the war. But even so, most of the writers, we observe, fail to see the relevance of the title to the actual facts of the present situation, and most of them maintain that nothing could be more undesirable than that a system of education which has been found to work well hitherto should be radically changed on account of the present war. As the book contains some valuable matter we propose to furnish a fuller notice of it in our next Summary. "The Connection of Education with the Present War" would better describe the contents of the volume than "Education for a Military Power."

YOKOHAMA JUNIOR ATHLETIC CLUB.

The Yokohama Junior Athletic Club held their first meeting on the Cricket Ground on Friday afternoon amid ideal conditions: bright sunshine, tempered with a cooling breeze; a large attendance of ladies in the brightest of summer raiment; while a keen spirit of sport prevailed throughout. The officers of the day were: Judges, Rev. W. Weston and C. E. Bruce Mitford; Starter, P. B. Clarke; Clerk of the Course, S. W. Argent; Handicappers, H. W. Kilby and C. E. Libeaud; Timekeepers, Rev. W. P. G. Field and J. F. Drummond. Of the sports generally it may be said that they were characterized by all the zest that boys can throw into their play; that Drummond's High Jump was a magnificent performance, while the pretty running of Neville mi., was an outstanding feature of the afternoon.

100 YARDS.—1st Prize presented by G. G. Brady, Esq.

1ST HEAT.

W. Worden, scratch	1
D. Drummond, scratch	2

Time, 12 secs.

2ND HEAT.

C. Oberlein, scratch	1
A. Bishop, scratch	2

Time, 11½ secs.

FINAL.

C. Oberlein	1
A. Bishop	2

A close race. Time 11⅗ secs.

HIGH JUMP.—1st Prize presented by P. B. Clarke, Esq.

D. Drummond, scratch	1
A. Bishop, scratch	2
G. A. Neville, scratch	0
C. Oberlein, scratch	0
W. Bagnall, 3 inches	0
J. da Costa, 4 inches	0

Drummond, jumping from scratch, cleared 5ft. 2in., a phenomenal jump for a lad of his age, 14 years; Bishop cleared 5ft.

QUARTER MILE.—1st and 2nd Prizes presented by H. A. Poole, Esq.

C. Oberlein, scratch	1
V. Worden, 20 yards	2
D. Drummond, scratch	0
A. Bishop, scratch	0
C. E. Correa, 10 yards	0
G. A. Neville, 15 yards	0
W. Bagnall, 20 yards	0
J. da Costa, 20 yards	0

The winner did the distance in 58⅘ secs.

SACK RACE.—Prize presented by Messrs. Arthur and Bond.

N. Fearon	1
V. Worden	2

220 YARDS.—1st and 2nd Prizes presented by J. Hamilton, Esq.

A. Bishop, scratch	1
G. Upton, 3 yards	2
W. Worden, scratch	0
C. Oberlein, scratch	0
F. Stone, 10 yards	0
H. Bagnall, 12 yards	0
J. Mendonca, 12 yards	0
V. Worden, 15 yards	0
L. da Costa, 15 yards	0

Another spirited race, in which the scratch men soon worked through their opponents. Time, 26⅕secs.

THREE LEGGED RACE.—Prizes presented by Jas Walter, Esq.

S. A. Vincent and Gorman	1
W. Worden and Bagnall	2

The pairs raced down the track in good style, very little separating the first and second.

HALF MILE.—1st Prize "Subscription" Cup per J. E. Drummond, Esq.

D. A. Neville, 50 yards	1
D. Drummond, scratch	2
W. Worden, scratch	0
F. Stone, 25 yards	0
B. Cahusac, 75 yards	0

This was a capital race and was won by about eight yards. Time 2m. 21⅘s.

LONG JUMP.—1st Prize presented by H. J. Sharp, Esq.

D. Drummond, scratch	1
A. Bishop, scratch	2
J. P. Mollison, 2 feet	3
G. H. da Costa, scratch	0
W. Gray, 1 foot	0
V. Worden, 2 feet	0

Drummond's second jump, 17 ft. 7 in., was the best; Bishop covered 16 ft. 3½ in.; and Mollison came third with 12 ft. 6 in.

ONE MILE.—1st Prize presented by Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co.

F. Stone, 40 yards	1
P. A. Neville, 75 yards	2
G. A. Neville, 25 yards	3
W. Worden, scratch	0
D. Drummond, scratch	0
C. Oberlein, scratch	0
J. P. Mollison, 110 yards	0

Of the seven starters only three dropped out in the course of the race. The struggle for second place between the Neville brothers was a very game affair, and resulted in favour of the younger by a few feet. Time, 5 m. 23⅕ seconds.

GIRL'S RACE.

Some twenty gentle madens of tiny stature started over a 75 yards course, and Miss Whil. Correa came in first; closely followed by Miss Doris Fearon; Miss Flossie Eagling, being third. Time, 10⅗ sec.

TUG OF WAR.—Medals presented by V. A. Caesar Hawkins, Esq.

A. Team:—W. Worden, W. Grey, F. Stone, A. Gorman, J. P. Mollison, B. Cahusac.

B. Team:—A. Bishop, D. Drummond, S. Vincent, W. Scott, N. Brockhurst and I. Isaacs.

C. Team:—G. Upton, G. A. Neville, W. Bagnall, V. Worden, D. A. Neville, N. Fearon.

Upton's team won after a good hard pull.

BOY'S RACE.

E. Esdale	1
P. Field	2
H. Esdale	3

OBSTACLE RACE.—1st Prize presented by J. Williamson Jones, Esq.

C. Oberlin	1
W. Worden	2
W. Bagnall	3

The winners came in a dirty, be-draggled lot, after the two plunges through the water, the scramble under the net, etc.

The Championship prize, presented by the ladies of Yokohama, was won by Oberlein with 16 points. He received the trophy from the hands of Miss Kenderdine; Mrs. W. P. G. Field presented the other prizes and both ladies received handsome bouquets from the lads.

A short session of the Yokohama Christian Blind School is to be held in the Chapel of the Bible Training School, 221 Bluff, on Saturday, June 18, beginning at two o'clock. The purpose is to show the work done by the students, and their methods, to those who may be interested. Refreshments will be served at the close; and a few articles offered for sale, the proceeds to go to the blind and poor.

LETTERS FROM THE "MANSHU MARU."

(To the Editor of the "Japan Mail.")

Sir,—The steamer *Manshu Maru* (formerly the *Manchuria*, employed in plying between Port Arthur and various ports, and seized by the Japanese while laid up at Nagasaki for repairs) completed the first and doubtless least interesting stage of her notable cruise with her arrival in Kobe at 7 p.m. on June 13th, having occupied 28½ hours in steaming from Yokosuka. I speak of this as the least interesting part of the voyage because it is over a course, which, being merely between two points, can present small variety of events to arouse by their recital the attention of the ordinary reader. But because the cruise has taken so large a hold upon the public imagination that the movements of this fine ship ought to be recorded with such care and minuteness as would certainly not be tolerated in different circumstances, and as for this very reason our departure was signalized by considerable official attention I send my first letter from Kobe instead of reserving it till a later point. I am certain it will be admitted that the mere presence of so many persons, of different ranks, professions and nationalities on board a single ship by invitation of the Government of a great Power must invest their doings and the movements of their vessel with unique interest. For surely such an occasion is quite unprecedented in the world's history. It is easy to remark that this is a trite thing to say, for the war correspondent is a very recent person in our earth's life, but this expedition owes its interest not to the fact that it includes peers, or commoners or naval or military attachés or war correspondents, but to the presence, as I have said, of all classes and professions. And probably a discerning public has already come to the conclusion that the authorities have regretted the necessities which hitherto restricted the movements of the attachés and correspondents and have taken the first opportunity of furthering their objects. At any rate, however viewed, the presence of so many foreigners on board this ship with so large a gathering of Japanese, setting out to view the scenes of a great war invests the trip with an interest distinctively its own. I desire to avoid reference as much as possible to official matters, but it seems to me that I should not entirely omit inclusion in this chronicle of the fact that it is understood Marquis Kuroda, Vice-President of the Upper House, is entrusted with a mission which may be taken as the chief reason for the despatch of the *Manshu Maru* to the Western seas.

It is already known to your readers that the *Manshu Maru* while running between Port Arthur, Shanghai and other points, was laid up for an overhaul at Nagasaki, the intention being that she should be put on the Nagasaki-Dalny service in connection with the railways under Russian control; that the outbreak of war found her commander and agents either unable or unwilling to take her away; that she was forthwith seized by the Japanese and that a Prize Court confirmed the seizure. But these facts may very fitly be supplemented by others relating to the vessel and her adaptation to her present mission. She is a ship of 2,981 tons, with triple expansion engines and twin screws which drive her at a speed of 15 knots; built at Trieste in 1901; flush fore and aft with a boat deck on which are the captain's and officers' cabins (these being designed for use as a social hall). On the upper deck are the smoking and reading rooms, and the dining saloon with ample accommodation for the company on board. The saloon companion-way leads to the cabins on the lower deck which, like the sections mentioned, are plainly but comfortably fitted up. The *Manshu* is under the control of Captain Takarabe, of the Imperial Navy, with whom are associated Lieut.-Commander Yamaguchi, Commander Matsumura, Surgeon Yabe, and Paymaster Utsunomiya, also naval officers. The navigation of the ship is undertaken by Capt. Kano, and Messrs. Kato and Okura, respectively Chief Engineer and Chief Officer; the Chief Purser is Mr. Fukao, all of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, and Mr. Okami, of the same company, is on board as Superintending Engineer.

As has been said, Marquis Kuroda is a distinguished guest on board; there are also seven or eight members of both Houses of Parliament as well as Messrs K. and N. Nabeshima, officials of the Foreign Office; and the following foreign attachés: Commander Jackson (British); Captain Trummler (German); Lt.-Comdr. Marsh (U.S.); Capt. Lindberg (Norwegian); Lieut. Burglari (Italian); Lieut. Martinie (French); and Lieut. Comte. Mannsfeld (Austro-Hungarian). Among the other foreigners present are Commander Colquhoun (British); Capt. Fortescue (U.S.); Messrs. A. G. Moyna, A. Bartlett, and Seppings Wright (British); and the correspondents include Messrs. E. Klorke (*Frankfurter Zeitung*); R. Kahn (*Figaro*); R. S. Dunn (*Outing*); G. Kennan (*Outlook*); F. Villiers (*Illustrated London News*); B. W. Morregard (*London Daily Mail*); L. Lawton (*Daily Telegraph*); Baron Ward (*Neuie Frie Presse*); Marquis D'Adda (*Secolo*); Robert Hay (*Japan Mail*); Yamada (*Japan Times*); Yasuoka (*Jiji*); Tsukahara (*Nichi Nichi*); Miyake (*Nippon*); Hattori (*Asahi*); Ito (*Osaka Asahi*); Kawanishi (*Kokumin*); Yamagata (*Choho*); Miyakawa (*Miyako*); Kikuchi (*Osaka Mainichi*); Ooka (*Chuo*); Ishikawa (*Hochi*); Motono (*Yomiuri*).

The various members of the company arrived at Yokosuka on the forenoon of the 12th and went at once on board the steamer, many persons accompanying them to give them a good "send-off." At tiffin Capt. Takarabe presided and after the repast, addressing those present both in Japanese and English first called on them to drink on the eve of that ship's departure the health of His Majesty the Emperor. This was very cordially and loyally done. Capt. Takarabe then stated that Admiral Inouye (Port Admiral) had wished to bid them all *bon voyage* in person, but had found it impossible to do so, though he had visited the ship earlier in the day, but he had sent some presents which he hoped would be agreeable to the passengers and he had asked him (the speaker) to express for him his wishes for a pleasant voyage. Marquis Kuroda replied on behalf of the passengers thanking Admiral Inouye for his kind wishes and calling for "banzais," which were heartily given.

Everything ready, the *Manshu Maru* about 2 p.m. cast off from her buoy and got under way. The weather conditions can hardly be described as propitious, a strong southerly breeze had blown during the previous night and had not yet entirely gone down; rain had fallen at intervals during the morning and there was every likelihood that a heavy sea would be running outside. However, by a quarter past two the ship was clear of the harbour, being played out by a band on one of the large launches of the station—by indeed the Post Admiralty band which had been lent by Admiral Inouye—and to the strains of "Auld Lang Syne" and other airs associated with such occasions launch and band, the latter cheering a farewell, were gradually dropped astern and the *Manshu* was off on her trip to the shores where she had been intended by her former masters to play a very much different part. The weather looked anything but satisfying to some of the passengers as the ship swung past Kannonsaki and began to curtsey to the swells that ran in from the ocean, and even the message signalled from Tsurugi-saki as we came abeam of the station, wishing us "a pleasant voyage and all good health," though cheering enough hardly went the length of being assuring for that particular evening. But though squalls swept up at intervals as we parted with the land—as Jogashima faded away on our starboard quarter—a gleam of brightness struggled through the gathering gloom in the west and lit the whole ship's side. Though the whistle was sounded more than once as we entered the mist ahead, that momentary radiance, coupled with the appearance of a most beautiful rainbow, the lower arc of which seemed almost to be completed a few yards distant from the spectators, awakened some hopes of a clear night if not of a smooth sea. Alas! the Enshu Nada has a reputation which it certainly kept up, for as we progressed the *Manshu Maru*, from about 9 to 11 p.m. flung her heels out at desperately frequent intervals. There has been much less of that during to-day and I am assured by some of the experts and travellers on board that the ship is remarkably steady.

The trip thus far has therefore been uneventful. The officers of the ship have been most kind and with better weather the time would have passed very pleasantly. As we brought the northern land of the straits closer to our course the weather cleared up; the sea became smooth and everything wore a delightful appearance. It is arranged that we leave Kobe at 4 o'clock in the morning, so that the beauties of the Inland Sea will be unfolded to us on our way to Kure.

H.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

"The Marriage of William Ashe" is the title of Mrs. Humphry Ward's new novel, which will first run as a serial in *Harper's Magazine*.

A suggestive indication of the trend towards specialisation in all things is offered by the latest announcement of Messrs. Jack, of Edinburgh. They have projected a series of elaborate monographs on the prominent personages who have made English history. These, it is intended, will be at once works of beauty, and the last word from the standpoint of historical research. Dr. Augustus Jessop is writing the first volume of the series, which will be devoted to William Cecil, the great Lord Burghley. The genealogy of the Cecil kin will be adequately treated by Mr. Fox-Davies; while the Cecil family portraits have been collected, and will be commented on by Mr. J. L. Caw, of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. Mr. J. A. Gotch writes on the Homes of the Cecils. The general editor is Mr. Francis Pierrepont Barnard. The edition of each Monograph will be strictly limited.

We find the *Frankfurter Zeitung* warmly supporting the latest theory advanced for Shakespeare's reason for making Elsinore the scene of the tragedy of "Hamlet." The poet's earliest commentators were not able to explain why the poet placed the tragedy on the island of Zeeland, whereas the unhappy Prince lived and died in Jutland. In addition to this, the description of the former place is most minute, although in those days accuracy of detail was by no means common with dramatists, as the other works of Shakespeare amply prove. It was lately discovered, however, in the archives of Helsingore, which was formerly Elsinore, that in 1585 the burgomaster of the town built a wooden theatre, which was burned down some years afterwards while an English company was acting there. Most of the names of the actors are those of the men who were playing in 1589 in the company of which Shakespeare formed part, and it is probable that the actors, talking on their return to England about their experiences in Denmark, described Elsinore to the dramatist, and so enabled him to give local colour to his play of "Hamlet" a few years later. In those days it was a very rare thing for actors to perform abroad, and no doubt the travellers were never tired of relating their experiences. This will amply account for Shakespeare's placing the tragedy of "Hamlet" in Zeeland, of which he could get a full description, rather than in Jutland, of which he and his companions knew nothing.

A valuable and important sale of illuminated MSS. and relics of Robert Burns took place at Sotheby's in May, and more than £2,200 was realised. For the original honorary Burgess ticket presented by the Burgh of Dumfries to Robert Burns, June 4, 1787, Mr. Thomson gave £55; while £7 5s. was paid by Mr. Bevan for a walking-stick formerly belonging to Burns; and £155, the purcheser being Mr. Sabin, for Burns' autograph MS. of "The Whistle: A Ballad." The top price, £720, for a MS., fell to Mr. Quaritch—an early sixteenth century "Horæ" on pure vellum with 17 full-page miniatures.

It would seem that in Ireland there is still some value attached to the survivals of literary history as there is in most parts of England. Only lately there has been sold, together with the demesne, in the Irish Land Judge's Court, Quilla House, county Cavan. It will be remembered that it was here that the greater part of "Gulliver's Travels" was written. Swift's connection with the place made a considerable difference in the price paid, which was £111 as opposed to £57, the ordinary estimate of the rental.

The world is the poorer by the disappearance of a real genius, for that Maurus Jokai deserved the epithet no reader of his extraordinary works will deny. The medium in which his novels were given to the world must, it is to be feared, always prevent them from being known in all their true power to any but a select few. Magyar is never likely to be a language generally understood, and unfortunately, no translation could possibly reproduce the full effect of the style of such a writer as Maurus Jokai. Yet even in its English form, "The Lady with Eyes like the Sea" and two or three others of the astonishing number he produced, remain among the really great novels of the closing decades of the nineteenth century.

The early parish register of West Kirby, on the Wirral Peninsula, which has been missing from the church safe for over 100 years, has been restored through a reader ot the Wigan Free Library, who brought the important document to the librarian. The register covers the period between 1561 and 1610, contains from 5,000 to 6,000 entries, and is written throughout on vellum. Curious entries include a complete list of all the victims of the plague which decimated the Wirral Peninsula in 1604.

Kilkenny College, which King Edward visited on his recent trip in Ireland, is one of the living links which connect the "Marble City" to-day with its historic past. It was there that Swift and Congreve were schoolfellows together, while in our own day the ancient College gave the late Archbishop Magee to the English Church. Lismore claims Congreve as a native; but while Congreve certainly spent his youthful days around Lismore Castle, his birthplace was in Yorkshire.

M. Jacques Le Lorrain, whose tragedy "Don Quichotte" has recently been produced in Paris, is interesting from the fact that after making his *debut* in letters he withdrew from the calling and became a cobbler. His father had followed the occupation before him, and he knew something about it, so, having found literature unprofitable, he opened his shop in the Rue du Sommerard and advertised it in verses of his own composition. He also wrote letters to the papers, in which he compared himself with Spinoza, who made spectacles for a living while he elaborated his contributions to philosophy. The difficulty was that though M. Le Dorrain was a tolerable poet he was a very bad cobbler, and the quality of his shoes soon lost him the *clientèle* which he had acquired through the quality of his verses. Customers used to read the poems which he pasted up in his shop window, but did not enter to buy. Instead of sticking to his last, therefore, he became a schoolmaster; and it was while following that calling that he wrote the drama which has now been put on the stage.

A deeply interesting volume has just been published in Rome on the glories of the Capitol. Its history, its relation to the genius of the Roman people, its traditions and even its legends are dealt with. In mediæval Italy, the Capitol had shrunk to being merely the scene where poets received their laurel wreath, and it was here that Petrarch himself went to be crowned, conferring by his presence, a greater honour than that received. Twelve gentlemen, clothed in red, and six members of the high Roman nobility, clad in green, and all bearing crowns of flowers, formed his escort, and to the sound of fife and drum, the procession marched to the hall where the immortal and sweet singer of Laura received his crown.

Commendatore Boni, the famous archæologist of the Roman Forum, in a conversation with an interviewer, has given an interesting clue to his impressions of that treasure-house of Latin antiquity. According to him, it was a cemetery long before it was a Forum, and the tombs were packed so close together that no trace of a pathway, however narrow, could be found. The Via Sacra was probably made over the tombs. Romulus, Signor Boni thinks, was born on a soil peopled with the dead for a thousand years before his birth, and the wolf only existed in the legends left by his ancestors.

Sir Archibald Geikie in his "Old Glasgow Memories," recently published, tells the following story which we have not before seen in print. "At a funeral in Glasgow, a stranger who had taken his seat in one of the mourning coaches excited the curiosity of the other three occupants, one of whom at last addressed him. 'Ye'll be a brither o' the corp?' 'No, I'm no a brither of the corp,' was the prompt reply. 'Weel, then, ye'll be his cousin?' 'No, I'm no that.' 'No! then ye'll at least be a frien' o' the corp?' 'No that either. To tell the truth, I've no been that weel mysel' and as my doctor has ordered me some carriage exercise, I thocht this wad be cheapest way to tak' it.'"

Dr. Karl Schmidt, of Heidelberg University, has just published a volume which, he claims, adds greatly to our present knowledge of the writings of St. Paul. He has been occupied for seven years in compiling the work from 2,000 papyri covered with Coptic characters, and preserved in the University. Dr. Schmidt thinks that the work will solve many problems connected with early Christianity, and proves that there formerly existed a great work entitled the "Acta Pauli," divided into three parts, of which only fragments have survived. It was the work of one Anzian, who wrote 180 years after Christ.

SAILING RACES.

Saturday was an unsatisfactory kind of a day in many ways, as the opening of the *Nyubai* often is. The wind came light from the south at times, then in gusts, and then would die away altogether; while the rain, beginning in a drizzle, gradually increased to a heavy downpour. The 21-raters handicap around the Tsurumi mark-boat, lightship and Mandarin Bluff, brought out nine starters—*Sunbeam*, *Winsome*, *Pelee*, *Valkyrien*, *Beatrice*, *Pima*, *Chocho*, *Patsy* and the new boat *Witch*. The *Valkyrien* won, with *Pelee* second. Nine started for the Lark race, and the usual mishaps happened ere the contest closed. No. 11, lead all the way round and won the Winsome Cup; with No. 1, second.

THE INTERPORT RACES.

The first and second sailing matches in the third contest for the Interport Challenge Cup between the Mosquito Yacht Club and the Kobe Sailing Club took place at Kobe on Saturday in boisterous weather and were won by Yokohama. Yokohama was represented by Messrs. H. A. Poole and N. B. Morton; Kobe's skippers being Messrs. L. A. Summerhays and J. D. Abell. In the first match the Kobe boat led at the start, being 18 seconds to the good when Yokohama crossed the line. The heavy wind raised a lumpy sea, and rain squalls were frequent. Still leading Kobe were within sight of home, when, rounding the last mark, their boat capsized. Fortunately Summerhays and Abell managed to scramble on to the mark-boat, but it was found impossible to right their craft and it was eventually towed in. Yokohama finished at 11h. 24m. 33s. The second race started at 3 p.m. and was won by Yokohama with the margin of 10m. 48secs.

The events in the Spring regatta of the K.R.C., already once postponed, had again to be put off owing to the bad weather.

The keen interest shown by owners of the "Lark" class of the Yokohama Yacht Club is to be highly commended. A new departure was inaugurated by them this week in the shape of Wednesday afternoon-races. These races have been arranged entirely among themselves. The first boat across the finishing line receives 3 points, the second 2, and the third 1. At the close of the season the boat with the largest number of marks will secure first prize, second and third prizes being awarded on the same principle. The first prize is presented by Lark No. 10, the second and third prizes being subscribed for. A special prize, presented by Lark No. 1, is also to be given to the boat that has started and finished the most number of times without getting "placed."

The first race of the series was sailed on Wednesday afternoon, there being 9 starters. Nos. 12 and 11 led crossing the starting line, closely followed by the rest of the squadron in a bunch. At the first inner buoy No. 10 was leading, No. 5 being close astern, and at the conical buoy the boats were all close together. After rounding this mark, however, they spread out, going on different tacks. There was a very good finish, scarcely two minutes separating the first and last boats. They came in the following order:—No. 12, 13, 8, 5, 10, 11, 1, 6. 4. The latter, by an error, did not cross the finishing line.

THE LAW COURTS.

HAIM v. BRETSCHNEIDER.

This case came up again in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Danno on June 11th when judgment was delivered dismissing the claim of plaintiff with costs.

ALLEGED FRAUD.

The preliminary examination of Mr. Y. Matsumura, ex-director of the Naigai Fire Insurance Company, Tokyo, who has been charged with fraud, having been completed in the Tokyo District Court, he was committed for trial on June 11th.

It appears that the accused embezzled *yen* 18,000 belonging to the office while in the service of the firm and made false entries in the books in order to conceal his offence.

A CHARGE OF MANSLAUGHTER.

In the Yokohama Local Court, on Tuesday afternoon, before Judge Nagatsuka, the hearing took place of a charge of manslaughter preferred against Capt. Seabury, of the P. M. steamer *Korea*. On March 21st it will be remembered a sampan got between the *Korea* and her mooring buoy as she was swinging, and a boatman named Aoki Hosaku was crushed to death. Captain Seabury stated that he was ashore at the time of the incident. The sampan ought not to have been anchored near the buoy as the steamer was not at anchor at the time. The corpse of the boat man was found floating near the sampan forty-five minutes after the vessel began to move.

The Court fully exonerated the accused.

Count Katsura, Premier, and Baron Komura, Minister of Foreign Affairs, paid a visit on the morning of June 16th to Marquis Ito and held a conference lasting till noon.

DEATH OF MR. MEIKLEJOHN.

The death occurred on Thursday morning, from apoplexy, of Mr. Robert Meiklejohn, for many years proprietor of the *Japan Daily Advertiser*. Mr. Meiklejohn was a citizen of the United States and an expert master-printer. On first coming to Japan he worked in the office of the *Japan Mail* and when he left us in 1873 he entered the late Mr. Brooke's employ on the *Japan Herald*. Soon after he bought the printing office of a Mr. Franklin at No. 108, and transferred it to No. 16, where he built up a big connection, dominating the job-printing trade of the town, among other ventures printing the *Tokyo Times* for Mr. House. In 1890 he began to issue the *Daily Advertiser* from No. 26 as an advertising sheet pure and simple, but in 1891 he was joined by Mr. Robert Hay and the paper soon took a leading place in local journalistic circles. On the *Advertiser* being sold a few years ago to Mr. A. M. Knapp, Mr. Meiklejohn retired entirely into private life, being seen by only his closest intimates. Death has come at the age of 58. He was a member of the Masonic body, but had taken no active part in its work for quite a dozen years past. The funeral is arranged for Sunday.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Japanese gold coins amounting to half a million *yen* were exported on June 15th by the steamer *Gaelic* to San Francisco.

Nine houses were burnt down at Mandai-cho, Yokohama, early on Thursday, the fire breaking out in the house of a painter.

During a period from the outbreak of the war to May 31st, the amount donated to the Japan Red Cross Society aggregated *yen* 23,814,509.

Three Russian officers undergoing treatment in the Matsuyama hospital have donated $5 to the Japan Red Cross Society, through the Governor of Ehime.

A telegram from Chefoo to the *Kokumin* states that the Russian refugees from Port Arthur arrived at Tun-chon and left there overland for Kiaotchou.

Mr. Noma, the Japanese Consul at Hongkong, reports that, during the week ended May 28th, twenty-seven cases of plague appeared there, twenty-five proving fatal.

Mr. Hayashi, Japanese Minister at Seoul, arrived on the morning of June 15th at Moji by the steamer *Ohio* from Chemulpo. At 2 p.m. on the same day he left for Kobe, and Tokyo.

Since the outbreak of war to May 20th, the amount donated towards the funds of the Red Cross, hospitals, etc. by Japanese and foreigners in Hawai aggregated to *yen* 109,243.41.

Fifteen Russians, including a student of the military college and three merchants captured at Kinchow were to arrive on June 10th at Ujina by a transport. One of the soldiers is wounded.

Mr. W. T. Stead, editor of the *Review of Reviews*, who, says the *Jiji*, is said to be pro-Russian in his views, has sent a telegram of congratulation to Marquis Oyama, Chief of the Staff.

Some Koreans intend to establish a bank with the joint capital of Koreans and Japanese. The promoters, says a Tokyo paper, have requested Viscount Aoki to control the institution as president.

S. Kamoi, a lithographer, and two others have been arrested at Tokushima. The *Jiji's* Kobe correspondent reports that they forged three thousand *yen'* 10 notes and circulated about a hundred of them.

Among recent departures from Yokohama were Mrs. Davies, lately Matron of the General Hospital, and Miss Scruton, whose faithful and efficient services on behalf of the Hospital were generally appreciated. We are given to understand that Miss Gray, late of the Peak Hospital, Hongkong, assumes some part of Mrs. Davies' duties.

The Court of Cassation on Wednesday upheld the decision of the Kobe Court in the Reynell-Kirby appeal, the judgment being that Mr. Reynell had no grounds for asking for a declaration of the invalidity of the lease.

Fire broke out at 11.50 p.m. on June 9th at Chitose-cho, Yokohama, destroying 24 houses and damaging 12, including the dwelling of a carpenter, K. Adachi, which was the scene of the outbreak. The cause is reported to be a broken lamp.

A telegram from Matsuyama reports that M. Kurita, a farmer, in the village of Kaino, Arai, and six of his family were found murdered on the morning of June 9th. The murderer is still at large. The cause of the crime is not yet known.

Prince Yamashina, who recently returned from the front, paid a visit to the Naval Staff Office on June 13th. He had been transferred from the cruiser *Yakumo* to the Staff Office. It is reported that he was to commence service on the 14th as an attaché.

Mr. Max Nössler, the Japanese Honorary Consul at Bremen, has remitted to the Gunjin Kyugo Kwai, (Association to Relieve the Families of the Men at the Front) *marks* 12,015.55, which amount has been donated by citizens in that port.

According to investigations made by the Finance Department, the banks throughout the Empire at the end of May numbered 2,310, the total capital being *yen* 531,143,549. This shows a decrease of one bank compared with the figures of the previous month, but an increase in capital of *yen* 1,115,000.

The Captain of the Norwegian steamer *Solveg*, one of three which have been lying off Gutzlaff with cargoes of coal, assures the *N.-C. Daily News* that the vessels were sent out entirely as a speculation, and the cargoes are for sale. The statement that the steamers are awaiting orders to proceed to Port Arthur is incorrect.

The Nippon Tea Manufacturing Company, Yokohama, has received a telegram from its branch in New York that the tea market is extraordinarily dull and leaf over 12 cents per pound can not find buyers. The *Asahi* states that the most inferior tea exported to America costs cents 14, c.i.f., per pound in Yokohama so that the tea trade is now involved in a serious cloud.

Z. Okada, a gardener employed at the well-known tea-house Kotaka-in, Horikiri, Tokyo, who had been sentenced to death in the Tokyo District Court on a charge of having murdered his employer and destroyed the building by setting it on fire, and who had appealed to the Appeal Court against the decision, was acquitted on June 14th on the ground that the evidence against him was insufficient.

The Clerk of the Weather has evidently a "down" on the cricketting members of the Y.C. and A.C. Here we are at the middle of June and no matches have yet been possible, the two arranged by the Captain of Cricket being interfered with by downpours of rain. In self-defence the cricketers will have to organize an evening match, commencing say at 5 p.m., and lasting over three evenings. This would not interfere too greatly with the baseball practises or the tennis.

The most striking fact, remarks the *L. & C. Express*, about the recent sittings of the House of Commons is the collapse of the Opposition. A few weeks ago Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman and his colleagues were confidently expecting a speedy dissolution, which was to place them in power with a huge majority at their backs. The whole situation has now changed. All talk of an immediate dissolution has died down, and the Government is obtaining huge majorities, except in an occasional snap division in an empty House. As for the Liberal leaders, they have silently vanished away, and the duty of fighting the Government is left to men whose names the country hardly knows.

A telegram from Taipeh, Formosa, received by the *Jiji*, says that the steamer *Taigi Maru* collided at 3 a.m. on June 15th with the steamer *Taikei Maru* off Chukan, Teck-cham prefecture. Both were sunk. Four of the crew and one passenger of the *Taigi Maru*, and four of the crew and two passengers of the *Taikei Maru* are missing. The others were rescued by the steamer *Risai Maru*, which was fortunately passing the scene.

At the annual general meeting of the Victoria Recreation Club of Hongkong it was proposed that Mr. Frank Lammert be elected Hon. Secretary of the Club, whereupon a counter proposal was at once made that Mr. Harold Austen, son of the Rev. W. T. Austen, of Yokohama, be asked to carry on as Hon. Secretary, having filled the post to the satisfaction of the members during the year just closed. A ballot was taken and Mr. Austen was elected by a large majority.

Sone (17) daughter of a merchant, S. Sato by name, of Akashi-cho, Tsukiji, Tokyo, attempted to commit suicide on the evening of June 10th by drowning herself in the sea at Sanno-machi, Oiso, but was rescued by three farmers who were passing. She was immediately removed to the police station. It appears that she has developed religious mania, and believing that "death means a return to our original place," and besides being weary of life, she sought to pass through the dividing gate.

An audacious robbery is reported on a train of the Nippon Railway. It appears that I. Koyama, a merchant living in Koishikawa, Tokyo, took the 5. p.m. train on June 9th at Uyeno. He was the sole occupant of a first class car, but at Tabata station two men entered the compartment and shortly after the train started they menaced the merchant and robbed him of his hand bag containing *yen* 161 and several documents. The men left the car as the train was slackening speed when approaching the next station.

A Parliamentary paper just issued shows that Great Britain has 445 warships, while 104 are being built. Torpedo-boat destroyers number 214 and submarines eight. Twenty-one of the latter are building. The ill-fated A1 "will probably be reinstated in the Navy," says a footnote in the return. Japan's warships of all classes numbr 148, Russia's 280. at the time the return was made up. The Japanese have 82 torpedo boats; Russia has 167. France's whole fleet numbers 399, Germany's 213, Italy's 204, and the United States' 111.

On Wednesday afternoon, the Kawasaki Dockyard Company launched from their slips the light-house tender *Kwang chei*, built for the Imperial Korean Customs. Her principal dimensions are:—Length over all, 232'-6"; depth moulded to main deck, 13'-6"; engines, 2 sets, triple expansion; length between p.p., 220'-0"; height of deck erections, 7'-6"; number of boilers, 2; breadth moulded, 30'-"; draught loaded, 14'-6"; 10 k. dynamo; depth moulded to upper deck, 21'-0": displacement, 1620; 18" searchlight: guaranteed speed, 14 knots; armament, 2 Maxim guns, 32-pounder Nordenfelt q.f g.

It is reported by the Kagacho police that a Chinaman about 32 years of age bought a bottle of whiskey, costing *yen* 1.45, on June 10th at No. 52, Yokohama, and stole an amount of *yen* 3.55. He also gave a Chinese a forged *yen* 5 note. The same day, a similar theft was committed at No. 128. A Chinaman employed by the British steamer *Bengloe* informed the Kagacho police that he received two Japanese forged notes of *yen* 5 each from the Chinese exchange shop, No. 151, while changing British money on May 21st, when he was here on a previous voyage of the steamer from Shanghai, and that he was quite ignorant that it was false money until he arrived at Shanghai.

CORRESPONDENCE.

OKAYAMA ORPHANAGE ENTERTAINMENT.

(To the Editor of the "Japan Mail.")

Sir,—In Tokyo the sign *Kashiya*—House to Let—is becoming a common one, for families whose bread-winners are at the front and who are moving to the country or going into smaller houses. From the provinces we hear of business being dull because people are reducing expenses and cutting off luxuries. Money is given freely for patriotic purposes, and it is no wonder that contributions for charities not connected with the war are falling off. There is danger of rice-tubs being empty as well as dwelling houses.

The Okayama Orphanage, an institution of 17 years' standing, which has now 270 children under its care, has received but little in the way of contributions from Japanese sources since the war began. Heretofore much more than half of the contributions have come from home sources. The living expenses alone averaged *yen* 750 a month last year—less than *yen* 3 a child. The sustaining members, who contribute one *yen* a year supplied on an average *yen* 280 a month, and the Prefectural Government contributed *yen* 400 for the year. Contributions from Japanese sources averaged some *yen* 200 a month, and these supplies have almost ceased, while the demands of the 270 children have not in any wise ceased. They have not luxuries that they can cut off, as the writer can well testify. A year ago I stood in the large shed that serves for a dining hall. The large family—all of whom call Mr. Ishii "father"—was waiting for grace to be said, and for the bugle to sound "Fall to." One little fellow of about four sat with his mouth just at a tempting distance from the dish of barley and rice and pickles. The little hands kept straying to the food, but one of the older girls kept reproving him until grace was said. I watched to see what he would do with a large piece of scorched barley and rice on top of his dish. Without hesitating a moment the chop-sticks attacked that first of all, and it was disposed of as a savory morsel.

They have no luxuries, indeed; but healthy appetites they have. For the benefit of the institution some of the children, formed into a band, gave a concert with kinetoscope views on the 14th inst. at the Peers' Club, under the patronage of Countess Kabayama, Viscountess Aoyama, Viscountess Okabe, and other ladies. The same performance will be given on the 16th, 17th, and 18th, beginning at 6 p.m in the Hall of the Y.M.C.A., Mitoshiro-cho. Tickets at one *yen* each may be obtained at the Mitoshiro Kwan, Mitoshiro-cho, 2 chome.

Thanking you for many kindnesses to the Orphanage in the past; and in anticipation, for inserting this letter about its needs.

I am, Sir, faithfully yours,

FRANK MÜLLER.

THE TANSAN CASE AT SINGAPORE.

Wilkinson v. McAlister & Co.

JUDGMENT OF MR. JUSTICE HYNDMAN JONES.

The law with regard to cases of this sort has been so clearly enunciated in the cases to which we have been referred that it does not present much difficulty. I agree with Mr. Fort that the true principle is that "no man can have a right to represent his goods as the goods of another man;" that principle was I believe first laid down by Tunner L. J. in Burgess v. Burgess 3 De Gex M. & G. 896 some 50 years ago and the principle has met with the general approval of the Courts ever since, including the House of Lords. Another important point to bear in mind is the distinction that should be drawn between the adoption of a fancy name and the adoption of a descriptive name: if a man adopts a fancy name and applies it to his own goods then if some other person uses that name in connection with the goods which he is selling the presumption will almost necessarily be that the latter is attempting to pass off his goods as those of the former. On the other hand when a man uses merely a descriptive name he is seeking as it were to appropriate for himself a name which it is obviously open to all the world to use as descriptive of articles which they may wish to sell: there is no presumption in his favour from the mere fact that some one else has commenced to use the name: and accordingly the man who under such circumstances seeks to restrain another from using the name would have to prove that it had acquired in connection with his own goods a secondary meaning which has displaced in his favour the ordinary meaning to be attached to it; in other words he would have to prove that the use of the name in this secondary meaning has become so general as to give him the right to restrain others from using it in such a manner as would be calculated to put off their goods as his (The Cellular Clothing Co. Ltd. v. Maxton and Murray 1899 Ap Ca 326, Reddaway v. Banham 1896 Ap Ca 199, Parsons v. Gillespie 1898 Ap Ca 232). Such being the law as laid down by the most eminent authorities the question is now to apply it to the facts before us. Now so far as Japan is concerned I am not prepared to say that the word "Tansan" by itself as applied to mineral water is a purely descriptive name: the meaning of the word is simply carbonic acid and the word "Tansansui" would be the proper equivalent in Japanese for carbonic acid water; that is agreed on both sides, but some of the witness said that the word "Tansan" was an abbreviation of the word "Tansansui" and had been used in connection with mineral water for many years before the respondents first adopted it—see for example the evidence of Mr. Ohga the Japanese Consul at page 45 line 33: on the other hand Mr. Y. Sato who had been head-master of the commercial school in Kobe gave evidence diametrically opposed to this: see his evidence at page 10 lines 20 to 25 and Mr. Yeisuke another Japanese witness was to the same effect page 30 line 44 there is also the evidence of Mr. Chamberlain at page 23 lines 7 and 14 and Capt. Brinkley at pages 28 and 29: the manager of Hasegawa and Co. who are the appellants principals admitted that "lemonade" was the colloquial for aerated water and said that "Teppo Mitzu" was not the expression generally used page 44 line 63: while there was other evidence that "Teppo Mitzu" was the ordinary term. I do not propose to go into the evidence at length because it was put before us in great detail by counsel on both sides but I may point out that some of the appellants witnesses were obviously interested witnesses being either agents for or dealers in rival mineral waters for example Fukami Shukichi who sold the Eagle Tansan and the Ishimichi Tansan, Sasatani Kojiro who sold the Hirano Tansan, Mohara Kobei who sold the Lion Tansan and Myaji Masaaki who sold the Nukobiki Tansan; all these people had the strongest reasons for resisting the claim; on the whole I think the weight of the oral evidence is distinctly on the side of the respondent. Further there was a complete absence of documentary evidence in support of the appellants contention. It might reasonably be expected that they would produce labels proved to be in use before 1892 bearing the word "Tansan" upon them; they were unable to produce any evidence to that effect; they did indeed call two witnesses Kawaguchi Toyokichi page 38 and Yamada Ryosuke page 39 who swore that there was a monument erected near the Arima Spring in November 1877 on which the word "Tansan" was inscribed, but the respondent secured a photograph of this monument which disclosed that the inscription was "Tansan sui" and not "Tansan"; Tansan therefore even in Japan cannot be said to be a purely descriptive name. On the other hand it may be said that if it be not purely descriptive it is at all events not purely a fancy name in as much as it does relate to some extent to the quality of the water which the respondent is selling. In that case the evidence in my opinion establishes that it had acquired in the raspondent's favour that secondary meaning to which I have already alluded. It was in 1893 that the respondent first adopted the name in connection with the mineral water he was selling; the name was suggested to him by the British Consul, Mr. Enslie, himself a Japanese scholar, and the respondent said that he himself did not know the meaning of the word till four or five years after he had adopted it: the respondent's labels and other labels were produced and it appears fairly clear that up to 1899 when Fukami first imitated the label although other mineral waters were being sold in Japan no mineral water had been sold with labels bearing that name. I agree with the learned Chief Justice that "the labels produced by the defendants really came into use long after Wilkinson had adopted the word "Tansan," therefore had come to be the name by which the public would call for the particular mineral water which they had begun to appreciate: the public might not know the respondent's name in connection with "Tansan" they might not know the name of Reynell and Co. in connection with "Hirano" but they would call for Tansan when they wanted Tansan just as they would call for Hirano when they wanted Hirano or Appolinaris when they wanted Appolinaris; on this branch of the case apart from the other evidence the evidence Mr. Pietszker page 43 read with exh. B page 57 is very significant: it would appear that at a dinner at the Grand Hotel, Yokohama, in March 1896 the wine card under the heading "Mineral Water" showed a variety of mineral waters, European and Japanese, and among the Japanese are "Hirano Water" and "Tansan." If the word "Tansan" then is to be taken as not purely a fancy name but to some extent descriptive, I am of opinion that in Japan it has acquired in its secondary sense the meaning of the respondent's water. But we are dealing with a case which has been brought in Singapore in which the respondent sought to restrain the appellants from selling or importing here mineral or other water not being water imported by the respondent under the name "Tansan" or any other name of which the word "Tansan" forms part, and if the view I have taken of the case as to Japan be correct *a fortiori* it seems to me it is correct as to this Colony. It was in 1894 that the respondent first introduced his water here under the name of "Tansan" and no other water was imported under that name till 1901 when the appellants did so under the name of "Funagoya Tansan." It is true that during these seven years the sales having regard to the population of the Colony were not extensive, but such people as drank the water probably appreciated it and would expect to get it when they asked for "Tansan"; to them or to the great majority of them the word "Tansan" would convey no meaning, it would not even mean carbonic acid and they would simply regard it as a word the uttering of which would bring them the water they wished to drink. If under these circumstances another mineral water is thrown upon the market very similar in quality put up in very similar bottles and bearing a label which although distinctive in some respects, yet has as its prominent feature the word "Tansan," it is difficult to see how the ordinary purchaser would not be in danger of getting some other sort of mineral water than the "Tansan" to which he had been accustomed. At his club or his restaurant he would call for "Tansan" as he might have been in the habit of doing for years and unless he were at the pains on each occasion to examine the label he might easily be supplied with a mineral water which, however excellent it might be was not the mineral water he wanted to drink and so injury would be done both to the owner of the water and to the purchaser. It therefore seems to me that the Court below came to a right decision. With regard to the form of the form of the Injunction I am not prepared to say that under the circumstances of the case, it is too full. I do not see how anything short of an Injunction in the form in which it is would afford adequate protection. The question of costs to be argued later.

(Signed) W. H. Hyndman Jones, J.

THE CAUSES OF THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

By Captain Brinkley.

It had been in the minds of a great many people for a great many years that a war between Russia and Japan must come sooner or later, yet a clear statement of the reasons for such a conviction was not easy to obtain from its exponents. They had, in truth, no very definite reasons over and above the broad facts that, Russian aggression being insatiable, Japan could not hope to remain permanently beyond its sphere, and that she would be quite certain to resist to the death any attempt to bring her within it. On the other hand, to superficial observers, it seemed easily conceivable that a little forbearance on either side might remove all points of serious collision. Japan had lived many centuries of a tolerably prosperous and moderately happy existence in almost total segregation from the neighbouring continent. Russia had never betrayed any disposition to extend her territorial aggression beyond the Asiatic continent. With the solitary exception of the island of Saghalien, she had not made any insular addition to her vast empire. Need there, then, be any clash of interests? Was it not possible that each empire might leave the other severely alone, the one confining itself within the limits of its islands, the other not trespassing beyond the bounds of its continents? The answer to that question involves some reference to geography and history.

Japan along its western shore, Korea along its eastern, and Russia along the eastern coast of its Maritime Provinces, are washed by the Sea of Japan. The communications between this sea and the Pacific Ocean are practically two only. One is on the northeast, namely, Tsugaru Strait; the other is on the south, namely, the channel between the extremity of the Korean peninsula and the Japanese Island of the Nine Provinces. Tsugaru Strait is entirely under Japan's control. It is between her main island and her island of Yezo, and in case of need she can close it with mines. It is actually so closed at present. The channel between the southern extremity of Korea and Japan has a width of one hundred and two miles, and would therefore be a fine open seaway were it free from islands. But almost midway in this channel lies the twin island of Tsushima, and the space of fifty-six miles that separates it from Japan is narrowed by another island, Iki. Tsushima and Iki belong to the Japanese Empire. The former has some exceptionally good harbours, constituting a naval base from which the channel on either side could easily be sealed.

It appears, then, that the avenues from the Pacific Ocean to the Sea of Japan are controlled by the Japanese Empire. In other words, access to the Pacific from Korea's eastern coast and access to the Pacific from Russia's Maritime Provinces depend upon Japan's good will. So far as Korea is concerned, this question matters little. It is her fate to depend upon the good will of Japan in affairs of much greater importance. But with Russia the case is different. Vladivostock, which until recent times was her principal port in the Far East, lies at the southern extremity of the Maritime Provinces—that is to say, on the north-western shore of the Japan Sea. It is therefore necessary for Russia that freedom of passage by the Tsushima Channel should be secured; and to secure it one of two things is essential—namely, either that she herself should possess a fortified port on the Korean side, or that Japan should be bound neither to acquire such a port nor to impose any restriction upon the navigation of the strait. To put the matter briefly, Russia must either acquire a strong foothold for herself in southern Korea, or contrive that Japan shall not acquire one. In short, there is here a strong inducement for Russian aggression in Korea.

Russia's eastward movement through Asia has been strikingly illustrative of her strong craving for free access to southern seas and of the impediments she has experienced in gratifying the wish. An irresistible impulse has driven her oceanward. Checked again and again in her attempts to reach the Mediterranean, she set out on a five-thousand-miles march of conquest right across the vast Asiatic continent towards the Pacific. Eastward of Lake Baikal she found her line of least resistance along the Amur, and when, owing to the restless perseverance of Muraviev, she reached the mouth of that great river the acquisition of Nikolaiefsk for a naval basis was her immediate reward. But Nikolaiefsk could not possibly satisfy her. Situated in an inhospitable region far away from all the main routes of the world's commerce, it offered itself only as a stepping-stone to further acquisitions. To push southward from this new port became an immediate object to the pioneers of Russia's Far Eastern fortunes. There lay an obstacle in the way, however: the long strip of seacoast from the mouth of the Amur to the Korean frontier—an area then called the Ussuri Region because the Ussuri forms its western boundary—belonged to China, and she, having conceded much to Russia in the matter of the Amur, showed no disposition to make further concessions in the matter of the Ussuri. In the presence of menaces, however, she agreed that the region should be regarded as common property pending a convenient opportunity for clear delimitation. That opportunity came very soon, so far as Russia was concerned. Seizing the moment when China had been beaten to her knees by England and France, the great aggressor secured final cession of the Ussuri region, which now became the "Maritime Provinces of Siberia." Then Russia shifted her naval basis on the Pacific from Nikolaiefsk to Vladivostock. She gained ten degrees in a southerly direction.

From the mouth of the Amur, where Nikolaiefsk is situated, to the southern shore of Korea, there rests on the coast of eastern Asia an arch of islands having at its northern point Saghalien and at its southern Tsushima, the keystone of the arch being the main island of Japan. This arch embraces the Sea of Japan and is washed on its convex side by the Pacific Ocean. Immediately following the transfer of Russia's naval base from Nikolaiefsk to Vladivostock, an attempt was made to obtain possession of the southern point of the arch, namely, Tsushima. A Russian man-of-war proceeded thither and quietly began to establish a settlement which would soon have constituted a title of ownership had not Great Britain interfered. The imperial instinct of the Russians in this matter was unerring. They saw that Vladivostock, acquired at the cost of so much toil, would be comparatively useless unless from the sea on whose shore it was situated an avenue to the Pacific could be opened, and they therefore tried to obtain command of the Tsushima Channel. Immediately after reaching the mouth of the Amur the same instinct had led them to begin the colonization of Saghalien. The axis of this long, narrow island is inclined at a very acute angle to the Ussuri region, which its northern extremity almost touches, while its southern is separated from Yezo by the Strait of La Perouse. There is no doubt that from Saghalien the Russians, had they encountered no serious resistance, would have crossed to Yezo and thence to the main island of Japan. But in Saghalien they found Japanese subjects. In fact, the island was a part of the Japanese Empire. Resorting, however, to the Ussuri fiction of joint occupation, they succeeded ultimately in transferring the whole of Saghalien to Russia's dominion. That was in 1875. Further encroachments upon Japanese territory could not be lightly essayed, and the Russians held their hands. They had been trebly checked: checked in trying to push southward along the coast of the mainland; checked in trying to secure an avenue from Vladivostock to the Pacific; and checked in their search for an ice-free port, which definition Vladivostock did not fulfill. Enterprise to the direction of Korea seemed to be the only hope of saving from abortion the maritime results of the great trans-Asian march.

Was Korea within safe range of such enterprises? Everything seemed to answer in the affirmative. Korea had all the qualifications desired by an aggressor. Her people were unprogressive, her resources undeveloped, her self-defensive capacities insignificant, her government corrupt. But she was a tributary of China, and China had begun to show some tenacity in protecting the integrity of her buffer States. Besides, Japan was understood to have pretensions with regard to Korea. On the whole, therefore, the problem of carrying to full fruition the work of Muraviev and his lieutenants demanded strength greater than Russia could exercise without some line of communications supplementing the Amur waterway and the long ocean route. Therefore she planned and set about the construction of a railway across Asia.

It is not intended to suggest that territorial aggression was the direct motive of this grand enterprise. Governments seldom propose to themselves such aims. They merely prepare to utilize opportunities, should any haply be found. Preparation, however, if in its course it does not create opportunities, seldom fails, when complete, to inspire their creation. Russia's agents need only the means to advance; the impulse is always with them.

The Amur being the boundary of Russia's East Asian territory, this railway had to be carried along its northern bank, where many engineering and economical obstacles presented themselves. Besides, the river, from an early stage in its course, makes a huge semicircular sweep northward, and a railway following its bank to Vladivostock must make the same detour. If, on the contrary, the road could be carried over the diameter of the semicircle, it would be a straight and therefore very much shorter line, technically easier and economically better. The diameter, however, passes through Chinese territory—her "Three Eastern Provinces," in a word, Manchuria—and an excuse for soliciting [illegible] extorting China's permission was not in sight. Russia therefore proceeded to build either end of the road, deferring the construction of the Amur section for the moment. She had not waited long when in 1894, war broke out between China and Japan, and the latter, completely victorious, demanded as the price of peace the southern littoral of Manchuria from the Korean boundary to the Liaotung Peninsula at the entrance to the Gulf of Pechili. This was a crisis in Russia's career. She saw her whole programme of East Asian expansion menaced with failure; saw that her maritime extension could never get nearer than Vladivostock to the Pacific were this claim of Japan's established. For the proposed arrangement would place the littoral of Manchuria in Japan's direct occupation and the littoral of Korea in her constructive control, since not only had she fought to rescue Korea from Chinese suzerainty, but also her object in demanding a slice of the Machurian coast-line was to protect Korea against aggression from the north—that is to say, against aggression from Russia. Muraviev's enterprises had carried Russia first to the mouth of the Amur and thence southward along the coast to Vladivostock and to Possiet Bay at the north-eastern extremity of Korea. But it had not given her free access to the Pacific, and now she was menaced with never obtaining that access, since the whole remaining coast of East Asia as far as the Gulf of Pechili was about to pass into Japan's possession or under her domination.

Then Russia took an extraordinary step. She persuaded Germany and France to force Japan out of Manchuria. What argument she employed to win the co-operation of these two Powers she and they alone know. It is not to be supposed that she frankly exposed her own aggressive designs and asked for assistance to prosecute them. Neither is it to be supposed that France and Germany were so curiously deficient in perspicacity as to overlook her designs. At all events, these three great Powers served on Japan a notice to quit, and Japan, exhausted by her struggle with China, had no choice but to obey.

The notice was accompanied by an *exposé* of reasons. Its signatories said that Japan's tenure of the Manchurian littoral would menace the security of the Chinese capital, would render the independence of Korea illusory, and would constitute an obstacle to the peace of the Orient.

By way of saving the situation in some slight degree, Japan sought from China a guarantee that no portion of Manchuria should thereafter be leased or ceded to a foreign State. But France warned Japan that to press such a demand would offend Russia, and Russia declared that, for her part, she had no intention of trespassing in Manchuria. Japan, had she been in a position to insist on the guarantee, would also have been in a position to disobey the mandate of the three Powers. Unable to do either the one or the other, she quietly stepped out of Manchuria and proceeded to double her army and treble her navy.

As a reward for the assistance nominally rendered to China, Russia obtained permission in Peking to divert her Trans-Asian Railway from the huge bend of the Amur to the straight line through Manchuria. Neither Germany nor France received any immediate recompense. Three years later, by way of indemnity for the murder of two missionaries by a mob, Germany seized, and afterwards compelled China to lease to her, a portion of the province of Shantung. Immediately, on the principle that two wrongs make a right, Russia demanded and obtained lease of the Liaotung peninsula, from which she had driven Japan in 1895. This act she followed by extorting from China, necessarily complaisant, permission to construct a branch of the Trans-Asia Railway through Manchuria from north to south, that is to say, through Harbin and Mukden to Port Arthur.

Russia's maritime aspirations had now assumed a radically altered phase. Instead of pushing southward from Vladivostock and Possiet Bay along the coast of Korea, she had suddenly leaped the Korean peninsula and found access to the Pacific in Liaotung. Nothing was wanting to establish her as practical mistress of Manchuria except a plausible excuse for garrisoning the place. Such an excuse was furnished by the Boxer *émeute* in 1900. Its conclusion saw her in military occupation of the whole region, and she might easily have made her occupation permanent by prolonging it until peace and order should have been fully restored. But here she fell into an error of judgment. Imagining that the Chinese could be persuaded or intimidated to any course whatever, she proposed a convention virtually recognizing her title to Manchuria.

Japan watched all these things with profound anxiety. If there were any reality in the dangers which Russia, Germany, and France had declared to be incidental to Japanese occupation of part of Manchuria, the same dangers must be doubly incidental to Russian occcupation of the whole of Manchuria; the independence of Korea would become illusory; the security of the Chinese capital would be threatened; an obstacle would be created to the permanent peace of the East.

The independence of Korea is an object of supreme solicitude to Japan. Historically she holds towards the little State a relation closely resembling that of suzerain, and though of her ancient conquests nothing remains except a settlement at Fusan on the southern coast, her national sentiment would be deeply wounded by any foreign aggression in the peninsula. It was to establish Korean independence that she fought with China in 1894, and her annexation of the Manchurian littoral adjacent to Korea's northern frontier after the war was designed to secure that independence, not to menace it as the Triple Alliance pretended to think. But if Russia came into possession of all Manchuria, her subsequent absorption of Korea would be almost inevitable. For the considerations set forth above as to Vladivostock's maritime avenues would then acquire absolute cogency. Manchuria is larger than France and the United Kingdom lumped together. The addition of such an immense area to Russia's East Asiatic dominions, together with its littoral on the Gulf of Pechili and the Yellow Sea, would necessitate a corresponding expansion of her naval forces in the Far East. With the one exception of Port Arthur, however, the Manchurian coast does not offer any convenient naval base. It is in the splendid harbours of southern Korea that such a base, several such bases, can alone be found. Even though she were limited to Port Arthur and Vladivostock, the obligation to secure their maritime intercommunication by way of the Tsushima Channel would become doubly imperative for Russia. By only one method could that end be effectively attained—by establishing a strong place of arms on the Korean shore of the channel. But in the event of the territorial and consequent naval expansion here considered, Port Arthur and Vladivostock would at once cease to be adequate naval bases; they would have to be supplemented by Korean harbours. Moreover, there would be an even stronger, an immensely stronger, motive impelling Russia towards Korea. Neither the Ussuri region or the Manchurian littoral possesses so much as one port qualified to satisfy her perennial longing for free access to the ocean in a temperate zone. Korea, which divides the Manchurian littoral from the Ussuri coast, alone possesses such ports. Without Korea, then, all Russia's East-Asian expansion, though it added huge blocks of territory to her dominions, would be commercially incomplete and strategically defective.

If it be asked why, apart from history and national sentiment, Japan should object to a Russian Korea, the answer is, first, because there would thus be planted almost within cannon-range of her shores a Power of enormous strength and insatiable ambition; secondly, because whatever voice in Manchuria's destiny Russia derives from her railway, the same voice in Korea's destiny is possessed by Japan as the sole owner of railways in the peninsula; thirdly, that whereas Russia has an altogether insignificant share in the foreign commerce of Korea and scarcely ten bonafide settlers, Japan does the greater part of the oversea trade and has tens of thousands of settlers; fourthly that did Russia's dominion stretch uninterruptedly from the Sea of Okhotsk to the Gulf of

Pechili her ultimate absorption of North China would be as certain as sunrise; and, fifthly, that such domination and such absorption would involve the practical closure of all that immense region to Japanese commerce and industry, as well as to the commerce and industry of every Western nation except the Russian. This last proposition does not rest solely on the fact that to oppose artificial barriers to free competition is Russia's sole hope of utilizing to her own benefit any tradal opportunities brought within her reach. It rests also on the fact that Russia has objected to foreign settlements at the marts recently opened by treaty with China to American and Japanese subjects. Without settlements trade at those marts would be impossible; and thus Russia has constructively announced that there shall be no trade but Russian, if she can prevent it.

Against such dangers Japan would have been justified in adopting any measure of self-protection. She had foreseen them in outline for six years, and had been strengthening herself to avert them. But she wanted peace. She wanted to develop her material resources and to accumulate some measure of the wealth without which she must remain insignificant among the nations. Two pacific devices offered, and she adopted them both. Russia, instead of trusting time to consolidate her tenure of Manchuria, had made the mistake of pragmatically importuning China for a conventional title. If, then, Peking could be strengthened to resist this demand, some arrangement of a distinctly terminable nature might be made. The United States, Great Britain, and Japan, joining hands for that purpose, did succeed in so far stiffening China's usually limp vertebræ that her show of resolution finally induced Russia to sign a treaty pledging herself to withdraw her troops from Manchuria in three installments, each step of evacuation to be accomplished by a fixed date. That was one of the pacific devices. The other suggested itself in connection with the new commercial treaties which China had promised to negotiate in the sequel of the Boxer troubles. In these documents clauses were inserted providing for the opening of three places in Manchuria to foreign trade. It seemed a reasonable hope that, having commercial access to Manchuria by convenant with its sovereign, China, the Powers would not allow Russia arbitrarily to restrict their privileges. And it seemed a reasonable hope that Russia, having solemnly promised to evacuate Manchuria at fixed dates, would fulfill her engagement.

The latter hope was signally disappointed. When the time came for evacuation, Russia behaved as though no promise had ever been given. She proposed wholly new conditions, which would have strengthened her grasp of Manchuria instead of loosening it.

This incident stupefied Japan. She herself had had some bitter experience of the Occident's tendency to put a unilateral construction on treaties textually bilateral. But the spectacle of a great Western Power deliberately and unblushingly violating its solemn engagements was new to her.

China being powerless to offer any practical protest, and Japan's interests ranking next in order of importance, the Tokyo Government approached Russia. They did not ask for any thing that could hurt her pride or injure her position. Appreciating fully the economical status she had acquired in Manchuria by large outlays of capital, they offered to recognize that status provided that Russia would extend similar recognition to Japan's status in Korea, would promise, in common with Japan, to respect the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of China and Korea, and would be a party to a mutual engagement that all nations should have equal industrial and cummercial opportunities in Manchuria and the Korean peninsula. In a word, they invited Russia to subscribe to the policy enunciated by the United States and by Great Britain, the policy of the open door and of the integrity of the Chinese and Korean Empires.

Thus commenced a negotiation which lasted five and a half months. Japan from the outset reduced her demands to a minimum. Russia never made the smallest appreciable concession. She refused to listen to Japan for one moment about Manchuria. Eight years previously Japan had been in military possession of Manchuria, and Russia, with the assistance of Germany and France, had expelled her for reasons which concerned Japan incomparably more than they concerned any of the three Powers—the security of the Chinese capital, the independence of Korea, the peace of the East. Now Russia had the splendid assurance to declare by implication that none of these things concerned Japan at all. The utmost she would admit was Japan's partial right to be heard about Korea. And at the same time she herself commenced in northern Korea a series of aggressions, partly, perhaps, to show her potentialities, partly by way of counter-irritant. That was not all. Simultaneously with deferring her answers to Japan's proposals and protracting the negotiations to an extent that was actually contumelious, she hastened to send eastward a big fleet of war-ships and a new army of soldiers. It was impossible for the dullest politician to mistake her purpose. She intended to prepare such a parade of force that her obduracy would command submission.

The only alternatives for Japan were war or total and permanent effacement in Asia. She chose war, and in fighting it she is fighting the battle of Anglo-Saxondom as well as of herself, the battle of free and equal opportunities for all without undue encroachment upon the sovereign rights or territorial intergrity of China or Korea, against a military dictatorship, against a programme of ruthless territorial aggrandizement, and against a policy of selfish restrictions.

It seems that the Russian Goliath never thought to be confronted in the lists by this Japanese David St. Petersburg imagined that the terror of its armaments would command submission. But the Japanese are not compact of ordinary Oriental stuff.—*The Outlook.*

PAY FOR THE SOLONS.

It says much for the unselfish patriotism of the Briton that he is the only man in the world who is willing to put his hand into his pocket and pay on an average something like £500 a year, counting his election expenses, for the privilege of giving his time and labour to the making of his country's laws: and one cannot wonder that now and then a member of Parliament, when he sees how differently things are arranged in other countries, is anxious to have matters put on a different footing.

The American law-maker, so far from allowing his patriotism to deplete his purse, thinks that he has well earned the £1,000 a year which Congress pays him for his legislative services; and when this little income is supplemented by many convenient perquisites, such as an allowance of £2 odd for stationery and a dollar for every five miles of travelling, he pockets his pride and accepts them as only his fair due. The French Deputy does not fare quite so well; but at any rate he can always rely on drawing his 625 francs a month for his Parliamentary services, and he never thinks of paying his own travelling expenses to and from Paris.

The colonies are so far from following the maternal example of making their legislators pay for the privilege of working, that in Victoria and New South Wales each member of the Legislature receives an income of £300 a year. South Australia pays her M.P.'s a hundred a year less, and Queensland an annual £150, to which is added a right to travel anywhere in the whole continent of Australia free of cost. The Canadian Senate and House of Commons alike pay their members a salary of £200 a year, and 5d. for every mile they travel to and from Ottawa. The members of the Legislative Assembly of Quebec receive £200 a year each, of Ontario £120, Nova Scotia £100, Manitoba £110, British Columbia £80, and New Brunswick as little as £60. It cannot be said that such payments err on the side of extravagance, but they are at any rate some recognition of good services ungrudgingly rendered. In the Legislative Assembly of Cape Colony a sliding scale is observed, the average remuneration of members being about a guinea for each day of attendance, with an extra allowance for travelling to members who live some distance from Cape Town.

Norway looks after her legislators with almost maternal solicitude. If they fall ill she provides a doctor to attend to them; she keeps them in health by providing baths and even retains a dentist to stop or extract a troublesome molar. In addition to all these small attentions she pays them a little more than the equivalent of 11 shillings a day for every day they devote to her service, and not only pays their railway fares, but allows them a daily 11 shiilings for travelling and subsistence. It is little wonder that legislation is popular in the land of the Norsemen. Sweden, however, is not nearly as considerate a mother, for she does not insult her "House of Lords" by offering any payment for its services, and she thinks the equivalent of 6 shillings a day ample for each member of the lower chamber; and if he is inconsiderate enough to absent himself she fines him nearly double the amount of his day's wages. Denmark, not content with paying her legislators a lawyer's fee of six and eightpence a day, together with actual out-of-pocket expenses when travelling, provides them with a free seat at the Theatre Royal whenever they seek relaxation from work—an example which other countries might perhaps do well to follow.

Germany does not place a very high value on the labours of her men of Parliament, but if she pays them salaries at which an average city clerk might turn up his nose, she does not ask them to pay a pfennig for their travelling, whether on pleasure or duty bent. The German legislative salaries range from 7 shillings a day in Saxe-Coburg to a daily 12 shillings in Baden; but to this small emolument must be added free travelling in Baden, and second-class fares and three shillings a day for "sundries" in Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. The Bavarian M.P. who does not live in Munich receives 10 shillings a day for his attendance, with, as nearly as possible, tenpence a mile for his travelling. Hungary looks after her legislators of the lower house, who number 453, to the extent of paying them £200 a year and allowing them to travel at cheap rates, while, as a crowning consideration, she allows each member nearly £70 a year for house rent.—*The Hourglass.*

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

THE MOROCCO BANDITS.

London, June 9.

The Sultan of Morocco has appointed a new local governor, thus complying with one of Raisuli's demands and is reported to be granting all the other demands in order to expedite the release of the captives.

Two more battleships, the *Illinois* and *Missouri*, have been ordered to procced to Tangiers from the United States.

THE MOROCCO BANDITS.

London, June 10.

American marines have been landed at Tangiers to guard the Belgian Legation.

Later.

It transpires that only two marines were detailed as a guard to the American wife of the Belgian Minister, who is living in an isolated house.

GREAT BRITAIN AND AUSTRIA.

Archduke Frederick, heir presumptive to the Austrian throne, now on a visit to England, has, on behalf of Emperor Francis Joseph, presented King Edward with the baton of a Field Marshal in the Austrian army. The Archduke, who to-morrow reviews the first army corps at Aldershot, is being everywhere received most cordially.

THE SAIMATZE FIGHT.

General Kuropatkin reports that a Japanese brigade attacked Saimatze, north of Feng-huang-cheng, on the 7th inst. In view of the enemy's numbers, the Russians retired, losing a hundred killed and wounded

THE CONGO FREE STATE.

London, June 11.

During the discussion in the House of Commons on a vote for supplies for the Foreign Office, Sir Charles Dilke impeached, in a lengthy speed, the Belgian Government's administration of the Congo Free State, and several members also demanded the summoning of an international conference to enquire into the same.

Earl Percy, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, in reply, said that while Italy, the United States, and Turkey had stated they were earnestly considering Britain's representation on the subject the other Powers were not prepared to take action.

RELIEF FOR RUSSIAN WOUNDED.

London, June 12.

The English Red Cross Society has sent the sum of £2,000 sterling in aid of the funds for the relief of the Russian sick and wounded.

NEWS FROM MUKDEN.

Reuter's correspondent at Mukden confirms the report that General Kuroki has begun a forward movement in force and also states that the Russians officially admit that they are falling back before superior numbers.

THE POWERS AND TURKEY.

Both Great Britain and France have made strong representations to the Porte against the recent dragoonings of Armenians in the district of Sassum.

GREAT BRITAIN PROTESTS.

London, June 12.

Great Britain has protested against the Russian declaration that rice and other food stuffs are contraband of war.

TRUCULENT TIBET.

The Tibetans are making night attacks on the Sikh and Ghoorka outposts at Gyantze. The reinforcements have nearly all reached Chumbi.

THE PALMA SHOOTING TROPHY.

London, June 13.

The American winners of the Palma Trophy of 1903 violated the rules by using special pattern rifles which were not identical with the Government rifle, the result of which is that the Executive Committee of the American National Rifle Association has decided to return the trophy to England.

JAPANESE STRATEGY.

London, June 14.

The critics of the war consider that the advance of General Kuroki's forces along a broad front toward Liaoyang and Mukden corresponds with the near approach of General Oku's assault on Port Arthur.

A QUEER STORY.

The *Standard's* St. Petersburg correspondent wires that Admiral Skrydloff telegraphs that the Vladivostock Squadron encountered a Japanese squadron thirty miles off Port Arthur on the 7th instant, but retired as none of the Port Arthur ships appeared. The squadron returned to Vladivostock on the 10th June.

REVOLUTION BREWING IN MOROCCO.

Later.

The Times correspondent at Tangiers says that a well-organized plot exists in Morocco to depose the Sultan. It originated among the religious and educated classes and derives importance by being supported even by members of the Government This revolution was arranged before the Anglo-French agreement, but the latter only added fuel to the flames, as the Sultan is now accused of selling his country to France.

AN AMERICAN SUBMARINE.

London, June 15.

It is telegraphed from New York that the submarine vessel *Protector* has been privately sold to Japan and is now proceeding thither on board a Norwegian ship, along with two American instructors.

DAILY OUTPOST SKIRMISHES.

Reuter's Agent with Gen. Kuroki's headquarters, telegraphing *via* Fusan, says that the only hostilities at present proceeding are daily outpost skirmishes, wherein the Japanese are always victors.

MORE RUSSIAN RESERVES CALLED OUT.

Later.

A new *Ukase* calls out the reserves in 61 districts in various Russian provinces.

ADEN PLAGUE INFECTED.

Aden has been officially declared plague-infected.

THE LEASE OF WEI-HAI-WEI.

In the British House of Commons, Mr. Henry Norman asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the British lease of Wei-hai-wei would terminate upon the Japanese occupation of Port Arthur.

Earl Percy, in reply, said that by the Convention of 1898 Great Britain leased Wei-hai-wei for as long as Russia occupied Port Arthur.

BIG BATTLE NEAR PORT ADAMS.

THE RUSSIAN VERSION.

London, June 16.

Despatches from General Kuropatkin, General Kharkevitch and General Stackelberg received in St. Petersburg, confirm the reports of severe fighting to the north of Port Adams. The reports appear to indicate an advance by the Japanese north-wards from Kwantung.

General Stackelberg reports that in the battle on the 14th June, the Japanese repeatedly assaulted the position south of Arafadgtau (?). He claims that the Russians retained the position, but admits that the losses were severe. A regimental commander was killed and General Gerngrass wounded.

TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE IN NEW YORK.

Later.

The steamer *General Slocum*, with 1,000 German Sunday School excursionists, mostly women and children, on board, has been burnt at Hell-gate, New York harbour. The fire was so rapid that no boats could be launched. The tugs finally beached the steamer. The loss of life is placed at 500, at least.

LORD DUNDONALD DISGRACED.

A telegram from Ottawa says that an Order-in-Council has been promulgated dismissing General Lord Dundonald from the service for grave indiscretion. The Order deeply regrets that an officer of his rank should have so regrettably failed to appreciate the principles of constitutional government.

(RECEIVED IN TOKYO.)

REFUGEES FROM PORT ARTHUR.

According to a report received from Chefoo, 19 junks containing about 1,500 Chinese subjects arrived at that place on the 8th and 9th from Port Arthur. They had presented to the Russian Authorities a petition asking for permission to leave as they had neither work nor food. Outside the port they fell in with Japanese war-ships which, finding them without provisions, gave them a quantity of rice, to their great gratitude. These Chinese had heard the sound of land-fort guns for the first time on the morning of the 7th, and had thus acquired knowledge of the approach of the Japanese Army.

THE "MANSHU-MARU."

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Kure, June 15.

The *Manshu Maru's* party inspected Kure docks and arsenal to-day and to-night they dine with the Admiral-Superintendent.

Etajima, June 16.

The proposed departure of the Navy's excursion steamer *Manshu Maru* for Saseho, which was to have taken place to-day, is given up. She will return to Miyajima and leave there on the 17th for Mitsugahama.

(FROM THE "JIJI SHIMPO.")

RUSSIA'S LATEST MOBILIZATION.

London, June 14.

It is reported from St. Petersburg that the Tzar has called out the reserves from sixty-four districts.

GENERAL STOESSEL.

A rumour is current that General Stoessel has sustained a severe wound, while in the neighbourhood of Port Arthur, with the result that one of his feet has been amputated.

MOUNTAIN GUNS.

Four detachments with mountain guns have been despatched from Sevastopol.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Annapolis (13 guns), U.S. gunboat, 1,060, Com. H. Hutchins, 10th June,—Cavite, P.I.

Anna, Norwegian steamer, 773, Olsen, 10th June,—Nemuro, General.—Japanese.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,055, J. C. Jensen, 11th June,—Yokkaichi, 10th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sheikh, British steamer, 2,828, C. Jones, 11th June,—Kobe, 9th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bengloe, British steamer, 1,933, Herbert W. Bee, 11th June,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Silverlip, British steamer (tank), 4,904, N. Hocken, 11th June,—London via ports, and Kobe, 9th June, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Obi, British steamer, 1,951, J. Davidson, 12th June,—Otaru, Coal.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Heathdene, British steamer, 2,277, W. J. Milburn, 12th June,—Muroran, Coal.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Khalif, British steamer, 2,219, J. H. Middleton, 12th June,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Lydia, German steamer, 1,772, Kilstenbro, 12th June,—Takao, General.—Yamagataya.

Helene Rickmers, German steamer, 2,255, Geo. Warneke, 12th June,—Cardiff via Moji, Coal.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Dean, British steamer, 958, Sinclair, 13th June,—Moji, Coal.—Japanese.

Taurus, Norwegian steamer, 1,367, Ernst Kroeger, 13th June,—Barry, Coal.—American Trading Co.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 13th June,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Korea, American steamer, 5,651, W. B. Seabury, 13th June,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Candia, British steamer, 4,195, H. E. Kitcat, 14th June,—London via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Benledi, British steamer, 1,481, David Clark, 14th June,—Karatsu, Coal.—Yamagataya.

Miyajima Maru, Japanese steamer, 998, T. Kitano, 15th June,—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Ascot, British steamer, 2,786, C. L. Cox, 15th June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shantung, German steamer, 1,000, M. Engelhart, 15th June,—Karatsu, Coal.—Yamagata-ya.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,055, J. C. Jensen, 16th June,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Braemar, British steamer, 2,316, S. L. Saxby, 16th June,—Otaru, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Ras-bera, British steamer, 2,500, Morrison, 10th June,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 10th June,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Shawmut, American steamer, 6,195, Wm. Smith, 10th June,—Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Tjimahi, Dutch steamer, 2,476, N. v N. Jurriaanse, 10th June,—Macassar via ports, General.—Ed. L. van Nierop & Co.

Zieten, German steamer, 5,052, B. Wilhelmi, 11th June,—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Ettrickdale, British steamer, 2,468, R. McKenzie, 11th June,—Muroran, Ballast.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Regina Elena, Italian bark, 2,365, G. Ameglio, 11th June,—Royal Roads, Ballast.—Standard Oil Co.

Eretria, British steamer, 2,255, Mulcahy, 11th June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,055, J. C. Jensen, 12th June,—Yokkaichi via Handa, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Anna, Norwegian steamer, 773, Olsen, 12th June,—Yokkaichi, General.—Japanese.

Bintang, Danish steamer, 873, Ingerman, 12th June,—Otaru, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Lugano, German steamer, 2,963, Breckvoldt, 13th June,—Moji, Ballast.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Sheikh, British steamer, 2,228, C. Jones, 14th June,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Khalif, British steamer, 2,219, J. H. Middleton, 14th June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Korea, American steamer, 5,651, W. B. Seabury, 15th June,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 15th June,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Nuernberg, German steamer, 2,663, Jaburg, 15th June,—Havre, Bremen and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Lydia, German steamer, 1,772, Kilstenbo, 15th June,—Muroran, General.—Yamagata-ya.

Bengloe, British steamer, 1,933, H. W. Bee, 15th June,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Heathdene, British steamer, 2,277, W. J. Milburn, 15th June,—Muroran, Ballast.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Benledi, British steamer, 1,481, Bridgeland, 16th June,—Karatsu, Ballast.—Japanese.

Dean, British steamer, 958, Sinclair, 16th June,—Nemuro, Ballast.—Japanese.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Bengloe*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. N. Holler, in cabin; 30 Japanese, and 46 Chinese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Gaelic* from Hongkong:—Lt. N. W. Benson, Mr. W. H. Walker, Mrs. H. T. Bosman, child and servant, Mr. H. Crombie, Mrs. Crombie and child, Mrs. M. T. Allan, Mr. J. D. Longmire, Mrs. Longmire, Mr. F. E. Shaw, Lt. Craig, Mr. E. C. James, Dr. F. E. Freemantle, Mrs. G. A. Goss, Mr. Y. Okada and Mr. G. C. Bouman, in cabin. For Honolulu:—Mr. So Young, Mr. Lum Gan, Mr. Wong Sun Yee, and Mr. T. Kawamura, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Mr. J. N. Boyd, Mrs. Boyd, Dr. R. B. Ewan, Mrs. Ewan and 2 children, Dr. W. E. Macklin and 4 children, Mr. William Macklin, Dr. G. H. Ostrander, Mr. M. Okada, Count Alfred Poninski, Rev. A. B. Caldwell, Mr. Dang Ting Hing, Mrs. Dang Ting Hing, Rev. C. H. Harvey, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Theodore Macklin, Mrs. R. W. McWade, Mr. S. Oku, Mr. To Dune Min, and servant, in cabin.

Per American steamer *Korea*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. J. R. Twentyman and servant, Mr. F. W. Hellyer, Mr. H. B. Morton, Mr. H. C. Cheek, Miss Buchanan, Mrs. C. L. Sherwood, Mrs. L. L. Ormsby, Mr. H. A. Poole, Mr. A. K. Joshi, Mr. J. McD. Gardner, Mr. Chen Poo Shen, Mr. C. H. Thompson, Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce, Mrs. H. H. D. Pierce, Mr. D. J. Bhac, Mrs. E. A. Scott, and Mr. W. B. Crocker, in cabin. For Honolulu:—Mrs. W. P. Boyd, infant and amah, and Mr. San Hoy Wood, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Mr. C. B. Collins, Mrs. C. B. Collins, Rev. L. J. Burgess, Mrs. L. J. Burgess, Mr. M. M. Levering, Mrs. M. M. Levering, Mr. T. M. Reid, Prof. J. Zancig, Mrs. J. Zancig, Mr. A. Haase, Mr. A. J. Bowen, Mrs. A. J. Bowen, Miss Alice Bowen, Miss Olive Bowen, Mr. W. B. Burke, Mrs. W. B. Burke, Master W. Burke, Master G. Burke, Master E. Burke, Master J. Burke, Mr. Ko Sing, Dr. W. A. Noble, Mrs. W. A. Noble and infant, Mr. W. L. Moffett, Mrs. L. W. Sharp, Miss Julia Park, Mr. J. E. Kelly, Mrs. J. E. Kelly, Mr. C. M. Covell, Mr. R. H. McGarvie, Mrs. C. H. Beaumont, Mr. J. H. C. Watts, Mr. W. G. Steinnutz, Mrs. A. Tonielle, Mr. J. J. Raby, child and amah, Miss Alice E. Soon, Mr. A. Sander, Mr. H. Bocker, Mr. Jerome Scott, Mr. J. Talbot Clifton, Miss Best, Miss L. Arison, Mr. Laurence Arison, Miss Ruth Noble, Master A. Noble, Miss A. B. Lanius, Miss Mabell McKay, Mr. J. E. Enright, Capt. J. W. H. Grout, Mrs. Jesse G. Moir, Miss Moir, Mr. John G. Gray, Miss T. H. Gray, Mr. Geo. Trumper, Mrs. Geo. Trumper, Mr. Brehmer, Mrs. Geo. D. Pitzipios, Master G. Pitzipios, Miss E. Hykes, Mr. T. Moorehead, Mrs. T. Moorehead, Miss Alice Moorehead, Miss Marguerite Moorehead, Mr. A. C. D'A. Nunez, Dr. Eva H. Field, Miss Helen Hallbert, Mrs. Ross and infant, Miss Lilian Ross, Miss M. B. Ingals, Mr. M. B. Leavitt, and Mrs. M. B. Leavitt, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. G. Apcar, Mr. Barry Baldwin, Mr. A. W. Barnes, Mr. A. A. Baumann and valet, Mrs. M. Bennett, Mr. Humphrey Birge, Mr. J. Bourke, Mr. D. C. Campbell, Miss Carter, Mr. A. Cochrane, Mrs. Correvon, Mr. W. R. Cowey, Mrs. W. R. Cowey, Miss C. Cowey, Miss M. Cowey, Miss I. Cowey, Mr. C. E. Cowman, Mrs. C. E. Cowman, Mr. J. H. Craven, Mr. H. A. Davies, Mrs. H. A. Davies, Mr. V. Dent, Master Dent, Mr. A. J. Dickson, Mr. F. Dilke, Mr. Douglas, Mr. R. L. Dunn, Mr. R. Dunning, Sir Archibald Edmonstone and valet, Lady Edmonstone, Mr. P. de T. Evans, Mrs. P. de T. Evans, Mr. R. F. Figueras, Mr. Fiquet, Mr. Gallois, Miss D. Gardiner, Mr. S. C. Gordon, Mr. Gottwold, Mrs. Gottwold, Mr. L. C. Grant, Mr. Guerin, Mrs. Guerin, Mr. K. Hanssen, Mr. W. Helms, Mr. H. M. Hellier, Mrs. H. M. Hellier, Miss V. L. Herrick, Mrs. P. S. Hubbard, Mr. H. Hursthouse, Mr. T. James, Mr. F. Joy, Mr. F. Kauffmann, Mr. W. S. Kinch, Mrs. W. S. Kinch, Mr. Lees, Mrs. Lees, Mr. Little, Mrs. Little, Mr. E. S. Little, Mr. O. S. Little, Mr. C. G. Macdonald, Hon. C. K. Mackeller, Mrs. C. K. Mackeller, Miss Mackeller, Mr. E. Mackeller, Mr. M. Mackeller, Mr. Jno. Means, Mr. M. Nakamatsu, Mr. G. Oakey, Mrs. G. Oakey, Mr. Oswald, Mrs. Oswald and infant, Mr. Paxton, Mrs. Paxton and child, Mr. M. Pla, Miss Mary Porter, Rev. J. L. Rees and 2 children, Mrs. H. T. Richardson and 3 children, Hon. Caroline Roche and maid, Mr. F. Rollin, Mr. J. F. Sanborn, Mrs. T. Simcock, Mr. J. C. Sloan, Mr. A. A. Small, Mrs. Smith and maid, Misses Smith, Rev. W. J. Summerville, Mr. J. H. Spry, Mr. Simons, Mr. E. N. Taylor and maid, Mr. E. Thornton, Mr S. Ubukata, Mrs. S. Ubukata, Mr. O. Von Gottberg, Mr. Wagner, Mrs. B. Well, Mr. A. H. Wilson, Mr. W. H. Wilson, Mrs. H. A. Woodruff, infant and maid, and Dr. G. Zellweger, in cabin.

Per American steamer *Shawmut*, for Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C.,—Mr. and Mrs. W. Bauermann, Mr. P. Borjan, Mrs. D. J. Brady, Mr. H. C. Calhoun, Mr. and Mrs. F. Cameron, Capt. H. Campbell, Capt. C. R. Corfield, Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Clifford and 2 children, Mr. G. Cantlay, Mr. E. Connell, Mr. and Mrs. Denham and child, Mrs. and Miss Dinarddie, Mr. P. Dutton, Mr. E. G. Eager, Capt. E. A. Eckman, Mr. J. W. Elliott, Mrs. R. M. Evans and child, Mr. H. G. Farris, Mr. D. Fitzgerald, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Gessler, Mr. H. C. Graves, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. J. Huber, Mr. and Mrs. T. Ito, Mr. J. B. Johnson, Rev. E. H. Jones, Mr. J. G. Leech, Mr. Henry Loy, Rev. and Mrs. J. W. McCallum and 5 children, Mr. and Mrs. C McDermott and child, Mr. R. S. McDougall, Miss H. Mooser, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Ostrander, Mr. L. W. Ostrander, Mr. and Mrs. Rand, Mr. H. Seifort, Mr. H. Skott, Mrs. Short and child, Mrs. D. F. Sullivan, Mr. J A. Wilkes, Dr. and Mrs. Winston and 2 children, and Mr. C. Wolff in cabin.

Per German steamer *Zieten*, for Europe via ports:—Mr. De Laland, Mr. Bell, Mr. H. Lefeber, Mr. H. Stubbs, Miss Stubbs, Count Metternich, Mr. R. Masujima, Mr. F. H. Abbey, Mr. H. Jaedicke, Mr. S. H. Dawes, Mr. A. Cameron, Mr. R. Lenzmann, Dr. Smith, Mr. H. A. Cox, Mr. E. Kannhauser, Mr. D. Sillivs, Mr. G. Stephens, Mr. H. Bethell, Mr. Charles Sale, Mr. O. Bergmann, Mr. J. D. Clark, Mrs. G. V. S. Marshall, Dr. and Mrs. Campbell and servant, Mr. R. Dreysee, Mr. Lenz, Mr. Lee Fu Heng, Mr. A. S. Short, Mr. Erwin Wolf, Mrs. Blount, Mr. Blount, Mr. Oscar Ulex, Mrs. E. B. Kimball, Mr. Arnold, Mr. R. H. Petersen, Mr. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Ng Yat Sang, Mr. Y. Pogin, Mr. Z. Shimidzu, Mr. Remy, Mr. J. Kernan, Miss Bradford, Mr. Nishida, Mr. Y. Hidaka, Mr. S. Nomura, Mr. A. Kai, Mr. Fong Jing Chee, Mr. Y. Negishi, Mr. M. Katagiri, Mr. K. Hara, and 34 Chinese, in cabin.

Per American steamer *Korea*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mrs. F. N. Alling, Mr. L. Avison, Miss L. Avison, Mr. M. Bading, Mrs. M. Bading, Mrs. C. H. Beaumont, Mr. H. Becker, Miss Best, Mr. W. Boehmer, Mr. Geo. C. Boker, Dr. G. Bonarelli, Mrs. G. Bonarelli, Mr. A. J. Bowen, Mrs. A. J. Bowen, Miss A. Bowen, Miss O. Bowen, Mrs. W. P. Boyd and child, Miss Boyle, Mr. Kensett Brown, Mrs. S. E. Brown, Mr. C. H. Burdick, Rev. L. J. Burgess, Mrs. L. J. Burgess, Mr. H. C. Butcher, Miss Butcher, Miss E. P. Butcher, Mr. J. Talbot Clifton, Mr. W. M. Cochrane, Mrs. W. M. Cochrane, Miss M. Cochrane, Miss E. Cochrane, Mr. C. B. Collins, Mrs. C. B. Collins, Mr. C. H. Corvell, Mr. Amos Cotting, Mr. Edmund Davis, Mrs. Edmund Davis and maid, Capt. J. G. Dorward, Major L. H. Durcot, Mr. J. E. Enright, Mr. P. A. Erbsloh, Baron Erggelet, Baroness Erggelet, Dr. Eva Field, Mrs. Mackenzie-Fraser and maid, Capt. J. W. H. Grant, Mrs. F. H. Gray, Mr. J. W. Gray, Mrs. K. E. Green, Mr. J B. Gilfillan, Jr., Mr. H. T. Guerrier, Mr. A. Haase, Miss G. Hammon, Com. U. R. Harris, U.S.N., Mrs. U. R. Harris, Mr. C. L. Harrison, Mrs. C. L. Harrison, Major Edgar Herapath, Mrs. Edgar Herapath, Mr. W. F. Hitt, Mr. F. A. Hollabough, Miss Helen Hulbert, Miss E. Hykes, Dr. Mattie B. Ingold, Mr. T. Kano, Mr. J. E. Kelly, Mrs. J. M. Kelly, Mr. K. Kertesz, Mrs. K. Kertesz, Mr. Ernest Kilian, Capt. A. E. Knights, Mr. J. M. Krause, Mrs. J. M. Krause, Mrs. H. Krusi, Miss Anna B. Laniers, Mr. M. B. Leavitt, Mrs. M. B. Leavitt, Mr. M. M. Levering, Mrs. M. M. Levering, Miss Mackay, Mr. R. H. McGarvie, Mrs. Sullivan McGrew, Master McGrew, Miss McKay, Mr. W. R. Moffitt, Mrs. J. R. Moir, Miss Moir, Mr. T. Moorehead, Mrs. T. Moorehead, Miss Moorehead, Miss M. Moorehead, Mr. W. W. Morris, Mr. J. Nishimura, Dr. W. A. Noble, Mrs. W. A. Noble and 3 children, Mr. Y. Noguchi, Mr. A. C. D'A. Nunes, Mr. K. Oguri, Miss Oldham, Rev. W. D. Osborne, Mrs. W. D. Osborne, Mrs. M. E. Osgood, Miss J. B. Park, Mr. F. T. Patterson and valet, Mr. John S. Pillsbury, Mrs. Geo. D. Pitzipios, Master Pitzipios, Mrs. J. J. Raby and child, Mr. T. C. Randall, Mr. T. H. Reid, Mr F. Richardson, Mrs. Ross and infant, Miss Lilian Ross, Mr. F. Rushby, Mrs. F. Rushby, Mr. A. Sander, Mr. E. B. Sanford, Mrs. E. A. Scott, Mr. Jerome Scott, Miss L. W. Sharp, Mr. Ko Sing, Mr. E. B. Smith, Miss A. E. Soon, Mr. W. Y. Steimmitz, Miss Tidy, Mr. Geo. Thompson, Mrs. Geo. Thompson, Mrs. A. P. Tonielle, Mr. H. C. Watts, Mr. Hannibal Williams, Mrs. Hannibal Williams, Mr. Sun Hoy Wood, Prof. J. Zancing, and Mrs. J. Zancing, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mrs. J. N. Boyd, Mrs. J. N. Boyd, Mrs. A. G. Bunbury, Rev. A. B. Caldwell, Rev. L. B. Cholmondeley, Mr. C. G. Cook, Dr. R. B. Ewan, Mrs. R. B. Ewan and 2 children, Mr. Lum Gan, Mr. W. B. Gibbins and valet, Mr. H. R. Gibbins, Rev. C. H. Harvey, Mrs. C. H. Harvey, Mr. J. Hildebrand, Mr. Dang Ting Hing, Mrs. Dang Ting Aing, Mr. T. Isisawa, Mr. K. Ito, Mr. T. Kawamura, Mr. G. Lefeuve, Mrs. R. W. McWade, Dr. W. E. Macklin, Mrs. W. E. Macklin and 4 children, Mr. Wm. Macklin, Mr. Theodore Macklin, Mr. To Dune Min and servant, Mr. O. H. P. Noyes, Mr. M. Okada, Mrs. S. Oki, Mr. G. H. Ustrander, Count Alfred Poninski, Mr. Ernst L. K. Schmulling, Mrs. Ernst Schmulling, Mr. T. Shaw, Mr. C. Watanabe, Mrs. C. Watanabe, Mr. Wong Son Yee and Mr. S. Yong in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per British steamer *Empress of China* for Vancouver, B.C.:—

TEA.

From.	Canada.	Chicago & West.	New York & East.	Pacific Coast.	Other Cities.	Total Packages.
Hongkong.	213	—	—	—	—	213
Hankow...	—	1,016	—	2,542	—	3,558
Shanghai...	—	928	—	120	—	7,048
Kobe	351	1,792	703	—	—	2,846
Yokohama..	1,765	4,255	1,736	—	—	7,756
Total...	2,329	7,991	2,439	2,662	—	15,421

SILK.

From.	New York.	San F'cisco.	Easton.	South Man'ster.	Total. Bales.
Hongkong & Canton	109	—	—	—	109
Shanghai	457	—	—	—	457
Yokohama	584	—	25	—	609
Total	1,150	—	25	—	1,175

Per American steamer *Shawmut*, for Tacoma:—

TEA.

	Canada.	Chicago & West.	New York and East.	Pacific Coast.	Other Cities.	Total Packages.
Hongkong...	—	—	—	192	—	192
Kobe	—	2,119	4,582	870	—	7,571
Yokohama...	—	3,408	5,497	263	—	9,168
Total...	—	5,527	10,079	1,325	—	16,931

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer	Date
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Seydlitz 1	Sa. June 18
America............	O & O. Co.	Doric 2	Su. June 19
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Lyra 3	Su. June 19
Europe	M. M. Co.	Yarra	W. June 22
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Athenian 4	Th. June 23
Hongkong...........	P. M. Co.	Mongolia	Sa. June 25
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. June 27
America............	P. M. Co.	Siberia	W. June 29
Hongkong...........	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	Th. June 30
Hongkong...........	N. P. Co.	Tremont	Su. July 10
Hongkong...........	O. & O. Co.	Doric	M. July 18

1 Left Kobe on the 17th inst.
2 Left San Francisco on the 1st inst.
3 Left Seattle on the 31st ul.
4 Left Vancouver on the 6th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	M. June 20
Hongkong..........	N. P. Co	Lyra	M. June 20
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Taisang	W. June 22
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Seydlitz	Sa. June 25
Portland	P. & A. Co.	Aragonia	Su. June 26
Hongkong	P. & A. Co.	Nicomedia	Su. June 26
Hongkong..........	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. June 27
America...........	P. M. Co.	Mongolia	Tu. June 28
Hongkong..........	P. M. Co.	Siberia	Th. June 30
Europe	M. M. Co.	Yarra	F. July 1
Vancouver.........	C. P. R.	Em. of India	F. July 1
Tacoma............	N. P. Co.	Tremont	M. July 11
America...........	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Th. July 21

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There has been a fair business in some lines, but there is no special movement to record.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER YARD.
White Shirting—40 yds. 36 in. 50 yds. 36 in. ...	0.10 to 0.18
	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	Y. 3.90 to 4.50
Grey Shirting—9lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	3.90 to 4.50
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches...	2.80 to 4.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton Italians and Satteens...	0.20 to 0.30

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	Y. 0.35 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 32 in....	0.35 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches...	0.16 to 0.22

Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.50 to 1.00
Cloths—Presidents, 51 to 65 inches ...	0.90 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.50 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0.60 to 0.66

	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	9.80 to 10.80
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches...	0.90 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches...	1.90 to 2.25
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 5lb, 24-25 yards, 32 nches...	2.50 to 3.65

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles ... ... Y.	Nominal
Nos. 28/32, Singles	—
Nos. 38/42, Singles	—
Nos. 32, Doubles...	Nominal
Nos. 42, Doubles...	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/100, Plain...	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	260.00 to 280.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	310.00 to 330.00
Nos. 2/100 ,Gassed	460.00 to 480.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling...	40.00 to 40.50
Indian Broach...	31.00 to 32.00
Chinese	27.50 to 29.50

METALS.

Some business has been done, more especially in Iron Bars and Wire Nails.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward...	Y. 4.05 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.30 to 4.60
Sheet Iron...	4.65 to 6.90
Galvanised Iron sheets	10.00 to 11.00
Wire Nails, assorted	7.45 to 7.65
Tin Plates, per box...	6.70 to 7.60
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.00
Hoop Iron (½ to 1½ inch)	5.00 to 5.50

KEROSENE.

The market is weak.

American	$3.08
Russian	3.00
Langkat	2.90

SUGAR.

The market is still strong, and advancing, and quotations are gradually nearing the new level for fresh importations.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	Y. 7.00 to 7.35
Brown Manila...	7.20 to 8.00
Brown Daitong	5.80 to 8.70
Brown Canton...	5.80 to 8.70
White Java and Penang...	8.50 to 9.50
White Refined...	11.40 to 15.25

INDIGO.

Nothing doing.

	PICUL.
Java, Medium to best...	270.00 to 320.00
Calcutta, Medium to best	180.00 to 290.00
Madras (*Kurpah*), Medium to best ...	140.00 to 170.00
Madras (Dry Leaf), Medium to best ..	100.00 to 140.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

New silk coming to hand in driblets. Market has been opened by the purchase of Idzu filatures 1½. 10/12 denier at *yen* 850 and No. 1 Bushu filature 13/15 denier at *yen* 880. No regular quotations possible as yet.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra Best, Coarse ... ... Y.	—	Nominal.
Filatures—Extra, Fine	—	
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	—	
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	—	
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	—	
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	—	
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	—	
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	—	
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	—	
Common—Coarse	—	
Re-reels—Extra	—	
Re-reels—No. 1	—	
Re-reels—No. 1½	—	
Re-reels—No. 2	—	
Re-reels—No. 3	—	
Kakedas—Extra	—	
Kakedas—No. 1	—	
Kakedas—No. 1½...	—	
Kakedas—No. 2	—	

WASTE SILK.

Between seasons and market in suspense.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	—
Noshi—Filatures, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Good...	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	—
Nsohi—Joshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	—
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	—
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	—

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This treatment at once stops falling hair, removes crusts, scales, and dandruff, soothes irritated, itching surfaces, stimulates hair follicles, supplies the roots with energy and nourishment, and makes the hair grow upon a sweet, wholesome, healthy scalp when all else fails.

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Assisted by CUTICURA OINTMENT, for preserving, purifying, and beautifying the skin, for cleansing the scalp of crusts, scales, and dandruff, and the stopping of falling hair, for softening, whitening, and soothing red, rough, and sore hands, for baby rashes, itchings, and chafings, in the form of baths for annoying irritations and inflammations, or too free or offensive perspiration, and for all the purposes of the toilet, as well as by millions of women in the form of washes for ulcerative weaknesses, and many sanative, antiseptic purposes which readily suggest themselves to women and mothers.

COMPLETE TREATMENT FOR EVERY HUMOUR,

Consisting of CUTICURA SOAP, to cleanse the skin of crusts and scales, and soften the thickened cuticle; CUTICURA OINTMENT, to instantly allay itching, inflammation, and irritation, and soothe and heal; and CUTICURA RESOLVENT PILLS, to cool and cleanse the blood. A SINGLE SET is often sufficient to cure the most torturing, disfiguring, itching, burning, and scaly skin, scalp, and blood humours, with loss of hair, when all else fails. Sold throughout the world. Australian Depot: R. TOWNS & CO., Sydney. British Depot: 27-28, Charterhouse Sq., London. French Depot: 5 Rue de la Paix, Paris. POTTER DRUG AND CHEM. CORP., Sole Props., Boston, U. S. A.

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TEA.

The market has ruled on a decidedly lower basis, and a fair amount of business has resulted.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	56 & upward
Choice	50 to 55
Finest	43 to 49
Fine...	37 to 42
Good Medium	31 to 36
Medium	27 to 30
Good Common	23 to 26
Common...	22 & below

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, June 15.

London silver $\frac{1}{16}$ lower and Shanghai sterling quotations ⅛ lower, but no change from Hongkong; local rates on China are somewhat firmer and likewise francs, but no change otherwise.

London—Bank T.T. ...	2/0¼
— — Bills on demand ...	2/0$\frac{5}{16}$
— — 4 months' sight ...	2/0⅜
— Private 4 months' sight ...	2/0$\frac{13}{32}$
— — 6 months' sight ...	2/0$\frac{7}{16}$
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight ...	254½
— Private 4 months' sight ...	259
— — 6 months' sight ...	260¼
Hongkong—Bank sight ... per $100.	90¼
— Private 10 days' sight do.	88
Shanghai—Bank sight ...	79¼
— Private 10 days' sight ...	82
India—Bank sight ...	151½
— Private 30 days' sight ...	153½
America—Bank sight ...	49⅝
— Private 30 days' sight ...	50
— Private 4 months' sight ...	50¼
Germany—Bank sight ...	206½
— Private 4 months' sight ...	210¾
Bar Silver (London) ...	25$\frac{9}{16}$

JAPANESE SHARE.

Yokohama, June 17, a.m.

	Paid up. Yen.	Div'dl 1 year. per cent.	Q'ation. Yen.
Consolidated Bonds (Seiri) ...	100	5	*86.50
War Bonds (Gunji)	100	5	*86.50
5 % Imperial Bonds (Goburi).	100	5	84.70
Navy Bonds (Kaigun)	100	5	85.50
Tokyo City Public Loan Bonds	100	6	*96.20
Y'hama Water-works Bonds .	100	6	*89.50
Y'hama City Public Loan Bonds	100	[illegible]	88.50
Osaka Harbour Bonds	100	6	*87.50
Sanyo Railway Debentures ...	100	6	91.50
Kawasaki Shipyard Deb'tures.	100	9	*100.30
Osaka S.S. Co. (Shosen) 3rd Issue of Debentures	100	7	*94.70
Sanyo Railway	50	8	60.20
Kyushu Railway	50	8	55.30
Hokkaido Colliery Railway ...	50	12	74.50
Sobu Railway....................	50	8½	55.70
Tokyo Electric Car (Densha).	50	9	*87.30
Tokyo Street Railway (Shigai)	50	5$\frac{1}{10}$	*82.10
Tokyo Street Railway new ...	1	—	18.60
Tokyo Electric Railway (Denki)	50	—	59.70
Tokyo Electric Railway, new.	20.00	—	30.50
Yokohama Electric Railway..	25	—	*31.00
Odawara Electric Car	50	5½	26.50
Keihin Electric Railway	50	5	58.80
Yokohama Fire Insurance ...	12.50	10	*15.20
Tokyo Fire Insurance	12.50	[illegible]	20.50
Kanegafuchi Spinning	50	7	38.70
Fuji Cotton Spinning...........	50	8	32.50
Tokyo G'sian Cotton Spinning.	50	8	43.50
Yokohama Dock	33	12	44.50
Tokyo Electric Light	50	12	*71.80
Osaka Electric Light...........	50	20	93.00
Tokyo Gas........................	50	14	83.00
Tokyo Gas, new.................	1.00	—	17.00
Osaka Gas new	12.50	15	15.50
Yokohama Electric Light......	50	15	81.20
Nippon (Tokyo) Sugar Refined.	50	15	*58.20
Nippon (Tokyo) Sugar new...	44	15	*52.00
Nippon Beer Brewery (Yebisu)	50	23	99.50
Nippon Beer Brewery, new ...	25	23	53.00
Osaka (Asahi) Beer Brewery..	50	10	52.50
Marusan Beer Brewery.........	50	—	8.50
Y'hama Chuo Godown	50	12	51.30
Yokohama Boeki Godown ...	20	14	25.10

* Ex dividend.

Milkmaid Milkmaid Milkmaid

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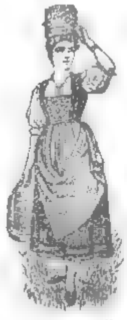
TRADE MARK.

BRAND

Milk

CONDENSED MILK
MILKMAID BRAND
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CHAM, SWITZERLAND

TRADE MARK.

BRAND

Milk

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on every Tin.

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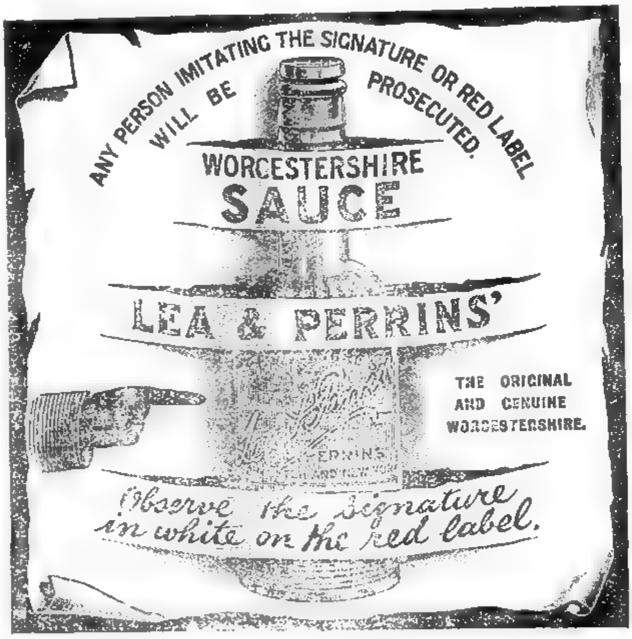
WORLD.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The Japan Weekly Mail:

毎土曜日 A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART. 一回刊行

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 25TH, 1904.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

FIVE hundred emigrants left Kobe on June 18th by the steamer *Akebono Maru* for Mexico.

Two Russians captured by a Japanese destroyer at Kin-chau Bay arrived on June 18th at Saseho.

THE amount collected in Hongkong for the Russo-Japanese war fund totalled, on June 9th, $30,506.86.

A MAN and two women have been arrested at Asakusa, Tokyo, on a charge of having circulated forged 10 *yen* notes.

TELEGRAPHIC communication between Ham-Heung and Wonsan has been re-opened during the day only.

THE Korean Government has granted permission to Japanese to establish a dock and shipbuilding yard at Fusan.

THE Nippon Life Insurance Company, Tokyo has been prosecuted on a charge of having infringed the Commercial Law.

MESSRS. MARTY'S steamer *Hoihao*, stranded at Hainan Head, is a total loss, together with the salvage gear sent down to her.

FIVE Russians, including a commander captured at Nanshan, arrived on June 18th at Ujina. They were subsequently removed to Matsuyama.

THE steamer *Scawfell*, 2,463 tons, from Cardiff for Tsingtau with a cargo of coal, broke into three pieces off Tabarka, in the Mediterranean, and is a total loss. Six lives were lost.

THE Japanese Consul at Hankow telegraphed that the Customs House at Chan-shan, a port lately opened to foreign trade, will be ready on July 1st.

A YOUTH committed suicide on the evening of June 16th by throwing himself on the 3rd crossway at Uyeno railway station as a down train passed.

THE net profit of the Eastern Telegraph Co. for the latter half of 1903 was £105,854. The shareholders receive a total dividend for the year of 7 per cent.

IN connexion with the attempted plot to destroy a train on the Kyushu railway, a telegram from Saseho says that three men were arrested on June 18th on suspicion.

MR. INAGAKI, Japanese Minister at Bangkok, has been decorated by the King of Siam with the Commemoration Medal of the 36th anniversary of his Coronation.

G. GO (21), a student of the Tokyo higher school, is reported to have committed suicide on the night of June 19th by hanging himself with a cord. The cause was insanity.

THE Tokyo Electric-light Co. held a general meeting on June 16th and declared the net profit for the first half year to be *yen* 228,488.17. An interim dividend of 6 per cent. was paid.

THE Empress and Crown Princess were pleased on June 20th to distribute a number of bandages to the hospitals of the Navy and Army. The bandages had been personally made by them.

MR. S. AKITSUKI, former Secretary of the Japanese Legation at St. Petersburg, has been appointed Minister and Envoy Plenipotentiary and ordered to reside in Sweden and Norway.

A PEKING telegram to the *Asahi* reports that Viceroy Chang and some wealthy merchants are intending to promote an iron foundry in the province of Shansi, with a capital of a million taels.

RT. WOR. BRO. DR. GREGORY PAUL JORDAN has just received his commission from the Grand Lodge of Scotland as the first District Grand Master of Scottish Freemasons in Hongkong.

A THIEF who stole money and articles from the Tokyo Lawn Tennis Club, Nagata-cho, Tokyo, was arrested on June 19th at Uyeno station. His depredations extended through May and June.

A MAN living at Nihonbashi, Tokyo, was arrested on June 16th. He had forged 20 *sen* silver coins and circulated them to the amount, it is reported by the Fukagawa police, of over a hundred *yen*.

IT is reported by Tokyo papers that the Imperial Princesses have decided to elect a delegate to pay a visit to the military hospitals at Hiroshima, Kokura, and other places conveying their sympathy with the wounded.

THE net profit of the Tokyo Rice Exchange for the first half year—from Dec. 1903 to May 1904—was *yen* 73,322.22. Of this amount, *yen* 44,000 was to be paid out as an interim dividend at the rate of 11 per cent.

FOUR new steamers of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha which are under construction at the Kawasaki and Osaka Shipbuilding yards will be completed in August. They are named *Mokpho*, *Gunshan*, *Wiju*, and *Antung*, and they are 800 tons each. The firm has also ordered the Mitsu Bishi to build a steamer of 1,500 tons, to be employed on the Yangtze line.

A TELEGRAM from Takamatsu reports that a sergeant belonging to the 11th Division, on the night of June 15th, inflicted severe injuries with a sword on five soldiers. The man is reported to have been intoxicated.

PROFESSOR W. H. MUNRO, of Brown University U.S.A., has arrived in Ceylon, studying history. He has published several works on American history; is engaged on a new edition of Prescott's works; and comes on to Japan.

T. ASEWO (25) a workman employed at the Dying Factory, Ushigome, Tokyo, murdered a woman on the morning of June 19th by stabbing her in the heart and throat with a knife. He was arrested at the scene of the crime.

THE *Nichi Nichi* believes that Mr. Oura, Minister for Communications, and Mr. Hadano, Minister for Justice, will shortly be decorated with the Sacred Treasure of the First Class and the Second Class of Merit respectively.

THE starving crew of the British barque *Sappho*, which was found waterlogged and sinking in Lat. 39 S., Long. 41. E., was saved at the last moment by the Urugayuan barque *Ama Begouakoa*. She was five months out from Ship Island to Natal.

AN official report from Formosa says that during the week ended June 12th, 128 cases of plague appeared in the island and 97 proved fatal. From the first appearance in January, to the date of the report, there have been 3,804 cases, 2,681 of which proved fatal.

TOKYO papers report that a suspicious man was arrested on the night of June 17th in the Compound of the Meguro Ammunition Magazine, Tokyo. It is said that he is a grocer named S. Okubo, from the village of Osaki, near Shinagawa.

THE Russians undergoing treatment in the Matsuyama hospitals were permitted by the Minister of Navy on June 20th to take free walking beyond the bounds of the institution and to pay a visit to the Dogo hot-spring. It is said that many are nearly recovered from their wounds.

THE *Jiji's* Moji correspondent says that the hospital ship *Yokohama Maru*, with three hundred wounded and sick men, and twelve other vessels arrived on June 22nd from the west. The same day the steamer *Satsuma Maru* and several others left for the west.

THE tea guild in Shidzuoka prefecture has held a meeting and decided to spend thirty thousand *yen* this year for the purpose of developing business abroad. The Committee applied on June 20th to the Governor and Council to help their enterprise by means of a subsidy.

ACCORDING to official investigations, the survivors from the transports *Hitachi Maru* and *Sado Maru* totalled on June 20th 1,139. Of these, 292 persons were from the *Hitachi Maru*. Many of them are now in Shimonoseki, Moji and Saseho.

IN connexion with the house tax question, Mr. T. Miyaoka, Minister Resident, was ordered on June 16th to be present at the Hague Arbitration Tribune. It is added by a Tokyo paper that the Court is presided over by Professor G. Gram, of Norway, and Japan is represented by Mr. I. Motono, Minister at Paris. Professor Louis Renault, of France, is to represent foreign interests.

DOINGS OF THE VLADIVOSTOCK SQUADRON.

Sunday, June 19.

On the morning of the 18th the Vladivostock Squadron stopped a steamer called the *Shinminato Maru* in the neighbourhood of Matsumaye in Hokkaido. This happened at 4.30 a.m., and the Russian squadron consisted of 3 cruisers and 2 torpedo-boats. Just when this little vessel (99 tons register) was about to be examined, the Russians sighting a bigger ship steaming along in the distance abandoned the *Shinminato*, which thus escaped from the jaws of death. The larger vessel proved to be the *Hako Maru* (149 tons register.) Her master was summoned to the Russian flagship, but apparently even the Vladivostock heroes have grown a little ashamed of employing the naval forces of the Great White Tsar to destroy the property of unoffending fishermen and traders. They let the *Hako Maru* go free, and moreover presented to her a member of the crew of the *Sado Maru* whom they had onboard, one Buto Genkichi. The master of the *Hako Maru* further reports that the Russians hold as prisoner a native of Hakodate whom they utilize as an interpreter. Buto Genkichi, is reported to have said that the Russians had captured in the vicinity of Maizuru a British steamer laden with coal and had despatched her north-ward. At 3 p.m. the squadron was observed from Awomori steering in a north-westerly direction.

It is perhaps reasonable to infer from the release of the man Buto Genkichi that the Russian Squadron did not carry away more than this one non-combatant from the *Hitachi* or the *Sado*. There was a rumour in Tokyo on the night of the 18th that the man released was one of the British subjects serving on board the *Sado*, but apparently this version has no truth. Further, some people were disposed to think that the capture of a coal-laden steamer—which fact, we may mention, is not officially confirmed as yet—indicated an intention on the part of the cruisers not to return immediately to Vladivostock but to remain cruising in the Sea of Japan, making their base somewhere in Saghalien. That, however, would not, we think, be probable. It is essential that the cruisers should remain in constant telegraphic communication with Vladivostock. Of course within certain limits communication could be maintained by wireless telegraphy, but on the whole the strong probability is that the Squadron will endeavour to make its way back to Vladivostock.

Later reports tend to show that the procedure followed by the Russians in the case of the *Sado* at all events was as correct as possible under the circumstances. The vessel having obeyed the order to stop, was boarded by an officer who took away some 14 or 15 responsible persons evidently for purposes of consultation. Shortly after these had reached the Russian flag-ship, the latter signalled that the combatants on board the *Sado* must come to the cruisers and that 40 minutes would be allowed for the non-combatants to effect their escape. Thereupon a large number of the *Sado's* people took to their boats, but as many were still on board when the 40 minutes had expired, the *Sado* signalled for a brief extension of time. To this the Russians replied that as they were far within the enemy's lines it was impossible for them to delay, and thereafter they discharged torpedoes at the steamer, leaving her to her fate so soon as it seemed impossible that she should remain afloat. This is the substance of a report compiled by Lieut.-Colonel Takenouchi.

But there is nothing to mitigate the story of the treatment extended to the *Hitachi Maru*. Possibly the Russians were enraged by her original contumacy in refusing to stop her engines, but whatever the reason they seem to have made a target of her, and to have directed their attention mainly to slaughtering her defenseless people. Her survivors say that the Russians finally came within 100 metres and poured shrapnel into her. She was virtually riddled. Her powder-magazine had been already (11 a.m.) exploded, and at that time the Russians left her for the purpose of dealing with the *Sado*. Subsequently they returned to the *Hitachi* and deliberately set about butchering every living thing on board. That is how the story reads at any rate. Colonel Suchi committed suicide in his own cabin, after having caused the records to be burned. Lieut. Yoshikawa also committed suicide, and Second-Leutenant Okubo, who had charge of the regimental colours, is said to have wrapped them round his body, and then, having disembowelled himself, he put his dirk between his teeth and leaped into the sea. But it will be remembered that according to previous accounts the regimental colours were burned by order of the colonel, and this version seems to have most confirmation. Nearly all the officers committed suicide. Major Yamagata was one of the last to die, and before falling he called on any that might survive to carry home the news of what had happened. It is said that the *Hitachi* did not sink readily, and that the Russians returned to her a second time, pouring in a hail of balls and shooting even the men in the water.

As to the loss of life in this affair, the *Jiji* gives the following figures :—

On board the *Hitachi Maru*.

Combatants	1,095	men
Crew	120	"
Horses	320	

Of these our contemporary says that 370 were saved and have reached Moji. If that be correct, the total loss of life was 895 in the case of the *Hitachi*. With regard to the *Sado Maru* 1,146 have thus far reached various places in safety, and it would appear that not more than 3 or 4 are missing. Altogether, then, the loss may be put at 900 lives.

The official accounts received on the evening of the 17th instant indicate that in all probability the casualties on board the *Sado Maru* were very few. One report says that three corpses were found in the ship; another speaks of one only, and adds that a man died of his wounds after entering hospital. It would appear that the Russians devoted their attention at first chiefly to the *Hitachi Maru*. Among the mass of confused statements the actual facts as to the methods pursued by the Vladivostock ships can scarcely be deciphered. Apparently the Russians opened fire on the *Hitachi* because, refusing to lie to, she attempted to escape. In that the Russians were undoubtedly justified. But there came a moment when the steamer being completely overhauled must perforce have stopped her engines, and the accounts given by her survivors indicate that such was the case. The Russians nevertheless continued to fire on her. They do not seem to have given any respite whatever for the non-combatants to escape, and only a fraction of these could take to the boats. Such warfare is butchery, pure and simple. Evidently there are special features to be taken into account. The Russians could not conveniently receive prisoners. They would have found it embarrassing to encumber themselves with a couple of thousand desperate men, who, in the event of an attack by the Japanese Squadron, might have proved something worse than a mere impediment. But if the element of prisoners is to be excluded, what course should the victor adopt? So far as the non-combatants are concerned, there can be no manner of question. They ought at least to be given ample time to leave the ship, and if the state of the weather were such as to imperil navigation in open boats, the men should be taken on board the enemy's vessels. That is plain enough, and it is equally plain that the Russians did nothing of the kind. Their aim was to kill as many Japanese as possible, whether combatants or non-combatants, and they succeeded thoroughly in the case of the *Hitachi*. The problem of the combatants involves other considerations. If they refuse to surrender, then nothing remains but to sink them with their ship. To discuss the process of sinking seems superfluous. The Russians, according to such accounts as we possess, adopted the least merciful method. It had not even the merit of being the quickest. But clearer evidence is needed before a definite judgment can be formed.

The clearest account yet published comes from one of the *Hitachi's* survivors. He says that the *Hitachi* and the *Sado* were steaming out, the former leading, when the Russians were sighted. Immediately both ships put about and steamed back at full speed, the Russians following. At a range of about a thousand metres the Russians opened fire but failed to hit the *Hitachi*. When the distance was shortened to 500 metres, however, 10 heavy shells from the *Rossia* came on board, and the ship, being disabled, lost her way, losing also many lives. Then she had a minute's respite while the Russians gave chase to the *Sado Maru*, and during that interval a part of the non-combatants took to the boats. But when the *Sado Maru* also had been disabled, which was speedily effected by torpedoes, the Russians returned at full speed to the *Hitachi*, and now opened on her at a distance of only 200 metres, using shrapnel. Two hundred of the *Hitachi's* people dropped almost at the first discharge. Up to this time the soldiers had been quietly waiting below, but they now came on deck, and some jumped overboard while some committed suicide. Lt.-Colonel Suchi burned the records and then calmly committed suicide. Captain Hashimoto shot himself and Lieut. Nagao fell on his sword. Many followed these examples. About a hundred not having any weapon at hand, threw themselves into the sea. Among these was Captain Mishima. Some thirty got into a boat, and it is claimed that the Russians fired even on this boat, but such a point can never be clearly ascertained. At all events the boat reached the *Sado Maru*. Looking back, the inmates of the boat saw the *Hitachi* torpedoed at about 3 p.m. She went down stern foremost. With her seem to have perished three British subjects, Captain Campbell, Chief-officer Samuel Joseph Bishop and Chief-engineer James Glass. Captain Campbell had been in the service of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha since 1891. He was a most able and highly esteemed officer, and the Emperor had conferred on him the Sixth Class Order of the Sacred Treasure. The *Sado Maru* had four British subjects on board, and among them Captain Anderson is known to have been taken prisoner by the Russians, but as to the fate of the other three we have no definite information.

As for the *Sado Maru*, when she was disabled her people seem to have been of two minds. About 600 of them took to the boats at once and over 400 decided to remain on board, and go down with the steamer. They doubtless saw what was happening to the *Hitachi* and concluded that their own fate would be the same. But the Russians do not appear to have had time to complete their work of destruction in the case of the *Sado*. They hurried off, leaving her disabled, and did not practise their gunnery on her as they had done on the *Hitachi*. The result was that virtually the whole of her people were saved, not more than three perishing. The ship also is expected to survive. She drifted for about 30 hours before her people were taken off. It is stated that those remaining on board were shouting "banzai" and getting their weapons ready to commit suicide when they observed the Russians steaming away, and the possibility of saving their lives then presented itself to them.

The fishermen who saved 37 of the *Hitachi Maru's* people say that, in spite of the bad weather, they put to sea on the 15th from Tsuruye-ura. After some time they heard voices calling for help, and proceeding in the direction of the sound they reached a place where the sea was thick with corpses and with men who sustained themselves on life-buoys, wooden saddles and other objects. Some were covered with wounds. The fishermen took 37 into their boat, but owing to the heavy seas that were running the boat could not be loaded deeply. Another boat was soon afterwards sent to the scene, but whether it succeeded in saving any more lives we can not tell.

On board the *Hitachi Maru* when she was sunk by the Russians were the following British subjects:—

Commander.....................Captain John Campbell.
First Officer ....Mr. Samuel Joseph Bishop.
Chief Engineer ....Mr. James Glass.

The commander and first officer are both married, their wives being in England. On board the *Sado Maru* were 4 British subjects:—

Commander.................Captain George Anderson.
First Officer.......................Mr. John Wm. Dring.
Chief Engineer ....Mr. William Kerr.
First Engineer ....Mr. Angus Carmichael.

Monday, June 20.

The Vladivostock squadron has a taller record than was at first supposed. It sank two small Japanese vessels off Fukuyama in Ezo. The ships are the *Yawata Maru* and the *Ansei Maru*. Their tonnage is not yet ascertained officially, but they are said to be insignificant craft. One—the *Ansei*—, the property of Mr. Nakamura, a native of Fukui, was sent to the bottom on the 16th at a point 110 nautical miles from Okujiri-jima which lies westward of Fukuyama; the other, belonging to Mr. Ukon Gonyemon, met her fate at 6 p.m. on the same day, the 16th, in the same seas but at a distance of only 53 miles from Okujiri-jima. These vessels were destroyed by three Russian torpedo-boats. The crew of the *Yawata Maru*, 31 in all, were saved by the *Hotoku Maru* and carried to Esashi, but with regard to the crew of the *Ansei* it is stated that only two are known to have been saved, the fate of the remainder not having been yet ascertained. According to the statement of the survivors, the Russians came on board the steamers and deliberately proceeded to rob them of everything valuable that could be found, quelling by a display of fire-arms all resistance offered by the crew. They then set fire to the little steamers, having previously compelled their crew to take to the boats. The master of the *Yawato* is said to have been entrusted by the Russians with a document addressed to the officials of Hakodate. It is not stated how the *Hotoku Maru* chanced to be able to save the crew of the *Yawata*, but it is alleged that she also was plundered of all the valuables she had on board.

The Russians, if the above accounts be true, have now adopted the role of pirate. They are roaming the high seas, plundering private individuals, destroying private property and slaughtering combatants and non-combatants alike. Fuller particulars must be awaited before passing final judgment, but at present the record looks as black as it could possibly be.

The Japanese press writes in a most sympathetic strain about Captain Campbell, of the *Hitachi Maru*, who perished with the combatants and non-combatants on board the ill-fated vessel. The British subjects on the *Sado Maru* seem to have been saved.

Up to the 18th instant the total number of survivors of the *Hitachi* and the *Sado* were known to be 1060, of whom not more than 60 or 70 belonged to the *Hitachi*. The loss of life on board the *Sado* did not exceed 10 per cent.

There are some reasons to suppose that the Vladivostock Squadron is still in the Sea of Japan. The Hakodate Authorities telegraphed on the morning of the 19th that the cruisers had been sighted near Esashi in Ezo.

In reply to a deputation of Progressist Politicians, the Minister of State for the Navy has made an interesting statement. In the first place he explained the case of the *Kinshu Maru*. She was not serving as a regular military transport at the time of her destruction. Her duty was to act as a tender to Admiral Kamimura's Squadron, supplying it with coal and water. When the Squadron put to sea from Wonsan, the *Kinshu Maru* was left in port there, and no idea of using her for the transport of troops was entertained. But in the absence of the squadron the military authorities applied for her in order to effect a reconnaissance which could be carried out more conveniently by sea than by land. Such escort as was available accompanied her, but the escorting craft being torpedo-boats only, could not face the weather through which the *Kinshu* ultimately steamed. In this matter, therefore, no responsibility rested on the Navy. It might appear to the public in general, however, that the catastrophe to the *Kinshu* should have served as a warning and that no repetition of such a calamity ought to have occurred. As to that, the whole situation must be considered. It was precisely because of the serious danger menacing transports at the hands of a fleet in being that the Navy had adopted almost desperate measures to block Port Arthur. The next duty devolving on them was to prevent a junction of the Port Arthur and Vladivostock Squadrons. That duty was entrusted to Admiral Kamimura, and the obvious way of discharging it was to guard the Tsushima Straits. His Squadron was so guarding them on the 15th instant when at 8 a.m. the scouting vessels reported the presence of Russian cruisers in the Sea of Japan. At 9.25 a.m. the Squadron left its base and proceeded at full speed in the direction indicated. The Squadron got within 40 miles of the Russians but the fog was then so dense that not even could the units of the Squadron keep sight of one another. They had to preserve their relative distances by unceasing use of wireless telegraphy, and it was out of the question to find the Vladivostock cruisers. In these circumstances Admiral Kamimura had no course but to steer for Vladivostock, choosing one of the two routes likely to be taken by the Russians. Unfortunately the Russians took the other route. The public should understand that the force at the disposal of the Navy does not suffice for attaching convoys to every transport passing between Japan and the seat of war. Any large batch of transports was always carefully escorted, but that was out of the question where only one or two ships were concerned. The Minister added, however, that the Authorities had decided to adopt in future thana route safer that hitherto followed.

It appears that there were great local differences of climatic conditions on the 15th instant. The Russian cruisers were operating in comparatively calm seas and under clear skies, whereas Kamimura's Squadron when it left its base to go to the rescue, had to face heavy waves and a dense fog. It was a genuine case of ill luck. Unreflecting people are apt to suppose that every transport which sails the seas should have an escort of war-ships, but if they will quietly reflect on the dimensions of a fleet capable of discharging such duties they will recognise the unreasonableness of their views. When all is said and done, however, it remains difficult to deny that a risk was taken, and the fundamental rule of successful strategy is that all needless risks should be avoided.

REPORTS ISSUED BY THE NAVAL DEPARTMENT.

Fukuyama telegraphed at 5.20 a.m. on the 18th that 3 Russian cruisers were passing Kojima.

Hakodate reported, by a telegram received at 6.45 a.m. on the 18th, that three vessels like Russian cruisers were off Fukuyama and were firing.

Tappizaki, in Mutsu, telegraphed, in a message received at 8.40 a.m. on the 18th, that the enemy's vessels had proceeded southward and were no longer visible.

Henashizaki, in Awomori, reported, by a message received at 1 p.m. on the 18th, that the enemy's ships had steered north-west and were out of sight.

Admiral Kamimura reports in a message received on the afternoon of the 19th:—At 8 a.m. a.m. on the 15th the scout-ship *Tsushima* reported that the enemy's squadron was off Okino-shima steering south. At once I sent the torpedo squadron to patrol between Tsushima and Iki, and warned all vessels coming from the west to avoid Takeshiki. I also telegraphed to the harbour-master's office at Moji to suspend the departure of any ships going westward, and I conveyed orders by wireless telegraphy to all war-ships in Takeshiki to meet me, after which Squadron proceed at full speed by the south of Tsushima. The weather grew worse each moment, and the rain was so heavy that often it was impossible for the ships to see each other. When we reached Kozaki, I attached a destroyer squadron to our ships, and proceeded north of Okinoshima with the intention of attacking from that direction. Meanwhile the patrol-ship *Tsushima* was in constant touch with the enemy and was endeavouring to report his movements. At noon, this vessel telegraphed that the enemy's squadron was southward of Okinoshima, and had headed to the north-west. Shortly afterwards she reported that owing to the heavy fog she had lost sight of the enemy. At 1.30 p.m,, she again sighted the enemy at a point 5 nautical miles south of Okinoshima, but she telegraphed that once more the fog had closed down and concealed him. Therefore, changing our course, I proceeded at full speed towards the south of Okinoshima. But at this time the fog grew steadily denser and the range of vision smaller. Foreseeing therefore that if we sighted the enemy it would be at short fighting distance, I warned all the ships and we advanced ready for action. We failed, however, to sight the Russians. The scout-ship *Tsushima* now joined our ranks. I concluded that the enemy had taken advantage of the dense fog to steer north, and I therefore changed our course so as to follow him. The rain, however, steadily increased, rendering everything invisible, and we had almost to the abandon hope of getting within sight. Accordingly we steered so as to cut off, if possible, the enemy's line of retreat and bring him into action at dawn on the 16th, steaming for that purpose at full speed, It was very satisfactory to find that the vessels of my squadron pushed at full speed through the thick fog in these unwonted conditions without accident of any kind. That night torpedo-boats were sent out to search but they effected nothing. At dawn on the 16th we reached the point for which we had steered. The weather was now fine and we could see to a distance, but there was not a sign of the enemy. Therefore we again, changed our course and resumed the search but without result. On the 17th, as it appeared that the enemy were still off the coast of Japan, our cruiser squadron was extended into a wide line, and we proceeded south. The weather was beautiful, and we had great hopes of finding the enemy. We were disappointed, however. On the afternoon of the 17th we reached a point 100 nautical miles north-east of Tsushima, and were informed by wireless telegraphy that the enemy was off the Hokkaido coast. Therefore we abandoned the search and returned to port on the 19th. It is a source of profound regret to me that after all this effort we have failed of our purpose. I wish to express my deepest sense of pain and sorrow for the sufferers by the calamity in the Genkai Sea."

Tuesday, June 21.

Admiral Bezobrazoff has at least the satisfaction of a varied experience. Not many months ago he was a leading figure in the Russian metropolis, and enjoyed the reputation of holding the Great White Tsar in the hollow of his hand. To-day he is employing the naval forces of the magnificent Northern Empire for the brilliant purpose of sinking little Japanese sailing vessels loaded with fish manure. It is a grand and inspiriting occupation. The *Ansei Maru* had a capacity of 1,488 *koku*. She did not even enjoy the honour of being measured by tons. She was a poor little hybrid craft with a crew of 15 hands all told, and she was ploughing her lowly path through the sea polluting the summer air with that most abominable of all stenches, the stench of *shimekasu*, when the Russian warships bore down on her, trained the cannon of the mighty empire on her defenceless sides, and sunk her, punctuating the glorious deed by sinking two of her manure-men to keep her company. The *Yawata Maru* was another of these bearers of malodorous stuff. She had in her hold 1,830 *koku* of decayed herrings and she had a crew of 16 hands. The Russians opened fire on her at once. They did not stop to parley. But happily her 16 sailors escaped by boat to Esashi. Admiral Bezobrazoff should add to his escutcheon a putrid sardine and a rotten herring. He merits the picturesque distinction.

It is now stated that 292 men of the *Hitachi Maru* have been saved. But the accounts do not seem to have been accurately compiled as yet. At any rate we may assume that the disaster is not so serious as was supposed.

Wednesday, June 22.

Of course it does not at all follow that because an account of the Vladivostock Squadron's raid has been telegraphed by the Russians to St. Petersburg and because Admiral Bezobrazoff is represented as having returned to his base, the Russian cruisers are really lying once more in Vladivostock. Their raid can scarcely have had for the sole motive the destruction of one or two transports. Even supposing that such a feat satisfied them for the moment, it would have to be repeated at short notice in order to achieve what must be regarded as their true purpose, namely, to relieve the pressure on Port Arthur. There can be little doubt that their intention in coming south was to draw after them a considerable part of the Japanese fleet, thus rendering the Liaotung blockade temporarily ineffective and perhaps furnishing opportunities for the Port Arthur destroyers and gunboats to essay something formidable against the Japanese line of communications which has Dalny for terminal point. They have failed, so far as that large aim is concerned, and may we assume that they will rest content with failure? Apparently the Japanese do not think so, for it seems that vessels have been warned not to go westward from Bakan, which plainly suggests that they look for renewed essays on the part of the Russians, and that this time the essays are expected to be pushed still further south. It is incumbent on the Vladivostock Squadron to take almost any risks rather than to lie idle at such a juncture as the present, and Admiral Skrydloff appears to recognise the obligation.

The *Seiyu-kai* and the Progressists have both considered it expedient to formulate resolutions with reference to the transport affair. There is a difference in the tone of the resolutions. The *Seiyu-kai* confine themselves to expressing the pain caused by the incident—following as it did upon the disaster to the *Kinshu Maru*—and to declaring their conviction that the responsibility will ultimately be fixed. The Progressists, however, affirm distinctly that, in their opinion, the incidents were due to negligence on the part of the authorities. Some intemperance of view is perhaps inevitable in the face of such a shocking event as the sinking of the *Hitachi Maru*, but in our opinion the Progressists would have been better advised had they refrained from comments which experts are not likely to endorse, and which may have very unfortunate effects.

PORT ARTHUR.

Saturday, June 18.

Kinchow (Shanhaikwan) sends a sensational telegram through the medium of the *Nichi Nichi's* correspondent to the effect that Stoessel has telegraphed to Kuropatkin that unless relief be sent he can not hold out longer than the 22nd of June.

From the same source we learn that Kuropatkin originally proposed to move to the relief with 40,000 men, but the capture of Suiyen by the Japanese exposed his left flank so much that he reduced the relieving force to 15,000.

Monday, June 20.

Four Chinese junks which left Lungwangtao on the 14th instant report that on that day 300 Russians retired to Lungwangtao from Shaupingtau. Among them were 25 wounded men, including one officer.

This news tallies exactly with a report previously received from Admiral Togo to the effect that a squadron of his ships had assisted a reconnaisance in force made by the military at Shaupingtao on the 14th. It was then that the *Novik* and 10 destroyers emerged from Port Arthur and were driven back by the Japanese. Shauping is a promontory 13 miles from Port Arthur.

On the 17th inst. 13 junks reached Chefoo from Port Arthur, carrying 1,300 Chinese labourers, who had been sent away owing to the necessity of economizing provisions. When these junks first attempted to leave Port Arthur they found an action going on, and they had to defer their departure until the 15th. They were overhauled by Japanese destroyers but were allowed to proceed. They affirm that the garrison numbers some thirty thousand, and that the railway is still open to a distance of some 12 miles. The Japanese, they add, are within 18 miles of the fortress. Several mines were placed by the Russians along the Dalny and Port Arthur road, but they were exploded by lightning. Provisions are not yet actually scarce, but they are being carefully husbanded. Fodder has nearly been exhausted, and so has coal.

Another Chinaman states that 5 war-vessels in Port Arthur are keeping up steam.

Admiral Togo reports that on the 16th instant at 1 p.m. No 4 Torpedo-boat Squadron observed and exploded 3 mechanical mines at a point 10 nautical miles from Liautishan Promontory, and also detected and destroyed a number of temporary mines.

Tuesday, June 21.

A telegram to *Jiji* from Shanghai says that the Russians have mounted 140 naval guns in the new forts at Port Arthur. Among them are 6 inch guns, 47 m.m. pieces and quick-firers. There are at least 200 guns (in addition ?) mounted for the defense. A corps of some 4,000 Chinese coolies are in Russian employ. They receive a rouble each per day, and will doubtless help their employers.

Stoessel is said to have issued a proclamation authorizing the departure of all non-combatants, but announcing that if any be stopped *en route* by the enemy they will not be allowed to return to the fortress. The usual course in such cases is to consult the enemy first, instead of thrusting the non-combatants into so cruel a dilemma; placing them, in short, between the devil and the deep blue sea. But happily there is no danger of their being sent back by the Japanese.

Wednesday, June 22.

The *Jiji Shimpo* receives from Chefoo intelligence which it ascribes to a trustworthy source. The gist of it is that all the attempts made by the Russians to clear the entrance to Port Arthur have proved virtually abortive. Torpedo destroyers alone can emerge, and these devote themselves chiefly to searching for and clearing away the mines laid by the Japanese. The recent exit of the *Novik* must not be taken as showing that she emerged freely. The fact is that she had to be towed out, and that the operation presented no little difficulty. The Russians now know well that much time and labour are necessary to restore the practicability of the entrance. Meanwhile no resolute attempts are being made to repair the wounded war-ships, nor are there any signs of preparations for a sortie on the part of the remaining vessels. The indications at present are that in the event of the land defences proving inadequate, the remnant of the Squadron will be blown up where it lies. Since the blocking of the harbour's mouth and the forcing of the Kinchow Isthmus, the spirits of the garrison have fallen to a low ebb, but the senior officers still proclaim their determination to fight to the death. No less than 30 temporary forts have been built on the surrounding hills to cöoperate with the permanent fortifications, and the parts of the whole system are in efficient communication. Canet guns and quick-firers have been added to the armaments of the Huangkin-Shan and Pehtoushan forts in order to frustrate an attack from the Liautishan side. (This seems to be a mistake. These forts do not command the approaches from Liautishan). Chinese accounts as to the supply of provisions vary greatly, and it is impossible to distinguish the true from the false, but the stock of available coal, at all events, seems to be sufficient.

A Japanese woman who has just returned from Port Arthur to Chefoo, after long confinement at the former place, says that there are 50 Japanese prisoners at Port Arthur, most of them having arrived after the battle of Kinchow. The prisoners are well treated. A sum of 25 *sen* daily is allowed for the support of each, whereas the allowance for a Chinaman is only 8 *sen*. Beds are provided for the women. The Russians believe that their prisoners are badly treated by the Japanese, and they make a boast of following a more humane course themselves.

Thursday, June 23.

All the Tokyo journals publish a statement that the Russians are omitting no precaution to strengthen the defenses of Port Arthur. They have mounted 15-cent. guns in the batteries on the land side, and they have carried thither many of the heavy pieces hitherto doing duty in the sea-front forts. They are also said to have established an advanced place of arms at Tuchintsz, which is spoken of as 4½ miles from Port Arthur, whereas the distance is really 14 miles. At this place also heavy artillery is said to have been placed in position, and as the configuration of the ground lends itself to a formidable defence, the difficulty of forcing a way southward is expected to be very great. Our readers may remember that Shwantaikou and Tuchintsz have always been spoken of as likely to prove serious obstacles, but the map suggests that the latter position is capable of being turned from Shoupingtou. Tuchintsz is within range of ship's guns on the west. To protect it against bombardment from that direction batteries have been erected and are said to be manned by marines. One third of the whole garrison of Port Arthur are believed to be massed at Tuchintsz and it is affirmed that a heavy battle will have to be fought there before final operations can be commenced against Port Arthur. Apparently the idea is that Tuchintsz will not be attacked before the close of this month. Its fall would be followed quickly by the bombardment of the fortress, which, however, can not be anticipated before the middle of July. Such are the views set forth by our Tokyo contemporaries.

From reports carried by Chinese junks, it would appear that the *Novik*, assisted by one or two gunboats and several destroyers, makes occasional attempts to harrass the Japanese troops on the Pingtou promontory. Such an essay is said to have taken place on the 18th instant. Pingtou is only 18 miles eastward of Port Arthur, and it is always possible for the Russians to make dashes of this kind so long as they have the forts to cover them.

Friday, June 24.

In the *Asahi Shimbun* we find a Chefoo telegram giving the purport of messages sent by Alexieff to St. Petersburg on the 7th and 8th instant. The Viceroy reports that 3 torpedo-destroyers were sent to Talien Bay to cover the right wing of the Russian army defending the Kinchow Isthmus, and that 10 were despatched to Kinchow Bay to perform a similar service for the left wing. The former squadron returned safely to Port Arthur, but of the latter one destroyer ran aground in Kinchow Bay and had to be abandoned, though her crew were saved. This tallies with the story sent by a newspaper reporter from Chefoo to Kure as to the finding of a grounded destroyer by a Japanese Squadron on the 10th instant in Kinchow Bay and her removal to the Japanese base. It may be added that the fleet of 10 destroyers do not appear to have effected anything or attempted to effect anything. They left the place before the battle.

"*THE SPECTATOR*" *AND JAPANESE VICTORIES.*

In the *Spectator* of May 14 appears the following letter from "Far East":—

SIR,—Are not the apprehensions you express in your article on "The Battle of the Yalu" in the *Spectator* of May 7th largely discounted by the thoughtful review of Captain Brinkley's great work on Japan which you publish in the same issue under the title of "The Real Japan"? If, as your reviewer admirably puts it, "the Japanese are rather the extreme Westerners of the world than its farthest Orientals," need we assume that the rise of a great Japanese Power is a phenomenon which the West can watch only with anxiety and dread? The antagonism which has hitherto existed between Europe and Asia, and to which you make significant reference in the last sentence of your leading article, has been due to fundamental divergencies of civilisation. But is that antagonism bound to be reproduced in the case of the Japanese if, to quote once more your reviewer, "distant as their civilisation seems to be from ours in its external aspects, it is really much nearer to it in spirit than the superficial observer, hampered by the appearances of things, can readily understand"? To those who, like myself, have some personal knowledge of the Japanese, and believe that the evolution of Japan represents a new factor in the world's history of which we can only realise the meaning by discarding *a priori* conceptions based upon racial differences, it must seem evident that the consequences of Japan's victory to the world at large—assuming that she emerges victorious from the struggle—will depend very much upon the attitude of the Western, and especially of the Anglo-Saxon, nations towards her. If we maintain towards her an attitude of invincible suspicion, and base our relations with her on the assumption that an absolute gulf is fixed, and can never be bridged over, between her and the white races, we shall have ourselves largely to blame for the reaction which may take place in her attitude towards Western civilisation.

Let us remember also that the bacillus of the "yellow peril" has been chiefly cultivated in Berlin,—for reasons which I need hardly dilate upon in your columns. That alone should place us on our guard against it. Another bacillus of a similar kind was cultivated a few years ago in the same quarters—namely, the bacillus of the "American peril"—with much the same purpose. You, Sir, did much to stamp it out in this country. *Verbum sap.*

THE BATTLE OF TEHLISZ.

Monday, June 20.

OFFICIAL REPORTS.

[Received at the Head Quarter Staff from General Oku on the afternoon of the 18th inst.]

On the 13th instant the army moved from the Pulantien-Tashaho line, the right wing advancing by Tashaho, the centre along the railway, and the left by three roads, namely, the Foochow high-road *via* Wukiatun, the Szchuankou road and the Tahoai road. The cavalry took the route from Pitzewo to Hiung-yachin. Each of these columns met and dispersed small detachments of the enemy *en route*. On the 14th the left column reached Nakialin; the centre and right keeping touch with each other, arrived at the Chiaokiatun-Tapingkow line, which is about 21 kilometres south of Tehlisz. Our reconnaissances now showed the enemy holding a line from Tafangshin to Lungwangmiao, and we therefore advanced as far as the Wangkiatun-Lungkiatun-Wukiatun line, where we posted our artillery and bombarded the enemy's positions from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. On the 15th dispositions were made for attacking Tehlisz. The right wing received orders to firmly hold the heights along the Sungkiatun and Wenkiatun line. During the night of the 14th-15th the centre column moved from the vicinity of Wukiatun to the heights on the west of Taiyangkou. This morning (15th) there was a thick fog. At 5.30 a.m. we opened artillery fire, gradually increasing its vehemence. The portion of the central column that was on the north of the Foochow river was now fiercely engaged but it advanced steadily, and at 9.30 a.m. it received material assistance from the left-wing column which, both infantry and artillery, reached the heights on the west of Wangkiatun. These two columns, the centre and the left working in cöoperation, drove the enemy from Tafangshin by 1 p.m. But the enemy's artillery posted on the heights of Lungtanshan, Shanchi and Lungwangmiao kept up heavy fire on our troops. In the face of this fire the centre and left columns pushed on resolutely and ascended the precipitous sides of the hills. Meanwhile the enemy confronting the extreme right of our right column held his ground firmly and showed a disposition from time to time to assume the offensive. Therefore the infantry of the whole reserves was pushed forward, in two bodies, to re-inforce this part of the position. Previously to this word had come that the right of the right column was hard-pressed, and the cavalry had been pushed up and had threatened the rear of the enemy's left. Thus the enemy was virtually enveloped by our forces but he nevertheless held out resolutely. Moreover, it appeared that his re-inforcements had come up, for he made repeated attempts to assume the offensive and restore the situation. Finally, however, it proved impossible for him to withstand the onset of our troops, and at 3 p.m. he began to retire. The hot fire poured on him by our troops, ultimately converted his flight into a rout, but the nature of the ground made it impossible for our men to push home the pursuit effectively. Our army bivouacked on the field.

Turning now to our left column, on the morning of the 15th it took up a position to the north of Kaukiatun to cöoperate in the advance. But at 9.50 p.m. seven or eight hundred of the enemy were observed retreating from Makiafansing *via* Lungkau to Wukiatun. Accordingly two companies of infantry and one battery of artillery were despatched to the hills on the east of Kiangkiatun with orders to lie in wait. At 1 p.m. the enemy's retreat actually brought them to the west of Lungkau, and they suffered severely at the hands of this ambush.

The troops that the enemy had in position at the commencement of the engagement were as follows: 25 battalions of infantry; 17 squadrons of cavalry; and 98 guns. But during the fight he received re-inforcements of unknown strength. His losses are not yet ascertained, but on the field in front of our right wing he left about 600 dead. We took regimental colours and 14 quick-firers, and our prisoners were 7 officers, including the colonel of the Fourth Regiment, and 300 rank and file. According to a statement made by the officers taken prisoner, the commander-in-chief of the army corps was slightly wounded, the officer commanding the First Division was severely wounded, the Colonel of the First Division was killed, and the Colonels commanding the Second and Third Regiments were wounded. Our casualties are not yet quite accurately known but they do not exceed 1,000.

In this fight the enemy had two and a half Divisions and was posted in a very strong position. That he was driven from it in confusion is a result of Our Emperor's virtues.

Later.

Up to the 17th instant our losses have been ascertained to be 8 officers killed—of whom the highest in rank was a captain—; 14 officers wounded, from a captain downwards; 4 sergeant-majors wounded; rank and file killed and wounded, about 900.

A part of Stackelberg's routed army is said to have fled to Yinkow, where it is intrenching itself. The other sections have reached Haiching, where they are said to be committing all kinds of excesses. But we fail to see how troops which fought at Tehlisz on the 15th of June could be at Yinkow and Haiching within less than 48 hours. Perhaps no greater credit attaches to a story that the Chinese in Haiching and its neighbourhood have organized bands and had fights with the Russians, inflicting on them a loss of some 200.

RUSSIAN OFFICIAL REPORTS.

The first Russian official statement about the battle of Wafantien is not the statement sent in by Kuropatkin. Of that we can be sure. Kuropatkin must have told what happened on the 15th. The official report tells nothing about it. The incidents of the 14th alone are referred to. But the fight on the 14th was little more than an artillery duel. From 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. the Japanese guns played upon the Russian positions and the Japanese infantry threw out its left wing to Foochow and its right to a point whence a direct advance on Tehlisz could be made. These were preliminaries, and to these preliminaries the Russian report limits itself. St. Petersburg deliberately elided the statements—whatever they were—that Kuropatkin made about events on the 15th, the day of the real battle. At the beginning of the war there was some display of frankness on the Russian side. Alexieff made no palpable concealment about the results of the torpedo attack on the night of the 8th of February. But as defeat succeeded defeat the expediency of concealment became imperative. It received full recognition on the occasion of the Yalu battle. Sassulitch prefaced his report by saying that "the troops engaged were the 12th and 22nd Regiments and two batteries of artillery." By and bye he included two battalions of the 11th Regiment and another battery. General Kashtalinsky, adopting the same historical tactics, confined himself for a time to the 12th and 22nd Regiments with two battalions of the 11th and 3 batteries of artillery. But his memory did not hold throughout the penning of the document. In the middle he suddenly introduced the 9th and 10th Regiments, of which nothing had been previously said, and at the end he declared that the 11th Regiment—which was supposed to be represented by two battalions only—lost its colonel, 40 officers and 2,000 rank and file. Thus the two regiments and two batteries put in the forefront of the report, became finally 4 regiments together with a fifth of such unexampled dimensions that two battalions of it could afford to lose over 2,000 men. Even if we suppose that each of these five regiments numbered only 2,000 men the Russians had 10,000 men in position independently of artillery. But that, of course, is far below the truth.

The Emperor has addressed a warm message of approval and congratulation to General Oku and his troops on account of the victory at Tehlisz.

Tuesday, June 21.

Probably the Russian killed at Tehlisz will be found to aggregate over 2,000. Oku's army buried 1,516 during the 16th and 17th, and the work goes on. There will be a total of at least 1,800 laid to rest on the field, and we may assume that 300 or 400 were carried off by train. Hence the St. Petersburg estimate which puts the aggregate casualties at ten thousand is more likely to be under than over the mark. This is the bloodiest battle yet fought. It is also the first battle that has taken place in the open. At the Yalu and at Nanshan, the Japanese had to attack a foe entrenched in exceedingly strong positions. The Russian losses would probably have been comparatively small had they retreated quickly from the Kuilien heights. But being caught at Hohmutang they suffered heavily. What their full casualties were they have managed to conceal but it is certainly not an exaggeration to conclude that they lost in all six thousand. At Nanshan, on the other hand, the advantages of position were so enormously in their favour that they seem to have escaped without suffering heavily. The Tehlisz fight, however, was in the open. It presented no special feature, and so far as we can judge the forces engaged were about equal. Of the two sides the Japanese should have suffered more, for they were the attackers. Yet they escaped with casualties not exceeding a thousand while the Russians lost ten thousand. How to explain it we do not know. Bad shooting, bad strategy and bad tactics must be assumed. Nor is it a case of one unskilful general only. Zassulitch, Stoessel and Stackelberg have all failed. Certainly it is time for Kuropatkin himself to take the field, but that he will retrieve the situation, we do not believe. The Russians are beaten. They have been tried and found wanting, and it will fare with them at Haiching, at Liaoyang, and at Mukden as it has fared at Kiulien, at Nanshan and at Tehlisz.

General Oku reports that up to the evening of the 17th, the number of Russians buried by his troops reached 1,516. The work of sepulture is still proceeding. and a signal addition will have to be made to this figure. According to statements made by the Chinese, the enemy placed a number of his dead and wounded in railway cars and sent them to the rear during the fight. Just before his final retreat he buried or burned a number of corpses at Hwafungkou. The prisoners taken and the guns captured by us will be more numerous than my original statement showed, but I am not yet in a position to make an accurate report.

[Received at the Imperial Headquarters on the 20th June.]

The Takushan army reports that infantry and cavalry reconnaisances encountered several outposts of the enemy in the vicinity of Tsihhanling, and in other places, from the night of the 18th. One officer and 2 men of the enemy were taken prisoner. The enemy had 50 killed and wounded. Many rifles and lances also were captured. We lost one killed and had 5 wounded.

[NOTE—The place mentioned above is about 25 miles west of Suiying and about 23 miles east of Kaiping.]

General Oku reports that the number of Japanese officers killed at Tehlisz, previously reported as 2, must be changed to 10; the number of wounded officers previously reported as 14 must be changed to 29.

Thursday, June 23.

The retreat of the First Army Corps from Tehlisz is said to be covered by the Third Division under General Krondeerachinko (?). If that be correct—and it is so stated by St. Petersburg *viâ* London—, the inference is that the force of the Russians in the northern part of the Liaotung Peninsula is large; or was large before the last battle. The Third Division belongs to the Third Army Corps of which General Stoessel would be in command were he not shut up in Port Arthur. Stackelberg commands the First Army Corps, and in view of the fact that he had at the battle of Tehlisz more than the twelve batteries constituting the whole park of the Corps, it may be inferred that he had all the infantry and cavalry also, namely, 48 battalions of infantry and 3 regiments of cavalry. The Third Division must have been in his immediate rear, and the Third Division furnishes 12 more battalions of infantry with an uncertain force of cavalry and artillery. There can be little doubt that had not General Oku delivered his attack promptly at Tehlisz he would have found the Third Division lined up with the First, Second and Sixth, which form Stackelberg's army, and would thus have been confronted by 69 battalions of infantry, 5 regiments of cavalry and 16 batteries (128 guns) of artillery. Nominally Stackelberg has still that force under his command, since the Third Division is now coöperating with him, and if we deduct his losses at Tehlisz the arithmetical result is that he wields an available force of some 50,000 of all arms, with over 100 guns. Should he be joined by Kuropatkin with 5 Divisions a very large army will be massed. It may be assumed, however, that the Third Division, now spoken of as covering Stackelberg's retreat, is one of the five which Kuropatkin has put in motion from Liaoyang. In that case the total Russian force massed southward of Haiching will soon be 8 Divisions; namely, 96 battalions of infantry, 8 regiments of cavalry and 256 guns. These are very formidable figures, and if they be anything like the truth they indicate that decisive fighting is likely to take place soon. Kuropatkin will be confronted by Oku's Army and by the Takushan Army, which combined force will probably be found equal to his own numerically. Assuming, then, that he is really adopting the course attributed to him, a great battle is imminent in the neighbourhood of Kaiping; or perhaps at a point further north, the Kaiping district being too mountainous to permit the deploying of large bodies of troops.

Floug alleges that the regimental colours taken by the Japanese at Hunghwakan—he chooses this place as the designation of the battle—were not the regimental colours at all but were the colours of the officer commanding a regiment; a kind of personal flag in short, which was really of no special consequence, and which naturally no one on the Russian side took the trouble to pick up after the soldier that carried it happened to get shot. It does not at all signify whether or not colonels of Russian regiments have ensigns of their own flaunting in the battle. Chinese colonels have, at all events. We have never heard of anything of the kind in an English army, but it may be the custom in a Russian army for all that, and truly even the immortal Floug can scarcely be supposed to have invented such a tale. There is one little difficulty, however; namely, that the Japanese know and can distinguish a Russian regimental standard just as clearly as the Russians themselves can, and Floug presumes a little too much on the ignorance of General Oku when he charges him by implication with being unable to discriminate between the colours of a regiment and the private flag of a Colonel.

The *Asahi Shimbun* has a telegram from Chefoo saying that Major-General Gerngrass, who was wounded in the battle of Tehlisz, has since died.

Friday, June 24.

According to reports received prior to the arrival of General Oku's last telegram, the Russian troops engaged at Tehlisz retreated for the most part to Tashikiao, leaving detachments at Shwantaitsz and Hiunyoching to cover their rear. Further, at Kaukiatung, which is on the north of Kaiping, there was a body of 2,000 Russians, who were not in the battle. General Oku's telegram shows that these detachments did not make any attempt to check the Japanese, for Hiunyoching was occupied without resistance on the 21st instant, and the evacuation of Hiunyoching would involve that of Shwantaitsz. But the troops at Kaukiatung are another matter. They cover the road to Newchwang and it is possible that an attempt will be made to hold the latter place. Possible but not probable. In fact, the whole situation southward of Haiching has become exceedingly perilous for the Russians. The Japanese at Hiunyoching are about 30 miles from Kaiping and the latter is about 28 miles from Newchwang. The junction of the Newchwang and the main railway is at Tashikiao, which lies 19 miles south of Haiching. Finally, from Kaiping to Tashikiao the distance is 15 miles. By considering these mileages the reader will perceive that on the 21st instant General Oku's van was within 45 miles of Tashikiao, and that if Tashikiao were occupied by the Japanese, all Russian troops in Newchwang and its immediate vicinity would be deprived of railway communication. Then again, if the Takushan army pushes on with any alacrity, we may hear of it at any moment at Haiching. It entered Suiyen on the 8th instant. From thence two roads lead westward. One is a mountain road to Kaiping; the other is a comparatively level road direct to Haiching. Presumably the army is marching by both of these routes, but we have as yet no news of its progress along the Haiching road. That one part of it is moving towards Kaiping, however, we know for certain, since on the 18th or 19th instant a detachment occupied Tsihhanling, which is 23 miles east of Kaiping on the mountain road. It will be seen, therefore, that the left wing of the Takushan corps was within 23 miles of Kaiping, approaching it from the east, on the 19th instant, and that on the 21st the van of the Liaotung army was within 30 miles of Kaiping. approaching it from the south. At the same time, since the distance from Suiyen to Haiching is only 50 miles, it may be assumed that the main body of the Takushan corps is now within striking distance of Haiching. London, indeed, telegraphs that a battle has been fought there, but there is reason to think the statement premature. If Haiching fell into Japanese hands before the Russians at Kaiping, Newchwang and Tashikiao had effected their withdrawal northward, a very interesting and perilous situation would be created, as has often been pointed out in these columns. Chefoo sends word that a detachment of Japanese troops has reached Hushan, which is only 7 miles east of Kaiping. If so, these troops belong to the Takushan Corps. We do not trust Chefoo news, especially in a matter of such importance, for although it may not appear of much moment whether the Japanese are at Tsihhanling or at Hushan, the latter place being only 16 miles in advance of the former; the point is really vital, for if the Russians contemplated any determined resistance at Kaiping they would never have allowed the Takushan Corps to push unresisted to within 7 miles of their left. The Chinese made a vehement stand at Kaiping. They adopted a device not previously mentioned in history, so far as we know; namely, the repeated flooding of the approaches, so that the water froze in layers and the avenues to the place became inclines of ice. The Japanese experienced immense difficulty in negotiating this obstacle and lost heavily in the operation. Appearances do not indicate that the Russians intend to make a stand at Kaiping, yet if they allow themselves to be driven from that place as well as from Tashikiao and Haiching, Kuropatkin's alleged march southward at the head of 5 Divisions will be relegated to a distant future.

The *Asahi* publishes statements made by Chinese to the effect that at the battle of Tehlisz General Stackelberg was wounded in the arm and in the leg, and that his horse was simultaneously shot under him. He was sent by train to Liaoyang, as was also Major-General Gelmgrass (this name is still uncertain) whose wound was in the head. It is conjectured that the Russian Generals at Tehlisz were entirely misinformed as to the magnitude of the Japanese Army marching to attack them. They did not suppose it possible that they could be outflanked, and they therefore took no effective measures to guard against that fatal contingency. The consequence was that the men, when retreating, had to run the gauntlet through ravines every part of which was searched by the enemy's fire. It speaks well for their dogged courage that they maintained any semblance of order under such circumstances.

The Chinese say that the Russians have a principal depot of provisions at Tashikiao, in which case they are likely to fight for the possession of the place. Moreover, there is a report that Kuropatkin reached Kaiping on the 15th. But that is scarcely credible. The 15th was the day of the Tehlisz disaster, and it was on receipt of news of the latter that Kuropatkin, according to the most trustworthy reports, moved southward from Liaoyang.

THE "IZUMI MARU" SUNK BY RUSSIANS.

Sunday, June 19.

We stated in our last issue that grave fears were entertained about the steamer *Izumi Maru*, which was due at Moji on the 15th instant and must then have crossed the path of the Vladivostock cruisers. The *Izumi*, a vessel of 3,230 tons displacement, was *en route* from China and probably—though the point is not certain—carried some sick and wounded soldiers. At all events she had no effective combatants of any kind on board. We learn now (Saturday, noon) that three boats and the corpse of a sailor have been found drifting in the sea. The boats were marked *Izumi Maru* and the body was dressed in the uniform of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. These things virtually remove all doubt as to the fate of the steamer. But without most explicit evidence it is impossible to believe that her crew of non-combatants, and above all her freight of sick and wounded, were sent to the bottom with her. Should such prove to be the case, Russia will stand arraigned for another crime not less heinous than the Blagovestchensk massacre.

(RECEIVED IN TOKYO.)

Sunday, 10.30 p.m.

A telegram from Maidzuru says that on the 18th inst. 22 of the crew of the *Idzumi Maru* arrived at that port. Apparently 40 or 50 of the crew were killed or wounded by the Russians when they sank the ship.

Monday, June 20.

It is difficult to ascertain clearly the facts about the *Izumi*. So far as is now known she had on board 108 all told, among them being 4 land-transport men. On her way back from the seat of war she fell in with the Russians and was immediately fired on, whereupon she stopped, and in obedience to signals her people took to the boats and rowed towards the Russians. But, according to one account, the latter fired on them as they approached, killing 8 and wounding 35. The survivors were thrust into the hold, but were presently summoned on deck again, just in time to see the last scenes of the *Hitachi-Maru* butchery. Thereafter they were transferred to the *Unko Maru*, a sailing ship belonging to the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, which happened to be passing with a cargo of coke for Kanazawa. This little vessel took them to Maizuru. It is stated that the Russian cruiser which managed this particular business was the *Gromoboi*.

Another account says that the Russians having first fired a blank cartridge at the *Izumi*, followed it immediately with a shell which struck the steamer below the water line abaft, and she at once began to sink by the stern. Several of the crew jumped overboard, seeing a fishing boat in the vicinity. The majority, however, lowered 4 boats and proceeded towards the *Gromoboi*, thinking that course would be the safest. As they rowed they saw the *Izumi* begin to sink. Thereupon the *Gromoboi* lowered boats to save life and made signals to the *Izumi's* boats to come, which they did and were taken on board. The wounded were put into the surgeon's bay and tended. Shortly afterwards two Japanese transports were seen coming, and these also were sunk by the Russians. Ultimately the *Izumi's* people were handed ever to the *Unko Maru*, as described above. But only 22 out of 108 are thus accounted for. Were all the rest killed or wounded?

KUROPATKIN.

Peking reports that General Kuropatkin has decided to assume the offensive. Leaving 3 battalions to hold Liaotung, he will march south at the head of 5 Divisions of the East Siberian troops with 60 guns and a large body of cavalry. Since the 18th these forces have been rapidly passing through Tashikiao and Kuropatkin himself has reached Haiching. A similar report comes from other quarters, and combining these rumours with the latest telegrams from St. Petersburg, it seems fair to conclude that Kuropatkin really intends to abandon his defensive tactics and to follow the course so disastrously inaugurated at Tehlisz. Five Divisions would mean 20 regiments or 60 battalions; an army of some 45,000 infantry, and if artillery and cavalry be added, the total would be some 55,000. Evidently that signifies a supreme effort; probably the biggest effort of which the Russian commander is now capable. What will he encounter on the Japanese side? So far as we can see he will encounter the army under Oku that fought at Tehlisz and he will also encounter the Takushan army. Concerning the latter point it will have been observed that the Takushan force is moving direct towards Taiping. Tsichauling, whence the Russian outposts were driven on the 18th or 19th instant, is only 23 miles from Kaiping, and Kaiping itself lies at the north-west of the Liaotung Peninsula. Thus Kuropatkin with his fifty or sixty thousand men, has a Japanese army operating immediately on his left flank, and the question is, will he be able to strike at them independently. Further, he will have Kuroki on his rear. If it be true that he has left only a few battalions in Liaoyang then there offers to the Japanese Army of the Yalu an opportunity which it is not at all likely to neglect. The war has thus reached a stage vitally critical, but from a strategical point of view Kuropatkin's situation is extremely unfavourable. One contingency presents itself; namely, that the Fourth Army Corps which was at Lake Baikal in May, may now be fully organized at Mukden, and that Kuropatkin may have reason to rely on its arrival at Liaoyang in time to hold Kuroki's force in check. There is an element of great uncertainty in the details of the position, and we find it scarcely credible that Kuropatkin should take the risk involved in abandoning the defence of his base to a small force while a hostile army is within 3 or 4 days' march of it. The next fortnight should be pregnant with great events.

KOREA.

Wednesday, June 22.

The anti-Japanese circular now going the round in Korea is said to be favoured by Li Yong-tai and four other more or less prominent politicians, and to be actively supported by the chief local officials of Anju and other places. The signatories profess to think that if Japan wins in the war Korean independence will be jeopardized. They would therefore have the Japanese expelled, but they do not apparently look so far ahead as to say what should be done and what would be likely to happen thereafter. It is scarcely conceivable that their patriotism sees a better prospect in Russian aggression than in Japan's professions. The fact is that they are struggling for their own hand. Of patriotism they have just enough to understand its abuse. Political power for themselves is their sole aim.

Mr. Nagamori Tokichiro, once Chief Public Procurator of the Tokyo Local Court, in which office he distinguished himself by asserting somewhat vehemently the emolumental claims of the Bench, has applied for a fifty-years lease of all such forests, rivers, marsh-lands and unreclaimed districts as are not owned by private individuals or officialdom—undeveloped State properties, in fact. He wishes to be allowed a term of five years to effect works of reclamation, after which he promises to pay taxes. Probably it is a good scheme. Korea wants some enterprising people to develop her. At any rate the application has been duly presented and is under consideration.

Thursday, June 23.

It will have been observed that nothing has been heard for some time from the scene of the recent Russian raid on the north-eastern coast of Korea. The enterprise of the Cossacks seemed to have "petered out" from the moment they encountered opposition at Wonsan. News now comes from the latter place to the effect that according to intelligence just received, 250 Cossacks rode into Songpin on the 15th, and thereafter took the road westward towards Pyongyang. It is a long journey from Songpin to Pyongyang; quite long enough for these Cossacks to inflict a great deal of suffering on non-combatants *en route*.

On the other hand, the *Jiji Shimpo's* news is that the Cossacks are making their way to the north-west in the direction of Kangke, which would suggest that their object is to cross the Yalu, and rejoin the Mukden army. It is impossible to divine the motives or objects of such nomads, nor does it much matter.

Friday, June 24.

The anti-Japanese circular now going the rounds in Korea seems to be a crafty document, which, under the guise of criticising the acts of evil officials, both Japanese and Korean, is really and obviously intended to excite hatred against Japan. Twenty-six signatures are appended to the document and it is widely spread abroad, not only through the post, but also by being placarded in the towns. The signatories charge Japanese officials with assisting their nationals to perpetrate all kinds of dishonesty, and Japanese soldiers with wholesale plundering and irregularity. Correspondents of Japanese journals allege that this kind of feeling has considerable vogue among the masses, but that the circulation of such a document is merely one move in the game of struggling for administrative power.

It is rumoured that in view of the impossibility of effecting any real reforms in Korea by persuasion and advice, Japan will now resort to more drastic methods.

CHINA.

Tuesday, June 21.

There really appears to be some truth in the extraordinary report that the German Admiral recently asked for the use of the celebrated Chinese lakes Tungting and Panyang, in order to exercise his squadron there. He wanted the lakes for 4 months, and when Viceroy Chang declined to entertain the proposal, it was reported that the German Consul declared himself incompetent to restrain the movements of men-of-war. The matter is said to have been carried to Peking and to be now under discussion there, but is it credible? We do not think so. The Germans have not such a vast naval force in these waters as to find the sea too small for their evolutions, and besides their proposal is almost grotesque in itself. The Tungting lake is sacred in Chinese eyes. To convert it into a parade-ground for foreign war-ships would be a wanton offense.

A telegram from Shanghai dated the 19th instant says that according to a report brought by the torpedo-destroyer *Fame* on the previous evening, the destroyer *Sparrowhawk* had gone ashore on an uncharted rock on the north of Ma-an. It did not appear that her injuries were very serious, and she went alongside of the *Glory*. But while her armament and ammunition was being taken out, she gradually filled and finally sank.

Wednesday, June 22.

As we conjectured, the story of the Germans and the Chinese lakes assumes a very different complexion on fuller investigation. There has not been any application for a lease of the lakes as a naval manœuvre-ground. What has happened is simply this:—Hitherto foreign gunboats have entered the lakes freely. But in view of the excitement caused by the war, the Taotai of Shanghai recently addressed to the Consuls a suggestion that it would be better to precede such visits by notice to the authorities in whose districts the lakes are situated. The Germans were the first to act on this suggestion. They gave notice to the Taotai in Shanghai and to the Authorities in Hankow. Thereupon Viceroy Chang Chih-tung put down his foot and would not consent. The reply of the German Consul was in effect:—"Oh, very well. Then we'll simply go back to the old time when neither notice nor consent was needed." Of course that is a different story from the original bizarre version, but the German methods of dealing with China remain noticeable.

Thursday, June 23.

It is alleged that a Russian officer, Lieut.-Colonel Matariroff (?), who was recently engaged attempting to collect a large force of Hunghutze to serve under the Russian flag, has failed in his object and returned to Mukden *re infectâ*. The story is that the Hunghutze negotiated with him amicably until they had obtained a supply of arms and ammunition, whereafter they absconded.

Friday, June 24.

Peking sends a telegram to the *Nichi Nichi* saying that the killed in the battle of Tehlisz on the Russian side numbered 2,500 and the wounded 3,500. Our contemporary justly remarks that while the former figure may be a tolerable approximation, and is indeed consistent with the facts hitherto reported, the latter is obviously incredible. Three thousand five hundred wounded to two thousand five hundred killed is a plainly false ratio. At the least we must assume three times as many wounded as killed, which would give 7,500 wounded and 2,500 killed; the total originally mentioned in St. Petersburg. But the Russians now speak of fifteen thousand casualties.

The Chefoo correspondent of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, writing from Chefoo, alleges that there can not be the least doubt about the installation of a wireless telegraphic apparatus at the French Consulate. The pole is visible to all and the noise of the generator is heard perpetually. The Consul affirms that the machinery is merely for the lighting of the buildings, but considering that the Consulate has not more than ten inmates such a plea is ridiculous. The Japanese Consul has brought the matter to the notice of the Taotai.

In the same correspondence we read of a Russian agent who lies perdu in the house of a naturalized American, and carries on the business of purchasing beef and other supplies for Port Arthur.

SIR JOHN FISHER.

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KUROPATKIN.

Peking reports that General Kuropatkin has decided to assume [illegible]. Leaving

to understand its abuse. Political power for themselves is their sole aim.

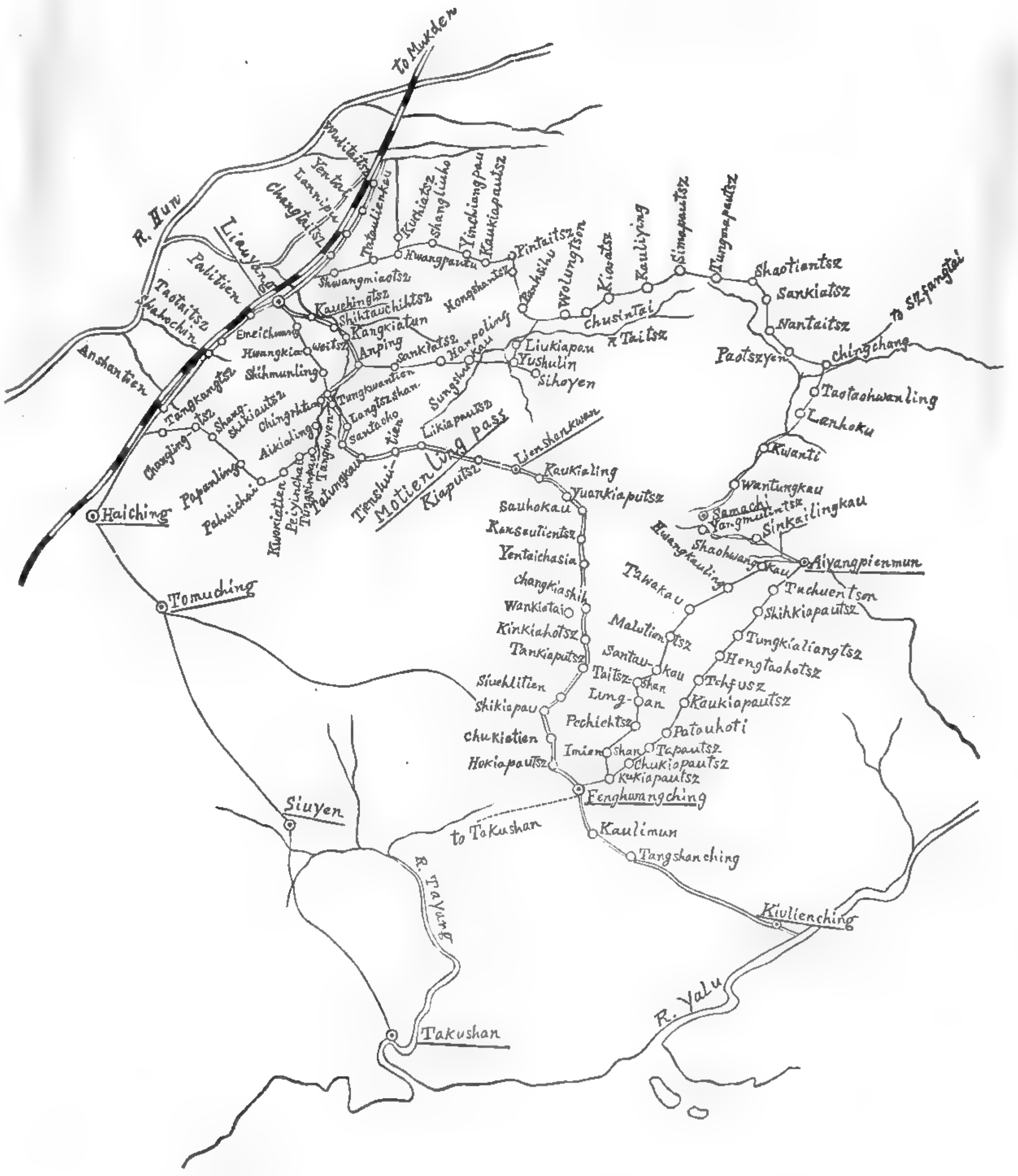
Mr. Nagamori Tokichiro, once Chief Public Procurator of the Tokyo Local Court, in which office he distinguished himself by

We do not think so. The Germans have not such a vast naval force in these waters as to find the sea too small for their evolutions, and besides their proposal is almost grotesque in itself. The Tung-

Supplement to the "Japan Weekly Mail," June 25, 1904.

明治廿五年三月廿日第三種郵便物認可

MAP OF FIELD OF FIRST ARMY'S OPERATIONS.


to Mukden
R. Hun
Muditaitsz
Yentai
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Tatoulienkau
Kuchiatsz
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Pintaitsz
Hwangpautu
Liauyang
Palitien
Taotaitsz
Shahochin
Anshantien
Shwangmiaotsz
Kauchingtsz
Shihtauchiltsz
Kangkiatun
Kongshantsz
Enzichuang
Hwangkia
Weitsz
Anping
Sankiatsz
Hanpoling
Shihmunling
Tungkwantien
Langtszshan
Santaoho
Sungshukau
Tangkangtsz
Changling-tsz
Shang-shikiautsz
Chingshitien
Aikialing
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Peiyinchai
Tungsinpau
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Kaukialing
Yuankiaputsz
Haiching
Tomuching
Paikshilu
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Kiaotsz
Kauliying
Simapautsz
Tungmapautsz
Chusintai
R. Taitsz
Liukiapau
Yushulin
Sihoyen
Shaotientsz
Sankiatsz
Nantaitsz
to Szfangtai
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Lankoku
Kwanti
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Sinkailingkau
Hwangkauling
Shaohwangkau
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Tawakau
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Kansautientsz
Yentaichasia
Changkiashih
Wankiatai
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Tankiaputsz
Malutientsz
Santau-kau
Taitsz-shan
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Shihkiapautsz
Tungkialiangtsz
Hengtaohotsz
Tchfusz
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Chukiopautsz
Kukiapautsz
Fenghwangching
Siuyen
to Takushan
Kaulimun
Tangshanching
R. Tayang
Kiulienching
R. Yalu
Takushan

F. Brinkley, Editor. A. Bellamy Brown, Publisher and Printer. Office: No. 55, Yamashita-cho.

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There were 531 foreigners residing in Osaka in 1902, of whom 413 were Chinese; the Americans coming next with 53, and the British third with 41. The total imports and exports in 1902 reached the sum of *yen* 26,926,249, of which the exports were *yen* 15,050,519. The details of the harbour scheme make interesting reading, but we have no space for them here. The Municipality kept within the bounds of its income in 1902, receiving *yen* 1,199,706 and spending *yen* 1,107,586.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

The total subscriptions to the new domestic loan of 100 millions were 320,493,525 *yen*. The various cities, &c., subscribed as follows :—

	Yen.
Tokyo	117,622,800
Osaka	64,628,175
Nagoya	20,483,000
Kyoto	15,970,775
Various	101,788,775

A rumour was in circulation in Yokohama on Saturday evening that Mr. Hector Fuller, correspondent of the *Indianapolis Times* has been shot by the Russians as a spy. Mr. Fuller passed through Yokohama some three months ago, intending to go to the front with the Japanese army, but grew tired of waiting for his passports and went over to China to view the war from the Russian side.

There is talk of a serious accident to transports which recently left Nagasaki. On the 15th instant they encountered a heavy gale and several of them were driven towards the Korean Coast, where they grounded. One is said to have been in imminent peril of losing all on board, but a sailor managed to carry a rope ashore and the crew were thus saved. The whole story is very vague. How many transports were involved and what loss resulted there is no clear indication. Our own information is that one only went ashore, and that it was in the service of the Navy—carrying supplies.

The military critic of *The Times* says this about the last blocking expedition at Port Arthur :—

> The heroism of the officers and crews of the doomed ships was as fine as anything recorded in the annals of naval war, and, even if it stood alone, would stamp the Japanese navy as a service worthy to take rank with the best. Out of 159 men on board the steamers, only eight officers and 36 men returned unhurt, the whole of the remainder, including 20 officers, being killed, wounded, or missing. The very success of the operation made escape difficult, while the heavy weather prevented the attendant torpedo craft from taking off all the crews when the ships went down. However much we may regret this heavy loss, we can only feel the deepest admiration for a navy which has been able to perform such a gallant act and for a nation which boasts such splendid sons. Happy indeed is the country where bravery and intelligence are combined in so just a measure!

The Times, writing editorially about the blocking enterprise and its immediate results, says :—

> All of these movements, as our Tokio Correspondent points out, are the first fruits of the act of heroism, never surpassed and rarely equalled in the annals of war, by which the blockade of Port Arthur has been practically accomplished. Out of the 159 officers and men who volunteered for that forlorn hope, only forty-two came back alive. But the lives of their gallant comrades were not sacrificed in vain. Japan has lost sons whom any country in any age might have mourned with pride, but it is their death which has enabled her to develop a fresh stage in what bids fair to be the most momentous of modern campaigns fought on the soil of Asia.

It is stated that a Norwegian steamer carrying contraband of war to Port Arthur has been captured by Admiral Togo's scouts and sent to Nasagaki under escort.

The *Official Gazette* publishes pictures of the new gold notes of Formosa. They are very pretty objects, identical in design, so far as we can judge, with the bank notes that circulated in Japan a few years ago. Perhaps this reproduction of an old pattern was suggested by the presence of dragons in the picture. The Chinaman loves dragons. It is a pity, however, that if dragons were to be introduced the imperial reptile with five talons was not preferred to the vulgar monster with only three claws.

We must expect to read queer things in the American papers during war-time, but the following romantic story will be difficult to beat. Its inventor must be a genius of the first order. We hope Capt. Troubridge, now at home in England, will read the story, for it will cause him, we imagine, a hearty laugh.

> New York, May 29.
>
> An officer in the service of the United States, who had special opportunities for observation of the preparations for war by Japan and her conduct of the struggle up to about a month ago, returned recently to this country. He was asked the other day what he regarded as the most important feature of the war up to date. He promptly replied :—
>
> "The strange disappearance of Captain Ernest Charles Thomas Troubridge, the British Naval Attaché at Tokio. Not the slightest effort has been made to find the Captain, and the British Government has never so much as made inquiry as to his whereabouts, so far as the representatives of other nations in the Far East have been able to learn. Troubridge is 42 years old, and one of the brightest officers in the British navy. He is a master of naval tactics, and is particularly keen in the handling of naval guns. He disappeared from the capital a few days before Admiral Togo's squadron sailed from Sasebo. We haven't any definite knowledge that he sailed away with Togo, and we don't know that he's on Togo's flagship, but certain things have occurred in the manœuvring of Togo's ships and in the general conduct of his campaign that have led foreign naval sharps to become as certain as they want to be that Troubridge is on the flagship in the capacity of general advisory counsel. At any rate, he never came back from Sasebo and nobody at the British Legation at Tokio appears at all worried over the Captain's continued absence."

The reporters may be partly to blame for the "news" in the following clippings from English papers :—

DR. PENTECOST ON JAPAN.

> "On the other hand, there is no prejudice against Christianity. Young men who have received a Christian education are eagerly sought after for Government employment. Girls who have been trained at the Christian colleges are in great request for wives. Head-teachers have told me that on the closing day of the session the doorsteps of the colleges are besieged by Japanese men who want to get Christian wives. Thus we find dotted all over Japan hundreds of wives and mothers who have received a Christian training. Amongst a certain political section it is even felt that Japan must before long adopt Christianity, and the reason for this is not hard to discover. All are agreed in admiring and adopting European civilisation, but it is felt that this can never be truly grafted on to the ancient Pagan faiths. Christianity is indeed the hope and the promise of the future. Buddhism and Shintoism, and especially Confucianism, look back to the past, and cannot therefore meet the aspirations of an eager and rising people."

MISS E. P. HUGHES ON JAPAN.

> Most opportune and interesting was a lecture give at the New Chesterton Institute, Cambridge, on Friday evening last, by Miss Hughes, the well-known traveller, on "What I Saw in Japan." Miss Hughes has but recently returned from that country, where she spent sixteen months investigating the educational system, and she has brought back with her many interesting reminiscences, while it is evident that she has formed a very high opinion of the Japanese. The lecturer dealt chiefly with the social and industrial life of Japan. Referring to its religion she said that she was considered to be a most religious person, because of her zeal in mountain climbing, and her liking for dramatic performances; these two rites entering largely into their worship of the great sun-goddess. Miss Hughes was in Tokyo when the Anglo-Japanese alliance was proclaimed, and being the only English lady there she was greatly honoured as the representative of the "Land of the West," of which the Japanese think so much.

The following statement, compiled by the United States Bureau of Commerce and Labour, may be accepted as showing the tonnage (coastwise trade not included) entered at the principal ports of the world—ports having a tonnage of over 1,000,000 tons—during the year 1902, with the exception of the United States ports, the figures of which are for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1903. The figures for the United States and Great Britain are taken from the official publications of both countries, while the greater number of the remainder are taken from the annual reports of the United States consuls for 1903, but covering tonnage figures for 1902 ;

Rating	Port	Tons entered	Rating	Port	Tons entered
1	London	10,179,023	32	Fiume	1,954,541
2	New York	9,053,906	33	Amsterdam.	1,887,917
3	Hamburg	8,689,000	34	Durban	1,826,526
4	Antwerp	8,425,127	35	Rio de Janeiro	1,801,880
5	Hong-Kong.*	8,253,591	36	Venice	1,779,167
[illegible]	Liverpool	6,843,200	37	Dunkirk	1,723,722
7	Rotterdam	6,546,473	38	Southampton	1,689,525
8	Marseilles	6,191,839	39	Glasgow	1,618,525
9	Genoa	5,596,012	40	Gothenburg.	1,573,901
10	Shanghai	4,726,411	41	New Orleans.	1,561,898
11	Cardiff	4,688,018	42	Montreal	1,539,404
12	Cape Town	4,245,602	43	Odessa	1,533,134
13	Tyne ports †	3,615,046	44	Baltimore	1,416,529
14	Lisbon	3,612,051	45	Valparaiso	1,386,884
15	BuenosAyres.	3,303,843	46	Venice	1,317,817
16	Copenhagen	3,111,412	47	Cronstadt	1,300,229
17	Habana	3,101,115	48	Vera Cruz	1,268,836
18	Algiers	3,035,131	49	Santiago de Cuba.	1,242,950
19	Havre	3,016,591			
20	Bremen	2,984,410	50	Calcutta	1,212,622
21	Boston	2,978,913	51	Naples	1,211,922
22	Melbourne	2,827,949	52	Puget Sound.	1,187,768
23	Sydney	2,706,561	53	Bombay	1,164,657
24	Alexandria.	2,561,252	55	Rouen	1,099,318
25	Hull	2,514,663	55	Riga	1,066,026
26	Trieste	2,499,528	56	Savona	1,037,806
27	Barcelona	2,436,257	57	Leghorn	1,030,341
28	Yokohama.	2,030,218	58	San Fran's	1,016,284
29	Bordeaux	2,022,103	59	Bordeaux	1,009,240
30	Philadelphia	1,993,422	60	Tampico	1,009,001
31	Nagasaki	1,974,700			

* Chinese junks not included. † Newcastle and North and South Shields.

Engineering illustrates and describes the details of the Yerkes telescope, which has an aperture of 40 in., and weighs no less than 70 tons, while the parts which have to be put in motion to set the telescope on a star weigh 22 tons. One of the chief advantages of these large telescopes is not the greater size of images which they are able to give, but their greater resolving power, or their power of showing details which in a small telescope would be entirely lost. This power is illustrated, for instance, by the effect when observing the fixed stars. These bodies are at such enormous distances from us that even in the most powerful telescopes they behave as simple points of light, and present no area which can be increased by magnification. It is quite true that when a star is observed in a good telescope, a defined disc is seen; but this—the spurious disc, as it is called by astronomers—is a diffraction effect; and it follows from the wave theory of light that the dimensions of this disc, expressed in angular measures, will decrease in direct proportion to the increase in the diameter of the object-glass of the telescope used. In a good 5-in. telescope the spurious disc shown by a star of about the seventh magnitude—or a star having a brightness a little less than half that of the faintest star which can be seen with the naked eye—will have a diameter of rather less than 1 second of arc; and it thus follows that to be seen as independent objects in such a telescope, two stars must be not less than about one second of arc apart from centre to centre. But in the Yerkes telescope of 40 in. diameter, the diameter of such star discs would be under one-eighth of a second of arc; and thus two such stars, which are but one-eighth of a second of arc apart from centre to centre, can be seen as clearly separate objects, and their relative positions measured. In the Yerkes telescope the star images, having an angular measure of rather less than one-eighth of a second of arc, will have a lineal measure at the focal plane of about $\frac{1}{2500}$ in. in diameter. Now this focal plane is situated at a distance of about 32 ft. from the polar axis on which the telescope rotates; while the spiderwebs—or so-called "wires" of the micrometer used for star measurements will have a diameter of from about $\frac{1}{5000}$ in. to $\frac{1}{7000}$ in., or say, a mean of about $\frac{1}{6000}$ in. The problem thus is to move this 22-ton mass with such steadiness, in opposition to the motion of the earth, that a star disc $\frac{1}{2500}$ in. in diameter can be kept threaded, as it were, upon a spider web $\frac{1}{6000}$ in. in diameter, carried at a radius of 32 ft. from the centre of motion. This is a problem in mechanical engineering demanding no slight skill to solve; but it has been solved, and with the most satisfactory results.

A fact that may have considerable significance is connection with the divorce problem has just been brought to light in the English official record of judicial statistics for 1902, namely, that out of 1050 suits in that year for dissolution of the marriage tie 415, or nearly half, were cases where there had been no children by the marriage. That children form a strong tie to bind parents together is a fact of common knowledge, but that childless marriages in themselves tend to the divorce court seems a fair inference from these statistics.

Another brave young Japanese has fallen into the hands of the Russians and been executed. He was a native of Kumamoto, Nakayama Kumakichi by name, and after graduating at one of the Middle Schools in 1901, he proceeded to China. When the rupture of diplomatic relations between his country and Russia took place, he went to Manchuria, announcing the fact in a letter to his parents, which he said would probably be the last they should ever receive from him. It is not precisely known what immediate object he had in view, but the supposition is that he applied his energies to railway wrecking. A telegram has just been received announcing his execution. He was only 25.

We are glad to notice that Yokohama is about to be supplied with a long-felt want—a school of music. Beginning on September 19th, Mr. H. Heydrich, Professor at the Imperial Academy of Music, Tokyo, assisted by Miss Marie Kayser, will commence classes in piano, harmony, counterpoint, composition, and singing, special attention being devoted to juvenile or elementary pupils. The qualifications of Prof. Heydrich and of Miss Kayser are too well-known to need emphasizing in our columns, but we cannot conclude our notice without wishing success to the undertaking. It has a splendid field to exploit and we feel sure that the reward will be commensurate with the ability and capacity of the teachers.

Viceroy Alexieff is said to be on his way back to St. Petersburg, where he is expected to receive a disagreeable welcome. Indeed Shanghai, which sends this news, predicts that if he be not fusilladed, he will at all events be disgraced. Such predictions are scarcely worth discussing. Alexieff has made mistakes, undoubtedly, but he has done what to his short-sighted eyes seemed best adapted to promote his country's interests, and men are not shot in this twentieth century for errors of judgment.

The *Fuwan* is said to have observed on the 20th instant a mine floating about in the direct route of ships to Newchwang. This kind of cruiser will not really attract public attention until some catastrophe occurs to neutral shipping, and even then the question will depend largely on the flag flown by the sufferer.

Corrected returns show that the subscriptions to the new loan totalled 322,199,800 *yen*, the amount above par being 7,091,475 *yen*.

Correspondence from the Liaotung army shows that the Japanese cavalry rode to the heights overlooking Dalny on the 27th ult. at 10 a.m., the battle of Nanshan having taken place on the 26th. The town was not effectively occupied, however, until the 28th. Some skirmishing took place on the 27th, but there was nothing like organized resistance on the part of the Russians.

Owing to the State's use of many of the steamers on regular coastwise routes in Japan, the chief shipping companies have been obliged, we read, to charter vessels in order to carry on their most pressing work. The following list is published:—

Company.	Number of Ships chartered.	Tonnage.
Yusen Kaisha	21	60,525
Osaka Shosen Kaisha	19	33,911
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha	9	15,708
Hokkaido Tanko Tetsudo Kaisha.	4	13,195
Others	24	43,125
Total	77	166,464

It is stated that the average rate paid per ton is 4 *yen*, and accounts are published to show that at such a price the companies are suffering heavy loss. On the other hand, they would suffer worse were all their ships suddenly returned to them by the Government, for owing to the war there is comparatively little demand for maritime carrying facilities.

Judgment was given on June 2nd by His Honour the Chief Justice of Hongkong (Sir Wm. Goodman) in what is locally known as the Granville Sharp Will Case. The late Mr. Granville Sharp, after giving certain legacies amounting to some £1,600 to various friends and relations, and certain life annuities amounting in all to some £300 per annum to other relations, bequeathed the residue of his estate in trust for the erection of a hospital on Mount Kellett, Hongkong, to quote from the will, "for the glory of God and the good of men, in loving memory of my sainted wife, Matilda Lincolne, the same to be called Matilda Hospital." The va'ue of the estate was proved as under $1,030,000, and it has appreciated since to an estimated value of $2,219,177. A building in accordance with the Trust, is now in course of erection on Mount Kellett, and the executors applied for directions as to whether this scheme was a full compliance with the terms of the will and whether the unexhausted portion of the estate was to be applied further to charity or to inure to the benefit of the next of kin, and, if so, who were such next of kin. The Chief Justice, after citing the authorities, delivered judgment that the surplus of the estate must be devoted to charity and the *cy-près* doctrine be applied, and that there was no resulting trust for the next of kin as regards such surplus. He therefore ordered that the residuary bequest in the will and codicil is a good charitable bequest, that an inquiry be made by the Registrar as to the nature, scope and size of the hospital with a view to the future expansion, if necessary, of such hospital, and that a scheme for the erection, endowment and management of such hospital be prepared by the executors and trustees, and settled by the Registrar, subject to the approval of the Court. Also that the Registrar make inquiry as to the charitable purposes to which any surplus of the residuary estate ought to be applied and that a scheme for the purpose be prepared and settled subject to the approval of the Court for the appropriation of such surplus. The costs of all parties to be taxed and to be paid out of the residuary estate. This decision, if maintained, says the correspondent of the *North China Daily News*, will exclude the next of kin from any participation in the appreciation of the property, already amounting to nearly a million and a-quarter dollars.

In consequence of the convention concluded at the International Telegraphic Conference last year in London, the following changes of telegraphic rates are announced, to go into operation from July 1st:—

	New Rates.	Old Rates.	Difference.
Fusan	0.300	0.300	—
Seoul	0.300	0.300	—
Jinsen	0.300	0.300	—
Shanghai	0.600	0.600	—
Amoy	0.780	1.800	— 1.020
Hongkong	0.940	1.280	— 0.340
Foochow	0.780	1.080	— 0.300
Tientsin	0.960	1.000	— 0.040
San Francisco	2.820	3.840	— 1.020
Manila	1.880	2.180	— 0.300
Washington	3.060	3.660	— 0.600
Chicago	3.000	3.700	— 0.700
Peking	0.960	1.100	— 0.140
India	2.068	2.280	— 0.212
Cochin-China	1.800	1.940	— 0.140
Singapore	2.020	2.280	— 0.260
All Europe (except Russia)	2.820	3.080	— 0.260
Russian Asia	0.720	1.000	— 0.280
European Russia	2.080	2.080	—
New York	3.580	3.060	— 0.520

A CHANCE FOR A FUTURE SULLIVAN.

Seated one day at the organ,
I was anxious and ill at ease;
For I found upon inspection
There were several missing keys.
I knew not what I was playing,
(Tho' 'twas hymn two hundred and ten),
But it made a row like a starving cow,
When it came to the grand Amen!

I sought to discover the meaning
Of a sound so wild and weird;
I crept inside on hands and knees
And found just what I feared.
The Flute and Vox Humana
Were mute and declined to sing;
The reeds, alack! showed many a crack.
And I tied them up with a string.

The bellows I neatly mended
With the blower's trouser brace;
I managed well to secure the swell
With a stamp and an old bootlace.
But I'd made my efforts vainly,
I lost my temper then,
And said a word which the parson heard,
It did'nt sound like "Amen."

Liverpool *Porcupine.*

THE BATTLE OF TEHLISZ.

THE position chosen by the Russians at Tehlisz was dictated apparently by the railway. It was not a good position for defence because retreat presented difficulties, and doubtless our readers will observe that General STACKELBERG, in his report of the fight, speaks of retiring by three roads, the inclusion of which item in an outline despatch is significant.

On the other hand, the very hilly character of the neighbourhood did not facilitate attack on any extensive scale, and the Russian General probably expected that the Japanese would move slowly, occupying various positions by degrees and advancing their line by comparatively short distances. Meanwhile he looked to receive re-inforcements to the extent of five or six thousand, and in order to be able to put these new arrivals as quickly as possible into the fighting line, he clung to the railway. The Japanese, however, moved with marked celerity. They threw out a strong column from their left in the direction of Foochow, and they regulated the advance of their centre so that just as its pressure was becoming formidable, the Russians found their right wing enveloped. We judge from the configuration of the ground that the Japanese artillery was posted mainly in the centre, and that its fire had continued for some hours before the advance of the main body of the infantry, which up to that time had remained under the shelter of the hills where the guns were placed. The Japanese right also was thrown out so as to outflank the enemy's left, and thus the Japanese attack may be said to have been delivered along a concave arc of a circle. But apart from these details there is a question of paramount interest, namely, how did the Japanese General manage to have an army at Wafantien at this early date. It may be said that OKU's troops when last heard of were at Dalny, though of course he had left behind him a sufficient force to hold the second strategical position in the peninsula, namely, the line from Port Adams to Pitsewo. It was explained long ago in these columns that a commander advancing down the peninsula without securing that line might find himself one bright morning reduced to the proverbial condition of the rat in the bag. That evil accident very nearly happened to YAMAJI's army in 1894, and a rapid countermarch made by a force under General NOGI barely saved the situation. OKU must be supposed, therefore, to have adopted the precaution of guarding the Pulantien-Pitsewo neck of the peninsula. But the onlooking and, it must be confessed, greatly mystified public did not expect to find him on the 14th of June leading an army of some 30,000 men to drive back the Russians from Tehlisz, which is 28 miles north of Pulantien. This shows three things. It shows that Japanese strategy is even more foreseeing than we had supposed; that Japanese mobility is quite remarkable, and that the Japanese have no faith in waiting to be attacked. They know what value attaches to the rush and impetus of the assault, and instead of waiting for the enemy on the Pulantien-Pitsewo line, they moved out 30 miles and crushed him before he had effected his concentration. We are not at liberty to speak of the composition of General OKI's army in this battle, though the point is full of interest. All we can say is that he had his men exactly at the right place exactly at the right time, and that by one strong blow he effectually demolished KUROPATKIN's futile programme of relief. The Russian General will be greatly blamed. Perhaps he is not so blameworthy as appearances suggest. The position is immensely difficult for him. From the moment of his failure to arrest the Japanese at the Yalu and Fenghwang, he found himself placed in the terrible dilemma of having to hold a line 300 miles long with two hostile armies moving perpendicularly against it at different points, and with a fortress at its southern extremity which had to be saved at all hazards. If he neglected the two hostile armies for the sake of crushing the assailants of the fortress, he ran the terrible risk of being ultimately obliged to turn and fight facing his base, an absolutely impossible strategical situation. Had he possessed a force sufficiently large to warrant the formation of three armies, each numbering at least 60,000 or 70,000 men, he might have hurled two of them at the foes hanging on his left flank and moved with the third to save Port Arthur. Evidently he has no such force, and being without it, his only safe course would have been to leave Port Arthur to its fate and concentrate his whole army in the Mukden-Liaoyang position. But what a sacrifice that would have involved, and what a strain it must have imposed upon the patience of Russia in Europe, were men were already calling aloud for some success to vindicate the great Empire's prestige! KUROPATKIN had to yeld to political exigencies, and he yielded in a half-hearted manner that rendered failure almost inevitable. He seems to have massed 2½ Divisions at Tehlisz and another half Division was moving up. The presumption is that this force consisted of all the troops previously available in Haiching and southward of it, stiffened with ten thousand from Liaoyang. The Japanese have smashed this ill-advised effort with an ease and a thoroughness that will effectually prevent any renewal of such essays. Port Arthur's doom is now sealed, and what is more, we question whether KUROPATKIN has time to gather in his ragged skirts and arrange his military costume for an orderly resistance at Liaoyang. His fate seems to be rushing on him with relentless speed, and although the battle of Tehlisz has apparently failed to attract much attention, it is one of the biggest nails yet driven in Russia's Manchurian coffin.

THE WAR AND AFTER.

IN an interesting article suggested by the Battle of the Yalu the *Spectator* makes the following remarks:—

> The Japanese as fighters, in fact, have proved themselves the equals, if not the superiors, of troops considered equal to any in Europe. General Kuroki himself speaks of the "stout resistance" of the Russian soldiery, and what the "stout resistance" of Russians means military historians know from the record of twenty battles. There are no troops, whether British, German, or French, who advance on Russian divisions with light hearts.
>
> This fact, when once clearly apprehended, must have two consequences, one distinctly bad, the other, and larger, at the best but doubtful. The war must be a protracted one. The Russians cannot accept peace unless completely exhausted, or admit of European intervention, or slacken their efforts even through fear of internal discontent. To be beaten at sea, though an extreme annoyance, and even humiliation, was of no equivalent significance to a defeat by land. The Russian people are not maritime,—the majority have never seen the sea or a fleet upon its waters. They do not comprehend sea-power, which even the common English find it difficult to realise, and they might easily be persuaded that their failure was due to some accident, some stupidity, or some unexpected use of unknown explosives. A defeat on land will, however, dismay as well as amaze every Russian—as is proved by the obvious effort at St. Petersburg to minimise or confuse the character of the battles on the Yalu—and will create a universal demand for a "glorious vengeance" as a neccessary consequence. To the average Russian there is something of insult to his Emperor and to himself in a defeat in the field. Russia must put forth her whole strength and display her whole power of endurance before she consents to listen to any terms whatever, and this implies a war of years and continuous campaigns. So long as they can avoid the internal commotions of which we spoke last week, the Russian resources in men are limitless; we doubt their total inability to accumulate a new fleet—money goes so very far nowadays—and though their pecuniary resources are not inexhaustible, they include the willingness of the people to accept inconvertible paper in payment for wages and for food. The war, unless stopped from within, must, we feel sure, go on until at least stalemate is reached; and if even stalemate is reached, look at the change in the position of the world. A new Empire will have risen in a grand geographical position which must dominate the North Pacific, and which, unless defeated at sea, can despatch to any coast in Asia an army of sixty thousand men so good that to resist it with anything except an equal force of European soldiers would be pronounced by experts the height of folly. That changes the position, and, if we are to speak the full truth, diminishes the safety of every white Power—including America, whose great colony of the Philippines would be less defensible—which has grave interests or broad territories on the Asiatic Continent. Imagine France, which is a very great Power, desiring to acquire Hainan—a most natural object of ambition for the masters of Indo-China—and informed from Tokio that Hainan must remain a dependency of China. Or imagine a hint, conveyed to William II. as General Grant conveyed a hint to Napoleon III., that Kiao-chow had better be evacuated on any colourable pretext, such as a vote hostile to its retention in the Reichstag. Even Great Britain is affected, for though still supreme at sea, we do not want permanently to keep up a great battle-fleet in Indian, or for that matter, in Chinese, waters. This is an immense change in the situation of the world, even if Japan desires to keep up, as she probably will, her links of friendship with the two great Anglo-Saxon States. We understand as yet, remember, little of the deeper springs of Japanese policy, knowing only this for certain, that the Japanese, with all their virtues and capacities, are an ambitious people; that they are terribly pressed by the inadequacy of their landed estate to their growing population; and that their people have shown themselves in Korea, in Formosa—indeed, in China itself—a people with the capacity of unhesitating rule.

What a curious strain of morality pervades this article! Here we have the eminently sober *Spectator* showing itself nearly as much dazzled by Russia's might as is Mr. HENRY NORMAN, and confessing that anything which tends to check the progress of Occidental aggression in the Orient would be at the best a doubtful result. The London journal's line of reasoning about Russia bears a singular resemblance to that of Mr.

NORMAN. Both are fully persuaded that Russia can not possibly accept defeat. "A defeat on land," we are told, "will dismay as well as amaze every Russian and will create a universal demand for a glorious vengeance as a necessary consequence." And we are further told that "to the average Russian there is something of insult to his EMPEROR and to himself in a defeat in the field." When did this magnificent invincibility of Russia begin to be an article of public faith and on what historical facts is it based? Retrospect into a not very distant past shows us a situation analogous in some very marked respects to that now existing. If we replace the name of STEPANOFF by ALEXIEFF, Albazin by Liaoyang and the Amur by Manchuria, there is no difficulty in conceiving a treaty of Mukden imposed on the Russians by the Japanese in 1904 just on the treaty of Nertchinsk was imposed on them by the Chinese in 1689. Russian annals do not create the impression of a nation physiologically incapable of accepting defeat. In Europe the Muscovite has never been a conqueror in the sense that the Spaniards have been conquerers, the French conquerors, the German conquerors and the English conquerors. Yet each of these nations has passed through the fire of discomfiture, has yielded to the inevitable, and has survived without any abiding sense of insult or any absorbing thirst for vengeance. It sounds very like emotional romance to claim for Russia over and above all States in the world an unconquerable repugnance to be conquered. One need not be either old or learned to recall facts which prove the extravagance of such a theory. The Russians have shown themselves quite capable of resignation and not one whit more sensitive about defeat than any other people. There will come a time in this war when both sides must pause to consider the cost of further effort, and when Russia will have to estimate whether to purchase the privilege of forswearing herself is worth an outlay of blood and treasure such as never yet confronted any Power. Suppose the Japanese posted at Mukden, suppose Port Arthur and Vladivostock in their hands, and suppose the lower reaches of the Amur and the whole of the Sugari patrolled by their squadrons—suppositions not at all extravagant—, what kind of sacrifices would be required of Russia in order to recover the position she occupied half a year ago? It is not conceivable either that she would lightly make such sacrifices, or that they could be weighed for an instant against the conditions of peace proposed by Japan. Never in this context should we forget that Japan declared her willingness to accept complete effacement in Manchuria rather than go to war with Russia. She offered to regard Manchuria as entirely outside her sphere of influence. Victory will not turn her head. We have absolute faith in her abiding sobriety, and we venture to predict that she will show herself as moderate in the hour of success as she was fearless at the moment of crisis.

But the probability of an endlessly protracted fight is not the. *Spectator's* only trouble. That respectable weekly suggests with bated breath the stupendous contingency that France may be deprived of freedom to gratify her "most natural ambition" by robbing China of Hainan, and that Germany may be recommended to find a plausible pretext for clearing out of Kiaochow, which she obtained by an act of international piracy perpetually distasteful to Germans of the best class. In other words, the integrity of the Chinese Empire, which England has pledged herself to assist in protecting, ceases altogether to be a desirable object when Japan becomes its principal protector. The *Spectator* is enslaved by racial prejudice to an extent quite unsightly. It fails even to recognise the extreme extravagance of apprehensively citing Japan's ambition, a wholly unproved quantity, and ignoring Russia's ambition, than which no passion more practically imperious has ever swayed any nation.

THE SITUATION.

THE past few days have been days of great excitement—a veritable hour of crowded life. The disaster of the transports took place on the same day as the battle of Tehlisz, and between the two events the public were almost bewildered. It proved to be another illustration of the old experience that objects in the foreground overshadow those in the background. The loss of the *Hitachi Maru*, involving as it did the swift and terrible death of about a thousand men who, less than a week previously, had marched through the streets of the Japanese capital through cheering crowds, was a cruel and appalling catastophe. But its influence on the fate of the war could not be counted worthy of notice. Had the country lost these men in fair fight, had their death taken place in the sequel of defeat, the case would have been very different. Butchered as they were, however, in cold blood without any possibility of resistance and without any trial of strength, struck down by a mere chance which belonged to the chapter of always possible accidents, their fate may have filled many eyes with tears but its wider effect was to stir the heart of the nation to a fierce desire for vengeance. It has stiffened the Japanese, not weakened them. On the other hand, happening in the field of immediate vision, it bulked so largely as to hide the incomparably greater event which occurred on the same day at Tehlisz. The fact is that the Tehlisz battle is much the most important of the three hitherto fought. Not the most important from a strategical point of view, perhaps, for while the fight on the Yalu decided the great question as to whether Korea or Manchuria should be the field of action, and while the fight at Nanshan placed Japan within striking distance of the Russian citadel in the Far East, the combat at Tehlisz merely beat back a relieving [illegible] which, even though it had gained possession of the [illegible] line, could never have passed the Nanshan Isthmus [illegible] the bays of Kinchow and Dalny both in Japanese possession. The importance of Tehlisz lay in the fact that it represented what must be regarded as the strongest effort of which KUROPATKIN is immediately capable to restore the situation. He deliberately moved down this relieving force, organizing it with all the forces he could spare from the defences of Liaoyang, Mukden and Haiching, and he invited the Japanese to try conclusions with him in a position from which all naval participation was excluded. In short he offered battle under circumstances which deprived him of any of the excuses invented to palliate the defeats at Kiulien and Nanshan. The Tehlisz army consisted of two Divisions and a half; namely, 10 regiments of infantry, or 30 battalions. Assuming that each battalion numbered only 800 men, there is here a force of 24,000. He had also 98 guns. The artillery of an army corps which comprises 3 Divisions, is only 96 guns, and we are therefore disposed to think that STACKELBERG's army consisted of the whole of the First Army Corps, that is to say 36 battalions of infantry, with twelve batteries of artillery and 3 regiments of cavalry. At all events, the most moderate estimate shows it to have totalled 30,000 men. Against this formidable force the Japanese General can not have marshalled a greatly more numerous force. As to this the usual secrecy is observed, but we do not see how General OKU can have had more than two Divisions in the fighting line on the 15th instant. The result was an overwhelming defeat for the Russians, a defeat which appears to have cost them enormous loss, no less than some 30 per cent. of their total force. What was the cause of this signal failure? It is perhaps impertinent to pass any criticism at this early hour, but the broad outlines of the fight seem to show that the Russian tactics were radically defective: they were the tactics of 50 years ago. The Japanese fighting front extended over a distance of some 20 miles; the Russian front did not cover a third of that distance. It is scarcely too much to say that, other things being equal, fighting potentiality with modern weapons is in the direct ratio of the fighting line's extension. This battle's importance, then, lies in the fact that it shows Russian methods to be fundamentally faulty. In fact the Russians are beaten. That is the inference. They may change their methods during the course of the struggle, as the British changed theirs in South Africa, but that is a very big order. It were a pity that these things should be obscured by a comparatively trivial incident such as the sinking of a transport, however shocking the circumstances under which the latter took place.

LETTERS FROM THE "MANSHU MARU."

(To THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL.")

SIR,—This expedition — we were reminded to-day by the reading of an official report from the front that it can hardly with absolute accuracy be described as an excursion, still less as a picnic —has been favoured with the very finest weather through great part of the Inland Sea. It is true that at the moment I begin this letter we have only got as far as the Mihara Strait; from the saloon windows I look out to right and left on scenes which I cannot hope to describe. We are at the entrance to this piece of intricate navigation and the land each moment recedes and advances as bay and headland open, are seen for a few minutes and then are closed out. We are still as I say, some distance from Kure, and after Kure there is still some Inland Sea, so that the bright sunshine and glassy waters through which we now drive our way may in a few hours be changed for mist or rain or storm. I am no prophet—at any rate I am not licensed for the Inland Sea—so perhaps I should refrain from weather forecasts, but it is not conceivable that present conditions will change within the next few hours. I presume therefore that we shall carry these conditions with us to the end of our second stage, which is Kure.

According to arrangement we duly left Kobe at four o'clock in the morning, the idea, I believe, being to reach Kure before dark. It was not a promising dawn that one looked forth upon as the *Manshu Maru* swung out of the harbour and laid her course for Awaji Strait. There was a slight rain; there was even an appearance of threatened bluster; but ere we reached the east end of Awaji the danger had disappeared and as we brought the little lighthouse abeam the sun broke out gaily and from that auspicious moment all went well.

The Inland Sea has been portrayed so often in colours which are not at my command,—successive artists have used their pens to describe its beauties in such skilful and glowing terms, that I will not say anything which may even incur risk of comparison. From half past seven, till which point of time I regret to say, most of our passengers stayed away from the deck, our day was practically assured. We were then far past the Awaji Strait; the land on our port hand—the eastern shores of Awaji were receding—and the country on the other side was quite invisible in the haze that lay deep on the face of the sea. So I do not blame the laggards. But we soon closed up on land to the right, Shōdōjima; by breakfast time we were passing it, and thence we entered upon a run during which one had time and scope to admire not less the beauties of Nature than the coolness, the confidence and the skill with which man threads his way among the obstructions with which she has hedged them round Unfortunately under the conditions which have been imposed in this ship, forbidding the presence of any passenger on the bridge (a regulation which of course is absolutely necessary) it was impossible to view the surroundings comprehensively. At one moment an island would be seen close at hand, but while we scanned it, half a dozen with, ten chances to one, a lighthouse—cocked jauntily on a knoll or nestling humbly at the foot of a scarred bluff—to enhance their interest glided past on the other side of the ship. However, it was with something of a sense of relief that one at length emerged from this bewildering succession of peaks and pools and ran in open water. It was a curious sensation to look over the ship's side and see the side rips and over falls that marked the not remote presence of otherwise hidden dangers, or note the great patches of light and dark that sprang into being under the beams of the sun. At other points the course lay very near the islands on both sides, but it was not till we reached Mihara Strait, that the navigation became really intricate.

A little before noon we were called together to listen to several official reports that had been received from Tokyo the previous evening. These were read by Mr. K. Nabeshima, of the Foreign Office, in excellent English, and as most of us had only seen summaries in the Kobe paper they were highly interesting and were listened to with great attention, Capt. Takarabe assisting Mr. Nabeshima in pointing out on charts the various points mentioned. I will not waste time by repeating information which I have no doubt has already been placed before your readers. One report which, as may be understood, has not failed to receive our attention refers to the sweeping of Talien Bay for mines. The first stage of these operations has been concluded and 70 mines have been destroyed; the second stage has now been begun. It was added that there are still mines to be found in the Yellow Sea, where 30 have already been blown up. These, it was explained, seem now to be floating into the Gulf of Pechili, carried thither by wind and tide. The 4th torpedo flotilla had found one north of the Iron Islands (which lie off Cape Collison and are actually in the Gulf of Pechili) and some thirty are believed to be still off Louisa Bay. Though no one supposes that the authorities are going to handle this expedition with anything but the most tender and protecting solicitude yet the presence of these little objects just supplies the spice of adventure without which this trip might to some have appeared very insipid.

At noon we were placed 10 miles from Mihara Straits (90 miles from Kobe since 4 a.m.) and an hour later the ship, at reduced speed, was threading her way between the various members of this truly picturesque archipelago. I have said that I do not intend to attempt an adequate description or indeed any description of the scenery of the Inland Sea. I will leave that to the gentlemen whose pictures will doubtless be highly appreciated by the illustrated papers abroad and to the other gentlemen who, I am confident, will do it justice so far as the English, the French, the German, the Japanese and the other languages represented on board this ship can be drawn upon for that purpose.

But I will say this: that I think it is possible to go a bit too far in praise of the Inland Sea. I have seen very little lake scenery in the course of my life but I have gazed upon such scenery in the West of Scotland—though not, to my lasting regret, upon the finest portion of the Trossachs—and I do not think there is any comparison possible. I say so because I have heard and read attempts to make comparisons, and I repeat that I think none is possible. A great deal of the land that one passes in traversing the Inland Sea is disfigured by scars and denudations which suggest that the hills are carrying last winters's yellow snow, and there are too many small islands of the beehive type. But since writing the above we have arrived at Itsukushima and are now, 5.30 p.m., anchored off the Sacred Island on which tree-cutting is forbidden, and freely confess that it is an exception. But it is delightful to pass along them, now near enough to see boats drawn up on beautiful strands, now far enough distant to give the eye relief till a fresh series of pictures has been prepared and there is another kaleidoscopic rush (which no one pair of human eyes can appreciate any more than the longest pair of human ears can experience happiness from the simultaneous performance of twenty bands), and this again is succeeded by a period of much needed repose. It is very fine, but there should be no idle comparisons.

We will let the Inland Sea go at that. There is a proposal to form a pool with reference to the fall of Port Arthur. The first provision to regulate this pool states that "the date of fall shall be understood to be such date as is published in the official report of Headquarters." Having recorded the probable date with his signature each voter is to place his vote in a box and the successful guesser or he who guesses nearest the actual date shall take the whole pool. The votes must be made before we reach Kure but persons wishing to amend their original votes may do so up to the moment of anchoring in Saseho on payment of *yen* 2 additional. The ballot box is to be opened on the day of the ship's departure from Saseho. H.

(To THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL.")

SIR,—As your readers are already aware, we reached Miyajima at 5.30 p.m. on June 14th after a remarkably fine passage through the Inland Sea. The verdure-clad hills of Itsukushima and its striking general outlines had for some time been visible to us before we found ourselves passing its eastern side, and opening out the ever-varying contours that present themselves when approaching it in this direction. The evening was splendid, the Sacred Isle could not have been shown in a finer setting, and when our ship rounded to the westward under starboard helm and, passing along the shores of the island, gradually disclosed those features which have for centuries been familiar to the minds of the Japanese people,—and when at length the well-known *torii*, at that moment considerably distant from sea, came fully into view and one could count the ascending peaks and note the islet's characteristic aspect, the passengers were invited to the lower bridge to view from this commanding situation their truly picturesque surroundings. On their left a short quarter of a mile away lay Miyajima; on the right the eye ranged along the shores of the mainland almost from Ujina (invisible on the starboard quarter) past low promontories and remote mountains, by the beach where runs the railway line, westward to a point at which mainland and island seemed to meet. The air was benignly calm; the encircled sheet bore the finest ruffle upon its surface; the declining sun diffused a generous light upon islet, hill and sea and showed a scene of rarest beauty.

When the roar of our cable jarred the peaceful stillness our ship lay alone in the bay, but gradually what had been a speck in the distance grew into a launch, then another hove in sight and the passengers were all agog to get ashore. Before six o'clock most of us were being landed, and after the purchase of some picture postal cards and a visit to the Post Office I deemed it expedient to see some of the sights of this famous locality—and that at once, because darkness was not far off and we were to leave for Kure at eight o'clock the following morning. I am sure now it would have been much better if I had returned straight to the ship. As I approached the confines of the temple I was pestered to take a guide. I engaged one who proved to be particularly loud voiced, and it was with difficulty that I could even make the acquaintance of a deer which, however, at length consented to feed from my hand. I will not abuse the confidence of your readers by reciting the information which they, as well as I, can obtain from guide-books. But I saw the great *Torii* which stands 600 feet to seaward of the shrine and which at the time of my visit was being surrounded by the rising tide; I can believe that it is 50 feet high, but I am quite unable to understand what is meant by the statement that its "circumference" is 33 feet. I saw the Shrine dedicated to Tenten and walked along its galleries (said to be 900 feet in length, spreading on both sides along the shore with the sea at high water flowing underneath); I saw the dancing stage and oratory; I saw the deer; I saw the pigeons—and I thought I had seen enough. So I paid off the cicerone whose voice I could not subdue, and having duly delivered up backsheesh at the temple receipt of custom—in the form of a sum which provoked much comment of an apparently unfavourable character—I came away. I met by the roadside a very handsome deer and I saw a very unhappy stork which growled doubtfully at me when I accosted it. I was glad to get into a sampan and interested to learn that its crew was 62 years of age; that he came of a family of fishers, and that with the exception of a brief visit to an adjoining province he had never left Miyajima.

We left Mayajima, according to schedule, at 8 o'clock the following morning and arrived at Kure after an hour and a half's steaming among islands, passing Ujina on the way. Before the anchor was down launches were alongside and we were at once sent on shore and landed. The day was cloudy, moist and warm, and we had been advised to wear our lightest clothing. It was well for those who adopted this advice.

The naval port dockyard and arsenal of Kure lie on a practically land locked neck of water. Entering from the north-west one has on his left the town, consisting chiefly of the houses of the workpeople and their families and the shops of the merchants who supply their wants, next along the land to the south-east come the port barracks, the submarine mine sheds, and storehouses, then the docks, then the various shops and slips connected with the shipbuilding department and then the arsenal proper. Reckoning the distance from the north-west gate of the works and including the foundry in course of erection at the east end the frontage cannot be less than three miles, and is probably a good deal more. A second town lies along the lower slopes of the high hills that rise behind the works and the extent of the latter in a landward direction is revealed by the great yellow slices that have been cut out of the descending ridges.

We were received on disembarking by members of the staff of Rear-Admiral Uchida. We passed through several sheds in which we saw spherical contact mines, some to carry charges of 600 lbs. of gun-cotton. Passing out into a broad well-made road fringed with acacia and other trees we went to the barracks and drill grounds, having as we went a view of field gun drill by parties of blue jackets. This was taking place on a common very unevenly covered with tussocks of grass. The drill that was going on inside the barrack grounds was of the most interesting kind. The men that we saw had been under training only since the first of this month, yet they presented a very smart appearance. There were, it is true, small squads still struggling with the first motions, but the great majority were well advanced and going through the different exercises with alertness and precision. The practical character of the training which is given to the men of the Japanese navy was exemplified to us with force and conviction. We saw a model marine engine with its accessories—on a practical, not a toy scale — at which stokers are instructed in their work by actual demonstration. More, proceeding to a shed from which issued sounds suggesting the shifting of many tons of coal, we saw a squad undergoing training in the art of feeding furnaces. It was a sight well worth witnessing. Each man stood before an oblong wooden hopper with a furnace like door way. By him lay a load of stones, averaging the size of a hen's egg; and at a signal each sprang at his heap with a shovel and fed the stuff rapidly into his box. That the men had been well taught how to make their muscles do the most in the least time was evident from the vigour and confidence with which they kept the imitation fuel going through the apertures, and that their hearts were in their work could easily be inferred from the spring and alertness of their movements. Blacksmiths were also seen at the same kind of drill, and in short all the operations in which men may be engaged on board ship were reproduced here. It was impossible to avoid the reflection that such a course of training must vastly enhance the value of men when drafted on service. They are not merely told how to do a thing, or shown how to do it, but they are made to perform the various acts comprising it, and so the thing is imprinted on their memory. But we were to have more evidence of Japanese thoroughness before the day was done.

H.

(TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN [illegible]

SIR,—I have written in my previous letter of the profound impression made upon us by witnessing the process of transforming the raw material at Kure into sailors, stokers and so forth for His Imperial Majesty's navy. There were among the visitors men who are entitled by reason of their experience to speak with some authority on the subject, and they declared that in no country of the world is the education, or training, whichever word may seem the more appropriate, of the common naval rank and file carried on with such thorough-going concentration of practical as distinct from theoretical methods. We have seen so much of the deepest interest during the past two days (I am writing this on the evening of June 16th at Miyajima, whither we have been ordered to return in consequence, as we understand, of the presence of the Vladivostock cruisers off the neighbouring coast) and have had so little time between whiles to "write up" what has been shown to us that I cannot, though I could certainly dwell at much greater length upon it, give more space to this matter. I have said enough, I hope, to show that no one need fear that Japanese bluejackets after undergoing such moulding into shape for a few months, even a few weeks, will prove deficient in those qualities that have distinguished their brothers in that arm of the service since the war broke out.

It was a long walk back along the hard road, past the point where we had landed to the shipbuilding section where we saw the two docks, the larger one some 480 feet in length and capable of taking in the largest battle-ship or cruiser now in the Japanese navy. A third dock of even larger dimensions is projected and may be commenced in the present year. Considerable attention was given to a torpedo boat on the stocks. The construction of this, a first class craft 150 feet in length, is progressing at such a rate that it is well to remember how large a draft of hands have been set to work on her, other construction jobs having now been finished. They started on her frames little over a month ago; her keel was laid the day before we saw her, yet two-thirds of her frames seemed to be already in position. The officials were sanguine of having her completed three months from date. After looking at the machine shops for the torpedo boat yard, we embarked in launches and went to the arsenal landing close to the 100 ton crane used in shipping and dismounting guns and other heavy material. There we had tiffin, after the members of the party had signed their names in a book and after a repast for which much walking about in the open and through shops where the heat was most distressing, had amply prepared us.

After tiffin the party were conducted past the uncompleted building in which is to be placed the armour-plate finishing machinery and opposite it the long range of Babcock and Wilcox boilers which are to supply steam to the engines intended to drive the electric motors for the armour finishing plant. Here also were seen the foundations being prepared for the armour rolling mill,—part of the immense blocks composing which were already in position, while close by two pile drivers with over 50 men tailed on to the ropes of each were establishing a firm substructure. Passing on to the foundry, we saw a 25 ton ingot cast. There are four furnaces each of 25 tons capacity, so that the contents of one were sufficient to form the charge. The company watched this operation as closely as was possible, but in consequence of the blinding glare from the molten metal while it ran out little could be seen up to the time [illegible] the huge bucket started in the grasp of a travelling crane [illegible] the place prepared to receive it and to transform into [illegible] Perhaps the most interesting of all the operations which we witnessed were those that now followed —I mean the construction of guns. I wonder how many of the visitors had any idea before they entered the gun and shell making factories, what the capacity of Kure is in this direction, and how many guns and what quantity of shells there are in stock. The first object that we saw on entering the great shops was a hundred ton steel ingot which is to form the bed-plate of the new armour rolling mill. We saw guns in all stages of manufacture, much interest being taken by the naval attachés in a new 8-in. piece as well as in the 6-in. guns brought under their notice.

Rear-Admiral Yamanouchi in person conducted the sight-seers round the shops, and the naval attachés examined with much interest his improved breech mechanism which, so far as I could gather, eliminated one motion that the other systems all retain. It is on the interrupted screw principle, but more than this it was impossible to make out as the group round the Admiral when he gave his explanation was large. Moreover the programme provided for the visitors was very much too long. I found it impossible to make a note during the whole time we were ashore except about tiffin time when one had a few moments leisure to arrange in the mind what one had seen. Also, the correspondents had not been told that they could take notes freely and there was some natural hesitation about displaying notebooks under the noses of the officials. It is not, I know, the custom when Government establishments of this kind are visited to indulge in ostentatious note-taking, but I had hoped to be able to write in terms a little less general than those I am now employing. It would be ridiculous, of course, to describe at any length the very interesting processes of shell manufacture, the production of cartridge cases for fixed ammunition; suffice it to say that the experts seemed to be surprised at the completeness of the plant and the efficiency of the staff. We stood by while a 25 ton ingot to be used in the building of a large gun was squeezed into the desired shape by the hydraulic 8,000 ton press; we followed shells from their beginning in the rude form of ingots, battered by huge hammers the shocks of which jarred the ground, or of rods which were drawn under screw threaded shafts till we found them finished projectiles; we saw plates turned out into cartridge cases ready for filling, and we passed through buildings in which were great stores of both. The processes of torpedo manufacture were also with much courtesy exposed to us, and after threading our way among, I should say hundreds of partially and wholly completed engines of this kind we were taken to the torpedo testing station, and assembled on the observation platform, at the end of the pier, from which the torpedoes are lowered and floated into the discharging chambers. The targets were moored at regular distances one beyond another out in the bay and the first shot was fired at 2,000 yards. From above the torpedo could be seen as it flashed out into the blue depths leaving a white track which at once rose to the surface as a boiling wake like that which a small steamer creates, though without the diverging waves that are seen in the latter case. The missile went almost straight, a slight deflection to the left, however, becoming apparent as it passed under the nearer pontoons. Yet it reached its mark (50 metre long to represent a section of a warship) with a considerable margin to spare. A second shot was made immediately, the torpedo in this case travelling at a higher speed and for a shorter distance—1,000 yards. The direction was almost perfectly correct and the passage of the assailant was signalled at the centre of the target. The torpedoes are, we believe, tested up to 2,500 yards at low and 3,000 yards at high water.

So ended our visit to the Kure Arsenal. As a concession to the wishes of those who love figures I may say that 15,000 men are employed in connection with this gigantic establishment—2,500 in the engineering department, 3,500 in the construction department, and 9,000 in the arsenal.

I cannot leave the subject without expressing my thanks to Mr. Y. Mizutani, Chief [illegible] Arsenal; Comman[illegible] (who, by the way, [illegible] General Arisaka, the inventor of the field gun called after him) whose breech block has been adopted in the Navy, and to the best of my judgment presents distinct features of efficiency, Mr. Matsumi, Chief Ordnance Engineer, and other officers whose names I do not know but who in the most obliging way answered the many questions addressed to them by the foreign visitors.

In the evening Captain Takarabe, the officers and the passengers on the *Manshu Maru* landed, and in a downpour of rain, which unfortunately lasted all night, proceeded to the Naval Club and were entertained by Vice-Admiral Y. Shibayama, Commander-in-Chief of the Station. After a capital dinner the company (the officers of the Kure establishments being present in large numbers to meet the Admiral's guests) listened to the music of the Naval Band, one of the best in Japan, and returned to the ship rather late after having spent an interesting day and an enjoyable evening. H.

(To the Editor of the "Japan Mail.")

Sir,—My last letter* which I posted at this place (Mitsugahama) this afternoon (June 18th) described at some length the Naval College at Edajima and reported our arrival at Miyajima in accordance with instructions from Tokyo. Though it was exceedingly annoying to have our voyage interrupted in this fashion we were all greatly pleased to find ourselves once more off the Sacred Isle, particularly as the hour of our departure for Mitsugahama had been fixed for 1 p.m. on the following day (the 17th), which arrangement permitted of some sight-seeing. Having, in consequence of the long programmes prepared for us at Kure and Edajima, fallen behind with these letters, I found it impossible to go ashore except in the evening of our arrival, but a member of the party who had landed overnight and had climbed to the highest point of the island assures me that the view is most enchanting. Starting after breakfast he got up in about an hour and a half. Though I did not ascend Mizen I had a treat that I am sure was not inferior to his—I rose early enough to see the sun get up. None but myself stirred on board the ship. The waters of the bay were as smooth as glass; Itsukushima towered above us a black mass in the fast dissolving darkness that had begun to reveal its serrated outlines; along the shore above the houses of Miyajima village there lay thickening lines of faint blue smoke, which gradually crept round the base of the island in both directions; a white object inshore revealed itself against the shadow of the hills as the sail of a silent junk; a cock crew in his wicker prison aft; the yellow clouds away to the eastward were diffused with a soft golden glow; a point of red appeared; and while I looked at my watch the sun was rising. If my life depended upon my stating the exact time at which I examined my watch these letters would come to a close now. I could mention what I suppose to have been the time but I might be proved in the wrong and that would be disconcerting. As I looked, on the surface of the sea between me and the quickening sky there appeared a pathway consisting of stepping stones of patches of light and in the middle of one of them, away off the north east point of Itsukushima, a solitary black rock projected itself into the shimmering light; sounds came from the town, from a launch that made its appearance to the westward; the junk, which [illegible] to be a schooner, moved slowly out towards the opposite shore towed by a lonely man in a solitary boat; her one sail suddenly became transfigured as it came out of the shadow; the blue smoke spread and rose; and when I looked again the sun was shining on the white ends of houses and on the great *torii*.

We left Miyajima at 1 p.m. on the 17th for Mitsugahama. We had already learned of the attack upon the *Hitachi* and *Sado Maru* and it was rumoured that the *Tosa Maru* had also been in danger. You may therefore judge of the sensation on board when about half an hour after starting, a steamer hove in sight ahead and, as she came nearer, her signal flags showed her to be the *Tosa Maru.* We cheered her and waved our handkerchiefs as she passed us on her way to Ujina. The fine weather which we had enjoyed hitherto carried us across the Inland Sea and we dropped anchor off Mitsugahama about 4 p.m. Some of our people went off to the hot springs of Dōgo the same evening, but it had plenty of hotels and few other attractions. These met a party from the ship at Matsuyama the following morning, when it was raining cats and dogs. Jinrikishas had been provided for them and they were taken at once to the Army Club where, after a cup of tea, they started out to see the Russian prisoners now confined in various parts of the city. The sick and wounded were found in a hospital in the Castle grounds, where there are 8 officers, 2 non-commissioned officers, and 35 soldiers. They were attended by Japanese Red Cross nurses; the men lay on the mats and the officers (one of whom was passing his time in water colour sketching) had camp-beds but were nearly all sitting up or walking about. One is a colonel, a veteran of Plevna. All looked very comfortable, had papers to read and tobacco to smoke. The officers were a fine looking set of men, but of the rank and file here and in the other quarters it must be said that they displayed marks of a very low order of intelligence. At the Kanjensha temple hospital there are 8 non-commissioned officers and 17 men wounded; at the Rempei-ba (parade ground) 11 non-commissioned officers and 113 soldiers, these being the wounded in the city. The healthy prisoners consist of 15 officers, 11 non-commissioned officers, and 153 soldiers quartered in the city hall; 1 non-commissioned officer and 45 men in the Dairinji temple; and 9 non-commissioned officers, 100 men and 4 non-combatants in the Horinji; the grand total being 23 officers, 42 non-commissioned officers, 523 soldiers and 4 non-combatants.

These prisoners were mostly captured at the Yalu and Nanshan. The officers are permitted to procure their food from outside or to employ Russian cooks; the soldiers are well fed but said they missed greatly the black bread to which they were accustomed. Questioned in French and Russian they declared that they entertained no animosity towards the Japanese; in fighting they had simply obeyed orders. One officer asked how long they would be likely to remain there, and fervently expressed the hope that the war would be over soon. This gentleman spoke in the highest terms of the Japanese army. He said the Japanese successes were due to the fact that they always had overwhelming numbers where they wanted them, that they were able to concentrate great strength rapidly upon a particular point. The prisoners wore the uniforms of several different regiments, nearly all Siberian. They seemed very well contented with the treatment they were receiving.

The only complaints, if indeed complaints they can be called, which the men have to make is that they are not allowed to go out without guard and that they have nothing to do. Of course no relaxation can be made in the first case because the authorities have to protect both the populace and the prisoners. As to the second I am informed that it is in contemplation to utilize the labour of the prisoners in connection with proposed improvements on the neighbouring harbour of Takashima, paying the men a small wage.

It would doubtless have been interesting to obtain access to the Castle of Matsuyama, which was built by Hideyoshi's General, Kato Yoshiakira, and after the latter's removal to Aidzu passed into the possession of the Hisamatsu family, where it remained till the general surrender of feudal fiefs to the Government. But permission to see its interior could not be obtained. We left Mitsugahama at 9 p.m. on Saturday, June 18th, for Moji. H.

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* The letter referred to by our correspondent has failed to reach the office of the *Japan Mail.*—Editor.

CRICKET.

Y. C. and A. C. v. Tokyo.

The opening cricket match of the Yokohama season—the other two being abandoned owing to rain—proved an especially interesting game. It took place on Thursday afternoon between the Y. C. and A. C. and an eleven from Tokyo, the Captain of the latter being Mr. Geo. Barclay, of the British Legation.

It may be of interest to note that the first match between the local Club and Tokyo was played in 1883, when Mr. C. M. Duff arranged the match and captained the visiting eleven. Among those playing for Tokyo were: A. McMillan (of the N.Y.K.), the Rev. J. M. Knox, R. de B. Layard (of the British Legation), E. A. Griffiths (now Vice-Consul at Kobe), and F. H. Trevithick. McMillan was a splendid bowler, and in this first match brought off two magnificent catches at short slip. The game was won by the Tokyo eleven by 11 runs, the victory being mainly due to excellent fielding. Duff alone of the original Eleven is still playing in Yokohama, the rest are widely scattered, and some have joined the great majority.

In the match on Thursday the Tokyo team went first to the wickets and played a very good game. Their batting certainly was in many instances a splendid display of good, sound cricket, and judging from the style shown it would appear that most of the players have had the benefit of Public School training. One member of the team, Mr. F. Thomas, has played for his county at home, and his off play was especially good; indeed, the batting generally was decidedly high-class. When we consider that there is no ground in Tokyo, and consequently no chance of practice, the form shown was really most creditable. It must be said, however, that the local team was, as usual, weak in bowling. Argent, however, did exceedingly well, capturing six wickets for 18 runs.

The Yokohama batsmen did not show up very well, only two of them getting into double figures. Piggott brought off three splendid catches in the slips, and Hutchison also distinguished himself with the ball. The local team were finally dismissed for a total of 96, Tokyo thus gaining a well deserved victory by 35. We would like to suggest that in future arrangements might be made by the Captain of Cricket whereby a complete bowling analysis could be kept. It is a distinct disappointment not to be able to record the trundling feats of the visiting eleven, beyond the meagre statement given below. Scores:—

TOKYO.

Hon. L. Griscom, b. Mollison	20
Capt. Hutchison, c. and b. Mollison	16
G. Piggott c. Abbott b. Edwards	14
F. Thomas, l.b.w. Argent	37
Capt. Hart Synnot, b. White	8
H. T. Rice, b. Argent	9
Hugh Horne, c. and b. Argent	16
Major Crawford, b. Argent	1
W. M. Royds, b. Argent	1
G. Barclay, b. Argent	2
G. Morgan, not out	3
Extras	4
Total	131

Y. C. AND A. C.

F. E. White, b. Hutchison	22
G. H. Rolland, c Crawford, b. Piggott	7
C. M. Duff, c. Hutchison, b. Piggott	2
J. M. Mollison, c. Pigott, b. Griscom	7
E. W. Maitland, b. Hutchison	7
H. Argent, c. Piggott b. Thomas	9
E. B. S. Edwards, b. Hutchison	8
F. J. Abbott, b. Hutchison	5
L. J. Healing, c. and b. Hutchison	10
W. Y. Showler, c. Piggott b. Griscom	0
E. J. Libeaud, not out	5
Extras	8
Total	96

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WAR CHEST.

Although the Government has not encouraged, has indeed actively discouraged, voluntary contributions to the war chest by individuals, we read in Tokyo journals that the sums offered in this way aggregate 1,581,848 *yen*, out of which total 1,223,362 *yen* have been accepted. The donors are 243,994 persons.

SATURDAY'S YACHT RACES.

Up to noon on Saturday the wind was very light, and at times hardly perceptible, but by the time for the 39 Raters to start on their 20½ mile course it had increased to a fresh blow from a southerly direction, and later on during the afternoon it had worked up to a gale, which caused a lot of grief in the various classes. When the five minutes gun was fired for the first race, the three big yachts were all carrying full sail. *Mary* was first over the line, close on gunfire, then *Kingfisher* with *Maid Marion* on her lee quarter. Shortly after getting outside the breakwater, the *Maid* started part of her rigging, and had to return. *Kingfisher* kept on after *Mary*, gaining a little when the latter's topsail was handed, and main halliards carried away. At this point it looked as if *Kingfisher* would win, but she too had trouble coming, her jib split, and blew to pieces. This spoiled her chances, and she left *Mary* to complete the course alone. After passing the Widow buoy, the hook of *Mary's* throat halliard block broke, letting the mainsail down on deck with a crash. *Mary* finished at 5:18:35, the return journey from Nakane buoy being covered in 40 minutes.

The Cruising Class started at 2 p.m. *Asagao* and *Kathleen* with a reef, and the others under full lower sail. *Nina* was first over the line, with *Asagao* and *Spray* a few seconds later, *Daimyo*, *Kathleen* and *Wanderer* last. *Asagao* set a small spinnaker and took the lead in the run out of the harbour, but was passed on the reach to Tsurumi mark-boat, rounding which the order was *Spray*, with *Nina* close up, some distance ahead of *Daimyo*, *Asagao* close to the latter, and *Kathleen* bringing up the rear, *Wanderer* having given up. In the beat to the Lightship, *Spray* kept the lead, with *Nina* sticking to her persistently, *Asagao* making a good race with *Daimyo*, and passing her eventually before the light ship. As soon as she was clear of Honmoku, *Nina* held inshore past the cliffs. *Spray* kept on starboard tack and her jib halliard block carrying away she gave up. *Nina* was first round the Widow buoy, and started for the run back to the Lightship with the race well in hand bar accidents, but when off Honmoku her tiller broke off short in the rudder head, and the yacht was driven on to the shoal extending from the beach. *Asagao* was now the only boat left in the race, and rounding the Widow buoy stood on the starboard tack well out into the Bay, to avoid running dead before the wind in such a nasty sea, which is very trying work. Her skipper therefore did not see that *Nina* was ashore, and thought that he had secured second place only instead of being the only yacht in the class to finish, as *Daimyo* and *Kathleen* had retired from the contest. On the run to the Lightship *Asagao*'s mainsail was lowered, and proceeding under jib alone, her skipper took in two more reefs in the mainsail, eventually beating up the harbour to the finishing line under close reefed mainsail only. *Asagao* takes first prize and two record points in the Cruising Class race, and *Mary* the same in the 39 Raters' race.

When the news of *Nina's* predicament reached town Messrs. Olsen and Martin interested themselves in getting assistance sent, and the Harbour authorities kindly despatched a tug boat, on which Mr. Laffin went to superintend the rescue. Meanwhile, *Nina*, after bumping heavily for about two hours, had got off, and was coming in under staysail. The tug-boat met her off Cook's yard, and towed her in from there.

The Mosquito Yacht Club had a race over the Lightship course, and *Pele* soon [illegible] the lead, which she retained to the finish, crossing the line about 4 minutes ahead of *Sunbeam*. *Winsome* was a close third, *Vixen* fourth and *Yugao* last. The first prize for this race, the Pele Cup, goes to *Sunbeam*, the second boat.

Larks Nos. 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13 and 15 started at 2.45 to race over Course No. 1, inside the harbour. Even there the wind was to much for such small craft and two only got round the course. No. 11 finished at 4:7:45, taking first prize and two record points. No. 12 finished at 4:17:58 and took second prize and one point.

The second race of the series recently inaugurated by the owners of the "Lark" class of the Yokohama Yacht Club was started on Wednesday afternoon, but owing to lack of wind the contest resolved itself into a drifting match and was not finished. The race was, therefore, re-sailed on Thursday afternoon. There was a moderate breeze, and ten boats stated. No. 10 got the lead and was first round the inner buoy, being closely followed by No. 1. At the Conical Buoy No. 10 still had the lead, No. 1 being close up and the remainder of the squadron in a bunch near by. On the beat home, however, No. 5 drew ahead and finally won by a short distance from No. 13. The order of the boats at the finishing line was:—Nos. 5, 13, 2, 1, 11, 10, 15, 8, 4, 6.

THE YOKOHAMA CHRISTIAN BLIND SCHOOL.

A pleasant afternoon was spent by the pupils and friends of the Blind School in the chapel at 221 Bluff, on Saturday, June 18th. The very inclement weather kept some away, but those who came were greatly interested in the reading, writing, arithmetic and geography lessons, the massage and other exercises, which illustrated the daily tasks of the blind in their school.

At the close Mrs. Van Petten gave some facts about the institution. The school was founded, she said, by Mrs. Draper, and carried on as a private enterprise by that good lady as long as she lived. At her death, she left it to her son, the Rev. G. F. Draper, under whose care it prospered more and more; this year it enrolls twenty-three pupils. It is a day school, not an asylum; the small boarding department connected with it, is for the few who come from outside. The school receives no assistance, except with regard to rent. As most of the blind make their living by practising massage that important branch was added to the usual one of reading and writing. Mr. Draper has been financially responsible for the enterprise, though kind friends have contributed from time to time; the cost is about thirty *yen* per pupil per annum, which amount is spent for rent, teachers, and apparatus. Mr. Draper went to America in April, not expecting to return to Yokohama, leaving the school in the care of Miss Slate, of 221, Bluff, M. E. Mission, and providing funds to continue it until this end of this year; after that time he cannot promise more than half the sum which the school with its present number of pupils demands, so the future of the institution, which has made life so much happier for so many by teaching them to "see" with their fingers, is uncertain. It is proposed to ask help from the city, as there is no other work done here for this afflicted class, but experience with the charity hospital shows that frequent asking and long waiting must precede any possible help from that quarter. The missionary society will also be asked for a grant, but their answer can not be predicted. In the meantime, if any person, school, society, or club should feel inclined to take the support of a scholarship at thirty *yen* per year, that would be a most welcome assistance at a most critical time. Certainly the school will not be closed, unless it absolutely must be.

After these remarks, Miss Moulton sang with even more then her usual sweetness and power the grand old hymn, "Jesu, lover of my soul." The twenty blind people present, with their teachers, than repaired to a large Japanese room to enjoy their tea and cakes, and an hour of games; while the guests patronized the refreshment and is not known so well, that, though the exact amount was surely provided for. [illegible] for next year pupils, and their swift skilful fingers were much admired, while they, on their part, were much encouraged by the attention shown them. We certainly hope this worthy enterprise may find all the financial support needed to make it a permanent institution.

BASEBALL.

The match game between the Keio University and the Y.C. & A.C. teams was played on Saturday, but owing to a severe injury received by Danaher, the Y.C. & A.C. pitcher, which retired him, both Captains agreed to call it a practice game. The first three innings, while Dannaher and Thompson were doing the honours for the locals, no better game could be witnessed, the score ending 2 to 0 in favour of the home team. Several times the Keio team succeeded in getting men on bases but the effective work of the battery supported by the in-field prevented any score. Dr. Garton secured first base on a hit, Jenks was presented with a base on balls, and with two men out Mollison by a timely hit over second base brought the men in, scoring two runs. Score at end of third inning, 2 to 0. After this the game was a comedy of errors but was good practice in batting for the local team, which has improved since their last game. The Y.C. and A.C. will play two games on the 4th July, one in the morning with the U.S. Naval Hospital team, and one in the afternoon with the Keio University.

The baseball match between the U.S. Hospital team and a team from the U.S.S. *Annapolis*, played at Honmoku on Sunday resulted in a win for the visitors by 11 runs to 6. It was a good game, but the Hospitallers had more than a fair share of hard luck.

THE RIGHT AND WRONG OF THINGS.

[What the Wise Man Said to His Boy.]

He cuts his barber when they meet
Each other in the crowded street,
But when he's in the barber's chair
The barber does the cutting. There
Are things that we may do when we
Don bathing suits beside the sea
That would be followed by disgrace
If done in any other place.
My lady's ball dress, cut so low,
Would be most shocking, as we know,
If in the morning she should wear
It in the market place. With bare,
Unlovely legs the sprinter runs
Before the eager, gentle ones,
Who gather at the track to cheer;
We'd run him in should he appear
At church in such a rig as that—
It all depends on "where you're at."
What's wrong in one place may be right
Some otherwhere, by day or night;
In Newport it may be no sin
To hug another's wife; men win,
Unblemished, on the Board of Trade
The money other men have made.
But if at cards they got the same
We'd look upon it as a shame:
The right or wrong of things, my son,
Depends upon where they are done.

—*Chicago Record-Herald.*

THE LAW COURTS.

CLAIM ON SHARES.

The hearing of this case, in which Mr. R. J. Ward claims *yen* 8,515.60 against B. Sho, a sharebroker, was resumed on June 21st in the Yokohama District Court, before Judge Danno.

Mr. Takizawa, the manager of the Tokyo branch of the Sumitomo Bank, Osaka, was examined as a witness. He stated that Mr. B. Sho did business with the bank and had a current account, being registered with the bank and his name being written by himself and a stamp duly affixed.

Having produced a paper which, the witness name and [illegible] stamp was to be used on cheques drawn by the depositor at the bank, but the witness did not know whether it was used by B. Sho on his promissory notes.

Plaintiff's counsel asked the Court to compare the stamp produced by the witness with that affixed on the Exhibit No. A-2 and 3. The Court decided to summon an expert to examine the different documents.

Counsel then presented to the Court further documents as evidence, after which defendant's Counsel asked the Court to examine K. Shoji and M. Muramatsu, who participated in the share business of Mr. Ward, as witnesses, and to investigate the statement given by B. Sho and M. Muramatsu at the office of the Public Procurator, when they were examined there on suspicion of fraud, which charge had been lodged by Mr. Ward.

Plaintiff's counsel opposed the calling of these witnesses, saying that they were employees of defendant, but defendant's counsel held that they were carrying on business independently.

The court decided to examine Shoji and Muramatsu on June 28th at 10 a.m.

A ROBBER SENTENCED.

M. Kurosawa (27) who had been sentenced in the Urawa District Court to 13 years' penal servitude on a charge of robbery and murder, and who appealed in the Tokyo Appeal Court against the decision, was sentenced on June 20th in the latter Court to penal servitude for life. It appears that the man entered on the night of June 18th last the dwelling of a farmer, in Sugito, Saitama prefecture, and stole *sen* 30 and a silver watch and was about to run away when the accupant attempted to seize him. The thief having inflicted severe injuries on the farmer with a knife, escaped, but was later arrested by the Urawa police. The farmer subsequently died.

THE CAPTURED SHIP "ROSSIA."

The petition lodged by Mr. W. H. Gill, No. 74, Kobe, in the Saseho Prize Court against the captured steamer *Rossia* was dismissed on May 26th. The purport of the complaint, according to the *Official Gazette* of June 22nd, was that by request of the ship's owner, the petitioner supplied necessaries to the vessel during a period from Nov. 14th to Dec. 31st, 1903, when she was in Kobe, which stores and commission amounted to *yen* 18,116.91. Previous to her departure for Vladivostock, the petitioner received *yen* 3,043.51 from the shippers as the freight of their cargo. The freight was due to the ship's owner, so that it was reduced from the amount which the petitioner had paid on behalf of the owner, leaving a balance of *yen* 15,073.40. The petitioner contended that the preferential right to seize the ship should be his. She was, however, captured on Feb. 6th by the Japanese before the outbreak of war, so that she should be delivered to him; or otherwise the Japanese should compensate him for the damage he had suffered.

THE CAPTURED STEAMER "MUKDEN."

The same day, in the Saseho Prize Court, a decision was rendered in an action lodged by Mr. C. E. Boedinghaus, Nagasaki, petitioning for the release of sixty cases of glass-ware, etc., on the captured steamer *Mukden*, as well as compensation for the freight and marine insurance incurred on the foregoing cargo. The petitioner, it is reported by the *Official Gazette*, contended that the steamer was captured by the *Hei-yen*, on Feb. 6th off the Korean coast near Fusan, which is a neutral sea, so that the capture was illegal. The petition was, however, dismissed on the ground that the possessive right on the cargo had been transferred to the consignee of the enemy's country, that is to say, to be recognized as being the property of the enemy unless there is any evidence to stand against this decision.

CHARGE OF BIGAMY.

Mr. K. Tamaoki, the third son of Mr. H. Tamaoki, a wealthy merchant in Tokyo, has been prosecuted in the T[illegible]rict Court on a charge [illegible] is reported that he married Okuyama Kaoe (26) four years ago and that he recently married another woman. The first wife is still living.

CLAIM FOR ADVERTISING.

The hearing of this case, in which the Taikoku News Agency claims *yen* 313.23 against the Japan Super-Aeration Co., was resumed on June 22nd in the Yokohama District Court before Judge Nakanishi.

Defendants' Counsel gave an explanation as to Exhibit No. A-1 and 2 produced by plaintiff, and contended that defendants' firm did not identify the two letters as they are written in Japanese. But counsel admitted that the foreign firm had ordered its Japanese employee to send the letters to the News Agency. The contents of those letters are not remembered.

The hearing having been concluded, the Court declared that judgment would be delivered on June 27th at 9 a.m.

CLAIM ON THE H. & S. BANK.

In the Yokohama District Court, the hearing of the case in which Dhanamaal Chillaram, an Indian merchant, claims *yen* 300 from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, was resumed on June 23rd before Judge Danno.

Defendant's Counsel submitted to the Court four documents as evidence and gave a brief explanation as to the difference between *D-h-u* and *D-h-a* in the spelling of the name of plaintiff. Counsel further held that the contract for remitting three thousand *yen* by telegraph had been concluded in Hongkong, in which transaction the sender of the money described the name of the receiver in the application form as *D-h-u*, instead of *D-h-a*. The branch in Hongkong sent a telegram to its Yokohama office according to the form written by the money sender, and the Yokohama office was unable to find a gentleman with the spelling of *D-h-u* commencing his name. Though the remitting telegram was received here on Dec. 14th it was thus delayed till the 29th of the same month to find the proper receiver. The Yokohama office of the Bank accepted no responsibility for such a mistake as was made by the applicant at the original place. Even if it were supposed that the Bank is liable for such responsibility, the claim could not be lodged in the Yokohama Court as the contract had been made in Hongkong. In such case the Bank seems to be liable to pay interest to plaintiff for the period of delay in notifying him of the arrival of the telegraphic remittance. In order to make clear the nature of the banking business in case of the foregoing question being raised Counsel asked the Court for leave to examine Mr. K. Ishii, the vice-manager of the Yokohama branch of the First Bank, as an expert witness.

Plaintiff's counsel, having refused to admit the documents produced by the defendant Bank as evidence, asked the Court to examine Mr. Hoondamal, an Indian merchant, as a witness as to the business in silk goods.

The Court rejected the request of both parties to call the witnesses applied for, after which Counsel briefly addressed the Court.

The hearing having been concluded, the Court decided to give judgment on June 25th at 9 a.m.

PETITION OF THE FRENCH CONSUL.

In the Saseho Prize Court, two decisions were rendered on May 26th on the petition lodged by Mr. G. Goudareau, French Consul-in-charge at Nagasaki, petitioning for the release of a case of cargo containing Government documents, and ten cases containing perfumery, on board the Russian steamer *Mukden*, captured by the Japanese fleet. The petition as to the Government documents was allowed, but the perfumery was confiscated. It appears, according to the *Official Gazette* of June 23rd, that the ten cases of perfume had been transhipped from the S.S. *Cambodia* and the *Ernest Simons*, to the *Mukden* to be forwarded to Vladivostock, having been consigned to a French resident there, and that the goods in dispute had not belonged to any person of either of the belligerent countries. The Consul, the petitioner in connection with the goods, is not regarded as the proper person to protect the interests of his countryman, in accordance with Art. 16 of the Prize Law, and further the consignor is not residing in Japan. Consequently the petition as regarded the perfumery was dismissed.

PETITION OF MR. F. RINGER.

The same day, in the Saseho Prize Court, a decision was also delivered on an application lodged by Mr. F. Ringer, representing the East Asiatic Company, Shanghai, petitioning for the release of five cases containing paper and sundry goods on board the Russian steamer *Mukden*, captured by the Japanese fleet. The application was dismissed on the ground that the petitioner was not represented by a Japanese lawyer according to clause No. 1 of Art. 17 of the Prize Court Law.

RIFLE SHOOTING.

The Yokohama branch of the Omori Rifle Club brought off a very successful meeting on Sunday, as the following scores show:—

300 Yards. Open. (Lying) Ten shots.
1st G. Gilbert—540.
2nd L. Mottu—390.
3rd A. Baud—340.

300 Yards. Handicap. (Standing) Ten shots.
1st E. Eichelberg—score 70, handicap 14.6=84.6.
2nd G. Gilbert—score, 80, scratch=80.
3rd M. Schellenberg—70, scratch=70.

300 Yards. Handicape. (Lying) Ten Shots.
1st P. Gampert=score, 92, handicap 9.30=101.3.
2nd A. Dubourg—score 92, handicap 3.3=95.3.
3rd J. C. Hartland—score 84, Handicap 8.3=92.3.

500 Yards. Open. (Lying) Ten Shots.
1st L. Mottu—560.
2nd M. Schellenberg—420.
3rd G. Gilbert—410.

500 Yards. Handicap. (Lying) Ten shots.
1st A. Dubourg, score 45, hand. 3.3=48.3.
2nd G. Gilbert, score 48, scratch=48.
3rd L. Mottu, score 47, scratch=47.

Total Average.
(Only Handicap Targets) possible 250.
1st G. Gilbert, scratch, 218 points.
2nd P. Gampert, handicap 22.9 pts. 190=212.9
3rd L. Mottu, scratch, 203.

SOME AMERICAN TOPICS.

A bill has just been passed by the New York Legislature making it a misdemeanor for any one occupying the end seat on the entrance side of an open car who refuses to give way and take the inner seat, when requested.

The names decided upon for the war ships authorized at the last sesssion of the United States Congress are announced at the Navy Department as follows: The battleship *New Hampshire*, armoured cruisers *North Carolina* and *Montana*; scout ships *Chester*, *Birmingham* and *Salem*; colliers *Erie* and *Ontario*.

The transportation of the mails in Chicago will be conducted next fall through the subways built by the Illinois Tunnel Company under many of the streets of the city. These subways are to be specially equipped for the purpose, and it is said their use will result in a great saving in cost as compared with the present wagon delivery system.

Rev. Dr. Robert Collyer, the eminent New York divine, recently celebrated his eightieth birthday, when he declared he had never been sick a day in his life and gave the following sensible recipe for longevity: "Live a natural life; eat what you want and walk on the sunny side of the street." The man or woman who habitually seeks the shady side of the street may safely be set down as a chronic dyspeptic.

Nance O'Neil, the actress, has just purchased the famous old Brinley estate in Tyngsboro, on the Merrimac river, and will make it her summer home. Alterations are now being made in the colonial mansion for her occupancy. The property is part of the grant to Jonathan Tyng about 300 years ago, the grant at that time comprising all the territory northwest of the Merrimac river to beyond what is now known as Nanshua, in New Hampshire.

The most up-to-date elopement and pursuit has just been reported from New Jersey. The young couple took flight in a trolley car and the irate father gave chase in an automobile. The story is incomplete because it does not state which triumphed.

Dr. Anna E. Park, said to have been the first woman admitted to medical practice in New York, is dead at the age of 74. Three weeks before, when in perfect health, devoting herself to the care of a number of charity patients whom she had attended ever since her practical retirement several years ago, she visited an undertaking establishment and told the manager she wished to arrange for her funeral. The undertaker, who knew her, was startled. "You are perfectly well, doctor," he said, in protest over her hurry to select a coffin. "I am well now, but fear the end of my labour is near," replied the aged woman. She chose a casket and robe with care, and arranged the details for her funeral before leaving the shop.

Recently the medical journals of America were discussing a report that from one-third to one-fifth of the men employed in the New York Street Cleaning Department are suffering from tuberculosis, the inference being drawn that the occupation was exceedingly unhealthy. The report seems to have been founded on a misleading and erroneous basis. The metropolitan health officer now says that less than 2 per cent. of the men employed in the department are afflicted with consumption, and most of these had affected lungs before becoming street sweepers. Increased sickness among the street sweepers of late is attributed entirely to the unusual severity of the winter weather, and not to any peculiarity connected with their occupation.

Colonel Matthew Quay, the well-known Republican Senator of Pennsylvania, died at Beaver, Pa., on the afternoon of May 28th. Born in 1833, he entered political life in 1865 and soon became a most skilful party manager. Socially "Matt" Quay, as he was generally known, was an agreeable, unpretentious gentleman. As a politician he was said to be a sort of Talleyrand—strong in a certain finesse of party management. He was always a direct and silent worker, following the shortest course to attain the desired end and despising all claptrap and noise. It has been said that during his half-century of office-holding Quay, except in two cases, resigned each office only to take one higher in the scale.

A French locomotive which is being tested by the Pennsylvania Railroad was used on May 30 to draw the morning express of twelve cars from Camden to Atlantic City. It made the run on schedule time, seventy-five minutes, and in the afternoon repeated the run. It is expected that in a few days the locomotive will be tested on the sixty-minute train to Atlantic City, this being the fastest regular train in the country. Engineer Richard F. Doughty is in charge of the tests, and will make an exhaustive report upon the engine, especially upon the amount of fuel used, which is said to be less than the amount used by American engines. The locomotive has two sets of cylinders and two throttles. It has two driving wheels on each side, and small trucks run in front and aft of each driving wheel.

Wall-street is having a period of severe business depression and one result of it is that hundreds of clerks have been dismissed within two weeks. Men who have not known a day of idleness in a score of years now find themselves without employment and with no prospect of anything to do until the dawn of another day of prosperity. Retrenchment has been made throughout the Wall street district. Among the big brokerage concerns and banking houses the depression has been so pronounced that nearly all of them have found it necessary to reduce their working force. One of the largest operators on the stock exchange said on May 26 that on a conservative estimate he believes no fewer than 2,500 clerks and other employes had been dism[illegible] brokerage and banking houses in the last two [illegible] operator called attention to the fact that only about 100,000 shares were traded in that day and said there was no prospect of any improvement in business at present.

The report of the registry assessors for Montgomery county, Pa., for the last year shows that there has not been a birth in the district of Narbeth, or the lower district of Merion township, during the last twelve months. These two districts, suburban to Philadelphia and on the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, are the wealthiest rural districts in the United States. The population includes scores of millionaires, as the community is made up almost entirely of rich Philadelphia railroad men and merchants.

Henry Marr, a farmer, who lives near Columbus, Bartholomew County, Ind., is the centre man of the population of the whole United States. The census bureau has found that the exact centre of population at the census of 1900 was in latitude 39 degrees 9 minutes and 36 seconds north, longitude 85 degrees 48 minutes and 54 seconds west. If a person is desirous of visiting the spot a better idea of its location can be got by asking most any resident of Columbus. Almost invariably the answer to such a question will be: "Five miles southwest of Columbus in Hen Marr's barn lot." The centre was recently marked by a monument.

The trouble that young Robert Goelet recently encountered while driving his automobile, because he did not have $25 in his pocket with which to pay a fine for exceeding the speed-limit, recalls the experience of Senator Chauncey M. Depew a year or two ago. He went over to New York from Washington, and when he stepped off the ferry he discovered that he had not a cent in his pocket. He walked five or six blocks without meeting anybody he knew. At last he came to the office of J. Pierpont Morgan and entered. A few minutes later he emerged and met an intimate friend on the sidewalk. "I've just been in to touch my friend Morgan for a nickel to pay my car-fare uptown," he explained. "Did you get it?" his friend asked. "Oh, yes. He said he'd lend me half a dollar if I wanted it. But I didn't like to inconvenience him, so I just took the nickel."

A good hay farm in the Yukon Valley is a better paying proposition than an ordinary gold mine. This fact has been demonstrated by a Dawson freighter, who is farming a large tract of native hay at Gravel Lake, on the trail between Dawson and the Duncan district, Stewart river. Last Fall this man put in an immense quantity of fine hay, enabling him to bale more than 600 tons this Winter. Besides wintering his own large herd of stock, he has considerable feed for sale, receiving $140 a ton. At this price his crop was worth $84,000. He clears a profit of at least 100 per cent. Winter weather has not yet prevented continuous work. A crew of ten men has been employed and two six-mule teams to collect the bales and carry them to market. His entire crop was cut with scythes and handled in a primitive manner. Next season he will replace these methods with modern farming implements, greatly reducing the cost of handling the crop.

Last year the legislature of New York passed a law which provided that any person or persons who should publicly mutilate, defile, trample upon or by words or act cast contempt upon the American flag should be guilty of a misdemeanor. Another provision of the act prohibited the use of the flag or of any representation of it for advertising purposes. The latter provision has just been declared unconstitutional by the New York Court of Appeals in the case of McPike vs the People. McPike was convicted under the provision against the use of the flag for advertising purposes, but the Court of Appeals set aside the conviction. In its opinion, written by Chief Justice Parker, the court said that the statute in express terms applied as well to articles manufactured and in existence, when it was lawful to manufacture them and have them in possession, as to those thereafter manufactured or acquired. It attempted, therefore, to [illegible] thereof was [illegible], and, whether the value powerless to effectuate such a [illegible] legislature was of the statute as aimed to bring it about was void.

According to an article in the *World's Work*, there was an excess of gold exports over gold imports into the United States in 1860, 1864, 1868, 1872, 1876, 1884, 1892, 1896 and 1900; in other words, in every year of a presidential election, but two, since the beginning of the civil war. Since 1896 there has been only one year in which more gold left the country than came into it, and that was the year of the last presidential election. In three election years since 1860 there was a falling off in the circulation of money. Three other elections do not appear to have had any special effect in this particular. In 1876, 1884 and 1896 there was a noticeable decline in loans and discounts of the national banks. Bank clearings in New York, which are a good barometer of the activity of speculation as well as of trade, declined in 1868, 1876, 1884, 1888 and 1900. They increased in 1872 and 1880 and there was a slight gain 1892. Bank clearings in the United States declined in 1888 and 1900, and the gains in 1892 and 1896 were so small as not to indicate a normal growth. Customs receipts decreased in four presidential elections since 1868. Merchandise exports per capita declined in four such years. There was a notable increase in 1892, a year which President Harrison described as having reached the high-water mark of American prosperity, though its records have since been exceeded. In 1896 the per capita exports were $12.29, against $11.51 in 1895, but expanded to $14.42 the year after the election. Pig iron production declined in 1876, 1884 and 1896, and practically stood still in 1888 and 1900. All this indicates a decided disturbance of business in presidential years.

A very remarkable case of automatic whistling following brain injury occurred some time ago in Buffalo. The case was that of a Polish labourer employed in the East Buffalo stock yards. He was found one morning lying unconscious beside the railroad tracks, having evidently been struck by a passing train. He was considerably cut up, but the chief injury was a depressed fracture of the skull, situated three inches above and one inch behind the left ear. The skull was immediately trephined, the depressed bone removed, and he was put to bed, and seemed to be doing well, although he remained unconscious. About 10 o'clock that night he suddenly began to whistle calls he was accustomed to use in handling the cattle in the yards. He would continue whistling for about a minute, and then stop for five or ten minutes. He kept this up at regular intervals until he died four days later. The whistling was piched always in the same key, and at no time could any melody be distinguished. It was audible over the whole hospital yard, and attracted the attention of every one about. It was impossible to arouse the man at any time after the accident, and he remained entirely unconscious to the end and whistled until a few minutes before he died.

Mr. Robert M. McLane, Mayor of Baltimore, shot himself in his residence there on the afternoon of May 30. Mayor McLane was 36 years of age, the youngest chief executive Baltimore ever had. He was the son of James T. McLane, president of the First National Bank, and nephew of Robert M. McLane, former Governor of Maryland and United States Minister to France during President Cleveland's first administration. Previous to his election as Mayor he had for four years filled the office of State's Attorney, in which he had distinguished himself by a zealous and intelligent discharge of his duties. During his brief administration of the mayoralty he had brought upon himself the antagonism of the Democrats by the appointment of independent numbers of the party. Recently there has been marked opposition to him among Democratic members of the City Council in matters relating to the rebuilding of Baltimore, and this is ascribed by many as a contributory cause of suicide. Mayor McLane was married two weeks before to Mrs. Mary Van [illegible] Baltimore, known and popular [illegible] is prostrated by the and [illegible] tragedy. The dead Mayor was very popular among the people generally, irrespective of party, and the whole community has been profoundly shocked by his tragic end.

The Pacific Mail Steamship Co. has issued its annual report for the fiscal year ended April 30. In spite of the low rates prevailing during the year the company shows an increase in both gross and net earnings. Gross earnings amounted to $3,601,000, an increase of $774,260. Operating expenses increased $535,000. Net earnings amounted to $561,719, an increase of $238,616. Commenting on the year's results, President E. H. Harriman in his preliminary report, says: "The rates on all over-sea carryings have been unusually low during the entire year everywhere. The company had also to meet severe competition to the ports served by its steamers, and a further shrinkage in its revenue resulted in the regulations of the Government of the United States of America inrespect of Chinese immigration. The sum of $314,823 has, as customary, been charged to the year's expenses for general and extraordinary repairs of steamers. After charging this account with expenses payable therefrom, there remained $1,027,855 to the credit of this fund at the close of the year. The insurance on the company's steamers was renewed and the premium charged against this year's operations ($145,019) charged to the year's expenses. The increase in this expense results from a full year's charge for insurance on the steamships *Korea* and *Siberia*. The money borrowed to meet payments on the new steamers was reduced by $501,245 during the year. With the exception of this indebtedness, amounting on April 30, 1904, to $1,326,163, the company is free from floating debt, other than current expenses. The cash on hand in New York, San Francisco and London April 30, 1904, amounted to $48,638." All of the retiring directors of the company were re-elected at the meeting of the stockholders. The income account of the company compares as follow:—

	1904.	Increase.
Gross earnings	$3,601,766	$774,260
Operating expenses	3,040,047	535,644
Net earnings	$561,719	$238,616
Depreciation and reps	314,823	—
Surplus	$246,896	$238,616
RECEIPTS.		
From steamers	$3,439,113	$761,200
C. A. mails	15,180	670
Rents and collections	136,254	2,826
Income from investments	6,740	5,230
Exchange	4,479	4,334
Total receipts	$3,601,766	$774,260
EXPENSES.		
Steamers	$2,276,963	$386,335
Agencies	437,137	89,539
General expenses	83,222	11,168
Miscellaneous	393	1,112
Insurance	145,019	28,210
Interest on loans	80,972	5,163
Gen. ave. expenses	16,341	16,341
Total	$3,040,047	$535,644
Net earnings	$561,719	$238,616
Depreciation and reps	314 823	—
Surplus	$246,896	$238,616

LITERARY GOSSIP.

Mr. John Lane has commissioned Mrs. Rosa Newmarch to prepare an English version of "The Life and Letters of Tchaikovsky," by the composer's brother, M. Modeste Tchaikovsky, editions of which have recently been published in Russia and Germany.

Mr. Hamlin Garland and his trunk, it seems, took different routes to Mexico the other day, the author arriving first and the trunk still dallying along the way and coquetting with entirely unexpected destinations in a [illegible] embarrassing [illegible] Mr. Garland who was to the owner [illegible] author's difficulty, at once suggested the following title for his next book:—"The Lost Trunk; or, Doing Mexico Without a Collar."

Many will remember the picturesque Old London Street in the Health Exhibition at South Kensington, but few are aware that the designer of it was Mr. G. H. Birch, whose death is announced in *The Times* at the age of 62. Mr. Birch, who took a deep interest in the antiquities of London and formed a fine collection of London prints and drawings, had been curator of the Soane's Museum in Lincoln's Inn-fields for the past ten years. As long ago as 1875 he became president of the Architectural Association of London, and subsequently he acted as hon. secretary of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society. He was Cantor Lecturer to the Society of Arts in 1883, and vice-president of St. Paul's Ecclesiological Society.

Mr. W. S. Gilbert, most legal of dramatists, has created another judge. But *Mr. Justice Whortle*, in "The Fairy's Dilemma,"—now playing at the Garrick Theatre, London,—is not likely to rival in fame the "highly susceptible *Chanchellor*" in "Iolanthe," or the "learned judge" in "Trial by Jury." Gilbertian judges are more numerous than Gilbertian barristers. Almost the only member of the Bar in the Savoy operas is Sir Bailey Barre, Q.C., M.P., who figures in "Utopia" as—

A great Arithmetician who can demonstrate with
  ease
That two and two are three, or five, or anything
  you please;
An eminent Logician who can make it clear to
  you
That black is white—when looked at from the
  proper point of view.
A marvellous Philologist who'll undertake to
  show
That "Yes" is but another and a neater form of
  "No."

Solicitors are justly proud of the fact that Sir Henry Fowler was the first member of their branch of the legal profession to become a Cabinet Minister. There is, however, a Gilbertian solicitor who gained the distinction before him. *Sir Joseph Porter*, who

Wore clean collars and a brand new suit
For the pass examination at the Institute,"

was an attorney before he became "the Ruler of the Queen's Navee."

By the death of Professor F. York Powell, the Regius Professor of Modern History, Oxford University has lost a man of brilliant attainments and of remarkable influence. His sympathies were wide and far-reaching, and, apart from his historical labours, he concerned himself in many movements. His knowledge of Scandinavian literature was unique, and with Russian affairs he had an intimate acquaintance. He was the close friend of such exiles as Stepniak and Volkhovsky. After taking his B.A., with a first-class in Law and Modern History, in 1872, Professor Powell was successively law lecturer, tutor, and student at Christ Church. He acted as deputy to Professor Freeman, when he filled the chair of Modern History, and on the death of J. A. Froude he was appointed to the post.

Mr. Gladstone, it is well known, was much bothered by young, unknown authors, who sent him their published works for his judgment. So his private secretary was instructed to use this ingenious if rather Jesuitical formula of acknowledgment:—

> "My Dear Sir: Mr. Gladstone instructs me to say that he is in receipt of your book, for which he returns thanks. Be assured that he will lose no time in perusing it."

Mr. John Fox, Jr., who is representing *Scribner's Magazine* exclusively in the Russo-Japanese war, contributes to the June number a brief article giving his impressions of "The Trail of the Saxon" across the American continent through the islands of the Pacific and into Japan with its wonderful contrasts of civilization. He also gives his impression of the spirit and attitude of the Japanese people in war time.

An example worthy of imitation has been set in connexion with the erection of a Strand frontage for the Savoy Hotel. There has been placed at one of the entrances a tablet which sets forth for the information of every intelligent passer-by that "In this Court in the Eighteenth Century stood the Fountain Tavern, where the Political Opponents of Sir Robert Walpole met, using the title of the Fountain Club; also the Coal Hole, the meeting-place of the Wolf Club, of which, about 1826, Edmund Kean was a leading member." As to the former, it may be added that it was at a meeting of the Opposition at the Fountain Tavern in 1742 that the resolution was taken which finally brought Walpole to the ground. But concerning the latter it is to be noted that a hostelry more favoured by Kean was the old O.P. and P.S. Tavern in Russell-court, Covent Garden, not far from the Piazza, where the O.P. Club of to-day, by a coincidence, has its home. It was at the O.P. and P.S. that, according to Pierce Egan, of "Tom and Jerry" fame, "young aspiring heroes, anxious to obtain an engagement, used to be prevailed upon to mount the table and to give recitations from 'Romeo' and 'Hamlet,' amidst the shouts of pretended applause from country actors, wags of all sorts, and men of the world, who nightly resorted thither to pick up anecdotes and spend a pleasant hour." And these might have echoed the query put into the mouth of William Cobbett as "a Hampshire Farmer" in "Rejected Addresses": "Is not a man who cries O.P. a man of letters, too?"

Sir Francis Brady, Bart., the author of a special version of "Come Back to Erin," written for the recent departure of King Edward and Queen Alexandra their Majesties from Ireland, is a poet who will be eighty in a month or two. He was one of the founders of the Royal Irish Academy of Music, and, learned also in the law, he is the last of the Irish County Court Judges who is still privileged to practice at the Bar.

A lady correspondent of the New York *Evening Post* who lived in Honolulu in Stevenson's time reports that in polite society there his name might scarcely be mentioned aloud. He was ostracised on account of his Bohemianism, displayed chiefly in his fondness for walking about in the warm sands with bare feet. His offence was augmented by his wife's preference for the native dress, which is described as "a Mother Hubbard wrapper, quite decently long and voluminous." To make things worse still, there was grave reason to believe that Stevenson even smoked in bed. Accordingly the local elite omitted his name in sending out invitations to important functions, and he was reduced to consorting with natives and the officers of visiting warships. Surely only an essay by "R. L. S." could do justice to such a situation.

Miss May Hezlet, the well-known golf champion, has written a book entitled "Ladies' Golf" for Messrs. Hutchinson. A feature of it will be a series of instantaneous photographs, representing well-known lady players at their best strokes, including Miss Rhona Adair, Miss Dod, the author, Miss Glover, Miss Whigham, and many crack American players. There will be also group photographs of the English and Irish teams of last year.

The Mermaid Series, that admirable library of old English dramatists which Mr. T. Fisher Unwin is publishing (2s. 6d.), has now been enriched by the addition of a volume containing four of Vanbrugh's plays—those which the editor, Mr. A. E. H. Swan, considers to be his best, "The Relapse," "The Provok'd Wife," "The Confederacy," and "A Journey to London." The editor has also included a bibliography of Vanbrugh's works, a genealogical table, a succinct biographical notice, and Leigh Hunt's essay on the dramatist.

The American publishers, says *The Bookman*, have mostly returned to their homes. While they do not find English books so popular in the States as they were a few years ago, they think that matters may take a turn, and have been doing their best to secure the chief books of the autumn. Mr. Dodd, of Messrs Dodd, Mead, & Co., has arranged for the publication of new novels by Miss Cholmondeley and Miss Marie Corelli. Colonel Harvey, of Messrs. Harper & Brothers, will issue Mrs. Humphry Ward's next book, and the Harpers are to publish a future work by Maurice Hewlett. Mr. Dodd will also publish Miss Beatrice Harraden's next novel.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

A telegram from the Japanese Consul at Lyons received at the Foreign Office says that embroiderers and other silk dealers are agreed in opposing the proposed tax on *habutae* and pure silk woven goods. They intend to present a statement to the authorities petitioning for the abandonment of the Bill. Another report under date of June 18th says that quotations for new cocoons in France range from francs 2.25 to francs 2.85 in accordance with quality. This rate shows an upward tendency.

Mr. Uchida, Japanese Consul-General at New York, sent a telegram on June 18th that raw silk is very quiet as the harvest of new cocoons has not yet been definitely ascertained. The demand for *habutae* has fallen off.

Owing to favourable weather, the cotton crop is expected to be prolific. Conditions in the market are weak. Closing price on the 18th was cent. 11.70 and for August delivery, cent. 10.51. The stock was 345,916 bales.

Information dated June 18th from Bombay says that the cotton market has seen no change since the previous report and is very quiet. "Bengal fine" was quoted at 250 rupees. The estimate of stock was 493,487 bales. Since the commencement of the month the weather has been favourable.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Thirty-four cases of new raw silk was put on the Yokohama market on June 16th.

Price of new raw silk from Kono, Iyo province, was on June 20th *yen* 1,010 per bale on the Yokohama market.

The U.S. transport *Thomas* arrived on June 20th at Nagasaki on her way home with 793 soldiers from Manila.

The price of the new cocoon at Yamagata is reported to be *yen* 35 per *Koku* (about 5 bushels). The rate is *yen* 5 lower than last year.

The *Asahi* says that a telegram has been received in Yokohama that the crop of cocoons in Italy is expected to be 35 per cent. better than last year.

Dr. Morrison and Mr. James, correspondents of the London *Times*, paid a visit on June 20th to Count Katsura, the Premier, at his official residence.

Mr. Hayashi, Japanese Minister at Seoul, who recently returned to Tokyo, was received by the Emperor in audience on June 21st and was entertained at noon in the Palace.

Advances to the Government by the Bank of Japan, recently calculated at seventy-four million *yen*, were reduced at the end of the week ended June 18th to sixty-six million *yen*.

The London *Times*' correspondent ship *Haimun* left Kobe on June 19th for Wei-hai-wei. Major Wood, the Military Attaché of the U.S. Legation at Tokyo, arrived on June 20th at Nagasaki from Kobe.

The final of the Mixed Doubles Handicap was played at the Bluff Gardens on Friday afternoon between Mrs. F. J. Abbott and Captain W. A. Harrison, and Miss A. Page and Mr. E. W. Maitland. Captain W. A. Harrison and Mrs. [illegible] 3-6, 6-3. The score was as follows :—6-3,

The *China Times* announces the [illegible] retirement of Sir Robert Hart.

Miss McCaul and party left Ujina on the night of June 21st by train for Tokyo.

The British gun-boat *Algerine* arrived at Hakodate on June 22nd. She is expected to leave on the 28th.

Mr. Akidzuki, who was recently appointed Minister to Sweden and Norway, was received in audience on June 23rd by the Emperor. He will shortly leave for his post.

Pollard's Lilliputian Comic Opera Company will leave Melbourne next month for a two years' tour of the Far East, at the conclusion of which they will visit San Francisco.

Mr. S. Saito, former Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, returned on June 22nd from Manila. According to him, Japanese workmen seem to be in demand there.

The fund raised in Hongkong for the relief of the wounded in the present war between Russia and Japan has been closed, and the sum of $30,488 remitted to the British Minister at Tokyo.

Tokyo papers report that the Toyo Kisen Kaisha is negotiating with the White Star Steamship Company to purchase two Atlantic steamers from the latter. The Company intends to employ them on the Pacific run.

The Messageries Maritimes will declare a dividend of f.10 per share for 1903. The report mentions that the company continues to augment its fleet, and has recently acquired four cargo boats of the East Asiatic Company.

Mr. T. Matsumoto, the president of the Sanyo Railway Co., has tendered his resignation. It may be remembered that he is also the president of the 130th Bank, Osaka, which recently suspended payment.

Mr. T. Komuchi, a Progressist, who is now in Seoul, proceeded to the Korean Palace on June 20th accompanied by Mr. Hagiwara, acting Japanese Minister there, and was received by the Emperor in audience.

The total amount of subscriptions for the second issue of the Treasury Loan—one hundred million *yen*—was *yen* 322,199,800. The Bank of Japan reported the amount subscribed to the Finance Department on June 21st.

The funeral service of the late Mr. Robert Meiklejohn took place at his residence, No. 19, Bluff, on Sunday morning, the Rev. E. S. Booth officiating. The pall-bearers were Messrs. H. J. Sharp, N. F. Smith, Capt. Olsen, E. Andreis, P. Helm, and Capt. Carst.

Miss McCaul, who had been to the front Inspecting field hospitals, arrived on June 17th at Takeshiki on her way to Tokyo. She was to leave there the following day for Matsuyama to pay a visit to the hospitals and the accommodation provided for Russians.

A telegram from Seoul reports that the Korean Court is now making preparations to welcome the passengers of the *Manshu Maru*, which are expected to arrive shortly at Chemulpo. The Emperor will entertain them at his palace when they arrive at the capital from Chemulpo.

The directors of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company announce a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the Preference Stock and an interim dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the Deferred Stock of the company for the half-year ended 31st March.

Mr. G. Kingswell (well known in Japan) of the *Daily Express* and Mr. A. G. Hales ("Smiler") of the *Daily News* have left for Peking preparatory to leaving for home. They will endeavour to see the Russian Minister with a view to obtaining, if possible, permission to proceed to England [illegible]—*P. & T. Times.*

that the steamer [illegible]
on June 17th with the steamer [illegible] reports
the entrance of Shimonoseki Strait and sunk, is believed to have been re-floated. He adds that almost all of the cargo of the *Sado Maru* has been transhipped to other vessels.

On the night of June 21st a crowd made a disturbance at the shop of Hondaya, curio dealers, Honkago-do, Nagasaki, breaking the windows and furniture. They were dispersed by gendarmes and police. The cause is attributed to a rumour that the proprietors were spies employed by Russia, many of their customers having been Russians. The *Jiji's* correspondent adds that the damage done was great but no person was injured.

A telegram from Hakodate says that the American sailing vessel *James Johnson* was ordered to stop on June 19th off Fukuyama and subsequently she was examined by Russian officers. As she had no cargo on board she was not detained. The ship arrived the following day at Hakodate.

The ceiling of the tunnel on the Kyushu railway, near Kanoki station fell in on June 20th while some employees were inspecting the place. It is near the spot were some obstruction had been laid in order to interrupt trains. The men were severely injured. The *Asahi* says that this is a suspicious accident.

The Glasgow steamer *Kirkdale*, which has been sold to Japan, was built by Messrs. Bartram, Haswell and Co., of Sunderland in 1894. Her tonnage is 2,873 gross and 1,853 net, and she is classed 100 A1 at Lloyds. Her length is 310 ft., breadth 41 ft., depth 18 ft., and she has triple expansion engines of 253 nominal horse power.

The following were the drawers of the respective Subscription China Ponies arrived per S. S. *Yangtsze* :—1 Wichita, E. Hiranuma ; 2 Andauk, Tytherleigh ; 3 Hazafi, J. Higginbotham ; 4 Galloping Dick, Norfolk ; 5 Handsome George, No. 127 Mess ; 6 Sunny Jack, Sphynx ; 7 Lauriston, F. M. Tegner ; 8 Grey Griffin, H. Lefeber ; 9 Angelo, C. Schramm ; and 10 Altgeld, V. Blad.

The authorities of the Bureau of Prisoners have received from the front 446 roubles belonging to a Russian Lieutenant of the Second Chita Regiment who was killed on May 24th at the fight at Wan-kiakau. The money was sent on June 15th to the French Legation in Tokyo through the Foreign Office with view to its being sent to the family of the late officer.

The Secretary to the Admiralty has informed Mr. L. V. Harcourt, M.P., that the average annual cost of maintaining in commission a first-class battleship of about 13,000 tons is, approximately, as follows:—Full pay wages, &c., of officers and crew, £40,369 ; victualling, £14,604; coal, £23,600 ; stores and repairs, £9,548 ; naval ordnance stores, £5,500 ; or, in round figures, £94,000.

A Tokyo paper says that the amount of money spent by the Treasury since the outbreak of war up to the present aggregates a hundred and sixty million *yen*. The money has come from the following sources:—

	Yen.
Temporary advances from Bank of Japan	66,000,000
1st Treasury loan	34,000,000
Special reserve	26,000,000
Donations by the public	4,000,000
Sundries	30,000,000

Says the *N.-C. Daily News* :—One of the blessings of civilisation which the Russians introduced into Manchuria, and which flourished in rank luxuriance wherever a few Russians were gathered together in the three provinces, and the introduction and fostering of which would alone be almost enough to justify the Japanese in their determination to drive the Russians back into Siberia, has, by the fortune of war, been forced upon Shanghai, and, as we learn from recent Hongkong papers, upon that colony as well." Our contemporary after describing [illegible] suggests that the which prevent the [illegible]mpowered to license disorder- [illegible] and thus in a measure bring them under control.

A London Yorkshireman having made enquiry whether he should wear a white or a red rose on St. George's Day, the Honorary Secretary of the Royal Society of St. George (Howard Ruff) wrote that the white Yorkist and the red Lancastrian rose should be worn on St. George's Day conjointly—the latter in preference to the former when worn singly—red, typical of courage, and the red cross of St. George being more distinctively English than white.

Nagasaki was entertained last week to some amateur theatricals, and we gather from the *Nagasaki Press* that the performance was highly successful. The first piece put on was a dialogue in one act, entitled "The Secret," translated from the French by Constance Beerbohm. The characters were personified by Miss S. E. Officer, as *Lady Bessie Montague*, and Miss W. E. Stone, as *Gladys Frere* (her niece). Both ladies sustained their parts well; there was never any hesitation shown and the dialogue was free from the appearance of mere repetition, the actions and delivery being most natural, and the audience showed their evident appreciation in no uncertain manner. The second piece was a comedietta in one act, entitled "The Head of Romulus," founded on the French of Eugene Scribe by Sydney Grundy. The characters were as follows:—*Sir Barnes Barnstaple, Bart.*, Mr. S. Clark; *Harold Barnstaple* (his son), Mr. A. E. Baker; *Joshua Turnbull* (a rich chandler), Mr. J. H. Wallace; *Mrs. Turnbull*, Mrs. Inman; *Dolly Turnbull*, Mrs. Measor; and *Jane* (a housemaid), Mrs. Wallace. This was a very good performance, and evoked much laughter from beginning to end.

NOTES AND COMMENTS ON WAR NEWS.

The following note, signed "C. B.," from the *Daily Graphic* of May 3rd, is of special interest at the present time:—

Nothing more has been heard of the Russian Vladivostok squadron since the successful sinking of a Japanese transport. It was the first appearance of the squadron since the masterly silence of Vladivostok under the futile bombardment left the Japanese completely nonplussed as to whether the Russian warships were or were not inside the harbour. Since then the Japanese have carried out all their transport arrangements with the fear of this squadron before them. How far it has interfered with their plans we shall probably never know. To have lost only one transport is a piece of luck they could hardly have counted upon in framing their plan of campaign. There have been some adverse criticisms of the Japanese for permitting three Russian cruisers to escape from Vladivostok. It is a repetition of Sir George Tryon's feat from Bantry Bay in the manœuvres of 1888. The adverse critics do not take into account the inadequacy of the Japanese naval force in the war for the purpose of watching the two great Russian ports, nor do they show the imaginative insight which would call up weather conditions, in which it is quite possible for a small force to slip out of one of the two entrances to Vladivostok. Sir Edmund Fremantle eluded Sir William Hewett in 1888. I remember two years later our disgust in Admiral Irvine's squadron when we were all captured in an endeavour to slip past a line of blockade. I mention this because, if sometimes evasion is successful, there must still be a wholesome balance of risk. There is no tangible result in merely evading a stronger force. The opportunities before the Vladivostok squadron short of meeting an inferior fighting force would be practically not worth mentioning, but for the fact that for well-considered reasons the Japanese have hazarded a certain number of transports on the sea sailing just like ordinary merchant vessels, and incurring precisely similar risks. The supremely interesting moment for the Vladivostock squadron will be the arrival in Far Eastern waters of the Baltic reinforcements, when, if Vladivostock has not fallen, the first great naval combination under steam will have to be played out. If Port Arthur has been blocked by sunken ships, then Togo can give the whole of his attention to Vladivostock. But, [illegible] ing this has not been done, [illegible] Port Arthur and afford to divide his [illegible] the threat of five 18-knot Vladi[illegible]somewhere at sea. Thus when Villen[illegible]ve's return from the West Indies in the 1805 campaign was known to the Admiralty, Lord Barham ordered Calder, who was off Ferrol with fifteen battleships, as opposed to fourteen, to raise the blockade of Ferrol and to intercept Villeneuve 100 miles out at sea. Clearly, off Ferrol the British fleet would have been exposed to the attack of thirty-four battleships. Now, if Port Arthur is successfully blocked, there could be no hesitation in the mind of Togo. The Russian Baltic reinforcements would have to make for Vladivostok, and that would be the one certain place where he could meet them. The junction with four Russian cruisers would leave him quite cool, for the simple reason that they are not fit to lie in the line of battle against the six British-built battleships of his fleet. He would therefore tighten his hold on Vladivostok instead of imitating the tactics of 1805. The state of affairs has, however, to be specially provided for, inasmuch as for a brief period of a week or ten days the communications of the Japanese armies by sea will be threatened, and therefore reserve supply depôts should be established. The difficulty is not great in the case of the rice-eating Japanese so far as feeding is concerned. It is chiefly a matter of equipment and ammunition. If such foresight had not been displayed, it would become imperative for Togo to meet the Russian battleships immediately on their approach to the scene of conflict. There is no way he could do so with certainty other than by dogging them with faster vessels which could not be driven off by the Russian fast cruisers, from Aden to the scene of conflict.

The following appeared on May 5th:—

What strikes one person as of the greatest significance is often a trifling detail to another. There has been no more significant detail of the naval war to my mind than the sinking of the Japanese transport by the Vladivostok squadron. I have always contended that the dangers to British shipping in war are greatly exaggerated, and that the delays incidental to the operation of taking or sinking a single merchant vessel enable one to protect the others and preclude extensive captures or destruction. In this particular case, being away from the track of neutral vessels, the Russians had no doubt as to the identity of the transport when she sailed into their squadron at 10 p.m. From that moment they spent about five hours before they were finished with their exploit. Yet in British naval manoeuvres the absurd farce has again and again been played of "capturing" vessels at intervals of a few minutes. For the sinking of the Japanese transport guns and torpedoes were fired and about five hours were spent by three Russian cruisers. Supposing this sort of thing were to occur on the short nine hundred mile stretch from Gibraltar to Malta or Malta to Port Said, what chance would the commerce destroyers have of prolonging their existence in face of a strong British fleet? None. And yet we have responsible men constantly making appeals to us to abandon the Mediterranean route in war, and underwriters of Lloyd's saying they would refuse to insure for the Mediterranean route in war. It is probably the easiest route to defend on the whole surface of the sea.

The critic was either wrong in the following forecast, appearing on April 29, or else the "effective leader-ship" was wanting:—

Of the conflict now raging it may be said that no war in history has better illustrated the powers and limitations of a supreme fleet, or more signally confirmed the tenets of what is called "the blue water school." Thus we have the way power makes power illustrated in the ease with which Togo has been able to conceal his bases for torpedo craft and bases for coaling and overhauling engines and boilers. The news from every source leaves me no nearer than my early guess in the first week of the war that the base is in the Elliott or Blonde Islands, to the eastward of Dalny. On the other hand, the weak fleet, parasitically hanging on to the fortified arsenal of Port Arthur—which, in the jargon of our opponents in peace polemics, "conferred command of the adjacent seas"—has been the perpetual target of the Japanese Fleet. No wonder Admiral Skrydloff is reported to have assured the Tsar that "the task imposed upon him is well nigh impossible of attainment." Now the Admiral is stated to be going to act under the orders of Kuropatkin. This sufficiently indicates the defensive rôle assigned to him as one threatening the movement of transports under convoys in the vicinity of Port Arthur. I believe I stand alone now among the critics in declaring the remnants of the Port Arthur fleet to be a serious threat, and sufficient under effective leadership to prevent any invasion from the sea of the Liaotung Peninsula. In any case, one might have hoped that [illegible]ponents of "the blue water school" would have learned caution by now. I have by me a copy of a telegram to a contemporary from a veteran war correspondent whose camp life was not calculated to teach him the secret of the sea. "Only those who brave its dangers comprehend its mystery." The telegram from Shanghai said: "A large number of transports have returned to Nagasaki, were they are busily engaged in embarking more troops for the vicinity of Dalny. . . . A still larger embarcation is proceeding from Ujina, near Hiroshima." One of the published comments on this telegram was as follows:—

Probably the forty transports, mentioned in the Shanghai message, will have already carried over 100,000 men, with light stores and some field guns. For such a short journey as to Dalny, a matter of only 500 miles, the vessels would be packed as closely as possible, and would accommodate probably twice as many men as were in British transports of the same size going to South Africa. Even in the British service it is not uncommon to carry 1,000 men in a ship of 2,000 gross registered tonnage, and Japanese can be stowed away much more easily than any Europeans; in fact, almost like sardines in a box.

Two months have elapsed to the day, and the Liaotung Peninsula is as innocent of Japanese soldiers, except for the spies with false pigtails, as it was on the first day of the war. The forecasts above referred to cannot be explained away. They are the outcome of sheer ignorance of the whole course of British naval history, and they are characteristic of a nation which incurs its greatest dangers through forgetfulness of its own past. The greater the need, therefore, for rubbing in the lessons of this war, which has been so providentially provided as an object lesson for the British Empire.

The following extract from a letter reveals in part who "C.B." is:—

In a humble way I have served as a lecturer under Admiral May, and I feel the sense of personal loss both of a friend and one whose ideas were always instructive to those who came in contact with him. In another capacity much of his anonymous writing came under my hands, and the incisive and acute criticisms will long be deeply missed by many who may never know to whom they were indebted for these brilliant articles. Some time ago he was engaged upon a naval war code for the British Navy, similar to the one the present American Naval Attaché, Captain Stockton, drew up for the United States navy. Admiral May was a keen adherent to Walter Bagshot's theories in "Physics and Politics" of the advantages of discussion, and had he lived I feel sure that he would have persuaded the Admiralty to establish a companion magazine to the "Army Journal."—Yours faithfully, C. B.

THE TEA HOUSE OF THE HUNDRED AND ONE STEPS.

By Richard Harding Davis.

We paid our first visit to the tea house of the Hundred and One Steps even before we had registered at the hotel. We had been in Japan no longer than it takes the rikisha boy to run up the Bund from the Custom House to the Grand Hotel. On the steps the Sailor Man, Manila-bound to take over a battleship, ordered us back into the rikisha and set our course for the tea house. It was just before luncheon, and seemed a difficult moment for tea. But to be vouched for at that particular tea house by an officer of our navy was a piece of luck too obvious to be neglected. It was like being introduced to "Kid" McCoy by Lionel Barrymore.

Of all the tea houses in Japan, the one best known to foreigners is the tea house of the Hundred and One Steps, at Yokohama.

It is owned by O Kin San, the sister of Tanabe, who once used to manage it, and who now keeps the silk shop on the Honchi Dori. The uncle of these equally charming sisters was one of the minor officials who received Commodore Perry. Some say he was not an official, but the head man of the village, and that he owned the house in which Perry lived during his visits ashore. In any event, the uncle once "was with Perry," once talked to Perry, after the strange American etiquette Perry had shaken hands with him, and in Japan that is enough to give distinction to any man, even to his ancestors. It also was enough to make the tea house presided over by his nieces the favourite meeting-place of the officers of our navy. When they were midshipmen they climbed the hundred steps, now that they are admirals they still climb them. Their loyalty has never slackened, and their reward is that when they visit the tea house they again grow young. There is something about the place which makes people young. It has kept Tanabe and O Kin San young for forty years. It stands on what remains of the ancestral acres, a patch of garden clinging to the edge of a cliff. The cliff overlooks Yokohama, the generous harbour, the great bay, and, when the fogs allow, the Pacific Ocean. Flat against the face of the cliff, like a sea-ladder on the side of a ship, rise the hundred and one steps. After twenty days at sea their ascent made the climbing of Pike's Peak seem less of an effort than stepping into a cab.

It is a tradition of the house that O Kin San never forgets the face of a guest, his rank, or the name of his ship but as six years had passed since the Sailor Man had touched at Yokohama, he was afraid O Kin San might not live up to her reputation. But she did not forget him. When we stooped to enter the low veranda, we found her kneeling prostrate before the Commander clapping her hands softly and touching the floor with her forehead. Around her little nezans in dove-coloured kimono fluttered excitedly, rubbing their knees with their open palms, giggling and gurgling and uttering soft, cooing cries of welcome. When they saw the American ladies, they in turn dropped upon their knees, and beat the mats with their hands. Had the Commander been a long-lost son and we those who had returned him from a watery grave, we could not have been received with more apparent confusion and delight. They made it seem that that house had been kept open only in the hope that he might revisit it. We tied soft slippers over our heathen boots, slid across the slippery matting, and squatted upon cushions in a little cigarbox of a room. Our coming was as though some one had flung a handful of corn into a dovecote. From each corner of the tiny house the patter of feet echoed like the scamper of mice behind wainscot, giggles sounded from kitchen to garden, and on every side the paper screens that formed the room slid apart in unexpected places, admitted a tottering, tripping nezan with a tray, and shut again into what looked like a solid wall. They brought us tea and sake, and tiny pipes in boxes of hot ashes, strange sweet cakes, and stranger salt fish, and they served us as though never before had such a service been rendered. It was a delicious, stupendous joke, in which we all were equally guilty. That we should light a pipe and puff at it was an act the humour and novelty of which threw them into an ecstasy of laughter, that we approved of the sake shook them with shivers of delight, that we drank the tea and asked for more set them violently rocking at our condescension. When they were not beseeching us to eat and drink and clapping their hands, they were passing on their knees from one to the other of the American women, exclaiming in apparent awe and wonder over the unusual beauty of their boots. It was a pretty comedy extremely well played, and while it deceived no one, it hurt no one. It reminded you of the acting at Paquin's, when the head woman, surrounded by a sympathetic chorus of vendeuses, tells Madame that the new gown is "chamant, ravissant." At such a time the mere man feels sorry for them. He hopes that when closing hour comes they will fold away the smiles with the frocks, cease flattering and exclaiming and become as slovenly-looking and as cross and disagreeable as they please. And so it is with the nezans; you hope when your back is turned that O Kin San and the little waitresses get off their knees and yawn and stretch their tiny bodies, and say, "Well, thank goodness, they've gone!" and sit down to a real meal. For you can not believe that they eat seaweed and live fish, and use chopsticks, and drink tea from thimbles, and sit on the floor, for any other reason than that the tourist expects them to do so. You feel they are trying to live up to the idea of the Japanese tea house, which has acquired from "The Geisha Girl" and "Madame Chrysantheme." I had the same feeling that it wasn't quite genuine when, in Edinburgh, I first saw a man in kilts. I was sure he wore them not because they were comfortable but because it was expected of him.

But no matter how much you may doubt its sincerity whenever you visit the tea house on the cliff you will receive the same fluttered, excited welcome. There will be the same chorus of "Please, please." the same delight when you approve, the same anxiety over your lack of appetite, and the same rare appreciation of your rare wit. Also, in time you will find that O Kin San will take the cue you give her. And if you prefer to sit overlooking the city "where the paper lanterns glow," and watch the lights along the Bund and the lamps of the ships at anchor on the berth, and talk of things Japanese, and not to joke and laugh, you will find O Kin San a simple, direct, and rarely intelligent hostess. She is a truly remarkable woman, a woman who speaks five languages, who can call off all the names in our navy register, relate the history of the Ronins, explain the complexities of the Shinto and Buddhist religions, or relate with true humour the story of the middy who climbed the steps on horseback.

Among the things they laid before us during our first hour in Japan were the cards of all the officers, of their sweethearts and wives, and of the tourists who had visited the tea house. They asked for our cards, The one I received of the nezans gave us one of hers. I tried to recollect where "Miss O Yuchi San." I before and then I remembered that the name there was a song of that title which we used to sing. It was set to their air of "Rosalie."

"I care not what other may say,
I'm in love with O Yuchi San,
In Japan,
Ichiban,
I'm in love with O Yuchi San."

The chorus brought back to me the June evening when the glee club would sally forth to serenade the townspeople, and we freshmen abandoned our books and followed in its wake. And, instead of the tea house of the Hundred and One Steps and O Yuchi San kneeling beside me, proffering a pair of chopsticks, I was conscious of the sleeping American town, the students grouped under the elms, the odour of their brier pipes, the beetles buzzing around the electric light globes in the street, and the black shadows across the professor's front lawn.

"When I was at college," I said, "I used to sing a song about a girl called O Yuchi San."

The Commander looked up in hurt surprise, and O Yuchi San bent low in embarrassment.

But you know that this is the girl!" he said.

I protested that it could not be. I gallantly refrained from explaining why.

"Not at all," said the Commander. "F. M. Bostwick, who was a lieutenant then, wrote that song about O Yuchi San when she was five years old. I remember her very well. She was just a little doll of a thing. She was only big enough to carry around the pipe boxes, and after she had filled the pipes she'd crawl into the lap of the officers and sleep curled up there until we went back to the ship. But now she's a young lady, and there is a book about her with her picture in colours on the cover."

So I told O Yuchi San that over all the States young men were announcing to the world that they were in love only with her, and that in every college town the name and fame of O Yuchi San was intimate and familiar.

O Yuchi San covered her blushes with two small hands, and bowed her thanks to her admirers across the sea.

On other days we returned to the tea house, and one soon grew to understand why to the wandering naval officer and the globe-trotter it becomes a house of call, a club, and a home. There are many tea houses in Japan more rich, larger, set in elaborate, beautiful gardens, with golden geishas to dance and jugglers to confuse, but in none will you find a more friendly welcome or a kindlier hostess. To sit at the feet of O Kin San is to learn wisdom and courtesy, and to look out from her tea house is to bring yourself in touch with all the world. For, when the paper screens are pushed aside you see on one hand the gardens and trees of the Foreign Settlement; on the other, below you, the tile-roofed city, with its temples, parks of cherry trees, distant hills of pine, and Fujiyama, the illusive, the mysterious, the beautiful, raising now white shoulders out of a robe of green; while at your feet lies the roadstead of Yokohama Harbour choked with ships of war, with great liners, monster tramps, gondola-like sampans, and high-peaked square-sailed junks. The murmurs of a city float up to you mixed with all the noises of the sea; the impatient signals of the darting launches, the puffing donkey engines answering the boatswain's whistle with creak of winch, chains, and cordage; the songs of the coolies knee-deep in the lighters, the ship's bells ringing brokenly across the water, and the melancholy piping of the harbour gulls.

Against the curtain of blue you watch the steamers come and go, carrying your heart with them to Hongkong and Shanghai, Rangoon and Singapore, to Colombo and Bombay, to Sydney and Melbourne, around Cape Horn, through the islands of the South Pacific, or straight away to that Golden Gate that waits to welcome the wanderer Home.—*Collier's Weekly.*

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

THE NEW YORK HORROR.

London, June 17.

There were 1,600 people on board the *General Slocum* when she was burnt off Hellgate, New York, and of these 447 bodies have been recovered and 1,000 are reported as dead or missing. The fire originated in the cook's galley and swept the decks, which collapsed and precipitated hundreds into a fiery furnace below, already choked with burning women and children. Hundreds leaped into the sea and were drowned. The steamer burned down to the water's edge in half an hour.

THE "SLOCUM" DISASTER.

London, June 17.

An official investigation shows that approximately 1,000 persons perished on the *General Slocum*, when she was burned off Hellgate, New York.

RUSSIAN GOVERNOR OF FINLAND SHOT.

General Bobrikoff, Governor of Finland, was shot and dangerously wounded while entering the Senate at Helsingfors. His assailant, who is the son of Senator Schaumann, immediately commited suicide. Schaumann had been attending mass meetings in various parts of Finland to protest against Bobrikoft's oppressive dictatorship.

SLAUGHTER OF ARMENIANS.

It is reported at Constantinople that 3,000 Armenians have been killed and fifty villages destroyed since April 25.

HEAVY RUSSIAN LOSSES.

Later.

A dispatch from General Stackelburg, dated the morning of the 16th inst., in describing the battle at Wafengtien, says that a superior force of Japanese on the 15th inst. turned his right flank and compelled him to retreat northwards by three routes. The Russian losses were heavy. The Japanese fire wiped out two batteries, 13 out of 16 guns being destroyed and abandoned.

BOBRIKOFF DIES.

London, June 18.

General Bobrikoff is dead.

INTERNATIONAL MOTOR-CAR RACE.

A Frenchman named Thierry has won the Gordon-Bennett motor car race at Hamburg, Jenatzy, a German, being second, and the Englishman unplaced. Nobody was hurt. There was a huge assembly, the German Emperor and Empress and many royalties being present.

BRITISH CABINET DISSENSIONS.

It is understood that there are marked dissensions in the British Cabinet regarding the Army reforms.

STEAMER SOLD.

London, June 19.

The Glasgow steamer *Kirkdale* has been sold to Japan.

ITALIAN MINISTER PROMOTED.

Count G. Gallina, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary for Italy at Peking has been appointed to St. Petersburg. He is replaced by M. Carol.

EFFECT OF BOBRIKOFF MURDER.

General Hertkoff, Governor of Warsaw, was seized with a paralytic stroke upon receiving news of the murder of General Bobrikoff in Finland.

General Bobrikoff's murder belonged to the pro-Swedish party in Finland, composed chiefly of the higher classes.

WRECK OF P. & O. "AUSTRALIA"

London, June 20.

Reuter's correspondent at Melbourne states that the P. & O. steamer *Australia*, inward bound, while entering the Heads, struck the rocks off Point Nepean, and is expected to become a total loss. The passengers and crew were safely landed.

[The *Australia* was built in 1884 and is classed 100 A 1 at Lloyds. Her tonnage is 3,662 gross, and her length is 361 ft., breadth 44 ft., and depth 21 ft. She has triple expansion engines of 355 nominal horse power; and a speed of 17 knots.]

SERIOUS RIOTS IN FINLAND.

The *Matin*, of Paris, publishes a telegram rom St. Petersburg, reporting that serious disturbances are taking place at Helsingfors. The rioters have sacked the police station and the Governor-General's office there and have killed 18 officials.

BRITISH DESTROYER LOST.

Whilst the British Squadron was manœuvring during the night between Sardinia and Corsica, the destroyer *Bat* was sunk by collision. It is stated that the crew were saved.

CHINESE AT DURBAN.

The steamer *Tweeddale*, from Hongkong, has arrived at Durban, Natal, with Chinese coolies, who are in good spirits. There were three deaths from beri-beri during the voyage, but otherwise the Chinese are well.

THE VLADIVOSTOCK RAIDERS.

London, June 21.

Reuter's St. Petersburg correspondent telegraphs that Admiral Bezobrasoff was in command of the Russian ships at the time of their raid in Tsushima Straits. Admiral Skrydloff remained at Vladivostock.

THE BRITISH NAVAL COLLISION.

The British destroyer *Bat* collided with the destroyer *Stag* off Sardinia. Both have arrived at Malta damaged.

THE "AUSTRALIA" DISASTER.

The P. & O. steamer *Australia* was in charge of a pilot when she struck. She was going full speed and the shock of the impact was tremendous. The inrush of water immediately put out the fires. There was no panic.

NEW SENIOR NAVAL LORD.

Admiral Sir John Fisher has been appointed Senior Naval Lord of the British Admiralty.

THE CHINESE COOLIES AT DURBAN.

London, June 22.

There were forty cases of beri-beri among the Chinese coolies on the *Tweeddale*, which has arrived at Durban from Hongkong.

SIEVIER ARRESTED.

Mr. Robert Sievier—[owner of the famous race-horse Sceptre, and whose unsuccessful action against Sir James Duke for libel recently occupied such a large space in the public press]—has been arrested on a charge of perjury in connection with his bankruptcy in 1902.

THE TIBET MISSION.

The British expeditionary mission proceeds to Lhassa on the 27th of June.

EAST AFRICA.

Sir Donald Stewart has been appointed Commissioner and Commander-in-chief of the British East Africa Protectorate.

[Note.—Sir Donald Stewart replaces Sir C. N. E. Eliot, K.C.M.G., C.B., who held the post as H. M. Commissioner and Consul-General. Sir Donald has been British Resident at Kumasi since 1902. He has seen much African service as a fighting man in the Gordon Highlanders, in the Transvaal, in the Soudan, and also in Afghanistan. He was political officer to the Ashanti expedition of 1896. He has a wealth of medals and clasps.]

TEA DUTY.

Later.

The House of Commons has rejected by a vote of 217 to 165 a motion to reduce the tea-duty to sixpence per pound.

THE REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

London, June 23.

The Republican National Convention met at Chicago on the 21st June. The nomination of President Roosevelt for President being absolutely assured and that of Senator Fairbanks for Vice-President practically determined before the delegates assembled, there is consequently none of the usual excitement.

GENERAL BOBRIKOFF'S FUNERAL.

The Tsar, the Tsarevitch and all the Grand Dukes attended General Bobrikoff's funeral.

THE ARMY OF THE LIAOTUNG.

General Stackelburg reports that the Japanese have not advanced beyond Wafengkau, their lines extending along a front between Wafengkau and Fuchau.

ALLEGED CAPTURE OF LIAOYANG.

Later.

Reuter's Newchwang correspondent reports that the Japanese cavalry attacked Liaoyang late on Saturday. A missionary received information from native sources that the fighting continued over Monday, and that Liaoyang was taken on the afternoon of the 21st June (Tuesday).

THE TEA TAX.

An amendment moved in the House of Commons by Mr. E. J. Soares, Liberal member for Barnstaple, providing that the eightpenny tax on tea remain in force till the 1st of July instead of 1st of August, 1905, was agreed to. A proposal to make the tea-duty *ad valorem* was rejected by a vote of 194 to 128.

THE "MANSHU MARU."

(From our Correspondent.)

Mitsuhama, June 17.

We arrive here to-day and leave on the evening of the 18th for Moji.

Saseho, June 19, 9 p.m.

After leaving Moji, we sighted the *Sado Maru* opposite Mutsurejima. She appeared to be sinking.

Chemulpho, June 22.

The *Manshu Maru* left Saseho yesterday at noon and arrived here to-day at 5.30 p.m. after an enjoyable voyage.

SERIOUS DISTURBANCES IN FINLAND.

[Received at the Foreign Office.]

In the Senate of Finland, one of the officials on the 16th inst. shot and severely wounded the Russian Governor-General and then committed suicide.

The *Kolnische Zietung*, previous to this incident, had stated that there was much agitation in Finland, the people demanding freedom of speech and public meeting. Meetings have been held in the principal towns and resolutions passed calling for the removal from office of the Russian Minister of the Interior and the Governor-General of Finland. The paper further stated that in view of the present state of affairs and Russia's troubles elsewhere, the Czar will be obliged to grant these demands.

THE FIGHT AT WAFANTIEN.

[Received at the Foreign Office.]

It is telegraphed from St. Petersburg that in the fight on the 14th inst. the Russians lost 23 officers and 311 rank and file. A later telegram from General Kuropatkin to the Czar with reference to the fight at Wafantien says that the battle began at dawn on the 14th inst. At half-past six General Stackelberg was attacked by the Japanese right wing. At 10 o'clock the Japanese cavalry charged and Stackelberg was obliged to call up his reserves. On the morning of the 15th the Japanese were largely re-inforced. [Here occurs a remarkable *hiatus*, for the report goes on to say, "on the Russian side Col. Gerngrass and a General were wounded," and then repeats the total casualties on the 14th inst.] Another St. Petersburg telegram, however, says that Stackelberg found himself cut off from his base and had to retreat hastily. The Russians say that the Japanese had 35,000 men in position, including 6,000 cavalry.

[Received at the Foreign Office.]

JAPANESE MATCHES IN THE PHILIPPINES.

The Philippine Administration being about to impose a tax of 200 per cent on Japanese matches imported into the Philippines, the Japanese Consul at Manila is trying to prevent the passing of this measure.

ADMIRAL SKRYDLOFF'S REPORT.

[Received at the Foreign Office.]

According to a Reuter's telegram, Admiral Skrydloff's report says that the Vladivostock cruisers met the *Idzumi Maru* on the 15th inst. within sight of the shore of Japan. She had soldiers on board and when sighted was steaming from the south. A certain time was allowed her to place her crew in boats. Part of the soldiers on board took advantage of this to escape. At the end of the time she was sunk by the Russian cruisers.

Thereafter the Squadron met the *Sado Maru* and the *Hitachi Maru;* one having soldiers on board, the other labourers, horses, and railway material. They refused to surrender, were allowed a certain time, after which they were sunk by torpedoes and guns. These three steamers aggregated 15,000 tons and the soldiers were about 1,000. On the 16th inst. the Squadron met the British steamer *Aratoon*, laden with coal, from Muroran. Her papers and logbook not being satisfactory she was sent to Vladivostock, where she will go before the Prize Court.

TWO RUSSIAN DESTROYERS BLOWN UP.

Admiral Togo reports that at 8 a.m. on 21st inst., the 5th Destroyer Squadron when engaged on blockading duty at Port Arthur, stopped a Chinese junk which had just left the harbour. There were two Chinamen on board. On being questioned these men said that three or four days previously two Russian torpedo-destroyers, when engaged in some work four miles outside the harbour, struck some Japanese mines and sank: 140 men were lost. The Chinamen further stated that a steamer named the *Shintailing* had met with a similar fate some days previously when engaged in the same work.

The *Jiji Shimpo* prints a message from Chefoo which confirms the above.

The *Asahi*, late last evening, published as an extra a telegram received from Kure which said that the Fourth Destroyer Squadron on the 10th inst., bombarded the Russian forts at Yinchintzu and Shaumtaikou from Kinchow Bay during two hours from 10 to noon. Previous to this, when cruising in the Bay, they found a Russian destroyer on the rocks. They pulled it off and towed it to the Naval base.

[Note.—It seems very improbable that this information can be true, in the absence of any official news concerning it.—Ed. *J.M.*]

RUMOURS OF ANOTHER BIG RUSSIAN DEFEAT.

The *Jiji Shimpo* has a telegram from London which says that according to St. Petersburg intelligence a great battle was fought on the 20th inst. at Haiching and that

5,000 Russians were killed and wounded. The Russians had to retreat.

[Note.—This also, in the absence of official information, is incredible.—Ed. *J.M.*]

ANOTHER JAPANESE ADVANCE.

[Received at the Head-quarters Staff on the afternoon of the 22nd.]

On the afternoon of the 21st inst., the Liaotung Army occupied Hiunyoching.

[Note.—This place is 30 miles north of Telilisz, where the big battle was fought on the 15th June. We may mention here that according to information received in Tokyo, the Russians now admit that their losses in the battle on the 15th aggregated 15,000.—Ed. *J.M.*]

(From the "N.-C. Daily News.")

FRANCO-SIAMESE TREATY.

London, June 16.

The period for the ratification of the Franco-Siamese Treaty has been extended to the 2nd of July.

THE RESULT OF THE ASCOT GOLD CUP.

London, June 17.

The following is the result of the race for the Ascot Gold Cup, run on the 26th inst. :—

Throwaway	1
Zinfandel	2
Sceptre	3

THE MARCH TO LHASSA.

The *Spectator* takes anything but a hopeful view of the British Tibetan expedition. In an article on May 14 we find it writing as follows :—

Difficulties seem to be thickening round the Tibetan Expedition. Colonel Younghusband is in the position of a climber in the Andes or the Himalayas who as he masters one great acclivity, finds another still higher, of which he had scarcely suspected the existence, rearing itself before him. It is now announced that the Expedition must go on to Lhassa. The British and the Indian Governments had hoped that the ruling powers in the "mysterious city," when once aware that their giant neighbour was in earnest, and that they could not resist the advance of the Envoy, would eagerly ask for terms, would sign any treaty put before them which did not contain clauses interfering with their position in Tibet, and even if they broke it the week after, would retain a salutary conviction that "India" was too strong for them, and that they must in future evade rather than defy her commands. Power, however, in the Tibetan capital has passed into unexpectedly strong hands. It was known that the Lamas, actuated by motives impenetrable by Western minds, had recently abandoned their custom of poisoning the Incarnation of Buddha before he had quite ceased to be a child, and that the present Dalai Lama was a grown man nearly thirty years old. It now appears that aided, perhaps, by some festering discontents within the great lamaseries or monasteries themselves, his Holiness has taken the reins in his own hands, has removed his four principal Ministers, and—probably under the advice of Dorjieff, the Buriat Lama whom St. Petersburg employs as its agent—has determined to resist the advance of the expedition, which he probably underrates because it includes so few white men. His means seem to Englishmen ludicrously disproportionate to his object; but Lhassa knows nothing of the sea, little of the force at the disposal of the great transmarine Powers, and still less of the terrible armour with which modern science has supplied them. So the Grand Lama picks from among the peasantry who reverence him very tall men, the "giants" of the bulletin-makers, who, his advisers doubtless think, will produce a great impression on their inferiors in size, arms them with the best weapons he has—big swords, big shields, a proportion of rifles, and a few jingalls, or big bell-mouthed muskets—and orders them to bar the road. His officers execute his plans as well as they can, building thick stone walls and loop-holed pounds, and fighting in defence of them with a sullen Mongolian courage which it is pitiful to read of, it is so useless. They could, we imagine, stop the invaders if the latter were armed like the Tibetans—at least, the account of the skirmish in which Captain Bethune fell read very like it—but the moment the Western artillery gets into play their chance is over. Even Mahommedan ghazis cannot stand up to a shower of shells; and the Tibetans, though they die well and are evidently brave men, have not the rushing courage of the ghazi when he is seeking death. The attack of the 5th inst. on the Mission at Gyangtse, which was dexterously planned, was defeated in this way; and the small advance guard which carried the "wall with wings" which they found across their path at Karo owed their victory to the European guns as much as to their own daring. Still, though he never succeeds, there is no sign that the Grand Lama, who, we must remember, has been reverenced as a god all his life, feels himself defeated, or intends to send Envoys of rank, or to permit the Chinese Amban, whom he probably regards as a dignified spy, to act as his intermediary. The Mission is still far off, he is possibly assured that it will never have the audacity to threaten Lhassa, and he may have resources still unused in which he has hope. There must be many riding tribes who acknowledge, if not his direct authority, at least his sanctity, and who may be persuaded or bribed to come to his relief. At all events, he sits, like any other Buddha, motionless.

It is, therefore, necessary to advance to Lhassa. It is a most annoying necessity, for reasons we shall explain, but there is hardly an alternative open to us. The Mission cannot stay at Gyangtse for ever, though the surrounding peasantry, who are receiving undreamed-of prices for their supplies, cordially wish it would; and to retreat with nothing accomplished would make the Indian Government ridiculous, not only in St. Petersburg, which might not matter just now, but in Nepal, whence we recruit our peerless Ghoorkas, in Bhutan, which controls the easiest passes into Tibet, and throughout the tribes who, in their obscure way, hold the Eastern Himalayas. No such policy will be well received in this country; and in India retreat, even when it is obviously the path of wisdom, is always regarded as a galling humiliation. We are not here, Anglo-Indians think, to suffer humiliation at the hands of the peoples which misuse the broad glacis around the Empire. We are too dependent upon prestige, both Governments will say, and say with undeniable justice, though the saying does not cover the whole situation. We entertain little doubt, therefore, that the expedition will be reinforced, and that it will march on Lhassa, where, after several engagements like that of Karo, it will arrive in safety, having performed a splendid feat of arms, and conquered, or rather defied, an Empire in the clouds.

And then the difficulties may be thicker than ever. The Grand Lama may, of course, be greatly impressed by our visit, may sign the treaty submitted to him, and may give us a gracious permission to to depart, with assurance of abundant provision all along the road home. Judging, however, by the obstinacy he has throughout displayed, and remembering the difficulty a theocracy always experiences in acknowledging total defeat, it is much more probable that his Holiness will retreat to some distant monastery, leaving Colonel Younghusband to waste his great ability in conciliation upon officers who will discuss matters with him for any number of months, and then declare that without the Grand Lama's signature they have no authority to arrange anything. What, then, is Colonel Younghusband to do? He cannot go hunting the Grand Lama through the clouds as we hunted the Mullah through the deserts of Somaliland. That would be too purposeless a waste of life and treasure. He cannot hold Lhassa for years as "a material guarantee," for it would immediately cease to be the capital; and though General Macdonald would, we doubt not, hold it safely enough, still we do not want to be responsible for a post in the clouds, with no easy connecting link between it and India. If we do not make good roads, the outpost at Lhassa will be a perpetual anxiety; and if we do make them, they may be used by enemies, or, worse still, by the swarms of projectors who the moment they hear that "Tibet is open" will be rushing to ascertain and exploit its reported mineral treasures. If instead of a garrison we leave only an Envoy, he will, if the Grand Lama has fled, be accredited to no accessible person, and will almost certainly be murdered some morning by irritated Lamas, to punish whom we must send a second and more costly expedition. It is a most annoying business; but we can see no way out of it except to go forward to Lhassa, and there decide, when we have seen, or missed seeing, the Dalai Lama, what next is to be done. Perhaps the English good fortune will attend us even there, and we may discover personages whose influence is sufficient to counter-balance that of the Grand Lama, and even to compel him to be reasonable. Perhaps, too, we may be able to make use of the Teshu Lama, who appears to be friendly, and who, according to the most recent information, is of much higher spiritual authority than the Dalai Lama at Lhassa, whom we have hitherto chosen to regard as the Grand Lama. Fortunately, we have in Colonel Younghusband an Envoy who is a born diplomatist, and not merely a "Political," who knows from previous experience the ramifications of Lamaism, and who is the last man in the world to believe that for the vast Indian Empire "expansion" is an object in itself. He will do what can be done; but still, we wish that his trained energies were being employed upon some less dreary, or, as it may prove, impossible, task.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Mongolia 1	Sa. June 25
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan 2	M. June 27
America	P. M. Co.	Siberia 3	W. June 29
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	Th. June 30
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Roon 4	Sa. July 2
Europe	M. M. Co.	Tonkin	Th. July 7
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic 5	Su. July 10
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Tremont	Su. July 10
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Tartar	Th. July 14
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	M. July 18
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Shawmut	Tu. July 26
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Athenian	F. July 29

1 Left Nagasaki on the 23rd inst.
2 Left Vancouver on the 13th inst.
3 Left San Francisco on the 11th inst.
4 Left Hongkong on the 22nd inst.
5 Left San Francisco on the 22nd inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Seydlitz	Sa. June 25
Portland	P. & A. Co.	Aragonia	Su. June 26
Hongkong	P. & A. Co.	Nicomedia	Su. June 26
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. June 27
America	P. M. Co.	Mongolia	Tu. June 28
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Wingsang	W. June 29
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Siberia	Th June 30
Europe	M. M. Co.	Yarra	F. July 1
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Em. of India	F. July 1
America	T. K. K.	America Maru	Sa. July 2
Tacoma	N. P. Co.	Tremont	M. July 11
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	M. July 11
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Tartar	Th. July 14
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Th. July 21
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Shawmut	W. July 27
Vancouver	C. P. R. Co.	Athenian	Sa. July 30

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Samara, British steamer, 1,790, W. Lewis, 17th June,—Muroran, Coal.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Sultan van Lankat, Holland steamer, 2,308, H. Stege, 17th June,—Singapore, Kerosene Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Ovid, British steamer, 2,686, Cubitt, 17th June,—Ocean Islands, Phosphate Rocks.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Ragnar, Norwegian steamer, 1,220, Nelssen, 17th June,—Nagasaki, Coal.—Mikadzuki & Co.

Australian, British steamer, 1,784, MacArthur, 18th June,—Australia via ports, General.—Cornes & Co.

Seydlitz, German steamer, 4,971, C. Dewers, 18th June,—Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Yangtsze, British steamer, 4,149, Lycett, 18th June,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Thea, German steamer, 934, H. Ohlerich, 18th June,—Nemuro, Dried Fish.—Nakamura & Co.

Coningsby, British steamer, 2,158, Topp, 19th June,—Rangoon, Rice.—Strachan & Co.

Tai Sang, British steamer, 1,544, R. G. H. Bowker, 19th June,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Lyra, American steamer, 3,516, G. V. Williams, 19th June,—Tacoma, Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Indramayo, British steamer, 3,370, W. H. Price, 19th June,—New York via ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Prinssese Marie, Danish steamer, 3,518, Berentzen, 19th June,—Antwerp via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Doric, British steamer, 3,936, Harry Smith, 19th June,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Claverhill, British steamer, 1,829, W. H. Seldon, 20th June,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ettrickdale, British steamer, 2,468, R. McKenzie, 20th June,—Muroran, Coal.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, N. Nielsen, 20th June,—Bonin Islands, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Border Knight, British steamer, 2,393, Dalton, 21st June,—London via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Lethington, British steamer, 2,854, Tate, 21st June,—Penarth, Coal.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Lennox, British steamer, 2,361, McNair, 21st June,—Otaru via West Coast and Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Eretria, British steamer, 2,255, Mulcahy, 21st June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,055, J. C. Jensen, 21st June,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tungus, Norgewian steamer 1,039, Alvesen, 21st June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Diomed, British steamer, 3,005, Hazeland, 22nd June,—~~Liverpool via~~ ports, General.—Butterfield ~~& Swire.~~

Ariel, Norwegian steamer, 994, Rafen, 22nd June,—Karatsu, Coal.—M. Asada.

Hockheimer, German steamer, 1,810, A. Fischbeck, 22nd June,—Calcutta, Ballast.—T. M. Laffin.

Cyrus, British steamer, 2,174, F. T. W. Simmons, 22nd June,—Rangoon via Yokkaichi, Rice.—C. Illies & Co.

Athenian, British steamer, 2,440, S. Robinson, 23rd June,—Vancouver, B.C., 6th June, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Heathdene, British steamer, 2,277, W. J. Milburn, 23rd June,—Muroran, Coal.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Boveric, British steamer, 2,578, A. E. Downie, 23rd June,—Hakodate, Sulphur.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Alesia, German steamer, 3,312, Sachs, 23rd June,—Hamburg via ports, and Tsingtau, 19th June, General.—C. Illies & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Himalaya, French steamer, 3,364, Combe, 17th June,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Obi, British steamer, 1,951, J. Davidson, 17th June,—Otaru, Ballast.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,065, J. C. Jensen, 17th June,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Braemar, British steamer, 2,316, S. L. Saxby, 18th June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

St. Fillans, British steamer, 2,307, Delgleish, 18th June,—New York via Suez Canal and ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Ascot, British steamer, 2,786, C. L. Cox, 18th June,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Claverhill, British steamer, 1,827, W. H. Seldon, 20th June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Lyra, American steamer, 3,516, G. V. Williams, 20th June,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Shuntung, British steamer, 1,000, M. Engelhart, 20th June,—Moji, Ballast.—Japanese.

Thea, German steamer, 934, H. Ohlerich, 20th June,—Handa, Ballast.—Japanese.

Ragner, Norwegian steamer, 1,229, Nelssen, 20th June,—Otaru, Ballast.—Japanese.

Australian, British steamer, 1,784, MacArthur, 20th June,—Australia and New Zealand via ports, Mails and General.—Cornes & Co.

Yangtsse, British steamer, 4,149, W. C. Lycett, 21st June,—London and Antwerp via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Candia, British steamer, 4,195, H. E. Kitcat, 21st June,—London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Doric, British steamer, 2,936, Harry Smith, 21st June,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Lethington, British steamer, 2,854, Tate, 21st June,—Yokosuka, Coal.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Taurus, Norwegian steamer, 1,367, E. Kroeger, 21st June,—Uraga, Ballast.—American Trading Co.

Prinsesse Marie, Danish steamer, 3,518, Berentzen, 21st June,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Silverlip, British steamer 4,904, N. Hocken, 22nd June,—Moji, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Haldis, Norwegian steamer, 1,055, J. C. Jensen, 22nd June,—Handa and Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Annapolis (13 guns), U.S. gunboat, 1,060, Com. H. Hutchins, 22nd June,—Bremerton, Wash.

Tai Sang, British steamer, 1,544, G. H. Bowker, 22nd June,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Eretria, British steamer, 2,255, Mulcahy, 23rd June,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sultan van Lankat, Dutch steamer, 2,308, H. Stege, 23rd June,—Taketoyo, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Helene Rickmers, German steamer, 2,255, Geo. Warneke, 23rd June,—Moji, Ballast.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Samara, British steamer, 1,740, W. Lewis, 23rd June,—Muroran, Ballast.—Hokkaido Tanko Kaisha.

Lennox, British steamer, 2,361, McNair, 23rd June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, K. Sato, 23rd June,—Moji, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ettrickdale, British steamer, 2,468, R. McKenzie, 23rd June,—Kuchinotsu, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per German steamer *Seydlitz*, from Europe via ports:—Mr. G. H. Bechtel, Mr. Paul E. Honcker, Mr. P. Kummel, Miss Moore, Mr. A. Boyse, Mr. J. S. Wilmer, Mr. Ph. J. Joos, Mr. A. R. Joos, Mr. J. A. Rabbith, Mr. De Leland, Mr. van Rensseler, Mr. D. Cox, Mr. R. Schwob, Mr. W. Foster, Mr. R. A. Max Gregor, Mr. E. Becker, Mr. R. Masujima, Mr. James Hayes, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Smith, Mr. Bateman, Mr. O. Bergmann, Mr. Paul Senft, Rev. M. H. Mackridge, Mr. M. Tokiyeda, Mr. Ng. Yak Fung, Mrs. Ng Yak Fung, Mrs. Ng Yick Si and 3 children, Capt. T. Rowin, Mr. W. W. Tesling, Mr. T. Kasaya, Mr. Tang Kwan Po, Mr. J. J. Tong, Mr. Las Kee Dong, Mr. Terazawa Kuchi, Mr. Jokichi Hanai, Mr. Jose de Las Reyes, Mr. S. Nishigori, Mr. Ye Ha Sang, Mr. G. M. Charles, Mr. Elprias, Mr. L. H. Marrian, Mr. Chan Choh Yue, Mr. Y. Chen Yuen, Mr. Jm. Waymen, Mr. S. Nagaoka, Mr. Wai Puh, Mr. Lue Si Sing, Mr. Mont de Ying, Mr. Houch Si Po, Mr. Lan Pa Sing, Mr. Pan Le Don, Mr. Zingho Bee, Mr. Huh Pan Ye, Mr. Wee Kong Zing, Mr. Yeki Yong, Mr. Lue Been Yih, Mr. Yih Si Hah, Mr. To Belles, Mr. Siheza, Mr. Hi Kong Song' Mr. Mue Bah, Mr. Chas. Morton, and Mr. Pee Kue Bown, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Tai Sang*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. J. H. Christie, Mr. S. Miyamoto, Mrs. Patton, Mr. B. F. Balsora, Mr. C. F. Gibbs, and 4 Chinese, in cabin; Mr. T. Tsubouchi, and 4 Chinese, 25 Japanese, and 34 Japanese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Doric*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Dr. Gustave Baron, Mr. J. Bousquet, Mr. H. E. Daunt, Capt. M. D. Garcia, Mr. John Laffin, Dr. S. Letona, Col. V. del Solar, Mr. F. Strahler, Mrs. F. Strahler and child, Mr. A. G. G. Munkhouse, Mrs. A. G. G. Munkhouse, Mrs R. A. Riggs, Mrs. F. L. Strong, Mr. G. E. Wolf, Dr. A. Trautman and Maj. L. L. Seaman. For Kobe;—Mrs. J. W. Coffin, Mr. W. McS. Buchanan, Mrs. McS. Buchanan and 3 children and Mr. H. S. Aarons. For Shanghai:—Miss F. E. Smith, Mr. N. Bentz and Mr. W. C. Weedon. For Hongkong:—Mr. U. S. Andes, Mr. J. C. Barnard, Mr. J. F. Bell. Mr. J. W. Cline, Mr. W. H. Gibbons, Mr. S. W. Hulse, Mr. M. M. Johnson, Mr. J. B. Leiberg Mr. C. H. Meeker, Mrs. C. H. Meeker, Mr. E. M. Miller, Mr. Bruce Richardson, Mr. R. H. Shaffer, Mr. G. B. Siegel, Mr. C. A. Skattebol, Mr. M. L. Thompson, Mr. P. P. Thompson, Mrs. H. Thompson and 2 children and Mr. J. K. Wilson. From Honolulu:—Mr. Victor Oltman and Mr. J. L. Sternfield in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Doric*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. H. S. Aarons, Mr. B. S. Ambler, Mr. U. S. Andes, Mr. J. C. Barnard, Mr. E. Becker, Mr. J. F. Bell, Mr. N. Bentz, Mrs. Chas. Bryan, infant and nurse, Mr. W. McS. Buchanan and 3 children, Mr. D. E. Campbell, Mr. J. W. Cline, Mrs. J. W. Coffin, Mr. W. H. Gibbens, Mr. M. A. Hamburger, Mr. S. W. Hulse, Mr. M. M. Johnson, Mr. H. Kessler, Mr. Alex. Kenmore, Mr. W. Kirton and valet, Mr. J. B. Leiberg, Mr. C. H. Meeker, Mrs. C. H. Meeker, Mr. Paul Messer, Mr. E. M. Miller, Mrs. V. Miller, Mrs. L. van Rensselaer, Mr. Bruce Richardson, Mr. F. G. Sale, Mr. Wm. Schopflocher, Mr. R. H. Shaffer, Mr. G. B. Siebel, Mr. C. A. Skattebol, Mrs. F. E. Smith, Mr. W. D. Stubbs, Miss Stubbs, Mrs. H. Thompson and 2 children, Mr. M. L. Thompson, Mr. P. P. Thompson, Mr. J. R. Twentyman, Mr. W. C. Weedon, Mr. J. Clifford Wilkinson, Mr. C. H. V. Wilson, and Mr. J. K. Wilson, in cabin.

REPORT.

The Boston Tow Boat Co.'s steamer *Lyra*, Geo. V. Williams, Master, reports:—Left Seattle at 5.53 p.m., May 31st; experienced ■ Lat. 52′ 30′ N. Long. 155′ 51′ W. overcast weather, with light passing rain squalls, strong S.W. winds, heavy S.W. swell. Then to 180′ meridian, overcast, with heavy fog at times, fresh S.W. winds. Thence to Inuboesaki partly cloudy weather, fresh S.S.E. wind, moderate swell. From there to port strong S.W. and W. winds, heavy swell. Arrived at Yokohama on June 19th at 11.40 a.m.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw and Waste silk shipped per steamer *Himalaya*:—

	Raw.				Waste.			
	Marseilles	Italy Sw'erland	Lyon.		France.	Italy Sw'erland.	M'chester	
H. Bernardin & Co.	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—
Longin & Co.	—	—	19	—	—	—	—	—
Jewett Bent & Co. .	—	—	12	—	—	25	—	—
Doshin Kaisha......	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—
Siber, Wolff & Co...	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—
Sieber & Co.	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sulzer Rudolph & Co.	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Herbert Dent & Co.	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total...........	25	—	71	—	1	25	—	—

VESSELS TO ARRIVE.

STEAMERS.

Name.	From.	Reported.	
Abergeldie	Cardiff	At H'kong	June 5
Albenga	New York	Leaves	May 25
Andova	New York	Leaves	June 10
Aragonia	Hongkong	Leaves Kobe	June 23
Armand Behic	Marseilles	Left	June 8
Badenia	Hamburg	Passed Canal	May 30
Benarty	London	Leaves Kobe	June 23
Borneo	London	Left	May 28
Bucentaur	London	Left Suez	May 22
Chingtu	Australia	Leaves H'kong	June 16
C. Ferd. Laeise	Hamburg	Left S'pore	June 16
Comeric	New York	Left S'hai	June 13
Elleric	New York	Leaves	June 20
Em. of Japan	Vancouver	Left	June 13
Denbighshire	London	Left H'kong	June 22
Flintshire	London	Left Kobe	June 23
Glaucus	Liverpool	Left	June 3
Glenfarg	London	Left H'kong	June 9
Glenlochy	London	Passed Canal	May 23
Himera	New York	Leaves	April 23
Hyson	Victoria	Left	June 14
Indrani	New York	At Kobe	June 16
Java	London	Leaves	June 11
Keemun	Liverpool	Passed Canal	May 26
Kintuck	Liverpool	Left S'hai	June 20
Knight Com'der	New York	Loading	April 20
L'ther Castle	New York	Left Manila	June 10
Malta	London	Left	May 27
Mazagon	London	Leaves H'kong	June 23
Mongolia	Hongkong	Left S'hai	June 21
Moyune	Liverpool	Passed Canal	June 2
Nestor	Liverpool	Left S'pore	June 3
New Orleans	New York	Left	June 4
Nicomedia	Portland	Left	May 29
Nubia	New York	At Port Said	May 14
Oceanien	Marseilles	Leaves	May 29
Peleus	Liverpool	Left	June 9
Preussen	Hamburg	Passed Canal	May 30
Radnorshire	London	Passed Canal	June 6
Rajah	Rangoon	Left	June 8
Roon	Hamburg	Left H'kong	June 22
Sardinia	London	Leaves Kobe	June 24
Sagami	New York	Left	June 2
Sarpedon	Liverpool	Left	May 27
Selsdon	New York	Leaves	May 30
Siam	London	Passed Canal	May 30
Siberia	San F'cisco	Left	June 11
Sithonia	Hamburg	Passed Canal	June 9
Socotra	London	Passed Canal	May 26
Sikh	New York	Left S'pore	June 16
St. Kilda	Venice	At N'saki	June 8
Stentor	Liverpool	Leaves Kobe	June 20
Tjipanas	Macassar	Left Kobe	June 23
Tonkin	Marseilles	Leaves S'pore	June 20
Yarra	Marseilles	Left Kobe	June 23
Wray Castle	New York	Leaves	June 15

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There is no special movement to record.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER YARD.
White Shirting—{40 yds. 36 in. 50 yds. 36 in.} ...	0.10 to 0.18
	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¾ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	Y.3.90 to 4.50
Grey Shirting—9lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	3.90 to 4.50
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches...	2.80 to 4.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton Italians and Satteens...	0.20 to 0.30

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	Y.0.35 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 32 in...	0.35 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches...	0.16 to 0.22
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.50 to 1.00
Cloths—Presidents, 51 to 65 inches ...	0.90 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.50 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0.60 to 0.66
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	9.80 to 10.80
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches...	0.90 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches...	1.90 to 2.25

TurkeyReds—3.8 to 5lb, 24-25 yards, 32 nches...	2.50 to 3.65

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles ... ... Y.	Nominal
Nos. 28/32, Singles	—
Nos. 38/42, Singles	—
Nos. 32, Doubles...	Nominal
Nos. 42, Doubles...	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/100, Plain...	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	260.00 to 280.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	310.00 to 330.00
Nos. 2/100 ,Gassed	460.00 to 480.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling...	40.00 to 40.50
Indian Broach...	31.00 to 32.00
Chinese	27.50 to 29.50

METALS.

Some business has been done, more especially in Iron Bars and Wire Nails.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward...Y.	4.05 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.30 to 4.60
Sheet Iron...	4.65 to 6.90
Galvanised Iron sheets	10.00 to 11.00
Wire Nails, assorted	14.00 to 7.00
Tin Plates, per box...	6.70 to 7.60
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.00
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1½ inch)	5.00 to 5.50

KEROSENE.

The market is weak.

American	$3.08
Russian	3.00
Langkat	2.90

SUGAR.

After being shut down for some time the Tokyo Refinery recommenced work on the 16th instant.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao ... ...Y.	7.00 to 7.35
Brown Manila...	7.20 to 8.00
Brown Daitong	5.80 to 8.70
Brown Canton...	5.80 to 8.70
White Java and Penang...	8.50 to 9.50
White Refined...	11.40 to 15.25
Beets (Refined)	14.86 to 15.00

INDIGO.

Nothing doing.

	PICUL.
Java, Medium to best...	270.00 to 320.00
Calcutta, Medium to best	180.00 to 290.00
Madras (*Kurpah*), Medium to best ...	140.00 to 170.00
Madras (Dry Leaf), Medium to best ..	100.00 to 140.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Arrivals of new silk continue, but no regular quotations established as yet. Further business has been done in fine sizes for Europe at *yen* 850 both old and new. For New York things hang fire. Good Koshiu and Mino filatures are on offer, but sellers and buyers do not yet agree on their ideas of price. Re-reels will not be on the market before next month.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra Best, Coarse ... ...Y.	—	Nominal.
Filatures—Extra, Fine	—	
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	—	
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	—	
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	—	
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	—	
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	—	
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	—	
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	—	
Common—Coarse	—	
Re-reels—Extra	—	
Re-reels—No. 1	—	
Re-reels—No. 1½	—	
Re-reels—No. 2	—	
Re-reels—No. 3	—	
Kakedas—Extra	—	
Kakedas—No. 1	—	
Kakedas—No. 1½...	—	
Kakedas—No. 2	—	

WASTE SILK.

No change in the position. It looks as though new fibre will be obtainable at low rates, but nothing done at present for forward delivery.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	—
Noshi—Filatures, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Good...	—
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	—
Nsobi—Joshiu, Best	—
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	—

BAD COMPLEXIONS

Dry Thin and Falling Hair and Red Rough Hands Prevented by

CUTICURA SOAP

MILLIONS use CUTICURA SOAP, assisted by CUTICURA OINTMENT, for preserving, purifying, and beautifying the skin, for cleansing the scalp of crusts, scales, and dandruff, and the stopping of falling hair, for softening, whitening, and soothing red, rough, and sore hands, for baby rashes, itchings, and chafings, in the form of baths for annoying irritations and inflammations, or too free or offensive perspiration, in the form of washes, for ulcerative weaknesses, and for many sanative, antiseptic, cleansing purposes which readily suggest themselves to women, especially mothers, and for all the purposes of the toilet, bath, and nursery. CUTICURA SOAP combines delicate emollient properties derived from CUTICURA OINTMENT, the great skin cure, with the purest of cleansing ingredients and the most refreshing of flower odours. No other *medicated* soap is to be compared with it for preserving, purifying, and beautifying the skin, scalp, hair, and hands. No other foreign or domestic *toilet* soap, however expensive, is to be compared with it for all the purposes of the toilet, bath, and nursery. Thus it combines in ONE SOAP at ONE PRICE, the BEST skin and complexion soap, and the BEST toilet and baby soap in the world.

COMPLETE EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL TREATMENT FOR EVERY HUMOUR,

Consisting of CUTICURA SOAP, to cleanse the skin of crusts and scales, and soften the thickened cuticle; CUTICURA OINTMENT, to instantly allay itching, inflammation, and irritation, and soothe and heal; and CUTICURA RESOLVENT PILLS, to cool and cleanse the blood. A SINGLE SET is often sufficient to cure torturing, disfiguring humours, eczemas, rashes, and irritations, with loss of hair, when all else fails. Sold throughout the world. Australian Depot: R. TOWNS & Co., Sydney. British Depot: 27-28, Charterhouse Sq., London. French Depot: 5 Rue de la Paix, Paris. POTTER DRUG AND CHEM CORP., Sole Props., Boston, U. S. A.

CUTICURA RESOLVENT PILLS (Chocolate Coated) are a new, tasteless, odourless, economical substitute for the celebrated liquid CUTICURA RESOLVENT, as well as for all other blood purifiers and humour cures. Put up in screw-cap pocket vials, containing 60 doses. CUTICURA PILLS are alterative, antiseptic, tonic, and digestive, and beyond question the purest, sweetest, most successful and economical blood and skin purifiers, humour cures, and tonic-digestives, yet compounded.

Kibiso—Filatures, Best	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	—
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	—
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	—

TEA.

Parcels now on offer show a great falling off in quality owing tot he most desirable parcels of the first crop being taken up. Second crop leaf has hardly commenced to come in. Total settlements to date 108,000 piculs. Corresponding period last year 107,971 piculs.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	50 & upwards
Choice	
Finest	45 to 49
Fine...	35 to 42
Good Medium	30 to 36
Medium	26 to 30
Good Common	22 to 26
Common...	20

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, June 23.

London silver $\frac{1}{16}$ higher, but no change in sterling quotations from China; local rates on China are firmer, but others unaltered.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0¼
— — Bills on demand	2/0$\frac{5}{16}$
— — 4 months' sight	2/0½
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0$\frac{11}{16}$
— — 6 months' sight	2/0$\frac{13}{16}$
Paris & Lyons Bank sight	254½
— Private 4 months' sight	259
— — 6 months' sight	260½
Hongkong—Bank sight ... per $100.	90¾
— Private 10 days' sight do.	88¼
Shanghai—Bank sight	79
— Private 10 days' sight	81½
India—Bank sight	151½
— Private 30 days' sight	153½
America—Bank sight	49⅜
— Private 30 days' sight	50
— Private 4 months' sight	50¾
Germany—Bank sight	206¼
— Private 4 months' sight	210½
Bar Silver (London)	25¾

JAPANESE SHARE.

Yokohama, June 24, a.m.

	Paid up.	Div'dl 1 year.	Q'ation.
	Yen.	per cent.	Yen.
Consolidated Bonds (Seiri) ...	100	5	*87.70
War Bonds (Gunji)	100	5	*87.70
5 °/o Imperial Bonds (Goburi).	100	5	85.20
Navy Bonds (Kaigun)	100	5	85.50
Tokyo City Public Loan Bonds	100	6	*96.20
Y'hama Water-works Bonds .	100	6	*89.50
Y'hama City Public Loan Bonds	100	6	88.50
Osaka Harbour Bonds	100	6	*87.30
Sanyo Railway Debentures ...	100	6	91.50
Kawasaki Shipyard Deb'tures.	100	9	*100.30
Osaka S.S. Co. (Shosen) 3rd Issue of Debentures	100	7	*94.80
Sanyo Railway	50	8	59.60
Kyushu Railway	50	8	54.50
Hokkaido Colliery Railway ...	50	12	74.60
Sobu Railway.....................	50	8½	55.50
Tokyo Electric Car (Densha).	50	9	*87.70
Tokyo Street Railway (Shigai)	50	5$\frac{1}{10}$	*81.10
Tokyo Street Railway new ...	1	—	18.30
TokyoElectric Railway(Denki)	50	—	59.30
Tokyo Electric Railway, new.	20.00	—	29.60
Yokohama Electric Railway..	25	—	*30.50
Odawara Electric Car	50	5½	26.50
Keihin Electric Railway	50	5	56.30
Yokohama Fire Insurance ...	12.50	10	*15.10
Tokyo Fire Insurance	12.50	12	20.60
Kanegafuchi Spinning	50	7	38.60
Fuji Cotton Spinning............	50	8	33.00
Tokyo G'sian Cotton Spinning.	50	8	43.50
Yokohama Dock	33	12	44.50
Tokyo Electric Light	50	12	*70.50
Osaka Electric Light............	50	20	92.50
Tokyo Gas.........................	50	14	82.50
Tokyo Gas, new..................	1.00	—	16.70
Osaka Gas new	12.50	15	15.50
Yokohama Electric Light......	50	15	81.00
Nippon(Tokyo)Sugar Refined.	50	15	*59.00
Nippon (Tokyo) Sugar new...	44	15	*52.80
Nippon Beer Brewery (Yebisu)	50	23	99.50
Nippon Beer Brewery, new ...	25	23	53.00
Osaka (Asahi) Beer Brewery..	50	10	52.00
Marusan Beer Brewery.........	50	—	8.50
Y'hama Chuo Godown	50	12	51.30
Yokohama Boeki Godown ...	20	14	25.10

* Ex dividend.

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